

Worcestershire

ISSUE 458 MARCH 2025

What's On

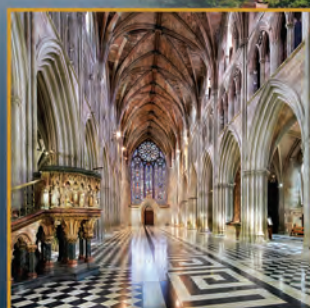
FILM | COMEDY | THEATRE | GIGS | VISUAL ARTS | EVENTS

worcestershirewhatson.co.uk



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Explore Worcester Cathedral, a place of Christian worship and prayer for fourteen centuries...



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worcestercathedral.org.uk



WorcesterCathedral

inside:

FARM BOY

Michael Morpurgo's sequel to War Horse visits the Swan



LOLA LAND

Strictly's Johannes Radebe pulls on his Kinky Boots



SMASHING TIME

badminton championships return to the Midlands



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

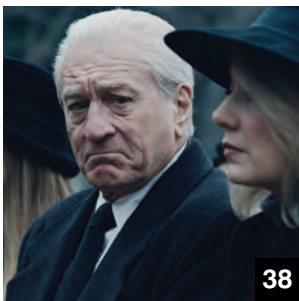
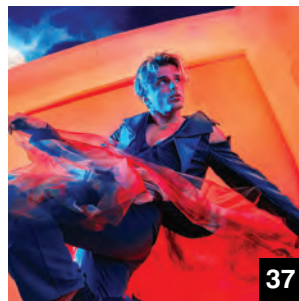
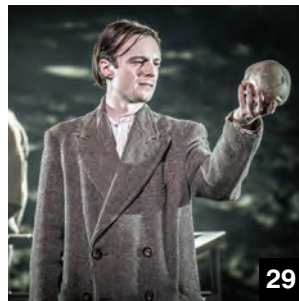
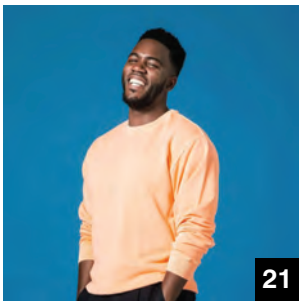
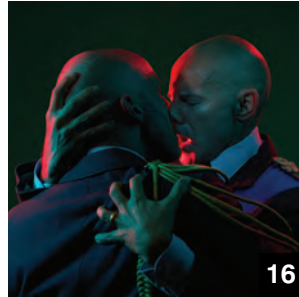


Tue 20 – Sat 24 May

AD Sat 24 May 2.30pm



Tue 27 – Sat 31 May



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What's On

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BRB unveils new season of shows for 2025/26

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 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

More additions to July's Warwick Sessions line-up

A series of flagship events bringing 'global names from the world of pop to the Midlands' will take place at St Nicholas' Park near Warwick Castle this summer. Going under the umbrella title of The Warwick Sessions, the event features headliners Train (with special guests Squeeze) on Wednesday 2 July, Beverley Knight and Will Young (pictured) the following evening (Thursday the 3rd), The Stranglers (with special guests Buzzcocks and Skids) on Friday the 4th, Craig David Presents TS5 (Saturday the 5th) and Elbow (with special guests Baxter Dury and Hamish Hawk, on Sunday the 6th). To purchase tickets, visit aegpresents.co.uk



Tulips from... Hatton!

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

Stratford Literary Festival makes a springtime return

The Stratford Literary Festival returns in May, complete with bestselling writers and household names from stage and screen.



Featuring more than 60 events, the festival's programme includes contributions from leading historians and experts, award-winning fiction writers and 'some of the most exciting emerging authors published this year'. Leading actresses Juliet Stevenson and Sally Phillips (pictured) feature among the celebrity guests. The festival takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 May. To find out more, visit stratlitfest.co.uk

Touring children's show to stop off at The Albany

A brand-new touring production of The Baddies - adapted from Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's much-loved story



book of the same name - is stopping off at Coventry's Albany Theatre next month. The show runs at the venue from Tuesday 8 to Sunday 13 April. To find out more and purchase tickets, visit thebaddieslive.com

Revisit the 1990s as Jo Whiley heads to Coventry

Radio DJ & television presenter Jo Whiley is bringing her 90s Anthems show to Coventry's

HMV Empire this month. The night of 'Britpop nostalgia and high-energy beats' visits the venue on Friday the 21st. Commenting on the show, Jo said: "There's nothing like the energy of a 90s Anthems crowd, and I'm looking forward to re-living those moments with everyone. From Britpop to rock to dance, it's going to be an epic trip down memory lane."



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



Arts centre date for Nina Conti

Nina Conti will be returning to the Midlands in the autumn with her smash-hit live show *Whose Face Is It Anyway?*. The comedian & ventriloquist visits Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 4 October. To find out more and purchase tickets, go to ninaontour.com

Tony Hadley at Symphony Hall

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!"



RSC announces Big Friendly Giant of a Christmas 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



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

Harvington History Festival makes a summertime return at the castle

Harvington History Festival makes a welcome return in the summer, complete with 'a top-flight line-up of historians, authors and academics'.

Contributors to the 2025 edition of the event, which takes place at Harvington Hall from Wednesday 23 to Sunday 27 July, include Tracy Borman, Ruth Goodman and the UK's biggest-selling female historian, Alison Weir.

The event also features 'talks on everything from modern-day mudlarking, to Elizabethan espionage techniques, to priest holes' (of which Harvington Hall has seven).

To find out more about the festival, visit harvingtonhall.co.uk



Hoist the Jolly Roger for pantomime fun at Artrix!

Pantomime-loving Midlanders are being invited to sail away to Treasure Island this Christmas.

Bromsgrove's Artrix venue is presenting a brand-new production of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story from Friday 5 to Monday 29 December.

Tickets for the show can be purchased at artrixbromsgrove.co.uk

Dan Walker to host Belfry Classic Golf Day event

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



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.



Famous faces and new features at RHS Malvern show

RHS Malvern Spring Festival will return to the town's Three Counties Showground from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 May, with TV presenters Nicki Chapman and Alan Titchmarsh among the celebrities taking part in this year's event.

The popular get-together also boasts a number of brand-new features. These include Plants & People - encouraging visitors to explore the numerous ways in

which plants impact their lives - the Give It A Grow theatre - offering practical advice, inspirational talks and expert tips on plant growing - and, on the 11th only, Dog Day - allowing well-behaved dogs on short, fixed leads 'to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the festival with their owners'.

To check out the full programme of entertainment and attractions, visit the festival's website at rhsmalvern.co.uk

Inspiring Everyone at RAF Museum Midlands

The Royal Air Force Museum has been awarded a £650,000 grant from research & education charity the Wolfson

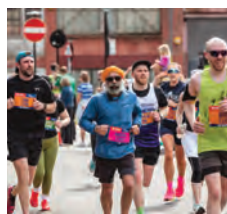


Foundation to fund its Inspiring Everyone initiative.

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

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, visit the website at alansurteestrust.org.uk

Sign up for Snowdon!

Warwickshire's Myton Hospices is raising funds by organising a trek up Snowdon this summer.

Signing up for the event costs £20, with more information available by visiting mytonhospice.org/Snowdon

B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

Facebook @bmusicltd

Instagram @bmusic_ltd

Phone 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



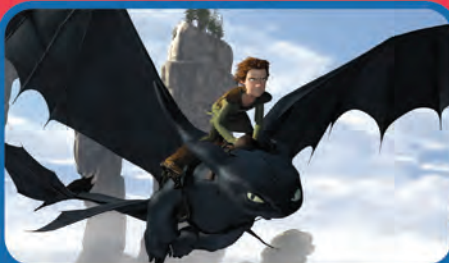
**Kimichi Symphony Orchestra
& Kimichi Ballet: Spring into
Stravinsky** 23 Mar | Symphony Hall



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!**

Diary date for Wright Hassall Regency 10K run

Leamington's annual Wright Hassall Regency 10k Run returns for its 21st year next month.

The popular event, which raises tens of thousands of pounds for good causes across the region, will take place on Sunday 6 April. More information about the run is available by visiting regency10k.co.uk

Motor Museum launches Car Run competition

The Warwickshire-located British Motor Museum has teamed up with the Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders to launch a competition which will provide four UK automotive apprentices with the chance to drive in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in November. To find out more, including how to apply, visit smmt.co.uk



Heritage Award wins for Severn Valley Railway

The Severn Valley Railway (SVR) has won four prestigious accolades at this year's Heritage Railway Association awards, and was highly commended in two further categories.

Among the SVR award winners was the tiny but lovingly cared-for Eardington station, which was named Station of the Year. Re-opened to passengers after more than four decades in 2023, Eardington is the only remaining station to be lit entirely by oil and paraffin.

Solihull to host first-ever Pride event in September

Solihull will host its very first Pride event in September, bringing 'a vibrant celebration of LGBTQ+ culture and diversity' to the town centre.

The event will take place on Saturday 6 September, with organisers Solihull Business Improvement District promising 'a spectacular day of inclusivity, joy and unity for people of all ages, backgrounds and identities'.



Women Of Okinawa exhibited at Coventry arts centre

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre is this spring and early summer presenting an exhibition of work by revered Okinawan photographer Mao Ishikawa.

Featuring more than 60 photos from the 1970s onwards, the show includes images

from Mao's iconic Women Of Okinawa series. The exhibition shows in the arts centre's Mead Gallery from Friday 2 May to Sunday 22 June. To find out more about the photographer and her work, visit the venue's website at warwickartscentre.co.uk

Worcestershire dates for hit show Irish Annie

Smash-hit musical comedy Irish Annie's is visiting two Worcestershire 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 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

Giffords Circus heading out on anniversary tour

Gloucestershire-based Giffords Circus is kickstarting its 25th anniversary tour next month, presenting a brand-new '1950s America'-set show entitled Laguna Bay. The much-loved troupe will be touring the Cotswolds and the south of England from Thursday 17 April to Sunday 28 September. For more information and to find out where they'll be pitching their 600-seat big top tent, visit giffordscircus.com

Autin Dance mark Earth Day at Midlands museum

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



BELGRADE

Little Women



19 - 22 MAR



PIG HEART BOY

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MALORIE BLACKMAN
ADAPTED BY WINSOME PINNOCK

2 - 5 APR

A UK National Tour

TAMBO & BONES



9 - 12 APR

tall stories

Based on the best-selling book by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Room on the Broom



LIVE ON STAGE

23 - 26 APR

HANDBAGGED

BY MOIRA BUFFINI



29 APR - 3 MAY



GUINNESS GUINNESS

Two Pints

2 - 24 MAY

Book now belgrade.co.uk

A FRIEND IN NEED

Playfight, a witty, bittersweet production following the lives of three young friends, visits the Belgrade next month



Poignant and funny drama *Playfight* comes to Coventry's Belgrade Theatre in April. The production follows three teenage friends into adulthood, as they grow in parallel with the sinking roots and climbing branches of an oak tree. The story doesn't shy away from the serious subjects of normalised sexual violence and the gaps in sex education. Playwright Julia Grogan here offers an insight into how the play balances the dark and the light...

