

# THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS

# What's On

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ISSUE 322 OCTOBER 2012



**JOHN BISHOP**  
SCOUSE COMEDIAN  
BACK IN THE CITY...



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talks comedy, kids  
and teaching  
interview inside

## Lesley Joseph

bares all in Calendar Girls  
interview inside

## Jesus Christ Superstar!

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LISTINGS GUIDE  
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COVENTRY  
STRATFORD  
WORCESTER  
REDDITCH  
MALVERN  
SHREWSBURY  
TELFORD  
STAFFORD  
STOKE

# KATIE MELUA

brings her Secret Symphony to Birmingham interview inside...

**What's On**

MAGAZINE GROUP

ISSN 1462-7035



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# Great Theatre at the Grand!

TUES 2 - SAT 6 OCT

International Theatre Group presents  
The International Hit Comedy

## BOUNCERS

written and directed by John Godbar

Starring  
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Yorkshire Post

TUES 9 - SAT 13 OCT

SOUTH STAFFS MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION

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MON 15 - SAT 20 OCT

ALAN AYCKBOURN'S

## HAUNTING JULIA

DUNCAN PRESTON  
RICHARD O'CALLAGHAN  
JOE McFADDEN

'As exciting as The Woman In Black'  
The Guardian

TUE 30 OCT - SAT 3 NOV

PETER FRICKICK AND MARTIN DOOH FOR UK PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENT

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FOR BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL

## 42ND STREET

Starring  
DAVE WILLETTTS and MARTI WEBB

TUES 6 - SAT 10 NOV

Bilston Operatic Company presents...

## Hello Dolly

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JERRY HERMAN  
AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION

MON 12 - SAT 17 NOV

THE GLOBAL PHENOMENON IS BACK ONE LAST TIME!

## Calendar Girls

MON 26 NOV - SAT 1 DEC

'THE No.1 GREATEST MUSICAL!!!'

## Grease

Starring  
Gemma Collins  
Stacey

ALSO BOOKING

SUN 14 OCT  
**CREAM OF CLAPTON**

TUES 20 - WED 21 NOV  
**SOME LIKE IT HIP HOP**

THURS 22 - SAT 24 NOV  
**ANGELINA BALLERINA - THE MUSICAL**

FRI 25 JANUARY  
**JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT**

SUN 27 JANUARY  
**THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**

TUE 12 - SAT 16 FEB  
**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT**

TUES 19 - SAT 30 MARCH  
**CATS**

MON 13 - SAT 18 MAY  
**9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL**

SAT 8 DEC - SUN 20 JAN

KEITH HARRIS    SHERRIE HEWSON    KEN MORLEY

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# October 2012

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**What's On**  
MAGAZINE GROUP



Jesus Christ Superstar - Andrew Lloyd Webber musical in Birmingham

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**October 2012**

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## Theatre group announce major investment

Ambassador Theatre Group has announced that it's to invest fifteen-million pounds into capital projects, including a major overhaul of the company's Front of House areas, bars and toilets, in order to enhance the customer experience. The Front of House investment is heavily supported by an ambitious customer service programme, Be A Star, and the introduction of exciting new product ranges.

## Coventry actress to perform in home city

An actress who started out as a member of the Belgrade Youth Theatre is returning to the Coventry venue this month to star in William Inge's classic American drama *The Dark At The Top Of The Stairs*. Jenny-May Darcy, whose post-Belgrade Theatre drama training saw her spend three years at the Courtyard Theatre in London, has appeared in numerous TV commercials and music videos, and is very much looking forward to returning to the Midlands. "Growing up as an aspiring actress in Coventry, the Belgrade was always a huge part of my life," says Jenny-May. "I'm thrilled to have landed this role in *The Dark At The Top Of The Stairs* - and to be performing it at the Belgrade really is the icing on the cake. It feels like I've returned to my roots; to the place that first inspired me to want to act, over a decade ago."



Jenny-May Darcy

## Holby City star in Birmingham

Celebrated actor Hugh Quarshie, best known for his role as Dr Ric Griffin in *Holby City*, recently paid a flying visit to Birmingham to promote the forthcoming sixth annual Music Video & Screen Awards. Hugh, together with Tameka Empson (Kim Fox in *EastEnders*), will host the awards ceremony at the city's prestigious International Convention Centre on 27 October. The event forms part of Birmingham's Black International Film Festival, which runs from 22 to 28 October.



Sharonjit Shorwara, Hugh Quarshie, Mark Davis and Dean Alexander.



## New dimension for Solihull festival

A popular event in the Midlands' culinary calendar has been given a new look for 2012. This year's A Taste Of Solihull features themed music and theatre performances as part of a three-day celebration of the town's gastronomic delights. Live performers on the main stage include Birmingham Conservatoire's Harper String Trio, Irish dancers performing alongside O'Neill's chefs, Latin-influenced street dancers strutting their stuff with Nando's and Eastern-inspired dancers accompanying a sushi making masterclass by Yo Sushi. Many of the performances are by talented local youngsters from Starstruck Theatre School and Learning Curves school of Dance. Other festival attractions include cooking demonstrations from more than twenty restaurants at a live Demo Kitchen in Mell Square, exclusive offers at restaurants across the town, three food markets (an Italian, a Farmer's and a Chilli), craft activities and mask making by Giraffe restaurant, and Japanese writing sessions by Wagamama. Solihull resident and performer John Innes - often referred to as 'The People's Tenor' - will also be present, performing two opera arias in Mell Square on the Sunday. Read our interview with John, and find out more about the festival, at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk).

## Midland theme park wins national award

Drayton Manor Theme Park in Tamworth has come out on top in a national initiative to find the Best UK Attraction for Children. Beating off stiff opposition from Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making Of Harry Potter, The London Bridge Experience and ZSL London Zoo, the family-owned-and-run theme park won the award at a special ceremony in Birmingham. Commenting on Drayton Manor's success, the venue's managing director, Colin Bryan, said: "Drayton Manor has been a popular family attraction since it opened in 1950. The park has changed considerably since then, but one thing which has always remained the same is our passion for providing an amazing day out for all our visitors."

## Two new exhibitors confirmed for off-road show

Organisers of Stoneleigh Park's International Dirt Bike show have announced two new exhibitors for 2012 - HM Moto UK and Jotagas UK. It's hoped that the attendance of these two manufacturers will further

increase interest in the event by offering visitors something different in terms of mainstream off-road manufacturer displays. HM Moto has an extensive range of fully road-legal enduro machines, as well as trail, kids' and motocross bikes, while Jotagas will showcase its 2013 model JT trials bike in its three capacities; 250cc, 280cc and 300cc.

## Afrovibes Festival returns to the Midlands

The biennial AfroVibes Festival returns to Birmingham this month, stopping off at The Drum Arts Centre in Aston as part of an extensive UK tour. The event comprises a thought-provoking programme of entertainment from South Africa and beyond, with dance, theatre, music and spoken word performances all featuring. The festival's programme includes an appearance by the exuberant Sibikwa Arts African Indigenous Orchestra on 13 October.





## Bonnie Langford to star in Dolly Parton musical

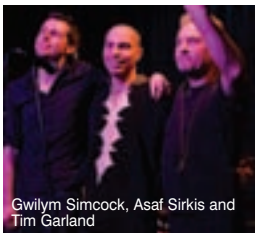
Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre has announced that Bonnie Langford is returning to the region next month to star as Roz in Dolly Parton's 9 To 5 The Musical. Bonnie will be joined in the stage version of the hit 1980s movie by Natalie Casey, Jackie Clune and Amy Lennox. Telling the story of three office workers who turn the tables on their bigoted boss, 9 To 5 shows at the Regent from 19 to 24 November. The show then visits the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, over the Christmas period, running from 17 December to 5 January.



## Shropshire venue awarded Jazz Services Grant

The Edge Arts Centre in the beautiful South Shropshire town of Much Wenlock has been awarded £1,920 to enhance its jazz programme. The arts centre has earned itself an impressive reputation for its ability to attract the cream of both British and international jazz music talent, and it's hoped that this latest investment will allow it to further develop its programme of music.

Commenting on the grant, Arts Centre Director Alison Vermees said: "This award is a great boost to our jazz programme at a time when other sources of funding are under threat. It's a great privilege to be able to bring internationally-known players to rural Shropshire. One of the biggest attractions for them is the Edge's enthusiastic and loyal audience."



Gwilym Simcock, Asaf Sirkis and Tim Garland

## Like A Bit Of Eye Candy?

A brand new visual pop culture festival showcasing art, design and illustration takes place in Birmingham this month. Eye Candy Festival of Visual Culture runs from 11 to 14 October in bars, restaurants and local spaces in the Southside area of the city, and features a series of exhibitions, meet-ups and interventions, as well as a talks programme with industry heavyweights. Eye Candy is this year in partnership with comics event Birmingham Zine Fest, with both festivals forming part of a season of events taking place throughout 2012 to celebrate the area's rich cultural mix.



## Hospitality gets new branding...

The NEC group's hospitality arm is to get a makeover this month, with brighter, edgier branding. Gone are the days when event hospitality was confined to big businesses and football clubs. amplify's modern flexible packages mean that enhancing entertainment with pre-event dining, private areas and personal service is now an easy option, and great way to make special occasions that little bit more memorable, be it at the NIA in the heart of Birmingham or the LG Arena south of the city. Smart contemporary Showcubes at the NIA can facilitate up to fourteen guests and come complete with catering facilities, private bar, hostess and panoramic views over the arena, and, if your party is larger, then two cubes can open up into one to cater for twenty eight. Over at the LG Arena, the innovative Showdeck platform offers a fully personalised service for visitors, with the finest seats and complimentary drinks throughout the show. So, if you're on the lookout for an alternative to the usual Christmas party, birthday celebration or hen night, then a visit to [www.amplify.co.uk](http://www.amplify.co.uk) - <http://www.amplify.co.uk> - might be all that's needed.

### IN BRIEF

#### Fancy yourself as a singer?

Sing Live are on the lookout for enthusiastic singers (both male and female) in the Birmingham, Warwick and Coventry areas to perform in their show at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday 13 January. The show will feature songs from numerous hit musicals, including Starlight Express, Chess, Ragtime, The Phantom Of The Opera, Les Miserables and Wicked. Preview evenings take place in Coventry on 2 October; Moseley in Birmingham on 3 October, and Warwick on 4 October. There will be no auditions, and no experience is needed - the only stipulation is that all singers must be aged sixteen or older. Interested? Then why not visit [www.singliveuk.com](http://www.singliveuk.com) for more information.

## Tickets on sale for major Birmingham show

Tickets for the touring production of Disney's multi-award-winning The Lion King go on sale this month. The much-heralded musical is currently out on tour for the first time, and arrives at the Birmingham Hippodrome next June for a three-month run. Tickets are priced from £25 to £60 and go on general sale (counter and online) on 24 October (25 October for phone bookings). For further information, visit [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com)



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[www.paat.org.uk](http://www.paat.org.uk)

“ I guess it depends on who you are and what you do, but I don't think that any subject should entirely be off limits ”



# Rob Rouse

talks comedy, kids and teaching...

**Boasting a plethora of TV credits, including Channel Four's 8 Out Of 10 Cats, ITV's Celebrity Juice and Dave's One Night Stand, Rob Rouse peddles a hyperactive brand of humour that's much in demand. What's On caught up with the award-winning comedian to find out what audiences can expect from his latest UK tour...**

**When did you first realise that you were funny?**

I don't really know. Probably when I was a child, but maybe I just thought I was funny. There's a real difference between thinking you're funny and then realising that you're funny, which, let's be honest, is always up for debate, isn't it? There's also a real difference between being a funny person and being funny for people on a stage. There are comedians who are funny in real life and funny on stage, and I hope I'm one of those, and there are people who are not funny at all off stage, but who are very funny on stage. Some people find masks, I think,

and they can work out how to be funny. And then there are people who are utterly unaware that they're hilarious and can't do it on stage. I like to think that I'm somewhere in between. I'm a bit of a natural clown, and that's part of what I bring to what I do, but I try to focus it.

**So does comedy consume your whole life?**

Hopefully not. I'm hugely lucky not to have a real job, which is the way I look at it. Something that essentially used to get me told off at school now earns me a living. Genuinely, that's how it feels - to a certain

degree anyway. There's stuff that I wasn't meant to say at school, or things that I wasn't meant to say at work, that I can now say on stage and have people go, 'that's great!', rather than 'fire that man!'. I feel very lucky to have a job where I can express myself like that. I can arse about, I can say exactly what I want, regardless of how offensive people may or may not think it is. As long as I'm accountable for what I say, then I can do it. Without being churlish about it, it feels like a very healthy way for me to live my life.



**You trained to be a geography teacher, so how did the transition into comedy come about?**

I was kind of bullied into it by some mates in a pub one night. They said they'd done a charity comedy night the evening before and reckoned I'd be alright at it. I was very drunk, agreed to do it, and absolutely loved it. I was aware that I was in a partisan crowd of people who wanted it to work for me and who knew each other, but there was something inside me that was completely overwhelmed by the incredible feeling I got from the moment. I think it's a very special gift to be able to make people laugh, and it's certainly addictive. I decided it was something that was worth doing. Not that teaching wasn't, but it made me realise that there was a series of decisions that I was making by default. I thought I could have a crack at it and it would be my thing entirely, so I rebelled at twenty-five. I stuck it to the man late. Most people do it when they're fifteen, but I waited another ten years.

**You won So You Think You're Funny? in 1998 - how much has your comedy evolved since then?**

Quite a lot, really, because I've changed. I'm a very different person now to how I was back then. I now have two children, and my life is very different to how it was, and that changes you as a person. Back then, my act was nonsense, it was just bolted together and was quite madcap, high-energy stuff. Now it's a lot more autobiographical, but I think it's a lot better and a lot funnier than it used to be, because the stuff I now talk about is real. It's my life, and I know what I'm talking about. I also know who I am more.

**Obviously, being a parent provides you with plenty of material. Do you ever worry that one day your kids are going to look back and say, 'God dad, why did you use me?'**

Absolutely, but I'd say, 'well, you weren't going to get a job, were you? You weren't going to feed yourself, you weren't going to let your dad retire at thirty-eight and put his feet up, were you? No, you were just a normal, lazy, selfish four-year-old who needed feeding, clothing and a roof over his head. So what else was I going to do? And you just shat on me'. So somehow I'm going to have to get something out of that.

**What's the biggest sacrifice that you've had to make along the way?**

I suppose the biggest sacrifice is that I work weekends, when most of my friends and family are off. I sacrifice time, but at least the time that I spend doing my job, I'm enjoying myself. If you put this question to my wife, she'd probably give you a list as long as all of the arms in China, I should imagine. So yeah, it's just time, and the time I spend away. I just try to make the most of it when I'm at home. Balancing life is a human condition, and it's tough for most people.

**When preparing new material, is there a certain time or place where you're most creative?**

Not really. I just scribble stuff down. I think things through when I'm travelling, or wherever and whenever I can. Inspiration comes from the strangest places at the oddest times, and you've just got to embrace it when it's there; try and make some sense of it. You can do comedy one of two ways. You can find a very safe way of

writing and just do that same material again and again, or you can constantly put yourself in a position of possibly failing by trying stuff out all the time. That's why I love to tour each year, because unless you throw stuff away, you'll never write new stuff. I try to grab it when it's there, make the most of it, and play it out in front of an audience at gigs and previews.

**Apart from your kids, what other themes do you favour in your work?**

Things that you love or hate. It tends to be things that you're drawn towards because you've got frustration, elation or confusion around those things. For me, anything that feels weighty and dramatic in reality is good stuff to get into. Anything that's a bit uncomfortable to talk about is always good stuff for comedy, because you're not just doing safe stuff. I think there's a place for everything, but I think when you're doing live stuff, you should be pushing what you can do. In this new show, there's literally thirty-five minutes about poo, and I think it's one of the best shows I've ever done. For anyone to be offended by it, they'd have to be nuts, because that's the joy - doing it and getting people to lose their inhibitions and come with it. There's a lot of poo in my life at the moment, so there's a big chunk of it in the show.

**Is there ever a subject that's totally off limits?**

I guess it depends on who you are and what you do, but I don't think that any subject should entirely be off limits. You can talk about anything, but you have to take responsibility for what you say and you have to allow people to react in the way that they do and accept that that will happen. If you can deal with that, and your conscience is okay with it - and if you're a good person - then it should be alright. I don't think certain people in the media should dictate what artists discuss, otherwise you might as well strangle everyone's creativity. It would effectively be taking away free speech.

**You're criss-crossing the country again with this current tour. So where, in your experience, do you find the best audiences - north or south?**

I think the whole north/south divide is one of those constructs, or kind of reductive things, that are invented by people in the north or the south who haven't been to the other. I lived in London for years, and every northerner I knew thought it was fantastic. Every Londoner I've met in Manchester, Leeds or Birmingham thinks it's fantastic living there too. These opinions tend to be informed by people who don't travel anywhere and tend to in-breed in their own little streets. But without brown-nosing, I do find the Midlands a fun place. I can't theorise why I find Birmingham such a fun city to perform in. I wonder if it's because it's such a culturally diverse city, and people just seem to rub along quite nicely thank you. It comes across as this big melting-pot with a great sense of humour. People appear to be quite laid back.

**As a comedian, what's the best accolade you could ever receive?**

I think it's what happens when you're doing it. It's the feeling that I get when a gig is flying - that's the top and bottom of it. It's being in that moment, sharing it with your audience and essentially having a great time.

**And what's been your favourite comedy moment?**

Every time you have a gig where you just walk away feeling utterly at ease with everything. Yeah, that's what it is, when I've had a really good gig and I'm on a high.

**How do you come down from that?**

You just have to wait. I drive home and listen to some great music, or just sit until I pass out.

**You've appeared in numerous TV panel shows. Do you have a favourite?**

Not really, they're all really good fun to do. 8 Out Of 10 Cats was great, but I was a lot younger then. Mad, Mad, World was my most recent, and that was good. They were a really nice bunch to work with. I met some really interesting characters and we had a bit of a giggle.

**Apart from the current tour, what other projects are you working on at the moment?**

I've written quite a few scripts, and I've got a few of them in with the Baby Cow production company. We're talking with broadcasters about them, which is very exciting. I'm also working on shorts of my own, and trying to shoot things that I've written. That's my next creative goal.

**Has there ever been a time in the past fourteen years when you've thought about jacking it all in and doing something else?**

Oh definitely! I think any comic that tells you there haven't been times when they've fallen out of love with it has either had some sort of miraculous career or is lying. I think, like with everything, you have to be honest with yourself. It's an odd thing to describe yourself as a comedian. On my passport it says comedian, and it's hard to believe that's what I am. At passport control, they ask, 'what is it you do?', and I reply, 'I'm a comedian, so please let me into your country so that I can take the piss out of it'.

**So if you did decide to jack it in, what would you do?**

Well, I've got a chainsaw and an angle grinder. I'd probably look at what I've got in the garage and take it from there.

**Has there ever been a time when you've regretted not pursuing a career in teaching?**

No, because I think I would have been an appalling teacher. Name a country and I'll tell you the capital city.

**Korea.**

I don't know.

**Shocking! I'm so happy you're not teaching my kids.**

Exactly. That's why I made the responsible move of not becoming a geography teacher.

Rob Rouse performs at **Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry**, Sun 21 October; **Artrix, Bromsgrove**, Tues 13 November; **Stafford Gatehouse Theatre**, Fri 16 November; and **Huntingdon Hall, Worcester**, Fri 30 November.



# Lesley Joseph

on why supporting Calendar Girls is so important...

**Best known for playing Dorian in the much-loved 1980/'90s TV sitcom *Birds Of A Feather*, Lesley Joseph this month returns to the Midlands to perform in the stage version of Tim Firth's *Calendar Girls*. What's On caught up with her to talk about why the play remains so popular, and to find out what brings her to the region this Christmas.**

**What's the big attraction of appearing in *Calendar Girls*?**

They offered it to me last year, but it was never something that I'd particularly wanted to do - it was never on my radar. But then I read the play and I thought, "you know what, this is brilliant". It falls between something which is quite hilarious and something which is quite moving. So once I'd read it and met the producer, I decided to do it. I found out who else was performing in it, and they were all people whose work I admired. So we set

about doing it, and it was such a fantastic experience. We all enjoyed it so much that the director has asked the whole cast back, and all but one of us has agreed to do it. So everybody knows everybody else really well. It's a great experience, and the audiences absolutely love it.

**There's obviously a healthy appetite for the show. Why do you think it remains so popular?**

Audiences return to see the show because

they quite like seeing different people in it, but I also think the show does something to them. I don't think there's anyone in this country who hasn't been touched by cancer; either themselves, someone in their family or a close friend. The show aids cancer research, with a proportion of the money going to Leukaemia research, but it also shows something positive coming out of what was a terrible diagnosis. Everybody goes through the horrors of seeing someone dealing with cancer, and this shows it being



dealt with in an incredibly empathetic way. It also makes you laugh, so you leave the theatre feeling good.

**Who are you playing this time round?**

I play Chris, who instigates the whole thing alongside Annie, who's being played by Sue Holderness. We work really well together; we know each other anyway, and it's a lovely partnership.

**Did you have any initial reservations about getting undressed on stage?**

No. To be honest, the only people who really see anything are the people backstage. Out front, everything is pretty much covered - you see a certain amount, but not as much as we see on stage. It's fine anyway, because the majority of actors spend most of their time in their dressing rooms getting dressed in front of other people, so that's not really a problem.

**You recently had a big theatre success with the resurrection of *Birds Of A Feather*. What was your initial reaction when approached about the stage adaptation?**

We all spoke and said we'd love to do it - but then, when we did, it was unlike anything I'd ever done in my life. It was sort of about the play, but it was as much about seeing the three of us together again.

**Were you surprised by the audience reaction?**

Yeah, we were slightly surprised by how great it was. Some nights, the laughs were absolutely huge, and we were just thrilled that people loved it so much. To put a half-hour television show, or sometimes an hour-long Christmas special, on stage is always going to be a slight gamble, because you're not sure whether the construction will hold together for that long, so we were absolutely thrilled that it did.

**What was the biggest obstacle you had to overcome when performing it on stage?**

There wasn't one, really, other than finding the right script. The first script we had wasn't good, but then the original scriptwriters got involved. Once they came on board, everything slotted into place. We'll be changing the set when we bring it back for a second run next year, and we'll also fine-tune what didn't work with the first script. There was such an appetite for the show, and there were so many places that we didn't get to tour last time round - Scotland, Ireland, Southampton and Newcastle, for example. To be honest, I think we could tour it for years.

**Were you surprised by the audience mix?**

It was interesting. There were a lot of young people, but then I suppose some of the teenagers that came to see the stage show would either have been very young when it was originally screened, or may have seen re-runs. Back in its day, *Birds of A Feather* was a show which families would sit down together to watch, and you had the feeling it was appropriate for any age.

**Did you keep in touch with Pauline and Linda in the intervening years?**

Yes. It's quite funny, because we're all manic Scrabble players at the moment, and play against each other on our phones. So wherever we are, we're always doing Words With Friends. It's so funny - and when I wake up in the morning, there's always a new word to find from Pauline. We've become quite competitive.

**Is it true that there might be a Christmas Special of *Birds Of A Feather*?**

I don't know. The BBC showed some interest in resurrecting it, as they did with *Ab Fab*. There was talk, but we'll have to wait and see. Maybe next year...

**Has there ever been a worry that playing Dorian would lead to you becoming typecast?**

No, it's never been a concern. And if I did become typecast, then that's absolutely fine, because I've had a great career and it's not something I'm going to worry about. Dorian was a fantastic role, and I wouldn't have dreamed of turning it down.

**You mentioned having a great career. It's certainly been very varied. So what's been your most challenging role?**

I think it would have to be a Neil Simon play called *The Gingerbread Lady*, in which I played a drunk who'd fallen off the wagon. That really was quite emotionally draining, and I was on stage for the whole time. Other than that, I'm not really sure. The role I've enjoyed the most would have to be in *Humble Boy*, which I did about five years ago. I also absolutely adored performing in *Annie*. All roles are challenging in their own way, but none of them have been like a mountain to climb.

**Your work moves between TV and stage. If you had to choose between the two, which would you prefer?**

If I were looking for an easier life, I'd choose television. If I were looking for a more satisfied life, I'd choose stage. The stage was why I entered into this business, but I also love the rules and parameters of television.

**It's an ever-changing industry. What do you think has had the most negative effect during your time in the business?**

Reality television. I suspect it's negative in terms of allowing television companies not to put out the same amount of drama. But I suspect we're seeing a bit of a sea-change now. Productions like *Downton Abbey* have proved that people do still want to see good dramas, they do still want to see good sitcoms and good soaps. They still want their dramas, they want their news - they want all the serious stuff as well. Reality television made it really difficult for actors to get work, because the work thinned out, but I think it's all on its way back again now.

**You've had your own foray into Reality TV. Do you have any regrets?**

No, they've only been minor shows. I've never done the big ones. I could never do *Dancing On Ice*, *Celebrity Big Brother* or *I'm A Celebrity*. It's just not me.

**Could you ever be tempted?**

No, even when they offer a lot of money. It could easily go against you. At the time, it may sound tempting - especially if you could do with the money - but it may not do you any favours in the long run.

**Christmas sees you returning to the region to perform alongside Brian Conley in *Robinson Crusoe*. It's quite an unusual panto, so can you tell us a bit about your role?**

I'll be playing the Enchantress of the Ocean - she's the one who helps Robinson Crusoe find the treasure map. That's about as much as I know at the moment, because we

haven't had script meetings, but I do know that it's going to be huge, beautifully staged, and featuring big musical numbers. It's going to be a spectacular feast, which Birmingham Hippodrome pantos always are. I'm thrilled to be doing it. I've never worked on stage with Brian before, but I once did one of his *Dangerous Brian* sketches, which, for some obscure reason, saw me surrounded by a python. I hate snakes, so that was a little bit scary!

**Panto's often described as hard work, so what's its attraction?**

I love it! You get great songs, great lighting, great costumes - and an interaction with the audience that fulfills the little bit of me that wants to be a stand-up comedian. It's a chance to live out your fantasies, because everything is so beautiful.

**And what's your all-time favourite panto?**

I love *Snow White*. I did a great *Snow White* in Belfast. It's a great panto, because you can be evil and fun at the same time. I also love *Cinderella*, but I'm really looking forward to doing something which is a bit different this year.


**Seeing you on stage in *Birds Of A Feather*, it was obvious how little you'd aged over the years. What do you do to keep in condition?**

I lost two stone to do *Birds*. I'd relaxed a little on the old weight front, so I went on quite a strict health and fitness regime. I did a lot of exercise, ate very carefully for about four months, and lost the weight. Now I have a series of exercises that I do to keep toned, and that's basically it.

**Finally, what was the most valuable lesson you learned while filming *When I Get Older*?**

I don't think I learned a lesson so much, I just made various notes to myself. Number one: life goes by incredibly quickly, and you should only ever treat older people in a way that you'd like to be treated yourself - which is something I do anyway, because I do a lot of work with the elderly. It was an absolutely devastating programme to do - depressing and uplifting at the same time. But what I wish and pray for is that lessons from older people are taken on board by the Government, and that money is found to treat them with the dignity they deserve. Most older people had a very different life - a life which didn't offer the benefits that we enjoy nowadays - and their stoicism and bravery is incredible. I sincerely hope measures are put in place that allow every older person to reach the end of their life with dignity and proper care, and that you'll never again read headlines which report that somebody died in hospital through a lack of water, through not being given enough to eat and drink, which happens all the time. It was a tough show to film, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Lesley stars in *Calendar Girls* at **Belgrade Theatre, Coventry**, Mon 15 - Sat 20 October and *The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton*, Mon 12 - Sat 17 November. Lesley will also appear in *Robinson Crusoe* at **Birmingham Hippodrome**, Sat 15 December - Sun 27 January, 2013

A photograph of Katie Melua framed in an ornate, gold-colored picture frame. She is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned dress and holding a light-colored acoustic guitar. Her right arm is raised, and she is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark, and there is a bright light flare near the guitar.

**“** I've been a crazy go-getter for the best part of the last ten years, and I think that aspect of my personality has mellowed a little bit. Now I'm married, I realise how important it is to have a base. **”**

# Katie Melua

brings her Secret Symphony to the Midlands...



Since bursting onto the music scene in 2003, Georgian-born British singer-songwriter Katie Melua has become one of the UK's best-selling and most successful female recording artists. To date, 2012 has proved to be another big year for Katie, with the release of much-acclaimed fifth studio album *Secret Symphony* (her fourth with Mike Batt), and her marriage to former World Superbike champion James Toseland. This month sees Katie bringing her *Secret Symphony* tour to the Midlands, stopping off at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. What's On caught up with her to find out more...

**First of all, congratulations on your recent nuptials. Is it true that Mike penned a tune for your wedding?**

Yeah, and it was really lovely.

**Was it a complete surprise?**

Well, I did ask him if he wanted to be involved in some way, and he said he'd see if he could get a song together. I hadn't heard it before the day, and he surprised me with it, which was lovely.

**So have the recent highs in your personal life inspired you to pen any new material?**

Not too much recently. The wedding has really taken over my life during the last few months, but there are a few things that I'm working on. I've also been in the studio, recording a few extra tracks for *Secret Symphony*. It's sort of a winter edition, and should be released late November/early December.

**So what can your fans expect from your next release?**

Well, it's basically the *Secret Symphony* album, which came out in March, but with a live recording of a gig I did in Berlin earlier this year. So it's got a full live gig on it and four extra tracks. It isn't necessarily Christmas-themed, but the album is all about the orchestra and the voice reinterpreting certain songs, so it does have a sort of warm feeling, which I think can feel quite Christmassy.

***Secret Symphony* saw you rekindle your working relationship with Mike. Was that a bit like a homecoming for you?**

Yeah, kind of. Last year, before we started making the record, I really felt I wanted to try something that I knew I was good at, and to work with Mike again and re-explore where we left off. Mike is phenomenal at string arrangements, so I knew he'd be the best person for an orchestra-based album.

**The album is a mix of some of your own songs and tracks from other artists. Did you have a prerequisite when selecting the songs for the album, or was it a case of being bombarded with demos?**

A bit of both actually. A thing that I'm always looking for as a singer is a song which is intriguing and a bit mysterious - a song that I'm going to be able to give something to, and one that's going to give me something in return. Something that's ultimately going to take me to a place that I've never been to before. The funny thing is that you can't always see that when you hear a song, whether it's sung by another artist or whether you've just read it in sheet music. So you have to try everything out, and you do become a bit bombarded by everything, but I'm always open to possibilities. You'd be surprised by how much a song can change, from the first listen to the first time you

perform it, and then maybe the fifth time you perform it. You can then go into the studio and something else happens with it. So you have to take things along as far as you can, and get them as close to being finished as you possibly can.

**Have you ever finished a song and then realised you could have enhanced it and taken it to another level?**

Sometimes, although what tends to happen is you finish a song, take it to every possible level, and then find you're still not happy with the outcome. There are a couple of songs on *Secret Symphony* that will never get heard by anyone, because they just didn't hit the spot...

**You once described singing other people's songs as being an intensely personal experience. Can you expand on this?**

I think what I was meaning there was that singing other people's songs can be just as personal as singing my own songs. I don't think there's enough appreciation for people who just sing, rather than who sing and write their own material. That's fair enough, but as a singer and a songwriter, I do like performing other people's stuff, because it can take you to places you haven't been to before. It can take your emotions somewhere else. In a way, you're getting into the songwriter's head and heart, and the song is getting into yours. It's a different experience, and it's personal if it touches you.

**Does knowing the songwriter influence your decision to interpret the lyrics in a particular way?**

Yeah, I guess so. Although I've never placed much importance on it, because I've really tried to judge the song just on the song. There's a Janis Joplin song I cover called *Kozmic Blues*. Obviously I never knew Janice, but I came across the song by watching lots of DVDs, and I did kind of feel that I got to know her. So actually knowing her as an artist and being a fan of hers definitely put a lot more pressure on me. I guess I felt very precious about wanting to do the song justice and not tread on her toes in any way, and also to bring the song alive in me. But generally speaking, I hardly ever think about the artist, or the writer, when I'm singing the song.

**Your fourth album, *The House*, saw you acquire a whole new fan base. Has this created an added pressure to please a more eclectic audience?**

Yeah, but you're never really going to achieve that. I think *The House* was just such an incredible experience for me - both making it and also promoting it and seeing the reaction from fans. I know I'll kind of move back to that creative space at some

stage in the future, but I think you just have to do what feels right at the time.

**You're about to embark on the *Secret Symphony* tour. What can fans expect?**

Obviously it will include songs from the album, but I'm not one of those artists who's petrified of singing all the old stuff. I know people really like to hear things like *Crazy* and *Nine Million Bicycles*, and I love singing those songs, so there'll be some of the old favourites too. The music will be taken equally from the five albums, and I'll be mixing it up a bit from night to night.

**Going back to the beginning, what's your earliest musical memory?**


Oh, that would be when we lived in Georgia. It was my mum playing Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* on the piano one time when the lights had gone out. Georgia was in the middle of a civil war, and times were quite tough. The electricity would be turned off from time to time, but we had a piano in the house and mum would play to me to provide a bit of entertainment. I do remember being inspired by that particular piece of music. I started having singing lessons from the age of seven - not classical, just contemporary stuff - and the first instrument that I ever learned was the harp. I only had one lesson - the harp began to descend on me, and I became absolutely petrified that it was going to squash me, so didn't go back for a second lesson! Then I had a violin phase and a tin whistle phase before eventually settling on learning the guitar at about the age of seventeen.

**So are you self-taught on the guitar?**

Pretty much so. I had a boyfriend who lent me a guitar when I was seventeen and I wrote *Far Away Voice* on it - which is a ridiculously simple guitar part - so that was pretty much self-taught. Then, soon after that, I met Mike Batt. He hooked me up with a guitar teacher called Justin Sand, and I had lessons with him for a year or two. I'm certainly not a virtuosic guitarist, but I like writing songs on it.

