

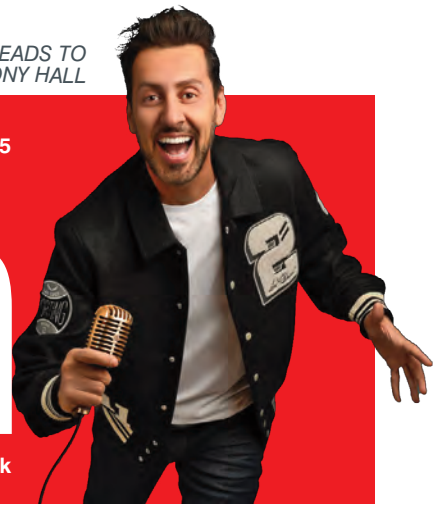
Birmingham

ISSUE 458 MARCH 2025

What's On

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

birminghamwhatson.co.uk



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
IN CONCERT

Film accompanied live to picture by the
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
 28 March 2025 | Symphony Hall
bmusic.co.uk

How To Train Your Dragon © 2010 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved.

B:Music
 Town Hall & Symphony Hall

inside:

ETERNAL LOVE

vampires are rocking again!
feature inside...



LOLA LAND

Strictly's Johannes Radebe
pulls on his Kinky Boots



SMASHING TIME

badminton championships
return to Utilita Arena



The Old Joint Stock presents

Fatt Butcher's
BIG
MEATY
Gameshow



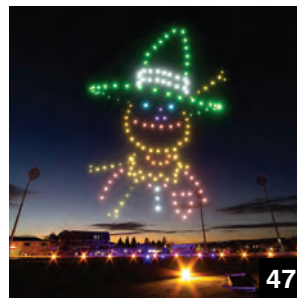
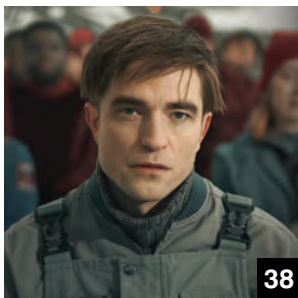
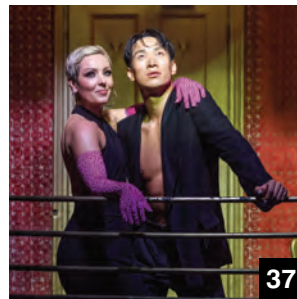
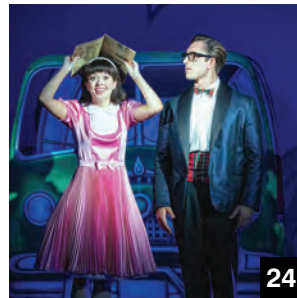
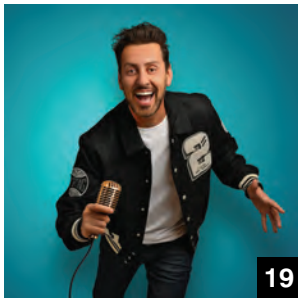
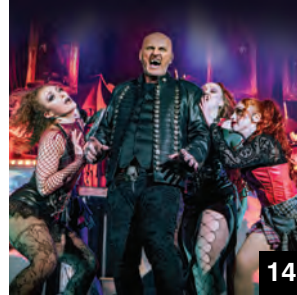
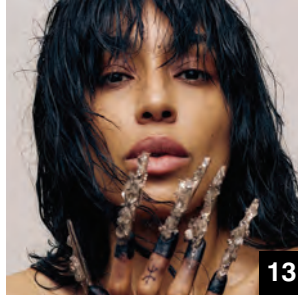
*Big Games
Big Prizes
Bigger Meat*

Friday 21st March 2025 | 19:30

Old Joint Stock, 4 Temple Row W, Birmingham B2 5NY

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What's On

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RSC announces Big Friendly Giant of a show!

Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant will be spending his Christmas in Stratford-upon-Avon!

A Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), Chichester Festival Theatre and Roald Dahl Story Company production of The BFG will show at the town's Royal Shakespeare Theatre from Tuesday 25 November to Saturday 31 January 2026.

The production is one of many highlights in the RSC's programme for the remainder of 2025. Other stand-out shows include the late Sarah Kane's 4.48 Psychosis and Hamlet Hail To The Chief, a show that sees Shakespeare's greatest tragedy and Radiohead's seminal album collide.

To check out everything happening at the Royal Shakespeare Company across the next few months, visit rsc.org.uk

Harper Lee's Mockingbird coming to Birmingham

The critically acclaimed stage adaptation of Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird will stop off at Birmingham Hippodrome next year (Monday 14 - Friday 18 April 2026). The acclaimed courtroom drama visits the venue as part of a UK & Ireland tour. Tickets for the play can be purchased at birminghamhippodrome.com

Conservatoire awarded funding to help tutoring

A major funding boost of almost £370,000 is set to help aspiring young musicians in the West Midlands receive expert coaching at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC). Almost £250,000 has been donated to RBC by the Leverhulme Trust, while £120,000 has been awarded by the Wolfson Foundation to support members of the Junior Conservatoire over the next three years.

Dan Walker to host new Belfry Classic Golf Day

Four-time Ryder Cup host The Belfry Hotel & Resort is launching its very own Classic Golf Day.

Sports presenter, journalist & broadcaster Dan Walker will host the invite-only event on Thursday 22 May, with the tournament being held on the venue's legendary Brabazon golf course. For more information about the Classic Golf Day, visit the venue's website at thebelfry.com

Bike4Life tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's ever-popular Bike4Life event.

The Ride Out, which starts from Meole Brace in Shrewsbury and travels along the M54 to Weston Park in Shifnal, will take place on Sunday 20 July. Tickets can be bought at bike4lifefest.com



Howzat! T20 Vitality Blast back in the Midlands

Howzat! Cricket fans will be delighted to know that the T20 Vitality Blast competition is returning to Birmingham's Edgbaston Stadium this spring and summer. Home side Bears will host nine matchdays from May to July, with six double-headers (including the new MidlandsMania men's showpiece event, featuring international DJ Joel Corry and the big Bears v Pears local derby). To find out more about cricket at Edgbaston, and to book your seat(s), visit tickets.edgbaston.com



Three Midlands dates for smash-hit musical

Smash-hit musical comedy Irish Annie's is visiting three Midlands venues during the month of June as part of a new nationwide tour.

Featuring much-loved actor & comedian Ricky Tomlinson, the show stops off at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre on Tuesday the 3rd, the Swan Theatre in Worcester on Sunday the 15th and Malvern's Forum Theatre on Friday the 27th. To find out more, visit the show's website at irishannies.com

Campaign to showcase Midlands filming spots

West Midlands venues and locations which have appeared in film and on television are to be showcased as part of a new multi-year global campaign by national tourism agency VisitBritain.

Taking the title Starring GREAT Britain, the campaign capitalises on the growing travel trend known as 'set jetting', which sees tourists visiting locations they have seen in movies and on TV.

To mark the new campaign, a tourist guide featuring the region's best known and most under-the-radar filming locations has been launched. To read A Guide To Filming Locations In The West Midlands, log on to visitbirmingham.com/inspire-me/recommended-for/film-tv-buffs



Symphony Hall date for Tony...

Tony Hadley is bringing his Christmas Big Band Tour to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Wednesday 17 December. The show will see the former Spandau Ballet star performing a selection of timeless jazz standards and swing anthems. He will also be reworking 1980s classics such as True, Gold and Through The Barricades. To find out more and book your seat, visit MyTicket.co.uk



New exhibition at music museum

An exhibition exploring a world 'where football, music and Coventry combine' is currently available to view at the city's award-winning Music Museum.

Commenting on the temporary display, which is titled We'll Live And Die In These Sky Blue Towns, the venue's founder, Pete Chambers, said: "The exhibition will give football fans a chance to leave their mark, be it placing their team on our fan wall or just voting with a red or yellow card to let us know if we got it right or not!"

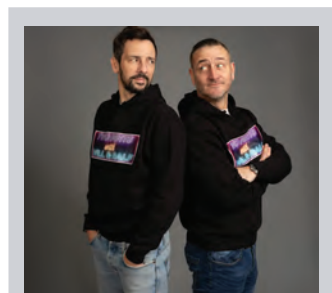


Birmingham Royal Ballet unveils its 2025/26 programme

Birmingham Royal Ballet's (BRB) critically acclaimed homage to the music of Black Sabbath will return to the city in the autumn. Featuring eight of the heavy metal band's best-loved songs, Black Sabbath: The Ballet shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Thursday 18 to Saturday 27 September. Later-season highlights

in BRB's 2025/26 programme of shows include Carlos Acosta's production of Don Quixote (pictured) and a celebration of Nutcracker choreographer Sir Peter Wright, to mark his 100th year.

To check out all of BRB's productions, visit the company's website: brb.org.uk



Popular podcast, live in the city...

Following two sell-out tours of their Two Pints podcast, Will Mellor and Ralf Little are hitting the road again in the autumn and paying a visit to the Midlands. The duo will bring their November Nonsense: Two Pints Podcast Live tour to Birmingham's The Alexandra on Saturday 1 November. Tickets for the show are available at atgtickets.com/birmingham

Coming up at Birmingham Museums

Birmingham Museums has launched its new seasonal programme of events and activities, which aims to 'spark joy throughout the coming months'.

Highlights include a celebration 'of all things in nature' - at Birmingham Science Museum Thinktank on Saturday 15 March - and a chance to spend an afternoon with artist Arpita Shah - at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery on Saturday 5 April. Also in April, Autin Dance Theatre present Out Of The Deep Blue (at Thinktank, Tuesday the 22nd). The show will mark Earth Day - a global event dedicated to raising awareness of the various environmental challenges facing the planet.

To find out more about all upcoming events across all sites, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk



City venues sow seeds for new partnership

Two of Birmingham's most celebrated institutions have formed a groundbreaking partnership 'to promote the benefits of plants on people, places and the planet'. Birmingham City University (BCU) and Birmingham Botanical Gardens will collaborate on innovative opportunities for learning and research, at the same time aiming to enhance the health and wellbeing of both staff and students. Commenting on the team-up, BCU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Mba, said: "This partnership reflects our shared vision of combining education, innovation and community engagement to make a tangible difference to our city and beyond."

New exhibition to take over Solihull town centre

Solihull's links to the Surrealist art movement are being celebrated this spring courtesy of a brand-new town-centre exhibition. Taking the title Surreal Solihull, the display will be available to view from Thursday 6 March to Saturday 31 May in an outdoor gallery on Solihull High Street.



Tulleys Tulip Garden coming to the Midlands

The team behind the UK's number-one tulip festival, Tulleys Tulip Fest, is bringing its vibrant tulip garden to Warwickshire's Hatton Country World. Tulleys Tulip Garden opens on Saturday 5 April and will feature over 500,000 tulips. To find out more, visit tulipgarden.co.uk



How To Train Your Dragon in concert in Birmingham

Fans of How To Train Your Dragon should make a beeline for Birmingham's Symphony Hall at the end of this month, where the hit movie will be screened in HD alongside a performance of its Academy Award-

nominated score by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Tickets for the Friday 28 March concert are available by visiting cbso.co.uk

BCU to transform career opportunities in gaming

New inclusive technology, developed by Birmingham City University (BCU), is set to transform career opportunities for disabled developers in the field of 3D graphics & gaming. With the assistance of an Epic MegaGrant from Epic Games, the university has created software that aims to help people with physical impairments launch and progress careers in the sector. The project recently received industry recognition at the prestigious TIGA Games Education Awards, where it enjoyed success in the 'Excellence in Games Research' category.

Elmhurst to open doors for Let's Dance! initiative

Birmingham's Elmhurst Ballet School is opening its doors to the local community on Sunday 2 March, to celebrate the launch of national initiative Let's Dance!. Spearheaded by TV & radio broadcaster Angela Rippon, the campaign aims to raise awareness about the benefits of dance in terms of both physical and mental wellbeing... To find out more about the event and to book a ticket, visit eventbrite.co.uk



Birmingham Open 25 to shine light on new artists

Following the success of 2024's inaugural Birmingham Creates: The Open, Colmore Business District - in partnership with Central BID - are once again launching an open-call competition for the city's emerging visual artists. This year's theme is Light, with artists having until midnight on Sunday 30 March to make their submissions. To find out more, visit colmorebusinessdistrict.com



March date for Together For Music festival

Inclusive music festival Together For Music makes a welcome return mid-month at B:Music in Birmingham (Friday 14 March). Presented by national charity Music For Youth, the event aims to empower and inspire participants via a day of engaging and interactive musicmaking. For further information, visit mfy.org.uk

B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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@bmusic_ltd
☎ 0121 7803333



Discovering Morricone
05 Mar | Town Hall



**Jason Manford:
A Manford All Seasons**
07 Mar | Symphony Hall



Pop in & try!

Loaded Fries: 4 Ways
B:Eats at Symphony Hall:
11am-4pm Mon-Sat & pre-show



**Brit Floyd: Wish You Were Here
50th Anniversary World Tour**
09 Mar | Symphony Hall



Crooners
15 Mar | Town Hall



**Fastlove: The Tribute to
George Michael**
22 Mar | Symphony Hall



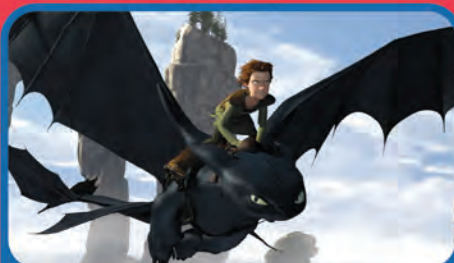
**Kimichi Symphony Orchestra
& Kimichi Ballet: Spring into
Stravinsky** 23 Mar | Symphony Hall



Tom Walker By Candlelight
24 Mar | Town Hall



Matt Goss: The Hits & More
25 Mar | Symphony Hall



**How To Train Your Dragon: In
Concert**
28 Mar | Symphony Hall



**Vasily Petrenko & the
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**
29 Mar | Symphony Hall

bmusic.co.uk

Great Nights Out
start with **B:Music!**

Inspiring Everyone at RAF Museum Midlands

The Royal Air Force Museum has been awarded a £650,000 grant from research & education charity the Wolfson Foundation to fund its Inspiring Everyone initiative. The ambitious project will deliver a transformation of the Museum's Cosford site and a major regional engagement programme, highlights of which will include a new immersive exhibition, a learning centre and a purpose-built collections hub. To find out more about the redevelopment project and how you can get involved, visit rafmuseum.org/midlands



On your marks for AJ Bell Great Birmingham Run!

The AJ Bell Great Birmingham Run returns in early May (Sunday the 4th).

Featuring a city-centre 10k and half marathon, the event starts in Centenary Square and will see participants passing some of Birmingham's most iconic landmarks en route to the finishing line in Smithfield. To find out more about the race - and the junior & mini versions - visit the event's website at greatrun.org



Hit musical comedy set for a Midlands return

Hit musical comedy The Addams Family is coming to Birmingham Hippodrome in the summer as part of a UK tour.

Based on the same-named US television series from the 1960s, the show stops off at the venue from Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 July. For further information, visit the website at birminghamhippodrome.com



Image from previous tour



Comedy and jazz at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire is hosting another A Laugh Supreme event on Friday 14 March.

Described as 'a show bringing together the best of comedy and jazz in the incredible Eastside Jazz Club', the event features top-

ranking Conservatoire jazz musicians the Aidan Pope Quartet and comedians Hannah Platt and Steve Hall. Alex Milner is the host. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit the website at bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire

Milestone for Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens has achieved one of the most significant milestones in its 193-year history by receiving official accreditation from Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The accolade, which positions the Gardens among an elite group of only 111 accredited botanic gardens worldwide, has been awarded in recognition of the venue's global leadership in the fields of plant conservation, environmental education and public engagement.

Conservatoire to host classical music awards

Classical music's biggest awards event is this month heading to Birmingham for the very first time.

The Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Awards will take place at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on Thursday 6 March. Tickets have been priced affordably from £10 to £30, to ensure that genuine music lovers can go along and be part of the experience. To find out more about the event, visit the website: royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk

Alan Surtees Trust opens 2025 round of funding

A trust that provides grants to musicians, dancers, singers and performers whose work is rooted in folk and traditional music & arts, has opened its 2025 round of funding. Anyone aged between 16 and 30 can apply for one of four grants, of up to £2,000, from the Alan Surtees Trust, which was set up in 2017 in memory of the co-founder & director of Shrewsbury Folk Festival.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 30 April. To find out more about the funding, including how to apply, visit the website at alansurteestrust.org.uk

Motor museum launches Young Artists competition

The British Motor Museum has launched a new competition for young artists. The exclusive contest, taking the theme 'the car and the environment', gives young creatives the chance to have their work displayed at the popular Warwickshire venue. The closing date for submissions is Monday 28 April. To find out more about the competition and how to apply, visit the website at britishmotormuseum.co.uk

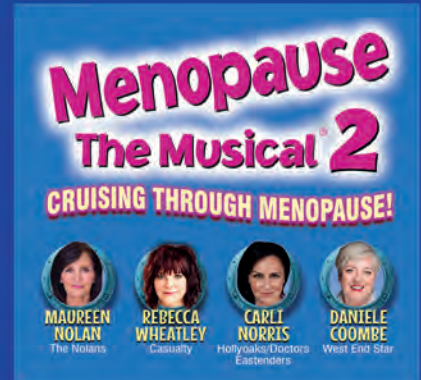
THRILLS & CHILLS AWAIT



Tue 1 – Sat 5 Apr



Sun 6 Apr



Tue 8 Apr



Thu 10 – Sat 12 Apr



Mon 14 – Sat 19 Apr

AD Sat 19 Apr 2.30pm



Tue 29 Apr – Sat 3 May

Sat 3 May 2.30pm



Tue 6 – Sat 10 May

CAP Thu 8 May 7.30pm



Tue 20 – Sat 24 May

AD Sat 24 May 2.30pm



Tue 27 – Sat 31 May



A PICTURE OF THE CITY

Photographer Mahtab Hussain celebrates Birmingham's Muslim community with a new exhibition at the city's Ikon Gallery...



A new exhibition of work by Birmingham artist Mahtab Hussain, featuring photographs which celebrate the city's Muslim community, opens at Ikon Gallery this month. The installation includes portraits of Muslim people and places of worship, but also examines how cameras can be used as tools for surveillance. What's On spoke to Mahtab to find out more...

This spring, Ikon Gallery welcomes a showcase of photography by British artist Mahtab Hussain. Entitled *What Did You Want To See?* and including new works which document and celebrate Birmingham's Muslim community, the show also interrogates how photographic documentation can overlap with surveillance tactics.

While compiling images for the gallery, Mahtab explored the streets of Birmingham, looking for people who might be included in his work.

"If there was anyone that I felt could work for the series - it could be a scarf they're wearing, or how they're holding themselves - I'd approach them," explains Mahtab. "It was an interesting way of working. I wasn't building a huge archive; I was actually trying to find people who would represent a certain part of the community.

"Everyone is a 'sitter' in my work - no one is a subject. I'm very aware of the colonial language of photography - like capture, shoot, expose, subject; these can be very violent words. Everyone that I meet, I always see them as a sitter or an individual. I don't feel like I 'take' an image or 'capture' - it's about 'making'. There's always this level of collaboration every time I make new work or portraits."

The first room of Mahtab's Ikon installation contains 160 photographs of mosques from across Birmingham. The intention is to celebrate the complex and varied architecture of the city and its relationship with the Muslim community.

"Some are very architecturally designed mosques with minarets that probably cost millions, to ones that are just literally like a shop front, or even a home. That room will have a map of Project Champion - where the cameras were located."

Project Champion, a widely criticised scheme disbanded in 2011, involved CCTV and automatic number plate recognition cameras being covertly installed by West Midlands Police in Muslim areas of Birmingham. The first gallery space explores the impact that this had on the people who live in those areas. There's also a film which documents national and global hysterical representation

of the Muslim community, which Mahtab describes as "a gut-wrenching archival piece".

The second room of the gallery provides an intentional contrast with the heavy-hitting themes of the previous room. The final space turns visitors' attention towards the Muslim community of Birmingham in person, featuring 20 black & white portraits.

"The middle room we're turning into a mosque or a prayer room. There'll be a prayer carpet on the floor. Through all that intensity, I wanted to go into a space where it's very reflective, beautiful and spiritual, and have a moment to breathe.

"The first room really establishes what this show's all about and the locality - which is that it's about Birmingham, and particularly about Project Champion. The last room is really this idea of stripping away the environment and celebrating the individual who identifies as being Muslim. These portraits could easily have been made in London, Nottingham or Bradford - it's the same community."

The style of portraiture that Mahtab employs is heavily influenced by Richard Avedon's *Portraits Of The American West*. Avedon's series, which was compiled between 1979 and 1984, documents working people from across America, photographed against starkly white backgrounds.