What can audiences expect when they come to see the play, Julia?

Playfight traces the lives of three best friends from the ages of 15 to 24, as they grow up around the base of an oak tree. We watch the evolution of their friendship as they navigate love, desire and ambition. Their journey unfolds against the unsettling rise of violence in mainstream pornography. Audiences can expect three killer performances from Lucy Mangan, Nina Cassells and Sophie Cox. These three are absolutely breathtaking. They are so, so funny, so heartbreaking and so addictive to watch. They're also really kind and generous to each other off stage, and you can totally see that in their performances. They look after each other. Emma Callander has done the most beautiful job directing the piece with utter playfulness, nuance and sharpness. Hazel Low has designed the most painfully accurate costumes, which adapt as we watch the girls grow. And the atmospheric set genuinely transports you to an oak tree in a field. It's beautiful work... Audiences will just have a feast of the senses!

***Playfight* is the first play you wrote, aged 21. What compelled you to tell this story?**

On reflection, I think *Playfight* really came from a place of wanting to try and make sense of the traumas I'd seen and experienced myself in my teenage years; how, as kids, we're meant to digest ugly things like lack of consent, young deaths, toxicity of self-image, authority, power, ambition. I think we underestimate how hard those years were. For all the beauty and carefree times, there's a darkness in the uncertainty of teen years. I particularly felt this around my relationship to sex, which is really how *Playfight* was born. The characters, who I ended up calling Lucy, Zainab and Keira, really are three opposing corners of my mind wrestling with each other, trying to find some answers. On a brighter note - with darkness comes extraordinary light, and I also wanted to explore love, joy and life between mates,

around the base of a beautiful oak tree.

Tell us about the three characters...

Someone who always creeps into my work somewhere is my best friend; less her personality, but more her experience of love. Writers are a bit creepy because we're always absorbing and watching people around us. I watched her experience love with women over the years, witnessing the sheer heartbreak, tenderness and intensity of it. I was always so invested in her love, because I was so close to her. So I think it's no surprise that three of my plays have love between two women running through the centre of them, because the most colourful, vivid romances I witnessed were hers. They feel the most natural to write about.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge called *Playfight* "a blinding sucker-punch of a play - honest, hilarious, heartfelt and the wittiest writing out there". How did you manage to balance the humour with such tough subject matter?

I've always liked to find the funny in the sad. Maybe it's a weird coping mechanism, but I struggle to be sincere, and always laugh when I hear bad news. I've done that ever since I was small. So it's always felt natural to me, when writing, to hunt out the laughs amongst the tears. I think that's what makes us human as well; when something's so heightened, when we're experiencing grief or horror, it leaves larger gaps for other heightened emotions - like giggles! It's conflicting and confusing, so I always want my characters to wrestle with holding pain, too, like me.

What would you like people to take away from seeing the play?

In terms of take-aways for the audience, I'd like to get people talking to their friends and challenging themselves to avoid being bystanders. We need to be active in our friends' lives; to live partly in their skin, too, so that if we notice something is wrong, we're having open conversations. If a young person

can come out of my play and feel seen, I have done my job! I guess with all my work, I also like the audience to feel shifted; to inspire a chat over a beer afterwards, or a big laugh. I want as many schoolkids to see this play as possible.

The play navigates friendship, desire and consent. What gaps in sex education and societal conversations were you trying to address?

I'd like there to be conversations in the classroom, as well as at home, about how the violent sex portrayed online shouldn't be mistaken for what sex 'should' be. In my sex education, we never spoke about things like pleasure, safe and satisfying sex, consent, LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex, let alone emotional wellbeing. I felt unprepared for healthy ways to explore desire. The lack of comprehensive discussions on digital safety, pornography and online exploitation means many young people are left to navigate these complex issues alone. Additionally, stigma and shame around sex persist due to inadequate education, leading to misinformation, anxiety and unsafe behaviours. Without a more inclusive, practical and open approach, sex education continues to leave young people without the knowledge and skills they need to make informed, safe, and empowered choices.

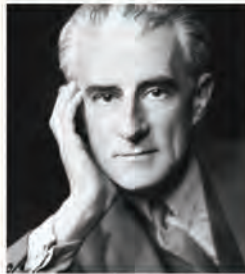
What other projects are you working on?

At the moment, I'm working on an exciting new musical with my theatre company, Dirty Hare. We made Gunter a few years back, and I am so excited about this new one. I've also got a few TV projects in development, and I'm writing a new play about an erotic poetry club... Ooh, and a one-person show about a baby ballet teacher! It's really exciting.

.....
***Playfight* shows at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre from Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 April**



Leamington Music Festival



Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

1/50

Arthur Bliss
(1891-1975)



2 – 5 May 2025 | Royal Pump Rooms | Leamington Spa

Friday 2 May at 7pm
Trio Shaham-Erez-Wallfisch
Ben-Haim | Shostakovich | Ravel

Friday 2 May at 10pm
Dominic Alldis Trio
Classical meets Jazz

Saturday 3 May at 12 noon
Mark Bebbington *piano*
Bliss | Ravel | Poulenc

Saturday 3 May at 7pm
Sinfonia of Birmingham
Michael Seal *conductor*
Ravel | Mozart | Berlioz

Sunday 4 May at 12 noon
Roderick Williams *baritone*
Andrew West *piano*
'A Touch of Exotic'

Sunday 4 May at 7pm
Carducci String Quartet
Emma Johnson *clarinet*
Puccini | Bliss | Emma Johnson | Mozart

Monday 6 May at 12.30pm
Deniz Sensoy *violin*
Alessio Enea *piano*
Debussy | Stravinsky | Beach | Franck

Monday 6 May at 7pm
Sacconi String Quartet
Simon Callaghan *piano*
Ravel | Bliss | Franck

For full details visit
www.leamingtonmusic.org
Book online or call
01926 334418



ORCHESTRA OF
The Swan

ELEMENTS

Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7:30pm

Warwick Hall

In 450 BC the Greek philosopher Empedocles proposed the four elements as fire, earth, air and water.

This concert presents these classical elements in musical form, beginning with **Jean-Féry Rebel's** unsettling *Chaos* from his *Les Éléments* suite and concluding with **Debussy's** magical triptych *La Mer*.

bridgehousetheatre.co.uk

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN IN RESIDENCE AT WARWICK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Warwick
Schools
Foundation



Enabling transformation through the power of education

Live music from across the region...

Tunde Baiyewu

Worcester Cathedral, Fri 28 March

Widely considered to be one of the UK's finest vocalists, Tunde Baiyewu made his name in Lighthouse Family alongside Paul Tucker, with whom he'd formed a friendship while studying at university in Newcastle. Three platinum-selling albums later, Tunde stepped out on his own with a self-titled collection of songs, releasing a follow-up record some nine years later. After a period spent back in the Lighthouse Family saddle - which included a first album in 18 years - Tunde is now once again riding solo, kicking off his latest tour with this sure-to-be-special concert at Worcester Cathedral.



Levellers Collective

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Thurs 13 March; Malvern Theatres, Sun 16 March

Mark Chadwick and Jeremy Cunningham met in a pub in Brighton in 1988. Based on a mutual interest in left-wing politics, they decided to form Levellers, three years later releasing breakthrough album *Levelling The Land*.

Their upcoming shows form part of a third acoustic tour inspired by the band's 2018 decision to do something different with their extensive back-catalogue. Teaming up with members of fellow Brighton group *The Mouvettes*, they reworked a selection of their songs with a string and percussion section, produced a couple of new numbers and released an album called *We The Collective*. A second record, produced by Seth Lakeman and "as energetic as the first one but definitely different", was released in 2023.



Martin Simpson

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 2 March

In the late 1980s, guitarist Martin Simpson waved a fond farewell to his successful career on the British folk circuit to start a new life in the States, where he improved his blues technique and worked with some

famous names... Now back home on this side of the Atlantic, the 71-year-old Scunthorpe-born virtuoso guitarist - well known for his work alongside the likes of June Tabor, Steeleye Span, The Albion Band and Richard Thompson - has been nominated for a BBC Radio Two Folk Award on a record-busting 30-plus occasions.

Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman

Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham, Thurs 18 March; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Wed 19 March

Having racked up almost 30 years of musicmaking - not only together but with the likes of Seth Lakeman, Cara Dillon, Levellers, Kate Rusby and Show Of Hands - husband & wife singer-songwriters Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman have firmly established themselves as pillars of the modern British folk scene. So much so, in fact, that the couple have twice won the Best Duo gong at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards...

Widely admired for the imaginative nature of their output, their songs have featured subjects as diverse and original as Norwegian legends, wicked mermaids and lonely whales.

Black Doldrums

The Tin Music & Arts, Coventry, Fri 7 March

A combination of tribal drums, euphoric guitar, melodic bass and introspective lyrics has seen Black Doldrums carve out their very own contemporary style of gothic post-punk.

Releasing debut album *Dead Awake* five years ago, and having earned themselves an impressive reputation for the intensity of their live performances, they are joined for this gig by *The Dirt* and *Bleach Fields*.



Elvana

hmv Empire, Coventry, Sat 29 March

Whoever hit upon this delightfully off-the-wall idea must've been having a seriously heavy night on the wine gums...

This tribute-act-like-no-other comes from 'the bowels of Disgraceland' and sees Elvis Presley fronting 1990s rock royalty Nirvana, presenting a concert in which the magnificently talented Elvana boys tear through the latter's catalogue of hits 'whilst splicing in grunged-up sections of the King of Rock & Roll's finest moments'... So... if you fancy brightening up your day with a somewhat bizarre, engagingly colourful and altogether splendidly ridiculous experience, we would respectfully suggest that this mindbending evening of fun and frivolity could well be the night out you're looking for.

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Classical music from across the region...



Orchestra Of The Swan: Elements Warwick Hall, Thurs 20 March

Held in high regard both for their championing of new music and their performances of pieces by legendary composers, the Warwick-based Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS) are no slouches when it comes to compiling truly imaginative programmes of work - and this latest concert is certainly an example of them doing just that... Taking as their theme the classical elements of air, earth, fire and water, OOTS kickstart proceedings with Jean-Féry Rebel's Chaos, an unsettling movement from his Les

Éléments suite. The orchestra bring the evening to a close by performing Debussy's magical triptych, La Mer. Sandwiched between these two extraordinary works is Manuel de Falla's Ritual Fire Dance and the first performance of a brand-new commission entitled Air. Composed by pianist David Gordon and jazz saxophonist Tim Whitehead, the piece features students from Warwick Schools Foundation, performing together in a special collaboration.