**Who or what do you regard as your biggest influence in your formative years?**

Definitely Eva Cassidy. When I got that first guitar at seventeen, I'd just been into artists like Dylan and Joni Mitchell; really great singer/songwriters from the 1960s and '70s. Having been born in 1984, I'd grown up with pop and R&B - lots of very rhythm-based music. Then, suddenly, melody and lyrics came into my life and I was totally blown away by it. And then I heard Eva Cassidy, and realised that, finally, there was someone from my generation out there who could be compared to Dylan and Joni Mitchell. I was devastated when I learned that she'd passed away. It would have been a dream to have seen her perform live. So Eva really



*“ I’m really proud and happy with what I’ve achieved, the records I’ve released, and the people I’ve worked with. ”*



influenced me with her delivery, her style and her interpretation of classics like Over The Rainbow and What A Wonderful World.

**Your musical style has changed over the years. So what genre would you say best represents the real you?**

I don't really like the genre reference, because there are great pieces in every genre, and crap too. That said, I think if I had to be very broad about it, it would be folk or blues, or a weird fusion of the two.

**You've achieved enormous success in the past ten years. Have you fulfilled your ultimate goal as an artist?**

Definitely not. I'm really proud and happy with what I've achieved, the records I've released, and the people I've worked with. I'm also proud about the creative relationships I've established with people like Mike, like William (Orbit) and my band. But no, as an artist I definitely feel like there's a lot more ahead.

**On the subject of collaborations, is there anyone you'd really like to work with in the future?**

M.I.A, who I saw live at the Montreal Jazz Festival this summer. I was playing there myself and had a few days off, so decided to watch some gigs. She was just amazing. M.I.A is so far removed from Katie Melua, but I think it could be quite fun.

**And what would you class as the highlight of your career to date?**

Probably playing at the O2 Arena. I'd already played in a few bigger venues as part of a festival, or as part of a bigger line-up, but having the O2 filled with people who'd come just to hear my music was so special.

**And what about your proudest moment?**

That would be playing with Brian May and Roger Taylor from Queen in front of Nelson Mandela in 2004. I grew up with Queen's music, and I couldn't compute it in my mind that here I was playing on the same stage as two musical legends.

**What about the best piece of advice that you've ever been given?**

It's not really advice, but more something that I've heard. 'It's not over till the fat lady sings'. By that, I mean if things are really rubbish or going crap, then it's not really over until it really is over...

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Probably to be a bit more decisive, as I tend to procrastinate a lot when it comes to making big decisions.

**Has there ever been a decision that you've made and later regretted?**

I don't really believe in regret, but there is one thing. It was when I was in LA a few years ago. Just before Glee came along, I was asked by the guy working on the show if I'd like to work with him. I refused, because I wasn't a big fan of musicals and I didn't really see how I could fit into it musically. Then, suddenly, Glee was huge. It was just massive, really funny, and kind of took the mickey out of itself. So I guess that was maybe a silly decision, not to have gone with that one.

**How have your priorities changed over the last ten years?**

I definitely value family and being at home a lot more than I did before. From pretty much the age of eighteen, I was on the road working and away from my family. I've been a crazy go-getter for the best part of the last ten years, and I think that aspect of my personality has mellowed a little bit. Now I'm married, I realise how important it is to have a base.

**Where's your favourite place to relax?**

At home in London. I love being there, with my husband and my family, hanging out with friends and going to see gigs.

**Does a lot of your chill time still revolve around music?**

To be honest, it revolves a lot more around conversation. I love having a good conversation with people, and the art of good conversation is not something that everyone has. I've got a really good dialogue with my best mate Polly, and we can spend hours talking. She came out to see me for three days when I was touring in Germany earlier this year, and from the moment we woke up to the moment we went to sleep, we talked constantly, putting the world to rights. I've got some great people in my life who I love talking to.

**If you weren't a musician, what would you be?**

A scuba diver, or something to do with marine biology.

**Why?**

I love scuba diving. I've got a Padi Advanced Diving Certificate, and it's just the most incredible thing to do. Life in the underwater world is so precious and so special. I'm pretty horrified and scared when I read about all the crap that we're doing to our oceans

and the different species in the sea, so I'd like to do more to help in that field. This planet is so special, and we all have our roles to play in looking after it.

**The media often refer to your impeccable appearance. How important is styling to you?**

Well, it's the industry that I'm in, so it does matter, but obviously I put a lot more energy into the music side of things.

**So do you have a stylist?**

Mike's wife, Julianne Batt, is really good at clothes and knowing where to get hold of really cool things. And having worked with Mike and her for the past ten years, she really knows what suits my particular shape, so helps out a great deal with that side of things. There have been other stylists that I've worked with over the years, but Julianne tends to have been the constant.

**Will James be accompanying you on your new tour?**

He'll come out a few times. Well, more than a few times hopefully, but obviously not on stage...

**Does he share your musical taste?**

Sometimes we overlap, but generally we have quite different tastes. I'm into a lot of indie, '60s folk music and Americana, whereas James is more into heavy rock.

**What's planned for after the tour?**

Well, it'll be Christmas, so time to relax. Then I've got another tour in February in France, and then I guess I'll start looking at the next record.

Katie Melua brings her Secret Symphony tour to the **Symphony Hall, Birmingham**, Fri 12 October.





“Coming up in the working men’s clubs and holiday camps, then crossing over to the comedy circuit made it easier, because once you can cope in those environments, you can cope anywhere.”

# Paul Zerdin

brings his many friends to the Midlands...

**Comedian and ventriloquist Paul Zerdin is back in the Midlands this autumn with a brand new show - and a brand new character! A three-times contributor to the Royal Variety Performance, Paul’s certainly hit the big time since catching a break in the Jonathan Ross-presented Big, Big, Talent Show back in the 1990s. What’s On caught up with him to find out what his new show has in store for his ever-growing legion of fans....**

**How does new show Puppet Master surpass Sponge Fest, your previous show?**

It’s funnier. The jokes are better, and without sounding a bit up myself, it’s cleverer. I’m using video projection, but people needn’t worry that they could’ve just watched it on television or DVD, there’s plenty of great live material too. I don’t want to give too much away but it ‘accidentally’ cuts into CCTV footage of

my dressing room before the show.

**Tell me about Puppet Master’s host, your new puppet, Alasdair Rimmer.**

He’s a slightly washed-up game show host from the world of variety entertainment. He’ll do absolutely anything to get back on television, and muscles his way into the show without me really wanting him there. He’s just so desperate to get a job and be involved. He’s loosely based on the X-Factor

voiceover guy Peter Dickson, and also Patrick Allen, who was the voice of E4 - it’s an affectionate homage to them and their incredible voices. I’m obsessed with voices, so he lets me indulge myself.

**How do you go about creating a new character?**

With an idea in my head and a voice. Initially, I didn’t know what he looked like. So I spoke to my puppet-maker. Some



people have drug dealers, I've got a puppet-maker. He had a head left over from an Ant and Dec puppet used on an ITV show, which was brilliant - it's massive! We stuck some eyes on, a nose, and just played around with it until he looked cheesy enough. It was great fun, because I haven't done a new character for ages. I found it strangely therapeutic, bringing him to life.

**When you think of a joke, how do you decide which character gets to say it?**

Because Sam is a kid who's about to become a teenager, he's a cheeky little sh\*t, always trying to cross the line and see how far he can push it. He's cocky and full of withering put-downs aimed at both me and the audience, so he's easy to write for. The baby is being led astray by Sam, and is a miniature version, but he's got more to learn. Still, he's cheeky and knows more than he's letting on. Albert is an old man who's losing his hearing, losing his marbles a bit, but he's still more or less in control. He knows more than he's letting on too, he's just playing on the fact that he's eighty-five. The characters are so strong now that I instinctively know which jokes suit who. It's been interesting writing an entirely new show. Sponge Fest evolved over a number of years. I kept taking out bits and putting in new ones, whereas with this one, having only a year to put the whole thing together was difficult. But it made me really focus, and I'm a perfectionist, so it was also perversely enjoyable.

**As a ventriloquist, can you get away with jokes that other comedians can't?**

Yes, and the joke is often at my expense. I've got the luxury of taking the p\*ss out of myself, but through the characters, rather than me just being relentlessly self-deprecating. I can get away with having a go at the audience much more too; you get to be cheekier. Mocking the front row is a trademark of my characters, but I'm evolving my audience interaction beyond that. I've got this new section called 'Ask Albert', where people email in questions to my website, [www.paulzerdin.com](http://www.paulzerdin.com), and Albert imparts his wisdom. It really opens up the show and makes it more unpredictable.

**After the sell-out success and critical acclaim for Sponge Fest, do you feel pressure to deliver something bigger and better?**

Sponge Fest finished with all the puppets coming alive independently of me, all singing and all dancing, and I thought, "how am I going to top that?". My audience knows they're independent; it can't be a surprise anymore. Early on in this show, for example, Albert arrives on his mobility scooter and starts doing a big rap, inspired by the Andrews Sisters. The audience won't question it. So now I'm treating the show more like a live sitcom for the characters. I'm actually developing a sitcom with a production company. But I'm really keen to develop the idea live too, because it works really well.

**You've described your sitcom idea as 'The Muppets meets Seinfeld'. Can you expand on that?**

I compare it to Seinfeld because it's about me as a jobbing ventriloquist, focusing on my life and living at home with the characters. They're kind of real in it. You'll see me performing live at the Comedy Store.

But then you'll see what happens on the drive home, when I get stopped by the police, and Albert's trying to dob me in, claiming I was speeding. "And by the way officer, you ought to look at the brake light, the bulb's gone!"

So there's this Muppets element too, where it's their own world. Again, you never question the fact that there's a frog hosting a variety show. You just accept it. Earlier this year, I sat down with my producer, we had a big brainstorming session and we worked out the rules for our sitcom, which are basically that there are no rules. It's like when you see Sooty and Sweep on Matthew Corbett's hands, and then a scene later, he wouldn't be there and they'd be hatching a plan against him. My sitcom will be like that, a totally immersive world of Paul Zerdin, complete with its own logic.

**Having established yourself as a variety act, how did you reinvent yourself for the booming stand-up circuit?**

I won this TV show, hosted by Jonathan Ross in the 1990s, called The Big Big Talent Show. Nigel Lythgoe was the head of entertainment at ITV and put me on numerous variety shows just as variety was becoming unfashionable, so my timing was a bit out. Still, I got in just at the end and did my own summer seasons in Blackpool - just as they were dying out too! I'd had a taste of showbusiness and wanted more. But I realised that I needed to be in a more credible environment.

I'd already gigged a bit on the stand-up circuit, but I knew I had to be seen at The Comedy Store if I wanted to get on The Royal Variety Performance and the bigger, edgier stand-up showcases on television. So I gave it a go, worked tremendously hard, and it's panned out successfully. It's a great feeling to be able to do everything, from the comedy circuit to big corporate events to performing on cruises and doing pantomimes.

**Does that versatility set you apart from other comedians, especially now that variety is making a comeback?**

Coming up in the working men's clubs and holiday camps, then crossing over to the comedy circuit made it easier, because once you can cope in those environments, you can cope anywhere.

Besides, you've got to keep trying different things; pushing yourself. I'm really building up the stand-up aspect of being a ventriloquist, without the puppets. I love it for two reasons. Firstly, I can give my arm a rest during the show! And secondly, it's something that's not been much explored. I did a set a few weeks ago and they asked me not to bring the puppets; they only wanted me to do my 'human dummy' routine, where I put a fake jaw on someone's face and give them a silly voice. But then they changed their minds and asked me to do longer, so I ended up doing fifteen minutes of stand-up, talking about the everyday life of a ventriloquist and just mucking around, pretending the mic was out of sync. It was really liberating.

**Will you always be a ventriloquist?**

I never wanted to be a straight stand-up. As a kid, I watched Paul Daniels and David Copperfield - all those magic shows on television. And that's all I ever wanted, to have a reason to be on stage; to be on television. My reason was to do magic or to

do puppets. I never wanted to simply stand there and just do jokes or moan about things, because I don't have anything to moan about; I've had a really nice life. I want to get the sitcom off the ground, get more television exposure and then see where it takes me.

**The emergence of YouTube must have been a welcome development for you, as your act has an immediacy that crosses cultural boundaries and is perfectly suited to three-minute videos. Are you performing more internationally now?**

I've just done a gig in Buenos Aires, a private dinner in a museum. I flew fifteen hours, did the show, then flew back the following day. And I'm getting asked to do more and more of these; it's wonderful. YouTube can make you truly global. The only downside is that occasionally people are recording gigs on their phone, then posting the footage on the internet. It's a good way to build a fan base but it can spoil surprises when people come to see the show live or watch it on DVD.

**Is it a drama getting the puppets through airport customs?**

I do a bit in my act where I talk about going through the x-ray and them finding a little kid in my bag. In reality, though, I just shove them in a suitcase and they go in the hold, I don't see them until the other end. It's only when I have to change flights that the trouble starts, when the bag doesn't make the connection. I've been reunited with them two days late on occasion. It's a pain, but you get used to it when you travel so much.

**You've appeared on The Royal Variety Performance three times now - does it get easier?**

Doing The Royal Variety Performance is exciting because it's a huge show and you're performing in front of members of the Royal Family. The first time I did it, I was a bit too nervous. But the last one, in 2009, I'd done so many shows like it by that point, and I reasoned that it wouldn't change my career dramatically, so I relaxed. Then I went out, tore the arse off it, and it really boosted my career! Sometimes you shouldn't push yourself too hard.

**And you've performed for the armed forces too. Are they an intimidating crowd?**

Doing troop shows in Iraq and Afghanistan, they're some of the best gigs I've ever done. I'm like a kid flying into those places. I love helicopters, getting in and out of Chinooks and Sea Kings and being on Hercules aircraft is just mindblowing, I've taken the most amazing video footage of it all. Appearing on stage in front of five thousand troops in the desert, they are honestly great audiences, particularly in Afghanistan. They've got it tough, so when you go out there, they're incredibly grateful. And they want to have a laugh too, because, bloody hell, do they need it.

**You worked with the legendary Kevin Clash, the puppeteer behind Elmo, on the film Muppet Treasure Island. How did that come about?**

By accident, really. I'd just finished working as a kids' presenter for GMTV, as myself and





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as a ventriloquist and puppeteer. I was a huge fan of the Muppets, Sesame Street and films like Labyrinth and The Dark Crystal, and I discovered that a friend of mine, Simon Buckley, who was responsible for Nobby the Sheep on ITV's Gimme 5, was working on the film. So I arranged to say 'hello' to him, but took my CV and a showreel along just in case. He very kindly took me into the Jim Henson Productions office, to meet Jim's son, Brian, and Kevin Clash, and introduced me as a ventriloquist and great puppeteer. When they discovered I wasn't working for the next month, they said, "yes you are, you're working for us!" That was literally how fast it happened. They didn't even look at my showreel. It was a huge deal to be working on a film like that, and I had a fantastic time. I remember ringing my former agent. He said: "Where are you? I haven't heard from you for a few days". "Oh, I'm at Shepperton Studios." "What are you doing there?" "I'm working on Muppet Treasure Island. And because you didn't get me the job, I'm not giving you any commission!".

**Your parents both worked in radio. Were you always destined to be in showbusiness?**

I was obsessed with entertainment from an early age, dressing up in my mum's clothes and pretending to be Margaret Thatcher! I was only six, but my parents realised it was in my blood. They'd both trained as actors, then went into radio and television, presenting and producing. My sister and I were always in and out of studios, it was so exciting - pressing buttons and talking to my mother on the studio floor, hearing her sigh and say "can we do that one more time please?". I would come home, plug a microphone into my dad's hi-fi system, play records and pretend to be a DJ. When I left school, without any GCSEs, and was working part-time in a magic shop in London, as well as doing children's parties at the weekend and

close-up magic at restaurants in the evenings, I did the airport information radio you'd hear near Gatwick and Heathrow. I tried my hand at everything before realising that, actually, stand-up comedy and puppets was the way forward. It took me a while to find my feet.

**You've starred in various TV prank shows over the years. How tempting is it to use your voice-throwing skills to fool people in real life?**

Very. Because I spend so much time thinking of scenarios to talk about on stage, and having done so much hidden-camera stuff, I know how much of a laugh you can have with it. Without a camera crew, there isn't much point, but I was at Heathrow last year, on the travelator, with the female voice that tells you to 'mind the step', and someone in front of me didn't and went flying forward, so I just added 'enjoy your trip' on the end. They looked around but I was whistling, minding my own business. I couldn't help myself. Generally, though, I try to keep it just for the job. I don't talk to the puppets offstage either.

**Is ventriloquism a rewarding career?**

Absolutely. But any would-be ventriloquist ought to try to get as many qualifications as possible, because if your showbusiness career doesn't work out, you've got something to fall back on. I can't do anything else; I'm doomed to work in showbusiness. And you have to persevere, no matter how many people say that you can't do it, and no matter many knocks you take on the way. If you think you can do it, you mustn't let anything put you off. It can be a sh\*tty business, but also the best. If you believe you can do it, you're halfway there.

**Will you be returning to pantomime this year?**

I'm at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton with Nigel Havers, Lee Mead and Julian

Clary in a production of Jack And The Beanstalk. Nigel is the baddie, Julian is the Fairy of the Forest, Lee's playing Jack and I'm his mate, Simple Simon, the village idiot. This is my eighteenth panto and I still absolutely love it. As the comedian, you're the lynchpin, the link with the audience. So I get to write two of my characters in, Sam and the baby, with a little bit of singing and dancing about. Panto is its own special, magical medium, and a lovely way to end the year, socialising with the rest of the cast after a year spent travelling around the country and the world, just talking to myself.

**Will there be a DVD of your show?**

I've got two on the way, Sponge Fest and Puppet Master, but I don't know which is coming out first. Again, I don't want to give anything away but there are some really clever little visual effects in Puppet Master that will look brilliant on the DVD. The mixture of special effects and live performance should work really well.

**What do you do to relax?**

Doing what I do makes me slightly obsessive, and I'm always thinking of ideas. I've got a notepad by the side of the bed and I'll wake up in the middle of the night and write something down. And then, in the morning, I'll look at it and go, "what the hell does that mean?". So I'm always thinking about the next show, but I still enjoy having a good time, going out to nice restaurants. Waterskiing and scuba-diving are my big loves when I'm away from home.

Paul Zerdin's Puppet Master shows at **Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Thu 11 October; Lichfield Garrick, 12 October; Palace Theatre, Redditch 24 October**





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**In an age of instant celebrity, opera singer John Craig Innes is living proof of the power of self-belief, hard work and sheer determination. Known as 'The People's Tenor', John is headlining A Taste Of Solihull, a three-day festival of food, music and entertainment which runs from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 October in the town's Mell Square. But whilst John might nowadays pack out concert halls and sing alongside the likes of Katherine Jenkins, only a few years ago he was completely unknown and busking on the streets.**

In 1997, at the age of thirty-four, John moved from Scotland to London to forge a career as a singer, but found his lack of formal musical education meant the doors of respected London music schools were closed to him. Rather than give up, John was galvanised into proving he had what it takes to succeed in the music business. He set out on a mission to take operatic music directly to the public, performing on high streets around the country. "I loved it - and still enjoy it today," says John. "It's spontaneous and exciting. You don't know who's going to stop and watch you perform or what their response will be, but I've had so many people tell me that I've brightened up their day."

In November 2008, John took the bold step of hiring the two thousand, five hundred-seat Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow, hoping the same people who watched him busk on the streets of the city would buy a ticket to see him in the theatre too. His gamble paid off. The concert sold out two weeks beforehand, he achieved a standing ovation, and was left with enough profit to help fund a debut album entitled *On The Street Where You Live*. "I started recording in my garden shed," confesses John. "Then I risked my £50,000 life savings to bring in professional help. At one stage I was down to my last £25, so I persuaded a local shopping centre to let me sing. That afternoon, I made £150 selling my CDs!" Today, John regularly performs at high-profile sporting events, and completed a sell-out national tour in 2010. He's also raised thousands for Help For Heroes through sales of a specially-recorded album. John will soon depart the UK for concerts in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, but the performance at A Taste Of Solihull this month is a golden opportunity to stay closer to home, with his partner Zoe and six-month-old daughter Aria. "I made my home in Solihull after busking there on numerous occasions. In fact, it was while I was busking that I met Zoe. Although it was love that brought me to Solihull, I really do like the town. It's friendly, and the people are lovely. Now that I have a family, it's an ideal place to be."

An award-winning documentary about John's inspiring story has recently been released. Called *Can You Succeed In The Music Industry Without Simon Cowell?*, it charts his struggle to turn his passion into a career. He hopes it will act as a reality check for young musicians seduced by the X Factor's 'express route' to fame. "I would really like to work with talented youngsters and help them understand the value of working your way up," he says, "gigging whenever you can, building experience and resilience."

You can see John perform at A Taste Of Solihull at 1.45pm on Sunday the 7th. Many of the chefs from Solihull's best-loved restaurants, including Giraffe, the Delhi Restaurant, Wagamamas and Metro Bar & Grill, will be taking to the stage in the Mell

Square demo-kitchen to showcase their talents. The event also features two open-air bars and plenty of tasting opportunities, as well as a diverse programme of entertainment which includes the infectious beat of Bollywood, street dancing, a string quartet from Birmingham Conservatoire and talented local pupils from the award-winning Starstruck Theatre School and Learning Curves School of Dance.


"We're really excited to be working with

John," says Shirley Sturzaker, Director of Solihull BID. "He's an outstanding performer, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the crowds in Mell Square soaking up the Autumn sunshine and enjoying the well-known arias he's going to perform, whilst at the same time sampling the work of some of our very talented chefs."

**For more information on A Taste Of Solihull, go to [visitsolihull.com](http://visitsolihull.com).**







“ When I got the script it was a bit of an eye-opener. I’m always led by the script, and this is a wonderful adaptation; very succinct, but it doesn’t feel at all rushed. ”

# Paula Wilcox

expecting great things from her latest role...



## About to tour in a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' most popular story, *Great Expectations*, actress Paula Wilcox explains why she has every reason to travel hopefully.

Asking Paula Wilcox to recall the moment when she decided that she wanted to be an actress elicits a recollection so vivid you almost feel that you were there.

"I would have been about thirteen, and I went with the school to Manchester's Library Theatre to see *Henry IV Part One*," remembers Paula, who is about to play Miss Havisham in a national tour of *Great Expectations*. "We were studying the play at school and it was amazing to me that those words on the page could be transformed by the actors. They became believable characters, and the lines they spoke just sounded so natural I was blown away by the whole experience!"

Inspired to start taking acting classes, Paula got a place in the National Youth Theatre at seventeen. And while many of her fellow students went on to drama school or university, Paula didn't need to. Her ambition to be an actress was attained almost immediately when she was spotted and swiftly offered her first job; a TV sitcom called *The Lovers*, written by the late Jack Rosenthal and playing opposite the young Richard Beckinsale.

But it was her second job in 1973 for which she is perhaps most widely known. Arguably one of the most famous sitcoms in history, *Man About The House* ran for three years. But Paula was itching to try her hand at the sort of theatre that had first fired her enthusiasm.

"I kept harking back to seeing Shakespeare, so after *Man About The House* I went and did masses of theatre," explains Paula, who, as well as receiving critical acclaim for performances at some of the world's most prestigious theatres, has also been on our screens in recent times in shows such as *Doctors*, *Rock & Chips*, *Emmerdale*, and the most recent series of *Mount Pleasant* on Sky. But it's theatre that has Paula's heart once again, as she takes up the challenge of playing one of Dickens' most famous women. "I know the book really well

because I studied it at school and I'm a big fan of Dickens," enthuses Paula, who says she was honoured to be asked to play Miss Havisham. Rated as the most popular Dickens story of all time in a recent poll by *The Guardian* newspaper, Paula admits that this particular version, by Jo Clifford, was an especially enticing proposition. "When I got the script it was a bit of an eye-opener. I'm always led by the script, and this is a wonderful adaptation; very succinct, but it doesn't feel at all rushed. It's all told in a very leisurely way, but with nothing wasted; you're always being moved on to another set of characters and another bit of the story. I knew as soon as I read it that I wanted to be involved and that it could be magical." And with 2012 marking his Bicentenary, Paula can see why Dickens has endured. "He was a complicated character himself but he wrote great stories. His characters, even the most straightforward ones, all have back stories. And, of course, he had this massive social conscience."

As for Miss Havisham, Paula confesses to being intrigued by the woman who, having been jilted at the altar, hides herself away, remaining dressed in her wedding finery from that day forwards. "People do shut themselves away emotionally, but when you think of someone closing themselves off physically like that it really is quite extraordinary. I'm interested in this whole thing of someone literally stopping the clocks and not wanting to hear anything about anything."

But as well as being captivated by the set, the adaptation and the character, there's also the lure of a rather special costume. Designed by Giovanni Bedin for the House of Worth (Charles Frederick Worth, who created the first couture house, was a contemporary of Charles Dickens), Miss Havisham's wedding dress is going to be a truly unique creation. "All I know at this stage is that it's going to be quite spectacularly 'out there', and that it's going to be quite

impressionistic," teases Paula, declining to give away anything else.

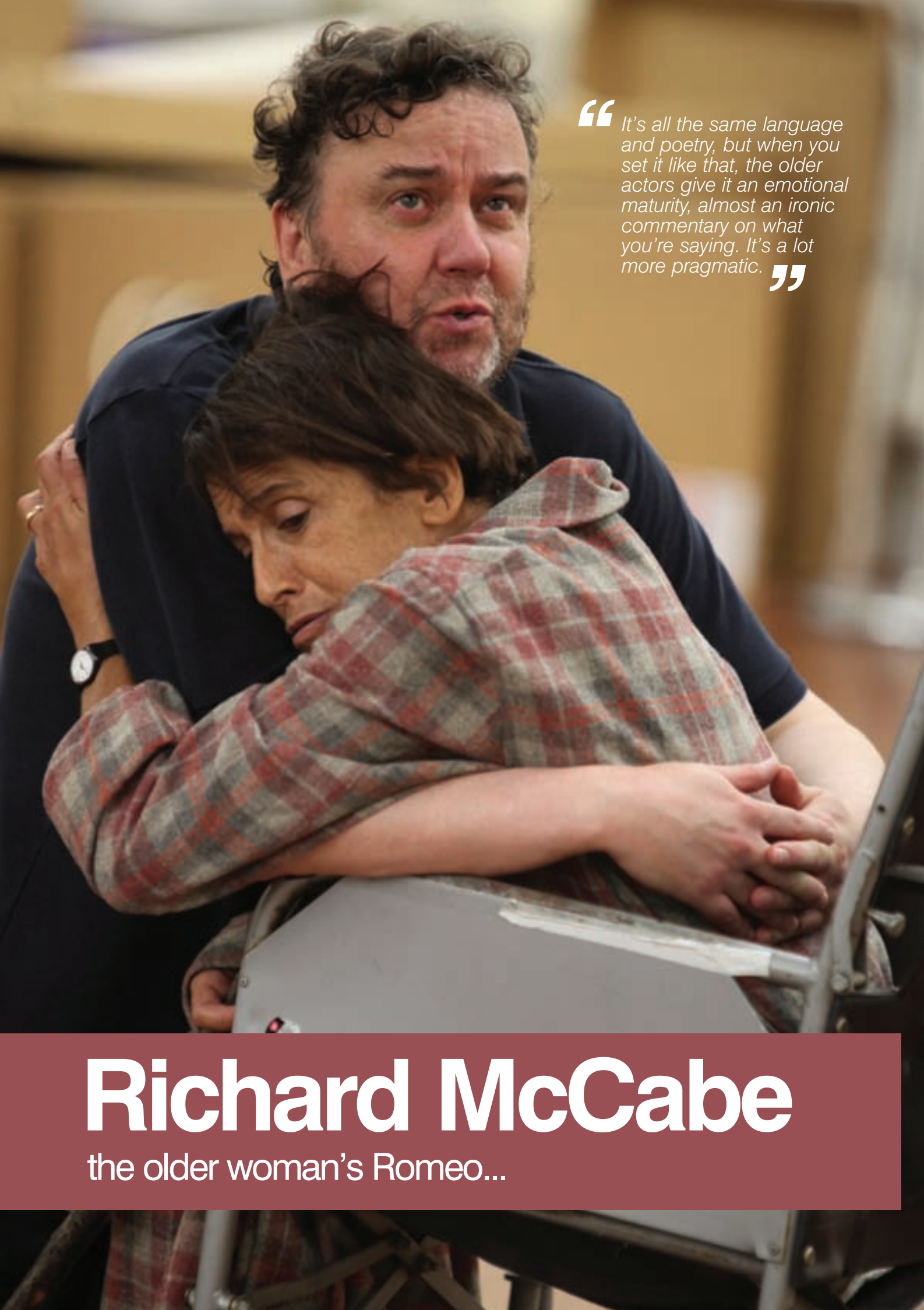
Interestingly, there's never been a production of *Great Expectations* staged in the West End. Could the time be right? Certainly Paula hopes so, but in the meantime she's looking forward to touring the show to some of her favourite theatres across the UK, including the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. And with a fifteen-strong cast - including Jack Ellis (evil screw Jim Fenner in TV's *Bad Girls*) and Chris Ellison (Frank Burnside in *The Bill*) - it certainly sounds as if this is a big show with wide appeal. "It's very family-friendly, so I hope lots of kids will come to see it," says Paula. "It's a wonderful story, and there's not a child alive who doesn't identify with Pip, and who isn't frightened by Magwitch and this woman who lives among rat-infested cakes and who has her veil chewed by mice. It's going to be a very extravagant and theatrical experience."

Talking of being theatrical, what advice would Paula give to aspiring young actors? "It's difficult to say, but I think those who rise to the top have talent, tenacity, stamina, and all sorts of other things. I suppose I'd say don't give up. These days, every profession is precarious, so just go for it." Pausing for a moment, her next words highlight her natural modesty and immense likability: "It's hard to give advice when you've had a lucky break as I did."

But with a career that continues to flourish, there's undoubtedly more to her achievements and staying power than luck; one suspects that Paula's success has more to do with her being astute, refreshingly grounded and hardworking than it does mere good fortune. Oh yes, and she also happens to be a damn good actress

Paula Wilcox performs in *Great Expectations* which shows at the **New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham**, Tues 9 to Sat 13 October



A photograph of actor Richard McCabe and an older woman in a scene. McCabe is standing behind the woman, who is seated in a wheelchair. He has his arms around her, and she has her arms around his waist. Both have serious, emotional expressions. McCabe is wearing a dark blue t-shirt, and the woman is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

“ It’s all the same language and poetry, but when you set it like that, the older actors give it an emotional maturity, almost an ironic commentary on what you’re saying. It’s a lot more pragmatic. ”

# Richard McCabe

the older woman’s Romeo...



**Multi-award-winning actor Richard McCabe has been referred to as 'one of the finest actors of his generation'. An Associate Artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Richard this month returns to Stratford-upon-Avon to star in Ben Powers' new production, A Tender Thing. What's On caught up with him to find out more...**

**Can you tell us a bit about A Tender Thing?**

What Ben Powers' has done is take Romeo And Juliet and re-imagine it for two older lovers. It's as if they hadn't died when they were young, and you see them as an older couple. It's a story of enduring love, and without being too specific about it, there's an illness that comes between them and tests their love.

**What do you think is the appeal of presenting Romeo And Juliet in old age?**

The funny thing is that the text in Romeo And Juliet is actually suited for older actors. There are so many references to age and death that the transposition doesn't seem forced in any way. What Ben has cleverly done is take all the scenes and jiggle them about a bit. So, for example, Juliet has some of the nurse's speech and I have some of Friar Lawrence.

**So could you imagine a similar approach with any other of Shakespeare's works?**

I guess you could, but I'm not a writer, so I wouldn't know how you would do it. I think this whole thing stems from an older actor going to RSC Artistic Director Michael Boyd and saying, 'I think I'm ready to play Romeo now'. There's this idea that Romeo And Juliet is wasted on younger actors, and it's very much an idea which sparked something with Michael, so he approached Ben to see what he could do in adapting it. It really is quite remarkable how easily the language transposes. For instance, in this production, the balcony scene becomes a special occasion between the two of them - their fiftieth anniversary. It's all the same language and poetry, but when you set it like that, the older actors give it an emotional maturity, almost an ironic commentary on what you're saying. It's a lot more pragmatic.

**You've worked extensively with the RSC. What is it about the company that you enjoy the most?**

Working with the works of Shakespeare, really. It's the most wonderful privilege to deal with what are some of the most profound expressions of the human condition that have ever been written. A lot of the time, modern scripts just don't have that incredible power of expression and imagery, so when you return to Shakespeare, it's so wonderful to be back.

**Of all the Shakespeare characters you've portrayed, which has been the most fulfilling?**

It's hard to say, because they all have something rather magical and wonderful about them. I suppose Hamlet, which I did at Birmingham. We subsequently toured it, then took it to Elsinore in Denmark, where we performed at the castle where the play is set. Hamlet is such an incredibly rich and varied character that you can never get to the bottom of it. So it's a great role in terms of fascination; there's just so much to him, and you have this feeling that you can never get it quite right.

**So has Hamlet been your most challenging role?**

Yes, I guess so, but what's often harder is to perform Shakespeare's clowns. I remember Autolycus being a particularly difficult part to do, because you have to completely invent a world for this character and what he does. He's a snapper-upper, a sort of con man. So you have to invent this whole world for him, where he goes into a community and completely fleeces them for his own ends. You have to sort of invent this persona and incorporate so many different elements into it, using magic tricks, different accents and different disguises. So that presented its own challenges.

**Your return to the RSC follows a stint on stage as Jim Hacker in Yes, Prime Minister. What are the particular difficulties associated with presenting a theatre version of a TV sitcom, especially one which is three decades old?**

What was so brilliant about Yes, Prime Minister is that the writers, Jonathan Lynn and Anthony Jay, collaborated again, and it was as if they'd never put their pens down. It was quite extraordinary. Everyone has a special advisor these days, which they didn't have thirty years ago, so there's a female character that's been introduced, meaning the three of them becomes the four of them. The essential writing was as brilliant as it's ever been, and the updated plot worked terribly well - although it was a bit shocking because it was about procuring an under-aged girl for a foreign ambassador. I remember when that idea was introduced, you could almost hear the audience's jaws dropping. The second half was very different from the TV series, inasmuch as Jonathan Lynn became almost farcical in the writing. I used to say to him, "surely, that's not like the TV series", and he'd say that there was an episode like this when Sir Humphrey was out on a window ledge. And when you look back at it, you realise it was maybe a bit more farcical than we remember.