"He went out and photographed the working-class experience. That's what I wanted to do in this series. I wanted to do it within the same language as Avedon - to have the next chapter of that conversation. When you strip away the background, it forces you to really see the individual. It forces you to read them through their clothes, their gestures, their eyes, their skin."

Mahtab grew up in Birmingham ("It definitely made me... I'm definitely a Brummie!"), and this marks his first major solo exhibition in the city - although he's maintained contact with Ikon since his first opportunity with the gallery in 2012.

"Ikon's been amazing for me. I've had an over-10-year relationship with them. I've done various off-site projects, curatorial projects... There's a thriving art scene in Birmingham, but I don't think it suffocates

artists in the way that it does in London. There's a really lovely community; there's a friendliness here that I like."

One of the motifs that has reoccurred in Mahtab's photography involves documenting postcode tags from different areas of the city, sometimes discovered in secluded places, where few people will ever find them. In bringing these into the gallery - alongside images celebrating the architecture of mosques - Mahtab is questioning traditional ideas of what gets to be seen as 'art'. And although postcode tags might be construed as territorial, he offers a different interpretation.

"You could read them in another way, which is markings to say 'We grew up here; this is our city, too.' Those tags are going to be in the show, in and around the gallery. As you walk in, you get to see one by the reception, or one wrapped around a pole... I love that I made these images years ago and never quite had a moment to share them, and here I am, in this beautiful contemporary gallery, sharing these very rough, very edgy postcode tags - but they have a gentleness about them. "They look great; they're like paintings in their own right. They look so good in that space. I know when I look at them I'm gonna have this big smile on my face."

The show brings people and places of Birmingham that have perhaps been under-celebrated into the limelight of a gallery space. In doing so, Mahtab is hoping to provide a thought-provoking perspective and celebrate the city's Muslim community.

"I just want visitors to leave questioning how they see the world and the people around them. I want them to think about visibility... what it truly means to witness someone, rather than observing them. I hope the show can challenge assumptions and create moments of recognition, and also make people look at Birmingham in a new way. If we can do that, I think that'll be a really lovely thing."

.....
Mahtab Hussain: What Did You Want To See? shows at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery from Thursday 20 March until Sunday 1 June



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

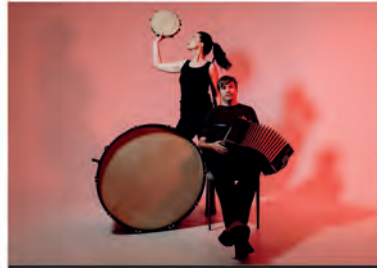
Book now at
www.bcu/performances

Asian Spring



Sun 2 Mar

Stevens & Pound



Mon 3 Mar

Albert Herring (Gas St Central)



6 – 8 Mar

Royal Philharmonic
Society Awards



Thu 6 Mar

Peter Moore with RBC Wind,
Brass & Percussion



Fri 7 Mar

The Thrill of Love by Amanda
Whittington (The Birmingham
Black Box Theatre)



13 – 15 Mar

A Laugh Supreme with Hannah
Platt, Steve Hall and Alex Milner
& The Aidan Pope Quartet



14 Mar

RBC Thallein Ensemble
Celebrating the 50th Birthday of
Ed Bennett



14 Mar

Banda Brasileira



20 Mar

Mamudou Susso and
Suntou Susso



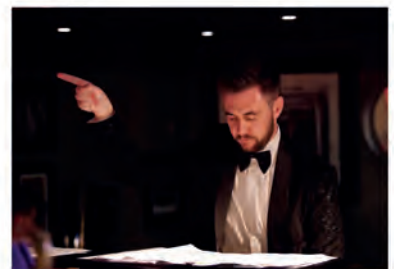
25 Mar

Sir Arthur Bliss Celebration



27 Mar

Sam Every (Little) Big Band –
TV Time



27 Mar

Live music from across the city...

Matt Goss

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Tues 25 March

"Trust me," says Matt Goss in publicising his late-month Birmingham performance, "what I've learnt over the years being on countless stages around the world, this will be your best night of the year!"

Having risen to fame many a moon ago in the company of his twin brother, Luke - from whom he says he is now completely estranged - Matt is stopping off at Symphony Hall to perform an evening's-worth of memorable tunes from across the decades.



Loreen

O2 Institute, Birmingham, Mon 17 March

The Eurovision Song Contest may still be a few weeks away, but fans of the glam and glitzy competition can get themselves in the mood by catching Loreen when she stops off in Birmingham mid-month.

The 41-year-old Swedish singer-songwriter won the coveted contest in both 2012 and 2023 - the latter in Liverpool - making her the only woman to win Eurovision twice (the only other double winner is Ireland's Johnny Logan). Loreen is far from prolific when it comes to making albums, having only released two in her 20-year career, but she's a big star online, with more than two billion streams to her name.



Teddy Swims

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Mon 3 & Tues 4 March

Creating music which touches its forelock in the direction of a variety of genres, rising-star Teddy Swims - real name Jaten Collin Dimsdale - has made a big splash in a short time, having initially built a significant

following via song covers performed on his YouTube channel back in 2019/20. The Georgia-born singer-songwriter is playing not one but two Birmingham concerts this month in support of his debut studio album, I've Tried Everything But Therapy (Part 1) and its recently released follow-up (not surprisingly titled Part 2).

Jack White

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sun 2 March

Jack White rose to stardom as the guitarist & lead singer of the White Stripes, a rock duo he formed with his wife at the time, Meg White (Jack was born with the surname Gillis, but took Meg's last name when they got married).

Although they divorced at the turn of the century, it was a further 11 years before the pair announced their professional break-up, since which time Jack has forged a hugely successful solo career.

He's visiting the Midlands in support of sixth studio album No Name, released last summer to pretty much universal acclaim.

Limp Bizkit

bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham, Thurs 13 March

Limp Bizkit bring their trademark aggressive vocal delivery and sonic experimentation to Birmingham mid-month when they stop off in the city with the highly anticipated Loserville tour.

Hailing from the Florida city of Jacksonville, the nu metal stars first came together more than 30 years ago and have since sold in excess of 40 million records worldwide and been nominated for three Grammy Awards.

Danny & The Champions Of The World

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, Sun 16 March

London-formed heartland rock and soul band Danny & The Champions Of The World was founded in the mid-noughties by Danny George Wilson, who made the move following the demise of Grand Drive, the seminal UK roots rock band in which he'd appeared with his brother, Julian. Releasing their self-titled debut album in 2008, the Champs quickly built up a loyal following, garnering plenty of critical acclaim in the process. Their star shone particularly brightly back in 2016, when they comprehensively dominated the inaugural UK Americana Awards, taking the Best Album and Artist accolades as well as winning the Song of the Year gong. They're visiting Birmingham this month in support of You Are Not A Stranger Here, their first studio album in seven years.



USING HIS LOAF

Steve Steinman's *Eternal Love The Musical*
makes its Midlands debut...



Steve Steinman has gone from impersonating Meat Loaf as a party piece to producing, writing and starring in a trilogy of bestselling rock musicals. It's been a (bat out of) hell of a ride, as he recently explained to What's On...

Just over 30 years ago, restaurateur Steve Murray got up and sang a Meat Loaf tune with a covers band that was playing at his family's hotel in Saddleworth, near Oldham. Three decades later, the self-confessed entrepreneur runs his own production company, putting on elaborate - and hugely successful - rock musicals that he also writes and stars in. It's a career move he never expected, and one which would almost certainly never have happened if a member of the tribute act hadn't hit 'record' on his camera during Steve's impromptu performance.

"I wasn't a singer in the band or anything," recalls Steve in a broad Mancunian accent. "I was running the restaurant, but I'd get up with bands who were playing dinner dances and that kind of thing."

The band member sent the tape in to TV talent show *Stars In Their Eyes*, and a phone call from the series' production company changed Steve's life forever.

After initially thinking going on the show would be good fun, as well as good publicity for the restaurant, it ultimately provided him with a whole new career. And just at the right time, too, as rising costs and all-time-high interest rates battered the hospitality trade. His restaurant was among the casualties.

"I was left high and dry, thinking 'What the hell do I do now?' I'd started singing with a local band, doing a bit of gigging as a bit of a joke, so I took that to the next level, and it's been that career ever since."

And it's been some career, too. He might not have won *Stars In Their Eyes*, but he's arguably its most successful contestant. Changing his name to Steve Steinman - after Jim Steinman, the writer of so many of Meat Loaf's biggest hits - he initially found his niche as a Meat Loaf tribute act, touring the world in shows such as *Anything For Love: The Meat Loaf Story*.

"I was never a big music fan as such," Steve admits. "I was just a normal lad who bought *Bat Out Of Hell* when I was about 17." He also owned albums by the likes of Bon Jovi and Queen - "just usual stuff" - always preferring rock to pop or soul music.

"I like a storytelling song, and that's where

Meat Loaf came in. Jim Steinman wrote some great stuff, and his songs suited my voice. When I did the Meat Loaf show, it just suited me, and I did the dressing up and all that. But now people come to see Steve Steinman, cos of the way I speak, have a joke and have fun on stage... it's not about me being Meat Loaf anymore."

Steve hasn't given up performing as Meat Loaf, but for the past 25 years he's also been starring as Baron Von Rockula in *Vampires Rock*, a trilogy of colourful rock musicals featuring music by the likes of Journey, Guns N' Roses, Europe and Foreigner. Steve also writes and produces the shows, and while he admits the first "was more of a concert than a musical", it was nevertheless a massive hit. Playing to arenas all over the world, it even featured guest stars Toyah Willcox (who performed in more than 200 shows) and Twisted Sister guitarist Eddie Ojeda.

Second instalment *The Ghost Train* continued in the same vein - comedy and horror with more monster rock tunes - but *Eternal Love*, this year's third and final part, is a whole new, and potentially risky, beast. Risky because it's the first show to jettison the safety net of well-known rock standards in favour of entirely original songs.

"Jukebox musicals have become the bread & butter of musical theatre, and my *Vampires Rock* franchise has benefitted immensely from their popularity. But where's the creativity in that? *Eternal Love* is a first for 21st-century musicals - it features an original storyline and an original score, performed by an original cast."

The opportunity to do something original was partly prompted by the Covid pandemic. "We were in lockdown, and I'd got a few songwriters sending me demos. I'd never really bothered with original songs, as I never really had the time. Lockdown gave me the time. I started listening to these songs, and I thought, you know what, I'm gonna do me own album, cos there's some brilliant stuff here."

The move led to him releasing two successful solo LPs (*Heaven's Gate* and *Take A Leap Of Faith*), as well as putting songs together for *Eternal Love*. This time, though, they were able to fit to a narrative, rather than the other

way round.

"I could put a bit more story in, and have the songs tie in with that story. Not every song was written for the musical - I'd already released an album, but nine or 10 of the songs (out of 20) were written to go in this musical."

In another unusual move, a cast recording of *Eternal Love* was released before the show premiered in January. Its success - it went to number one on the rock charts of both Amazon and iTunes, and number 40 in the Official UK Charts - brings other benefits, according to Steve.

"The idea was to get the fans into it, so that they know the songs and are singing them back at me. Also, if they bought the album and like the songs, they're definitely gonna come and see the show."

As for those who are unfamiliar with previous *Vampire Rock* productions, Steve says that although *Eternal Love* features the same characters, it can be enjoyed as a standalone offering, complete with its own unique storyline, humour and appeal. He also thinks the show is great for people who don't normally enjoy musicals.

"I would say that if you're not a fan of musicals, or don't think you're a fan, then this is probably the musical that will turn you into a fan.

"It's a rollercoaster of emotions and amazing songs. It goes from looking like something from a horror film, then like *Grease* The Musical when it's all poppy, and then into real rock - like a rock concert happening right in front of you. Then there's a love story, and a *Phantom Of The Opera*-type element. It's really got everything.

"And if you haven't heard the music before coming, you'll be buying the CD on the way out, I'm telling you."

.....

Vampire's Rock *Eternal Love* The Musical shows at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 March, and The Alexandra, Birmingham, on Thursday 27 March

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Classical music from across the city...



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 29 March

The Royal Philharmonic's reputation as one of the UK's finest orchestras has been emphatically underlined in recent times, thanks to the arrival as music director of the dynamic Vasily Petrenko (pictured). The Leningrad (now St Petersburg)-born 48-year-old, who became a British citizen in 2015, has previously been chief conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (he's now the RLPO's conductor laureate), presiding over not only a re-fashioning of its sound but also an impressive increase in concert ticket sales.

Petrenko's trademark energy is sure to be much in evidence when he picks up the baton at Symphony Hall this month, presenting a concert programme featuring works by Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture, Romeo & Juliet) and Prokofiev (Symphony No5). Award-winning American violinist Esther Yoo also contributes to proceedings, playing Bruch's much-loved Violin Concerto. She previously recorded the piece with Petrenko and the Royal Phil to great critical acclaim.



Villiers Quartet

Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Wed 12 March

Since forming some 14 years ago, the Villiers Quartet have made a name for themselves as hugely talented champions of British music. But their repertoire extends well beyond the boundaries of the British Isles...

Presented prior to an in-person guided play-along session, this early-afternoon recital sees them performing three compositions: Vivian Fung's String Quartet No1; Shostakovich's Two Pieces for String Octet; and Mendelssohn's String Octet in E flat.

CBSO: Abbey Road Concerto

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 26 March

Eivind Gullberg Jensen (pictured) takes on the conducting duties for this celebration of great British music.

The concert begins with Dani Howard's *Argentum*, written for the silver anniversary of Classic FM. This is then followed by Elgar's short-but-sweet *Elegy*, Vaughan Williams' inspiring *The Lark Ascending*,

Britten's famous *Sea Interludes*, and Anna Meredith's *Nautilus*, a work inspired by 'stomping along a beach in Scotland'. The concert's longest piece (at 35 minutes) is performed by violinist Guy Braunstein and combines The Beatles' *Abbey Road* with the orchestra in a brand-new concerto, here receiving its UK debut.

Ex Cathedra: Latin American Baroque - Ritual 1631

Birmingham Town Hall, Sun 9 March

Ex Cathedra's latest concert sees them presenting a glorious fusion of musical styles from Africa, the Americas and Europe. "Ritual 1631," explains the ensemble's founder, Jeffrey Skidmore, "revisits the vivid colours, the fire and passion of Latin American Baroque music..."

"The haunting mantra of the Inca hymn *Hanac pachap cussicuinin* - published in 1631 - provides the heartbeat that binds the narrative together."



Britten Sinfonia

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham, Wed 26 March

Synonymous with daring programming and high-quality performance, Britten Sinfonia stop off in Birmingham this month to present Jewish composer Michael Zev Gordon's *A Kind Of Haunting*. Currently on its world-premiere tour, the composition explores why and how the trauma of the Holocaust holds such a grip on not only the children of victims and survivors, but also the grandchildren... The concert also features Martinů's concerto for double string orchestra, piano & timpani - reflecting the pre-war tension and anxiety of 1938 - and Strauss' *Metamorphosen* - a 1945 elegy lamenting the destruction of Germany and its culture. Jonathan Berman conducts. The soloist is baritone James Newby (pictured).



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Comedy previews from across the region...

Rob Beckett

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Wed 14 May; Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 17 May; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 21 & Sat 22 November

First tickling the nation's funny bone in 2009, Rob Beckett's TV work includes 8 Out Of 10 Cats and Celebrity Juice. A high-tempo comedian who's been described by one newspaper as 'a little short of a revelation', Rob claims his relationship with comedy began as a youngster...

"I was the middle child and desperate for attention," he explains, "so I decided to try and get it by making my friends and family chuckle - or better still, belly laugh."

Gags include, "You know you're working-class when your TV's bigger than your bookcase," and "My girlfriend worries about me cheating on a night out. I say to her, 'Why would I have a burger when I've got steak at home?' The only problem is, when you're drunk, burgers are well nice."



Jamali Maddix

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 11 March; Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 25 March; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 16 May; Stafford Gatehouse, Wed 21 May; Glee Club, Birmingham, Thurs 5 June

One-time Chortle Student Comedian of the Year Jamali Maddix has been hailed for his frank yet ironic take on everyday racism and his willingness to tackle the hot-potato subject of terrorism.

He visits the Midlands numerous times across the next couple of months with his brand-new touring show, Aston.



Max Amini

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 24 March

Iranian-American comedian Max Amini brings together eccentric impressions and novel storytelling to explore a wide range of topics, in the process poking fun at the quirks

of modern society and highlighting the challenges of navigating cultural differences. No slouch when it comes to improvisation, Max promises a joyride of a show 'that will have you rolling in the aisles from start to finish'.

Milton Jones

Worcester Swan Theatre, Fri 7 March; Malvern Theatres Sun 9 March; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 12 March; Dudley Town Hall, Fri 14 March; New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Sat 15 March; Palace Theatre, Redditch, Sun 16 March; Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 27 March; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 8 May; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 2 July

With a style of humour that's mainly based around puns and one-liners, Milton Jones has established himself as one of Britain's most in-demand funny-men. "If my comedy's working well, I put a cartoon in people's heads that surprises them," explains Milton. "So you start off and they're thinking one thing, then you surprise them by changing the ending as you go along. It's not political or particularly edgy, it's just daft." Gags include: "Militant feminists - I take my



hat off to them. They don't like that," and, "Recently on a flight to America, all the way across, my wife was going, 'Why don't you get an upgrade, why don't you get an upgrade?' It took a bit of time, but in the end I got a better wife."

Scott Bennett

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Thurs 20 March

He may not feature on a list of the UK's best-known comics, but Scott Bennett is very much admired by those who do. So much so, in fact, that he's previously been selected as a support act by stellar laughter merchants Rob Brydon, Jason Manford, John Bishop and Mickey Flanagan. Hailed by fellow comedian Chris Ramsey as 'brilliantly funny and a joy to watch', Scott returns to the Gatehouse with latest show Stuff.



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Comedy previews from across the region...

John Shuttleworth

Birmingham Town Hall, Thurs 6 March;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 22 March &
Wed 12 November

Graham Fellows may have enjoyed early chart success as Jilted John, singing the eminently memorable Gordon



Is A Moron, but there's little doubting the character with which he will always be most associated... John Shuttleworth is one of those delightful creations who has become an intrinsic part of the nation's comedy heritage. A pigeon-fancying raconteur-par-excellence with an unusual and off-beam perspective on the world around him, John is never happier than when he's tinkling away on his Yamaha organ.

Fellows brings the bespectacled northerner to the Midlands as part of his latest UK tour, Raise The Oof.

Shabaz Ali

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 23 March;
Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Thurs 3 April

Introverts beware: Shabaz Ali likes his shows to be truly interactive affairs, with nobody off-limits - and that includes members of the audience!

Pop-culture phenomenon and Blackburn chemistry teacher Shabaz has made a name for himself as a social-media personality - his TikTok channel, ShabazSays, boasts millions of devotees.

And it's his quick-witted takedowns of some of the internet's most ridiculous crazes that have really helped set him apart from other online commentators.

Shabaz's Midlands dates come as part of his first-ever comedy tour.

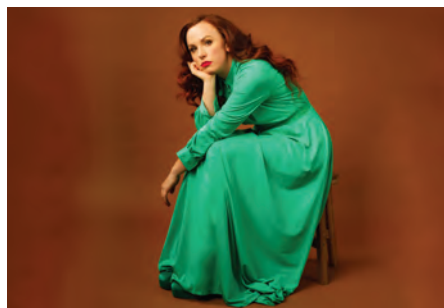


Mo Gilligan

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Fri 14 March

London stand-up Mo Gilligan has enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame and fortune since first coming to wider public attention almost a decade ago. It was back in 2016 that Mo uploaded a video about grime MCs - and fairly quickly thereafter found himself catapulted to celebrity status. Hired by Channel Four to front The Lateish Show and rewarded for his television work with a coveted Bafta gong, Mo admits that his life nowadays feels just a little bit crazy. "I wake up in the morning and think, 'This is nuts!'" admits the 37-year-old. "It's what I'd always dreamt about, and now that it's happened, I'm determined to make the most of it."

Mo visits Coventry this month with his latest touring show, In The Moment.



Catherine Bohart

Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 19 March

'The OCD, bisexual offspring of a Catholic deacon', Catherine Bohart's natural enthusiasm ensures excellent rapport with her audience, for whom the Irish comedian seems to have a genuine affection. Her Birmingham appearance this month sees her tackling a wide range of subjects, from death-obsessed parents, to queer reproduction and how adulthood 'frankly, isn't living up to her expectations'. Jokes include: "Lesbian sex is like cricket: it goes on forever and there's a lot of men watching it at home, alone, on the internet."

Paul Chowdhry

Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 21 March;
Utilita Arena, Birmingham, Sat 31 May

One of the most talented and popular Asian comedians on the UK comedy circuit, Paul Chowdhry has developed a stand-up act which taps into the multicultural diversity of contemporary Britain. His Midlands stop-offs this spring see him presenting latest touring show Englandia, an evening of comedy covering all manner of topical subjects.