Rune

St Mary's Church, Warwick, Tues 18 March

Dedicated to an exploration of music from the Middle Ages, the recently established Rune here take their inspiration from Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron. Written in the mid-14th century, the book tells the story of a group of friends - sequestered in a rural villa as the Black Death ravages the nearby city of Florence - who keep one another entertained by telling a host of inspiring tales. Rune's mid-month Leamington Music concert is a mosaic of musical stories from early modern Europe, featuring works by Landini, de Vitry, Dunstable, Binchois and Machaut. Threaded with medieval music from more distant times and locations, the programme is reminiscent of the way in which Boccaccio weaved together tales from such faraway places as India and the Middle East.



The Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Sun 30 March

The Fitzwilliam String Quartet is an ensemble with a long and illustrious history. Founded in 1968 by four Cambridge undergraduates, the quartet were befriended by Dmitri Shostakovich, who entrusted them with the Western premières of his last three quartets. The ensemble then became the first group to perform and record all 15. Inevitably, the quartet's line-up has changed numerous times across the years, but the commitment to high-quality work remains very much intact. This latest concert presents a fascinating programme of music that features work by Percy Grainger, Franz Schubert, and the Malvern Hills-based Liz Dilnot Johnson.



Ex Cathedra: Latin American Baroque

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."



University of Warwick Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 9 March

The University of Warwick Symphony Orchestra & Chorus welcome the arrival of



spring with a concert that features Leonard Bernstein's On The Waterfront suite and Shruthi Rajasekar's Sarojini - a dynamic choral work celebrating the life and legacy of Indian activist & poet Sarojini Naidu. The programme also features University Concerto Competition winner Isaac Laing performing Haydn's 2nd Cello Concerto.

Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra

All Saints Church, Leamington Spa, Sat 15 March

Now in its 85th year, Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra here presents a concert featuring work by four greatly admired composers: Johann Strauss (Thunder And Lightning Polka), Copland (Rodeo 4 dance episodes), Tchaikovsky (Swan Lake Suite) and Khachaturian (Spartacus Suite 2).

FIT FOR A KING

Director Daniel Raggett talks about his new RSC production of Edward II...



Christopher Marlowe's most controversial play, about the ill-fated reign of Edward II, has returned to a Royal Shakespeare Company stage for the first time in 35 years. Director Daniel Raggett tells What's On why he jumped at the chance to breathe new life into the little-known 16th-century work...

First performed in 1592, Edward II - or, to give it its original wordy title, *The Troublesome Reign And Lamentable Death Of Edward The Second, King Of England, With The Tragical Fall Of Proud Mortimer* - is one of the earliest English history plays.

Written by Shakespeare contemporary Christopher Marlowe, and regarded as a major influence on the Bard's Richard II, it tells the tale of King Edward II, who was widely regarded as one of the worst monarchs in history and violently removed from office by an establishment that refused to accept a gay king.

But why was he considered such a bad ruler, and how much of the public's perception was influenced or prejudiced by his homosexuality? Both questions are at the heart of director Daniel Raggett's new production - but he's not planning on providing any explanations.

"It's about complicating the question," he says. "Maybe he's not allowed the chance to govern properly because people decide that, because he's gay, he's not fit for that office. Or maybe he's just a terrible king. And maybe it's quite complicated to sit in the audience and go 'What exactly am I upset about the most?' I want that question to be alive, but not in a simple way. In a complicated way." But you won't be answering it?

"No, because I think that's where you tip over into being didactic, and I'd rather just open up the question and leave it for the audience to discuss."

Thankfully, Daniel is more forthcoming about the rationale for revisiting the play, and why the lengthy time gap since it was last on a Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) stage means he can effectively do what he wants with it, since most people won't remember the previous version.

"We're doing a scene-for-scene, move-for-move remake of the Simon Russell Beale production from 1990," he deadpans, before quickly confirming he's pulling my leg.

"I can be quite dry, and a lot of people don't know when I'm joking! I'll say things to the actors like 'Right, we're now going to do it all in Spanish accents,' and then they start. I'm like 'Come on, guys!'"

It might not be performed in Spanish brogue,

but one of the ways Daniel is putting his stamp on the play - which is the longest Marlowe wrote - is by making radical cuts to the script, to bring it down to the length of a typical movie.

Or at least that was the plan...

"I came in with all these ideas, and then the first week we started, these improvisations - and all the stuff that came out of that - is now somehow incorporated in the show. It's incredible. Plays aren't meant to be read; they're meant to be seen in 3D, in the flesh, and as soon as you see the actors, you think 'Actually, that's brilliant, I want more of that.'"

So it's now four hours long?

"Yeah, yeah, yeah... and with three intervals! No, I'm hoping we'll still be able to keep it as a short, sharp shock. It was quite radically cut and rearranged, but it still holds true to Marlowe's text and original impulses."

Putting on a lesser-known play at the home of the Bard is another element that excites the director, not least because it creates a different dynamic within the audience.

"Shakespeare wrote, what, 38 plays? And we do them again and again and again. We've all seen the plays, and everybody walks into the theatre with a pre-conception or decision about the show. That can be really exciting, but why not come and see an Elizabethan play by a contemporary of Shakespeare but totally different?"

"It's exciting to discover something new from that period, and also to discover how political and anti-establishment Marlowe was. He's a lot of fun. He was sat there at the same time as Shakespeare, writing about a gay king. That's the fun thing to uncover. And I think that can sit very well alongside going to see Hamlet for the 14th time - which I definitely will do."

That last comment is sure to go down well with the RSC's Co-Artistic Director Daniel Evans, who offered Daniel R the chance to direct for the company and has collaborated with him on the play. And Daniel E will also be playing the part of Edward, marking his first time on stage in a full acting role for 14 years. So what tempted him back - and, more importantly, will he get paid an actor's wage on top of his normal one?

"I've never asked, but I should do!" laughs Daniel R. "He still has an actor's agent!"

"I can't remember where [the idea of him acting again] came from, but we were just joking around about parts that he'd quite like to play. We narrowed it down to two, and I really liked the idea of him playing a king when he'd just taken over as 'king', along with Tamara Harvey [the other co-artistic director], of the RSC. That just seemed to fit. "So it came about as a happy accident. But then, when we started digging into the play and what it's about and what makes good leadership - cos he's a brilliant leader - and the idea of homosexuality in leadership, it just seemed really right."

"I think he's enjoying being part of a company again, and being on the shop floor of the RSC."

The director says the pair have also been enjoying looking at the 400-year-old play through a contemporary lens.

"Our starting point was that we supposedly live in some of the most liberal and open and permissive times, but what would happen if Charles passed away, William took the throne and turned round and said: 'You know what, although I've been married to Katherine, there's a guy called Colin, and he's my real queen, or my real king.' What would happen then?"

"It's not that the play is set in a modern world of mobile phones, but it's just making sure that what we're doing is plugging into these very pertinent questions about the world we live in now, as things move back towards the right, in inverted commas, and traditional values."

"Edward II's not very well known, but it's a great play. It's got the propulsion of a thriller, and it's quick and sharp and very violent. And then it's got a very provocative thing at the centre, which is this love story between two men. There's a lot of fun to play with."

.....
Edward II shows at the RSC's Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon until Saturday 5 April

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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

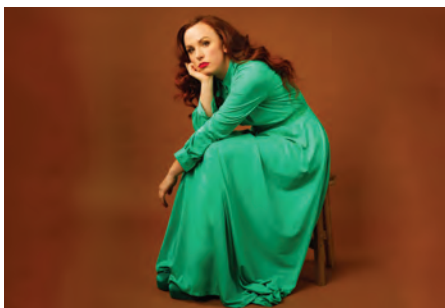
London stand-up Mo Gilligan has enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame and fortune since first coming to wider public attention almost a decade ago. It was back in 2016 that Mo uploaded a video about grime MCs - and fairly quickly thereafter found himself catapulted to celebrity status. Hired by Channel Four 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.



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.



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."



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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DANCE CONSORTIUM PRESENTS

Eun-Me Ahn Dance Company's

DRAGONS

'Visually thrilling'
Culture Whisper

Tue 25 & Wed 26 Mar

AN ENTERTAINING FAMILY PERFORMANCE ABOUT CHILDREN'S WORRIES AND CONCERNS

Shark in the Park!

Shark in the Park! Shark in the Park!

Based on the book by **Nick Sharratt**

From the producers of the **Hairy Maclary** show!

Sat 29 Mar - Sun 6 Apr

Songs of the Bulbul

by Aakash Odedra Company

Tue 8 - Thu 10 Apr

"AN EVENING WITH SIR TIM RICE IS AN ALL TIME HIGH!"

TIM RICE

MY LIFE IN MUSICALS

I KNOW HIM SO WELL

WITH THE DUNCAN WRIGHT 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



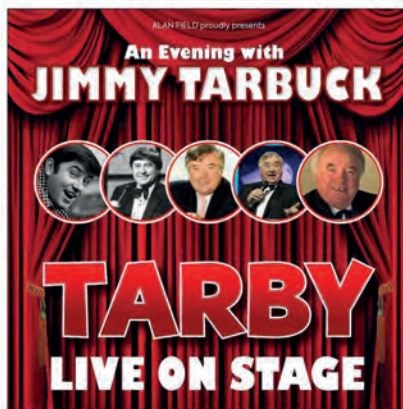
SAT 26 APRIL '25
MAN IN THE MIRROR



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



FRI 6 - SAT 7 JUN '25
BALLET BC



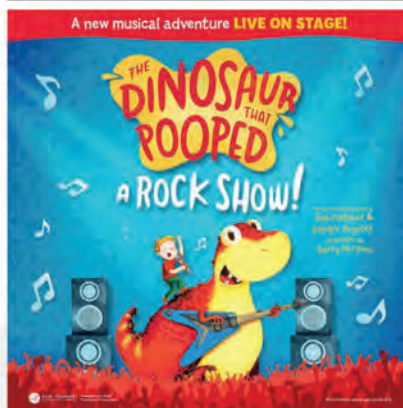
TUE 17 JUN '25
AN EVENING WITH
JIMMY TARBUCK



MON 23 - SAT 28 JUN '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
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Age 3+

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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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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 scared, 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-wracking, 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.



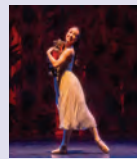
All aboard! The award-winning Severn Valley Railway has provided an all-day Freedom Pass, with the highest bidder enjoying a scenic journey aboard the train which featured in The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe.

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

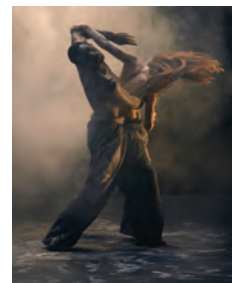
International champion and Strictly Come Dancing star Nikita Kuzmin's first-ever solo tour sees him being joined by 'a sharp and chic cast of talented dancers and vocalists... for an evening bursting with happiness, euphoria, and of course, world-class dance'.