**Is it true you started out as a musician?**

Initially. When I left RADA I couldn't get work as an actor, and so answered an ad in Melody Maker and subsequently joined a rock band. We toured a bit, then that fell through. Then I joined another band, and, again, we toured a bit. When that fell through, I went back to acting. But I went back into acting as a musical director as well as an actor. I was writing music for productions that I was in, and the acting parts just got larger and larger. Eventually, I found that I could no longer combine the two, so concentrated on acting.

**Tell us about your days with punk band Tenpole Tudor?**

I actually joined Tenpole Tudor straight after their chart success. They'd had a bit of a breakdown and a couple of the band members had left, so I joined. I knew Edward Tudor Pole vaguely from RADA - Eddie was a trained actor. I remember this extraordinary creature turning up in the bar

wearing two ties, which was quite a sight. I saw Ed at the last show I did at the RSC. He came to see Twelfth Night and we had a night out after.

**Has there been a moment in the last twenty-five years when you've considered rekindling your career in music?**

The funny thing is that I do introductions, and I always try to get music in if I can. For instance, I've done a production of Amadeus where I've played the piano live. I've also written a set of variations, and in Shakespeare's shows, if there's an opportunity to pull out an accordion or play a guitar, then I always try and get that in.

**And if you could have been in any band, who would you choose?**

I suppose The Jam - you can't go wrong with them. I guess they were the only ones that I was really envious of, but I can't imagine that they had as much fun as we had in Tenpole Tudor. With Tenpole, it was all a bit more theatrical.

**Was there a particular production from your youth that inspired you to become an actor?**

No. What happened was that I was having a difficult time with my stepfather. We didn't see eye-to-eye. Things reached a head when I was sixteen, and I ran away from home. I don't know whether it's the same now, but in those days you had to be in the care of social workers until you were eighteen. So it was my social worker who asked what I enjoyed doing. I said that I used to act in the school play, so he suggested that I auditioned for a drama school. The only one that he'd ever heard of was RADA. So I wrote away to RADA, got an audition, and was very fortunate to get accepted. So I went there at the age of seventeen, and it completely changed the course of my life.

**Your acting repertoire includes numerous TV and theatre roles. Do you prefer stage or screen?**

Well, they're completely different, that's the thing. I was always taught that when you're performing live, you're always playing to the furthest person in the back row of the gallery, whereas when you're doing television or film, quite the opposite is true - you have to actually be doing, not showing, what you're thinking. In theatre, you have to show, to a certain extent, what your thought process is, whereas on screen you have to trust that the camera can see inside your head and see your thought process, which it can. It's the most extraordinary thing. So they're both completely different disciplines, but equally fascinating. I think it's hard to find an actor who's equally good in both mediums. I think you tend towards being better in one than the other, and I've always thought of myself as more of a stage actor. That said, I do enjoy film and TV, because you're using a completely different set of muscles, if you like.

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**You've had a hugely successful career and been referred to as one of the finest actors of your generation. As such, what's the appeal for you of playing a role like Nyberg the pathologist in the recent BBC TV series of Wallander?**

I don't know; it was really to do with Kenneth Branagh, because I've known Ken since RADA. In the first series, there was more to do. It seems that the whole focus of the thing has changed, and the direction in which they've gone with it seems to be much more about Wallander and what's in his head, rather than the group around him. So it's different, and it's kind of mutated a bit since the first series. To be honest, I've been really busy with theatre work, so I've not been able to get out there to do that much. I was doing Yes, Prime Minister all last year, and when this last Wallander series came up, they didn't want to let me go, so it became a rather comical situation where I'd fly out on a Tuesday morning, do my scene and fly straight back. I'd stand over a pit somewhere with a burnt-out corpse, with Ken next to me saying, "how long has he been dead?". I'd reply, "Oh, about two weeks", then I'd be back on the plane and performing in the theatre again that night. It was all quite crazy. So there was very little to do in this last series, but I couldn't have done anymore even if I'd wanted to.

**So how has your criteria for accepting roles changed over the years?**

It's just about it being interesting, really. I found playing Nyberg interesting because of the whole forensics thing. Initially, on the first series, we had a little bootcamp where I did things that I'd never done before, like firing a gun with real ammunition. It really makes you shake and your heart races. Then I'd go into a proper morgue and see how things really work. It was a fascinating learning process. So my criteria is based upon things that are different and challenging. That's what's so interesting about doing this Romeo And Juliet. I didn't get to do Romeo when I was a young actor, and here I am doing a complete re-imagining of it. This is such a beautiful piece, and I love stepping up to the challenge. I'm always interested in doing something that excites my imagination.

**So is there a particular role that you'd still love to play?**

There are certain classical ones and Shakespeare ones that I'd like to do. I'd like to do Richard III, and I'd also like to do Macbeth and Cyrano de Bergerac. As you get a bit older, you think, "what parts are open for me now, and what excites my imagination?".

**Is there a particular actor with whom you'd like to work?**

No, I can't say there is. I've worked with a lot of very talented people, and part of the surprise of the job - and the delight - is that you never know who you're going to be working with at any given point. In this particular play, I'm appearing with Kathryn Hunter, who is someone I remember from RADA. She was a couple of terms below me, and someone whom I've met through the years, but it's taken thirty-plus years for us to perform together. It was funny working with Simon Williams on Yes, Prime Minister, because I remember watching him in Upstairs Downstairs when I was a teenager. I remember thinking, "God, there he is!". It's one of the continual delights of the job.

**Do you ever get starstruck?**

No, I can't say I do. I know all the insecurities of being an actor, and I sort of know where they're coming from. I was in the same term as Mark Rylance at RADA. So when you're growing up through it with Mark, you kind of think, "well, who is there that's better than Mark, really?".

**If you could instigate one rule in theatreland, what would it be?**

I would make rehearsals later on in the day, because, as an actor, you only perform in the evening and on matinees, which are twice a week. But frequently when you're rehearsing, you do runs of plays in the morning - a time when your mindset is completely different to when you're performing at 8pm in the evening. And so I always find it odd, that period of adjustment where you spend four weeks or whatever during the day, then suddenly your clock completely changes, and you have to be at your best at a different time of the day. That's always been a strange thing for me. So yes, I'd make rehearsals later in the day.

**What do you think is the key attribute in terms of ensuring longevity as an actor?**

Just being an actor, that's the longevity. The brilliant thing about actors - it's probably also something that's really annoying about them - is that they keep a childlike curiosity, and as long as you keep that, you stay young. I see actors in their eighties and they still have this passionate curiosity. It's all about trying to understand how people work. It's all about observation, and trying to relay that via a character - to tell people what they already know but haven't noticed. I guess that's what keeps you young. I've never really seen older actors turn into old people, because they all seem to retain that childlike delight. So if you want longevity, be an actor!

**Looking back on your career, is there anything that you would have done differently?**

I would have been more aware of what I wanted to do. But you can't really plan an acting career - it doesn't work like that. I've had some sort of thought that I'd like to play this part or that part, and you get beyond a certain age and you think, "I'm too old for that now!". And there's a great sadness that

you've missed your chance with a certain part that you'd have liked to have played. So I guess I would have planned ahead a bit more.

**So have you ever turned down an acting opportunity and later regretted it?**

No, I don't think so. I've had plenty of parts that I've been up for and really wanted to do and not got, but that's different. So there's a lot of regret there, but generally I think I get a little instinct for something; parts come up and you think, "yeah, I should do that". Generally I have a good instinct, but the regret often comes when you really want to do something and it's between you and someone else, and it's the other person who gets it.

**What would you say has been your proudest moment professionally?**

Hell, that's a hard one. I've had a couple of real highs that I remember, one of which was Hamlet at Elsinore. When I came off after the first time performing there, I remember an extraordinary feeling as if I were walking on air - a feeling that I couldn't particularly put into words. Amadeus, which I did a couple of years ago, was also a high. It was only a short job, but I played Salieri - I've played Mozart twice - which is the real part, the best part and one that I understand very much. We did it with the late Sir Richard Hickox and the City of London Sinfonia, with a full chorus and soloists. So all the musical extracts from the play were performed live. We did it in places like The Barbican - big concert halls - and it was just absolutely thrilling to have the power of all that behind you. It's something that I remember very strongly.

**Finally, what comes after A Tender Thing?**

I've had a busy time of it lately. I had a whole year of Yes, Prime Minister, then I went into doing Bingo alongside Patrick Stewart, quite a few television pieces, and then, of course, this - so at the moment I'm not planning anything. So yeah, a little bit of downtime at home - but not for too long I hope...

Richard McCabe stars in *A Tender Thing* at the **Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon**, until Saturday 20 October



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£25, £30\*  
Part of the Jazzlines programme



### Paco Peña: Quimeras

Tuesday 20 November  
7.30pm  
Town Hall  
£19.50 - £28.50\*

## Classical



### Spectacular Classics

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7.30pm  
Symphony Hall  
£14.50 - £39.50\*

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# Music

## The Enemy

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Thurs 4 October;  
Keele University, Staffs, Thurs 11 October;  
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 26 October

This is a stop-off on The Enemy's biggest headlining tour to date, the Coventry indie rockers having hit the road in support of new album *Streets In The Sky*, which was released earlier this year. "We used to sing about how shit life was," says frontman Tom Clarke, "but now we just want to party." The band's new single, *This Is Real*, is due for release this month, and will also be featured on a four-track EA Sports FIFA 13 EP, to tie in with the release of the popular football video game.



## Lacuna Coil

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Tues 23 October

Playing just five UK shows as part of their Dark Legacy tour, Italian rock band Lacuna Coil hail from Milan and are fronted by two lead singers, Cristina Scabbia and Andrea Ferro. The six-piece have moved towards a darker and more commercially appealing sound of late, and earlier this year released their seventh album, *Dark Adrenaline*. The band recently played on Gigantour, alongside Megadeth, Motorhead and Volbeat.



## BlakCan

The Flapper, Birmingham, Fri 5 Oct

Wolverhampton band BlakCan are so unique that they coined the term Dark Electro Indie Pop to describe their music. Although the group's been performing together for twelve years, they've played only a few gigs as BlakCan, and this Flapper show will be their first with this particular line-up. Influenced by artists such as Bob Marley and The Smiths, and by styles including indie, reggae, dance and hip-hop, the boys have taken the DIY route to success and set up their own label, Big Industry Records. The Styles and Straina complete the gig line-up.

## The Killers

LG Arena, Birmingham, Wed 31 October

Gearing up for the release of fourth album *Battle Born*, The Killers are back, filling stadiums across the country in the process of playing a huge thirteen dates. Their first UK tour in four years, the Las Vegas quartet will showcase songs old and new, including favourites such as *Mr Brightside*, the single that afforded them the status of rock royalty. Support comes from Tegan & Sara.

## Nickelback

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tues 2 October

With global sales well beyond twenty-five million albums and counting, it's hardly surprising that Canadian band Nickelback have picked up more than their fair share of gongs and awards. They've got an ever-growing fanbase here in the Midlands, and, according to frontman Chad Kroeger, the boys are looking forward to stopping off in the region. "We can't wait to give our UK fans the Nickelback show they deserve," says Chad. Should be good...





Friday 2 November 7.30pm

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 WALTON Crown Imperial  
 SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No.3 'Organ Symphony'  
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 HANDEL Zadok the Priest, Hallelujah Chorus  
 FAURE Pie Jesu From *Requiem*  
 BACH Ave Maria  
 MASCAGNI Easter Hymn, Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*  
 ELGAR Pomp and Circumstance March No.1

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 PUCCINI O soave fanciulla *La Bohème*  
 BIZET March of the Toreadors *Carmen*  
 WAGNER Prelude to Act III *Lohengrin*  
 VERDI Grand March *Aida*  
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## FUN

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 4 October

Despite moderate success since forming in 2008, it was only last year that this New York three-piece hit the big time with *We Are Young*. The single sold over four million copies, making it the US's biggest-seller of the year. It also made the Radio One A list, debuted at number three in the UK charts, and has been nominated for Best Track at the Q Awards. The new album, *Some Nights*, was released earlier this year, and features elements of '70s pop, ornate orchestrations, modern rock and even some hip-hop.



## The Midnight Beast

O2 Academy, Sun 14 October

Bridging the gap between comedy and music, *The Midnight Beast* features Stefan Abingdon, Dru Wakely and Ashley Horne. It all began for the boys in December 2009, when they uploaded an hilarious parody of Kesha's *Tik Tok*. With songs such as *Medium Pimpin'* racking up a combined total of forty-six million views, the fellas have already sold out London's Shepherd's Bush Empire on their current *I Kicked A Tour In The Face* Tour. Be prepared to laugh out loud! Vid Warren supports.



## Karine Polwart

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 10 October

The Scottish singer-songwriter released her first new album in four years this August, and plays this live show with a little help from brother Steven Polwart (guitars and vocals) and Fair Islander Inge Thomson (accordion, percussion and vocals). Heavily influenced by folk and roots, Karine's not afraid to cover difficult themes such as alcoholism and genocide. Described by *Uncut* as 'a passionate, perceptive songwriter', she says of her vocation: "Music is one of the most powerful ways of making sense of the world".



## Delilah

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Sun 21 October

Signed to Atlantic Records at seventeen, Delilah (real name Paloma Ayana Stoecker) is a singer/songwriter on the cusp of making it big. With a voice often compared to Emile Sande - with whom she collaborated on her recently released debut album *From The Roots Up* - Delilah describes her sound as 'dark, melodic, soulful pop'. Her first taste of success came via a foray into dubstep in 2011, working with Chase and Status on the single *Time*. Having spent the best part of this summer performing on the festival scene - she gave an acclaimed performance at the iTunes Festival last month - she now takes to the road for her second solo tour.

## Jefferson Starship

The Robin, Bilston, Wed 17 October

Think Jefferson Starship and it's impossible not to think Jefferson Airplane, the better-known Grace Slick-inspired 1960s band responsible for hippie-era counter-culture hits such as *White Rabbit* and *Somebody To Love*. Starship followed on in the early 1970s, as Airplane was in the process of disbanding, with singer-guitarist Paul Kantner's concept album *Blows Against The Empire* providing the group with an impressive kick-start. The band has undergone numerous changes of personnel in the ensuing decades, and for a period even forsook its original mix of psychedelic and electric folk music in favour of more pop-driven tunes, before reverting to the sound that had made its name.

## Tall Ships

The Rainbow, Birmingham, Sun 14 October

Featuring at the top of the bill on the BBC Introducing stage at this year's Reading and Leeds festivals, Tall Ships are on the brink of a major breakthrough. Their hard work promoting their upcoming album *Everything Touching* has seemingly paid off, with Zane Lowe recently playing new single *Gallop* on his show. Sounding like Morrissey but drawing comparisons with the likes of *Minus The Bear*, *Sigur Rós* and *Biffy Clyro*, the band are here supported by *Dad Rocks!* and *Constant Waves*.



## Fearless Vampire Killers

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 12 October;  
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Tues 16 October;  
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Wed 17 October

The theatrical alt rock band has had a busy year so far, with the release of their first studio album, a nomination at the prestigious *Kerrang!* Awards and a tour with *William Control*. Now the London-based five-piece have announced that they'll be teaming up with *The Dead Lay Waiting* to bring the aptly named *The Killing Is Dead* tour to venues across the country. According to guitarist Kier Kemp, their distinctive look has been influenced not only by steampunk but also by "turn-of-the-century France, late-1800s bohemian ideas, short waistcoats and a bit of the old eyeliner".



## We Were Promised Jet Packs

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,  
Tues 16 October

Winning the Best Live Act award at this year's Scottish Alternative Music Awards, the boys have been working hard to promote new album *In The Pit Of The Stomach*. Having played a host of gigs in Germany, Italy and Croatia during the summer, the Edinburgh band is now making tracks across the UK, performing at various universities and in numerous intimate venues.



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	Sat 22nd	<b>'TAKE THAT' &amp; 'WESTLIFE' SHOW</b> with THAT'S LIFE	£37.50
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## Sparks

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Tues 23 October

Playing glam rock, power pop, electronic dance music, mainstream pop and even chamber pop, brothers Ron and Russell Mael have been performing together as Sparks for over forty years. Enjoying particular success in the late-1970s, when they dispensed with a traditional rock band line-up in order to reinvent themselves as an electronic pop duo, the boys' best known number is This Town Ain't Big Enough For Both Of Us, which reached number two in the British charts in 1974. More recent endeavours include the fantasy musical The Seduction Of Ingmar Bergman. Morrissey, Ramones, Duran Duran, Björk and Depeche Mode are amongst the high-profile performers who've been happy to acknowledge Ron and Russell's influence on their music.



## Scouting For Girls

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Fri 19 October

A band who've performed in various combinations, Fourth Page came together informally in 2010. Playing improvised music that doesn't sound like it's been improvised, they've released two albums of spontaneously composed songs that have drawn comparisons with the likes of David Sylvian, Robert Wyatt, John Martyn and even Schubert. Receiving airplay on BBC Radio Three's Late Junction and BBC Six Music, the quartet released their third album this summer. Since each gig is a one-off experience, don't miss this HMV Institute appearance.



## Devon Sproule With Thomas

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 6 October

Canadian guitar/synth virtuoso Thom Gill brings his brand of gospel-inspired soul to Devon Sproule's latest tour, joining his compatriot (Sproule has both Canadian and US citizenship) in a presentation of music that's been described as 'an inspiring take on folk-pop'. Born to hippie parents on a commune named Dandelion in Kingston, Ontario, Sproule plays music which combines elements of folk, country and jazz. She scored a



## Ed Sheeran

The Ballroom, Birmingham, Sat 27 - Mon 29 October

When Ed Sheeran's A Team became an anthem at student balls everywhere, the flame-haired singer finally achieved the mainstream attention his efforts deserved. He began recording in 2005, hit the gig trail hard, and played over three hundred sets in 2009. Continuing to do things his own way, he released his eighth independent EP in early 2011, featuring collaborations with Wiley, Devlin and Sway. This Birmingham gig is a great opportunity to catch up with a man for whom all the hard work has finally paid off.

big hit in the UK with 2007's Keep Your Silver Shined, since which time she's been steadily developing a strong and loyal following of Brit-based fans.

## Cheryl

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 12 October

She's so well known nowadays that her surname's surplus to requirements (just like Elvis's!), although Cheryl Cole's decision to part with it is as much about wanting to ditch connections to her unhappy past as it is about relaunching her identity for the benefit of her music career. The former X Factor judge is stopping off in the Midlands as part of her first ever solo tour, and will be performing songs from all three of her albums, the latest of which, A Million Lights, was released in June. Life's not exactly been a bed of roses for Girls Aloud's famous Geordie lass of late, so she'll be hoping that the tour, allied to chart-topping success with her single Call My Name, are signs that the tide is finally turning back in her favour.



## Eddi Reader

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 24 October

With an MBE sitting behind her name and numerous BRIT Awards decorating her mantelpiece, Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader is well remembered for her association with Fairground Attraction, with whom she scored a UK number one, Perfect, in 1988. The band's star shone brightly but briefly, with differences during the production of a second album precipitating a parting of the ways. Reader's solo career has encountered no such difficulties, however, with highlights including her 2003 album of material by Scotland's 'bard' Robert Burns, which she performed alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The subsequent international resurgence of interest in Burns' work saw Reader awarded an MBE in 2006 for her outstanding contribution to the arts.



## Tenacious D

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sun 21 October

Fronted by film funnyman Jack Black, the US band are touring the UK in support of their third studio album, Rize Of The Fenix. Black has stated that the new album is better than those by Foo Fighters, Jack White, Gotye and Tom Waits - a statement which is sure to tickle rock heavyweight Dave Grohl, who plays drums on the album.



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**FRI 19 OCT**  
**FLEETWOOD MAC The world Not tribute to Fleetwood Mac**

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**SAT 20 OCT**  
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# Lichfield arts

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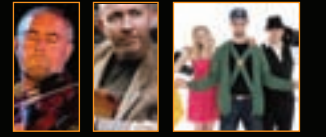
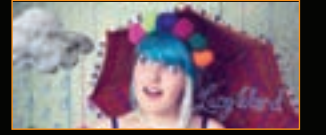


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# Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Marillion

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, 13 September

A packed Wolverhampton Civic waited in anticipation for Marillion to begin playing. When they did, they launched into a brand new song called Gaza - a seventeen-minute epic which perfectly highlighted both the band's musical genius and Rothery's virtuosity on guitar.

The band went on to play a great mix of fan favourites both old and new, with the featured songs from latest album *Sounds That Can't Be Made* proving that they can still create both fresh and challenging music. A chorus of the audience singing Sugar Mice while accompanied by the band brought a close to a fantastically enjoyable evening.

Jon Breese ■■■■■



## Roachford

The Jam House, Birmingham, 13 September

It's nearly a quarter of a century since Roachford's first major hit, but the band - headed up by namesake singer-songwriter Andrew Roachford - haven't lost any of their enthusiasm for performing live. After strutting around the stage in a style reminiscent of Mick Jagger, Andrew spent much of the remainder of the evening at the keyboard, enjoying plenty of banter with the audience between songs.

There were two things which became apparent during the performance. The first is that Andrew's rich, soulful voice is even better live than recorded - a real rarity in this day and age. The second is that the silky-voiced singer has the power to make grown men dance - an up-tempo rendition of This Generation had plenty of fellas engaging in an amusing-to-watch frenzy of movement.

Highlights included older songs such as The Way I Feel and Only To Be With You, 2007's Ride The Storm, and a couple of numbers from latest album *Addictive*; I Get High and Complicated.

The encore, which was perhaps a little too ballad-filled, was concluded with the inevitable '80s classic Cuddly Toy, an appropriately upbeat way to round off an entertaining evening.

Claire Lloyd ■■■■■

## Nik Kershaw

O2 Academy, Birmingham, 21 September

He may be best known for '80s hits like The Riddle, but there's no doubting the fact that Nik Kershaw's songwriting skills have stood the test of time.

Backed by a fantastic five-piece band, Nik, whose distinctive voice is as strong as ever, treated an appreciative Birmingham audience to a blistering set.

The first half included tracks from Nik's most recent album, the superb *E18HT*, as well as classics like *Wide Boy* and *Don Quixote*. It was also great to hear some of Nik's less well known work get an airing, especially *Billy*, a clever take on what it's like to be a 'new man'. The second half was given over to playing every track from Nik's first album, *Human Racing*. Yes, *Wouldn't It Be Good* and *I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me* got the biggest cheers, but songs such as the percussive *Drum Talk* also made their mark. A memorable evening, not only for '80s nostalgia fans, but for anyone who appreciates good music.

Dean Asker ■■■■■

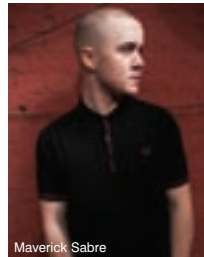


# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## MON 1 OCT

**RYAN O'SHAUGHNESSY** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE SENSATIONAL 60'S EXPERIENCE FEATURING THE TREMELOES, MARMALADE & THE DREAMERS** The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**W.A.S.P** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**K2 & THE DEC** Burke Band The Robin, Bilston  
**STRAIGHT LINES** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**THE MILK** Kasbah, Coventry  
**TWISTED WHEEL** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**MAVERICK SABRE** The Assembly, Leamington Spa



**JUAN MARTIN** New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

## TUE 2 OCT

**WE ARE THE OCEAN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**HUGH CORNWALL** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**CAVE PAINTING** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE WIZE GUYZ** Swing and Kitsch classics with a few surprises, The Jam House, Birmingham  
**TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**JYOTSNA SRIKANTH COLLECTIVE** A fusion of Indian classical music, contemporary audio layering and jazz and folk elements Solihull Arts Complex  
**NICKELBACK** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**PERIPHERY** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**DEAD SKELETONS PLUS GUILF & HORRORSHOW** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**THE JELLYBEAN REBELLION** O2 Academy, Birmingham

## WED 3 OCT

**SECKO KEITA** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**SEBASTIAN TREE** The Yardbird, Birmingham  
**THE UPBEAT BEATLES** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**BEN MONTAGUE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**JAMES FAGAN & NANCY KERR** Lichfield Guildhall  
**BEN MONTAGUE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**JOSEPH WHEELAN** The Robin, Bilston  
**SHONEN KNIFE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ABBA MANIA** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**I O EARTH** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**CARINA ROUND** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**MAYDAY PARADE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**WINTERSLEEP** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**ANDRIUS MAMONTOVAS** HMV Institute, Birmingham

## THU 4 OCT

**FUN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE TRAVELLING BAND** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE ENEMY** The Assembly, Leamington  
**LES AND THE LICKS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN** Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**RUARRI JOSEPH** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**VINCE KIDD** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**JUAN MARTIN** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**MONTEREY 1967 REVISITED** featuring the former members of Country Joe & The Fish, Steve Miller Band & The Blues Project, The Robin, Bilston  
**4FT FINGERS** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**AXEWOUND** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**SHE WILL ROCK YOU** A female tribute to rock legends Queen, featuring members of Fred Zepheri The Ironworks, Shropshire  
**KRAR COLLECTIVE** mac, Birmingham  
**DEXTERS** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

## FRI 5 OCT

**LUMINOVA** The Ironworks, Shropshire  
**COLDPLACE - TRIBUTE TO COLDPLAY** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THIS WICKED TONGUE, EVILWITCH, ARCHIVES,**

**REDBOOK AND BECKY ROSE** The Marr's Bar, Worcester  
**TOO REX - TRIBUTE TO MARC BOLAN & T-REX** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**MAGIC: A KIND OF QUEEN** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**GLORY DAYS - BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE** The Robin, Bilston  
**ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW AND THE LOW RIDERS** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**THE SKINTS** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE ROCKIN' BERRIES** Lichfield Garrick  
**DEAN FRIEDMAN** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**DAKOTA BEATS** Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton  
**DEXY'S BOOTLEG RUNNERS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**URBAN INTRO A RANGE OF CLASSIC JAZZ-FUNK & SOUL FAVOURITES** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**AZEALIA BANKS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**MAGIC: A KIND OF QUEEN** The Roses, Tewksbury  
**REVERIE** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE RIMES** The Ballroom, Birmingham

## SAT 6 OCT

**AN EVENING WITH JESS CONRAD** Dovehouse Theatre, Solihull  
**THE PINK FLOYD DIMENSION** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**URBAN INTRO** A range of classic jazz-funk & soul favourites, The Jam House, Birmingham  
**SPECTOR** Kasbah, Coventry  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**ALIVE & KICKING - SIMPLE MINDS TRIBUTE** Sat 6 Oct, Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**GERARD KENNY** Lichfield Garrick  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** Solihull Arts Complex  
**KITES & LOOK PLUS STRANGER!** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**ANBERLIN** O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**JOE LONGTHORNE** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**THE DOORS ALIVE** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**CHRIS ISAAK** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**KICK UP THE 80'S** The Robin, Bilston  
**FLESH EATING FOUNDATION** The Ballroom, Birmingham



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TO ALICE  
YOU MAKE ME FEEL  
LIKE DANCING  
MORE THAN I CAN SAY  
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT  
IT'S YOUR LIFE  
I'M A CLOWN  
IT STARTED  
WITH A KISS  
THUNDER IN  
MY HEART  
OH CAROL



# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs including, times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**80'S MANIA** Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THE BRITISH ASIA MUSIC AWARDS** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**ROGER DAVIES** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**DEVON SPROULE WITH THOMAS** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**PURE INSTINCT** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**WES DANCE & THE STREET OF EARLY SORROWS** The Marr's Bar, Worcester  
**THE JACKIE GENERATION** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE MAGIC OF OLD SKOOL CLASSICS** The Drum, Birmingham

## SUN 7 OCT

**THE SMITHS INDEED** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**IONA** The Robin, Bilston  
**SOULFLY** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**RAHAT FATEH ALI KHAN** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**THE VILLAINS & VIGILANTES TOUR 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**DEAN FRIEDMAN** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Dean Friedman

**YOUNG RUNAWAYS** The Yardbird Jazz Club, Birmingham  
**CHRISTINE TOBIN: A THOUSAND KISSES DEEP** The Red Lion, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

## MON 8 OCT

**FLUX PAVILLION** HMV Institute, Birmingham

## TUE 9 OCT

**Y&T** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**WE ARE AUGUSTINES** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**ITCHYFEET** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**LOWER THAN ATLANTIS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**SLASH** National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR** The Robin, Bilston  
**ERICA MOU** The Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham

## WED 10 OCT

**HAWKLORDS** The Robin, Bilston  
**KARINE POLWART** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**BECKY NEALE** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**SERJ TANKIAN 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**RECKLESS LOVE** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**GOSKINO** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**RE-GENISES** The Assembly, Leamington Spa  
**RICHARD STREET** The Jam House, Birmingham

**MAYDAY PARADE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**MICHELLE SHOCKED** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## THU 11 OCT

**JOHN CALE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE VIRGINMARYS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE PARIS 1940S** The Jam House, Birmingham

**AL LEWIS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**BIGKIDS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** Bedworth Civic Hall  
**VOULEZ VOUS, THE MAMMA MIA CONCERT** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**HOT CHIP 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**FOREIGN BEGGARS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**WISHBONE ASH PLUS SUPPORT FROM LUN-ARMILE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE FARM - 'SPARTACUS LIVE'** The Robin, Bilston  
**SETH LAKEMAN** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SHOW OF HANDS** Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire

**CLOUDBUSTING PERFORMING THE MUSIC OF KATE BUSH** The Roundhouse, Birmingham  
**VINCE FREEMAN** The Marr's Bar, Birmingham  
**TERRORVISION** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE ENEMY** Keele University, Staffordshire  
**BAGHDADDIES** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**AFTERNOON VARIETY CONCERT WITH JOHN DALE** Darlaston Town Hall



Azealia Banks

## FRI 12 OCT

**THE PARLOTONES** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE MODFATHERS - TRIBUTE TO PAUL WELLER** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**THE MOOD ELEVATORS** The Marr's Bar, Worcester

**RICHARD FOOTE & ADAM JACKSON** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**KARPENTERS** Laurie Briggs and Jason Scott recreate the music and magic of The Carpenters, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS** The Robin, Bilston  
**KATIE MELUA** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**YOUNG GUNS** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**JAZZLINES FEATURING CLAIRE MARTIN AND SARA COLMAN** CBSO Centre, Birmingham  
**60S GOLD** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE 'ELVIS' VEGAS SHOW WITH KEVIN PAUL** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire

**THE DARK LIGHTS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**REN HARVIEU 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**KATHLEEN TURNER OVERDRIVE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE ROCKIN BERRIES** Solihull Arts Complex  
**ELLE & THE POCKET BELLES WITH SPECIAL GUESTS** Lichfield Garrick  
**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**CHERYL** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**FIELD MUSIC** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**LIANNE LA HAVAS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**LONDON PHILHARMONIC**

## SKIFFLE ORCHESTRA

Four-piece multi instrumental vocal band, Fri 12 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**FROM SCRATCH** The Red Lion, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**SUGAR RAZORS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL** The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

## SAT 13 OCT

**GALLOWES** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE SUBTERRANEANS** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**ELLE & THE POCKET BELLES WITH SPECIAL GUESTS** Lichfield Garrick Shakatak Lichfield Garrick  
**BLACK DYKE BAND** Bedworth Civic Hall  
**JAZZ JAMAICA ALL-STARS & URBAN SOUL** Birmingham Town Hall

**THE BATEMAN BROTHERS** Jazz band tribute to Louis Armstrong and his All Stars, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**HUGH CORNWELL 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**ONLY THE GOOD 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**KARPENTERS** Laurie Briggs and Jason Scott recreate the music and magic of The Carpenters, The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**HARVEY ANDREWS** Lichfield Guildhall  
**FLEETWOOD BAC** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**RAY DAVIES** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**BON GIOVI** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**MANGO SPICE** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE BUSBY BABES** The Robin, Bilston  
**LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR** Palace Theatre, Redditch

**IAN PARKER** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ROCKSTAR** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**ONE STOP BOOGIE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**DEFINITELY MIGHT BE & ADORED TRIBUTE TO OASIS & THE STONE ROSES** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**ANIMATED EARTH FEAT. LUKE CONCANNON & JESS GOLD** mac, Birmingham

## SUN 14 OCT

**DREAM MACHINE, G-DELIC & SWEET LEAF** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**HAZEL O'CONNOR** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**HARVEY ANDREWS** Lichfield Guildhall  
**THE BIRTHDAY SUIT WITH ROD JONES (IDLEWILD) PLUS BLOOM, BLUE NATION & EASTERN MOON** The Ballroom, B'ham  
**BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND WITH RAFAQAT ALI KHAN** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**WISHBONE ASH FEAT ANDY POWELL** The Robin, Bilston  
**CREAM OF CLAPTON** The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**MIDNIGHT BEAST 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**THE CHRISTIANS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**KELLY CLARKSON** LG



Kelly Clarkson

Arena, Birmingham  
**TALL SHIPS** The Rainbow, Birmingham

**NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA - SOUNDS OF THE GLENN MILLER ERA** Lichfield Garrick  
**TURBOWOLF** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**WALTER TROUT** The Assembly, Leamington Spa

## MON 15 OCT

**MICHAEL CHAPMAN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE SEARCHERS** Crewe Lyceum  
**THE BLACK SHEEP FAMILY PLUS PARALUS & VAL-HALLA** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**IMPERICON NEVER SAY DIE! TOUR 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**BLOC PARTY 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**WE CAME FROM WOLVES 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**THE REASONING** The Robin, Bilston  
**NEIL SEDAKA** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**SUSANNA** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SECKOU KEITA - MIRO TOUR 2012** The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire

## TUE 16 OCT

**PHILLIP HENRY AND HANNAH MARTIN** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THE REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND** The Robin, Bilston  
**FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS** The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**KATHRYN WILLIAMS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MAMA ROSIN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**SETH LAKEMAN** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JONATHAN SILK QUARTET** The Jam House, Birm-



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# Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs including, times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

ingham  
**WE WERE PROMISED JET-PACKS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**PHILLIP HENRY & HANNAH MARTIN** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

## WED 17 OCT

**TRIVIUM** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**GOSPEL CENTRAL** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**WILKO JOHNSON** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-



Wilko Johnson

Avon  
**DIRTY GOODS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**WE CAME FROM WOLVES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**GALLOWS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**JEFFERSON STARSHIP** The Robin, Bilston  
**NINA NESBITT** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**BASTILLE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**MARK TREMONTI** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE PIRATONES** 02 Academy, Birmingham

## THU 18 OCT

**LIMEHOUSE LIZZY** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**LESBIAN BED DEATH** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**HAZEL O'CONNOR** The Pavilions Arts Centre, Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire  
**REGENISES** The Robin, Bilston  
**MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER AND SHAWN COLVIN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**80'S MANIA** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**MELLOW PEACHES** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE DRIFTERS** Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent  
**NEWTON FAULKNER** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**RICK ASTLEY** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**KING PLEASURE & THE**

**BISCUIT BOYS** Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**LARRY MILLER & MOTHERLODE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LIARS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**KID BRITISH** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**DR TEETH BIG BAND** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**THE PROCLAIMERS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**ISLANDS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**FOSSIL COLLECTIVE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## FRI 19 OCT

**THE STONES & THE ULTIMATE BEATLES** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**TERROR PLUS SUPPORT** Kasbah, Coventry  
**JOHN PAUL VILLAFRATI PLUS SUPPORT** FROM CHRIS TYE AND VIJAY KISHORE The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** Bedworth Civic Hall  
**STUDIO UNPLUGGED** Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE CARRIVICK SISTERS** Bridge House Theatre, Warwick  
**PALMA VIOLETS** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**THE ATOMIC MR BASIE** Birmingham Town Hall  
**MEET ON THE LEDGE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**ABBA "MAMMA MIA"** PARTY Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**THE DRIFTERS** New Alexandra Theatre,



The Drifters

Birmingham  
**THE JIM JONES REVUE** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**DEACON BLUE** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**JOHN TURVILLE TRIO** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**THE WORLD'S GREATEST MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE CONCERT** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**THE SEARCHERS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**FLEETWOOD BAC** 2 hr live



Dog Is Dead

tribute to Fleetwood Mac, The Robin, Bilston  
**KYLIE MINOGUE NIGHT** Whittlebury Hall Hote, Northamptonshire  
**MAETLOAF - TRIBUTE TO MEATLOAF** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**SCOUTING FOR GIRLS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE GUNS N' ROSES EXPERIENCE** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK - AC/DC & ZZ TOPS TRIBUTE** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THE KARMA SUITS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL** Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

## SAT 20 OCT

**FLASH - A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN** featuring Scott Maley as Freddie Mercury, The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**TOY** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE PISTOLS (SEX PISTOLS TRIBUTE) & THE CLASHED (CLASH TRIBUTE)** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**STRAIGHTEN OUT - STRANGLERS TRIBUTE** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**THE MUSGRAVES** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**UP4 THE DOWNSTROKE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**REKESH CHAUHAN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**DOMINIC KIRWAN** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**ROCK AGAINST CANCER FEAT TRANZAM PLUS VOODOO SIOUX, OFF THE RAILS, THE 7 TEES, ARIZONA STORM PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS** In aid of Cancer Research, The Robin, Bilston  
**FIELD MUSIC** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**MANIFEST LIVE FT. SNOOTY BOBS PLUS SUGAR MAMA, HOWLING OWLS, CLAIRE BOSWELL**

**AND JODY COOPER** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM** 02 Academy, B'ham  
**EX-SENATORS (CHICAGO US)** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE JACKIE GENERATION** The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**THE DOORS ALIVE** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**AUGUST BURNS RED** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**IAN HUNTER** Birmingham Town Hall  
**NYA KING - A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON** Bedworth Civic Hall  
**SOWETO KINCH TRIO** mac - Midlands Arts Centre,



Soweto Kinch

Birmingham  
**DOWN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**NEW ORLEANS HEAT** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**BEYOND THE BARRICADE** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**CHRISTINE TOBIN** The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire

## SUN 21 OCT

**DELILAH** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**HILDAMAY** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**JETTBLACK** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**I LIKE TRAINS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**HOLY MOUNTAIN** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**THE DRIFTERS** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**BLUE NATION** The Yard-

bird, Birmingham  
**TENACIOUS D** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**REVEREND AND THE MAKERS** 02 Academy, B'ham  
**GAZ COOMBES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**GRIZZLY BEAR** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**NEKTAR** The Robin, Bilston  
**FLAWLESS VICTORY** The Roadhouse, Birmingham  
**FAUSTUS** The Hive Worcester  
**MATT CARDLE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**SANAM MARVI IN CONCERT** The Drum, Birmingham

## MON 22 OCT

**DINGUS KHAN** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**HOWLER** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**LEVEL 42 PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**LABRINTH** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**AHAB** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**CLOCK OPERA** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE TWILIGHT SAD** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**TIM BURGESS** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**CHINA CRISIS** Birmingham Town Hall

## TUE 23 OCT

**SEAN TAYLOR** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY ROCK'N'ROLL SPECTACULAR** Crewe Lyceum  
**LIFE IN FILM** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**LITTLE COMETS** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THE ORDEAL** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**LACUNA COIL** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**JOAN ARMATRADING** War-

wick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SPARKS - TWO HANDS, ONE MOUTH TOUR** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**IN HINDSIGHT** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**MADDY PRIOR, GILES LEWIN & HANNAH JAMES** Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**THIS TOWN NEEDS GUNS** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham

## WED 24 OCT

**THE OCEAN'S EYES VS 8TH TIME LUCKIE PLUS MY FOREVER** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**TOM FORBES** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**DEAN FRIEDMAN** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ABBEY ROAD EXPERIENCE** The Robin, Bilston  
**DOG IS DEAD** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**BOWLING FOR SOUP** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY ROCK'N'ROLL SPECTACULAR** Crewe Lyceum  
**TOM FORBES, SAMUEL ROGERS, LITHIUM HOWLS, KID CONVENTIONAL AND ALEX AITKEN** 02 Academy, Birmingham  
**TOTALLY ENORMOUS EXTINCT DINOSAURS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**EDDI READER** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ROLO TOMASSI** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**SHOW OF HANDS WITH MIRANDA SYKES** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

## THU 25 OCT

**SETH LAKEMAN** Birmingham Town Hall  
**LAZY HABITS** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**SLIM CHANCE - THE MUSIC OF RONNIE LANE** Hare & Hounds, Birmingham



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# Music LISTINGS

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**DEL CAMINO** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**EVILE 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**SPACE 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**ALICE COOPER 'HALLOWEEN NIGHT OF FEAR'** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**BEN - A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON** Dudley Concert Hall  
**LES MCKEOWN BAY CITY ROLLERS** The Robin, Bilston  
**THE GHOSTS** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**STARS IN YOUR EYES - TRIBUTE TO BARBRA STREISAND, MICHAEL BUBLE, TINA TURNER AND ROD STEWART** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**THE D.O.T** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**BEYOND CLASSICAL FEAT. PAUL NORMAN (GUITAR)** Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Paul Norman

ingham

**FRI 26 OCT**

**LUCY ROSE** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**FRED ZEPPELIN** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**IRONON MAIDEN FEAT SPECIAL GUEST DENNIS STRATTON PLUS MENTAL-LICA** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**BLUE NATION** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**SOULED OUT 2 FUNK** The Roundhouse, Birmingham  
**CHAMPIONS OF ROCK** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**STEVE CLAYTON BLUES BAND** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**LOS PACAMINOS FEAT PAUL YOUNG** The Robin, Bilston  
**JOAN ARMATRADING** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**JULIAN SMITH** Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**DAVID ESSEX** Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**JOHN LEES' BARCLAY JAMES HARVEST** Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**THE ENEMY 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**ANIMALS AS LEADERS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**DAKOTA BEATS 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**GROUPE** The Jam House, Birmingham

**BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**OWL CITY** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE COLLECTIVE SOUL BAND** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**LIONEL RICHIE** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**NAVI: KING OF POP - MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE** Bedworth Civic Hall  
**PAPER AEROPLANES** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MAX BOYCE WITH SPECIAL GUESTS** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**SAT 27 OCT**

**GROUPE** The Jam House, Birmingham  
**NICKI MINAJ** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**FOUR FIGHTERS - FOO FIGHTERS TRIBUTE** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**RAYMOND FROGGATT** Birmingham Town Hall  
**NO LIGHTS AT LOCKDOWN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**THE WALKMEN** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**EUROBLAST TOUR FEATURING JEFF LOOMIS, MONUMENTS, VILDHJARTA AND STEALING AXION 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**'MICHAEL BUBLE' TRIBUTE WITH JAMIE FLANAGEN** Nailcote Hall, Berkswell, Warwickshire  
**DON MCLEAN** Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
**WOLFSBANE** The Robin, Bilston  
**EFTERKLING & NORTHERN SINFONIA** Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**HALFWAY TO PARADISE - THE BILLY FURY STORY** Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**ED SHEERAN** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**MAETLOAF** The River Rooms, Stourbridge  
**HALLOWSTEAM STEAMPUNK FEAT. THE COGKNEYS, GLADSTONE, BIRTHRITE, CRIMSON ROCKS, COUNT ROSTOV, CRIMSON CLOCKS, SEAS OF MIRTH & BBBLACK DOG** The Roadhouse, Birmingham

**SUN 28 OCT**

**THE WHISKEY SYNDICATE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**MARY COUGHLAN & GRAM ROBINS** Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**NOEL RICHARDS & THE MINISTRY OF THREE** The Robin, Bilston



Benjamin Francis Leftwich

**SHINEDOWN 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**MARTYN JOSEPH Hare & Hounds**, Birmingham  
**LEWIS WATSON** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**JACK SAVORETTI** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JOE BROWN** Sun 28 Oct, Lichfield Garrick



Joe Brown

**ED SHEERAN** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**JOHN LAW TRIO** The Red Lion, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**CHRIS DEAN'S SYD LAWRENCE ORCHESTRA** The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**MON 29 OCT**

**ED SHEERAN** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**JOE BROWN** Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**DRY THE RIVER** The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent  
**KATZENJAMMER** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**HEAVEN 17 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**NEVERLAND - TRIBUTE TO MARILLION** The Robin, Bilston

**TUES 30 OCT**

**TYLER HILTON 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**MUSE** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL FEATURING KATRIONA GILMORE, JAMIE ROBERTS**

**& LADY MAISERY** Birmingham Town Hall  
**TOM MCRAE** The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**NEIL INNES** Stourbridge Town Hall  
**EVERYTIME I DIE** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**DRY THE RIVER** HMV Institute, Birmingham  
**GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV** The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire  
**STRANGLE KOJAK** The Ballroom, Birmingham

**WED 31 OCT**

**TOYAH** The Ballroom, Birmingham  
**MAYCOMB & EVERYBODY LOOKS FAMOUS** The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**PEACE** The Rainbow, Birmingham  
**GEHTIKA** Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE KILLERS** LG Arena, Birmingham  
**BLACKLISTERS** The Flapper & Firkin, B'ham

**ALT-J 02** Academy, Birmingham  
**MARCUS MALONE & HIS BAND** The Robin, Bilston



Marcus Malone

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### Worcestershire

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John Wilson

## John Wilson And The John Wilson Orchestra

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Sat 20 October

Following his recent much-acclaimed performance at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms, conductor John Wilson returns to the Midlands to present a celebration of the works of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Show-stopping hits from Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King & I and The Sound Of Music all feature, presented alongside a tribute to Rodgers' other long-term songwriting partner Lorenz Hart. This sure-to-be-high-octane performance sees the energetic Wilson accompanied by soloists Sir Thomas Allen, Annalene Beechey, Kim Criswell and Julian Ovenden.

## Ex Cathedra: A Time To Dance

Birmingham Town Hall, Fri 12 October

Town Hall Associate Artists Ex Cathedra have long enjoyed an international reputation as one of the UK's leading choral and Early Music ensembles, and are here launching their autumn/winter season with a new work by Alec Roth. Described by The Times as an artist whose "music is striking for its rich, beautifully crafted choral textures... with lushly harmonised climaxes that send shivers down the spine", Roth has turned his attention to the times and seasons of human existence with his latest work, A Time To Dance. The piece is accompanied by a performance of Bach's Magnificat in D - a composition widely recognised as a Baroque-era great. Ex Cathedra's conductor Jeffrey Skidmore here leads sopranos Grace Davidson and Amy Wood, alto Matthew Venner, tenor Jeremy Budd and bass Greg Skidmore in a concert which promises to be a highlight of the Birmingham-based ensemble's new season.



## Henschel String Quartet

Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Fri 5 October

Described by the Los Angeles Times as 'one of the best groups in the world', German ensemble Henschel String Quartet return to Leamington to open the winter season with a programme of classical masterpieces. Comprising Henschel siblings Monika (viola) and Christoph (violins), Mathias Beyer-Karlshoj (cello) and Daniel Boyle (violins), the quartet here perform Haydn's Quartet in C Op 33 No 3 The Bird, Beethoven's Quartet in Bb Op 18 No 6 and Quartet in E minor Op 59 No 2 Razumovsky.

## Tamsin Waley-Cohen

Stratford Civic Hall, Tues 16 October; B'ham Town Hall, Wed 17 October

After performing with some of the UK's most esteemed orchestras - including the Royal Philharmonic and the London Concert Orchestra - acclaimed violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen now takes up residency as Associate Artist for 2012/13 with the Stratford-based Orchestra of the Swan. These season-openers see Tamsin - directed by Swan conductor David Curtis - perform works by Mozart, Brahms and Schubert.

## Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 24 October

Recognised as one of the oldest and most respected orchestras in Germany, the Dresden Philharmonic has previously been led by some of the world's most highly regarded conductors, including Carl Schuricht, Kurt Masur and Marek Janowski. Here - under the directorship of acclaimed conductor Michael Sanderling and with the accompaniment of Siberian-born virtuoso Mikhail Simonyan on violin - the orchestra performs Prokofiev's excerpts from the Cinderella suite, Khachaturian's flamboyant violin concerto and Dvorak's popular Ninth Symphony.





# Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER

Programme includes works by JS Bach, Benedict, Schubert, Best & Karg-Elert, Mon 1 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**CBSO DVORAK'S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY** Featuring Nicholas Collon (conductor) & Francesco Piemontesi (piano). Programme to include works by Berlioz, Mozart & Dvorak, Tue 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## THE ST PETERSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring the brass players of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Alexander Dmitriev (conductor) and Peter Donohoe (piano). Programme to include works by Rachmaninov and Shostakovich, Tue 2 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## LUNCNIME CONCERT WITH COULL QUARTET

Featuring Clelia Iruzun (piano), Thurs 4 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR** Programme features works by Haydn, Schubert & Bruckner, Fri 5 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## CBSO CENTRE STAGE WITH CBSO VIOLAS

Programme to include Bach, Bridge, Boismortier & Baltzar, Fri 5 Oct, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## HENSCHTEL STRING QUARTET

Featuring Christoph Henschel & Daniel Boyle (violins), Monika Henschel-Schwind (viola) & Mathias Beyer - Karlishoj (cello), Programme includes works by Haydn & Beethoven, Fri 5 Oct, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

## BEAUCHAMP SINFONIETTA

Feat. Benedict Holland (violin) & Nic Fallowfield (conductor), Programme to include works by Prokofiev, Mozart & Mendelssohn, Sat 6 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

## ORGAN RECITAL BY PAOLO ORENI

Sat 6 Oct, Worcester Cathedral

## 60 YEARS OF MUSIC - JAGUAR LAND ROVER BAND

Sat 6 Oct, Much Wenlock Parish Church, South Shropshire

## FOLK ECHOES

Programme includes works by Kodaly, Mozart, Schubert & Dvorak, Sat 6 Oct, St Mary Magdalene, Leintwardine, South Shropshire

Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

## AUDLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Featuring Camilla Roberts (Soprano), Jamin Park (Tenor) & Ingrid Surgenor (Accompanist), Sun 7 Oct, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

## DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

Programme includes works by Mozart, Alberg & Schubert, Sun 7 Oct, St. Giles, Downton-on-The-Rock, Herefordshire

## BEAUCHAMP SINFONIETTA

Feat. Benedict Holland (violin) & Nic Fallowfield (conductor), Programme to include works by Prokofiev, Mozart & Mendelssohn, Sun 7 Oct, Town Hall, The Parade, Leamington Spa

## ROBERT MUNNS ORGAN CONCERT

Sun 7 Oct, St. Nicholas Church, Warwick

## STILE ANTICO - THE ROSE IN FLOWER: MASTERPIECES FROM THE TUDOR ERA

Programme includes works by Tallis, Lambie, Tye, Taverner, Robert White & Byrd, Tues 9 Oct, St Mary's Church, Warwick

## THE MIKADO

The G&S Society present an amateur production of the acclaimed oriental-inspired rom-com, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

## TURANDOT

Birmingham-based Midland Opera present their version of Puccini's romantic opera, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

## THE ST MICHAEL'S SINGERS: CAROLS FOR ALL

Featuring the Choirs of Coventry Cathedral, City Of Coventry Youth Orchestra, Paul Leddington Wright, Kerry Beaumont & Brian Chappell - conductors, Wed 10 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

## CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Andris Nelsons joins forces with French pianist Helene Grimaud to present works by Stravinsky, Brahms & Rachmaninov, Wed 10 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH PETER WILMAN (TENOR) & PHIL COLLIN (PIANO)

Thurs 11 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## JOANNA MACGREGOR PIANO CONCERT

Programme includes works by Beethoven, Bartok & Brahms, Fri 12 Oct, Malvern Theatres

## EX CATHEDRA: A TIME TO

## DANCE

Fri 12 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## MET OPERA LIVE: L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Anna Netrebko and Mattew Polenzani star in Nartlett Sher's new production of the opera, Sat 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## DIVERTIMENTO

Feat. Sheila Koch (conductor), Sine Nomine International touring choir & Susan Hollingworth (conductor), Sat 13 Oct, St Nicholas Church, Warwick

## WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Programme includes works by Mussorgsky, Anatol Liadov, Strauss & Berlioz, Sat 13 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

## ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sat 13 Oct, Pershore Abbey

## FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

Programme to include works by Mozart & Dvorak, Sat 13 Oct, All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings

## JOSHUA BELL PLAYS BRUCH & BEETHOVEN

Programme includes works by Beethoven, Bruch & Mendelssohn, Sun 14 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## RYISING STARS: ROMINA LISCHKA (VIOLA DA GAMBA) & SOFIE VANDEN EYNDE

Programme to include works by Marais & Colombe and de Visee, Sun 14 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: THE ENGLISH CENTURY

Featuring Michael Lloyd (conductor) & Wendy Dawn Thompson (mezzo soprano). Programme to include works by Arnold, Elgar, Boughton & Vaughan Williams, Sun 14 Oct, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

## LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER

Programme includes works by Stanley, Anon, Francis Grier, Elgar & Fletcher, Mon 15 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## TAMSIIN WALEY-COHEN PLAYS MOZART

Programme to include works by Brahms, Mozart & Schubert, Tue 16 Oct, Stratford Civic Hall

## TAMSIIN WALEY-COHEN PLAYS MOZART

Programme to include works by Brahms, Mozart & Schubert, Wed 17 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## THE AQUINAS PIANO TRIO

Feat. Ruth Rogers (violin), Katherine Jenkinson (cello) & Martin Cousin (piano). Programme to include works by Haydn, Martini, Villa Lobos, Saint-Saens & Mendelssohn, Wed 17 Oct, The Kingsley School Hall, Beauchamp Rd, Leamington Spa

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH PAUL HARRIS (CLARINET) & HELEN LEEK (PIANO)

Thurs 18 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FANTASIQUE!

Featuring Lionel Friend (conductor) & Heather Roach (flute). Programme to include works by Wagner, Nielsen & Berlioz, Fri 19 Oct, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

## CELEBRITY CONCERT FEAT. JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER

In commemoration of the anniversaries of John Ireland & Frederick Delius, Fri 19 Oct, The Birmingham Midland Institute

## PASCAL ROGE - PIANO

Programme includes works by Faure, Satie, Debussy, Ravel & Poulenc, Fri 9 Oct, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

## BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Featuring Alexandra Wood. Programme includes works by Brahms & Dvorak, Sat 20 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

## ORGAN PROM WITH SCOTT BROTHERS DUO

Sat 20 Oct, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

## REKESH CHAUHAN

Rekesh Chauhan's mix of Western and Indian styles has made him a phenomenon amongst listeners. Here he performs Indian Classical music on the piano, Sat 20 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## ARMONICO CONSORT SOLOISTS

St Mark's Church, Leamington Spa

## JOHN WILSON & THE JOHN WILSON ORCHESTRA

Featuring soloists Sir Thomas Allen, Annalene Beechey, Kim Criswell & Julian Oven-den, Sat 20 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## RAF IN CONCERT 2012

A special Diamond Jubilee salute to Her Majesty The Queen featuring Wing Commander Duncan Stubbs (conductor), Flight Lieutenant Matthew Little (vocalist) and Alan Dedicat (compere), Sun 21 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CENTRAL ENGLAND ENSEMBLE

Ten year anniversary concert in aid of Paraplegic Sports featuring Birmingham-born composer Andrew Downes, Sun 21 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## PIANO, CLARINET & ELECTRONICS

Concert exploring the musical possibilities opened up by the combining of the natural sound of contemporary piano and clarinet, with interactive live electronic processing, Mon 22 Oct, Recital Hall, Birmingham

## ham Conservatoire CBSO SUNLIGHT AND SHADOWS

Featuring Edward Gardiner (conductor) & Valeriy Sokolov. Programme to include works by Smetana, Bartok & Dvorak, Wed 24 Oct, Symphony Hall

## DRESDEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Featuring Michael Sanderling (conductor). Programme includes works by Prokofiev, Khachaturian & Dvorak, Wed 24 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA

Forming part of the Birmingham International Concert Season and featuring Lynn Harrell on cello. Programme includes works by Shostakovich & Rachmaninov, Thurs 25 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CLAUDE DEBUSSY AT 150: MUSIC FOR TWO PIANOS

Featuring Roy Howat & Ronald Woodley, Thurs 25 Oct, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

## ORGAN RECITAL WITH PETER MORRIS

Thurs 25 Oct, Walsall Town Hall

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT WITH SALLY WOODS (CELLO) & CHRIS BUCKNALL (HARPSICHORD)

Thurs 25 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## A SHROPSHIRE LAD IN POEM, SONG AND PICTURE

A Bromsgrove Concert featuring James Rutherford (baritone and reciter) & Simon Lepper (piano), Fri 26 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

## CALLUM SMART (VIOLIN), PHILIP HIGHMAN (CELLO) & GORDON BACK (PIANO)

Programme includes works by Franck, Chausson, Britten & Bach, Fri 26 Oct, St Mary Magdalene Church, Lillington, CV32 7RH

## MET OPERA LIVE: OTELLO

Sat 27 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

## EROICA CAMERATA: BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR CONCERTO

Featuring Peter Marks (conductor) & Daniel Browell (conductor). Programme includes works by Beethoven & Schumann, Sat 27 Oct, The Recital Hall, Birmingham

## THE TROURCHY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Sat 27 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

## CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

Featuring guitar duo the Katona Twins and violinist/conductor Alexandra Woods. Programme includes works by Mozart, Piazzolla, De Falla & Tchaikovsky, Sat 27 Oct, Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, North Shropshire

## CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: THE NUTCRACKER

Featuring the CBSO Youth Orchestra, Alexander Vedernikov

(conductor) & CBSO Children's Chorus, Sun 28 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## SING-A-LONG WITH EX CATHEDRA

A unique opportunity to join in with Ex Cathedra, under the direction of Jeffrey Skidmore, Sun 28 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT WITH THOMAS TROTTER: A FRENCH AFFAIR

Programme includes works by Dupre, de Grigny, Franck, Bonnet, Charpentier & Widor, Mon 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE TOUR: CLASSIC WOMEN

A celebration of the Queens Jubilee with four classical music singers, Tue 30 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre

## HALLOWEEN SILENT MOVIE: DER GOLEM

The 1915 German film featuring a clay statue that comes alive to wreak havoc on an antiques dealer gets an airing, supported by organ accompaniment, Wed 31 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

## Classical Box Office

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# Comedy

## Alexei Sayle

The Public, West Bromwich, Wed 17 October;  
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Wed 24 October;  
Glee Club, Birmingham, Sun 11 November

Once upon a time at the very forefront of the Alternative Comedy movement, Alexis Sayle continues to know how to work a crowd, particularly as most members of his audience have been diehard fans of his work for in excess of three decades. Sayle shot to stardom in the late 1970s/early '80s, presenting a brash, loud and hugely political act at the legendary Comedy Store before securing a regular slot in the now-cult BBC sitcom *The Young Ones*, and a weekly appearance on Chris Tarrant's ill-fated 'adult Tiswas' show, OTT. He's branched out in more recent times to try his hand at kids' TV, documentaries and even a bit of Shakespeare. A big screen appearance in the execrable *Carry On Columbus* is probably one element of his CV that's best forgotten.



## Boris Nicoli: KGB Mind Reader

mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 October; Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham, Sat 13 October

Entertainer, actor and comedy magician Joe Ridgely is the talent behind the comic character of Boris Nicoli, a retired KGB operative who nowadays puts his military expertise to use in the entertainment business. The former spy boasts numerous special skills, included among which are close-up magic and the art of telepathy. Oh, and he apparently numbers Matt Damon and Chris Evans amongst his circle of celebrity friends - irrefutable evidence, were any to be needed, that we're not dealing with any common-or-garden ex-KGB agent here...

## Pappys

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 5 October;  
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 27 October

Originally there were four of them and they were called Pappy's Fun Club. Then, after five years together, four became three and the 'Fun Club' part of the title got dropped. Sketch-comedy team Ben Clark, Matthew Crosby and Tom Parry perform regularly on the London comedy circuit and at comedy clubs nationwide, and have long been an Edinburgh Fringe favourite - well, since 2006 anyway, when they made their debut there. If you've not caught up with them yet so don't quite know what to expect, their stock-in-trade is an accessible blend of clean and cheesy humour, ensuring they enjoy enormous popularity with both young and older audiences alike.



## John Bishop

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 11 - Sat 13 October

If you're an admirer of men who like to fly by the seat of their pants, you should check out John Bishop. John not so long ago left the comfort and security of a lucrative marketing job to work full-time on making his comedy act so side-splittingly funny that nobody would ever have reason to throw a rotten tomato at him! A brave decision indeed, but then John did have one major advantage as he toiled to make it big in the rough, tough world of comedy - and that was the fact that he's a very funny man! Not surprisingly, he's since gone on to appear in plenty of the usual TV comedy shows and panel games, and also won the Best Male Comedy Breakthrough Artist award at the 2010 British Comedy Awards.



## Charlie Murphy

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Sun 14 October

Best known as a cast member of and writer on the Comedy Central sketchshow series *Chappelle's Show*, Charlie is the older brother of Hollywood superstar Eddie Murphy. Jokes include "If you want to see Charlie Murphy bitch out, challenge him to a butt naked sword fight", and "The male ego is the reason an old man will challenge a young man to a fist fight".

## Comedy Box Office

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# Comedy LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**THE TIM VINE CHAT SHOW** Mon 1 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**A MIDDAY VARIETY WITH JIMMY CRICKET** Mon 1 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**AL MURRAY - THE PUB LANDLORD** Tue 2 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**SARAH MILLICAN - CHATTERBOX** Wed 3 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE** Wed 3 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MARK WATSON** Wed 3 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall  
**THE LAUGHING SOLE FEATURING JAMES DOWDESWELL** Wed 3 Oct, The Public, West Bromwich  
**DANNY BHOY** Thurs 4 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall  
**JIM DAVIDSON** Thurs 4 Oct, Lichfield Garrick  
**KUM N AVLOFF COMEDY NIGHT** Thurs 4 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**LAUREL & HARDY FILM SHOW** Thurs 4 Oct, The Forget-Me-Not-Club, Birmingham  
**MARK WATSON** Thurs 4 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ELLIS JAMES, SEAN COLLINS & JOJO SMITH** Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**FRANCESCA MARTINEZ: WHAT THE \*\*\*\* IS NORMAL?** Fri 5 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**PAPPYS** Fri 5 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**KILL FOR A SEAT COMEDY CLUB FEAT. NICK PAGE, BENNY BOOT & HOST SILKY** Fri 5 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**UPFRONT COMEDY PRESENTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMEDY SPECIAL** Feat. Mugga, Sean G & Dana Michelle Alexander, Fri 5 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham  
**FREDDIE STARR** Fri 5 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**BLACK COUNTRY CIDER LIONS FEAT. LEON CLIFFORD, ROB KEMP & ROB JACKSON** Fri 5 Oct, Six Eight Kafe, Birmingham  
**THE SHIELA M SHOW** Fri 5 Oct, The Patrick Kavanagh, Moseley, Birmingham  
**BORIS NICOLI: KGB MIND READER** Fri 5 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**BRENDAN RILEY, SEAN PERCIVAL, PETE JOHANSSON & KEITH FARNAN** Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**DANNY BUCKLER, CAIMH MCDONNELL, EDDY BRIMSON & STEVE SHANYASKI** Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct,

Jongleurs Comedy Club, Broad St, Birmingham  
**RUSSELL KANE** Sat 6 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**CONFERENCE FEAT. IAN D MONTFORT, DR PAUL MCDONALD, YARA ELSHERBINI & GUESTS** Sat 6 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**FRANKIE & FRIENDS** Sat 6 Oct, The Red Lion, Birmingham  
**THE COMEDY PAIR FEAT. DUNCAN OAKLEY & CAIMH MCDONNELL** Sat 6 Oct, The Bristol Pear, Birmingham  
**AN EVENING WITH BUNNY THOMAS** Sat 6 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**NOMAD COMEDY** Sat 6 Oct, Six Eight Cafe, Birmingham  
**SIMON EVANS** Sat 6 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**LEE HURST** Sun 7 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**ABANDONMAN** Sun 7 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**DANNY BHOY: WANDERLUST** Sun 7 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**FUNNY FEMALES FEAT. ANNETTE FAGON & SUSAN MURRAY** Sun 7 Oct, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**BARBARA NICE & GALS** Sun 7 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**BOB MILLS** Sun 7 Oct, Comedy Junction, Birmingham  
**REAL DEAL COMEDY JAM FEAT. FRANTZ CASSEUS** Sun 7 Oct, Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**PAUL SAVAGE: A CHEERFUL SHAMBLES** Sun 7 Oct, Hare & Hounds, Birmingham  
**GIGGLEBOX COMEDY NIGHT: BEST OF THE WEST (MIDLANDS)** Sun 7 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**PATRICK MONAHAN** Mon 8 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**JONNY & THE BAPTISTS** Mon 8 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Birmingham  
**SIMON EVANS** Tue 9 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JOE LYCETT** Tues 9 Oct, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**DANNY BHOY** Tue 9 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**FOGHORN IMPROV PARTY** Tues 9 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**JEWELLERY QUARTER COMEDY** Tues 9 Oct, Rose Villa Tavern, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**AN EVENING WITH JULIAN**

**CLARY** Wed 10 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**LAUGHING COWS COMEDY FEAT. BARBARA NICE, MAUREEN YOUNGER, ROSIE WILBY & CLAIRE PARKER** Wed 10 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham  
**SEANN WALSH** Wed 10 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**KEVIN PRECIOUS: NOT APPROPRIATE** Wed 10 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**DANIEL NICHOLAS, JACK CAMPBELL & DAVID MURPHY** Cafe Ort, Balsall Heath, Birmingham  
**LIVE BED SHOW** A rare revival of comedian, broadcaster and writer Arthur Smith's 1989 comedy play about a couple and their bed, Wed 10 - Thurs 11 Oct, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK THEATRE** Comedy double act that has to be seen to be believed, Thurs 11 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, B'ham  
**JOHN COOPER CLARKE** Thurs 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall  
**ALAN DAVIES: LIFE IS PAIN** Thurs 11 Oct, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent  
**JIM DAVIDSON** Thurs 11 Oct, Dudley Concert Hall  
**GIGGLEBOX : BEFORE THE BISHOP** Thurs 11 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Birmingham  
**AVA VIDAL** Thurs 11 Oct, The Red Lion, Hockley, Birmingham  
**FOUR COMICS, ONE CUP** Featuring Lou Chawner, Ben Briggs, Rob Coleman & Colin Harris, Thurs 11 Oct, Six Eight Kafe, Birmingham  
**AVA VIDAL** Thurs 11 Oct, The Red Lion, Hockley, Birmingham  
**TOM STADE, MARK OLVER, CAIMH MCDONNELL & IAN MOORE** Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**JOHN BISHOP** Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Oct, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**AL MURRAY - THE PUB LANDLORD** Fri 12 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE: THE BRIG SOCIETY** Fri 12 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**JASON BYRNE: PEOPLE'S PUPPETEER** Fri 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**OVER THE HILL GANG** Feat. Andy White, Ian Crawford, Dave Dinsdale, Jim Kennedy, Billy McGuire & MC Colin Harris, Fri 12 Oct, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**LOUDEMY SOUP COMEDY NIGHT** Fri 12 Oct, Six