HORSE PLAY

The National Theatre brings Michael Morpurgo's powerful story back to the Midlands



The National Theatre's award-winning stage adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's 1982 novel, War Horse, makes a welcome return to the Midlands this month. Featuring music, song, and some of the best puppetry you're ever likely to witness, the production tells the powerful story of a young man named Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, as they find themselves caught up in the horrors of the Great War...

The stage play War Horse revolutionised the way theatre used puppetry by creating realistic and life-sized animals and placing them at the centre of the drama. Premiered in 2007, the show, based on the bestselling novel by Michael Morpurgo, tells the story of Albert and his beloved horse Joey - both of whom have to leave behind a farm in Devon for the trenches of World War One.

Adapted by Nick Stafford, the National Theatre production features more than 20 puppets created by South African company Handspring Puppets. These include Joey and fellow horse Tophorn, which are each powered by three people - one in the head, one at the heart and one at the hind.

And while it's no mean feat, being a horse puppeteer is also great fun, says Welsh-born actor Michael Larcombe, who is one of a team of people playing the hind of both Joey and Tophorn, in the current touring production of the show.

"I wanted to be part of the global phenomenon which is War Horse," explains Michael. "I had a little play in the horse in the first audition, and it was just amazing to see the craftsmanship of the puppets and how the horses work. It's just gorgeous."

Michael had previously undertaken puppetry roles in a number of other shows. As well as performing as lemurs and monkeys in Madagascar, he also formed part of the Aslan puppet team in The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, which showed at Birmingham Rep across Christmas 2023.

War Horse, though, takes things to a whole new level.

"The puppeteers have two weeks of puppetry school before the actors come in for main rehearsals, and there is a lot of learning," recalls Michael who began the tour last summer. "And there's a lot of research into all kinds of things, like the sounds horses make and their different gaits, to make sure the movement is authentic. We also went on a little excursion to the King's Household Cavalry, just outside Hyde Park, and spent a day with the military horses there. We got to observe them and groom them a little bit and

understand more about horses from the military point of view.

"And you can carry on learning. In January, the tour was in Woking, and the place I was living was right next door to a field where there were two horses. So I could observe them and think 'I might try that tonight.'"

The tour has four teams of three puppeteers rotating to play both Joey and Tophorn.

"We all contribute to the personality of the horses. The two horses are very different; they both had very different upbringings. Tophorn was born into the military, so he's had military training. He is used to gunfire and loud noise and those sort of things, so he's a lot more stoic and rigid. That influences how we portray him.

"Joey is a half-thoroughbred/half-draft horse, so has the personality of both. He's bought at auction and then grows up at Albert's farm, where he's used as a riding horse to begin with. Then he's forced into having to plough and work on the farm, which is something you wouldn't expect of that sort of horse, so he has a more rugged upbringing.

"Joey looks up to Tophorn, they become very close, and Joey gets a lot of how to deal with the war noises from him. Joey is a very strong, rambunctious horse, so although he hasn't been around that environment, he settles to it quite quickly because he has to."

Made primarily from cane, aluminium, leather and mesh, the horses are life-sized. Measuring about eight feet in length, they are 10 feet tall and weigh around 40 to 50kg. Although the puppetry roles are physically demanding, Michael says the team receive great support from the tour company.

"They are fantastic. Even as far back as the auditions, they gave us a physiotherapy session to make sure there was nothing that would cause any issues using the horses.

Then, being cast in it, we use a physiotherapy company we are affiliated with, and they give us all an individualised plan. We are really well looked after. You are going to get tired or have sore muscles doing this every day, but actually your body gets

used to it very quickly."

War Horse is the most successful play in the history of the National Theatre. It originally spent two seasons at the National before opening at the New London Theatre in March 2009. Since then, the show has been seen in around 100 cities worldwide, with productions on New York's Broadway, in Toronto and Berlin. With touring productions in the UK & Ireland, North America, the Netherlands and Belgium, it has played to audiences of more than eight million people worldwide and won in excess of 25 major awards.

For Michael, the key to its success is in the relationship between Albert and Joey.

"At the heart of the show, there's so much love and hope and friendship, and the theme of perseverance. People really resonate with that. It's set in the First World War, so a very specific time, but I think friendship and hope are universal. You meet these characters at the beginning, you go through this really epic, tumultuous journey with them, and you really want them to get to the end and get back together.

"I also think it's the fact that you are seeing this journey through the eyes of the horse; people really connect with that. It's not the kind of thing you would normally see on stage."

And, he says, audiences - whether they're new to War Horse or returning to see it again - are in for a real treat: "I don't think there's a reason not to see the show. Why wouldn't you want to see a gorgeous play with wonderful music and wonderful actors telling this story of friendship and love and perseverance? And you'll also see some gorgeous puppetry, if I do say so myself!"

.....

War Horse shows at the Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, from Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 March, and then at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton from Tuesday 11 to Saturday 22 March



Calamity Jane Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 18 - Sat 22 March; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 17 - Sat 21 June; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 9 - Sat 13 September

Calamity Jane, telling the story of the Wild West's most notorious female outlaw, is best known from its 1953 film version, starring Doris Day and Howard Keel. In common with the movie, the stage show boasts comedy, drama, dance and music, with its playlist including such much-loved numbers as The Deadwood Stage, Black Hills Of Dakota, Windy City and Secret Love.

"The show is so wholesome," says West End star Carrie Hope

Fletcher, who takes the title role. "It's such a wonderful, nostalgic story. People are going to come and be immersed in the world of Deadwood City, be transported away for a while and not have to think about the state of the world right now.

"Calamity Jane is a really fun, feelgood time, and I think our audiences will be leaving the theatre slapping their thighs and singing. That's what we hope, anyway!"

The Rocky Horror Show

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 17 - Sat 22 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Mon 7 - Sat 12 April; Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 5 - Sat 10 May; The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Mon 22 - Sat 27 September

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to 'do The Time Warp again' - The Rocky Horror Show is returning to the Midlands!

Richard O'Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of the alien transvestite Frank N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky. Along the way, they take the audience through a selection of love-'em-or-loathe-'em musical numbers, including Sweet Transvestite, Damn It Janet and The Time Warp. Great fun's a guarantee - particularly if you get into the spirit of things and attend the show dressed in your very best stockings & suspenders (as many patrons do)!



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 4 - Sun 9 March

Everybody's favourite flying car makes a welcome return to the region, complete with the Sherman Brothers' memorable score and a high-energy cast headed by Ore Oduba and Liam Fox.

When eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts creates an amazing flying automobile, he uses it to take his family to the (fictional) country of Vulgaria. But all is not well in the European barony, where the sinister Baron Bomburst has decided to make children illegal... Truly Scrumptious, Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain and the Oscar-nominated title song feature among the show's best-known musical numbers.



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WITH THE DUNCAN WAUGH BAND & WEST END SINGERS

Sun 13 Apr

Juliet

Tue 22 Apr - Sat 3 May

CAP

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

BRB2

Carlos Acosta's Ballet Celebration
DIAGHILEV AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN BALLET

Tue 6 May

Welsh National Opera

Peter Grimes

Britten

Sat 10 May

ACOSTA DANZA'S CUBAN ECLECTICO

Photo: Toti Ferrer

Tue 13 & Wed 14 May

DARA Ó BRIAIN

Re:Creation

Thu 15 & Fri 16 May



Farm Boy

Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Sat 22 & Sun 23 March; Worcester Swan Theatre, Mon 31 March - Tues 1 April; Albany Theatre, Coventry, Fri 25 - Sun 27 April

For anybody who loved War Horse - whether as a book, a film, a stage production or all three - this critically acclaimed adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's compelling follow-up novel is surely a must-see work of theatre. Presented by Lichfield Garrick, the family-friendly production revisits War Horse's main characters of Albert and his horse, Joey, via the story of a teenager who regularly visits his grandfather on his farm in rural Devon... A moving account of the changing face of the English countryside, Farm Boy was written by Morpurgo as a response to the many post-War Horse enquiries he received from readers wanting to know what happened to Joey. Morpurgo has also stated that, of all the books he's written, Farm Boy is his favourite. If ever there was a good reason to check out the stage version...

NOW That's What I Call A Musical

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 11 - Sat 15 March

EastEnders' Nina Wadia, former X Factor winner Sam Bailey and 80s pop icon Sonia are the terrific trio tasked with lighting up this brand-new musical comedy.



Directed & choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, and marking 40 years of the chart-topping NOW That's What I Call Music compilation albums, the show is set in Birmingham and finds old school friends Gemma and April facing up to the challenges of a 20th anniversary school reunion... Featured hits from an evening of 80s classics include Gold, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Tainted Love, Hey Mickey and Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves.

Rita, Sue And Bob Too

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 4 - Sat 8 March

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

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

Vici Wreford-Sinnott: Unruly

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Thurs 20 March

A rare example of disabled-women-led theatre, Unruly is written and performed by playwright & campaigner Vici Wreford-Sinnott. Using her work to challenge societal and cultural misconceptions around the subject of disability, Vici here turns the spotlight on the character of Marina, who, having lost her best friend Suze, 'carefully unpacks her life and slowly removes the layers of women she was expected to be by others'.

A Matter Of Life And Death

New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Fri 28 March - Sat 19 April

New Vic Artistic Director Theresa Heskins has

adapted and directs this stage version of the much-loved 1941 film starring David Niven. The story's main character is World War Two pilot Peter Carter, who thinks he's about to meet his maker when his plane goes down just off the coast of England. Instead, he finds himself face-to-face with June, the American radio operator who kept him company on what he thought would be his final journey. Peter soon falls in love with her and looks ahead to a bright future - until, that is, a celestial entity makes contact to inform him that he should in fact have died in the plane crash...

An Inspector Calls

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 4 - Sat 8 March; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 6 - Sat 10 May

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



Anybody who's seen a production of JB Priestley's classic 1945 play will have no trouble understanding why it's been such a long-time worldwide hit... Stephen Daldry's award-winning production is presented by the National Theatre.

What will you see next?



TUE 8 - SAT 12 APR '25
PIG HEART BOY



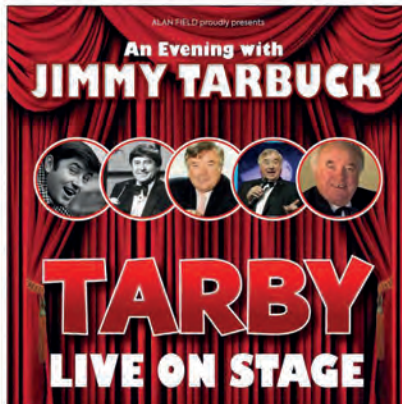
SAT 26 APRIL '25
MAN IN THE MIRROR



TUE 6, WED 7, THU 8 MAY '25
LA TRAVIATA, LA BOHEME,
MADAMA BUTTERFLY



FRI 6 - SAT 7 JUN '25
BALLET BC



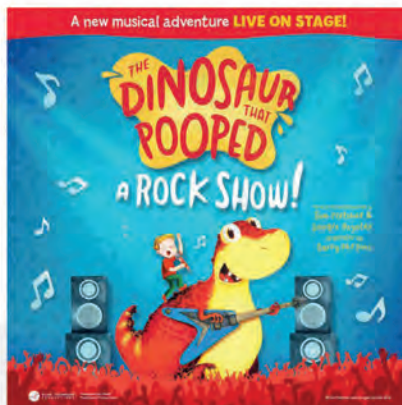
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AN EVENING WITH
JIMMY TARBUCK



MON 23 - SAT 28 JUN '25
CHICAGO



TUE 1 - SAT 5 JUL '25
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The People's Theatre Company: A Big Egg

Sat 26 Apr | Ages 3+

A scrumptious musical to delight all the family based on the picture book by Steven Lee.

Theatre previews from around the region



Hamlet

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, until Sat 29 March

Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, struggles to come to terms with his life. Not only is he faced with the ghost of his murdered father, he must also grapple with the behaviour of his widowed mother, who has married his conniving uncle, Claudius, in indecent haste. And things aren't going too well with his girlfriend, Ophelia, either...

One of the true masterpieces of world theatre, Shakespeare's most famous play is also one of the most testing to perform. The lead role is among the largest ever written, and it's a brave actor indeed who undertakes the necessary plunge into his own psyche. So best of luck, then, on this particular occasion, to RSC debutant Luke Thallon... Jared Harris and made-in-the-Midlands veteran actor Anton Lesser also star.

Boiler Room Six: A Titanic Story

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 26 & Thurs 27 March

Boiler Room Six made a significant splash at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, selling out its run and whetting the appetite for this current UK tour. The play tells the impossible true survival story of Frederick Barrett, a stoker given the prestigious role of lead fireman in one of the boiler rooms aboard RMS Titanic, the British ocean liner which sank on its maiden voyage in 1912 after hitting an iceberg.



Napoleon Dynamite

Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 21 & Sat 22 March

The young Wolverhampton creatives performing this show are promising a fast-paced, upbeat and joyful comedy - very much in the style of the same-titled 2004 coming-of-age film on which the production is based. The story follows the misadventures of awkward teenager Napoleon as he befriends new student Pedro and does his best to find his place in the world.

All Blood Runs Red

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 March

Highly acclaimed theatre company Imitating The Dog is the ensemble behind this

fascinating and true story, which tells the tale of an extraordinary life. At its heartland is Eugene Bullard, a man who, at various points in his life, was a runaway, a circus entertainer, a boxer, a nightclub owner, one of the first black fighter pilots in World War One, a jazz drummer, a spy and a civil rights activist.

Containing themes of racism and references to racist violence, the show's age recommendation for audience members is 12-plus.

Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act

Lichfield Garrick, Wed 12 March

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master of deduction makes a welcome return in a story that sees Sherlock Holmes emerging from two years of Sussex retirement for the funeral of his friend, Dr Watson, and then returning to Baker Street to resolve 'the last act' of his epic career...

Nigel Miles-Thomas stars in this one-man show, taking on the challenge of playing not only the world's greatest detective but also 13 other characters.

You Know My Mum

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 28 & Sat 29 March; The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 27 & Sat 28 June

Marketed as 'a cheeky comedy about life and death for all the family', You Know My Mum is presented by Ego Arts and features a baby bird named Bluey and a 25-year-old woman with Down's syndrome, who is struggling to come to terms with the death of her mother.

While Bluey learns about fried chicken factories and joins a boot camp for birds, Alex battles Harry Potter monsters and dreams about life after death. As her wild imagination comes to life, she begins to realise that the love which she thought she had lost is actually all around her...



Peter James: Picture You Dead

Malvern Theatres, Tues 25 - Sat 29 March; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 29 April - Sat 3 May; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Tues 24 - Sat 28 June

Bestselling crime writer Peter James has scored major successes on stage as well as in print and on TV, with adaptations of his novels having played to appreciative audiences at venues across the UK.

This latest offering sees Detective Superintendent Roy Grace - the Brighton-based policeman who's headed up murder investigations in a number of James' most popular works - investigating a cold case that leads him into the secretive world of fine art... Casualty's George Rainsford returns in the role of Grace, with Peter Ash (Coronation Street) and Fiona Wade (Emmerdale) also featuring in the cast.



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Minnie Stynker

Sun 27 Apr 1pm & 3pm
An unusual adventure unfolds when a boy's drawings giggle into life.
Age 3+

Family Singing

Sun 27 Apr 11.30am - 12.30pm
Come and learn songs to sing together.
All ages

Mini Creatives

Tue 22 Apr 10.30am - 12pm
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Age 0-4yrs

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Theatre for younger audiences



Shark In The Park Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 29 March - Sun 6 April

Nick Sharratt has illustrated hundreds of books, a significant percentage of which have been his own. One of these is the hugely successful *Shark In The Park!*, a children's story about a young lad named Timothy who goes to his local park to try out his new telescope. While there, he thinks he spots a shark - and not just on one occasion either, but several times in several places!...

The popularity of the book prompted Nick to write and illustrate two follow-up offerings - *Shark In The Dark!* and *Shark In The Park On A Windy Day!*.

All three stories are featured in this much-loved stage production from the highly rated Nonsense Room theatre company. The show is suitable for children aged two-plus.

The Dinosaur That Pooped

The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 2 March; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Sat 5 April; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 17 May; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Fri 30 May; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 20 July; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 29 October

Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter are promising their brand-new production will come complete with new songs, a lot of laughs and (not surprisingly given the show's title) a whole load of poo!

Based on Tom and Dougie's bestselling children's books, *The Dinosaur That Pooped* follows Danny and Dino as they try to get hold of the last two tickets to their favourite rock band's last-ever concert. But with a villainous band manager lurking, nothing goes to plan... Will the band perform? Will Danny rock out? Or will Dino's rumbling tummy save the day?...

Pirates Love Underpants

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Tues 11 - Fri 14 March; Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, Wed 23 - Thurs 24 April; Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Mon 26 - Tues 27 May

Claire Freedman certainly knows a thing or

two about writing for children. And she's no slouch on the subject of underpants either, with her much-loved picture books including *Aliens Love Underpants*, *Aliens Love Panta Claus* and *Aliens In Underpants Save The World...*

It turns out pirates are pretty keen on underpants too, as evidenced by this stage adaptation of another of Claire's books. Shrewsbury Theatre Severn's legendary pantomime Dame, Brad Fitt, has written the show, which features a winning combination of 'music, puppetry and glittering pants of gold'.



Room On The Broom

Tamworth Assembly Rooms, Tues 4 - Wed 5 March; Worcester Swan Theatre, Tues 11 - Wed 12 March; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Wed 23 - Sat 26 April

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, the creators of *The Gruffalo* and *We're Going On A Bear Hunt*, are the team behind this 'spellbinding' tale of a witch who makes the mistake of thinking she can fit a daft dog, a

beautiful bird and a friendly frog - as well as her own cat - on her broomstick without it snapping in two. And when a hungry dragon appears, things really start to hot up...



Dinosaurs Live!

Malvern Theatres, Sat 15 March; Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 13 April; Lichfield Garrick, Wed 23 July; The Alexandra, Birmingham, Sun 31 August; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sat 20 & Sun 21 September; The Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 27 September

Dinosaurs are once again roaming the region this year, thanks to this interactive show for all the family to enjoy.

Presented by the Natural History Museum in association with Mark Thompson Productions, *Dinosaurs Live!* provides youngsters with the chance to meet a host of impressive prehistoric creatures on a fun- and fact-filled journey through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The show is suitable for children aged three-plus.

LOLA LAND

Kinky Boots The Musical struts back to the Midlands



Inspired by the true story of a failing Northamptonshire shoe factory, Kinky Boots The Musical stops off in Birmingham next month as part of a UK tour. Courtney Bowman will reprise the role of factory worker Lauren, while Strictly Come Dancing star Johannes Radebe will be donning thigh-high red boots to play drag queen Lola...

Three years ago, actor Courtney Bowman played the role of factory worker Lauren in a concert performance of the hit musical Kinky Boots. She loved the show and the part. So when she heard a new UK tour was in the planning, she was keen to reprise the role in the full show.

"We put the concert up in a week," she recalls. "When I heard the show was touring again, I really wanted to be in it. I saw the original production in 2016 and loved it. I think the show is brilliant; it has so much heart."

Helmed by Leicester Curve Artistic Director Nikolai Foster, the touring production features Strictly Come Dancing professional & choreographer Johannes Radebe as drag queen Lola and Dan Partridge as factory owner Charlie.

The show, which is based on a true story and a hit 2005 film, focuses on the character of Charlie Price, who inherits the family shoe factory but struggles to keep the business afloat. When he meets drag queen Lola and sees her kinky boots, he realises there may be an untouched shoe market...

Courtney believes that, beyond its sparkle, the show is about family and friendship. "The story is so beautiful. There's the father-son relationships, which can also easily translate to mother-daughter relationships, so it's a universal story. Whatever people are exploring or are feeling challenged on, if you have a friend to help you, then you can get there.

"Its message is about love and acceptance and being open to change. Just being open is wonderful. Be as open as Lauren, be as strong, resilient and fabulous as Lola, and as understanding and caring as Charlie."

For Courtney, Lauren's strength is her willingness to welcome people as they are. "I love that when Lola comes into her life, Lauren just accepts her. She's just 'This is how it is, let's go and enjoy this new world, which isn't necessarily the factory in Northampton.'

"The boots are Charlie and Lola's story, but everyone's got their own boots, where they think 'I had a problem, someone came along and they helped me.' It's so full of love, and a lot of love has been put into this production."

With a score by American singer-songwriter Cyndi Lauper and book by American actor & writer Harvey Fierstein, Kinky Boots opened in Chicago in 2012. It then transferred to Broadway, where it won six Tony Awards, and the London West End, where it picked up three Oliviers, including Best New Musical.

Courtney is no stranger to prize winning herself. Two years ago, she bagged the WhatsOnStage Award for Best Performer In A Musical, for her portrayal of Ellie Woods in Legally Blonde at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. She also originated the role of Fatimah in Everybody's Talking About Jamie, and played Anne Boleyn in Six.

"I've always loved musicals. I used to watch the video of Cats in the 1990s and wore that video out! I love to connect all three disciplines of singing, dancing and acting, and on top of that, comedy and improv.