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)

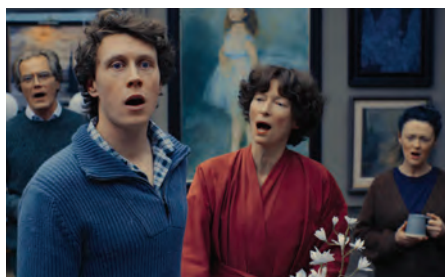
Starring **Tilda Swinton, George McKay, Moses Ingram, Michael Shannon, Bronach Gallagher, Tim McInnerny**
Directed by **Joshua Oppenheimer**

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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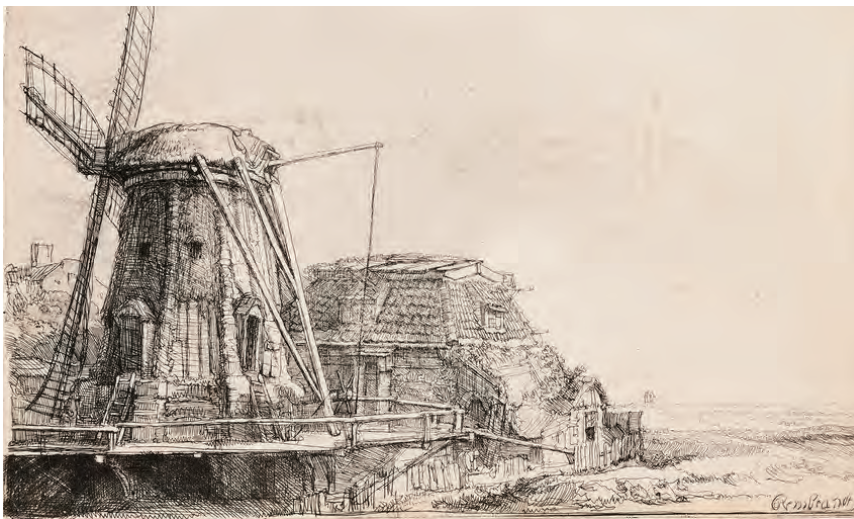
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Visual Arts previews from around the region



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

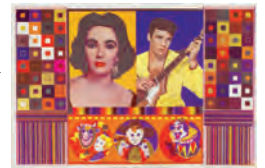
Featuring artwork created in the mid-20th century, this fascinating show explores how Pop Artists used mixed-media collage and combined text and image in order to protest against capitalism, racism and conflict. In the process of doing so, the artists were responding to some of the biggest social and 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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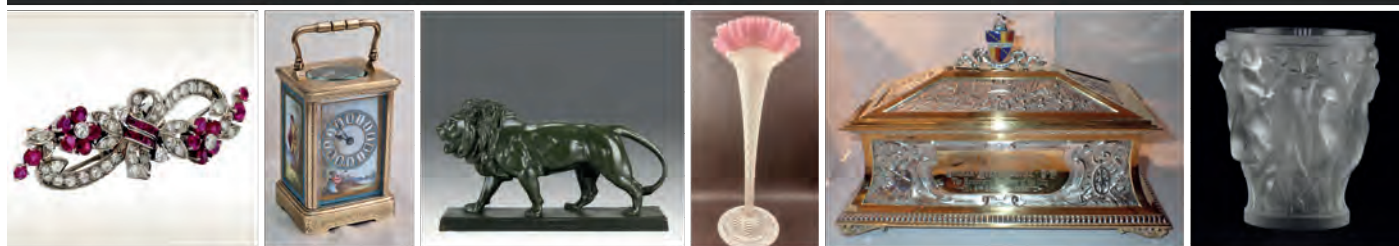
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Events previews from around the region



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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SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



Your week-
by-week
listings guide
March 2025

the list



All Blood Runs Red - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Thurs 13 - Fri 14 March

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

What's On

Sat 1 - Sun 9 March



Troy Redfern -
Temperance, Leamington Spa
Sat 1 March

Mon 10 - Sun 16 March



Karen Hauer & Gorka Marquez -
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
Sat 15 March

Mon 17 - Sun 23 March



Black Is The Color Of My Voice -
Swan Theatre, Worcester
Wed 19 March

Mon 24 - Mon 31 March



Pulman & Stilgoe -
The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
Fri 28 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 April

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

Coventry Music Museum

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

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

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

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

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

DIPPY IN COVENTRY: THE NATION'S

FAVOURITE DINOSAUR Dippy the diplodocus is in Coventry on a three-year loan from the Natural History Museums.

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

UNRAVELLING HISTORY: UNPICKING THE COLLECTIONS AND REWORKING TEXTILE TRADITIONS Showcase of work by five internationally renowned textile artists from the Midlands. Their work is presented alongside items from the collection, which speak to each artist's approach to their craft. Co-created by Leamington-based artist Annabel Rainbow, until Thurs 1 May

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

LIFE IN 3D Sculpture from the Museum's collections, celebrating life in three dimensions, until Sat 8 Mar

Rugby Art Gallery

A HISTORY OF RUGBY IN 50 OBJECTS Exhibition featuring 50 objects from the museum's collection which represent a moment, person or event that helped shape the town

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

THE WORCESTERSHIRE CONQUEST HOARD ON DISPLAY A display of one of the largest early Roman coin hoards ever found in Britain, discovered in October 2023, until Sun 30 Mar

H. H. LINES: ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART Exhibition exploring the three loves of renowned local artist, Henry Harris Lines, until Sun 1 June

Elsewhere:

KATE WRIGGLESWORTH: POETIC STORYTELLING Exhibition of 'expressive and primitive' paintings, delving into an ethereal world and each telling an imaginary story inspired by landscape, dance, music and poetry, until Wed 19 Mar, Number 8, Pershore

...THE LIBRARY IS ALL OF THESE Group exhibition by Motunrayo Akinola, Japhet Dinganga, and Jessie Tam, considering public spaces such as libraries as surfaces for collective memory, re-imagination and rehearsing, Sat 8 Mar - Sat 5 July, Central Library, Coventry

TEARS OF GOLD Series of paintings that show hope in the face of persecution, created by a group of Christian women from northern Nigeria, Sat 29 Mar - Sun 13 April, Coventry Cathedral

Gigs

CALUM BOWIE Sat 1 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

LOTTERY WINNERS + THE COVASETTES + EIGHTY EIGHT MILES Sat 1 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

MUSIC OF BOWIE BY CANDLELIGHT Sat 1 Mar, Worcester Cathedral

ROY G HEMMINGS TSOPI AND MOTOWN SHOW Sat 1 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

ARRIVAL: THE HITS OF ABBA Sat 1 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE SPECIALS LTD Sat 1 Mar, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

TROY REDFERN Sat 1 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

YAMA WARASHI + IKO Sat 1 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

ANTARCTIC MONKEYS Sat 1 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

A COVENTRY MUSIC SONGBOOK Sat 1 Mar, Number 8, Pershore

MAET LIVE AND THE NEVER NEVERLAND EXPRESS Sat 1 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

8 FOOT UNDER Sat 1 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DAN BUDD AS ROBBIE WILLIAMS Sat 1 Mar, The Benn Hall, Rugby

THE BLACKHEART ORCHESTRA Sat 1 Mar, The Market Theatre, Ledbury

RADIO COSTELLO Sat 1 Mar, Marris Bar, Worcester

THE MERSEY BEATLES Sat 1 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

I'M EVERY WHITNEY Sat 1 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

BIOHAZARD + LIFE OF AGONY Sun 2 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

JACK WHITE Sun 2 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Sun 2 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

SKA TRAIN Sun 2 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MA POLAINE'S GREAT



Troy Redfern - Temperance, Leamington Spa

DECLINE Sun 2 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BRADLEY SIMPSON Sun 2 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

MARTIN SIMPSON Sun 2 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

ELI LEV + MEG SCANE Sun 2 Mar, Marris Bar, Worcester

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

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

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

CHRIS DE BURGH Mon 3 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JAMES OLIVER BAND Mon 3 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

TEDDY SWIMS Mon 3 - Tues 4 Mar, Utilita Arena

Birmingham

PUNK OFF: THE SOUNDS OF PUNK AND NEW WAVE

Tues 4 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

CARL MARAH Tues 4 Mar, Kitchen Garden, B'ham

MIRANDA SYKES AND JIM CAUSLEY Tues 4 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

NOTORIOUS BIG TRIBUTE + LIL CEASE & THE FRANK WHITE EXPERIENCE Wed 5 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

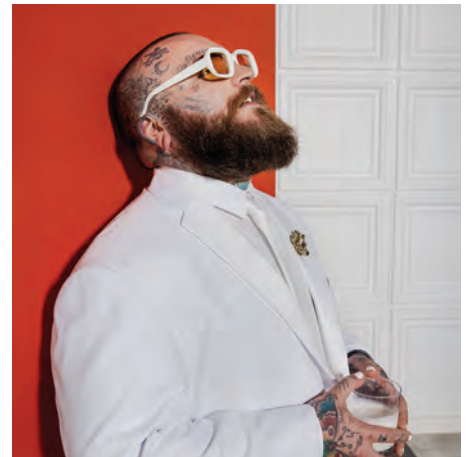
ZAKK SABBATH + LOWEN Wed 5 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

ANDREAS ROOTS + DAVE ARCARI Wed 5 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

FLY YETI FLY + DAISY BELL Wed 5 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

STEVE KNIGHTLEY Wed 5 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



Teddy Swims - Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE GUEST LIST Thurs 6 Mar, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

NAO Thurs 6 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

SABRINA CARPENTER Thurs 6 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE SWAMP STOMP STRING BAND Thurs 6 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

TAYLORMANIA Thurs 6 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

LUCA SIMIAN Fri 7 Mar, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE Fri 7 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

BURN - DEEP PURPLE TRIBUTE Fri 7 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

GORDON HENDRICKS - THE KING'S VOICE Fri 7 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

JILTED GENERATION + JAGUAR SKILLS + DJ RATTY + SPENSER TAFFS + BAKTRAK Fri 7 Mar, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

BLACK DOLDRUMS + THE DIRT + BLEACH FIELDS Fri 7 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

CHOP SUEY + SLIP-NOT Fri 7 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MELVIN HANCOX BAND Fri 7 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

REELIN' IN THE DAN Fri 7 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

COLDPLAY IT AGAIN + OASIS HERE NOW + STEREOCONICS Fri 7 Mar, Drummonds, Worcester

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 7 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

HILLBILLY MOON EXPLOSION Sat 8 Mar, Hare & Hounds, B'ham

UNDER THE COVERS Sat 8 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

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

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

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

DOVES Sat 8 Mar, O2

Institute, Birmingham

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

THE MARY WALLOPERS Sat 8 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

THE BRACKNALL + ROSA CAELUM + THE MASSES Sat 8 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