Eight Kafe, Birmingham  
**ADAM BLOOM & STEVE BEST** Fri 12 Oct, Hall Green Banqueting Centre, Birmingham  
**JASON PATTERSON, CARL HUTCHINSON & JOHN RYAN** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, Jongleurs, Birmingham  
**RICHARD MORTON, MICKEY D & MICHAEL FABBRI** Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**STEPHEN GRANT, RICHARD MORTON, MICKEY D & MICHAEL FABBRI** Sat 13 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**ANDI OSHO** Sat 13 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**BORIS NICOLI** Sat 13 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham  
**FASCINATING AIDA: THE CHEAP FLIGHTS TOUR** Sat 13 Oct, Malvern Theatres  
**JACK DEE** Sat 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**DANNY BHOY** Sat 13 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**COMEDY AT THE MET** Line up tbc, Sat 13 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**THE BIRMINGHAM FOOTNOTES LIVE** Sat 13 Oct, Six Eight Kafe, Temple Row, Birmingham  
**CHARLIE MURPHY** Sun 14 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD** Sun 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JO CAULFIELD** Sun 14 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**LOCK, STOCK & ONE JOKING FARRELL** Sun 14 Oct, Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham  
**ANDI OSHO** Sun 14 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**BOX OF FROGS** Hi octane comedy nonsense from audience suggestions, Sun 14 Oct, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham  
**THE MIDNIGHT BEAST** Part jinx, part comedy, part music, Sun 14 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**GIGGLEBOX COMEDY SHOWCASE** Featuring MC Stoo Pittaway, Sun 14 Oct, Actress & Bishop, Ludgate Hill, Birmingham  
**STEPHEN K. AMOS** Mon 15 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury  
**THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE** Tue 16 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**JIM DAVIDSON** Tue 16 Oct, Malvern Theatres  
**JIMMY CARR** Tue 16 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**ROSS NOBLE** Tue 16 - Thurs 18 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**JOAN RIVERS: THE NOW OR NEVER TOUR** Tue 16 Oct, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT** Tue 16 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**JERRY SADOWITZ** Tue 16 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE** Tues 16 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE** Wed 17 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**LEE HURST** Wed 17 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**FESTIVAL OF THE SPOKEN NERD** Wed 17 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**CHRIS RAMSEY** Wed 17 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ALEXEI SAYLE** Wed 17 Oct, The Public, West Bromwich  
**TIM KEY** Thurs 18 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI** Thurs 18 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**LEE HURST** Thurs 18 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**LENNY HENRY - POP LIFE!** Thurs 18 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**JARRED CHRISTMAS** Thurs 18 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**GREG DAVIES** Thurs 18 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**JENNY ECLAIR** Thurs 18 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**HARDEEP SINGH KOHLI** Fri 19 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**HENNING WEHN - NO SURRENDER** Fri 19 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**PAUL CHOWDRY** Fri 19 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**ANDREW LAWRENCE** Fri 19 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**TIM KEY** Fri 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**GREG DAVIES: THE BACK OF MY MUM'S HEAD** Fri 19 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**CAREY MARX, STEFANO PAOLINI, ROB COLLINS, JACQUES BARRETT** Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, B'ham  
**BRIDGET CHRISTIE - WAR DONKEY** Fri 19 Oct, Malvern Theatres  
**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY** Sat 20 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**JULIAN CLARY** Sat 20 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**COMEDY 4 KIDS** Sat 20 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**THE LICHFIELD GARRICK COMEDY CLUB** Sat 20 Oct, Lichfield Garrick  
**THE BOY WITH TAPE ON HIS FACE** Sun 21 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**ROB ROUSE: LIFE SENTENCES** Sun 21 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**MARK THOMAS** Mon 22 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**GREG DAVIES: THE BACK OF MY MUM'S HEAD** Mon 22 Oct, Dudley Concert Hall  
**JOE LYCETT, JAMES COOK, MICKY SHARMA, ANDY WHITE, KAREN BAYLEY, BEN DAVIDS, GARETH BERLINER & KIRUNA STAMELL** Tues 23 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham  
**MARK THOMAS** Tues 23 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**ALEXEI SAYLE** Wed 24 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**DANIEL SLOSS** Wed 24 Oct, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton  
**JENNY ECLAIR** Thurs 25 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**FRANKIE BOYLE - THE LAST DAYS OF SODOM** Thurs 25 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**DANNY BHOY** Fri 26 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
**BRIDGET CHRISTIE - WAR DONKEY** Fri 26 Oct, The Public, West Bromwich  
**KEVIN BLOODY WILSON** Fri 26 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall  
**BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT** Fri 26 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**TIM CLARK, CHRIS STOKES, NOEL JAMES & MV TONY VINO** Fri 26 Oct, Graeme Hicks Pavillion, Worcester  
**County Cricket Club JOHN MANN, TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, LATEEF LOVEJOY & THE NOISE NEXT DOOR** Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham  
**MALCOLM STENT: MIND THE HORSE ROAD** Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**PAPPYS** Sat 27 Oct, The Slade Rooms, W'hampton  
**SEANN WALSH** Sat 27 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**BRIDGET CHRISTIE - WAR DONKEY** Sat 27 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**CHRIS RAMSEY** Sun 28 Oct, Cheltenham Town Hall  
**DANIEL SLOSS** Sun 28 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**DANIEL SLOSS** Mon 29 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**DARA O'BRIAN** Tue 30 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**KEVIN 'BLOODY' WILSON** Tue 30 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**JETHRO** Contains Adult Material, Tue 30 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall  
**NEIL INNES** Tue 30 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**TOM WRIGGLESWORTH, JOE LYCETT AND BIG LOU** Wed 31 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**SEAN HUGHES** Wed 31 Oct, The Glee Club, Birmingham



WED 26 SEP - SAT 6 OCT  
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# Theatre



## Jesus Christ Superstar

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 October

Spreading the Gospel according to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, Lord Webber's new version of the phenomenal rock musical Jesus Christ Superstar hits the road on the occasion of the show's fortieth anniversary. Originally opening on Broadway, the production was Rice and Lloyd Webber's second collaboration, and with hits like I Don't Know How To Love Him, Hosanna, What's The Buzz? and, of course, the title track itself to recommend it, the show remains one of the most visually startling in the history of theatre. This brand spanking new version is being described as a state-of-the-

art spectacular, and stars Tim Minchin as Judas, Spice Girl Melanie C as Mary Magdalene, and Chris Moyles as Herod. The role of Jesus is being taken by Ben Forster, who won the recent ITV1 talent show Superstar to bag the coveted role of the Messiah. Commenting on the forthcoming tour, Ben said, "This is a dream come true. I'm a massive fan of Andrew's work. To have the chance to perform in front of hundreds of thousands of people in an arena with such an amazing cast is a real honour."



## Haunting Julia

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Mon 15 - Sat 20 October

Duncan Preston, Richard O'Callaghan and Joe McFadden star in this new version of Alan Ayckbourn's thought-provoking study of grief, obsession and the supernatural. Strange sounds and signs have started to haunt the shrine that Joe (Preston) has built to his lost daughter Julia, a musical prodigy whose body was found lying in a pool of blood some twelve years earlier. But did she really take her own life all those years ago, or was someone else with her on that fateful night? Joe is desperate for an answer, and has finally arrived at the night when he's going to get one...

## Sister Act

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 9 - Sat 20 October

This family-friendly West Ender is based, of course, on the Whoopi Goldberg movie of the same title. Ms Goldberg herself has co-produced the show, along with Stage Entertainment, who're also responsible for Hairspray. Packed to the rafters with songs inspired by Motown, funk, soul and disco, Sister Act tells the story of disco diva Deloris Van Cartier, who, when she witnesses a murder, is put in protective custody by the police in the one place they feel sure she won't be found - a convent, and disguised as a nun!

Denise Black, Michael Starke and Cynthia Eviro star in this feelgood show that was awarded four stars by What's On during its debut Midlands performance earlier this year.





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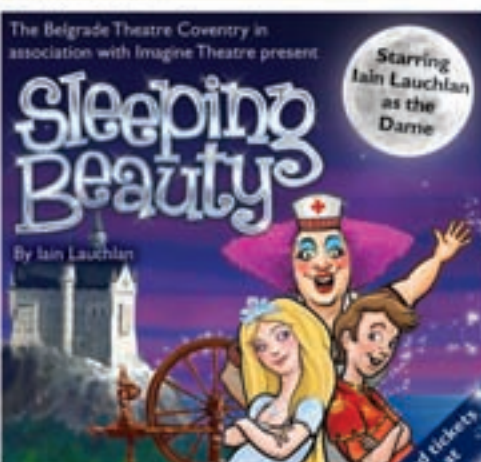


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## Step toe And Son

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Tues 23 - Sat 27 Oct

For anybody over the age of, say, forty-five, Step toe & Son surely needs no introduction. A hit TV comedy series of the 1960s and early-to-mid-'70s, it starred Wilfred Brambell and Harry H Corbett as father-and-son rag-and-bone men, not only working but still living together, seemingly with no choice but to endure the vicissitudes of their intense love-hate relationship. The ever-inventive Kneehigh is the company behind this theatrical resurrection of two legendary comedy characters, here presenting its adaptation of scripts written by Step toe & Son's equally legendary creators, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson.



## The Loneliness Of The Long Distance Runner

Old Rep, Birmingham, Tues 2 - Sat 6 October

This gritty adaptation of Alan Sillitoe's classic work has been adapted by BAFTA-winning and Olivier Award-nominated playwright Roy Williams OBE, and focuses on the character of Colin, a long-distance runner running a long-distance race. Updated to 2012, the play has been described as 'exposing the beating heart of a nation, still broken and still divided across class lines', and makes effective use of 3D visuals.



## The Handyman

Malvern Theatre, Mon 22 - Sat 27 October

Law, justice and revenge are the subjects at the heart of this thought-provoking play by the Academy Award-winning Ronald Harwood, who picked up his Oscar for writing the screenplay of The Pianist. The play focuses on the story of Cressida and Julian Field, a couple who live comfortably in the Sussex countryside with their elderly Ukrainian odd-job man, Romka. Romka is a good friend to the Fields, and spends his time maintaining their property for them. Life seems idyllic - until two police officers from the War Crimes Squad pay a visit... Timothy West takes top billing.



Anita Dobson in rehearsal for The Merry Wives Of Windsor

## The Merry Wives Of Windsor

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Thurs 25 October - Sat 12 January 2013

Mistresses Page and Ford believe it's time that the fat knight Sir John Falstaff was taught a lesson. After all, the big fella's been courting them both, claiming that each is his one and only true love, and caring not a jot about the fact that they're both married! What ensues in The Merry Wives Of Windsor is Shakespeare at his comic best, with a tale of buck-baskets, frolicsome fairies, men dressed as women and cases of mistaken identity ensuring your sides will be as near to splitting as they're ever likely to be while indulging in the works of the Bard. This production sees former EastEnders favourite Anita Dobson make her RSC debut.

## Wait 'til Your Father Gets Home

Solihull Arts Complex, Wed 3 October

Top Brummie laughter merchants Malcolm Stent and Don Maclean present a show all about the trials, tribulations and pleasures of being a dad. In a production that's sure to raise a regular chuckle, the boys explore why people have children, and reminisce about their own childhoods, their fathers, and their own parenting skills.



## Fagin's Last Hour

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 12 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Fri 26 - Sat 27 October

One of Charles Dickens' most controversial and vividly drawn villains here gets to tell the tale of Oliver Twist from his very own perspective. Fagin is only an hour away from execution and teetering on the very brink of madness. As he awaits the hangman's noose, he recounts his association with accomplices-in-crime Sikes and Nancy, and with the incorruptible orphan boy Oliver Twist, the young lad who brought about his eventual downfall...



## Great Expectations

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 9 - Sat 13 October

Recently voted Charles Dickens' most popular novel, Great Expectations tells the story of a young lad named Pip, whose encounter with the terrifying convict Magwitch kick-starts an adventure that leads him to the big city via encounters with the chilling Estella, a manipulative lawyer named Jaggers, and the tragic and mysterious Miss Havisham... Paula Wilcox (pictured), Jack Ellis, Paul Nivison and Chris Ellison star. Read the interview with Paula at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)



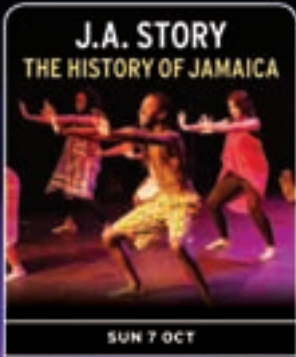
## Dracula

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 25 October - Sat 3 November

Bram Stoker's classic gothic horror is best known, of course, from its many and varied cinematic incarnations, but as productions such as The Woman In Black have ably illustrated, a well-presented work of theatre can prove to be just as spine-tingling as anything presented on the big screen...



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"YOU FOLLOW IT LIKE A THRILLER"  
FINANCIAL TIMES

TUE 23 - SAT 27 OCT

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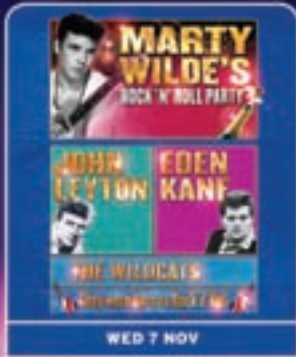
TUE 30 OCT - SAT 3 NOV

**ROSS NOBLE**  
MINDBLENDER



TUE 16 - THU 18 OCT

**MARTY WILDE'S**  
ROCK 'N' ROLL PARTY 3



JOHN LEYTON EDEN KANE  
THE WILDCAITS

WED 7 NOV

**THE DRIFTERS**  
MASQUERADE TOUR



FRI 19 OCT

**PAUL CHOWDHRY**  
'WHAT'S HAPPENING  
WHITE PEOPLE?'



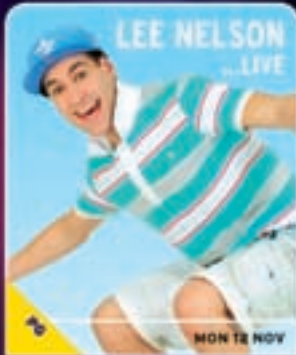
FRI 9 NOV

**JULIAN CLARY**  
POSITION VACANT  
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SAT 20 OCT



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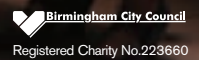
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# The Plough And The Stars

By Sean O'Casey

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BLUE ORANGE ARTS PRESENTS

# Dracula



THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER  
- SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

# Bram Stoker

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## Soul Sister

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,  
Mon 29 October - Sat 3 November

Tina Turner's tumultuous relationship with her husband and one-time musical partner Ike is laid bare in this new musical. *Soul Sister* follows the highs and lows of the famous couple's relationship, and charts how their ascendance to fame and fortune resulted in the breakdown of their marriage. As you'd expect, the show features a host of classic hits, including *Simply The Best*, *What's Love Got To Do With It*, *Proud Mary*, *Private Dancer* and *River Deep Mountain High*.



## The Plough And The Stars

Old Rep, Birmingham,  
Tues 9 - Sat 13 October

Both a study of the lives of ordinary people and an epic play about ideals and the birth of a nation, *The Plough And The Stars* is set in a tenement house, against the backdrop of the Easter Rising in 1916, and finds Jack Clitheroe having to make a choice between love for his wife and duty to his country.



## Beautiful Burnout

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Tues 9 - Sat 13 October

Described as 'spectacular, lyrical and thought-provoking', *Beautiful Burnout* follows the story of five young fighters from Glasgow's mean streets as they endeavour to make it big in the no-holds-barred world of boxing. Bryony Lavery's dramatic work blends a backdrop of video screens with a pulsating soundtrack by electronic heavyweights *Underworld*, and is recommended for people aged fourteen and older.



## Bouncers

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 2 - Sat 6 October; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Wed 31 October - Sat 3 November

One of the biggest successes in British theatre in the last twenty-odd years, John Godber's clever comedy provides a sharp and funny perspective on the club scene in the late twentieth century. It focuses on four mean and moody bouncers as they prowling around a nightclub, and four good-time girls out on a hen night. Godber has a talent for hitting the right notes with his observations on contemporary life, and *Bouncers* exemplifies this talent at its best. Ace Bhatti, Don Gilet, William Ilkley and Ian Reddington star.

## Mother Courage And Her Children

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,  
Mon 22 - Wed 24 October

There are those who consider *Mother Courage And Her Children* to be the greatest play of the twentieth century, while others have called it the greatest anti-war play of all time. One of nine penned by Bertolt Brecht in an effort to counter the rise of Fascism and Nazism, it's set during the Thirty Years War, and follows the fortunes of Anna Fierling, a woman who's determined to make a living from the conflict...

## Oh Whistle... Two Ghost Stories By MR James

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Wed 24 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 19 December

Robert Lloyd Parry returns with another one-man offering and two more classic spinet-inglers. A story of witchcraft and vengeance down the generations is told in *The Ash Tree*, while there's plenty of nocturnal horror on the Suffolk coast in the curiously titled *Oh, Whistle, And I'll Come To You, My Lad*.

## Dreamboats And Petticoats

Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Mon 22 - Sat 27 October

This touring musical is inspired by the best-selling album of the same title. Set in 1961, it follows the fortunes of young musicians Norman and Bobby as they compete to win the hearts of their adoring female fans... and, more specifically, the gorgeous Laura. The show features hit songs aplenty from the likes of Roy Orbison, The Shadows, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury and Chuck Berry.

## Blood Brothers

Birmingham Hippodrome,  
Mon 22 October - Sat 3 November

Marti Pellow and Niki Evans star in this latest incarnation of Willy Russell's much-loved show. In amongst so many cross-by-numbers musicals, *Blood Brothers* stands out as real class. Filled with all of Russell's usual astute observations about the British class system, it's probably better described as a play with music.

The story of twins separated at birth, who spend their lives in contrasting social circumstances but are inextricably drawn together, it has none of the trite and patronising sentimentality that typifies a lot of Russell's work, and manages to be both incredibly moving and funny.

If you haven't seen it before, check it out. If you have, you'll no doubt be going to see it again anyway!





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WARNING: THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS CONTAINS SOME NUDITY AND LANGUAGE OF AN ADULT NATURE, IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN, SISSIES OR CHAVS. THIS SHOW CONTAINS NUTS! THE DANGEROUS NATURE OF OUR PERFORMANCES MEANS INDIVIDUAL ACTS MAY SOMETIMES CHANGE



# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions including times and dates visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**Week Commencing  
MON 1 OCT**

**TWELFTH NIGHT** David Farr directs Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identity, cross-dressing and unrequited love, until Sat 6 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS** Amir Nizar Zuabi directs a new version of Shakespeare's joyful comedy of mistaken identity, until Sat 6 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Blue Orange Theatre present Shakespeare's magical shape-shifting play, until Sat 6 Oct, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE TEMPEST** David Farr directs a new version of the Bard's final masterpiece, until Sun 7 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE WIDOWING OF MRS HOLROYD** DH

Lawrence's passionate journey through the final days of a tempestuous marriage and a vivid portrait of life in a Midlands mining village, until Sat 13 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**A TENDER THING** Ben Powers weaves together the words of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet in a touching story of two older lovers, until Sat 20 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**MIDDAY VARIETY WITH JIMMY CRICKET** Featuring support from Steve Hewlett and singer Maggie O'Hara, Mon 1 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE** Love, betrayal and murder combine in this chilling adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of good and evil, presented by Hull Truck Theatre Company, Mon 1 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**WARWICK WORDS - CHRISTOPHER BROOKMYRE** Join award-winning author Christopher Brookmyre as he talks about his latest book, *When The Devil Drives*, Mon 1 Oct, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

**DANGEROUS OBSESSION** Emmerdale's Anna Brecon stars alongside

George Telfer and Ben Roddy in *NJ Crisp's* acclaimed thriller, Mon 1 - Wed 3 Oct, Crewe Lyceum

**ROUGH JUSTICE** Tom Conti stars in Terence Frisby's gripping courtroom drama, Mon 1 - Sat 6 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**SANDI TOKSVIG LIVE! MY VALENTINE** Major solo tour from the acclaimed comedian, novelist, actor and broadcaster, Tue 2 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**SECONDS OUT** Reform Theatre present the world premiere of Nick Lane's new play, which is partly inspired by true events, Tue 2 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**DON GIOVANNI** Performed by Mid Wales Opera, Tue 2 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**BOOGIE NIGHTS: THE 70'S MUSICAL** Disco musical created by Jon Conway and starring Shane Richie and Terry Morrison, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**UP POMPEII** The St John's Players present a stage version of the much-loved television classic, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**BOUNCERS** John Godber's classic comedy, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** The Arcadians present an amateur production of the classic musical, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER** Adaptation of Alan Sillitoe's classic text presented by Olivier Award-nominated playwright Roy Williams, Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

**NOT KNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS** Tin Box Theatre fuses visual theatre, puppetry and live music as it delves into the world of Martin Simons, a post office worker obsessed by the secret world of letters, Wed 3 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**DES O'CONNOR** An evening of comedy, laughter and music, Wed 3 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**AN EVENING WITH ANDREW MOTION** One of Britain's finest poets reads from his new collection of poems, The Custom House, Wed 3 Oct, Warwick Arts Cen-

Richard McCabe (Romeo) and Kathryn Hunter (Juliet) in rehearsal for *A Tender Thing*, which shows at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Read the interview with Richard at [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)



tre, Coventry  
**MOTHER F** Articulate Elbow present a celebratory, raucous and touching comedy about mothers, Wed 3 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**WAIT 'TIL YOUR FATHER GETS HOME** A new show about fathers by fathers - Malcolm Stent & Don Maclean star, Wed 3 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Malvern Theatre Players present their version of JB Priestley's acclaimed play, Wed 3 - Sat 6 Oct, The Coach House Theatre, Malvern

**IN THE CLUB** Mad Cow Productions present Richard Bean's farce, Wed 3 - Sat 6 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**AN EVENING WITH PAM AYRES** Thurs 4 Oct, The Roses, Tewksbury  
**SING-A-LONG-A-ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** Fancy dress is not obligatory but highly recommended!, Thurs 4 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

**VAMPIRES ROCK** Musical stage show which, set in New York in the year 2030, follows the rising of the undead, and is set to some of the greatest rock anthems ever, Thurs 4 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN LIVE ON STAGE** Musical featuring the music of The Temptations, Diana Ross & The Supremes, the Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye, Lionel Richie, Martha Reeves, Isley Brothers and more... Thurs 4 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**MONKEY BARS** Chris Goode's unique show

sees a group of adult performers - playing adults in adult situations - present a verbatim show using the spoken word of a group of eight-to-ten-year-olds asked to talk about their lives, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** The fortieth anniversary of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's legendary rock classic is celebrated with an arena tour starring Tim Minchin, Melanie C and Chris Moyles, Thurs 4 - Fri 5 Oct, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham  
**HALE!** 101 New Music Theatre present an insight into the suicide of American socialite Dorothy Hale, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, AE Harris Building, Birmingham  
**STAN BOARDMAN'S BIG VARIETY SHOW** The promise of a fun-packed night of laughter and entertainment, Fri 5 Oct, Crewe Lyceum  
**RODNEY BEWES - A BOY GROWING UP** The star of *The Likely Lads* plays Dylan Thomas in a one-man show based on a collection of the author's celebrated short stories, Fri 5 Oct, Stourbridge Town Hall  
**PROOF** David Auburn's multi-award-winning play exploring themes of mental health, gender bias and the bond between a father and daughter, Fri 5 Oct, Lichfield Garrick  
**WONDERFUL DAY** Musical cabaret celebrating the life and music of Doris Day - one of 'Hollywood's most adorable stars' Fri 5 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE DREAMBOYS FULL FRONTAL 2012 TOUR**

Described as the UK's 'top male glamour show', Fri 5 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**SHIPWRECKED** A fun, exotic and erotic cabaret and burlesque extravaganza from the creators of the critically acclaimed, award-winning *Circus Burlesque*, Fri 5 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**BEING HUMAN** Poetry from around the world is here presented by three performers, supported by music, projections and striking imagery, Fri 5 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**THE INFERNO KID** A new dark comedy written by and starring Alex Brookie which centres around a one-time 'bright star' on the professional wrestling circuit who's now disabled and unable to let go of the past, Fri 5 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**JAMAICA 50** Gazebo Theatre Company presents a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaican Independence, Fri 5 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**VAMPIRES ROCK** Musical stage show which, set in New York in the year 2030, follows the rising of the undead, and is set to some of the greatest rock anthems ever, Fri 5 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**COWBOY BABY** Catfoot present a stage adaptation of Sue Heap's much-acclaimed children's story, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct, Birmingham Library Theatre

**MACBETH: SLICED TO THE CORE** A Top Edge production telling the story of Shakespeare's great tragedy of diabolic

temptation and blood-steeped ambition in an intense and exhilarating exhibition of knife-edge acting, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**HAIRY BIKERS** The down-to-earth and fun-loving culinary experts present an evening of world-inspired cooking, stories and hearty laughs, Fri 5 - Sat 6 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**PERICLES** Michael Boyd directs a site-specific production of Shakespeare's tale of journeying & fulfilment, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Oct, The Courtyard, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SECONDS OUT** Reform Theatre present the world premiere of Nick Lane's new play, which is partly inspired by true events, Sat 6 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**POLLY PUTS THE KETTLE ON** Popular plays for two-to-nine-year-olds packed with fun, songs and audience participation, Sat 6 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

**JA STORY - THE HISTORY OF JAMAICA MUSICAL** Critically acclaimed musical celebrating fifty years of Jamaican Independence, Sat 6 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**METROPOLIS - REMIXED** Playbox Theatre bring Fritz Lang's masterpiece into the twenty-first century, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, The Dream Factory, Warwick

**STRAWBERRIES IN JANUARY** The Crescent Theatre Company present Rona Munro's version of *Evelyn de la Cheneliere's* heartwarming comedy concerning four romantically challenged singletons who



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Saturday 27th October, 7.30pm

### JULIAN SMITH

Julian Smith's distinctive soprano saxophone sound has been heard all over the world - Don't miss out on this great evening of music.



Sunday 28th October, 11am & 2pm

### CHRIS & PUI

Meet CBeebies' favourite double-act and have a giggle with them too in their fabulous new packed with fantastic songs, games and a few surprises along the way.



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### DOMINIC KIRWAN

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Thursday 1st November, 7.30pm

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# Theatre LISTINGS

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stumble through contemporary Montreal in search of love, Sat 6 - Sat 13 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**AN EVENING WITH SIR ROGER MOORE** Sun 7 Oct, Malvern Theatres  
**JA STORY - THE HISTORY OF JAMAICA MUSICAL** Critically acclaimed musical celebrating fifty years of Jamaican Independence, Sun 7 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**Week Commencing  
MON 8 OCT**

**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES** Eve Ensler's hilarious Broadway and West End smash featuring Clare Buckfield, Vicky Entwistle and Chelsea Healey, Mon 8 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CHILD OF TERROR** Highly Sprung present a tale concerning a boy and girl for whom only love holds the answers in a world destroyed by violence and terrorism, Mon 8 - Wed 10 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE** Olivier

Award-winning comedy, written and directed by Jim Cartwright. Beverly Callard, Ray Quinn, Joe McGann and Jess Robinson star, Mon 8 - Sat 13 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**MURDER ON THE NILE** The Agatha Christie Theatre Company present their latest Christie production, Mon 8 - Sat 13 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE WEIR** Connor McPherson's bitter-sweet drama, set in a remote bar in Ireland, Mon 8 - Sat 13 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**DICKENS' WOMEN** Acclaimed character actress Miriam Margoyles brings twenty of Dickens' best loved characters to life - from doe-eyed young heroines and brow-beating old harridans to men and midgets, Tue 9 Oct, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**THE CANTERBURY TALES** Tacit Theatre fuse live folk music and storytelling to bring the big-hearted medieval masterpiece bang up to date, Tues 9 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**MOTHER TO MOTHER** Free Voice Productions present a one-woman

show set in the aftermath of a pointless murder in a township of Cape Town, Tues 9 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham  
**WITHOUT PLANNING PERMISSION** Fluxx & Shifti 08 present a night of theatrical improvisation, Tue 9 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**JAMAICA 50** Gazebo Theatre Company presents a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaican Independence, Tue 9 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES** Eve Ensler's hilarious Broadway and West End smash, featuring Clare Buckfield, Vicky Entwistle and Chelsea Healey, Tue 9 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**FOGHORN IMPROV'S PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST** Audience suggestions form the basis for Foghorn Improv's policies as they set up a new party - one with integrity and honesty, and which is created from the words of real people, Tue 9 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE** Hull Truck Theatre present a classic adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's tale of love, betrayal and murder, Tue 9 - Wed 10 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** Acton Amateur Operatic Society present their version of the acclaimed musical based on Jean Poiret's play, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Crewe Lyceum

**TURANDOT** Birmingham-based Midland Opera present their version of Puccini's romantic opera, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**CALENDAR GIRLS** Amateur production of Tim Firth's drama, based on an uplifting and inspiring true story, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent  
**THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS** Sean O'Casey's intimate play about the lives of ordinary people, ideals, and the birth of the Irish nation, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Old Rep, Birmingham

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS** A new stage adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic drama that celebrates the Victorian author's bicentenary. Jack Ellis (Coronation Street), Chris Ellison (The Bill) and Paula Wilcox (Emmerdale) all star, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct,



The Canterbury Tales - The Roses, Tewksbury

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** Amateur production presented by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**BEAUTIFUL BURNOUT** Frantic Assembly present Bryony Lavery's heart-wrenching and deeply moving human story concerning five youngsters as they aim for the bright lights, far from Glasgow's mean, grey streets, Tue 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** FRED Classic Drama Contemporary Theatre present their version of Shakespeare's most controversial play, Tues 9 - Sat 13 Oct, A.E. Harris Building, The Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

**SISTER ACT** Denise Black (Coronation Street), Michael Starke (Brookside) and Cynthia Erivo star in this much-acclaimed touring version of the West End musical, Tue 9 - Wed 20 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THE FLANAGAN AND ALLEN STORY** A tribute to 'The Crazy Gang' Wed 10 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

**THE BAY CITY ROLLERS** STORY A celebration of those hectic days of hit songs, touring and TV shows, as well as the behind-the-scenes pandemonium that followed the tartan-clad band everywhere they went, Wed 10 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS** Adaptation of Robert Tressell's famous novel, Wed 10 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**VAMPIRES ROCK** Eve

Ensler's hilarious Broadway and West End smash, featuring Clare Buckfield, Vicky Entwistle and Chelsea Healey, Wed 10 Oct, Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire

**THIRST** Sibojama present an innovative fable loosely based on Balducci's *The Water Carriers*, Wed 10 - Thurs 11 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham  
**AND THE GIRLS IN THEIR SUNDAY DRESSES** An African Waiting For Godot presented by The Market Theatre, Johannesburg, in association with Tick Tock Productions, Wed 10 - Thurs 11 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham

**JOHN COOPER CLARKE** Evening with the Punk Poet and Bard of Salford, Thurs 11 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**HENRY BLOFELD - SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED** Known as one of the world's best loved cricket commentators, his one-man shows have packed theatres throughout the country, Thurs 11 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**WAIT TILL YOUR FATHER GETS HOME** Written by and starring Don Maclean and Malcolm Stent, with songs by Harvey Andrews, Thurs 11 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**NT LIVE: THE LAST OF THE HAUSSMANS**

Beamed direct from the National Theatre in London, *The Last Of The Haussmans* is the latest in the NT Live Series. Julie Walters, Rory Kinnear and Helen McCrory star, Thurs 11 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire & Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**BLACK COUNTRY MUSIC** Boasting some of the best comedy and musical talent in the Black Country, Thurs 11 Oct,

Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

**AN EVENING WITH QUENTIN WILLSON** Spend time with one of the UK's best known television presenters and motoring experts, Thurs 11 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum  
**PAUL ZERDIN - PUPPET MASTER** Thurs 11 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

**AN INSTINCT FOR KINDNESS** A moving show that explores the wider ethical issues surrounding assisted suicide, Thurs 11 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**THE GOOD PERSON OF SEZUAN** A new version of Brecht's classic comedy which sets the story in 1980s Jamaica - a time of political violence and gang warfare, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**FAGIN'S LAST HOUR** Charles Dickens' classic tale of crime and punishment is re-imagined in this powerful new stage adaptation, told from the point of view of Fagin the Miser, one hour before his execution, Fri 12 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**JAMAICA 50** Gazebo Theatre Company presents a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaican Independence, Fri 12 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**PAUL ZERDIN - PUPPET MASTER** Fri 12 Oct, Lichfield Garrick  
**POETRY ENCOUNTERS: FROM THE WEST MIDLANDS TO WEST AFRICA** Personal insights and reflections on identity and heritage, Fri 12 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**SEXTON BLAKE STRIKES AGAIN!** The fictional detective returns to

save Edwardian London from a league of British scoundrels, traitors and extortionists, Fri 12 Oct, Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham

**AFRICA RISING POETRY JAM** Featuring Zena Edwards & Sonia Radebe, with host Sic'Nis, Fri 12 Oct, The Drum, Birmingham

**HAIRY BIKERS** The down-to-earth and fun-loving culinary experts present an evening of world-inspired cooking, stories and hearty laughs, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct, Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire

**DEATH OF A BEAUTY SALESWOMAN** A brand new one-woman comedy written and performed by Debbie Tracey, Sat 13 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**AN AUDIENCE WITH CHARLES DICKENS** A virtuoso performance of the greatest scenes from some of Dickens' best stories, performed by the author's great, great grandson Gerald Dickens, Sat 13 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**CHRIS & PUI** Brand new show for children, packed with songs, games and a few surprises... Sat 13 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**POETRY IN MOTION** Book launch from ex-University Law Graduate Maurice Malcolm and selected special guests, Sat 13 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**HIJACKED FAIRY TALES** Olio Hub presents a fusion of singing, dancing and drama, performed by children aged three to sixteen, Sat 13 Oct, Darlston Town Hall, Nr Walsall  
**HOLY & HORNY** Tonya Joy Bolton's empowering and deeply moving play about a Black



**Birmingham  
COMEDY  
Festival**

Mon 8 October, 8pm, £10  
**PATRICK MONAHAN**

Tue 9 October, 8pm, £10  
**FOGHORN IMPROV**

Wed 10 October, 8pm, £10  
**KEVIN PRECIOUS:  
NOT APPROPRIATE**

Thu 11 October, 8pm, £10  
**SCOTTISH FALSETTO  
SOCK PUPPET THEATRE**

Fri 12 October, 8pm, £11  
**SEXTON BLAKE  
STRIKES BACK**

Sat 13 October, 8pm, £10  
**BORIS NICOLI  
HAMMERED & TICKLED**

Wed 17 October, 8pm  
**REBECCA SCHWARZ:  
BUT FOR THE LACK OF  
HINDSIGHT**  
Have you ever looked back at  
moments in your life and thought  
"oops"?