"I love the stage. If you go wrong on a film or television take, you can do it again, but if something goes wrong on stage, you've got to fix it. I love being on my toes. If someone goes wrong, that's my favourite thing because it's nice to see how other actors can save things or if I can save things. So, for instance, there's a line in Kinky Boots where Dan says 'Why am I the only one that believes in you, and why am I the only one who cares?' He swapped them round by accident one night. There was a split second, but then Jo went straight on, and it just worked. You see that and think 'Now *that* is acting!'"

Kinky Boots will mark the first time Courtney has performed at Birmingham Hippodrome, although she did visit the city last year to see Here And Now - The Steps Musical at The Alexandra.

"I loved Steps - they were my religion as a child, and I really enjoyed the show. Now I'm looking forward to going to the Hippodrome. I'm from Boston in Lincolnshire, so Birmingham, Nottingham, the Midlands, is kind of my domain. I claim the whole of the Midlands, even though I'm from the corner of it by Skegness!

"It's very tiring touring, but it's a rewarding kind of tiring. It's fun, and I'm trying to experience the culture of each city. Responses from the audiences so far have

been insane."

After touring his own dance shows (Freedom, Freedom Unleashed and House Of Jojo), Johannes Radebe is stepping in a new direction with Kinky Boots - taking on a lead role in a musical. And having experienced bullying for being gay while growing up in a South African township, he can certainly relate to his character of Lola.

"She's insecure and scarred, like many of us - me included - but she's also very bold, confident and powerful," he explains. "The premise of the show is about the acceptance of oneself and of others, and I can relate to that so much because it's been my personal fight. I hope with what I do in my career that I influence the world in a positive way, just by saying 'Yes, we are all different but we can live as one.'

"Kinky Boots has been a long-held dream of mine. I came across the movie first, and it spoke to my search for belonging as a young boy growing up in a township. I've always looked for spaces that could accommodate me or stories that resonate with me."

Johannes is also enjoying the experience of wearing such iconic boots.

"I'd worn heels in my house - without anybody witnessing it - for many years, and then Strictly gave me the platform to be fabulous and kinky in front of the world!"

That's not to say the role hasn't been without its challenges. "It's daunting and nerve-racking, but at the same time, it's really exciting. I think I have been an actor in some way or other across my career because I'm a storyteller. Now I get to say and sing how I feel as well as expressing myself through movement and dance.

"This show is so inspirational, with a universal message in a story and songs that leave people feeling happy and joyful. Maybe their minds will be changed by it, too. I find that quite incredible."

.....

Kinky Boots The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 April

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PRIZES UP FOR GRABS IN ACORNS' FIRST ONLINE AUCTION

Acorns Children's Hospice will hold its first online auction this month, and there's a spectacular array of prizes up for grabs - all of which have been donated by regional and national arts organisations and visitor attractions with links to film and television.

All monies raised from the auction will go to Acorns, which helps to support around 1,000 children and their families each year through their hospices in Birmingham, Worcester and the Black Country.

Here are just some of the amazing prizes on offer:

A must for Pink Floyd fans: Two Dark Side Of The Moon albums, signed by drummer Nick Mason - a prize certain to create a stir amongst music fans...



By Order of the Peaky Blinders: Award-winning writer, creator & director Steven Knight, who is Patron of Acorns Children's Hospice, has donated nine exquisitely tailored Peaky Blinders suits and caps made by Garrison Tailors. There are also signed photographs of Cillian Murphy and Tom Hardy to bid for.

Peaky Blinders on stage: Birmingham Hippodrome, in conjunction with Rambert Dance Company, have donated a pair of tickets to the press night of Peaky Blinders: The Redemption Of Thomas Shelby, which returns to the city in June after its original sell-out tour. A package of themed merchandise from the show is also included in the prize.

Into the wild: A one-night stay in the Hippo Lodge at West Midlands Safari Park.

Boxing high: Signed boxing gloves donated by boxing legend Chris Eubank.

Celebrity haunt: Tom Cruise's favourite Indian Restaurant, Asha's - named after the legendary Bollywood star - is offering a lavish afternoon tea for six people.



All aboard! The award-winning Severn Valley Railway has provided an all-day Freedom Pass, with the highest bidder enjoying a scenic journey aboard the train which featured in The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe.

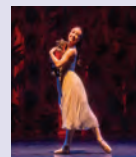
Journey to Narnia: The producers of touring show The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, in conjunction with Birmingham theatre The Alexandra, are providing four VIP tickets to the show's Press Night at the venue in May, as well as complimentary interval drinks.

Time to indulge: The Grand Hotel on Birmingham's Colmore Row is providing lunch or dinner for two at Isaacs restaurant, as well as an overnight stay in a Junior Suite.

Fine Dining: Masterchef and Great British Menu chef Paul Ainsworth has donated a meal for two at his Michelin-starred restaurant, No 6, in Padstow.

Chewton Glen, the five-star hotel in Hampshire, which is home to the James Martin Cookery School, will offer the highest bidder two cookery school places and an overnight stay.

Pamper time: Hoar Cross Hall in Staffordshire has donated a Purity Overnight Spa Stay for two.



Festive magic: Birmingham Royal Ballet, regular supporters of Acorns, have added a seasonal sparkle to proceedings by offering four tickets to the first night of The Nutcracker, together with a pair of pointe shoes signed by principal dancer Celine Gittens.

All auction bids are open to everyone, and the bidding will go live at midnight on Saturday 1 March. Just visit acorns.org/bid

Light entertainment from around the region



Jazz Emu: Knight Fever

Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 12 March

Impressive musicianship and surrealist observation combine when Archie Henderson brings comedy character Jazz Emu to town. If you've not yet encountered Jazz (and plenty have - his YouTube videos have garnered more than 70,000 views), here's a sample of his humour, lifted from the biography posted on his website: "When Jazz met the Pope several years ago, he was notably impressed, and said that Jazz was taller than he expected, and also handsomer. Jazz reminded him that 'handsomer' isn't a word; grammatically, it should be 'more handsome'. The Pope thanked him for his wisdom bigly and also said that Jazz reminded him of one of the paintings in the Sistine Chapel (God), and that Jazz should consider modelling."

Jazz visits Birmingham mid-month with his contractually-less-talented-than-him full live band, The Cosmique Perfection.

Jimbo's Drag Circus

Birmingham Town Hall, Tues 18 March

Adult humour and outrageous characters abound in this touring show from RuPaul's Drag Race favourite Jimbo. "I love the aesthetic of the circus," the Canadian performance artist & designer told werrrk.com. "I love that feeling that anything can happen, and I love the variety show and the different acts. I want people to come with an open mind and expect to laugh, and I want them to leave saying "What the f**k was that? That was crazy, and I want to see that again!"



Hitchcocked!

Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 13 March

This homage to legendary movie director Alfred Hitchcock comes complete with a serious slice of surreal silliness. Foghorn Unscripted are the wildly improvising laughter merchants behind the production, taking some of Hitchcock's most famous films and combining them with audience-written suggestions to create a unique show every night.

Sam Rabone's Big Bostin' Variety Show

Lichfield Garrick, Sun 16 March

Familiar to (and greatly appreciated by) Lichfield theatre-goers, thanks to his annual Garrick appearance as the pantomime Dame, Sam Rabone here makes a springtime return with his third Big Bostin' Variety Show. Expect laugh-out-loud comedy, amazing magic, 'and a bit of everything in-between'.

Hold On To Your Butts

The Rep, Birmingham, Fri 21 & Sat 22 March

The dinosaurs may have been gone for a while now - around 65 million years, in fact - but there's no sign of filmgoers' love for Jurassic Park becoming extinct any time soon. Hence, Hold On To Your Butts - a chaotic, frenetic and delightfully irreverent homage to a time, some 30-plus years ago, when a Steven Spielberg-directed movie about T-Rex and his tragically doomed pals ruled the cinema box office. The show runs for 75 minutes without an interval.



Buffy Revamped

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 9 March; Malvern Theatres, Sat 22 March

Calling to mind the work of ensembles such as the Reduced Shakespeare Company, Buffy Revamped is a fast-paced production that

wings its way through all 144 episodes of hit 1990s television series Buffy The Vampire Slayer. Not only that, but it does so in an admirably concise 70 minutes.

The one-man production is presented by Brendan Murphy, whose central character of Spike is a fella who, as you might imagine, knows a thing or several about the now-cult US TV show...

Buffy Revamped scored a big hit in Edinburgh (and on its previous visits to the Midlands), so if you're a fan of the series, a fun evening out is pretty much a guarantee.

Steptoe & Son Live

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Sat 22 March; Theatre On The Steps, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire, Fri 25 April; Halesowen Town Hall, Fri 16 May

In the 50 years since the BBC stopped making Steptoe & Son, the Ray Galton & Alan Simpson-created sitcom has established itself as a gold-star comedy classic. With that in mind, there's little wonder that the theatrical version continues to pull in the crowds. Focusing on the brittle relationship between a cantankerous old rag & bone man and his comically pretentious son, the production comprises stage adaptations of four much-loved episodes of the long-running television series.



BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Sofia Linares. © Perou.

Director Carlos Acosta

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Dance previews from across the region



Eun-Me-Ahn Dance Company's Dragons

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 25 & Wed 26 March

"The dragon is a very symbolic creature," explains avant-garde South Korean choreographer Eun-Me Ahn. "Everybody knows it, and we have many, many stories about dragons. But the dragon in Asia has many sides. Sometimes it is very good. Sometimes the dragon has humour. Sometimes it is a brave hero. And sometimes it becomes very bad."

The traditional heritage of these mythical beasts is here combined with cutting-edge technology to create a stunning kaleidoscope of past and present.

Fusing modern and traditional Asian dance styles with hologram appearances and colourful projections, Dragons received huge critical acclaim when it showed in London and Salford in 2023.

Amy & Carlos: Reborn

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 10 March

Powerful and show-stopping routines are the order of the day when Amy Dowden and Carlos Gu make a Birmingham stop-off mid-month. The Strictly Come Dancing stars will be joined by 'a dazzling cast of world-class dancers and vocalists' for a production that's being described as 'a testament to the joy of dancing'.



Ballet Black: Shadows

The Rep, Birmingham, Thurs 27 & Fri 28 March

Twenty-three-year-old company Ballet Black comprises British and international dancers of black and Asian descent and takes an impressively daring approach to its work. Under the guidance of highly rated artistic director Cassa Pancho, the ensemble here presents a new double bill. Pancho's darkly comic adaptation of Oyinkan Braithwaite's bestselling novel, My Sister, The Serial Killer, shares the evening with a British choreographic debut by Brooklyn-born award

winner Chanel DaSilva, who delves into the profound practice of shadow work, 'exploring its power to reveal our true selves'.

Tap Factory

Albany Theatre, Coventry, Wed 12 March

Described as 'Tap Dogs meets Stomp', Tap Factory visits Coventry this month as part of a UK tour. The rhythm-based production sees an array of internationally renowned exponents of dance, gymnastics and acrobatics take to the stage to showcase their skills.

Nikita: Midnight Dancer

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Sat 29 March;
Malvern Theatres, Sat 26 April; Regent
Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 2 May;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Sun 11 May;
Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 17 May

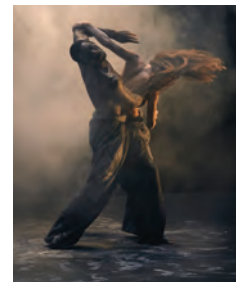
International champion and Strictly Come Dancing star Nikita Kuzmin's first-ever solo tour sees him being joined by 'a sharp and chic cast of talented dancers and vocalists... for an evening bursting with happiness, euphoria, and of course, world-class dance'.



Humanhood: Vortex

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham,
Fri 28 & Sat 29 March

Aiming to expand human awareness and elevate human potential through mystical dance performances, Birmingham- and Barcelona-based Humanhood here present a full-length and immersive



'movement and dance' production.

The show takes its inspiration from the image of the eye of a tornado, exploring the way in which humans can activate 'deep reservoirs of unexplored resilience to adapt, transform and evolve in any apparent chaos'.

Karen & Gorka: Speakeasy

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 15 March;
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sun 6 April

Karen Hauer and Gorka Marquez here make a welcome return with a show in which they're promising to unlock the door to an undercover world of iconic dance flavours. The Mamba, Charleston, Foxtrot and Salsa are all present and correct as the talented duo call to mind the New York Speakeasy, Havana dancefloors, the Chicago Blues scene, burlesque cabaret clubs and the glittering mirror balls of Studio 54.

Film highlights in March...



Mickey 17 CERT 15 (139 mins)

Starring **Robert Pattinson, Toni Collette, Mark Ruffalo, Naomi Ackie, Steven Yeun, Angus Imrie**
Directed by **Bong Joon Ho**

Academy Award-winning writer/director Bong Joon Ho - who picked up his Oscar for the 2019 black comedy *Parasite* - is once again breaking new ground with his latest film. The movie sees Robert Pattinson starring as unlikely hero Mickey Barnes, a man who finds himself in the extraordinary circumstance of working for an employer who demands of him the ultimate commitment to the job: that he should die, for a living...

Mickey 17 is based on Edward Ashton's book *Mickey7*, but Ashton is realistic enough to know that the film is going to be very different from his 2022 novel...

"Bong is going to change a lot about the book," he told *Nerdist*. "When I spoke with him, he made it pretty clear: 'You've got a 350-page book. I'm gonna have a 120-page script. There's a lot that's gonna go!'... In my view, the man's a genius. I don't believe he's ever made a bad film. And I sincerely hope that this isn't going to be his first."

Released Fri 7 March

The Alto Knights CERT 15 (123 mins)

Starring **Robert De Niro, Cosmo Jarvis, Debra Messing, Kathrine Narducci, Matt Servitto, Wallace Langham** Directed by **Barry Levinson**

Now here's a treat for film fans: *two* characters played by Robert De Niro for the price of one.

The Alto Knights features double Academy Award winner De Niro in a dual role, starring as two of New York's most notorious organised-crime bosses - Frank Costello and Vito Genovese - as they vie for control of the city's streets.

Having once upon a time been the best of buddies, the pair are now fierce rivals on a deadly collision course - one which will see the world of organised crime reshaped forever...

With the prospect of De Niro doing what he

arguably does best - playing Mafia-style gangsters (think *Goodfellas*, *The Irishman*, *Casino*) - *The Alto Knights* has been hotly anticipated since receiving the green light a couple of years back.

The fact that Barry Levinson (*Good Morning, Vietnam* and *Rain Man*) is helming the movie, and that it's been scripted by *Goodfellas* and *Casino* writer Nicholas Pileggi, further whets the appetite.

All of which hopefully counterbalances word coming out of recent test screenings, the general consensus of opinion being that the finished product badly misses the mark.

Released Fri 21 March



Black Bag CERT 15 (93 mins)

Starring **Michael Fassbender, Cate Blanchett, Tom Burke, Pierce Brosnan, Regé-Jean Page, Naomie Harris** Directed by **Steven Soderbergh**

Details about director Steven Soderbergh's latest film have been fairly thin on the ground. *Black Bag*'s official publicity describes it as 'a gripping spy drama about legendary intelligence agents George Woodhouse and his beloved wife Kathryn'. When Kathryn (Blanchett) is suspected of betraying the nation, George (Fassbender) faces the ultimate choice: loyalty to his marriage or his country.

"it's a very, very specific take on people who are in the intelligence business but also have complex personal, emotional lives,"

Soderbergh told *The Hollywood Reporter* in talking about the UK-set film. "It's the kind of thing that I like a lot."

Strike actor Tom Burke and former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan offer Fassbender and Blanchett solid support.

Released Fri 14 March



Opus CERT 15 (103 mins)

Starring **Ayo Edebiri, John Malkovich, Juliette Lewis, Murray Bartlett, Melissa Chambers, Tony Hale**
Directed by **Mark Anthony Green**

Advice for ambitious young writers: never accept an invitation to the remote compound of a legendary but notoriously reclusive pop star who's aiming to make a return to the limelight with an album he's convinced is the greatest record ever made. If the experience of junior writer Ariel is anything to go by, it's definitely a situation to be avoided.

When Ariel accompanies her magazine editor to the desert compound of aforementioned pop star Alfred Moretti (played by John Malkovich), she is determined to make the most of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. But, surrounded by the star's weird community of robe-wearing sycophants and intoxicated journalists, she instead finds herself slap-bang in the middle of a twisted little game...

A commentary on the cult of celebrity - and one which comes complete with an escalating body count - Opus is director Mark Anthony Green's debut feature.

Reviews have not been kind. **Released Fri 14 March**



The End CERT 12a (148 mins)

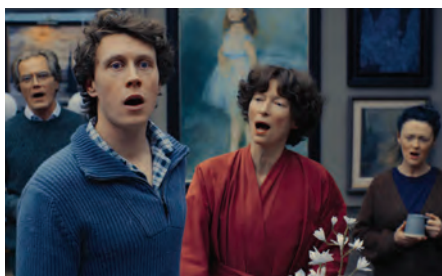
Starring **Tilda Swinton, George McKay, Moses Ingram, Michael Shannon, Bronach Gallagher, Tim McInnerny**
Directed by **Joshua Oppenheimer**

Documentary filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer here makes his narrative-feature debut with that rarest of beasts: a post-apocalyptic musical.

The storyline follows the fortunes of a wealthy family with generic character descriptors - Father, Mother, Son - who are living out their lives in a luxurious but claustrophobic underground bunker, deep within a converted salt mine, after an environmental catastrophe renders the Earth's surface uninhabitable. The family - and various other connected individuals - follow a regular schedule (safety emergency drills included) and decorate the bunker to evoke the changing seasons.

But then they discover a Girl - unconscious in the mines - and find that the reassuring predictability of their subterranean existence is suddenly compromised...

Released Fri 28 March



Disney's Snow White CERT tbc (120 mins)

Starring **Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Andrew Durnap, Ansu Kabia, Colin Michael Carmichael,** and the voice of **Patrick Page** Directed by **Marc Webb**

Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to the cinema we go...

The Brothers Grimm penned the fairytale of Snow White in the early 19th century. In the mid-20th, Walt Disney turned the terrific tale into what has since become a greatly adored animation.

Now, Disney are running with the story again, releasing this live-action reimagining of their own 1937 classic.

But the film has not been without its controversies, including the casting of Rachel Zegler as the titular character. The Latina star of West Side Story has been criticised for not being pale enough for the part, given that the princess is described as having skin "as white as snow". She's also been slammed for some of her comments

connected to Snow White, with critics claiming she's derided the 1930s version and shamed anybody who liked it.

And Disney itself hasn't been immune to criticism regarding the new movie either. Its decision to use only one actor with dwarfism was met with a loud chorus of disapproval. Away from the controversy, the Mouse House will be hoping this live-action remake scores as big a success as the animated original. The presence of Wonder Woman herself, Gal Gadot, as the Evil Queen looks to be a clever piece of casting. And with Marc Webb (The Amazing Spider-Man) in the director's chair and Greta Gerwig (Barbie) co-writing the script, there's certainly been no shortage of talent driving the project.

Released Fri 21 March



TURNING 25 IN '25

Walsall's New Art Gallery celebrates its silver anniversary by stepping down memory lane, looking to the future, and jumping for joy...

The New Art Gallery's anniversary celebrations began exactly 25 years after the building opened its doors, on the 20th of February. They continue with a fresh take on an old exhibition - The People's Show - the addition of a new work of chrysanthemum flowers gifted by Walsall-born artist Hannah Maybank, and plenty more besides.

Opening just weeks into the new millennium - and replacing Walsall's previous gallery & arts centre - the New Art Gallery represented a

forward-looking perspective for the region, while the modern design of the building itself caused quite a stir. Indeed, it was shortlisted for the prestigious Stirling Architecture Prize that very year.

Regular free events are scheduled throughout 2025, including a big summer bash and the continuation of a popular series of community festival celebrations.

What's On here picks out a few highlights from the Gallery's anniversary programme...

A BUNDLE OF JOY

A new collaborative exhibition, The Joy Project, commemorates the gallery's 25th anniversary and runs until Sunday 6 July. Created by young people over the last year, the project explores the concept of 'joy'. The participants - all of whom are younger than the New Art Gallery! - worked as part of a Collections Youth Panel, gaining an outside perspective by collaborating with other groups, colleges and schools.

As part of the exhibition, the Youth Panel have revived a popular show that was exhibited in the 1990s in the previous gallery, now Walsall's library. The original, entitled The People's Show, was inspired by the need to create more space for the gallery's collections. In a series of photographs, it showcased local people and their personal collections. In The Joy Project, new photo portraits by Sherrie Edgar have been added to the series, exploring what 'the joy of collecting' means to individuals under the age of 25 - whether they're fans of trainers or vinyl records.



ART IN ARCHITECTURE

The New Art Gallery was designed by architects Peter St John and Adam Caruso, who were selected for the job following an international competition.