A COUNTRY NIGHT IN NASHVILLE Sat 8 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Sat 8 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

THE DUNWELLS Sat 8 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

TENEBOUS LIAR + INDEX FOR WORKING MUSIK + COMPLIANCE UNIT Sat 8 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

RUSHED Sat 8 Mar, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENTS AND BLUES Sat 8 Mar, The Henrician, Evesham

NOT THE ROLLING STONES Sat 8 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

VEHICLE Sat 8 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

21ST CENTURY ABBA Sat 8 Mar, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

FLEETWOOD SHACK Sat 8 Mar, The Benn Hall, Rugby

A FOREIGNERS JOURNEY Sat 8 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CITIZEN FISH + JESS SILK Sat 8 Mar, Malvern Cube

BRIT FLOYD Sun 9 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

NAPALM DEATH + CROWBAR + FULL OF HELL + BRAT Sun 9 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

EASY 3 JAZZ QUARTET Sun 9 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

PROJECT BLACKBIRD Sun 9 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BRING BACK SUMMER Sun 9 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MARTIN TURNER EX WISHBONE ASH Sun 9 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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 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

FAMILY CONCERT: GIDDY GOAT Featuring Ensemble 360 & John Webb (narrator). Programme includes specially composed music by Paul Rissmann, Sun 2 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington

ENSEMBLE 360 Featuring Robert Plane (clarinet), Benjamin Nabarro & Claudia Ajmone-Marsan (violins), Rachel Roberts (viola) & Gemma Rosefield (cello). Programme includes works by Britten, Coleridge-Taylor, Holbrooke & Dvořák, Sun 2 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: ORCHESTRAL PLAY DAY Featuring Dan Watson (conductor), Sun 2 Mar, Stratford Girls Grammar School, Stratford-upon-Avon

CENTRAL ENGLAND CAMERATA CONCERT Featuring Rupert Marshall (violin) & Anthony Bradbury (conductor). Programme comprises Andrew Downes' Concerto for Violin and Small Orchestra, Sun 2 Mar, Henry Sandon Hall, Worcester

FAMILY CONCERT: ANIMAL ADVENTURES Featuring Orlando Cela (conductor). Programme includes Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf & Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals, Sun 2 Mar, Mechanics Hall, Worcestershire

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

DISCOVERING MORRICONE Featuring Giacomo Loprieno (conductor), Anna Delfino (soprano), Attila Simon (violin) & Ensemble Symphony Orchestra, Wed 5 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

PRE-CONCERT PERFORMANCE: RBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Programme includes works by Meyer, orch. Berlioz & Ravel, 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

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: ENTRANCED BY CANDLELIGHT Featuring SuRie (vocals) & David Le Page (director). Programme includes works by A Part, Glass, Radiohead & Pink Floyd, Thurs 6 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES Featuring young musicians from Warwick School, Fri 7 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

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

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Tamsin Waley-Cohen (violin - pictured) & Kenneth Woods (conductor). Programme includes works by von Weber, Bruch & Beethoven, Sun 9 Mar, Cheltenham Town Hall



Comedy

KAT B & RICHARD BLACKWOOD Sat 1 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome

HAVE A WORD PODCAST - MURDERERS ROW Sat 1 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

FUNHOUSE COMEDY CLUB, WITH BARRY DODDS, SOL BERNSTEIN, DEAN COUGHLIN & DAWN BAILEY Sat 1 Mar, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

AL MURRAY Sat 1 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

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

SHAZIA MIRZA Sat 1 Mar, Regal Tenbury Wells

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

MANFORD'S COMEDY CLUB Sun 2 Mar, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

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

TOM STADE Thurs 6 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester



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

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

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

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

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

LARRY DEAN Sun 9 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MILTON JONES Sun 9 Mar, Malvern Theatres

Theatre

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

TEN TIMES TABLE A Second Thoughts Drama Group production based on Alan Ayckbourn's 1977 play, which lays bare the ambitions, politics and power struggles of a local committee as it descends into chaos, until Sat 1 Mar, The Bear Pit Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

LADIES UNLEASHED Amateur version of Amanda Whittington's comedy about friendship, growing older and living for today, until Sat 1 Mar, Priory Theatre, Kenilworth

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



CONSTELLATIONS Amateur version of Nick Payne's 'love story with infinite possibilities', until Sat 8 Mar, The Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa

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

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, Thurs 27 Feb - 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, Fri 28 Feb - Sun 2 Mar, The Core, Solihull

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

HOLES The story of four survivors stranded on an uninhabited tropical island following the crash landing of their Sydney-bound flight, Mon 3 - Tues 4 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

HAIRSPRAY Hit musical based on the iconic film of the same name. Joanne Clifton stars as Velma von Tussle. Brenda Edwards directs, Mon 3 - Sat 8 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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



BRAIN PLAY The Young Rep Company present a thought-provoking play that uses puppetry to 'explore things that affect us all', Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

WAR HORSE Powerfully moving drama based on Michael Morpurgo's wartime novel and featuring life-sized horses from Handspring Puppet Company, Tues 4 - Sat 8 Mar, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

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

DOCTOR FAUSTUS Middle School production of Christopher Marlowe's Elizabethan tragedy, Wed 5 - Fri 7 Mar, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

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 WIZARD OF OZ Adult panto starring Kyran Thrax as the Tin Queen, Divina De Campo as The Wizard, Marina Summers as Glinda and A'Whora as the Wicked Witch of the West, Thurs 6 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

HONEST LIES Domestic story celebrating the resilience of women everywhere. Written by Jenny Stokes & Dawn Butler and directed by Alison Belbin, Fri 7 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES One-man show in which Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes and a host of other characters from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's iconic story, Sat 8 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

SPACE GIRL KRYPT Junior Company

present 'an action-packed play bursting with songs and imagination, celebrating curiosity, resilience and exploration', Sat 8 - Sun 9 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Amateur version of Tennessee Williams' iconic play, Sat 8 - Sat 15 Mar, Rugby Theatre

THE BOY ON THE ROOF Vamos Theatre present a masked performance exploring loneliness, ageing and the importance of community, Sun 9 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

Kid's Theatre

FIREMAN SAM - THE GREAT CAMPING ADVENTURE Theatrical adventure for younger audiences, Sat 1 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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

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

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

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER An emotive dance theatre show that reveals the hidden histories of Black British soldiers, Sun 2 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry



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

THE STRICTLY EXPERIENCE Charity fundraiser in support of Coventry & Warwickshire Mind, Sat 8 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

THE DAZZLING DIAMONDS: THE COMEDY VARIETY DRAG SHOW An evening of 'glitz, glamour and pure entertainment', featuring 'jaw-dropping dance numbers and hilarious lip-sync performances', Sat 1 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

AN EVENING WITH PSYCHIC MEDIUM CRAIG MORRIS Thurs 6 & Fri 7 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

TRASH! Energetic show in which the possibilities of recycling are explored through percussion, movement and humour, Fri 7 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



RAT PACK LIVE Concert experience reviving old time favourites such as New York, New York, That's Amore, My Way, My Bojangles and more... Fri 7 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

PSYCHIC SALLY Fri 7 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

YOGA AND SEX... FOR WOMEN (OVER 40) Join Kathryn Haywood as she delves into the Kama Sutra, finds out what the 'four different types of women' smell like, and almost does some yoga, Sat 8 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester



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, Sat 8 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

FRED DINENAGE - RONNIE, REGGIE AND ME A definitive insight into the life of the Krays - Britain's most notorious gangsters - as told by their official biographer, Tues 4 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

THE TRUTH ABOUT JACK THE RIPPER Join crime historian Adam Wood to hear the truth behind the Whitechapel murders, the reality of life in the East End, and the victims' stories, Sat 8 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

VINTAGE VERA KILO SALE Vintage sale with plenty of big brands, Sat 1 Mar, FarGo Village, Coventry

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

LAMBING AFTER DARK A unique behind-the-scenes look at lambing season, plus tuck into a main meal from the restaurant, Sat 1 Mar, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM TOUR A guided



James Martin: Live - Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

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, Kidderminster

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

LAMBING AFTER DARK A unique behind-the-scenes look at lambing season, plus tuck into a main meal from the restaurant, Sat 8 Mar, Cotswold Farm Park, Cheltenham

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

THE RESONATE FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - DAY OUT 'Get hands-on with experiments, watch exciting demonstrations, join fascinating workshops and more', Sun 9 Mar, The Oculus, Coventry

RAGLEY HALL ASIAN WEDDING SHOWCASE Featuring everything from caterers to photographers, and dresses to cake makers, Sun 9 Mar, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire



Boogie Lights Express - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

ARMONICO CONSORT

'PURE PLEASURE' THE GUARDIAN
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 ★★★★★ BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE
 ★★★★★ THE TELEGRAPH
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For lovers of the lyrical and ornate choruses of Messiah and Dixit Dominus, this is definitely one not to miss, with soloists sung by the brilliant critically acclaimed 5* award singers of Armonico Consort.

5th April 2025 7.30pm,
 Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

13th April 2025 3pm,
 Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

Tickets: www.armonico.org.uk

Warwick performance is generously supported by Hilary Eldridge, a member of the Conductor's Circle.



Rachmaninov Vespers

ARMONICO CONSORT
 DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS

In this exquisite late evening setting, be transported by what is simply the most gorgeous choral music ever to have been written, and for a moment in time, simply nothing else in life will matter.

21st June 2025 8pm,
 Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

8th July 2025 8pm,
 Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

Tickets: www.armonico.org.uk

Warwick performance is generously supported by an original member of St Mary's Scholars and Armonico Consort, and a generous volunteer to the charity.



Beowulf

ARMONICO CONSORT
 AC ACADEMY
 DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS

Join Armonico Consort in the retelling of Beowulf, one of the world's greatest mythical tales, in an evening of musical entertainment. Discover a legendary time of heroes and warriors as Prince Beowulf battles demons and magical beasts. Featuring a gripping script written by William Towers, this touching epic saga has been set to music by Armonico Consort's composer-in residence, Toby Young (former BBC Proms Young Composer of the Year).