Thurs 18 October, 7.30pm &  
Fri 19 October, 2.30pm & 7.30pm  
**DYSMORTAL LIFE**  
A women's journey that reflects on  
the changing nature of relationships  
in the era of the internet. £10 / £8

Thurs 25 October, 6pm - 8.30pm  
**BE WILD  
A PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP**  
An inspiring workshop for adults to  
help you unleash your fearlessness  
as a performer. £15 / £12

Thurs 25 October, 8pm - 7.50pm  
**FOGHORN IMPROV:  
MOVIE MAKEOVER**  
See Foghorn Improv recycle your  
favorite film scenes creating tall  
tales to order. £7.50

Fri 26 October, 7.30pm &  
Sat 27 October, 2pm & 7.30pm  
**WILD**  
Join Teifi as she delves deep into the  
hidden recesses of her imagination,  
fighting off demons and journeying  
to unknown lands. £12 / £10

Wed 31 October, 7.00pm  
**FRIGHT BITES  
DINNER THEATRE**  
Combining delicious food with  
Victorian theatre, a terrifyingly  
good night out! £27.95

**Tel: 0121 200 0946  
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www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk  
or on-line at: www.oxboffice.com

**THE ROSES**

Live Film Take Part Contribute Exhibitions Festivals

**What's On October/November**



**Seckou Keita**  
Wed 3 Oct 7.30pm



**The Canterbury  
Tales**  
Tues 9 Oct 7.30pm



**The Tempest**  
Thurs 18 Oct 7.30pm



**Anna Karenina (12A)**  
Mon 29 Oct - Mon 5 Nov



**2 Deep**  
Fri 2 Nov 7.30pm



**Junk**  
Sat 3 Nov 7.30pm



**London Philharmonic  
Skiffle Orchestra**  
Thurs 8 Nov 7.30pm



**Dr. Faustus**  
Wed 14 Nov 7.30pm



**Box Office: 01684 295074**  
**www.rosestheatre.org**  
Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 5NX

**The Edge  
ARTS CENTRE**

Saturday 6th October

**COMEDY AT THE EDGE**  
**SIMON EVANS**

Friendly Fire  
8.00 p.m. £13/£12  
Age 16+

'Sizzlingly entertaining ...  
Beautifully crafted,  
devastatingly funny gags ...  
haughty contempt.'  
The Guardian



Sunday 7th October

**JAZZ AT THE EDGE**  
**FRED HERSCH** solo piano

8.00 p.m. £16/£14

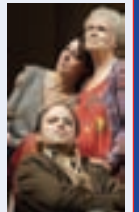
Hersch is one of the most  
highly praised and prolific  
pianists of his  
generation,  
renowned  
for his solo  
performances.



Thursday 11th October

**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE**  
**THE LAST OF THE  
HAUSSMANS**

A new play by  
Stephen Beresford  
7.00 p.m. £11/£10  
(Friends of The Edge)  
Running time: approx.  
3 hours including host  
introduction and one  
20-minute intermission.  
Starring Julie Walters.



Friday 12th October

**MORE MUSIC AT THE EDGE**  
**THE OLD DANCE SCHOOL**

8.00 p.m. £11/£10



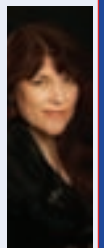
"Classical quality, jazz imagination, folk  
sensitivity, rock/roots energy... Masterful."  
The Scotsman

Saturday 20th October

**JAZZ AT THE EDGE**  
**CHRISTINE TOBIN**

Sailing to Byzantium  
8.00 p.m. £13/£11

Christine Tobin vocal,  
composition, arrangements:  
Kate Shortt cello  
Liam Noble piano,  
Phil Robson guitar  
Dave Whitford double bass  
Presented in association with  
Wenlock Poetry Festival



Saturday 27th October

**COMEDY AT THE EDGE**  
**SEANN WALSH**

8.00 p.m. £13/£12 15+

"to describe his act,  
however, cannot  
do justice to the  
energy being sweated  
out on stage...hysterical,  
Walsh is well on his  
way to becoming a  
star attraction"  
(The Independent)



Much Wenlock Shropshire TF13 6NB  
**01952 728911**  
**www.edgeartscentre.co.uk**  
**www.wegotickets.com**



# Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

woman's struggle to remain holy, Sat 13 Oct, mac, Birmingham  
**NT LIVE: THE LAST OF THE HAUSSMANS** Beamed direct from the National Theatre in London, The Last Of The Haussmans is the latest in the NT Live Series. Julie Walters, Rory Kinnear and Helen McCrory star, Sun 14 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**Week Commencing  
MON 15 OCT**

**GORDON SMITH: BEYOND BELIEF** An evening of mediumship, Mon 15 Oct, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton  
**AN AUDIENCE WITH SALLY MORGAN** Mon 15 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham  
**HAUNTING JULIA** Duncan Preston stars in a new production of Alan Ayckbourn's study of grief, obsession and the supernatural, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Oct, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**CALENDAR GIRLS** Lesley Joseph, Sue Holderness, Ruth Madoc, Kathryn Rooney, Camilla Dallerup, Helen Fraser, Deena Payne and Kacey Ainsworth star in Tim Firth's drama, based on an uplifting and inspiring true story, Mon 15 - Sat 20 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF MUSIC HALL & VARIETY A** brand new variety show for all ages, starring magician and ventriloquist Ward Allen & singing star Lydia Griffiths from the West End's Les Misérables, Tue 16 Oct, Dudley Concert Hall  
**FAMOUS FIVE** Red Earth Theatre present a play concerning five characters, five stories and five overlapping lives, Tues 16 - Wed 17 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**PARIS** CGL Arts Theatre School present an original musical adventure featuring young talent, Tue 16 - Wed 17 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** Middle Ground Theatre Company presents Oscar Wilde's comedy about mistaken identity, Tue 16 - Sat 20 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**THE PRODUCERS** Amateur production presented by WODS, Tue 16 - Sat 20 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR** Alan Ayckbourn's award-winning '70s classic, Tue 16 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme  
**AN EVENING WITH MARK**

**BEAUMONT** The adventurer, documentary-maker and author talks about each of his four major expeditions, with film clips and photography from around the world, Wed 17 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**AN AUDIENCE WITH PAM AYRES** Wed 17 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**FASCINATING AIDA** Acclaimed comic theatre trio made up of Dillie Keane, Liza Pulman & Adele Anderson, Wed 17 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**EVENING WITH COLIN FRY** An evening of psychic communication and clairvoyance, Wed 17 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**SPIRIT TOUR WITH SEAN ROPER** Evening of psychic entertainment, Wed 17 Oct, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham  
**MASTER JUBA FITTINGS** Multimedia Arts present a visceral performance that recounts the tale of William Henry Lane - the man who invented tap dancing, Wed 17 - Fri 19 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE EXAM** Encore! Senior Drama Group present Andy Hamilton's humorous look at the lives of three teenagers about to sit their GCSE exams, Thurs 18 Oct, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire  
**BEATING BERLUSCONI** Play by John Graham Davies which is based on the true story of a Liverpool fan who ended up sitting next to Silvio Berlusconi at the Attaturk Stadium, Thurs 18 Oct, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**THE EGG** Cahoots present an enchanting story for children, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Oct, Birmingham Library Theatre

**GUYS AND DOLLS** Amateur production presented by The Norbury Players, Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Oct, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich  
**OKLAHOMA** Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company present their version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, Thurs 18 - Sat 27 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster  
**SURPRISES** World premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's latest comedy drama, described as a play with its head in the future and its heart in the past, Thurs 18 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

**EAT!** Research carried out by The Rep and Black Country Touring forms the basis for this new piece of drama about what, when and how we eat - and why

it matters, Thurs 18 - Sat 27 Oct, The Roundhouse, Birmingham

**FUNNY BONES** Children's theatre featuring three skeletons, spooky houses, dancing clocks and dinosaurs, Fri 19 Oct, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY** Award-winning entertainment show offering a unique mixture of '50s, '60s & '70s rock'n'roll, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**LORD ARTHUR SAVILLE'S CRIME** Theatre 28 present their version of Oscar Wilde's short story, Fri 19 - Sat 20 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex  
**HAUNTED DICKENS** Join Jonathan Collings as he journeys through the moonlit highways and byways of Dickensian England, Sat 20 Oct, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

**MOONLADDER** RedDress Theatre present a magical, intimate and lyrical journey of self-discovery and imagination, Sat 20 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**RAPUNZEL** Tutti Frutti Theatre Company celebrates its twenty-first birthday with a playful new production of Rapunzel, Sat 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**DEATH OF A BEAUTY SALESWOMAN** One-woman comedy written and performed by Debbie Tracey, Sat 20 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**TWEEDY'S LOST PROPERTY** Children's comedy about a clown who decides to get a real job in a lost property office, Sat 20 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**FAMOUS FIVE** Red Earth Theatre present a play concerning five characters, five stories and five overlapping lives, Sat 20 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**THE SEA SHOW** Meet Morwenna the mermaid, Ruan the reformed seagull and salty seadog Captain Pemburthy in a tale for children which also features mischievous sea-squirrels, crabs and pilchards, Sat 20 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa  
**THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS** William Inge's award-winning play, set in Oklahoma in the early 1920s, 20 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**Week Commencing  
MON 22 OCT**

**BLOOD BROTHERS** Marti Pel-low and Niki Evans star in Willy Russell's award-winning musical, set in his native Liverpool, Mon 22 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN** Blackeyed Theatre present Lee Hall's translation of Bertolt Brecht's twentieth century masterpiece, Mon 22 -

Wed 24 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
**DRY ROT** Physical comedy featuring an all-star cast including Liza Goddard, Susan Penhaligon, Gareth Hale & Norman Pace, Neil Stacy & Derren Nesbitt, Mon 22 - Sat 27 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry  
**DREAMBOATS AND PETTICOATS THE MUSICAL** Featuring songs from Roy Orbison, The Shadows, Eddie Cochran, Billy Fury, Chuck Berry and many more, Mon 22 - Sat 27 Oct, Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE HANDYMAN** Timothy West, Caroline Langrishe & Adrian Lukis star in Ronald Harwood's award-winning story about law, justice and revenge, Mon 22 - Sat 27 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE WITH TONY STOCKWELL** Tue 23 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON IN JURASSIC BARK** Tue 23 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove  
**RICHARD III** The Lichfield Players present an amateur production of Shakespeare's political thriller, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**CAROUSEL** Lichfield Operatic Society present their version of the timeless family classic, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Lichfield Garrick  
**STEPTOE & SON** Kneehigh Theatre present an adaptation of legendary scripts by Ray Galton & Alan Simpson, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE** STAC present their version of Joe Orton's controversial black comedy, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, The Swan Theatre, Worcester  
**BLUE/ORANGE** Theatre Royal Productions present their version of Joe Penhall's multi-award-winning play. Robert Bathurst, Gerard McCarthy & Oliver Wilson star, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**GUYS AND DOLLS** Amateur production presented by The Norbury Players, Tues 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Norbury Theatre, Droitwich  
**THE SOUND OF MUSIC** Amateur production presented by Spa Opera, Tue 23 - Sat 27 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**PAUL ZERDIN - PUPPET MASTER** Wed 24 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch  
**OH WHISTLE...! TWO GHOST STORIES BY M R JAMES** Robert Lloyd Parry performs two of MR James' classic spine-chillers, set on the Suffolk coast, Wed 24 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**CALAMITY JANE** Amateur production presented by TADLOP, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire  
**MACBETH** Presented by Worcester Repertory Company, Wed 24 - Sat 27 Oct, Worcester Cathedral



CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY

**80'S MANIA**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

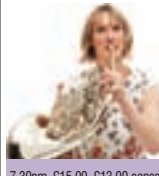
Sat 6 Oct

Europe's Official 1980's Tribute Concert featuring the legendary DJ/Presenter Mike Read on screen as your Video Roadshow Host. 25 chart topping pop icons authentically recreated with live band and awesome dancers.



7.30pm, £18.50, £17.00 concs

**MOZART HORN CONCERTO**  
MANCHESTER CAMERATA



7.30pm, £15.00, £13.00 concs

Wed 17 Oct

For the opening concert of the season, Camerata's principal horn player, Naomi Atherton, takes centre stage to perform one of Mozart's favourite concertos, his Horn Concerto no.4.

**THAT'LL BE THE DAY**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Fri 19 & Sat 20 Oct

Prepare yourself for a party as the legendary That'll Be The Day, the nation's favourite rock 'n' roll variety show returns by popular demand. That'll Be The Day is living proof that Rock 'n' Roll will never die!



7.30pm, £22.00

**JOE BROWN**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE



7.30pm, £25.00, £22.00 concs

Wed 24 Oct

Packed with timeless classics, rockabilly, gospel, country, folk, and rock 'n' roll, all interwoven with Joe's effervescent delivery and humorous reminiscences this sensational show is a musical journey not to be missed.

**DANNY BHOY**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Fri 26 Oct

This is a loosely-based stand up/breakdown show which revolves around a handful of letters Danny penned out of frustration, with mixed results. It's a show about those little annoyances.



8.00pm, £15.00

**FAGINS LAST HOUR**  
GATEHOUSE THEATRE



7.30pm, £12.00, £10.00 concs

**Fri 26 & Sat 27 Oct**  
Charles Dickens' classic tale of crime and punishment is stunningly reimagined in this new stage adaptation. Told from the point of view of Fagin, this unique one-man show offers a fresh insight into literature's most controversial villain.

**BOOKONLINE**   
**Box Office 01785 254653**  
[www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)





**Jyotsna Srikanth - Interlaced** Tues 2 Oct  
**Wonderful Day - Doris Day Tribute** Fri 5 Oct  
**Jamaica 50** A celebration drama Tues 9 Oct  
**The Bay City Rollers Story** Wed 10 Oct  
**Henry Blofeld Shaken, Not Stirred** Thur 11 Oct  
**Death of a Beauty Saleswoman** Sat 13 Oct  
**An Evening of Dirty Dancing** 26 & 27 Oct  
**An Evening with Boycie** Thurs 1 Nov

Traditional Pantomime Fun  
**Dick Whittington**  
**ON SALE!**  
 Friday 14th December  
 or  
 Sunday 13th January 2013  
**Tickets £11 - £17.50**

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# The MERCHANT of VENICE



Shakespeare's most controversial play.  
 One of his most human.

Stripped down, and brought to life in a boldly  
 imaginative promenade experience that focuses on  
 the play's language, and conflicts.

Is there hope for a better world?

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 events for schools, please visit FRED's web site:

fred-theatre.co.uk



9-13 October, 2012 at 7.30pm, matinees 10,12,13 at 2pm  
 @A.E.Harris, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
 £12.60 (£8.40 concessions and groups)  
 Box office: 0121 643 5858

# SHOWS FOR OCTOBER

Tues 2nd October, 7.30pm. £9, £7 conc.

**Seconds Out**  
 "You never forget  
 your first fight."  
 And you shouldn't either."  
 After an evening with the wife of  
 nutcase Mad Mark Flynn,  
 Sy is starting to worry about Tom.  
 He needs to get out of town. And then  
 he meets Foster, a former boxer.  
 Foster takes Tom under his wing.  
 But is there more to his interest than  
 meets the eye?

9th Oct 7.30pm, 10th Oct, 1.30pm,  
 7.30pm. £10, £8 (£5 matinee)

**Dr Jekyll and  
 Mr Hyde**  
 Love, betrayal and murder combine in  
 a classic Adaptation. Henry Jekyll is close  
 to a discovery that will change medical  
 science forever but his methods are less  
 than ethical. When a close friend threat-  
 ens his work, Jekyll is forced to experi-  
 ment on himself and something goes  
 very wrong. Or very right.

Thurs 11th Oct 7.30pm, Fri 12th Oct 8pm.  
 £10, £8 conc.

**The Good Person  
 of Sezuan**  
 Brecht's classic comedy - Updated  
 and set in Jamaica!  
 This acclaimed production returns to the  
 Arena, following sell-out performances in  
 2010. Rhema's neighbours and friends are  
 worried. What has happened to her? Why  
 has she disappeared?  
 Maybe her cousin's trial will explain all ...

Mon 22nd & Tue 23rd Oct 7.30pm,  
 Wed 24th Oct 1.30pm & 7.30pm £10, £8 conc.

**Mother Courage  
 and her children**  
 Two ideologies in a conflict that stretches  
 across a continent threatening world power.  
 One woman sees an opportunity to survive,  
 a way to profit from the slaughter by selling  
 goods to both. The time is about to come  
 when, in her quest for material gain,  
 she must make the ultimate sacrifice.

JOIN US FOR  
**SPOOKTACULAR HALF-TERM FUN**

Step into our spooky lab as  
 you create gloopy lava  
 lamps, construct 'screaming'  
 balloons, make fakeblood,  
 discover bulging brains, spin  
 edible spiders webs and  
 even blow up pumpkins!

**HALLOWEEN  
 SHOW** Friday 2nd Nov, 12pm  
 Tickets £5 per person

**DAILY WORKSHOPS** Monday 29th October -  
 Friday 2nd November,  
 8.30am - 4.30pm

All Children's workshop  
 sessions are fully supervised.  
 Refreshments are provided, please  
 ensure children bring a packed lunch.  
 Every day is different!  
 Suitable for ages 4-12



**Tickets: £19/day (discounts for extra children!)**

**ARENA THEATRE**

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 www.arena.wlv.ac.uk



# Theatre LISTINGS

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## DISNEY ON ICE: PASS-PORT TO ADVENTURE

Join Mickey and Minnie as they embark on a magical journey that will see the popular duo - together with many of their Disney friends - visit an array of exciting destinations, Wed 24 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

**MIDDAY VARIETY** Featuring Matt Ford and the Fast Lane Orchestra, Thurs 25 Oct, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**HOW TO CATCH A STAR** Family theatre based on the bestselling children's book by award-winning author Oliver Jeffers, Thurs 25 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**SECONDS OUT** Reform Theatre present the world premiere of Nick Lane's new play, partly inspired by true events, Thurs 25 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**HOLY & HORNY** Tonya Joy Bolton's empowering and deeply moving play about a Black woman's struggle to remain holy, Thurs 25 Oct, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

**THE FROG WHO COULDN'T HOP** Storytelling, physical theatre, live music and puppetry come together in this tale of a mischievous frog who does the opposite to what he's asked, Thurs 25 Oct, The Public, West Bromwich

**DUET FOR ONE** Tom Kempinski's multi-award-winning play returns to the stage as part of a major UK tour. Haydn Gwynne (Drop The Dead Donkey/Peak Practice) and William Gaunt star, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Oct, Crewe Lyceum

**CALENDAR GIRLS** The Wellington Theatre Company present an amateur production of Tim Firth's acclaimed drama, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 Oct, The Belfrey, Wellington, Shropshire

**DRACULA** Blue Orange Arts present their version of the Bram Stoker classic, Thurs 25 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** Anita Dobson makes her RSC debut in Phillip Breen's version of Shakespeare's comedy, Thurs 25 Oct - Sat 12 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE STATIC** ThickSkin Theatre present a coming-of-age story about

desire, guilt, and mind over matter, Fri 26 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT** An evening of verse & stories to rouse the spirits, Fri 26 Oct, Walsall Leather Museum

**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING** A tribute show featuring great songs and memorable dancing, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**FAGIN'S LAST HOUR** Charles Dickens' classic tale of crime and punishment is re-imagined in this powerful new stage adaptation, told from the point of view of Fagin the Miser, one hour before his execution, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**GRISLY TALES FROM TUMBLEWATER** Dickens meets Roald Dahl via Horrible Histories, with laughs, frights and live music, Sun 28 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE** Tall Stories present their latest collaboration with Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Sun 28 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**BORGES AND I** Exploration of the life of surrealist writer Jorge Luis Borges, Mon 29 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**AN EVENING WITH SIR CHRIS BONINGTON** One of the most successful exhibition leaders talks about sixty years of mountaineering, including nineteen Himalayan experiences and tackling ranges throughout the world, Mon 29 Oct, Birmingham Town Hall

**TOP OF THE POPS LIVE** A nostalgic interactive jukebox celebrating the greatest hits by the biggest stars in the world of pop from the '70s, '80s and '90s, Tues 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

**HAUNTING JULIA** Duncan Preston stars in a new production of Alan Ayckbourn's study of grief, obsession and the supernatural, Mon 29 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Malvern Theatres

**SOUL SISTER** Brand new musical inspired by the life and times of Ike and Tina Turner, Mon 29 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

**WOUNDED** Site-specific

**WOUNDED** Site-specific

**WOUNDED** Site-specific

**WOUNDED** Site-specific



Dreamboats And Petticoats - Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

new play that promises to provide audiences with an authentic experience of wartime care and history, Mon 29 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, TA Centre, Birmingham

**GHOSTS TOUCH** Rumpus Theatre present a new play by John Goodrum, Tues 30 Oct, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

**HOW THE LION BECAME THE KING OF TINGA TINGA LAND** A cheeky monkey, kindly giraffe, wise bird, groovy zebra, and proud lion compete in this children's show, fusing singing, dancing, storytelling and painting, Tue 30 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**TOTAL FOOTBALL** Ridiculusmus present David Woods and Jon Hayes' exploration of our cultural identity, as told through the lens of our most popular sport, Tue 30 - Wed 31 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG TWICE** Ian Dickens Productions present Ron Aldridge's touching comedy, Melvyn Hayes (It Ain't Half Hot Mum) stars, Tue 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Crewe Lyceum

**A NIGHT IN VENICE** Tinkers Farm present a new production that, set in modern-day Italy, satirizes the Berlusconi regime and includes clandestine relationships, mistaken identities, seduction and scandal, Tue 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

**TREASURE ISLAND** The Derek Grant Organisation present a show with plenty of comedy and music, colourful costumes and a strong storyline, Tue 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Lichfield Garrick

**42ND STREET** Tony award-winning musical. Dave Willetts, Marti Webb and Mark Bramble star, Tue 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

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**MILKSHAKE! LIVE** Featuring presenters and characters from the hit Channel Five programme, including Noddy, Fifi, Roary, Mr Men & Bananas In Pyjamas, Wed 31 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**SING-A-LONG-A-ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** Fancy dress is not obligatory but highly recommended!, Wed 31 Oct, Palace Theatre, Redditch

**RING** Fuel present a

sound journey in complete darkness that forms part of a brand new commissioning and artist development programme at Warwick Arts, Wed 31 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**HAIRY BIKERS** The down-to-earth and fun-loving culinary experts present an evening of world-inspired cooking, stories and hearty laughs, Wed 31 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington

**HAIRY BIKERS** The down-to-earth and fun-loving culinary experts present an evening of world-inspired cooking, stories and hearty laughs, Wed 31 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington

Spa **BOUNCERS** John Godber's classic comedy, Wed 31 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

**DON GIOVANNI** Performed by Mid Wales Opera, Wed 31 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**BEST OF BE FESTIVAL** A triple-bill of award-winning theatre from across the globe, Wed 31 Oct, The Public, West Bromwich

Freeradio  
Worcestershire COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

## Friday 26th Oct

**Tim Clark**  
"An unsung hero of stand-up comedy - the current master of this under-rated art"

**Chris Stokes**  
"Genius... Cheeky-achingly funny"

**Noel James**  
"Liberates the funatic side of our personalities-brilliantly"

**Mc-Tony Vino**






## Friday 30th Nov

**Paul Kerensa**  
"attitude, style and diamond-sharp wit"

**Craig Murray**  
"An instant crowd pleaser with a charismatic mock-confrontational style"

**Ro Campbell**  
"Hugely entertaining and funny as hell"

**Mc-Tony Vino**






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Over 18's Admitted  
Aids are not guaranteed  
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# CREWE LYCEUM

Cheshire's Edwardian Theatre

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT

## October 2012

Mon 1st - Wed 3rd October, 7.30pm.  
Wed Mat 2.30pm

### DANGEROUS OBSESSION

Tickets from £12 - £18.00 



Fri 5th October, 7.30pm  
**STAN BOARDMAN'S  
BIG VARIETY SHOW**

Tickets from £18.00



Mon 15th October, 7.30pm  
**THE SEARCHERS**

Tickets from £18.50



Wed 17th October, 7.30pm  
Russian State Ballet present  
**SWAN LAKE**

Tickets from £22.00 



Thurs 25th - Sat 27th October, 7.30pm  
Sat Mat 2.30pm

### DUET FOR ONE

Tickets from £14.00 - £18.50



Tues 30th Oct - Sat 3rd Nov, 7.30pm  
Sat Mat 2.30pm

### YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG TWICE

Tickets from £12.00 - £18.50 



## November 2012

Sun 4th November, 7.30pm

### THE BIG BAND

Tickets from £16.00 



Wed 7th November, 8.00pm

### CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS

Tickets from £17.00 / £19.00 / £21.00



Fri 9th November, 7.30pm

### ONE NIGHT IN VEGAS

Tickets from £16.50 / £17.50 



This Years Spectacular Family Pantomime

# Cinderella

BOOK NOW!

Fri 30th Nov - Mon 31st Dec 2012

TOP TICKETS £14.00

The Blue Orange Theatre presents

# Misery

by Stephen King  
Adapted by Simon Moore

2012 Tour

8th November - 10th November 7.45pm (3.00pm Mat)  
Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham - 0121 2122643

12th November Theatr Colwyn, Colwyn Bay  
14th November Sawthorne Theatre, Welwyn  
15th November Stafford Gatehouse Theatre  
14th November Lights Theatre, Andover  
17th November Belton Reading Room, Northants  
18th November North Hall, Leamington  
23rd November The Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton  
24th November Spaxton Playhouse Theatre  
28th November Kings Lynn Arts Centre  
29th November Bierkeller, Bristol  
30th November Theatre Truro Burrell  
2nd December The Hawth, Crawley

www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk

## BROMSGROVE'S THEATRE, CINEMA, LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY VENUE

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Wed 10th October  
**KARINE POLWART**  
AWARD WINNING SCOTTISH  
SINGER-SONGWRITER



Fri 12th October  
**FAGIN'S LAST HOUR**  
POWERFUL ONE-MAN  
VERSION OF THE DICKENS  
CLASSIC



Sat 13th October  
**ANDI OSHO**  
HUGELY POPULAR  
STAND-UP COMEDIAN



Saturday 20th October  
**BIRMINGHAM  
CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA**  
WITH VIOLINIST  
ALEXANDRA WOOD



Sun 21st October  
**MUGENKYO TAIKO  
DRUMMERS**  
THUNDERING RHYTHMS &  
PERCUSSIVE SOUNDSCAPES



Tues 23rd October  
**PIFF THE MAGIC  
DRAGON**  
"STUNNINGLY GOOD  
MAGICIAN" - ALSO  
STARRING MR PIFFLES




FORTHCOMING CINEMA: Take This Waltz (15) // Sing Your Song (12A) // Marley (15) // The Wedding Video (15) // Anna Karenina (12A) // Brave (PG)



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# Theatre REVIEWS

Here are a few of the theatre productions we reviewed from last month. For further theatre reviews, visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Forests

Old Rep, Birmingham

The star of this production is the leafless potted plant tree that holds centre-stage. The white box set is intriguing. Those who saw Calixto Bieito's Hamlet for Birmingham Rep expect to be astounded - and we are. Various passages from many of Shakespeare's plays have been put together to form one script. There's a mix of English and Catalan - Catalunya is an area with a history of translating Shakespeare. This script is subtitled, and for the first fifty minutes of the production, my mind was trying to remember which play each extract came from.

After a slow opening, the action becomes dirty. Literally dirty, courtesy of a serious amount of top soil from around the roots of the tree. The uncompromising and abusive nature of this interpretation of wonderful language shifts a gear. When Katy Stephen steals Titania's words from A Midsummer's Night's Dream, I longed for the original play. And this is the problem with Forests; there's no strong narrative driving the drama on. Instead of a coherent story, we have bite-sized morsels of fiction - and the potential of a talented cast failing to be fully realised.

Unfortunately, this is not innovative theatre.

Jan Watts ■■■■■



## Legally Blonde

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

Okay, so I must have been the only person on the planet not to have seen Legally Blonde the movie, but on our way to the Alexandra Theatre, I was assured by my companion that the stage version would be 'a hoot and a giggle'.

On arrival, the opening-night atmosphere was really buzzing, so I was certainly looking forward to having a good time - and disappoint it did not.

The musical starts off in a sorority house with a big song-and-dance number, and the fun just spirals from there. Each song was bolder than the last, with some exceptional dance sequences in the prison and courtroom scenes. These top numbers were perfectly punctuated by some wonderful performances from the actors, and I was particularly surprised by how well Gareth Gates came across as the arrogant yet smooth Warner.

All in all, a great night out with the girlies. And do take note, ladies - this is most definitely a show to attend with your best pals rather than your boyfriend or hubby. There were plenty of dragged-along husbands in evidence on the night, desperately clinging to the final shreds of their masculinity as this all-singing, all-dancing pink masquerade was paraded in front of them. It will no doubt take a full weekend of wall-to-wall action movies and football matches to offset the effects of such an emasculating experience! Parv Gandham ■■■■■



## Fragile

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

Containing strong language and themes of an adult nature, Fragile comprises a series of monologues charting one man's dramatic journey through the horrors of traumatic abuse to a place of self-discovery and ultimate redemption. The play is the work of BAFTA Award-winning Coventry writer Geoff Thompson, and makes for a disturbing, disquieting and altogether challenging evening of theatre. Indeed, its intensity is such that you're left somewhat relieved that its running time barely touches seventy-five minutes. By curtain-down, you're ready for a release from the experience of watching the play's one and only character reliving the appalling event that so emotionally scarred him at the hugely vulnerable age of eleven.

That said, while you've had enough of the trauma, it's hard to leave behind you the experience of watching Craig Conway's immensely engaging performance. Seventy-five minutes in the company of this talented actor really isn't enough.

Playwright Thompson should be proud of this work - Fragile is a profoundly affecting piece of theatre, presented in an era when so many theatre productions have so relatively little to say. Sally Compton ■■■■■

## Theatre Box Office

### Birmingham

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0844 871 3011  
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0844 338 5000  
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THE DRUM 0121 333 2444  
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NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE  
01902 572090

OLDBURY REP, OLDBURY  
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THE PUBLIC, WEST BROMWICH  
0121 533 7161

### Shropshire

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THE EDGE, MUCH WENLOCK  
01952 728911  
THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY  
01743 234970  
LUDLOW ASSEMBLY  
ROOMS 01584 878141  
THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD  
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01743 281281  
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CENTRE, CANNOCK  
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BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY  
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THE DREAM FACTORY  
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HUNTINGDON HALL, WORCESTER  
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MALVERN THEATRE  
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NORBURY THEATRE, DROITWICH  
01905 770154  
PALACE THEATRE  
REDDITCH 01527 65203  
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01562 743745  
SWAN THEATRE,  
WORCESTER 01905 611427



# What's on...



Tue 16th October  
**MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS**  
7.30pm. Tickets £18.50 / £16 concs



Wed 17th October  
**AN EVENING WITH MARK BEAUMONT**  
7.30pm. Tickets £14, / £12 concs



Thu 18th October  
**ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE**  
7.30pm. Tickets £17 / £15 concs



Wed 24th - Sat 27th October  
**TADLOP PRESENTS CALAMITY JANE**  
7.30pm. Sat Mat 2.30pm  
Tickets £10 - £14



Wed 31 October  
**LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB**  
HEADLINE TOM WRIGGLESWORTH  
8pm. Tickets £10 adv, £12 otd



Fri 2nd November  
**A WHOLE LOTTA LED**  
7.30pm. Tickets £13

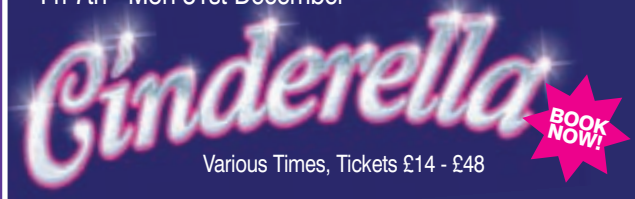


Sat 10 November  
**JUNK**  
7.30pm, Tickets £19, £17 concs



Thu 15 November  
**PAUL CHOWDHRY (16+)**  
**WHAT'S HAPPENING WHITE PEOPLE?**  
8pm. Tickets £12, £10 concs

Fri 7th - Mon 31st December



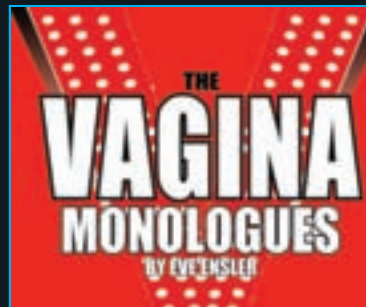
Various Times, Tickets £14 - £48

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## COMING SOON TO THEATRE SEVERN

MONDAY 8 OCTOBER



Eve Ensler's hilarious Broadway and West End smash hit is back with an all new, all star cast featuring:  
CLARE BUCKFIELD  
VICKY ENTWISTLE  
and CHELSEA HEALEY

'Liberated, full-frontal honesty and good-humour'  
Manchester Evening News

TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER

### DANNY BHOY... DEAR EPSON

A few years back, I launched a campaign (wrote some letters) which successfully saw the return of Roast Beef Monster Munch to our supermarket shelves. You're welcome.

'Like a stand up equivalent of Bill Bryson. Charming and effortlessly funny.' The Age



SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER



### THE CHRISTIANS

The outstanding, soul-influenced group who had hits in the late 80s and 90s

"One of the best voices of the decade" Mirror

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

### TIM KEY

WINNER: CHORLE AWARDS  
BEST SHOW 2012

"This is sublime, busy and evocative work from a man who keeps getting better and better." The List

"Once you have seen this show, ordinary stand-up will seem disappointingly bland." Observer



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## RSC production enters the record books

Matilda The Musical has been inducted into the Guinness Book Of World Records, having this year bagged a staggering nine Olivier Awards - the greatest number ever given to a single production in a single year. Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's stage adaptation of Roald Dahl's much-loved story took the world record from another RSC production, the 1980 version of Nicholas Nickleby, which won six Oliviers.