The building contains six interconnected floors, designed to inspire visitors to explore the space and discover the treats contained in each of the galleries.

The rooms which house the Garman Ryan Collection are at a comfortably domestic scale, contrasting with the large and impressive temporary exhibition space on the floor above.

Nods to natural materials - from the building's exterior terracotta, to the mixture of wood used inside - gives the design warmth while still retaining a contemporary, airy brightness. The building is literally topped off by a roof terrace designed by artist Sarah Staton.

COMMUNITY VENTURES

The gallery hosts a World Book Day celebration on Saturday 8 March. The event includes a special performance of Mughal Miniatures: The Peacock & The Princess by Sonia Sabri Company, interactive poetry from Pep the Poet, and the chance to make bookmarks with illustrator Bec Tonks.

The following Saturday (the 15th) is a community day to celebrate Holi, the Festival of Colours. Bharatanatyam dance performances, sessions led by different artists, and food provided by Hargun Sweet Centre all feature.

The gallery also hosts a regular Sunday Art Club - a weekly, artist-led initiative aimed at young people aged four and upwards. The sessions take place from 12pm to 3pm, on Sundays throughout the year. More information about the content of individual sessions can be found on the New Art Gallery's website.



THE GARMAN RYAN COLLECTION

The New Art Gallery is the permanent host to an exceptional collection of artwork, gifted in 1973 by Kathleen Garman. Garman grew up locally, in Wednesbury, and although she lived most of her life in London, donated the works to her home county, believing in the importance of cultural development outside the capital.

Developed by Garman alongside artist Sally Ryan, the collection features works by Henri Matisse, Edgar Degas, Paul Cézanne and Vincent van Gogh. Sculptures by Garman's partner, Jacob Epstein, are also included, among other works.

The New Art Gallery was designed with the collection very much in mind. The works are housed in unique galleries, and grouped - as suggested by Garman - to prompt viewers to make links across cultures and centuries.

FLASH FORWARD...

Other shows this year include Suzanne Holtom's And Hills Bore Scars (opening on Saturday 29 March) in which she explores her deep connection to her Midlands roots. According to the artist, the exhibition "encompasses geological time, social histories, personal experiences and memory".

Looking ahead to summer, the gallery will host a National Open exhibition presented by Outside In, a charity that provides a platform for artists who encounter significant barriers to the art world. This year's theme is 'Shelter'.

Walsall-born artist Hannah Maybank is creating a special new work as a gift to celebrate the gallery's birthday, also exhibiting a series which explores the still-life genre. The works all make use of materials that change over time - including silver - to create 'living still lives'.

REASONS TO VISIT

- The Gallery features world-class art exhibitions, which include works by Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso and more
- It's centrally located and easy to access - only three minutes' walk from major transport links, like Walsall Train Station
- The venue hosts a welcoming programme of events, celebrating a range of festivities and reflecting the local community
- Children and young people can join the regular Sunday Art Club, for free, to get involved and learn new creative skills
- The New Art Gallery represents a flagship drive to bring exceptional artwork to the Black Country



Birmingham
Museums

6 March - 1 June 2025

Rembrandt

Masterpieces in Black & White

Prints from the Rembrandt House Museum

Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk



Rembrandt: Masterpieces in Black and White - Prints from the Rembrandt House Museum is co-organised by the American Federation of Arts and the Rembrandt House Museum.



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-Portrait, Wearing a Flat Cap*, c. 1642. Etching. Rembrandt House Museum, Amsterdam

Visual Arts previews from around the region



Towering Dreams

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Sat 15 March - Sunday 31 August

Ever fancied trying your hand at being an architect? Well, your wish can (briefly) come true at Compton Verney over the next few months, with visitors to the venue's Towering Dreams exhibition being invited to add their own imaginative touches to a cardboard structure that will develop over time.

Drawn from the collection of the Sir John Soane's Museum, the exhibition explores how architects of the 18th and early 19th centuries found the inspiration for their creativity in a variety of places - from ancient Greek and Roman buildings, to Egyptian monuments, and even buildings from the Far East and Asia.

Painted Dreams: The Art Of Evelyn De Morgan

Wolverhampton Art Gallery & Museum, 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.

Until the 9th of this month, Wolverhampton Art Gallery is continuing to display 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.



Coventry Open

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry, Fri 28 March - Sun 8 June

The creative prowess of artists throughout the West Midlands region will be showcased to thousands of art lovers when the Coventry Open returns to the city's Herbert Art Gallery & Museum late this month. Taking place for the 13th time, the exhibition will, as usual, feature an eclectic mix of artworks created in a wide range of mediums.

Htein Lin: Escape

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Thurs 20 March - Sun 1 June

Htein Lin hails from Myanmar and has built his career as an artist around a lifelong commitment to documenting human experience in difficult times. This major solo exhibition features a comprehensive selection of paintings made by the artist on prison uniforms and found textile during six years spent as a political prisoner between 1998 and 2004. The Ikon display also includes drawings, sculpture and video, as well as a new, large-scale painting; created last year, Fiery Hell portrays the plight of Myanmar's rural populations - including ethnic and religious minorities - who have found themselves caught up in the country's ongoing civil war.



Marcia Michael: The Family Album

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham, Sat 15 March - Sun 1 June

The beauty and depth of Black family connections in British history is the subject of this thought-provoking exhibition by Marcia Michael, a multidisciplinary artist of Caribbean descent.

"The things that we really look for, whilst looking at our photo album, is sameness and familiarity," says Marcia. "Do we have the same eyes, the same mouth? Do we have the same taste in clothes, music or things? Did I look like my mum when she was my age? Those things that we look for in the photographs are never placed in the album intentionally, yet are so important in understanding who we are and how family ties are made."



Herbert

Art Gallery & Museum

coventry open 2025

Friday 28 March -
Sunday 8 June 2025

Returning for its thirteenth year at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, the Coventry Open celebrates local creative talent and provides selling opportunities for artists from across Coventry and the West Midlands.



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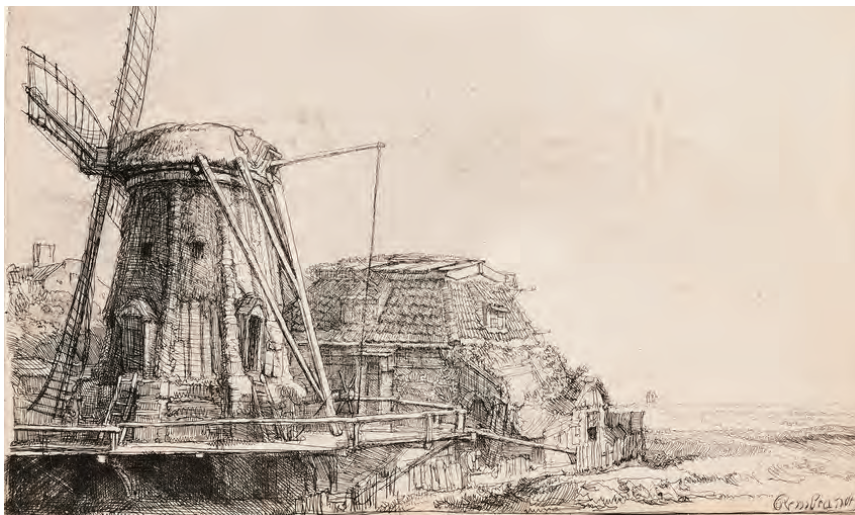
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Visual Arts previews from around the region



Rembrandt: Masterpieces In Black And White

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Thurs 6 March - Sun 1 June

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is the only UK stop-off for this major new show, which marks the first time Rembrandt's etchings have been brought out of the Netherlands as a collection. "We are delighted to be bringing his fascinating prints to Birmingham," says Epcó Runia, head of collections at the Rembrandt House Museum, which has co-organised Masterpieces In Black And White with the American Federation of Arts. "With this exhibition, we hope to demonstrate that each of Rembrandt's prints is a work of art in its own right. If you take the time to look at them closely, a whole world opens up to you: a world in black & white, but with enormous visual richness."

Beyond The Canvas

Rugby Art Gallery, Sat 1 March - Sat 7 June

Taking the subtitle A Celebration Of British Sculpture From The Ingram Collection, Beyond The Canvas explores the diverse styles and techniques that defined British sculpture throughout the 20th century.

The Ingram Art Foundation boasts one of the most significant collections of modern British art in the UK. The collection is here sharing space with pieces from the widely admired Rugby Collection.

The display is being presented as part of the gallery's 25th anniversary celebration.



The Toys Strike Back

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery,
Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 1 March - Sun 1 June

Readers of a certain vintage will surely recall the impact which Star Wars made when it first hit cinema screens way back in 1977. They may also remember - and might even have owned - some of the Star Wars-connected merchandise that flooded the marketplace in the wake of George

Lucas' blockbuster movie...

Star Wars aficionados can this month take a walk down memory lane courtesy of this fascinating exhibition. The display features iconic action figures, dioramas, the legendary Millennium Falcon, and all manner of other collectibles - from vintage board games to children's school lunchboxes and thermos flasks.

Pop, Print, Protest

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
until Sun 11 May

Featuring artwork created in the mid-20th century, this fascinating show explores how Pop Artists used mixed-media collage and combined text and image in order to protest against capitalism, racism and conflict. In the process of doing so, the artists were responding to some of the biggest social and political issues of the time, including the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War... The exhibition has been curated by Sophie Hatchwell, who is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Birmingham.



Eduardo Paolozzi: General Dynamic F.U.N.

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum,
until Sun 30 March

Pop Art pioneer Sir Eduardo Paolozzi once referred to himself as "a wizard in Toytown", transforming the mundane, the derelict, and the mass-produced into what he described as 'surrealist' art...



This Worcester City Art Gallery exhibition focuses on a series of 50 screenprints and photolithographs created by the Edinburgh-born artist between 1965 and 1970. Described by Paolozzi's friend and collaborator, JG Ballard, as "a unique guidebook to the electric garden of our minds", General Dynamic F.U.N. employs the technologies of mass-reproduction and gorges on its idols: the household names and familiar faces of consumer advertising, high fashion and Hollywood.

Sun & Fire: Life And Death At The Dawn Of History

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery,
until Wed 30 April

Taking a look at life in ancient Shropshire, Sun & Fire provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about life in the county between 4,500 and 2,000 years ago. As its main title suggests, the exhibition has a particular focus on the significance of light and heat for people living in prehistoric times, exploring how the sun was once upon a time celebrated with huge stone circles and bright gold objects. The exhibition is interactive and has been funded by Arts Council England.

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Events previews from around the region



The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz The Drone Light Show

Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham, Sat 1 March

Drone light show specialists Celestial will be heading Over The Rainbow on the first of the month, when they bring their brand-new production, The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz, to Birmingham.

Promising to be ‘a spellbinding adaptation of the beloved novel’, the presentation will

see hundreds of drones ‘dancing across the night sky’, as cutting-edge technology fuses with ‘artistic brilliance’... Birmingham will be the first UK city to experience the new show, which will then continue on a tour across the country.



YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships

Utilita Arena Birmingham, Tues 11 - Sun 16 March

The YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships makes a welcome return to Birmingham this month.

The event is the world’s oldest and most

prestigious badminton tournament, having first been held in 1899.

This year’s get-together features 50 hours of live badminton made up of 155 matches.

The Creative Craft Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 March

The Creative Craft Show and sister shows Sewing For Pleasure and Fashion & Embroidery return to the NEC for four days mid-month.

One ticket allows access to all three shows, offering visitors an abundance of workshops and demonstrations to enjoy, stalls around which to browse and great opportunities to stock up on supplies.

New events at The Creative Craft Show include the Creative Homes Theatre and accompanying workshops, which need to be booked in advance.

This year will also see Sewing For Pleasure host ‘a bigger and better’ Proud Lounge - a dedicated space celebrating the diversity of the sewing and crafting community.



Meanwhile, over in the Fashion & Embroidery section, visitors will be able to enjoy a number of never-before-seen features. The ever-popular catwalk shows and National Embroidery competition both make a return. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view The Red Dress, an award-winning global and collaborative embroidery project, created across a period of 14 years, which has been embroidered by 367 women and girls, 11 men and boys, and two non-binary artists from 51 countries across the world.



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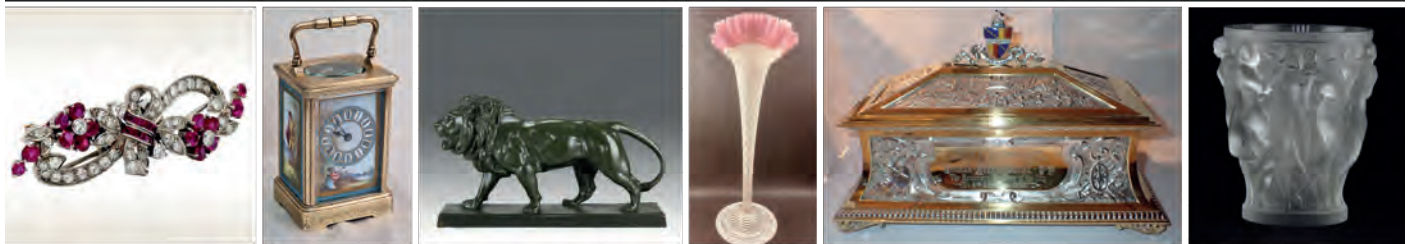
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Events previews from around the region



FREE TICKETS
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See page 50 for details

National Homebuilding & Renovating Show

NEC, Birmingham, Thurs 20 - Sun 23 March

The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show brings together designers, experts, builders and suppliers 'to help you create the home of your dreams'. Visitors can check out all the latest products, join seminars and masterclasses, and ask the experts for an opinion on everything

from small plots to big builds. For people keen to maximise the efficiency of their home, the show also features the Home Energy Academy, which includes theatre sessions, and contributions from eco-energy-focused experts in the show's Advice Centre.



Classic Antique Fairs NEC, Hall 11, Birmingham, Fri 28 - Sun 30 March

Classic Antique Fairs are back at the NEC, Hall 11, with around 80 specialist dealers offering a wide variety of high-quality pieces to suit all budgets. The exhibitors cover a wide range of fields, including Cartier and Fabergé jewellery, Art Deco furniture, Lalique, Roman glass, porcelain, ceramics, silver, animalier bronzes, C19th animal portraits and

contemporary art. Amongst the exhibits will be an important parcel silver gilt Freedom of The City of Birmingham casket, presented to Thomas Avery Esquire, former Mayor and Alderman of the city on the 4th of October 1892. The piece is being exhibited by T Robert Fine Antiques. To book tickets and reduced cost parking, visit: classicantiquefairs.co.uk

Peter Rabbit Visit

Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster, Sat 29 & Sun 30 March

Families can take a heritage train ride out into the countryside to see Peter Rabbit at Severn Valley Railway late this month. On arrival at The Engine House at Highley, visitors will be able to see Peter during storytime sessions, after which they can explore the interactive exhibits and outdoor play area. Magic shows - taking place throughout the day - are also included in the price of a ticket.



Cheltenham Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse, Tues 11 - Fri 14 March

Cheltenham Racecourse has hosted racing since 1815 and now showcases some of the best jump racing in the country. The highlight is the Cheltenham Festival, which features a total of 28 races and 14 Grade 1 events, contested in front of more than 65,000 racegoers on each of the four days. To add to the event's excitement, the ongoing rivalry between Great Britain and Ireland is celebrated with the Prestbury Cup, which sees the two nations compete against one another to accumulate the most Festival winners.



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March 2025

the list



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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 March



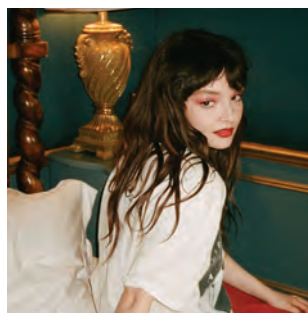
Asian Spring - Bradshaw Hall,
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
Sun 2 March

Mon 10 - Sun 16 March



Fluff - Old Joint Stock Theatre,
Birmingham
Mon 10 & Tues 11 March

Mon 17 - Sun 23 March



Lauren Mayberry - O2 Academy
Birmingham
Sun 23 March

Mon 24 - Mon 31 March



Ellen Kent: Madama Butterfly -
The Alexandra, Birmingham
Sat 29 March

VISUAL ARTS IN THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Exhibition of powerful photographs showcasing animal behaviour, spectacular species and the fragility of our planet, until Sun 20 Apr

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 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.

Compton Verney, Warwickshire

BREATHING WITH THE FOREST An immersive video installation that illuminates the ecosystem surrounding a capinuri tree (*Maquira coriacea*) in the Colombian Amazon, recreating a real plot of Amazonian forest in astounding detail, until Sun 6 April

EMII ALRAI: RIVER OF BLACK STONE Inspired by the disruptive nature of volcanic eruption and paintings of Vesuvius in the gallery's Naples collection, Emii Alrai weaves together ancient mythologies, research and nostalgia as a critical response to our times, until Sun 15 June

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

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

Midlands Arts Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham

MADE AT MAC: WORKING WITH METAL A stained glass and jewellery exhibition, showcasing the talents of students and tutors who work with metal on MAC's 12-week creative courses, Sat 8 Mar - Sun 18 May

PRISM PHOTOGRAPHY OPEN 2025 Group exhibition bringing together a selection of thought-provoking new photographs by image-makers based across the West Midlands, Sat 15 Mar - Sun 18 May

SU RICHARDSON: IN STITCHES The largest retrospective of Richardson's work to date, and the first solo

exhibition in her home town. Works include recent soft sculptures that explore themes of motherhood, the maternal body, breastfeeding, loss and illness, Sat 8 Mar - Sun 1 June

RBSA Gallery, Birmingham

RBSA PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE 2025 The sixth competition, inviting artists who use photographic processes to enter their work, until Sat 22 Mar

BIRMINGHAM EASEL CLUB SHOWCASE Formed in 1879, the Easel Club currently has 18 members. Their work is created using a range of techniques, including painting, drawing, collage, printmaking and sculpture, Tues 25 Mar - Sat 5 April

ALAN REULLIER: THE ART OF A SECOND LIFE The latest project from the award-winning French artist, designer & sculptor. Reullier is known for producing sustainable art created from discarded industrial and natural materials, Tues 25 Mar - Sat 5 April

Also:

IF STARS EVER FELL? Exhibition reflecting on the appeal of art and artists, until Sun 16 Mar, Prayer Room Gallery, Digbeth

MOTHERSHIP Exhibition highlighting work undertaken by the mothers and children who have taken part in the Mothership Residency, a co-working creative space with integrated radical childcare options, until Sat 19 April, Stryx, Jewellery Quarter

CAROLYN BLAKE: FURTHER THAN MEMORY CAN REACH Exhibition of paintings which takes a journey around the grounds of Winterbourne House, from the time it was built to the present day, until Sun 14 Sept, Winterbourne House and Garden, Birmingham

FRAMES OF DISCOVERY A one-night-only art & science event featuring film, animation, paintings, drawings and more..., Fri 7 Mar, Centrala, Digbeth

SUBJECTS OF STATE, LABOURS OF LOVE Immersive video installation and exhibition, capturing the shared joys, celebrations, struggles, oppressions and complexities experienced by Caribbean heritage communities, Sat 8 Mar - Sun 8 June, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

PERFECTION IS A LIE (AN ODE TO YOUR POTENTIAL) Interested in the politics of borrowing from different disciplines and cultural movements - like DIY or punk - Alice Theobald considers what it means to be an amateur, and how success is measured in contemporary society, Sat 8 Mar - Sat 5 July, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

Gigs

ELLE-J WALTERS BAND

Sat 1 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE OCELOTS Sat 1 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

THE REAL PEOPLE Sat 1 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

TURIN BRAKES Sat 1 Mar, Wulfrun Hall at The Halls Wolverhampton

LEVI WASHINGTON Sat 1 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE TYSMS + SHORTWAVE + MATTHEW JOSHUA + THE HOME GROWN + BEN SWANN Sat 1 Mar, The Dark Horse, Moseley

KIOKO + LLOYD MCGRATH COLLECTIVE + LOBSTER + YOUNG CULTURE BAND Sat 1 Mar, The Night Owl, Digbeth

CALUM BOWIE Sat 1 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

LOTTERY WINNERS + THE COVASSETES + EIGHTY EIGHT MILES Sat 1 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ZION TRAIN + TRANSGLOBAL UNDERGROUND SOUNDSYSTEM Sat 1 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE UTOPIATES Sat 1 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

ENTERPRISE EARTH + DISTANT + THE LAST TEN SECONDS OF LIFE + HARBINGER Sat 1 Mar, The Asylum, Hampton Street

JHARIAH + POLLYANNA Sat 1 Mar, The Asylum, Hampton Street

THE BLACK FRIDAYS + THE SLIPPERY PEOPLE Sat 1 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 1 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

SIGNING OFF UB40 Sat 1 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

DESTINATION DISEASE + THE BLACK WIDOWS + WALLACE & VOMIT Sun 2 Mar, The Dark Horse, Moseley