15th July 2025 7pm,
 Warwick Hall, King's High School
 Tickets on sale soon

Tickets: www.armonico.org.uk

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Worcester Cathedral Choir in Concert | Saturday 15 March

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Bond by Candlelight | Friday 23 May

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West End Musicals by Candlelight | Friday 20 June



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Gigs

DHRUV + TARA LILY Mon 10 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

TRUE FOXES Mon 10 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JIM CAUSLEY & MIRANDA SYKES Mon 10 Mar, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

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

WILLOW AVALON Tues 11 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ZEROCCLASSIKAL PREMIERE Tues 11 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

JOSHUA BURNSIDE Wed 12 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

SOLYA + BABY BUGS Wed 12 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

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

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

WHITE DENIM Wed 12 Mar, XOYO, B'ham

MADDIE MORRIS Wed 12 Mar, Kitchen Garden, Birmingham

GREG BRICE + BRASS HIP FLASK + REDNECK CABARET Wed 12 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JAMIE THYER Wed 12 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE FUREYS Wed 12 Mar, Regal, Tenbury Wells

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

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

THE JAM'D Thurs 13 Mar, Actress &

Bishop, Birmingham

BDRMM Thurs 13 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

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

LEVELLERS COLLECTIVE + IAN PROWSE Thurs 13 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BADLY DRAWN BOY Thurs 13 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

LIMP BIZKIT Thurs 13 Mar, bp pulse LIVE, Birmingham

PETER DOHERTY Thurs 13 Mar, XOYO, Birmingham

HASSAN K. Thurs 13 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry



MADDIE MORRIS Thurs 13 Mar, Regal, Tenbury Wells

LEKAN BABALOLA'S SACRED FUNK 4TET Thurs 13 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE 80S SHOW Thurs 13 Mar, Malvern Theatres

BLOCK 33 Fri 14 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

STEEL PULSE + THE SELECTER Fri 14 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

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

FLO Fri 14 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

OVERSIZE + MERCURY Fri 14 Mar, The Asylum, Birmingham

KIM WILDE Fri 14 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE MADNEZZ OF AMY Fri 14 Mar, 45Live,



Danny & The Champions of the World - Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

Kidderminster

RAVE ON: THE ULTIMATE 50S & 60S EXPERIENCE Fri 14 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

RAGA GARAGE Fri 14 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

POLLY PAULUSMA Fri 14 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

BLACK PARADE & FELL OUT BOY Fri 14 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

NIN + SPOUKY KIDS Fri 14 Mar, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE SKALETRICS Fri 14 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DARK GRIN Fri 14 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 14 Mar, The Benn Hall, Rugby

SMITH & BREWER + THE 4 OF US Fri 14 Mar, Regal, Tenbury Wells

THE JAMESTOWN BROTHERS Fri 14 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

WOBBLE WITH PHIL GIFFORD Fri 14 Mar, Drummonds, Worcester

THE CLASSIC ROCK AMERICAN HIGHWAY Fri 14 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ABBA SENSATION Fri 14 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

LOST IN MUSIC Fri 14 Mar, Palace Theatre,

Redditch

THE ROLLING STONES STORY Fri 14 Mar, Malvern Theatres

SY SMITH Sat 15 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

FAYE SMITH & PAUL WETTON Sat 15 Mar, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham

ALEC BENJAMIN Sat 15 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

THE LANCASHIRE HOTPOTS Sat 15 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

PAGAN SWORD + AMETHYST + MONOCHOPSIS Sat 15 Mar, The Flapper, Birmingham

THE SILVER WYE Sat 15 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MISSISSIPPI MCDONALD Sat 15 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

JACKDAW WITH CROWBAR + SATSANGI + THE ROLLOCKS + STRIP SEARCH TRAMP Sat 15 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE Sat 15 Mar, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sat 15 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GREY WOLF Sat 15

Mar, Regal, Tenbury Wells

POLICE DOG HOGAN Sat 15 Mar, Regal, Tenbury Wells

BRAIN OF J (PEARL JAM TRIBUTE) Sat 15 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

SOFT MACHINE Sat 15 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE MERSEY BEATLES Sat 15 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

HOCKEY DAD Sun 16 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

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

STEVE KNIGHTLEY Sun 16 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa



CHRIS STOUT AND KRIS DREVER Sun 16 Mar, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

THE SHERBERTS Sun 16 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

LEVELLERS COLLECTIVE Sun 16 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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

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

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

EX CATHEDRA: LATIN AMERICAN BAROQUE - RITUAL 1631 Featuring Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor). Programme includes works by Araujo, Hernandez, Salazar & more..., Wed 12 Mar, Hereford Cathedral

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, Birmingham

RAGA GARAGE Featuring Jyotsna Srikanth & Robert Atchison (violins), Shadrach Solomon (piano) & Karthik Mani (percussion). A mesmerizing blend of Indian Carnatic and European Classical sounds, Fri 14 Mar, Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE MUSICIANS Featuring Martin Perkins (director). Programme includes works by Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, Julie Pinel, Françoise-Charlotte de Senneterre Ménéteau & 'Mademoiselle Sicard', Fri 14 Mar, Great Malvern Priory

RED PRIEST: TRULY, MADLY, BAROQUE Featuring Piers Adams (recorders), Julia Bishop (violin), Angela East (cello) & David Wright (harpsichord). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Bach, Telemann, Handel & Corelli, Fri 14 Mar, Macready Theatre, Rugby

WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Featuring Roger Coull (conductor). Programme includes works by Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Khachaturian & Copland, Sat 15



All Blood Runs Red - Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Mar, All Saints Church, Leamington
WORCESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Fran Penny (soloist), Graham Longfils (leader) & Dan Watson (conductor). Programme includes works by Svendsen, Dvořák, R Strauss & Brahms, Sat 15 Mar, Pershore Abbey

ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC: BACH VIOLIN CONCERTOS Featuring Bojan Čičić (director & violin), Sat 15 Mar, Malvern Theatres

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR IN CONCERT Featuring Samuel Hudson (conductor). Programme includes works by Elgar, Rutter & Villetta, Sat 15 Mar, Worcester Cathedral

Comedy

JAMALI MADDIX Tues 11 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

JIM DAVIDSON Wed 12 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

KEMAH BOB Wed 12 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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

SIMON EVANS Fri 14 Mar, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

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

LOU SANDERS Sat 15 Mar, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

LUNCHTIME FAMILY COMEDY WITH ROBIN MORGAN, JAMES COOK & PATRICK MONAHAN Sun 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

HUGE DAVIES Sun 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

GEORGE LEWIS Sun 16 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

MILTON JONES Sun 16 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

THE VISIT A new performance project inspired by the work of Swiss author & dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Mon 10 - Tues 11 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

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

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

SHREK THE MUSICAL Amateur version presented by Leamington & Warwick Musical Society, Tues 11 - Sat 15 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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

LAST TANGO IN LITTLE GRIMLEY & THE FAT LADY SINGS IN LITTLE GRIMLEY Double bill of plays by David Tristram, following the exploits of the Little Grimley Amateur Dramatics Society, Wed 12 - Sat 15 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

JACK AND HIS GIANT STALK A company of three actors present an adult version of Jack And The Beanstalk, Thurs 13 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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

OLIVER TWIST - THE PLAY Guy Williams' dark version of the Dickens classic, performed by a young cast, Thurs 13 - Sat 15 Mar, Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre, Kenilworth

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

Kids Theatre

ROOM ON THE BROOM Tall Stories' fun-filled stage version of Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's much-

loved children's book, Tues 11 - Wed 12 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester



EXCITING SCIENCE! Fun-filled family show featuring experiments and the recreation of a volcanic eruption, Sat 15 Mar, The Roses, Tewkesbury

DINOSAURS LIVE London's Natural History Museum is out on tour, promising 'a roaring experience like no other!' Sat 15 Mar, Malvern Theatres

A BIG EGG The People's Theatre Company fuse animation, puppetry, music and live action in a children's show based on Steven Lee's picture book, Sun 16 Mar, The Civic, Stourport

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



PINNACLE DANCE PLATFORM Ascension Dance present a youth dance platform showcasing the talents of young people in Coventry, Warwickshire, and the wider West Midlands, Sat 15 Mar, Albany Theatre, 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

Monday 10 - Sunday 16 March

TAP FACTORY High-energy display of dance, acrobatics, music and comedy, Wed 12 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

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

Talks & Spoken Word

EMMA KENNY: KILLER CULTS Join the psychological therapist & crime commentator as she explores the chilling charisma of cult leaders and their uncanny ability to control minds, Sat 15 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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, Gaydon

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL Four days of

racing, Tues 11 - Fri 14 Mar, Cheltenham Racecourse

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

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

ADULT NIGHTS The ultimate Indoor

Lego playground, completely kid-free, Fri 14 Mar, Legoland Discovery Centre, 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

THE FAMILY HISTORY SHOW Featuring family history societies, archives and companies, Sat 15 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

AGBO RALLY Eighty rally cars take on the stages around Weston, including the iconic watersplash, Sun 16 Mar, Weston Park, Shropshire



Boogie Lights Express - Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

"Fantastic, Sexy and Very Funny!"

Steve Steinman's
VAMPIRES ROCK
ETERNAL LOVE
THE
MUSICAL

Birmingham, The Alexandra Theatre Thur 27 Mar 2025

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Gigs

ELI LEV: PRESENT

JOURNEY Mon 17 Mar, 45Live, Kidderminster

LOREEN Mon 17 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE GAME Mon 17 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

KID BOOKIE Mon 17 Mar, The Flapper, Birmingham

SMITH AND BREWER + THE 4 OF US Mon 17 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Mon 17 Mar, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE TUBS Tues 18 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

RED RUM CLUB + FLORENTINES Tues 18 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

WARDRUNA Tues 18 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

RUNE Tues 18 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

VICTOR RAY Wed 19 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

INIKO Wed 19 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

VAN MORRISON Wed 19 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HOWLIN RIC AND THE ROCKETEERS Wed 19 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

KATHRYN ROBERTS AND SEAN LAKEMAN Wed 19 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

MARCIN Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

ANTONY SZMIEREK Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS + RICKY WARWICK AND THE FIGHTING HEARTS Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE PICTUREBOOKS + LOW VOLTS Thurs 20 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

CHRIS BRAIN + ZOE CURE Thurs 20 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

RADIO GA-GA Thurs 20 Mar, Malvern Theatres

SNAPPED ANKLES Fri 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

THE ATLANTIC PLAYERS Fri 21 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

ERASURED Fri 21 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

RIZZLE KICKS Fri 21 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

BORN JOVI Fri 21 Mar, The Civic, Stourport

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

THE LATHUMS Fri 21 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

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

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

JIMI: THE LEGEND LIVES ON Fri 21 Mar, The Roses Theatre,



Cara Dillon - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

Tewkesbury

XANDER AND THE PEACE PIRATES Fri 21 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

HOTTER THAN HELL + ROXXI RED Fri 21 Mar, Arches Venue, Coventry

THE COUNTERFEIT STONES Fri 21 Mar, Albany Theatre, Coventry

THE DUBLIN LEGENDS Fri 21 Mar, The Henrician, Evesham

MARISA AND THE MOTHS Fri 21 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

UNCHAINED Fri 21 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

AC/DSHE Fri 21 Mar, Marris Bar, Worcester

CARA DILLON Fri 21 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

THE ELO SHOW Fri 21 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

GRATEFUL DUDES Sat 22 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

BLOODYWOOD + CALVA LOUISE + DEMONIC RESURRECTION Sat 22 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

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

THE PRINCE EXPERIENCE... ENDORPHINMACHINE Sat 22 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