## Reprive for Blood Brothers

The West End run of Willy Russell's classic and much-loved musical Blood Brothers has been extended by another two weeks. Bill Kenwright's production will now close at the Phoenix Theatre on Sat 20 November, following a twenty-four-year run in the capital city. The touring production of the show will continue to be performed throughout the UK, and stops off at the Birmingham Hippodrome this month. A spokesperson for Bill Kenwright said: "This is the end of a chapter, but by no means the end of Blood Brothers."



## One Singular Sensation as A Chorus Line heads for the West End

A revival of one of Broadway's longest-running shows heads to the West End next year. Michael Bennett's seminal production of A Chorus Line will enjoy a limited run at the London Palladium from 2 February to 29 June. Featuring the classic number One (Singular Sensation), the much-anticipated

musical will be directed by West End and Broadway veteran Bob Avian. Avian was Bennett's collaborator and co-choreographer on the original production, which won no fewer than nine Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for drama after opening on Broadway in 1975.

## WEST END LISTINGS:

### MUSICALS

**AMERICAN IDIOT** Hammersmith Apollo Theatre, 3 - 16 Dec 2012  
**BILLY ELLIOT - THE MUSICAL** Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 21 Dec 2013  
**BLOOD BROTHERS** Phoenix Theatre booking until 10 Nov 2012  
**BODYGUARD** Adelphi Theatre 6 Nov 2012 - 27 Apr 2013  
**CABARET** Savoy Theatre 8 Oct 2012 - 19 Jan 2013  
**CHICAGO** Garrick Theatre booking until 1 Sept 2012  
**GHOST THE MUSICAL** Apollo Theatre, booking until 6 Oct 2012  
**IDINA MENZEL IN CONCERT** Piccadilly Theatre, booking 8 Oct 2012 - 14 Oct 2012  
**JERSEY BOYS** Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 17 Feb 2013  
**KISS ME KATE** Old Vic Theatre, 20 Nov 2012 - 2 Mar 2013  
**LES MISÉRABLES** Queen's Theatre booking until 27 Apr 2013  
**LET IT BE** Prince Of Wales Theatre, booking until 19 Jan 2013

**LION KING** Lyceum Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2013  
**MAMMA MIA!** Novello Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013  
**MATILDA THE MUSICAL** Cambridge Theatre, booking until 22 Dec 2013  
**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Her Majesty's Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013  
**ROCK OF AGES** Shaftesbury Theatre, booking until 17 Feb 2013  
**ROOM ON THE BROOM** Lyric Theatre, 21 Nov 2012 - 13 Jan 2013  
**SCROOGE THE MUSICAL** London Palladium Theatre, 24 Oct 2012 - 5 Jan 2013  
**SHREK THE MUSICAL** Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 24 Feb 2013  
**SINGIN' IN THE RAIN** Palace Theatre, booking until 31 Aug 2013  
**STOMP** Ambassadors Theatre, booking until 22 Dec 2013  
**THRILLER LIVE** Lyric Theatre, booking until 3 Mar 2013  
**TOP HAT** Aldwych Theatre, booking until 28 Apr 2013

**VIVA FOREVER!** Piccadilly Theatre, 27 Nov 2012 - 1 June 2013

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** Dominion Theatre, booking until 23 Mar 2013

**WICKED** Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 27 Apr 2013

### DRAMA

**BERENICE** Donmar Warehouse, booking until 24 Nov 2012  
**CHANGELING** Young Vic Theatre, 20 Nov 2012 - 15 Dec 2012  
**CHARIOTS OF FIRE** Gielgud Theatre, booking until 10 Nov 2012  
**CONSTELLATIONS** Duke Of York Theatre, 9 Nov 2012 - 5 Jan 2013  
**CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME** Cottesloe National Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012  
**DAMNED BY DESPAIR** Olivier National Theatre, booking until 17 Dec 2012  
**GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM** Phoenix Theatre, 22 Nov 2012 - 26 Jan 2013  
**HEDDA GABLER** Old Vic Theatre, booking until 10 Nov 2012  
**JUMPY** Duke Of York's Theatre, booking until 3 Nov 2012

### COMEDY

**39 STEPS** Criterion Theatre, booking until 30 Mar 2013  
**CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL** Harold Pinter Theatre, booking until 5 Jan 2013  
**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS** Haymarket Theatre Royal, booking until 12 Jan 2013

**PRIVATES ON PARADE** Noel Coward Theatre, 1 Dec 2012 - 2 Mar 2013  
**PAUL MERTON: OUT OF MY HEAD** Vaudeville Theatre Royal, booking until 20 Oct 2012  
**TWELFTH NIGHT** Apollo Theatre, 2 Nov 2012 - 3 Feb 2013  
**YES, PRIME MINISTER** Trafalgar Studios, booking until 12 Jan 2013



Let It Be, Prince Of Wales Theatre



# Dance



## **Vigour** mac, Birmingham, Fri 5 October; Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 26 October

Headed up by Keisha Grant - one of the country's most talented young choreographers - Birmingham-based company Keneish Dance here presents the latest addition to its repertoire. Featuring an all-female cast, Vigour comprises three contemporary pieces which explore African cultures and experiences of womanhood, and makes use of a unique sculptural installation as a visual focus. Commenting on the new work, Keisha says: "Vigour has been created to ensure anyone interested in dance and the visual arts, or new to the performing arts, goes away feeling exhilarated."

## **Forgetting Natasha**

The Patrick Centre,  
Birmingham,  
Thurs 25 - Fri 26 October

Forming part of DanceXchange's autumn season, State Of Flux's Forgetting Natasha delves into the world of dementia via a fusion of dance, poetry and digital media.

The company's director, Heather Eddington, has joined forces with internationally acclaimed video artists KMAN to present what's been described as 'a touching and poetic' exploration of the notion of identity, as experienced through one woman's loss of her memory.



## **The Russian State Ballet And Opera Theatre**

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 - Sat 13 October; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Tues 16 Oct; Crewe Lyceum, Wed 17 October

Since it formed in 1958, the Russian State Ballet And Opera Theatre of Komi has received much international acclaim for its broad repertoire of both ballet and opera. Here, the ensemble bring together forty-five dancers and thirty musicians to present vibrant interpretations of two timeless Tchaikovsky ballets, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty.





## Swan Lake

Birmingham Hippodrome,  
Tues 2 - Sat 6 October

Thirty-one years after it premiered at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, Sir Peter Wright's acclaimed production of Swan Lake makes a welcome return to the home of Birmingham Royal Ballet for a limited run. The timeless tale of good versus evil is without doubt one of the most famous of all classical ballets, and a firm favourite in the BRB repertoire.



## Entity

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,  
Tues 16 - Wed 17 October

First premiered in 2008, Wayne McGregor's Entity has received much critical acclaim for being at the very cutting-edge of contemporary culture, with The Sunday Times calling it "a great sexy beast of a piece." Here performed by Random Dance - and set to a soundscape created by Coldplay and Massive Attack collaborator Jon Hopkins and award-winning composer Joby Talbot (The Divine Comedy) - Entity presents a staggering blend of bodies, lights, astounding technology and film, all brought together in an hour-long production which has been hailed for both breaking boundaries and defying categorisation.



## Dance LISTINGS

For full listing information on dance, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE** Tue 2 - Sat 6 Oct, Birmingham Hippodrome

**THERE IS HOPE** Rosie Kay Dance Company present an international cast in an exploration of faith, belief, ritual and the confines of claustrophobia, Wed 3 - Thurs 4 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

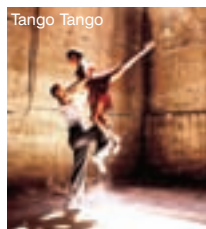
**COPPELIA** Vienna Festival Ballet present the much-acclaimed comic ballet, set to Delibes' beautiful score, Thurs 4 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre

**VIGOUR** Fri 5 Oct, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**GAMESHOW** Company Chameleon present a new work which focuses on desire, seduction and manipulation, Thurs 11 - Fri 12 Oct, The Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome

**SWAN LAKE** Presented by The Russian State Ballet, Fri 12 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**TANGO TANGO** Be transported to Buenos Aires with a fusion of music and dance, Fri 12 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury



**SLEEPING BEAUTY** The Russian State Ballet present a classic story of love, innocence & mystery, all set to Tchaikovsky's magical score, Sat 13 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**SWAN LAKE** Presented by The Russian State Ballet, Tue 16 Oct, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

**ENTITY** Tue 16 - Wed 17 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**SWAN LAKE** Presented By The Russian State Ballet, Wed 17 Oct, Crewe Lyceum

**THE TEMPEST** Ballet Cymru present a fresh adaptation of Shakespeare's tale, interpreted through classic ballet, Thurs 18 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Ballet Theatre UK present a new production that combines traditional ballet & captivating theatre with a glorious classical score, Sat 20 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**ONE NIGHT ONLY** The Viv Kelly Youth Theatre group join with the adult groups of the Viv Kelly School of Dance and Theatre to present a celebration of music and dance, Wed 24 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

**IMPRESSIVE INSTANT** Phoenix Dance Company present their annual showcase, incorporating fresh choreography, dynamic dance routines and the best of today's pop music, Thu 25 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**SHANE SHAMBHU: LEAVING ONLY A TRACE** A revealing story shared by many of dual-heritage in the UK, Thurs 25 Oct, mac, Birmingham

**FORGETTING NATASHA** Presented by State Of Flux, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Oct, The Patrick

Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**VIGOUR** Fri 26 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**BORN TO DANCE**

Presented by The Viv Kelly School of Dance, Sat 27 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**COPPELIA** Vienna Festival Ballet present the much-acclaimed comic ballet, set to Delibes' beautiful score, Sat 27 Oct, Artrix, Bromsgrove



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Ballet Theatre UK present a new production that combines traditional ballet & captivating theatre with a glorious classical score, Tue 30 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**DAVID HUGHES DANCE** Choreographer Kylie Walters coaxes seven testosterone-crazed men to live through an evening of debauchery and revelation, Wed 31 Oct, Malvern Theatres

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## Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (3D) CERT PG (93 mins)

Featuring the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer, Bryan Cranston, Jessica Chastain, Martin Short, Frances McDormand  
Directed by Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath, Conrad Vernon (USA)

Still struggling to find their way back to New York, the spirited lion, zebra, giraffe and hippo find themselves in France and join a travelling circus, which they more or less re-invent. In spite of the European setting, it's taken four months for the 'toon to reach these shores. In the interim, it's grossed \$215 million in the US and \$603 million worldwide. It's also received exceptionally glowing reviews, which is quite unusual for the sequel of a sequel. And it's in 3D.



## Skyfall CERT tbc

Starring Daniel Craig, Ralph Fiennes, Javier Bardem, Naomi Harris, Bérénice Marlohe, Helen McCrory, Judi Dench, Albert Finney, Rory Kinnear, Ben Whishaw Directed by Sam Mendes (UK/USA)

The name's Bond and you know the rest. Daniel Craig returns for his third outing as 007 and this time he's got an Oscar-winning director at the helm. Sam Mendes (American Beauty, Revolutionary Road) is a surprising choice for director but shows just how much the franchise has raised its bar. And the cast is to die for, particularly a peroxide-blond Javier Bardem (who won an Oscar for No Country For Old Men) as the villain. You should be able to cut the evil with a machete. Filmed in Shanghai, London, Scotland and Istanbul. Oh, and it's also showing in Imax.

## TOP 5

FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **Dredd** (18)
- 2 **Anna Karenina** (12a)
- 3 **Lawless** (18)
- 4 **That's My Boy** (15)
- 5 **Brave** (PG)





Released from Wed 3 Oct

### The Perks Of Being A Wallflower

CERT 12a (103 mins)

Starring Logan Lerman, Emma Watson, Ezra Miller, Mae Whitman, Paul Rudd, Dylan McDermott

Directed by Stephen Chbosky (USA)

Charlie is the wallflower of the title, an introverted Pittsburgh teenager. Based on the 1999 novel by Stephen Chbosky – which was written as a letter to an anonymous correspondent – the film explores such contemporary issues as shyness, suicide and drug use. Emma Watson plays Sam, a young woman who teaches Charlie a few things he didn't know...



The Perks Of Being A Wallflower



Sparkle

### Sinister

CERT 15 (110 mins)

Starring Ethan Hawke, Juliet Rylance, Vincent D'Onofrio, James Ransone

Directed by Scott Derrickson (USA)

Spooky more like. How many "found footage" movies and movies about suspect new houses can they release without breaching some fundamental law? Here, Ethan Hawke plays a writer (again) who moves into a new house and discovers that it harbours some horrible supernatural secret...

### Sparkle

CERT 12a (116 mins)

Starring Jordin Sparks, Whitney Houston, Derek Luke, Mike Epps, Carmen Ejogo, Cee-Lo Green Directed by Salim Akil (USA)

Set during the Motown-era, this, like Dreamgirls, is inspired by the story of The Supremes. It's also a remake of the 1976 musical of the same name which starred Irene Cara. The interest here, though, will be the appearance of Whitney Houston in her last film.



Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

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## Love Bite

CERT 12a (116 mins)

Starring **Luke Pasqualino, Ed Speleers, Jessica Szohr, Timothy Spall, Kierston Wareing** Directed by **Andy De Emmony (UK)**

The title lets us into the secret: this is a romantic werewolf film. Being British, it's set in a desolate seaside town (called Rainmouth), where our hero (Speleers, the star of 2006's *Eragon*) hooks up with an exotic American tourist (Szohr, from TV's *Gossip Girl*). But Szohr is not all she seems...



Love Bite

## The Knot

CERT 15 (92 mins)

Starring **Noel Clarke, Matthew McNulty, Talulah Riley, Mena Suvari, Jason Maza** Directed by **Jesse Lawrence (UK)**

Not tired of weddings yet? Well, there's another knot being tied in this British romcom in which nothing goes according to plan. Well, nothing does in these sorts of films, do they? This time there's the novel complication of a delivery of pigs' testicles. Hmm.



The Knot

## Hit So Hard

CERT tbc

Directed by **P. David Ebersole (USA)**

What do The Bangles, The Go-Go's, The Runaways and The Velvet Underground have in common? They all had female drummers. Patty Schemel, percussionist for Courtney Love's Hole, and drug addict, alcoholic and lesbian, is probably a more colourful drummer than most. Even so, this subdued compilation of home movies and talking heads could only really appeal to the faithful. Punk has never felt so genial.



Hit So Hard

Photo credit : PECCADILLO PICTURES 2012 (6)



Released from Fri 12 Oct

## On The Road

CERT 15 (124 mins)

Starring **Garrett Hedlund, Sam Riley, Kristen Stewart, Amy Adams, Alice Braga, Kirsten Dunst, Viggo Mortensen** Directed by **Walter Salles (Brasil/France/UK/USA)**

Jack Kerouac's 1951 novel has become a bible to the restless and disenfranchised youth of America. A loosely autobiographical work set in the 1940s, it's a travelogue that came to epitomise the Beat Generation and featured many key figures in that culture, including William S. Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg. Kerouac himself attempted to kick-start a film version back in the 1950s and many directors since have wrestled with a movie adaptation. Salles, who directed the critically acclaimed road movie *The Motorcycle Diaries*, would seem to be a judicious choice.



On The Road

## Hit And Run

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Kristen Bell, Dax Shepard, Kristin Chenoweth, Tom Arnold, Bradley Cooper** Directed by **David Palmer and Dax Shepard (USA)**

Charles Bronson pops up all over the place. Tom Hardy played the hardened criminal in the excoriating *Bronson* (2008) and then there was the actor who had a *Death Wish*. Now, Charlie Bronson (played by co-director Shepard) is a retired getaway driver who breaks out of the Witness Protection Program to save his girlfriend. It's a romcom. With sex, drugs and violence.

## Beasts Of The Southern Wild

CERT 12a (93 mins)

Starring **Quvenzhané Wallis, Dwight Henry** Directed by **Benh Zeitlin (USA)**

A fantasy shot on 16mm and inspired by the flooding of fishing communities in Louisiana, this looks like a real original. The story of a six-year-old girl called Hushpuppy and her father, the film is being hotly tipped for a best picture Oscar nomination. Barack Obama was such a fan that he recommended it to Oprah Winfrey – and she's been raving about it ever since.

## Frankenweenie (3D)

CERT PG (104 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Charlie Tahan, Frank Welker, Winona Ryder, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, Martin Landau** Directed by **Tim Burton (USA)**

Just when you think every type of animated film has been made, along comes Tim Burton to nudge the goal posts. This one is in 3D, is stop-motion and, get this, is in black-and-white. The story of a young scientist called Victor Frankenstein (Tahan, from *I Am Legend*), who brings his pet bull terrier, Sparky, back to life, the film is actually a feature-length version of a short Burton made back in 1984.



Frankenweenie

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From  
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### Taken 2 CERT 12a (91 mins)

Starring **Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Rade Serbedžija, Leland Orser** Directed by **Olivier Megaton** (France)

They just don't learn, do they? After Bryan Mills (Neeson) wreaked havoc in Paris to reclaim his kidnapped daughter, an Albanian gangster (Serbedžija) kidnaps Bryan's wife in Istanbul. The director Olivier Megaton previously brought us *Transporter 3* and *Colombiana*, so the action should have some kick.

### Hotel Transylvania CERT U (91 mins)

Featuring the voices of **Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg, Kevin James, Jon Lovitz, Cee Lo Green, Steve Buscemi** Directed by **Genndy Tartakovsky** (USA)

Cartoons love monsters. Or is it the other way round? Here, *Dracula* (voiced by Adam Sandler) is celebrating his daughter's 118th birthday and invites a raft of familiar brutes to his gaff in Romania. In 3D.

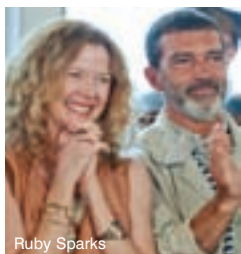


Hotel Transylvania

### Ruby Sparks CERT 15 (104 mins)

Starring **Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, Antonio Banderas, Annette Bening, Steve Coogan, Elliott Gould** Directed by **Jonathon Dayton and Valerie Faris** (USA)

The concept of fictitious characters coming to life is hardly an original one. Still, this being from the directors of *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006), the prospects are promising. Paul Dano (*Little Miss Sunshine*) plays a young novelist with writer's block whose eponymous protagonist miraculously materialises.



Ruby Sparks

### Released from Fri 19 Oct

### Pitch Perfect CERT 12a (112 mins)

Starring **Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Brittany Snow, John Michael Higgins, Elizabeth Banks** Directed by **Jason Moore** (USA)

Since securing an Oscar nomination for *Up In The Air*, Anna Kendrick has gone from strength to strength, nailing roles in *50/50*, *What To Expect When You're Expecting* and the up-coming *End Of Watch*, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal. Here she lands top-billing as Beca, the new singer in a competitive all-girl a cappella group. Based on the non-fiction novel by Mickey Rapkin.



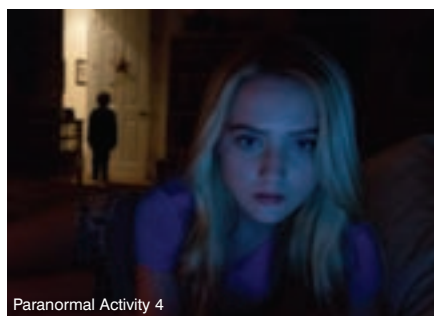
Pitch Perfect

### Paranormal Activity 4

CERT tbc

Starring **Katie Featherston, Kathryn Newton, Brady Allen, Matt Shively** Directed by **Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost** (USA)

Can it really be a year since we last suffered some paranormal activity? 'Fraid so. Katie Featherston returns for some more scary stuff, as do the directors of the last outing. However, this is actually a sequel to *Paranormal Activity 2*, not *Paranormal Activity 3*. Be confused. Very confused.



Paranormal Activity 4

### Ginger And Rosa CERT 12a (90 mins)

Starring **Elle Fanning, Alessandro Nivola, Christina Hendricks, Timothy Spall, Oliver Platt, Annette Bening, Alice Englert** Directed by **Sally Potter** (UK/Denmark/Canada/Croatia)

It's hard to remember - or even to imagine - how paralysed the world was in 1962. Not by the prospect of The Beatles but of the possibility of nuclear oblivion - the Cuban Missile Crisis certainly lived up to its name. The writer-director Sally Potter explores this climate through the relationship of two teenage girls, Ginger and Rosa, as, in early 1960s' London, they stumble from discos and cigarettes to political activism. By Potter's standards this is a surprisingly conventional, or at least traditional, narrative, illuminated by two outstanding performances from her two leads, Elle Fanning and English newcomer Alice Englert. A distraction is the starry supporting cast, particularly as Ginger and both her parents are played by Americans - albeit with impeccable English accents.



Ginger and Rosa

### Released from Fri 26 Oct

### Silent Hill: Revelation (3D)

CERT tbc

Starring **Adelaide Clemens, Kit Harington, Deborah Kara Unger, Martin Donovan, Malcolm McDowell, Carrie-Anne Moss, Sean Bean** Directed by **Michael J. Bassett** (USA/France)

On the eve of her eighteenth birthday, Heather (Clemens) loses her father and discovers that, like Jason Bourne, she may not be who she thinks she is. But then she's plunged into an alternative dimension, one that will be familiar with fans of the survival horror video game. Clemens, incidentally, won much acclaim for the recent TV miniseries *Parade's End*.



Silent Hill

### Fun Size CERT tbc

Starring **Victoria Justice, Thomas Mann, Jane Levy, Chelsea Handler, Johnny Knoxville** Directed by **Josh Schwartz** (USA)

Kids. You can't live with 'em... When Wren (Justice) is invited to a Halloween party by her dream date, she makes the mistake of taking along her irksome little brother. She obviously didn't see Jonah Hill in *The Sitter*.

# Film A-Z LISTINGS

All films are currently on general release unless otherwise stated. For full listing information, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**80 Million 15**  
Polish film concerning a young activist of the Solidarity movement who organises a bank robbery to steal \$80million of trade union money. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Thurs 4 Oct*

**A Simple Life PG**  
Heartwarming drama, set in Hong Kong, which centres on family relationships and the need to care for an older generation. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 6 - Mon 8 Oct*

**About Ely (Darbareye Ely) tbc**  
Persian mystery story that offers a revealing look at the Iranian middle-class and how a simple lie can open up a trail of problems. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 8 - Wed 10 Oct; mac, B'ham, Tues 23 - Wed 24 Oct*

**Albert Nobbs 15**  
Glenn Close stars as a woman who, in order to scrape together a living in nineteenth century Ireland, poses as a male waiter. Based on the short story by Irish novelist George Moore. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 8 Oct*

**Anna Karenina 12a**  
Keira Knightley and Jude Law star in the latest and much-acclaimed adaptation of Tolstoy's political romance. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Sun 7 & Wed 10 Oct; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 19, Sat 20 & Tues 23 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 25 - Tues 30 Oct*

**Barbara tbc**  
Subtitled film concerning a German doctor working in 1980s East Germany who suddenly finds herself banished to a small country hospital after trying to

obtain a visa. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sun 14 - Wed 17 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 22 - Tues 23 Oct*

**Berberian Sound Studio 15**  
Peter Strickland's horror concerning a sound engineer who gets more than he bargained for as he works on the sound effects for an Italian horror. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 2 - Thurs 4 Oct*

**The Big Clock u**  
Charles Laughton and Ray Milland lead in a thrilling film-noir. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 15 Oct*



**The Bourne Legacy 12a**  
Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton star in this latest offering in the Bourne franchise. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Sat 13 - Mon 15 Oct*

**Brave PG**  
Billy Connolly lends his voice to this acclaimed animated action adventure, set in the mysterious and rugged Highlands of Scotland. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Mon 22 - Thurs 25 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 29 Oct; OMH, Shrewsbury, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov*

**Call Me Kuchu**  
Drama-documentary exploring Uganda's bill to make homosexuality pun-

ishable by death. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 Oct*

**Chuck Jones 100**  
Colourful and joyous look at the work of animation legend Chuck Jones. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 27 Oct*

**Cloudburst**  
Romantic comedy road movie starring Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker. *Showing OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 Oct*

**Detachment 15**  
Academy Award-winner Adrian Brody plays Henry Barthes, a substitute teacher grappling with a troubled past, who finds himself assigned to a testing position in a failing public school. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 12 - Sat 13 Oct*

**Elizabeth 15**  
Screening of the Golden Globe and multi-Oscar-winning film starring Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush and Christopher Eccleston. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 26 Oct*

**The Fairy PG**  
French comic drama which follows a hotel clerk as she searches for the fairy who made two of her three wishes come true before disappearing. *Showing Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Oct*

**Fear Of Falling 15**  
Feature debut of Bartosz Konopka's moving story of a TV presenter whose bright career and peaceful family life is compromised by news about his father's serious problems. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 12 Oct*

**Goodbye First Love 15**  
Romantic drama which chronicles the intense relationships of a young woman. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 1 Oct*

**Hannah Free 15**  
Sharon Gless and Maureen Gallagher star in a drama concerning a lifelong love affair between an independent

spirit and the woman she calls home. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 Oct*

**Holy Motors 18**  
Leos Carax's bizarre metaphysical journey between life, love and death, featuring the extraordinary French actor Denis Lavant in a variety of roles. Kylie Minogue also stars. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Sat 27 - Mon 29 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 26, Sun 28 - Wed 31 Oct*

**Hope Springs 12a**  
Romantic comedy starring Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones as a middle-aged couple who, after thirty years of wedlock, feel the need to seek marriage counselling. Steve Carrell also stars. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Oct; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 5 - Thurs 11 Oct*

**Husbands 12a**  
Comic drama which sees the sudden death of a friend bring three middle-aged men together to consider the effect of their advancing years and pressures of life. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Wed 31 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov*

**Hysteria 15**  
Maggie Gyllenhaal and Hugh Dancy star in Christian Petzold's romantic comedy which delves into the history behind the invention of the world's first electro-mechanical vibrator. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 12, Sun 14 & Mon 15 Oct; mac, B'ham, Fri 19 - Tues 23 Oct*

**The Imposter 15**  
Bart Layton's debut feature which centres on a young Frenchman who convinces a grieving Texan family that he is their sixteen-year-old son who's been missing for three years. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Oct*

**Killing Them Softly 15**  
Brad Pitt and Ray Liotta star in a crime thriller based on the novel Cogan's Trade by George V Higgins.

*Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Oct*

**The King's Speech 15**  
Oscar-winning drama which tells the story of King George VI and his impromptu ascension to the throne. *Showing at Malvern Theatre, Tues 9 Oct*

**L'Elisir D'Amore**  
Met Opera Live in HD showing of Anna Netrebko and Matthew Polenzani's performance in one of the greatest comic gems in opera. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 13 Oct*

**The Last Of The Haussmans**  
A National Theatre Live performance of the eagerly-anticipated new play from Stephen Beresford which sees Julie Walters star as an anarchic, high society drop-out. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Thurs 11 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 14 Oct*

**Lawless 18**  
John Hillcoat's authentic, gritty and uncompromising crime drama which, set in America's deep south in the Depression era, is the tale of a gang of bootleggers whose livelihood is threatened by a new deputy who wants to cut their profits. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 5 - Wed 10 Oct; Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct*

**Last Shop Standing 12a**  
Pip Piper's film charts the rapid rise of record shops in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, the influence of the chart, the underhand deals, the demise of vinyl and the rise of the CD as well as new technologies. *Showing at Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Tues 16 Oct; mac, B'ham, Thurs 25 Oct*

**Le Havre PG**  
French drama which follows the story of a fateful meeting between a young African refugee and a well-spoken Bohemian shoe-shiner. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 9 Oct*

**The Legend Of Ron Burgundy 12a**  
Comedy starring Will Ferrell & Steve Carell. *Showing at Electric Cinema, B'ham, Fri 12 Oct*

**Liberal Arts 12a**  
Comic drama - directed by and starring Josh Radnor - which is described as a 'smart study of a relationship that is both warm and witty'. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 26, Sun 28 - Wed 31 Oct*

**Looper 15**  
Emily Blunt and Bruce Willis star in a sci-fi actioner set in 2072. *Showing at Electric Cinema, B'ham, until Thurs 4 Oct*

**Marley 15**  
Kevin Macdonald's uplifting documentary exploring the life and times of iconic Jamaican musician Bob Marley. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 11 Oct*

**Moonrise Kingdom PG**  
Bill Murray and Bruce Willis star in Wes Anderson's latest tale of small-town characters who come together in the form of a search party convened to look for a pair of young lovers who have eloped in 1960s New England. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 22 Oct*

**Mutiny On The Bounty PG**  
Oscar-winning historical drama which sees Charles Laughton play Captain William Bligh of the HMS Bounty, opposite Charles Clarke Gable as Fletcher Christian. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 8 Oct*

**The Night Of The Hunter 12**  
Charles Laughton steps behind the camera to direct Robert Mitchum and Shelley Winters, in a masterpiece film-noir thriller. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 22 Oct*

**Night Of The Living Dead 18**  
Made in the late '60s, George Romero's seminal black-and-white zombie film is a bleak affair, focusing on a group of people

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trapped in a farmhouse when the dead rise from their graves searching for human flesh. *Showing at Electric Cinema, B'ham, Fri 12 Oct*

**Nostalgia For The Light 12a**

Director Patricio Guzman's moving and deeply personal documentary sets celestial history against lost civilisations and the more recent disappearance of political prisoners. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 4 Oct*

**On The Road tbc**

Adventure drama based on Jack Kerouac's seminal pseudo-autobiography. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 26 - Wed 31 Oct*

**Otello 15**

Met Opera Live in HD showing which sees Johan Botha sing the title role opposite the acclaimed Desdemona of star soprano Renee Fleming. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 27 Oct*

**Ping Pong pc**

Documentary following players as they prepare to compete in the eighty-plus age groups of the World Table Tennis Championships. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 2 Oct*

**Pit And The Pendulum 18**

Classic horror film set in 16th century Spain. Vincent Price, Barbara Steele and John Kerr star. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Tues 30 - Wed 31 Oct*

**Ponyo u**

Animated adventure which places Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid in a contemporary Japanese setting and the more recent disappearance of political prisoners. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 6 Oct*

**Private Peaceful 12a**

Maxine Peake stars in Michael Morpurgo's classic rites-of-passage story concerning two brothers who fall for the same girl. *On general release.*

**Romeos 15**

A drama centered on the relationship between a young man and a transsexual who is transitioning from female to male. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 14 Oct*

**Salmon Fishing In The Yemen 12a**

Romantic drama starring Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 15 Oct*

**Searching For Sugarman 12a**

A heartwarming and surprising documentary about the enigmatic 1970s folk singer

Rodriguez. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Tues 16 Oct*

**Shadow Dancer 15**

Andrea Riseborough stars as an informant for M15 who spills the beans in order to protect her son. Clive Owen also stars. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Fri 5 & Sat 6 Oct; Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Tues 9 - Wed 10 Oct*

**Sing Your Song 12a**

Inspiring film using archive footage to look back on the many achievements of Harry Belafonte. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 8 Oct*

**The Snows Of Kilimanjaro 15**

Subtitled French film concerning a union pensioner and his wife whose idyllic existence is shattered when they're subjected to a brutal attack in their own home. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 24 - Thurs 25 Oct*

**Summer Storm 15**

Romantic comedy concerning two long-term friends convinced that nothing will ever stand in the way of their friendship. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 14 Oct*

**The Suspect A**

Film-noir set in Edwardian London in which Charles Laughton stars as an unhappily married man whose wife is enraged by his innocent friendship with another woman. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Mon 1 Oct*

**Tabu 15**

Award-winning Portuguese film which explores the relationship between an altruistic woman, her senile neighbour and an African housekeeper. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Fri 5 - Tues 9 Oct; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 18 Oct*

**Take This Waltz 15**

Michelle Williams and Seth Rogan star in Sarah Polley's romantic comedy which questions how long-term relationships affect love, sex and the way we look at ourselves. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 2 - Wed 3 Oct*

**This is Not A Film u**

A compelling self-portrait made by Iranian director Jafar Panahi while under house arrest in his apartment. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 15 Oct*

**To Rome With Love 12a**

An all-star cast come

together in Woody Allen's comedy, which follows the intertwining romances, adventures and predicaments of visitors to, and residents of, Rome. *Showing at Malvern Theatre, until Thurs 4 Oct; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 12 - Thurs 18 Oct; mac, B'ham, Sun 14 - Wed 17 Oct; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 19 - Sun 21 & Wed 24 Oct*

**Untouchable 15**

French biographical drama concerning a paraplegic aristocrat who takes on a young black man from 'the projects' as his careworker. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 9 - Thurs 18 Oct; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 19 - Thurs 25 Oct*

**The Wedding Video 15**

Comedy written by Tim Firth and starring Rufus Hound, Lucy Punch, Robert Webb, Harriet Walter and Miriam Margolyes. *Showing at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire, Mon 1 Oct; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 15 - Tues 16 Oct; Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 25 Oct*

**Weekend 18**

Romantic drama focusing on a relationship between two men.

*Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sat 13 Oct*

**Wish Me Away**

Biographical documentary on Chely Wright, the first commercial country singer to come out as gay. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 14 Oct*

**The Woman In Black 12a**

Acclaimed thriller which sees Daniel Radcliffe star as a young lawyer who travels to a remote village to settle the affairs of the recently deceased Alice Drablow. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, Mon 29 Oct*

**The Women On The Sixth Floor 12a**

Subtitled French drama which follows a conservative husband and wife whose lives are turned upside-down when they hire a Spanish maid and are introduced to an alternative way of life. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Thurs 11 Oct*

**The Winner 15**

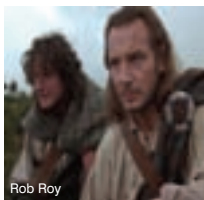
Polish drama concerning a young American pianist of Polish origin who breaks down under pressure from his mother and his cold-hearted agent and cancels his European tour. *Showing at mac, B'ham, Thurs 18 Oct*

**DVD NEW RELEASES**

**The Liam Neeson Collection tbc**

This collection features four films from a career that has spanned over twenty-five years for the Oscar-nominated Neeson. Titles include Kingdom Of Heaven, in which he plays the estranged father of Orlando Bloom's character, and Rob Roy, in which he stars as the eponymous hero, with Jessica Lange as his courageous and loyal wife.