BIOHAZARD + LIFE OF AGONY Sun 2 Mar, O2

Institute, Digbeth

JACK WHITE Sun 2 Mar, O2 Academy

POLYPORES + FIELD LINES CARTOGRAPHER + KYLIE MONOLOGUE + CHOLLY + APTA + SULK ROOMS + LO FIVE Sun 2 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE GARRY ALLCOCK TRIO Sun 2 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

CHUCK PROPHET Mon 3 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DELIVERY Mon 3 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RØRY + AS DECEMBER FALLS + LAKE MALICE Mon 3 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JAMIE MILLER + MAISY KAY + ALEX SAMPSON Mon 3 Mar, O2 Academy

MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER + JULIE FOWLIS + KARINE POLWART Mon 3 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

CHRIS DE BURGH Mon 3 Mar, Symphony Hall

STEVENS & POUND Mon 3 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

TEDDY SWIMS Mon 3 - Tues 4 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham

MIKE Tues 4 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

PUNK OFF: THE SOUNDS OF PUNK AND NEW WAVE Tues 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

SQUID Tues 4 Mar, XOYO, Digbeth

CARL MARAH Tues 4 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

JIM GHEDI Wed 5 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ROISIN MCCARNEY Wed 5 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

NOTORIOUS BIG TRIBUTE + LIL CEASE + THE FRANK WHITE Wed 5 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ZAKK SABBATH + LOWEN Wed 5 Mar, O2 Academy

CRYWANK + JOHNNY FOREIGNER Wed 5 Mar,

Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

DECADE & A DAY + HOMECOMING AND BEACH FRONT Wed 5 Mar, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

SUFFOCATION + ANGELMAKER + FUMING MOUTH + CARCOSA + MELANCOLIA Wed 5 Mar, XOYO, Digbeth

PETE KELLY + EMMA LANGFORD Wed 5 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath

JAZZ SABBATH Wed 5 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

POLLY PAULUSMA Wed 5 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

BLACK DOLDRUMS Thurs 6 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JOSIAH QUEEN Thurs 6 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JOHNNY2BAD Thurs 6 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE GUEST LIST Thurs 6 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

NAO Thurs 6 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ROSALIE CUNNINGHAM + COLOSSAL APOSTLE Thurs 6 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

OLLIE CANHAM, OLIE BRICE & WILL GLASER Thurs 6 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SABRINA CARPENTER Thurs 6 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham

SÉAMUS ÓG Thurs 6 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 6 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

LUCA SIMIAN Fri 7 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ATTICOMATIC Fri 7 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

THE BEST OF GROHL Fri 7 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

TARA CHINN Fri 7 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

TRANSMISSION - JOY

DIVISION TRIBUTE Fri 7 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE FIVE HUNDRED + ESCHALON Fri 7 Mar, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

DEAD AIR Fri 7 Mar, The Victoria, John Bright Street

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Fri 7 Mar, The Alexandra

THE KATE GEE BAND Fri 7 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE JAMES OLIVER BAND Fri 7 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

PASTEL Fri 7 Mar, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

PARADISE FOUND: THE ULTIMATE MEAT LOAF ROCK SHOW Fri 7 Mar, Wulfrun Hall at The Halls Wolverhampton

SUMWOTGRRRL + BOOM BOOM WOMB + BE NICE + TEMPER TANTRUM + SILK Fri 7 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

ELVIS - THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE Fri 7 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

THE MADCHESTER EXPERIENCE + PARKLIFE BLUR TRIBUTE Fri 7 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

B'SPOKE Fri 7 - Sat 8 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

HILLBILLY MOON EXPLOSION Sat 8 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 8 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE SMITHS UTD Sat 8 Mar, The Dark Horse, Moseley

THE MIDNIGHT CITY SOUL BAND Sat 8 Mar, The Night Owl, Digbeth

SHAMAN'S HARVEST + BLACKTOP MOJO Sat 8 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

DOVES Sat 8 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

SECOND CITY SIN + ROOD END + CRUSH VELVET + GRACIE ROO Sat 8 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE MARY WALLOPERS Sat 8 Mar, O2 Academy

THE BRACKNALL + ROSA CAELUM + THE MASSES

Sat 8 Mar, O2 Academy

FLINT FIRE Sat 8 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

PARADISE FELL Sat 8 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

SELF DECEPTION + THECITYISOURS + EYES WIDE OPEN Sat 8 Mar, The Asylum, Hampton Street

A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE Sat 8 Mar, The Alexandra

THE MUDSHARKS - LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE Sat 8 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

THE DAISY JANE BAND + VIVIENNE + ALABASTER + STATIC + NAUSY Sat 8 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

JEFF BROWN Sat 8 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

THE ELTON JOHN SHOW Sat 8 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

BOOTLEG ABBA Sat 8 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

COLDWAVE Sun 9 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE OBSCURITONES + WILD DEUCES + LADY LUCK LEXY + BITTER LEMONS + THE MANDELBROT SHAKES Sun 9 Mar, The Night Owl, Digbeth

BRIT FLOYD Sun 9 Mar, Symphony Hall

NAPALM DEATH + CROWBAR + FULL OF HELL + BRAT Sun 9 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

REGGAE FEST Sun 9 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE BROTHERS GILLESPIE Sun 9 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

MICHAEL KIWANUKA Sun 9 Mar, The Civic at The Halls Wolverhampton



Classical Music

CBSO BRASS & PERCUSSION Featuring Alpesh Chauhan (conductor). Programme includes works by Gade, Piazzolla, Eliasson & Mussorgsky, Sun 2 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

ECHO RISING STARS: MATILDA LLOYD - LEGENDE Also featuring Matilda Lloyd (trumpet) & Jonathan Ware (piano). Programme includes works by Honegger, Enescu, Debussy & more..., Sun 2 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

PAUL CARR: ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Elgar, Harris, Howells & more..., Sun 2 Mar, Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC: TROMBONE CHOIR Featuring Ed Jones (director). Programme includes works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky & Quincy Jones, Mon 3 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BARNARDO'S NATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION 2025 Over 70 school and community choirs competed to win a place at this prestigious final, Tues 4 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SETTINGS OF THE POETRY OF JOHN DONNE Featuring Lynda Sayce (theorbo & lute), Juliet Daniel (lute) & Elaine Nelson (soprano). Programme includes works by Ferrabosco, Dowland, Corkine & Coprario, Tues 4 Mar, The Dome, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

ENSEMBLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: DISCOVERING MORRICONE Featuring Giacomo Loprieno (conductor), Anna Delfino (soprano) & Attila Simon (violin), Wed 5 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall



PRE-CONCERT PERFORMANCE: RBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme comprises Berlioz orch of Meyer Marche Marocaine & Ravel's La valse, Thurs 6 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO: BEETHOVEN & MAHLER Featuring Alpesh Chauhan

(conductor), Karen Cargill (mezzo soprano) & Brenden Gunnell (tenor), Thurs 6 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY AWARDS 2025 Classical music's biggest awards night comes to Birmingham for the first time, Thurs 6 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

PAUL CARR: ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by Spicer, J S Bach, Vivaldi & more..., Thurs 6 Mar, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

RBC OPERA: ALBERT HERRING BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN Featuring Rebecca Meltzer (director) & Paul Wingfield (conductor). Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC: MON COEUR SOUPIRE, SONGS AND SONATAS BY FRENCH BAROQUE WOMEN COMPOSERS Featuring Martin Perkins (director). Programme includes works by Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, Julie Pinel, Françoise-Charlotte de Senneterre Ménéteau & 'Mademoiselle Sicard', Fri 7 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC WIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION Featuring Peter Moore (trombone) & Douglas Mitchell (conductor). Programme includes Schuller's Eine Kleine Posaunenmusik, Fri 7 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

LECTURE RECITAL: EARTH AND AIR AND RAIN Featuring Dominic Sedgwick (baritone) & Ceri Owen (piano). Programme includes works by Finzi, Fri 7 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, Birmingham

EX CATHEDRA: LATIN AMERICAN BAROQUE - RITUAL 1631 Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Araujo, Hernandez, Salazar & more..., Sun 9 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

Comedy

JUST THE TONIC COMEDY CLUB Sat 1 Mar, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

ADAM ROWE & DAN NIGHTINGALE Sat 1 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

KAT B & RICHARD BLACKWOOD Sat 1 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

JIM DAVIDSON Sat 1 Mar, Dudley Town Hall

AL MURRAY Sat 1 Mar, Warwick

Arts Centre, Coventry

PADDY MCGUINNESS Sat 1 Mar, Civic Hall at The Halls Wolverhampton

LINDSEY SANTORO, WILL DUGGAN, DARREN HARRIOTT & MARK NELSON Sat 1 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CLINTON BAPTISTE Sun 2 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CONNOR BURNS Sun 2 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

IAIN STIRLING Sun 2 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ANIA MAGLIANO Wed 5 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CLOSEUP COMEDY WITH SLIM & LINDSEY SANTORO Wed 5 Mar, Herberts Yard, Birmingham

CLOSEUP COMEDY WITH AURIE STYLA & MORE Thurs 6 Mar, Hockley Social Club, B'ham

JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH Thurs 6 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MATT FORDE Thurs 6 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KUM-N-AVALOFF WITH RICKY BALSHAW, TAL DAVIES, JAMIE DOUGLAS & DAN SMITH (MC) Thurs 6 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH & JOHN FOTHERGILL Thurs 6 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

PROJECT MAYHEM COMEDY Thurs 6 Mar, Scruffy Murphy's, Birmingham

SHAZIA MIRZA, KATE BARRON, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH, JOHN FOTHERGILL & SARAH ROBERTS Fri 7 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

RACHEL FAIRBURN Fri 7 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham



RICHARD BLACKWOOD Fri 7 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

JASON MANFORD Fri 7 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ANDY ZALTZMAN Fri 7 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

JUST THE TONIC COMEDY CLUB Sat 8 Mar, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

JASON MANFORD Sat 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CHLOE PETTS Sat 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SHAZIA MIRZA, FAIZAN SHAH, ALLYSON JUNE SMITH & JOHN FOTHERGILL Sat 8 Mar, The Glee

Club, Birmingham

DOMINIC FRISBY Sat 8 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

LINDSEY SANTORO, DARREN HARRIOTT, JAY HANDLEY, JONATHAN HIPKISS, TAL DAVIES, FREDDIE FARRELL, RYAN MOLD, RACHEL BAKER & AARON TWITCHEN Sun 9 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

WORLD COMEDY CLASH WITH RICHARD BLACKWOOD, WHITE YARDIE, QUINCY, JAY HANDLEY, TOJU & DANA ALEXANDER Sun 9 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

FUNNY BEESENESS SECRET GIG Sun 9 Mar, Castle and Falcon, Birmingham

LARRY DEAN Sun 9 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Theatre

ANNIE Amateur version presented by Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company, until Sat 1 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

LABOUR OF LOVE The Crescent Theatre Company present an amateur version of James Graham's Olivier Award-winning political comedy, until Sat 1 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

HANDBAGGED Moira Buffini's clever comedy provides a fly-on-the-wall look at what might have happened when Queen Elizabeth II and Margaret Thatcher came face-to-face in the privacy of the palace, until Sat 1 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO BREATHE The story of four people on board a sinking submarine with their only source of information being the BBC world service, until Sat 1 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

SILENT, BUT DEADLY Amateur version of Don Zolidis' spoof comedy/murder-mystery, set in the silent-film era, until Sun 2 Mar, The Core, Solihull

THE FATHER Highbury Players present an amateur version of Florian Zeller's award-winning play about dementia, until Sat 8 Mar, Highbury Theatre Centre, Solihull

ROMEO AND JULIET The world's greatest love story gets the rap and R&B treatment, with lyrics by That's A Rap and music by A Class. Corey Campbell directs, until Sat 8 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



HAMLET Luke Thallon takes the lead in a new production of Shakespeare's most famous play.

Jared Harris, Anton Lesser and Nancy Carroll also star. Rupert Goold directs, until Sat 29 Mar, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

EDWARD II Double Olivier Award winner and RSC Co-Artistic Director Daniel Evans takes the lead in Christopher Marlowe's famous play, until Sat 5 Apr, Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

RUKUN - MSA 2025 Warwick Malaysian Night - an annual theatrical performance, Sat 1 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

REVISION ON TOUR: MACBETH An ensemble of six actors create a cauldron of characters, as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth make their perilous descent towards hell, Mon 3 - Tues 4 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

GOOD FOR A GIRL Groundbreaking theatre that both celebrates and exposes the real-life experiences of women in football, Tues 4 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TINY FRAGMENTS OF BEAUTIFUL LIGHT New writing exploring autistic experiences through the female lens. Inspired by writer Alison Davies' own diagnosis of autism, Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

RITA, SUE & BOB TOO! Jake Quickenden stars as Bob in a new production of Andrea Dunbar's hit play. Jessica Ellis (Hollyoaks), Warren Donnelly (Coronation Street) and Siobhan Phillips (Britain's Got Talent), also star, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham



AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's award-winning production of JB Priestley's classic thriller, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Feb, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG Ore Oduba stars as Caractacus Potts and Liam Fox as Grandpa Potts in a brand-new production of the much-loved family favourite, Tues 4 - Sun 9 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

PLAY/TEST: A SCRATCH NIGHT Expect bold performances, as playwrights, directors and actors showcase their work-in-progress pieces, Wed 5 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

REVISION ON TOUR: DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE A new stage adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's Victorian gothic masterpiece, Wed 5 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE ANCIENT OAK OF BALDOR Frozen Light Theatre present a multi-sensory

fantasy-realm experience for audiences with profound and multiple learning difficulties, Wed 5 - Thurs 6 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NEW MUSICALS SHOWCASE Presented by the venue's Musical Theatre Writer's Group. Expect an eclectic collection featuring inspirational true stories and 'magical washing machines', Thurs 6 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE MIKADO The Birmingham Savoyards present an amateur version of Gilbert & Sullivan's popular comic opera, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

ANYTHING GOES Musical Theatre Warwick present an amateur version of Cole Porter's iconic musical, Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

TIT SWINGERS: A PUNK GIG MUSICAL WITH ADDED PIRATES 'A romp through the Severn Seas with polyamorous pirates Anne Bonney & Mary Read', Thurs 6 - Sat 8 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

(THE) WOMAN Jane Upton's Bruntwood Prize-shortlisted play shatters the glossy veneer of motherhood, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

4.48 PSYCHOSIS Lying Lips Theatre Company present an amateur version of Sarah Kane's final play, taking the audience into the mind of an unnamed protagonist grappling with severe depression, Sat 8 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

BELONGINGS Tangled Feet & Rowan Tree present a production for younger audiences (aged seven-plus) that address 'who we are, how we are shaped and how we fit in'... Sat 8 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THEY CAME TO A CITY Amateur version of JB Priestley's fantasy drama, Sat 8 - Sat 15 Mar, Oldbury Rep

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Centrestage School of Speech & Drama present an amateur version of Jane Austen's classic, Sun 9 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

Kid's Theatre

THE DINOSAUR THAT POOPED: A ROCK SHOW! A new musical for younger audiences adapted from the number one bestselling books by Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter, Sun 2 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

Dance

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: CLASS ON STAGE A chance to look behind the scenes and watch BRB's dancers warm up and complete their final pre-show preparations, Sat 1 Mar,

Birmingham Hippodrome

ASIAN SPRING Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage presents its annual celebration of South Asian dance - including the intricate footwork and expressive storytelling of Kathak, and the high-energy moves of Bhangra, Sun 2 Mar, Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



GUARDIANS - A CHAMBER BALLET A new take on ballet, with live chamber musicians and contemporary dance, Fri 7 Mar, Recital Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BOY BLUE'S CYCLES The UK's 'most celebrated hip-hop dance theatre company' present a tenacious exploration of the dance genre in all its forms, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

LAVELLES - THE LADIES OF MOTOWN A 'dazzling homage' to the golden era of America's soulful vocal artists, Sat 1 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

QUEENZ - DRAG ME TO THE DISCO! 'A live vocal drag extravaganza where dancing queenz and disco dreams collide for the party of a lifetime', Thurs 6 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

PRIDE OF IRELAND: ST PATRICK'S DAY SHOW Featuring music, fun and craic, with contributions from Mike Denver (The Galway Boy) and Dominic Kirwan, Thurs 6 Mar, Dudley Town Hall

BEYOND THE BARRICADE The UK's longest musical theatre concert tour, featuring principal cast members from both the West End and UK tours of Les Miserables, Thurs 6 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND - THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD Paulus The Cabaret Geek celebrates the music of Victoria Wood, accompanied by Fascinating Aida's Michael Roulston on piano, Fri 7 Mar, Blackheath Library, Rowley Regis

THE PADDY BLINDERS An immersive theatre experience featuring music, characters and stories from the Emerald Isle, Sat 8 Mar, Birmingham Black Box Theatre

PETER ANDRE IN THE BEST OF FRANKIE VALLI Sat 8 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S

DAY Composer & RBC alumna Liz Dilnot Johnson hosts an eclectic mix of music and words from female and FINTA composers and poets to celebrate International Women's Day. Performances by RBC students, staff and alumni feature, Sun 9 Mar, The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Talks & Spoken Word

KATE MOSSE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE LABYRINTH One-woman show in which the bestselling author shares her inspiration for conjuring up a timeless modern classic, at the same time using music, imagery and film to bring her characters to life, Sat 1 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), B'ham



JAMES MARTIN: LIVE Taking inspiration from the menus of France, Spain, the US and home, James whips up a series of culinary delights before journeying through the decades with themes and dishes from the 1950s to the 80s, Sat 1 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

DR RANGAN CHATTERJEE: THE THRIVE TOUR Join the host of Europe's biggest health podcast, Feel Better, Live More, to discover secrets of optimal health and how to make changes that actually last, Sun 2 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

AN AUDIENCE WITH JOAN BAKEWELL Join the renowned journalist, television presenter, author & playwright for an 'in conversation' event with Matthew Stadlen, Wed 5 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

POETRY JAM LIVE A monthly open-mic platform 'to jam, perform and click with a community of creatives', Thurs 6 Mar, Justham Family Room & Jane How Room, Symphony Hall, B'ham

Events

WHAT UNIVERSITY? & WHAT CAREER? LIVE Event for 15 to 19-year-olds who are considering their options after leaving school or college, until Sat 1 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

BOOGIE LIGHTS EXPRESS Celebrate SVR's 60 years in style, with a sound & light show on board a steam train, until Sat 1 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, nr Kidderminster

WIZARD OF OZ DRONE LIGHT SHOW: BIRMINGHAM Witness a magical

performance in the sky, tuck into your favourites in the food village and enjoy live entertainment, Sat 1 Mar, Edgbaston Stadium

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY DISCOVERY WALK With multi-disciplinary contemporary artist Graham Fudger, Sat 1 Mar, Compton Verney, Warwickshire

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A guided tour featuring a selection of key Birmingham-built objects, Sat 1 Mar, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW The UK's leading wedding planning event, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

GO DIVING SHOW The only consumer dive and travel show in the UK, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Mar, NAEC Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

THE NATIONAL EQUINE SHOW The perfect weekend for new and existing equestrians, Sat 1 - Sun 2 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

COLOUR BOX: LILO & STITCH Drop-in workshop followed by a relaxed/subtitled film screening, Sun 2 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL A guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 6 Mar, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

WORLD BOOK DAY Celebrate World Book Day with a magical sensory retelling of Oliver Jeffers' How To Catch A Star, Thurs 6 Mar, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

MINI MUSEUM ENGINEERS ON TOUR AT THE HERBERT Coventry Transport Museum engineers visit the Herbert to host family drop-in workshops, Thurs 6 Mar, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

CRUFTS The Kennel Club presents 'the world's greatest dog show', Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Mar, NEC, B'ham

BOOGIE LIGHTS EXPRESS Celebrate SVR's 60 years in style, with a sound & light show on board a steam train, Fri 7 - Sat 8 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, nr Kidderminster

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A guided tour featuring a selection of key Birmingham-built objects, Sat 8 Mar, Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

CLOSING EVENT OF 'PAINTED DREAMS: THE ART OF EVELYN DE MORGAN' Featuring expert talks, a creative workshop and the option to attend an evening performance by Flexus Dance Collective, Sat 8 Mar, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS Discover the untold stories of women who have shaped the world, Sat 8 - Sun 9 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

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indoor VAG enthusiasts event Sun 9 Mar, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

fascinating workshops and more', Sun 9 Mar, The Oculus, Coventry

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THE PALE WHITE Mon 10 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

RIVERS OF NIHIL + CYNIC + BEYOND CREATION + DAATH Mon 10 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LUCIA & THE BEST BOYS Mon 10 Mar, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

DAVID KUSHNER + JENNA RAINE Tues 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

WILLOW AVALON Tues 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ZEROCLASSIKAL PREMIERE Tues 11 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

MACHINE GIRL Tues 11 Mar, XOYO, Digbeth

THE MARRAKESH EXPRESS Tues 11 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