PEJA Sat 22 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

HEAVY WILD Sat 22 Mar, Dead Wax, Digbeth, Birmingham

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

FASTLOVE: GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE Sat 22 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THE STADIUM ROCK EXPERIENCE Sat 22 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

LOST IN MUSIC Sat 22 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

JOHN BRAMWELL Sat 22 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

GUNS 2 ROSES Sat 22 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

WIZARDS OF OZ Sat 22 Mar, Arches Venue, Coventry

SIGNING OFF UB40 Sat 22 Mar, Coventry Building Society Arena

80S DECADE Sat 22 Mar, The Henrician, Evesham

ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN Sat 22 Mar, Number 8, Pershore

BEDROCK BULLETS Sat 22 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

MOSH TALGIA Sat 22 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

ULTIMATE COLDPLAY Sat 22 Mar, The Bann Hall, Rugby

DREADZONE Sat 22 Mar, Marris Bar, Worcester

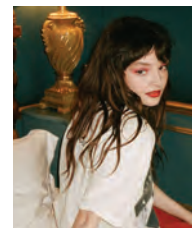
CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIEW Sat 22 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

GRAINNE DUFFY Sun 23 Mar, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

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

JACK & JACK Sun 23 Mar, O2 Institute, Birmingham

LAUREN MAYBERRY Sun 23 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham



CARPATHIAN FOREST Sun 23 Mar, Castle & Falcon, Birmingham

JOHN CALE Sun 23 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

REALLY HOT CHILI PEPPERS Sun 23 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE REDHILLS Sun 23 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MANOS PUESTAS TRIO Sun 23 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

4 SHADES OF GREY Sun 23 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

Classical Music

RUNE Featuring Angela Hicks (soprano), Daniel Thomson (tenor), Jean Kelly (harp), May Robertson (vielle) & Daniel Scott (recorders & portable organ). Programme includes works by Landini, de Vitry, Dunstable, Binchois, & Machaut, Tues 18 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: ELEMENTS Featuring David Gordon (piano), Tim Whitehead (saxophone) & Rebecca Miller (conductor). Programme includes works by Rebel, Whitehead/Gordon, de Falla & Debussy, Thurs 20 Mar, Warwick Hall

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



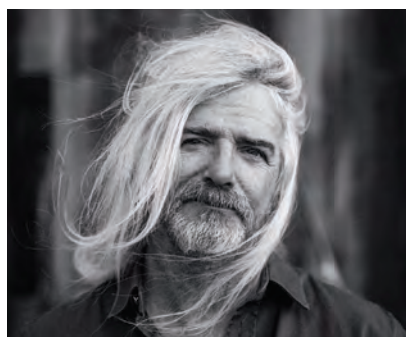
LUNCHTIME RECITALS SERIES: CASTALIA Featuring Clive Letchford (director), Fri 21 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA BACH CHOIR Featuring Imogen Baker (soprano), Hope Pugh (alto), Luke Swatman (tenor), Oliver Barker (bass) & The Beauchamp Sinfonietta. Programme includes works by I Leonardo, G P Telemann, Cozzolani, J S Bach & C P E Bach, Sat 22 Mar, St Mary's Church, Warwick

HEREFORD CHORAL SOCIETY: VIVALDI'S GLORIA Featuring Marches Baroque & Geraint Bowen (conductor). Programme also includes works by Haydn & Handel, Sat 22 Mar, Hereford Cathedral

ANDREW CASKIE ORGAN RECITAL Programme includes works by A Guilman, Sat 22 Mar, Great Malvern Priory

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY: BACH'S ST MATTHEW PASSION Featuring Sebastian Hill & Ruairi Bowen (tenors), David Shipley (bass), Miriam Allan (soprano), Tom Lilburn (countertenor), Richard Bannan (baritone) & Samuel Hudson (conductor), Sat 22 Mar, Worcester Cathedral



John Bramwell - Temperance, Leamington Spa



Rabbits Out of the Hat - The Albany Theatre, Coventry

CHELTHENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: THE WILD ROMANTIC Featuring Hannah Davey (soloist). Programme includes works by R Strauss & Mendelssohn, Sat 22 Mar, Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham

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

LEAMINGTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Featuring Shulah Oliver (violin) & Richard Laing (conductor). Programme includes works by von Weber, Coleridge-Taylor & Brahms, Sun 23 Mar, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

THE TIM KLIPHUIS TRIO A high-energy blend of classical, gypsy jazz and folk music, Sun 23 Mar, Feckenham Village Hall, Redditch

ARMONICO CONSORT: ACADEMY SCHOLARS MASTERCLASS Featuring Elin Manahan Thomas (soprano), Sun 23 Mar, The Courthouse, Warwick



Comedy

CATHERINE BOHART Wed 19 Mar, The Glee Club, 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

REDDITCH COMEDY CLUB WITH ADA CAMPE, IVO GRAHAM, MIKE GUNN & ANDREW MAXWELL Thurs 20 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

SU POLLARD Sat 22 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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

LEGALLY BLONDE Kidderminster Operatic & Dramatic Society present an amateur version of the acclaimed high school musical, Mon 17 - Sat 22 Mar, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

HANNAY STANDS FAST This 'thrillingly funny' sequel to John Buchan's *The 39 Steps* sees dashing hero Richard Hannay attempting to thwart a new and deadly threat to his beloved England, Tues 18 - Wed 19 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES London Classic Theatre present Alan Ayckbourn's emotionally charged play, Tues 18 - Sat 22 Mar, Malvern Theatres

BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer and civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father, Wed 19 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester



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

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

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

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

PLAYHOUSE CREATURES April de Angelis' compelling story about the struggles and triumphs of the trailblazing actresses who changed theatre forever, Thurs 20 & Sat 22 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

THE COUNTRY WIFE A 'fresh & fizzing' version of William Wycherley's classic play, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

SISTER ACT Kingsley School present an amateur version of the hit musical,

Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

SLEEPING BEAUTY - P*SSSED UP PANTO Adult-only panto packed with innuendo, comedy routines, parodies and naughty fun, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

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

ABIGAIL'S PARTY Amateur version of Mike Leigh's dark suburban comedy, Fri 21 - Sat 29 Mar, The Bear Pitt Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

STEPTOE & SON - LIVE! Featuring four episodes from the iconic BBC television series, performed live on stage, Sat 22 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

RABBITS OUT OF THE HAT Magic Circle magicians Norvil & Josephine present a whimsical play about being yourself, no matter what, Sat 22 Mar, The Albany Theatre, Coventry

AT WAR WITH MYSELF John Hague's new comedy drama, inspired by his life as a veteran of multiple deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland, Sat 22 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester

BUFFY REVAMPED Fast-paced, one-man, 70-minute show, taking a journey through all 144 episodes of hit 1990s TV series *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*, Sat 22 Mar, Malvern Theatres



THE SOUTHBURY CHILD Amateur version of Stephen Beresford's darkly comic exploration of family and community, Sat 22 - Sat 29 Mar, Criterion Theatre, Coventry

Dance

DANIEL MARTINEZ FLAMENCO COMPANY - ART OF ANDALUCIA Featuring world-renowned dancer Angel Reyes, Thurs 20 Mar, Albany Theatre, Coventry

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

STEVE HOLBROOK - PSYCHIC VIBRATION ON THE MEDIUM WAVE Wed 19 Mar, The Benn Hall, Rugby

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



FATT BUTCHER'S BIG MEATY GAMESHOW Expect 'big prizes, face-melting live vocals and big belly laughs' in what promises to be 'a chaotic, naughty, and deliciously unforgettable night out', Fri 21 Mar, The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

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

MURDER MYSTERY - A STAB IN THE DARK Step back in time to 1899 and enter the shadowy world of the notorious Peaky Blinders. Dress the part and see if you can infiltrate the gang and help solve the crime, Sat 22 Mar, The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

Talks & Spoken Word

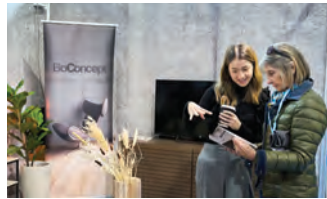
BEN FOGLE: WILD Brand-new show in which the adventurer & TV presenter tells of his amazing encounters with people and animals, and how they have changed his life... Wed 19 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Events

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, Birmingham

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

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

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, Birmingham

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS: THE PARTY TOUR Celebrating 80 years of Thomas the Tank Engine, Sat 22 - Sun 23 Mar, Staffold Country Park, Tamworth

VOLUNTEER OPEN DAY Meet the team and see how you can be involved, Sun 23 Mar, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove



Kabaddi World Cup - various venues across the West Midlands

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

MILITARIA FAIR Browse stalls selling the widest range of militaria available in the UK, Sun 23 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

CHERRY BLOSSOM WORKSHOP & ART PICNIC Enjoy a range of free art activities taking inspiration from Japan's rich history of graphic art and design, and create your own cherry blossom 'sakura' print to take home, Sun 23 Mar, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

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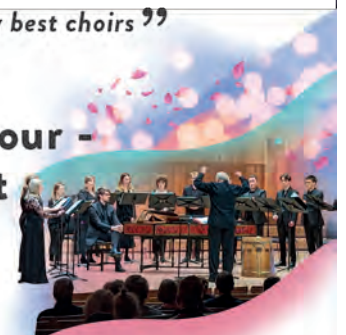


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Gigs

ALEX WARREN Mon 24 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

TOM WALKER Mon 24 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

HANS THEESSINK Mon 24 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

MATT GOSS Tues 25 Mar, Symphony Hall, B'ham

THE STORY OF THE DUBLINERS Tues 25 Mar, The Alexandra, B'ham

TOUKI Tues 25 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

DAOIRI FARRELL Tues 25 Mar, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

ALINA BZHEZHINSKA & TONY KOFI Wed 26 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

JAZ DELOREAN Wed 26 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE VERY BEST OF STING: ENGLISHMAN IN NEW YORK Wed 26 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JAMES "JAY" LEWIS Wed 26 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

UK PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE Wed 26 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

PROFESSOR ELEMENTAL Thurs 27 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

IAGO BANET Thurs 27 Mar, The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry

INSPIRAL CARPETS Thurs 27 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

GIGSPANNER TRIO Thurs 27 Mar, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, Nr Evesham

ROB LUFT QUARTET Thurs 27 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE STORY OF GUITAR HEROES Thurs 27 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

CLEOPATRICK Fri 28 Mar, O2 Institute, B'ham

THE HIGHSTOOL PROPHETS Fri 28 Mar, O2 Academy, B'ham

THE CARPENTERS EXPERIENCE Fri 28 Mar,



Detta Kenzie - Temperance, Leamington Spa

Artrix, Bromsgrove

MERCURY: THE ULTIMATE QUEEN TRIBUTE Fri 28 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

TUNDE OF LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY Fri 28 Mar, Worcester Cathedral

MERCURY: QUEEN TRIBUTE Fri 28 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