JOSHUA BURNSIDE Wed 12 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

AS-ONE COLLECTIVE Wed 12 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE BAREFOOT BANDIT Wed 12 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

SOLYA + BABY BUGS Wed 12 Mar, O2 Academy

BAD TOUCH + THE DUST CODA Wed 12 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

MIRANDA SYKES & JIM CAUSLEY + DICK WOODHOUSE Wed 12 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road

KRIS DREVER & CHRIS STOUT Wed 12 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

WHITE DENIM Wed 12 Mar, XOYO, Digbeth

MADDIE MORRIS Wed 12 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

LARA JONES + LARRY STABBINS + MARK SANDERS Thurs 13 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE SONGS OF STUART ADAMSON Thurs 13 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SALSEROS UK Thurs 13 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

THE JAM'D Thurs 13 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

BDRMM Thurs 13 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE RIVER SPEAKS Thurs 13 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

LEVELLERS COLLECTIVE + IAN PROWSE Thurs 13 Mar, Symphony Hall

BADLY DRAWN BOY Thurs 13 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

LIMP BIZKIT Thurs 13 Mar, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

PETER DOHERTY Thurs 13 Mar, XOYO, Digbeth

BLOCK 33 Fri 14 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

M60 Fri 14 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

CHARLOTTE YOUNG Fri 14 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

MIRACLE OF SOUND + COLM R. MCGUINNESS Fri 14 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

STEEL PULSE + THE SELECTER Fri 14 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ALABAMA 3 + SONNY E. Fri 14 Mar, O2 Academy

FLO Fri 14 Mar, O2 Academy

THE MALAKITES Fri 14 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

OVERSIZE + MERCURY Fri 14 Mar, The Asylum, Hampton St

MELYS Fri 14 Mar, The Victoria, John Bright Street

KIM WILDE Fri 14 Mar,



Alec Benjamin - O2 Institute, Digbeth

Symphony Hall

THE TOM HILL PHIL BOND JAZZ-ADELIC EXPERIENCE Fri 14 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS Fri 14 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

GOAT MAN & THE MOTH FEAT. DS-DOS + TWINNINETSIX + DREDGE Fri 14 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

JAKE VAADELAND & THE STURGEON RIVER BOYS Fri 14 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

AC30S SKA + ROCKSTEADY BAND Fri 14 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SY SMITH Sat 15 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SOLACE + PIP + MAXWELL AVENUE + ELEVEN FIFTEEN + ROAD CLOSED Sat 15

Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

FAYE SMITH & PAUL WETTON Sat 15 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

ALEC BENJAMIN Sat 15 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE DEAD SOUTH + CORB LUND Sat 15 Mar, O2 Academy

THE LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS Sat 15 Mar, O2 Academy

PAGAN SWORD + AMETHYST + MONOCHOPSIS Sat 15 Mar, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

GO YOUR OWN WAY - THE FLEETWOOD MAC LEGACY Sat 15 Mar, Wulfrun Hall at The Halls Wolverhampton

THE DARKNESS Sat 15 Mar, Civic Hall at The Halls Wolverhampton

MIDNIGHT CITY Sat 15 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE FATHER TEDS Sat

15 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

HOCKEY DAD Sun 16 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

DANNY & THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD + ANNIE DRESSNER Sun 16 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

NATHAN EVANS & THE SAINT PHNX BAND Sun 16 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE MIKE DAVIDS BAND Sun 16 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

ESOTERIC + WARCAB + PANTHEIST + TUMANDUUMBAND Sun 16 Mar, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

DIZZY LIZZY Sun 16 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

DIN OF CELESTIAL BIRDS Sun 16 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT: CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Programme includes works by Frances-Hoad, J Weir, F Price & more..., Mon 10 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Crispin Brown (trumpet), Joanne Sealey & Sarah Potjewijd (piano). Programme includes works by Bozza, Gershwin, Bolling, Medtner & Kabalevsky, Mon 10 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC CELEBRITY ORGAN SERIES: NATHAN LAUBE Tues 11 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: DVOŘÁK & RACHMANINOFF Featuring Joshua Weilerstein (conductor) & Alisa Weilerstein (cello). Programme also includes Poem for Orchestra by William Grant Still, Wed 12 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MÉXICO MÁGICO Concert celebrating the beauty of Mexican classical music, vibrant folk dancing and storytelling, Wed 12 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

VILLIERS QUARTET Featuring Katie Stillman & Tamaki Higashi (violins), Carmen Flores (viola) & Leo Melvin (cello). Programme includes works by V Fung, Shostakovich & Mendelssohn, Wed 12 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO CENTRE STAGE: WIND OCTET Featuring Emmet Byrne (oboe), Rachael Pankhurst (cor anglais), Oliver Janes (clarinet), Mark Phillips & Jeremy Bushell (horns), Nikolaj Henriques (bassoon) & Margaret Cookhorn (contrabassoon). Programme includes works by Myslivecek, Salieri & Carpenter, Thurs 13 Mar, CBSO Centre, B'ham

DAVID HARDIE LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL Fri 14 Mar, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

CONTREPOINT: SONGS OF LOSS The programme will be based around Tomás Luis de Victoria's Requiem Mass, Fri 14 Mar, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

RBC THALLEIN ENSEMBLE Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor). RBC's Composition department celebrates the music of composition lecturer Ed Bennett, Fri 14 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

CHAOS STRING QUARTET Featuring Susanne Schäffer & Eszter Kruchió (violins), Sara Marzadori (viola) & Bas Jongen (cello). Programme includes works by Haydn, E Wallen & Shostakovich, Fri 14 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham



The Darkness - Civic Hall at The Halls, Wolverhampton



Fluff - Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

BBC SINGERS FEAT. BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY SINGERS Featuring Bob Chilcott (conductor) & Nicholas Wearne (piano). Programme includes works by B Chilcott, Z Koziej, Brahms & more..., Sat 15 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, B'ham

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: COME AND SING Featuring Jonathan Willcocks (director & composer) & Colin Baines (accompanist). Spend a day with the choir singing Willcocks' Sing Africa & John Rutter's Requiem, Sat 15 Mar, Shirley Methodist Church

FLUTE CHOIR AND CLARINET CHOIR Featuring Gemma Fletcher & Freya White (conductors). Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Brahms & T Gray, Sun 16 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

Comedy

JAMALI MADDIX Tues 11 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

KEMAH BOB Wed 12 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILTON JONES Wed 12 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

DAN TIERNAN Thurs 13 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

DAVID O'DOHERTY Thurs 13 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, PHIL ELLIS & PAUL TONKINSON Thurs 13 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JENNY ECLAIR Fri 14 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MO GILLIGAN Fri 14 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JIMMY CRICKET Fri 14 Mar, Wythall Park Hall, Birmingham

INGRID DAHLE, MIKE RICE, PHIL ELLIS, PAUL TONKINSON & OLLIE FOX Fri 14 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

INGRID DAHLE, MIKE RICE, PHIL ELLIS & PAUL TONKINSON Sat 15 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY NODA present an amateur version of Roald Dahl's iconic story, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

DEATH OF A SALESMAN New version of Arthur Miller's famous post-war contemplation on 'the American Dream', Tues 11 - Sat 15 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

WAR HORSE Powerfully moving drama based on Michael Morpurgo's wartime novel and featuring life-sized horses from Handspring Puppet Company, Tues 11 - Sat 22 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HONEST LIES Domestic story celebrating the resilience of women everywhere. Written by Jenny Stokes & Dawn Butler and directed by Alison Belbin, Wed 12 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LAST ACT Nigel Miles-Thomas assumes multiple roles from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary stories. The Last Act has been written by Conan Doyle expert David Stuart Davies, Wed 12 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

THE TEMPEST All & Sundry Productions present an amateur version of Shakespeare's final play, Wed 12 - Sun 16 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

HITCHCOCKED! Foghorn Unscripted plunge into a world of suspense and silliness, where audience suggestions set the stage, Thurs 13 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

ALL BLOOD RUNS RED Imitating The Dog use 'inspirational stagecraft, digital wizardry and original songs' to tell the remarkable true story of Eugene Bullard, a man who lived an extraordinary life in extraordinary times, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE THRILL OF LOVE RBC actors present an amateur version of Amanda Whittington's true-crime story about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Mar, The Birmingham Black Box

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA RBC actors present Rona Munro's modern adaptation of Federico Garcia Lorca's classic Spanish play, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

CAROUSEL: A THEATRE SHOW BY IVO GRAHAM Acclaimed debut play in which the award-winning comedian fuses storytelling and spoken word to explore the nature of memory, Fri 14 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

NORA: A DOLL'S HOUSE Amateur version of Henrik Ibsen's brutal portrayal of womanhood, Sat 15 - Sat 22 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, B'ham

Dance

AMY DOWDEN & CARLOS GU: REBORN Join the Strictly stars as they share an intimate portrait of their lives and journeys through powerful and show-stopping routines, Mon 10 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KAREN HAUER & GORKA MARQUEZ - SPEAKEASY Join the Strictly duo on a journey that incorporates the New York speakeasy, Havana dancefloors, the Chicago blues scene, burlesque cabaret clubs and the glittering mirror balls of Studio 54, Sat 15 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry



Light Entertainment

JAZZ EMU: KNIGHT FEVER Hotly anticipated new show in which the viral comedy character sensation is joined by his live band, The Cosmique Perfection, Wed 12 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

BOX OF FROGS An evening of 'high-octane improvised comedy nonsense', based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 12 Mar, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

DREAMCOAT STARS An evening of musical theatre hits performed by Any Dream Will Do star Keith Jack and Joseph stars Sam Cassidy, Graham Tudor and Andrew Geater, Thurs 13 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

BELIEVE IN BINGO WITH SHELL SUIT CHER Musical comedy bingo show from award-winning performer Tracey Collins (Audrey Heartburn, Elvis Lesley), Fri 14 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

WEST END NIGHTS Celebration of 'musical memories and dreams', performed by Knowle Musical Society, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Mar, The Core, Solihull

CROONERS Show packed with one-liners, silliness and musical numbers. The nine-piece Mini Big Band also feature, Sat 15 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

Theatre

FLUFF A darkly comedic play exploring memories and the choices we make in life, Mon 10 - Tues 11 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

LITTLE WARS Highbury Players present an amateur version of Steven Carl McCasland's moving portrayal of seven exceptional women brought together at a dinner party... Mon 10 - Sat 15 Mar, Highbury Theatre, Sutton Coldfield

DRIFTWOOD A ThickSkin and Pentabus production about hope, love and belonging, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

SIX THE MUSICAL From Tudor queens to pop princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A MUSICAL Brand-new musical comedy featuring an 80s soundtrack and choreography by Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

CARRY ON - AN EVENING WITH MARK AND LARD Sun 16 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

SAM RABONE'S BIG BOSTIN' VARIETY SHOW Featuring America's Got Talent star Mat Ricardo, the West End's Samantha Dorrance, comedienne Hilary O'Neil and the Harper Brothers - sons of Bobby Ball, Sun 16 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

Talks & Spoken Word

HARRY BAKER: WONDERFUL 2.0 An evening in which the World Poetry Slam Champion celebrates wellies, postcodes, funerals, fertility journeys and more... Tues 11 Mar, The Old Rep, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH KALEB COOPER Expect 'honest conversations, hilarious anecdotes and plenty of surprises', Tues 11 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

KATE MOSSE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE LABYRINTH One-woman show in which the bestselling author shares her inspiration for conjuring up a timeless modern classic, at the same

time using music, imagery and film to bring her characters to life, Fri 14 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

KATE MOSSE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE LABYRINTH One-woman show in which the bestselling author shares her inspiration for conjuring up a timeless modern classic, at the same time using music, imagery and film to bring her characters to life, Sat 15 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH ADAM FROST Join the award-winning British garden designer and BBC Gardeners' World presenter for his 'most intimate' show to date, Sun 16 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Events

MUSEUM LATES: BACKSTAGE TOURS Take an exclusive peek behind the curtain as the collections team showcase the fascinating work they do to keep the museum running, Tues 11 Mar, British Motor Museum

YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 Six days of the very best badminton in the world, Tues 11 - Sun 16 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham



Crooners - Birmingham Town Hall

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 13 Mar, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

SEWING FOR PLEASURE FEATURING FASHION & EMBROIDERY Major show for enthusiasts of sewing, knitting, patchwork and embroidery, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW Packed with workshops, live demonstrations, and interactive sessions, Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

BOOGIE LIGHTS EXPRESS Celebrate

SVR's 60 years in style, with a sound & light show on board a steam train, Fri 14 - Sat 15 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

HOLI 25: FESTIVAL OF COLOURS COMMUNITY DAY With Bharatanatyam dance performances from Jnan Deep Kundu, and Kathak dance performances from Roshni Pink, Sat 15 Mar, The New Art Gallery Walsall

MIDLANDS GRAND NATIONAL 2025 A day of races and live entertainment, Sat 15 Mar, Uttoxeter Racecourse, Staffordshire

NEW VIC

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What's On

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 30 MARCH (10.30) Symphony Hall
 www.bso.co.uk

ETERNAL LOVE
 Film musical comes to Birmingham
 28 MARCH (7.30) Birmingham Hippodrome
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 Jennifer Lopez and Katy Botta in the Hippodrome
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inside:

ETERNAL LOVE
 Film musical out of this world
 28 MARCH (7.30) Birmingham Hippodrome
 www.birminghamhippodrome.co.uk

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 What Not The Drama? for comedy at St Mary's Church
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What's On Staffordshire

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Judith
 Lee Lewis and Ryan
 MON 12 - SAT 17 MAY 2025
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 Michael McIntyre's award-winning musical
 28 MARCH (7.30) Birmingham Hippodrome
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THE TWO OF US
 Musical about a couple who fall in love
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AIMING HIGH
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What's On Wolverhampton & Black Country

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 BOOK BY STEVEN LEVENSON
 MUSIC & LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK & JUSTIN PAUL
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 Explore Worcester Cathedral, a place of Christian worship and prayer for fourteen centuries...
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LOLA LAND
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 28 MARCH (8.00) Birmingham Hippodrome
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 Birmingham's premier contemporary dance company
 28 MARCH (7.30) Birmingham Hippodrome
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Gigs

LOREEN Mon 17 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE GAME Mon 17 Mar, O2 Academy

KID BOOKIE Mon 17 Mar, The Flapper, Kingston Row

THE TUBS Tues 18 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

RED RUM CLUB + FLORENTENES Tues 18 Mar, O2 Academy

WARDRUNA Tues 18 Mar, Symphony Hall

KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN Tues 18 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

VICTOR RAY Wed 19 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

INIKO Wed 19 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

JESS VINCENT + GEOFF & MARK Wed 19 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Road

VAN MORRISON Wed 19 Mar, Symphony Hall

THE MARQUEE ALL STAR BAND Thurs 20 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

HEATWAVE Thurs 20 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

GIDIKI Thurs 20 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

MARCIN Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

ANTONY SZMIEREK Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy

STORY OF SOUL Thurs 20 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS

+ RICKY WARWICK AND THE FIGHTING HEARTS Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy

THE PICTUREBOOKS + LOW VOLTS Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy

BANDA BRASILEIRA Thurs 20 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SPACED OUT + SUPERSONIC FUZZ GUN, BRAINROT + NEW PULSE Thurs 20 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Thurs 20 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

AMIGOS OPEN MIC Thurs 20 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

SNAPPED ANKLES Fri 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

ELECTROMANTICS Fri 21 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Fri 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

JACK WALKER Fri 21 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING Fri 21 Mar, Wulfrun Hall at The Halls, Wolverhampton

ERASURED Fri 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

RIZZLE KICKS Fri 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

8 BEFORE AVA + UNDERCURRENT + HAYDEN LLOYD + MOLOKA + MAX SEARLE Fri 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE LATHUMS Fri 21 Mar, O2 Academy

HOT 8 BRASS BAND Fri



Lauren Mayberry - O2 Academy

21 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

LEO GREEN & THE ICONS ORCHESTRA: CELEBRATING THE SONGS OF THE ROLLING STONES Fri 21 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE CORE REGGAE BAND Fri 21 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

SLIDE BOY ROY Fri 21 Mar, The Core Theatre, Solihull

ICONIC 80S V 90S Fri 21 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

LEGEND - THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY Fri 21 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

RED LEMONS Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, The Jam House, Jewellery Quarter

BLUES CLUB Sat 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

PHIL CAMPBELL AND THE BASTARD SONS Sat 22 Mar, KK's Steel Mill, Wolverhampton

FLEETWOOD BAC Sat 22 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

GRATEFUL DUDES Sat 22 Mar, Hare &

Hounds, Kings Heath

THE JACK FLETCHER BAND + NOVA FIVES + MUDDY ELEPHANT Sat 22 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

THE DEADSHOTS Sat 22 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

BLOODY WOOD + CALVA LOUISE + DEMONIC RESURRECTION Sat 22 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

RAGING SPEEDHORN + KILL THE LIGHTS + FANGS OUT Sat 22 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE PRINCE EXPERIENCE... ENDORPHINMACHINE Sat 22 Mar, O2 Academy

PEJA Sat 22 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

HEAVY WILD Sat 22 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

THE BLINK SHOW + WARNING + UNDERCLASS HEROES Sat 22 Mar, The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf

FASTLOVE: GEORGE

MICHAEL TRIBUTE Sat 22 Mar, Symphony Hall

THE QUAD ROX Sat 22 Mar, The Rhodehouse, Sutton Coldfield

GRAINNE DUFFY Sun 23 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

WINTER MCQUINN & ACACIA PIP + MYLES NEWMAN Sun 23 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

JACK & JACK Sun 23 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

LAUREN MAYBERRY Sun 23 Mar, O2 Academy

CARPATHIAN FOREST Sun 23 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

JOHN CALE Sun 23 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

THE MUSIC OF TREES Sun 23 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS Sun 23 Mar, The Robin, Bilston

NAT2 Sun 23 Mar, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

Classical Music

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Nicholas Britton Trygstad (cello), Alex Wyatt & Joachim Lim (piano). Programme includes works by Beethoven & Chopin, Mon 17 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

SACRED FLAMES: LOVE, MUSIC AND THE SONG OF SONGS An evening of choral music, Thurs 20 Mar, St Philips Cathedral, Birmingham

CBSO: CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME Featuring Ben Palmer (conductor), Ella Taylor (soprano), Charne Rochford (tenor) & John Suchet (presenter). Programme includes works by Rachmaninoff, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky & more..., Fri 21 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ADAM HERON PIANO CONCERT Programme includes works by Glass, Coleridge-Taylor, Bolcom & Chopin, Fri 21 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

UNIVERSITY BRASS BAND AND CHAMBER CHOIRS Featuring Stephen Kane, William Roberts & Fern Warwick (directors). Programme includes works by Ireland, H Zimmer, Elgar & more..., Fri 21 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

WIND BAND AND SAXOPHONE CHOIR Featuring Angus Winton, William Ashley & David Gillard (conductors). Programme includes works by Morricone, S Schwarz, W Ashley, J Williams & J Kander, Sat 22 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Ciaran O'Donnell (soloist). Programme includes works by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart & Mendelssohn, Sat 22 Mar, Wolverhampton Grammar School

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND STRING ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniele Rosina, Angus Winton & Barnaby Eddy (conductors) & Anthony Howe (flute). Programme includes works by Arnold, Dvořák, Holst & K Sachpazidis, Sun 23 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: CHERRY BLOSSOM 2025 Programme includes works by Cage, Boulez, Bauckholt, Hindley & Reich, Sun 23 Mar, Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham

Comedy

CATHERINE BOHART Wed 19 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham



John Cale - Birmingham Town Hall



Vici Wreford-Sinnott: *Unruly* - Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

CLOSEUP COMEDY Wed 19 Mar, Herbert's Yard, Birmingham

SCUMMY MUMMIES Wed 19 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING & THANYIA MOORE Thurs 20 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

TWO PROMOTERS ONE POD Fri 21 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING, THANYIA MOORE, JOE MCTERNAN, SHALAKA KURUP & SAM PICONE Fri 21 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC COMEDY CLUB Sat 22 Mar, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

EMMAN IDAMA, ALASDAIR BECKETT-KING, THANYIA MOORE & JOE MCTERNAN Sat 22 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SPENCER JONES Sun 23 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

SCOTT BENNETT Sun 23 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JACK DEE Sun 23 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

Theatre

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW The return of Richard O'Brien's legendary rock & roll musical, featuring timeless classics Sweet Transvestite, Dammit Janet, Time Warp and more... Mon 17 - Sat 22 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham



CALAMITY JANE Carrie Hope Fletcher takes the lead in a new production. Classic songs include The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away), Just Blew In From The Windy City, and the Oscar-winning Secret

Love, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

BOYS FROM THE BLACKSTUFF James Graham's powerful new stage adaptation of Alan Bleasdale's award-winning TV series of the same name, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

THE INTRUSION Bric à Brac Theatre and Told By An Idiot take a darkly comic and anarchic look at the subject of extinction, Wed 19 - Thurs 20 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

LITTLE WOMEN Belinda Lang, Honeysuckle Weeks, Jack Ashton and Grace Molony star in Anne-Marie Casey's new version of Louisa May Alcott's classic tale, Wed 19 - Sat 22 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

VICI WREFORD-SINNOTT: UNRULY 'A powerful, urgent show about refusing to be invisible in hostile environments and the power of friendship and community to get us through', Thurs 20 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

MOTH 'War, race, history and the consequences of our actions' come under the spotlight as Elysium Theatre Company present a world premiere of the Paul Herzberg thriller, Thurs 20 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

PIAF BY PAM GEMS RBC actors present a show that charts the rise and fall of legendary French singer Edith Piaf, Thurs 20 - Sat 22 Mar, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham

EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE RONALDO A 'raucous, high-octane Grime-sical' exploring football academies and the connection between mother and son... Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

THE ELTON JOHN STORY: ARE YOU READY FOR LOVE A journey through the life and music of the living legend, Fri 21 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FATT BUTCHER'S BIG MEATY GAMESHOW Expect 'big prizes, face-melting live vocals and big belly laughs' in what

Kid's Theatre

WELCOME TO THE WORLD Little Wild Theatre use the power of nature to create magical mindful moments to support children's wellbeing, Sun 23

Mar, The Hub at St Mary's, Lichfield

Dance

FABRIC - APPLAUSE YOUTH DANCE A celebration of youth dance from across the Midlands, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Mar, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

KIMICHI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & KIMICHI BALLET: SPRING INTO STRAVINSKY See three iconic ballets - Petrushka, The Firebird, and Rite Of Spring - performed back to back, Sun 23 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Light Entertainment

THE REPAIR SHOP LIVE: SECRETS FROM THE BARN Join the experts as they share anecdotes, cherished memories and behind-the-scenes stories and secrets from life inside the barn... Mon 17 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JIMBO'S DRAG CIRCUS An evening of outrageous characters and adult humour starring Canada's own Jimbo from RuPaul's Drag Race, Tues 18 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

LOOKING FOR ME FRIEND - THE MUSIC OF VICTORIA WOOD Paulus The Cabaret Geek celebrates the music of Victoria Wood, accompanied by Fascinating Aida's Michael Roulston on piano, Wed 19 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham



THE ELTON JOHN STORY: ARE YOU READY FOR LOVE A journey through the life and music of the living legend, Fri 21 Mar, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

FATT BUTCHER'S BIG MEATY GAMESHOW Expect 'big prizes, face-melting live vocals and big belly laughs' in what



Kabaddi World Cup - various venues across the West Midlands

promises to be 'a chaotic, naughty, and deliciously unforgettable night out', Fri 21 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

CONFESSIONS OF CASANOVA One-man show in which David Tittle looks back on a life of fun, frolics and frustrated dreams, Fri 21 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

HOLD ON TO YOUR BUTTS Parody of Jurassic Park, 'the greatest dinosaur film of all time...' Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

THAT'S LIFE! - A CELEBRATION OF SWING Featuring songs from kings of swing Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davies Jr, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, Michael Buble and more... Sat 22 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

TENORS UNLIMITED Sat 22 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

SEND IN THE CLOWNS: C*CK OF AGES A 'raucous, wild and tantalising' drag revue show celebrating the magic and madness of musical theatre, Sat 22 Mar, Arena Theatre, W'hampton

DRAG ME TO THE 80S Featuring the powerhouse vocals of 'the queens who redefine the stage and bring the power of the 80s back to life', Sat 22 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Talks & Spoken Word

AN EVENING WITH PAUL MERSON - MY LIFE Join the former Arsenal, Aston Villa and England star as he discusses his illustrious career and shares stories from the dressing room. VIP tickets available, Tues 18 Mar, Dudley Town Hall

Events

SNOOKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 Snooker's biggest stars battle for the coveted title, Mon 17 - Sun 23 Mar, Telford International Centre, Shropshire

KABADDI WORLD CUP The world's best kabaddi players compete for the ultimate prize, Mon 17 - Sun 23 Mar, venues across the West Midlands

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL

Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 20 Mar, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW

Whether you're planning a major renovation or just looking for inspiration, this event 'has everything you need to kickstart your project', Thurs 20 - Sun 23 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

MURDER MOST FOUL, THE MEMORIES OF A MURDER INVESTIGATOR

Retired Detective Sergeant James McManus reflects on his 30-plus years with West Midlands Police, Fri 21 Mar, West Midlands Police Museum, Birmingham



ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR & FINDS HANDLING

Join archaeologist and Compton Verney volunteer Hilary Calow as she brings the site's past to life, Fri 21 Mar, Compton Verney,

Warwickshire

BOOGIE LIGHTS EXPRESS Celebrate SVR's 60 years in style, with a sound & light show on board a steam train, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

ALTON AFTER DARK Experience the twists and turns of your favourite rides - under the stars! Fri 21 - Sun 23 Mar, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire

PRACTICAL CLASSICS CLASSIC CAR & RESTORATION SHOW A one-stop destination for all things restoration, Fri 21 - Sun 23 Mar, NEC, B'ham

THEATRE TOUR Unique insight into one of the most historic theatres in the West Midlands, Sat 22 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE NATIONAL OUTDOOR EXPO Bringing together inspirational speakers, cutting-edge technologies and the best in gear, all under one roof, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

THE NATIONAL CYCLING SHOW An immersive retail experience enabling consumers to 'try and buy' everything from bikes to accessories, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Mar, NEC, B'ham

VOLUNTEER OPEN DAY Meet the team and see how you can be involved,



Cherry Blossom Workshop & Art Picnic - Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace

Sun 23 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

FAMILY EXPLORERS: CLAY BLOSSOMS

Take inspiration from the flowers around you and create your very own clay flower to take home, Sun 23 Mar, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

CHERRY BLOSSOM WORKSHOP & ART PICNIC

Enjoy a range of free art activities inspired by Japan's rich history of graphic art and design. Create your own cherry blossom 'sakura' print to take home, Sun 23 Mar, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

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ALEX WARREN Mon 24 Mar, O2 Academy

TOM WALKER Mon 24 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

MELIN MELYN Tues 25 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

PURE ADULT Tues 25 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

MATT GOSS Tues 25 Mar, Symphony Hall

MONTAGE NIGHT Tues 25 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE STORY OF THE DUBLINERS Tues 25 Mar, The Alexandra

ALMOST MONDAY Tues 25 Mar, Mama Roux's, Digbeth

COCO & CLAIR CLAIR + RAVEN ARTSON Wed 26 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

BEANS ON TOAST Wed 26 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

KINGS HEATHENS + ANDY SMYTHE Wed 26 Mar, Red Lion Folk Club, Vicarage Rd

ALINA BZHEZHINSKA & TONY KOFI Wed 26 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

BIG SPECIAL + GANS + THE PILL Thurs 27 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

SPANGLED Thurs 27 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Smallbrook Queensway

BILMURI + SOUTH ARCADE Thurs 27 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

HENGE + TIRIKILATOPS Thurs 27 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

1986 Thurs 27 Mar, Subside Bar, Digbeth

TOM SPENCER + RICH RAGANY + BILLY LIAR Thurs 27 Mar, The Victoria, John Bright St

ALICIA GARDENER-TREJO - HOME/LANDS PROJECT Thurs 27 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

DETROITWICH FUNK MACHINE Thurs 27 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

RED SKY JULY Thurs 27 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Kings Heath

OASIS Fri 28 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

SEAN REEVES Fri 28 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

THE ULTIMATE STONE ROSES Fri 28 Mar, The Night Owl, Birmingham

CLEOPATRICK Fri 28 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

THE HIGHSTOOL PROPHETS Fri 28 Mar, O2 Academy

DR MISIO Fri 28 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

THE DUSK BROTHERS Fri 28 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

ALI GILBERT Fri 28 Mar, The Victoria, John Bright Street

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ ORCHESTRA FEAT. HELENA

DEBONO & CHARLIE BATES Fri 28 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

SOUL MACHINE Fri 28 Mar, Tower Of Song,

Pershore Road

THE ROOTERS Fri 28 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

VADER Fri 28 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

THE PILL Sat 29 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

CANTALOOP Sat 29 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill

TRANCE CLASSICAL + LANGE Sat 29 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

KASHMIR - LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, O2 Academy

YOU ME AT SIX + MOUTH CULTURE Sat 29 Mar, O2 Academy

DIVORCE Sat 29 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

BETTER JOY Sat 29 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth

GASOLINE & MATCHES + KENNY FOSTER + SIMEON HAMMOND DALLAS + KATIE RIGBY + OUTPOST DRIVE Sat 29 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE + KULA SHAKER + SLEEPER Sat 29 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham

DAOIRI FARRELL Sat 29 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Edgbaston

ARCADIA ROOTS Sat 29 Mar, Joe Joe Jims, Cofton Hackett

FEROCIUS DOG ACOUSTIC Sun 30 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Balsall Heath

TOM MARTIN'S CROSSROADS BLUES & ROOTS Sun 30 Mar, Tower Of Song, Pershore Road

THE WHITE LAKES Sun 30 Mar, The Rainbow, Digbeth

PEAT & DIESEL Mon 31 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

THE ACADEMIC Mon 31 Mar, O2 Institute, Digbeth

YOU ME AT SIX + KID KAPICHI Mon 31 Mar, O2 Academy

THE DELINES Mon 31 Mar, The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Southside

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by J S Bach, Russell, Fauré & more..., Mon 24 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Ellie Bagshaw (tenor horn), Joanne Sealey & Bianca Vancea (piano). Programme includes works by Cords, Lundberg, Ball & Brahms, Mon 24 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC CELEBRITY ORGAN SERIES: PIER DAMIANO PERETTI Enjoy some of the world's finest organ music performed by outstanding international concert organists in a series of free concerts, Tues 25 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

RBC GLOBAL TRADITIONS: MAMUDOU SUSSO AND SUNTOU SUSSO Showcase from legendary Griot and kora master Mamudou Susso and his son Suntou Susso, Tues 25 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



CBSO: ABBEY ROAD CONCERTO Featuring Eivind Gullberg Jensen (conductor) & Guy Braunstein (violin). Programme includes works by Elgar, Britten & the UK premiere of Guy Braunstein / 'The Beatles' Violin Concerto (Abbey Road), Wed 26 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

RBC BIRMINGHAM NEW MUSIC: MONTAGE NIGHT Premieres by RBC composers exploring new ways of thinking about music, Wed 26 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

BRITTEN SINFONIA - 1945: A KIND OF HAUNTING Featuring Jonathan Berman (conductor) & James Newby (baritone). Programme includes the world premiere of Michael Zev Gordon's A Kind of Haunting alongside works by Martinů & Strauss, Wed 26 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: BOULEZ 100, INSIGHT EVENT Featuring Caroline Potter (author). Programme features three works by Boulez, Wed 26 Mar, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY VOCAL CONSORT Featuring Jessica Duckworth (conductor), Thurs 27 Mar, The

Dome, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

LUNCHTIME RECITAL: KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Programme includes performances by organists, instrumental ensembles and chamber choirs, Fri 28 Mar, St Philips Cathedral, B'ham

BARBER LUNCHTIME CONCERT: HEARTSTRINGS Featuring Hugh Cutting (countertenor) & Daniel Murphy (lute). Programme includes works by Dowland, Campion, Strozzi & Monteverdi, Fri 28 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

VASILY PETRENKO & THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Esther Yoo (violin). Programme includes works by Tchaikovsky, Bruch & Prokofiev, Sat 29 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

UNIVERSITY CHORUS AND UPPER VOICES: CIRCLESONG Featuring Julian Wilkins & Mariana Rosas (conductor). Programme includes works by B Chilcott, R Luengen, A Ramsey & more..., Sat 29 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CHORAL UNION: SPRING CONCERT Featuring Colin Baines (conductor), Darren Hogg & Phil Ypres-Smith (organ), Barbara Hogg (soprano), Nick Drew (tenor) & Vera Khait (harp). Programme includes works by Goodall, Janáček & Parry, Sat 29 Mar, St. George's Church, Edgbaston

BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: INTO THE LIGHT Featuring William Hammond (clarinet) & Neavan Lobban (musical director). Programme includes works by Mozart, Mayer & Tchaikovsky, Sat 29 Mar, St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, B'ham

THE PLANETS: UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Daniele Rosina (conductor). Programme includes Haydn's Symphony No.104 & Holst's The Planets, Sun 30 Mar, Elgar Concert Hall, Bramall Music Building, University of Birmingham

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Dan Watson (conductor), Tim Bugg (leader) Izzy Howard (violin). Programme includes works by Copland, Holst, Vaughan Williams, Strauss & Dvořák, Sun 30 Mar, Greig Hall, Alcester

CBSO CUPPA CONCERT A short, relaxed concert created with those living with dementia and their carers in mind. Programme features familiar music to be enjoyed in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, Mon 31 Mar, CBSO Centre, B'ham

RBC LUNCHTIME MUSIC Featuring Jamie Salters (clarinet), Joanne Sealey (piano) & RBC Trumpet Club



The Delines - The Glee Club

directed by Andrew Stone-Fewings. Programme includes works by Howells, Dukas, J Williams & D Fielden, Mon 31 Mar, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

THE JOY OF SPRING Featuring In Sound Company Community Choir & Gren Bartley (singer-songwriter). Programme includes a wide variety of music old and new, including a new song written by one of the choir's members and Bartley's original songs, Mon 31 Mar, Stourbridge Town Hall

Comedy

MAX AMINI Mon 24 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JAMALI MADDIX Tues 25 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILTON JONES Thurs 27 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

COMEDY CAROUSEL WITH ANDY ROBINSON, HATTY PRESTON & COMIC TBC Thurs 27 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ROB BECKETT Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

ANDREW BIRD, LEROY BRITO, HATTY PRESTON & DAVE LONGLEY Fri 28 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

STUART LAWS Fri 28 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AADAR MALIK Sat 29 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

ANDREW BIRD, LEROY BRITO, HATTY PRESTON & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 29 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUST THE TONIC COMEDY CLUB Sat 29 Mar, Rosies Nightclub, Birmingham

KATIE NORRIS Sun 30 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

Theatre

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY West Bromwich Operatic Society present an amateur version of Roald Dahl's iconic story, Wed 26 - Sun 30 Mar, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

BOILER ROOM SIX: A TITANIC STORY Acclaimed production telling the true story of Titanic stoker Frederick Barrett and his fight for survival, Wed 26 - Thurs 27 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

EVERYWHERE A triple bill of 30-minute plays exploring 'what we are, and what we are becoming' Thurs 27 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

STEVE STEINMAN'S VAMPIRES ROCK - ETERNAL LOVE THE MUSICAL A new beginning and chapter, celebrating 22 years of the Vampires Rock chronicles, Thurs 27 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

MERRY OPERA: DIE FLEDERMAUS Strauss' timeless operetta, featuring

'unforgettable melodies, fizzy frolics and cheeky capers', Thurs 27 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

REMOTE The Crescent Youth Theatre present an amateur version of Stef Smith's play about protest, power and protecting yourself, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

ELLEN KENT: LA BOHÈME Featuring the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv, international soloists, chorus and full orchestra, Fri 28 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

WHAT'S MY IDENT? Aaron Virdee's one-man show, in which he explores his own identity on a journey of self-discovery as a hard-of-hearing Punjabi lad from Wolverhampton, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Mar, The Rep, B'ham

YOU KNOW MY MUM Two-act play exploring life and death through the eyes of a baby bird and a 25-year-old Down's Syndrome woman, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

ELLEN KENT: MADAMA BUTTERFLY Puccini's heartbreaking tale, performed by the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv, with international soloists, a highly praised chorus and a full orchestra, Sat 29 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham



THE MANY LIVES OF PET 1 Stan's Cafe present a complicated comedy that dives deep into the world of plastic, Sat 29 Mar, The Exchange, Birmingham

THE MANY LIVES OF PET 1 Stan's Cafe present a complicated comedy that dives deep into the world of plastic, Mon 31 Mar, Sector 57, Digbeth, Birmingham

ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES THE MUSICAL Paul Whitehouse reprises his role as Grandad in a touring production of the West End hit, featuring 'cherished material from Britain's best-loved TV series', Mon 31 Mar - Sat 12 Apr, Birmingham Hippodrome

Kids Theatre

SHARK IN THE PARK A fin-tastic family musical in which all three of Nick Sharatt's Shark In The Park children's books are performed live on stage, Sat 29 Mar - Sun 6 Apr, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome



Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers - Lichfield Garrick

Dance

EUN-ME AHN COMPANY - DRAGONS 'A joyful riot of dance, music and non-stop movement' that brings together modern and traditional dance styles from across Asia. Presented by avant-garde South Korean choreographer Eun-Me Ahn, Tues 25 - Wed 26 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

BALLET BLACK: SHADOWS New double-bill featuring Pancho's darkly comic adaptation of Oyinkan Braithwaite's bestselling novel My Sister, The Serial Killer. A dancework by award-winning choreographer Chanel DaSilva completes the bill, Thurs 27 - Fri 28 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

BEAUTY & THE BEAST Midland Ballet Theatre bring to life a timeless tale of love and transformation, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Mar, The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

VORTEX BY HUMANHOOD An immersive movement/dance production exploring the concept of a vortex as a physical and energetic phenomenon in nature, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Mar, Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), Birmingham

ANTON DU BEKE - AT THE MUSICALS Featuring a live band, a guest singer and dancers, Sat 29 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

NIKITA KUZMIN - MIDNIGHT DANCER The Strictly star's first-ever solo show sees him joined by a cast of talented dancers and vocalists in what promises to be 'an unforgettable night of entertainment', Sat 29 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Light Entertainment

BOX OF FROGS An evening of high-octane improvised comedy nonsense, based entirely on audience suggestions, Wed 26 Mar, 1000 Trades, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham



TREVOR FRANCIS MEMORIAL CONCERT: HOSTED BY JASPER CARROTT Featuring a surprise all-star line-up, Thurs 27 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

KATE BUTCH: WUTHERING SHITES Jukebox musical based on the songs of Kate Bush, Fri 28 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: IN CONCERT See the acclaimed film presented in HD whilst John Powell's Academy Award-nominated score is performed live by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Fri 28 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS Full theatrical experience featuring dynamic choreography and heart-pounding rhythms, Fri 28 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

PULMAN & STILGOE - A COUPLE OF SWELLS Featuring Liza Pulman - songstress, comedienne and one-

third of Fascinating Aida - and virtuoso pianist, songwriter & singer Joe Stilgoe, Fri 28 Mar, The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



BOTTOMS UP: BURLESQUE & CABARET 'The creme de la creme of the cabaret world take to the stage to surprise and delight with sultry striptease, witty wisecracks and saucy songs', Sat 29 Mar, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

RAZZLE DAZZLE WITH NOTORIOUS! Featuring an eclectic programme of songs from musical theatre - including The Jungle Book, The Wizard Of Oz, Hamilton, Wicked, Chicago and more... Sat 29 Mar, The Birmingham Black Box Theatre

SECOND CITY SOUND: A CAPPELLA SHOWCASE Local and international talent showcase a cappella and barbershop music. Sweden's Lemon Squeezy headline, with Malevox, AMI Quartet and hosts Second City Sound also featuring, Sat 29 Mar, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

JAMAICA LOVE A musical journey through Jamaica's rich heritage, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, The Rep, B'ham

Talks & Spoken Word

NIGEL HAVERS: TALKING B*LL*CKS Solo show promising an evening of laughter, nostalgia, and behind-the-scenes gossip, Tues 25 Mar, The Rep, Birmingham

KILLER COUPLES WITH EMMA KENNY Join the psychological therapist & crime commentator as she delves into the dark world of killer couples, Wed 26 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

GORDON BUCHANAN: LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS Join the wildlife photographer & filmmaker as he talks about his 'thrilling encounters' with pandas, grizzlies, tigers, jaguars and more... Wed 26 Mar, Lichfield Garrick

Events

THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 27 Mar, Blakesley Hall, B'ham

FINAL FRIDAYS X COLLECTING COVENTRY Featuring pop-up crafting opportunities with creative community groups, Fri 28 Mar,



Classic Antiques Fairs - NEC, Hall 11, Birmingham

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

BOOGIE LIGHTS EXPRESS Celebrate SVR's 60 years in style, with a sound & light show on board a steam train, Fri 28 - Sat 29 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

CLASSIC ANTIQUE FAIRS Featuring around 80 specialist dealers offering a wide variety of high-quality pieces, Fri 28 - Sun 30 Mar, NEC, B'ham

MOTHERS DAY CREAM TEA Enjoy a cream tea and free heritage craft

session, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

RLCS 2025 BIRMINGHAM MAJOR The world's best Rocket League players compete for the first trophy of the RLCS 2025 season, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

PETER RABBIT VISIT Take a heritage train ride out into the countryside to see Peter Rabbit and listen to tales of his adventures, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

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