RANAGRI Fri 28 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

PULMAN & STILGOE Fri 28 Mar, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

INDIE EXPLOSION Fri 28 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

VERY SANTANA Fri 28 Mar, Albany Theatre, Coventry

SIMON HENLEY & THE KINGCRAWLERS Fri 28 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

DEVOTED TO ROCK Fri 28 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

GEORGE MICHAEL TRIBUTE CONCERT Fri 28 Mar, The Benn Hall, Rugby

LOW FLYING PIGEONS Fri 28 Mar, 45Live, Kidderminster

REDSKIES Fri 28 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

90S LIVE Fri 28 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

DUB CATALYST Fri 28 Mar, Malvern Cube

SOUNDS OF SIMON Fri 28 Mar, Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

KASHMIR - LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

YOU ME AT SIX + MOUTH CULTURE Sat 29 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

BONEY M Sat 29 Mar, Worcester Cathedral

GASOLINE & MATCHES + KENNY FOSTER + SIMEON HAMMOND DALLAS + KATIE RIGBY + OUTPOST DRIVE Sat 29 Mar, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, Symphony Hall, B'ham

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE + KULA SHAKER + SLEEPER Sat 29 Mar, Utilita Arena Birmingham

THE ROZZERS - STING AND THE POLICE TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

LOVE! THE BEATLES Sat 29 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

ELVANA: ELVIS FRONTED NIRVANA TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, hmv Empire, Coventry

WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT Sat 29 Mar, Coventry Building Society Arena

SWEET CRISIS Sat 29 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

CYDONIA KNIGHTS - MUSE TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

HIGH ON ADAMS - BRYAN ADAMS TRIBUTE Sat 29 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE Sat 29 Mar, Palace Theatre, Redditch

TRIBE 3 & THE GIFT Sun 30 Mar, 45Live, Kidderminster

DETTA KENZIE Sun 30 Mar, Temperance, Leamington Spa

THE REBELS Sun 30 Mar, Queens Hall, Nuneaton

JOHN WORT HANNAM VS CHRIS RONALD + MANY MEN Sun 30 Mar, Marrs Bar, Worcester

YOU ME AT SIX + KID KAPICHI Mon 31 Mar, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Classical Music

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT Programme includes works by J S Bach, Russell, Fauré & more..., Mon 24 Mar, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: ABBEY ROAD CONCERTO Featuring Eivind Gullberg Jensen (conductor) & Guy Braunstein (violin). Programme includes works by Elgar, Britten & more, with a UK premiere of Guy Braunstein / The Beatles' Violin Concerto (Abbey Road), Wed 26 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VASILY PETRENKO & THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Featuring Esther Yoo (violin). Programme includes works by Mozart, Mayer & Bruch & Prokofiev, Sat 29 Mar, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

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

LEAMINGTON SINFONIA: A NIGHT OF STAGE AND SCREEN Sat 29 Mar, All Saints' Church, Leamington Spa

WARWICK & KENILWORTH CHORAL SOCIETY: BRAHMS' EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM Featuring Alex Silverman, (conductor), Alex Pratley (baritone), Colin Druce & Charles Matthews (piano). Programme also includes works by C Schumann & Herzogenberg, Sat 29 Mar, Holy Trinity Church, Leamington Spa

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

WORCESTER CONCERT CLUB: THE FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET Featuring Lucy Russell & Andrew Roberts (violin), Alan George (viola) & Ursula Smith (cello). Programme includes works by P Grainger, L Dillnot Johnson & Schubert, Sun 30 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

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

CHRIS MCCAUSLAND Thurs 27 Mar, The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury

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

FUNHOUSE COMEDY CLUB, WITH PATRICK DRAPER, CAREY MARX, ERICH MCELROY AND NATHAN EAGLE Fri 28 Mar, Abbey Theatre, Nuneaton

AADAR MALIK Sat 29 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

JUSTIN MOORHOUSE Sat 29 Mar, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

ANDREW BIRD, LEROY BRITO, HATTY PRESTON & DAVE LONGLEY Sat 29 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

KATIE NORRIS Sun 30 Mar, The Glee Club, Birmingham

AL MURRAY Sun 30 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa



Theatre

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Here To There Productions present a new version of Oliver Goldsmith's classic farce, Mon 24 - Sat 29 Mar, The Coach House, Malvern Theatres

FIRST ENCOUNTERS: THE TEMPEST An 80-minute version of the Bard's final play - 'a perfect introduction to Shakespeare for young people aged seven to 13', Tues 25 - Sat 29 Mar, The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

PICTURE YOU DEAD George Rainsford (Casualty), Peter Ash (Coronation Street) and Fiona Wade (2:22 A Ghost Story & Emmerdale) star in a stage version of Peter James' bestselling crime novel, Tues 25 - Sat 29 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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

Monday 24 - Monday 31 March

chronicles, Thurs 27 Mar, The Alexandra, Birmingham

THE COUNTRY WIFE A 'fresh & fizzing' version of William Wycherley's classic play, Thurs 27 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL Regal Community Theatre present an amateur version of Alan Ayckbourn's play about a widower looking to escape loneliness by joining the local amateur light operatic society, Thurs 27 - Sat 29 Mar, The Regal, Tenbury Wells

...EARNEST? 'A spoof performance based on Oscar Wilde's iconic play, The Importance Of Being Earnest', Thurs 27 - Sun 30 Mar, Malvern Theatres

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 IDENTITY? 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

PLAYHOUSE CREATURES April de Angelis' compelling story about the struggles and triumphs of the trailblazing actresses who changed theatre forever, Fri 28 & Sat 29 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

PAST TENTS A 'funny, cathartic exploration of mental health, grief... and tents', Sat 29 Mar, Swan Theatre, Worcester



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 COUNTRY WIFE A 'fresh & fizzing' version of William Wycherley's classic play, Sat 29 Mar, Playbox Theatre, The Dream Factory, Warwick

ELLEN KENT: LA BOHÈME New production of Puccini's romantic opera featuring the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv, with international soloists, a highly praised

chorus and a full orchestra, Sun 30 Mar, Malvern Theatres

FARM BOY A Lichfield Garrick touring production, based on Michael Morpurgo's sequel to War Horse, Mon 31 Mar - Tues 1 Apr, Swan Theatre, Worcester

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 fun-tastic family musical in which all three of Nick Sharratt's Shark In The Park children's books are performed live on stage, Sat 29 Mar - Sun 6 Apr, Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

Dance

ROSHNI Sonia Sabri Company fuse Kathak dance with live global music inspired by the stories and experiences of everyday people, Mon 24 Mar, Macready Theatre, Rugby



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

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), B'ham

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



Shark In The Park - Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome

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, B'ham



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

ANDREW BOURN'S CROONER REVOLUTION Sat 29 Mar, The Henrican, Evesham

EDY HURST'S WONDERFUL DISCOVERIE OF WITCHES IN THE COUNTIE OF HIMSELF Magical and mystical comedy theatre show offering a humorous, heartfelt and unique insight into the shifting and sometimes mysterious world of late-stage ADHD diagnosis, Sat 29 Mar, Macready Theatre, Rugby

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

GORDON BUCHANAN: LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS Join the wildlife photographer & filmmaker as he talks about his 'thrilling encounters' with pandas, grizzlies, tigers, jaguars and more... Tues 25 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

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

HARI BUDHA MAGAR - NO LEGS, NO LIMIT The first double above-knee amputee to summit Mount Everest shares his extraordinary story and explains how mindset is everything when it comes to making dreams a reality, Wed 26 Mar, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Events

SHAKESPEARE WEEK 2025 A week of projects, challenges and online events and exhibitions, Mon 24 - Sun 30 Mar, across Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's venues, Stratford-upon-Avon



THURSDAY TOURS AT BLAKESLEY HALL Guided tour of the Tudor building, Thurs 27 Mar, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham

THE WRESTLING 4 An evening of high-flying, hard-hitting action, Fri 28 Mar, FarGo Village, Coventry

FINAL FRIDAYS X COLLECTING COVENTRY Featuring pop-up crafting opportunities with creative community groups, Fri 28 Mar, 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

CERAMIC GARDEN LANTERNS WORKSHOP Create your very own garden lantern using high firing clay, Sat 29 Mar, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

MEGAICON LIVE 'The ultimate pop-culture experience', Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, NEC, Birmingham

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

SHAKESPEARE WEEKEND Weekend of free performances and activities outside Shakespeare's Birthplace, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon



Classic Antiques Fairs - NEC, Hall 11, 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

CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST Relax and enjoy being served a full English breakfast whilst dining in the first-class carriage, Sat 29 - Sun 30 Mar, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr

Kidderminster

FLEA & COLLECTORS FAIR The UK's largest flea fair for pre-loved goods, featuring up to 250 indoor exhibitors, Sun 30 Mar, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA Enjoy an afternoon tea in the surroundings of Spring Grove House, Sun 30 Mar, West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

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EYES
OSWES
PERFECT
PHOTOGRAPH
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A TRIBUTE TO THE VERY BEST ACTS FROM SEATTLE USA
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PEARL JAM
Audioslave
NIRVANA
Stone Temple Pilots
ALICE IN CHAINS
SAT 8 MARCH

COUNTRY SUPERSTARS
SAT 8 MARCH
BRUNCH

THE TWO RIVERS DEEP
A SENSATIONAL
NEW FOLK BAND!
FRI 14 MARCH

MORE METALLICA
UK METALLICA TRIBUTE
FRI 14 MARCH

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FROM THE CREATORS OF
TROPICANA
SAT 15 MARCH

'OCEAN DEVOTION' A TRIBUTE TO
BILLY OCEAN
DAYTON GREY
PERFORMING
BILLY OCEAN'S
GREATEST HITS
SUN 16 MARCH
BILLY OCEAN

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FRI 21 MARCH
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SAM FENDER - THE KILLERS - ARCTIC MONKEYS
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KASABIAN - THE STRIKES - BLUR - PULP - KAISER CHIEFS
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KINGS OF LEON & MANY MORE

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Nirvan Duran
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Former ELO2 Star
PHIL BATES
Up Close and Personal
FRI 28 MARCH
PLUS SUPPORT BY
The Raconteurs
Fullacromatic Irish

THE DIRTY ROCKIN SCOUNDRELS
LIVE
SAT 29 MARCH

THE BIG COUNTRY SHINDIG
THE COUNTRY ROCKS BAND
SUN 30 MARCH

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GREATEST HITS TOUR
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ALL DAY 4-9PM
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REVIVAL
SAT 5 APRIL

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Meet & Greet with
THE BEAST
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Ball to the Beat
FRI 18 APRIL

THE MUSIC OF
Prince
FRI 25 APRIL
PURPLE CELEBRATION

THE BLACK CHARADE & **FELL OUT BOY**
SAT 26 APRIL

SHAWN RYDER
SUN 27 APRIL



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