**Released 1 October**



**The Harsh Light Of Day 18**

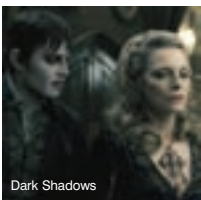
After witnessing the brutal murder of his wife, Daniel Shergold (played by Dan Richardson) accepts the assistance of a mysterious stranger to exact revenge on those responsible.

**Released 1 October**

**Dark Shadows 12a**

Adapted from the 1960s groundbreaking cult vampire soap opera on daytime American TV, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer and Helena Bonham Carter star in this comic fantasy directed by Tim Burton.

**Released 1 October**



**Snow White And The Huntsman 12**

Starring Kirsten Stewart as Snow White, who embarks on a quest to vanquish the evil queen (played by Oscar winner Charlize Theron) after first having been trained in the art of war.

**Released 15 October**

**Rock Of Ages 12a**

Tom Cruise stars in a film version of the hit Broadway musical that sees a small town girl and a city boy meet on the Sunset Strip, while pursuing their Hollywood dreams. Catherine Zeta-Jones also stars.

**Released 15 October**



**A Fantastic Fear Of Everything 15**

Dark comedy that sees Simon Pegg star as a children's author turned crime novelist.

**Released 1 October**

**Prometheus 15**

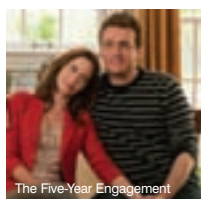
A team of explorers discover a clue to the origins of mankind on Earth, leading them on a thrilling journey to the darkest corners of the universe. There, they must fight a terrifying battle to save the future of the human race.

**Released 15 October**

**The Five-Year Engagement 15**

Jason Segel, Emily Blunt, Chris Pratt and Rhys Ifans star in a quirky comedy that follows a couple through their drawn-out engagement.

**Released 22 October**



**The Hunter 15**

Willem Dafoe stars in Daniel Nettheim's psychological drama that tells the story of Martin (Dafoe), a mercenary sent into the Tasmanian wilderness by a biotech company to hunt the last Tasmanian Tiger.

**Released 22 October**

**Chernobyl Diaries 15**

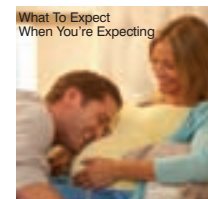
Supernatural horror from Paranormal Activity creator Oren Peil. Jesse McCartney, Pasha D. Lychnikoff and Olivia Dudley star.

**Released 22 October**

**What To Expect When You're Expecting 12**

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Dennis Quaid and Chris Rock star in a comedy-drama based on the bestselling book of the same name by Heidi Murkoff.

**Released 29 October**









# Visual Arts

## In Front Of Nature

The Barber Institute, Birmingham,  
Fri 19 October - Sun 27 January

Celebrating the work of one of Scandinavia's most distinguished painters, In Front Of Nature sees Thomas Fearnley's entire career put under the spotlight at Birmingham's Barber Institute.

Featuring loans of major paintings, oil sketches and drawings from the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo - as well as from private collections in the UK and America - the exhibition features views of the English Lake District, the dramatic scenery of the Alps, and the southern sun of the Mediterranean, as well as epic paintings of Fearnley's native fjords, forests, mountains, rivers and lakes.



## A Century Of Art

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry, Sat 13  
October - Sun 4 November

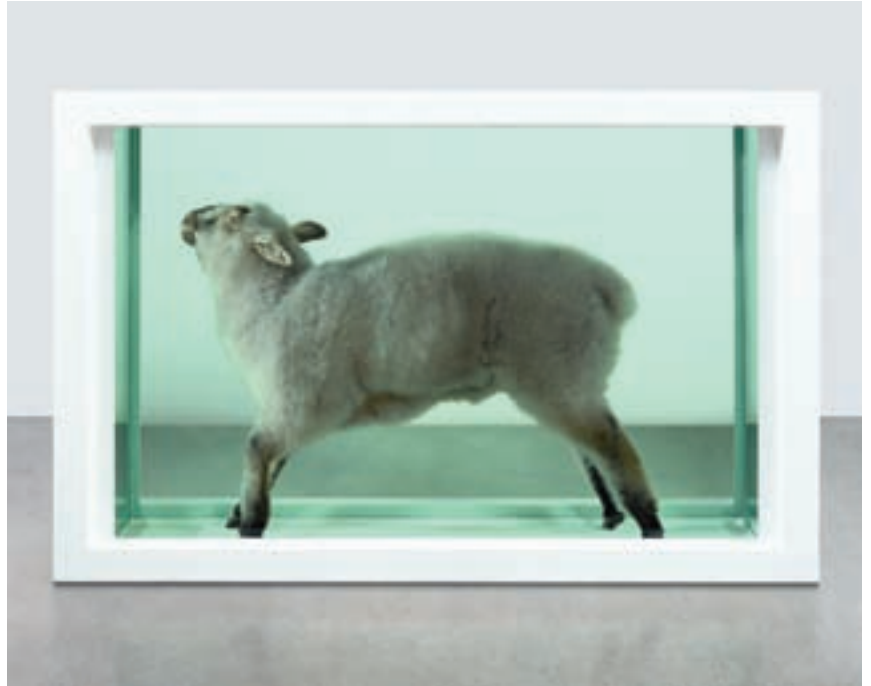
The work of both current and past members of the Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists (CWSA) is here showcased in a celebration of the group's one hundred year history. The exhibition mixes works from the Herbert's collection with brand new pieces which have been specially created by CWSA members.



## West Midlands Open

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 13 October -  
Sat 5 January 2013

A regular feature on the region's cultural scene, the West Midlands Open provides a platform for the 'best of the area' to showcase their artistic talents. A biennial collaboration between Birmingham Museum's Trust and Wolverhampton Art Gallery, the competition awards prizes for different categories, and offers a top prize of £1,000 for the best in show.



## Artist Room: Damien Hirst

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, Sat 6 October 2012 - Sat 27 October 2013

The Artist Room's collection of international contemporary art is jointly owned by Tate and National Galleries of Scotland, and is available to galleries throughout the UK. This particular display presents a collection of Damien Hirst's sculptures, paintings and prints, and will be accompanied by a series of satellite exhibitions, events and activities.

## Aeneas Wilder: Untitled 162

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sat 6 October - Sat 1 December

Well known for developing complex, extraordinarily beautiful structures in response to any environment in which he's working, Aeneas Wilder relies upon balance, gravity, his own experience and an intuitive understanding of his chosen material when creating structures which alter the way in which the viewer understands and navigates space. The exhibition will culminate in one powerful act of destruction, as the artist kicks down the structure, reducing the artwork to the sum of its parts in order for it to be reconstructed in a different form at a later date.



## Ongoing exhibitions

### Shell Motoring Exhibition

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire, until Sun 27 January

Advertising posters displayed on the side of Shell delivery lorries from the 1920s to the 1950s form the basis of this unique exhibition. Artists not usually associated with commercial art - Paul Nash, John Armstrong, Graham Sutherland and Ben Nicholson - produced poster designs inspired by British people, landmarks, events and curiosities, many of which are now recognised as the most memorable advertising that Britain has ever produced.



### Industrial Artwork By Welsh Artist Falcon Hildred

Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Fri 5 October - Tues 30 April  
Providing a visual document of the UK's industrial heritage, Falcon Hildred's works feature buildings and landscapes of nineteenth and twentieth century industry. With the help of recent Heritage Lottery Funding, much of Hildred's unique collection - more than six hundred original drawings and watercolours - has been acquired by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and the Royal Commission. Two-thirds of the collection is being displayed in this Coalbrookdale exhibition.



### Transplantation: A Sense of Place And Culture

Bilston Craft Gallery, Fri 5 October - Sat 1 December

Works by an array of UK and Australian-based makers of narrative jewellery are here brought together in an exploration of what it means 'to belong'. Each of the pieces showcased are new works which have been designed in response to the theme of transplantation.

For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**CITYSCAPES** An exhibition of the world in miniature featuring items from the most circulated art medium - coins and medals, until Sun 6 Oct, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**LESSONS IN LOVE** A personal exploration of the art of love in photography and sculpture, from Liverpool to Shanghai and back again, until Sun 6 Oct, Bilston Craft Gallery

**REPAIR BY SARAH GOUDIE** Midlands-based artist Sarah Goudie presents drawings and sculptures on the theme of Repair - searching for history through the body, until Sun 6 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**JAMAICA 50** A partnership between the Birmingham Kingsway Project, the Drum Arts Centre and Birmingham Archives, until Sun 7 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**GOING FOR GOLD: CELEBRATING LOCAL SPORTING LIFE** An exhibition to mark the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, until Sun 7 Oct, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

**21ST CENTURY ENGRAVED GLASS** A national exhibition of contemporary and traditional glass engraving by members of the Guild of Glass Engravers. This exhibition forms part of the International Festival of Glass 2012, until Sun 7 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

**STAFFORDSHIRE & BEYOND** A new exhibition of original artwork by Stafford couple Eleanor and John Cathcart, until Fri 12 Oct, Museum of Cannock Chase, Staffordshire

**GEOLOCATION** A series of

photographs by Nate Larson and Marni Shindelman representing locations from where a number of selected tweets were sent, until Fri 12 Oct, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**PEDALS TO MEDALS** A new exhibition celebrating the history and heroes of all kinds of competitive cycling, until Sun 14 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

**PHARAOH: KING OF EGYPT** National touring exhibition from the British Museum that features more than one hundred-and-thirty objects not previously displayed outside of London, until Sun 14 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**WREKIN ARTS PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB EXHIBITION** until Mon 15 Oct, The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

**WOLVERHAMPTON RIOTS ONE YEAR ON** Images from CCTV, newspapers and social media provide the basis for Sally Payen's exhibition charting the violence and disorder that erupted on Wolverhampton's streets during the summer of 2011, until Fri 19 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**BROUGHT TO MIND** An exhibition of work by artists Margaret Jarvis and Richard Randall, presenting interpretations of the theme 'brought to mind', until Fri 19 Oct, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**GRAND DESIGNS** A chance to view some of the museum's rarely seen masterpieces, until Sat 20 Oct, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

**ORIENTATION** Textile exhibition inspired by the culture of the Far East, until Sun 21 Oct,

Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch  
**CELEBRATION** A display of costumes in the Servants' Quarters Costume Gallery, until Sun 28 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**SIGNPOSTS TO MIDDLE EARTH** A new exhibition at the mill explores the connection of JRR Tolkien with the area around Sarehole Mill and the wider Birmingham area, until Sun 28 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**MADE IN THE MIDDLE: CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FROM ACROSS THE MIDLANDS** Touring exhibition featuring work by thirty-five of the best contemporary craftmakers from the Midlands, and exploring the journey of craftpieces from the studio to the home, until Sun 28 Oct, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

**JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT** Exhibition that explores the inspirational journey followed by Epstein, Sutherland, Piper and other great artists who've created the many famous art treasures housed in Coventry Cathedral, until Sun 28 Oct, Coventry Cathedral

**ANTONY DONALDSON** Exhibition featuring early works from the '60s & '70s alongside more recent pieces, until Sat 3 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**MUSCLES, BALLS & BOWLS** Exhibition that explores the history of sport in Shakespeare's time, until Sun 4 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**Yael Bartana Exhibition** Trilogy of films based on the activities of the Jewish Renaissance Movement in Poland, until Sun 4 November, Ikon, Birmingham

**THE LIDICE STORY** Exhibition commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the destruction of the small

mining village of Lidice in Czechoslovakia, instigated by Adolf Hitler in revenge for the assassination of Reinhard Heidrich, otherwise known as 'the Butcher of Prague', until Sun 4 Nov, The Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**ANN VERONICA JANSSENS: OSCAR** Video portrait of the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer at the age of one hundred-and-two, until Sun 4 Nov, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**TONY AREFIN EXHIBITION** Exhibition that celebrates the work of graphic designer Tony Arefin (1960-2000), until Sun 4 Nov, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

**WORCESTER SOCIETY OF ARTISTS** Sixty-fifth annual exhibition, until Sat 10 Nov, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**VANLEY BURKE: BY THE RIVERS OF BIRMINGHAM** Photographic exhibition that documents the history of Handsworth's Jamaican community since the mid-1960s, until Sun 18 Nov, mac, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

**THE ART OF SURVIVAL** This exhibition, forming part of Conjunction 12, features various surviving specimens and fragile fragments, ranging from ancient artefacts to contemporary artworks, until Sun 18 Nov, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**LEGEND! Hands-on family exhibition** that explores tales of dashing knights and brave princesses. An event part-funded by the Worcestershire Archeological Society, until Sat 24 Nov, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**HARMINDER JUDGE: IN THIS STRANGE HOUSE** Sinister and enigmatic presentation comprising film, digital prints and sculptural installation, until Sun 25 Nov, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

**FUNCTION III**

## Museums & Art Galleries

### Birmingham

ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield  
0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE  
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 0121 303 2834

THE BURROWS GALLERY, THE CUSTARD FACTORY  
0121 224 7344

CASTLE GALLERIES  
0121 633 0015

IKON GALLERY  
0121 248 0708

NUMBER NINE THE GALLERY  
0121 643 9099

RBSA GALLERY 0121236 4353

THREE WHITE WALLS GALLERY  
0121 643 0078

### Black Country

BANTOCK HOUSE WOLVERHAMPTON  
01902 552195

BILSTON CRAFT GALLERY  
01902 552507

BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM, DUDLEY

01384 812745

DUDLEY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
01384 815575

LIGHT HOUSE MEDIA CENTRE WOLVERHAMPTON  
01902 716055

THE NEW ART GALLERY WALSALL 01922 654400

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE  
01384 812750

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY 01902 552055

### Staffordshire

THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01782 232323  
SHIREHALL GALLERY STAFFORD 01785 278345

STAFFORDSHIRE MUSEUM, SHUGBOROUGH  
01889 881388

### Warwickshire

COMPTON VERNEY GALLERY  
01926 645500

HERBERT ART GALLERY COVENTRY 02476 832386

MEAD GALLERY WARWICK  
02476 524524

ROYAL PUMP ROOMS  
01926 742700

### Worcestershire

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY 01905 25371

Visit [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk) for venue website details



# VisualArts LISTINGS

For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

Photographic competition providing a platform for the region's best young, creative talent, until Sun 25 Nov, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE OLYMPICS** Exhibition of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and textiles, all inspired by the Olympic Games and the Olympic Torch Parade, until Sat 30 Nov, The Willow Gallery, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**MAN OF NOTE** Exhibition that celebrates Harry Eccleston's legacy as an artist and printmaker, until Sat 1 Dec, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**THE BIG DRAW: DOT TO DOT** Project that pushes the boundaries on a classic childhood activity, until Sun 2 Dec, mac, Birmingham

**LIVING CITY** Sarah Taylor Silverwood's works examine the relationship between humans and architecture through a series of drawings and text-based pieces, until

Sun 2 Dec, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

**THE DIG!** Exhibition showcasing archaeological finds uncovered so far, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE STORIES OF SHAKESPEARE** Joint exhibition from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre & the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, until Mon 31 Dec, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DEAR SHAKESPEARE** New display that showcases a small but rare collection of letters written by famous authors, from Oscar Wilde to Bram Stoker, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**DINOSAURS UNCOVERED** Unique exhibition featuring life-size dinosaurs, real and replica fossils and holographic video presentations by wildlife expert Chris Packham, until Sun 6 Jan, Herbert Art Gallery &

Museum, Coventry  
**LOVE AND DEATH: VICTORIAN PAINTINGS FROM THE TATE** Exclusive exhibition featuring iconic paintings from the Tate alongside related works from Birmingham's own collection, until Sun 13 Jan, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**BACK TO THE FUTURE** Exhibition exploring the world-renowned glass collections and archives in the Dudley Borough, demonstrating their importance to the region's contemporary glass-makers and designers, until Sun 27 Jan, Broadhead House Glass Museum, Kingswinford

**THE WAY I SEE IT** Exhibition of works by local photographer and graphic designer Merv Homer, Mon 1 - Wed 31 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**ALASTAIR DUNCAN & JEAN DUNCAN EXHIBITION** Opportunity to see multimedia digital work alongside more traditional art forms such as tapestry and print, Fri 5 - Fri 26 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**STEVE LILLY'S COMEDY CLASSICS** Showing as part of Birmingham Comedy Festival 2012, local award-winning

artist Steve Lilly's work is held in high regard and showcased as far afield as New Zealand and America, Fri 5 - Sat 27 Oct, Artfull Expression, Hockley, Birmingham

**MADE TO MAKE** Discover the wealth of talent and inspiration developed in the region as eight alumni of the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design's School of Jewellery MA showcase their recent work, Fri 5 Oct - Sat 1 Dec, Bilston Craft Gallery

**TRANSITIONS: DRAWINGS FROM THE COLLECTION OF MIMA** This exhibition of works from the collection of mima (Middlesbrough Institute of the Arts) presents drawings by several key artists in post-war America, many of whom are best known for working in three dimensions, Sat 6 Oct - Sat 1 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**THE EMBROIDERERS GUILD** This exhibition, mounted as a tribute to athletes around the world, features no fewer than three thousand embroidered postcard-sized images depicting the life and times of over two hundred sporting nations, Mon 8 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Artrix, Bromsgrove

**THE SOLIHULL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MEMBERS EXHIBITION** Featuring a selection of web based photographs, Tues 9 - Sat 13 Oct, Solihull Arts Complex

**OTHER PLACES** Exhibition of work by Ann Wilkinson and Anne Guest exploring the hidden narratives that reside in our everyday places yet exist only in our imagination, Sat 13 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, Bilston Craft Gallery

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Members of Wolverhampton's diverse communities respond to the city's art collection, Sat 13 Oct - Sat 10 Nov, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

**MADE @ THE CONE** Working with a diverse range of media, the Made@The Cone collective create a stunning range of handcrafted items, Sat 13 Oct - Sun 18 Nov, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

**HORROR IN HOLLYWOOD: THE JAMES WHALE STORY** An exhibition of artwork by James Whale, producer of many Hollywood horror movies, Sat 13 Oct - Sun 13 Jan, Dudley

Museum & Art Gallery  
**THROUGH OUR HANDS** Exhibition featuring works from ten textile artists, national and international, who approach quilting as a contemporary art form, Thurs 18 Oct - Sun 13 Jan, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

**REDDITCH: MEDIEVAL BEGINNINGS TO THE GREAT WAR** The first in a series of projects and events to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary in 2014 of Redditch being designated a New Town, Fri 26 Oct - Sun 25 Nov, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**CITY OF HOME BY ALINA KISINA** Photographic exhibition by the Ukraine-born artist that captures her home town of Kiev in a half-abstract, half-representational format, Fri 26 Oct - Fri 25 Jan, Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton

**CASTLE HIGH ART** Annual exhibition by the museum's local school, Sat 27 Oct - Sat 1 Dec, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

**DRAWBIDGE ART GROUP AUTUMN EXHIBITION** Tues 30 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Solihull Arts Complex



*in front of*  
**nature**

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**LOVE and DEATH**  
Victorian Paintings from Tate

8 September 2012 - 13 January 2013

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,  
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH  
[www.bmag.org.uk](http://www.bmag.org.uk)  
Free Exhibition

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**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**



**Thursday 25th – Saturday 27th October 2012**

Second City Suite, 100 Sherlock Street B5 6LT

**220+ Real Ales and 60+ Real Ciders / Perries**

hot and cold food available throughout the festival

**ENTERTAINMENT DETAILS:**

New for 2012: Beer Tasting Workshops on Thursday.  
Full programme of live entertainment available  
on the website.  
The ground floor will remain a quiet zone at all times.

**HEADLINE BANDS**

**Thurs: The Trevor Burton Band**

**Fri: No Rest For The Wicked  
(Black Sabbath / Ozzy Osbourne Tribute)**

**Sat: Andy Bennett & Dan Sealey  
(Ocean Colour Scene)**

**PRICES AND OPENING TIMES:**

**Thursday 11am - 5pm £3.00  
Thursday 5pm - 11pm £4.00**

**Friday 11am - 5pm £4.00  
Friday 5pm - 11pm £5.00**

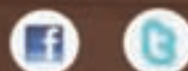
**Saturday 11am - 5pm £5.00  
Saturday 5pm - 11pm £4.00**

Prices include festival programme.  
Card-carrying CAMRA members receive £2 of tokens.  
Refundable deposit on souvenir glass £3.

**\*Advance tickets available for groups  
& early birds - see website for details**



Facebook = Brum Beer Fest  
Twitter = @BrumBeerFest



**www.birminghambeerfestival.org.uk**



# Events



## National Wedding Show NEC, Birmingham, Fri 5 - Sun 7 October

This Autumn's National Wedding Show promises to be the finest to date, with more than two hundred-and-fifty wedding experts on hand to offer advice on all your wedding planning needs - from flowers and favours, cakes and cars to honeymoon hideaways. The two-day event also features new-look Designer and Boutique areas, boasting the UK's largest collection of designer, made-to-measure and main-stream-brand wedding dresses. New for 2012 is the Vintage Area,

which celebrates the ever-evolving trend for vintage-style weddings. It's here that visitors can find stunning stationery, beautiful décor ideas, vintage-inspired bridalwear and venue styling ideas, not to mention a 'vintage cafe'. The team behind cult bridal blog Rock My Wedding is also on hand, presenting live seminars throughout the weekend, including 'Luxe for Less' and 'Style the Aisle'.

## Halloween Hocus Pocus

Dudley Zoo, Wed 31 October

There'll be plenty of ghoulish fun and frolics to enjoy at Dudley Zoo on the last day of the month, as the venue hosts a spooktacular event in celebration of Halloween. Visitors are requested to attend dressed as a ghoul, witch, little monster or spooky character, and to join in a variety of activities that include a spooky parade, monster-making craft fun, a Halloween magic show and disco, and numerous ghoulish games.

Visitors can also check out the spiders, snakes and cockroaches in Creepy Crawly Corner, and listen to some phantom storytelling. The evening event also includes a Ghost Walk, featuring plenty of things that go bump in the night at Dudley Zoo...



## Ghostly Gaslight Blists Hill Victorian Museum, Sat 27 October

This popular annual event sees the amiable characters of Blists Hill Victorian Town replaced by ghosts, ghouls and creepy-crawlies. As night falls and street lamps cast their shadows across the cobbled streets, visitors are advised to keep their eyes and ears open, as weird apparitions and spooky sounds take over the town's shops, cottages and work places.



# INTERNATIONAL DIRT BIKE SHOW

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire 1-4 November 2012



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## Events PREVIEWS

### Grand Designs Live

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 12 - Sun 14 October

The UK's leading contemporary home show makes a welcome return to Birmingham this month, with design guru Kevin McCloud once again presiding over proceedings. Kevin will be hosting various events in the show's Grand Theatre, where guest speakers offer tips and advice on a variety of homebuilding issues. The 2012 event also welcomes its first ever major exhibition. Presented by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and guest-curated by TV presenter Sarah Beeny, A Place To Call Home looks back over the last two hundred-and-fifty years of the everyday British home, from the first Georgian terraces through to today's housing developments and flats.



### Flame And Thunder Show

Santa Pod Raceway, Sat 27 October

Motorsport stunts and drag racing provide the main focus for this action-packed family event. Along with an impressive array of jet vehicles, the show also features a display from the Black Knights Parachute Team, a motorcycle stunt show at the Wall of Death, freestyle motorcross, an aerobatic air display, monster trucks wreaking carnage, a firework display, Terry Grant stunt displays, jet karts, and a Quad Space Wheel, courtesy of The Vander Brothers from South Africa. Additional features include the Poi Circus' fire show, helicopter pleasure flights, an ice rink, live music, funfair rides and trade stands. Oh, and to further add to the show's appeal, kids under sixteen go free (maximum three per adult).



### Fright To Remember!

The Public, West Bromwich, Sat 27 October

Twelve hours of ghoulish entertainment is promised when this Halloween horror marathon returns to The Public this month. Last year's scary screening proved a real hit with horror aficionados, and it's hoped that the 2012 horror movie endurance test will prove equally popular. The last Saturday of the month will see sleep-deprived guests



### British Ski And Board Show

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sun 28 October

This month sees the return of the UK's biggest interactive winter sports show to the Midlands. The British Ski and Board Show is the perfect event for skiing, snowboarding and all-weather mountain pursuit enthusiasts, and caters for all levels of participant. It also showcases the latest fashion trends, equipment and gadgets, and offers the chance to gain expert tuition from skilled instructors. A crowd-puller for 2012 is sure to be the Big Air Freestyle Show, with the Big Air Demo Team performing plenty of impressive tricks and jumps during what will be their only UK performance of the year. Meanwhile, the SnowDome Kid's Snow Trail offers the perfect opportunity for children to get their first taste of skiing on real snow. Other attractions include a skills slope, a rock-climbing challenge, the Animal Bike Tour, Tech Camp and Talk Theatre.



treated to an array of feature films, including cult classic Demons, Italian horror The Beyond, film festival favourite Grave Encounters, and, most terrifying of all, Deadtime - a slasher movie set in Wednesbury! In advance of the scarefest, audience members will be able to vote for which frightening film they'd like to see screened at the end of the evening. The horror movie all-nighter is only suitable for people over the age of eighteen, and also features a late-night live set from Brighton's dark cabaret act Birdeatsbaby. For further information, or to purchase tickets, visit, [www.thepublic.com](http://www.thepublic.com)

### Large Model Aircraft Show

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire, Sun 28 October

This premier event allows model aircraft enthusiasts to get 'up close and personal' to a variety of models, without the restrictions of the flight line fencing usually in evidence at public shows. As well as catering for all modellers interested in the skills of building and flying model aircraft, this annual event also hosts a significant number of model supply trade stands. End-of-season bargain-hunters take note...



### Birmingham Beer Festival

Second City Suite, Birmingham, Thurs 25 - Sat 27 October

Featuring over two hundred-and-twenty different real ales, sixty ciders and perrys, a foreign beer bar, soft drinks and various food vendors, the Birmingham Beer Festival is one of the biggest of its kind in the region. As well as providing the opportunity to enjoy plenty of liquid sustenance, the event also features live music and a number of traditional bar games. Music entertainment kicks off with a performance from Suzi & The Backbeats on the Friday afternoon, while Ocean Colour Scene's Andy Bennett and Dan Sealey are booked to bring the festival to a close. Other acts appearing during the three-day event include The Dirty Old Folkers, Phoenix Salvation, The Dambusters and Ozzy tribute No Rest For The Wicked.

### Lichfield Literature

Various locations in and around Lichfield, until Sun 7 October

Promising to be the biggest and best yet, and comprising over fifty visiting speakers and more than twenty workshops, the 2012 Lichfield Literature festival caters for all interests and ages, as well as fostering a wealth of local talent.

British comedy legend Barry Cryer appears at this year's Literary Dinner at the George Hotel on the 5th, while Perrier Award-winner Jenny Eclair is booked for the Festival Marquee on the 2nd.

Other notable names appearing during the nine-day event include former royal correspondent Jennie Bond, one-time hostage Terry Waite, former cabinet minister Peter Hain, ex-EastEnders and Gavin And Stacey star Larry Lamb, and Only Fools And Horses veteran John Challis.

# Christmas at the NEC Birmingham



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Children under 16 FREE if acc by parent

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ordered by 5pm on  
Mon 5th Nov 2012



## Events PREVIEWS

### Dive 2012

NEC, Birmingham, Sat 27 - Sun 28 October

The International Sub-Aqua & Watersports Show boasts over three hundred exhibitors, not to mention in-hall pools, dozens of speakers, and all manner of diving-related features. Among the exhibitors are manufacturers and retailers of diving equipment, training agencies, tourist boards, travel agents and dive holiday destinations, dive boats, training courses, publishers, leisure clothing and other diving-related merchandise. Underwater photographers are spoilt for choice at this year's show, because apart from those doyens of the craft Alex Mustard and Martin Edge speaking on the Concourse Stage, Saeed Rashid has put together a veritable show within a show, with a galaxy of guest speakers appearing in-hall in the Photozone on both days.



### West Midlands Vegan Festival

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 27 October

One of the biggest vegan festivals in the world returns to Wolverhampton this month, and for the first time takes over two of the city's biggest entertainment venues - the Civic and Wulfrun Halls. Showcasing the very best in veganism, the one-day extravaganza features over one hundred stalls, cookery demonstrations, talks, live entertainment, awards presentations, kids' activities, competitions, a licenced vegan bar and an after-party. A dedicated entertainment room/bar plays host to a range of performers, including live bands, performance poets, comedians and acoustic musicians, while the first two hundred people through the doors will be treated to a free goodie bag.



### Birmingham Book Festival

Various locations in and around Birmingham, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 October

Thoughtful and passionate poems that touch the heart and stir the mind, a classical dance performance supported by readings of selected stories, an exploration of science fiction and fantasy, and an address from acclaimed novelist Jackie Kay are just some



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TICKETS  
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to enter

### Disney On Ice: Passport To Leisure

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Wed 24 October - Sun 4 November

This latest Disney classic sees Mickey and Minnie embark on a magical journey to the different lands inhabited by some of their Disney friends. Appealing to audiences young and old, Passport To Adventure follows the popular duo as they venture into Peter Pan's Neverland, the pride lands of The Lion King, the undersea kingdom of The Little Mermaid, and the hoola hoola land of Lilo and Stitch. Featuring an international team of award-winning skaters, exciting choreography and a musical score filled with familiar Disney hits and rock'n'roll classics, Disney's colourful production promises to enthral visitors both young and old...

of the events on offer this month at Birmingham's annual literary festival. Taking place at various locations throughout the city, including the CBSO Centre, mac, Ikon, the Custard Factory and Birmingham Cathedral, the 2012 festival also features Reliable Witness, a drop-in interactive storytelling installation which is being showcased on the ground floor of the Pavilions Shopping Centre throughout the event.

### Meet The Scientist

Thinktank, Birmingham, Mon 22 - Fri 26 October

A fun-packed day out for explorers big and small, Birmingham's award-winning science museum features over two hundred interactive exhibits, is home to thousands of fascinating artefacts, and has a state-of-the-art planetarium that enables visitors to take a tour of the night sky without setting foot outside. The museum is hosting a range of events throughout the half-term holiday to keep kids entertained, including Meet The Scientist sessions, providing youngsters with the chance to meet real research scientists and find out what it's like to work in a lab.



### Stone Food And Drink Festival

Westbridge Park and various other locations in Stone, Staffordshire, Fri 5 - Sun 7 October

Since its debut in 2005, the Stone Food And Drink Festival has grown to become Staffordshire's biggest gastronomic celebration, attracting thousands of food lovers to

the delightful market town. The 2012 line-up sees winners and runners-up from the Taste of Staffordshire Master Chef and Young Chef of Tomorrow competitions rubbing shoulders with the county's finest established chefs. A Gourmet marquee, a Taste of Staffordshire marquee, cookery demonstrations, a beer festival and plenty of live music all add to the mix.



### Retro fun in Coventry

Coventry Transport Museum, Sat 27 October - Sun 4 November

Later-month visitors to Coventry's award-winning transport museum can enjoy a wide range of workshops and trails inspired by Scootermania!, the venue's new temporary exhibition of British scooters. Themed attractions include daily family activity trails and a variety of craft-based activities - including 'how to make' retro yoyos, psychedelic scooter clip frame collages and '50s film star paper dolls. Those wishing to showcase their flair for design, meanwhile, will be able to do so on a selection of items such as mugs, plates, bags and caps. For full details of all half-term activities at the museum, visit [www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com).



# Wolverhampton this autumn

**Mo 29 - Fr 2 Nov**  
11am - 3pm

## The Big Draw: 2012 in Lines

Lots of fun and fantastic drawing activities for the half term week. Our theme for this year is '2012 in Lines', see how you can describe this year's exciting events through drawing.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Free, Drop in

**Tu 30 Oct** • 10.30am -  
12pm & 1.30 - 3pm

## Transform Your Old Toys

Bring along an old toy to transform into something new. Booking required, suitable for 5-12 years, children must be supervised.

Bilston Craft Gallery

£2 per child

**We 31 Oct** • 2pm - 5pm

## Halloween Fun Day

Join us for an afternoon of Halloween fun and free craft activities. Meet snakes, bugs and frogs with Animal Mania! Enjoy face-painting (50p a go), the exhibition trail and prize for the best Halloween costume. For our very youngest visitors Craftplay will be open from 2 - 4 pm.

Bilston Craft Gallery

Free

**Th 1 Nov** • 10am - 12pm  
& 1.30 - 3.30pm

## Scary Sock Monster Puppets

Create a scary sock monster puppet for Halloween. Drop in workshop, suitable for 5-12 years, children must be supervised.

Bilston Craft Gallery

£2 per child

**Sa 3 Nov** • 1.30pm - 4pm

## Flip Animation

Dip your toes into the world of animation and bring your imagination to life using a range of 2-D and 3-D techniques.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Free, Drop in



## Bonfire & Fireworks Display

Ticket Prices: Adults £4.00,  
Children £2.50, under 2 years  
old free

**Sa 3 Nov**  
West Park

**Gates open:** 5.30pm  
**Bonfire lighting:** 7.30pm  
**Main firework display:**  
8.30pm

Firework Events

t: 0870 520 7000

w: www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/parks

Bilston Craft Gallery

t: 01902 429212

w: www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/  
bilston

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

t: 01902 552055

w: www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/  
wolves

# THE PUBLIC

OCT - NOV HIGHLIGHTS

NEW STREET WEST BROMWICH B70 7PG

## COMEDY

**WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER**  
**ALEXEI SAYLE**



Alexei Sayle returns to live performances with his first stand-up tour in over 16 years.

**Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £12 advance, £14 on the door**

## COMEDY

**SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER**  
**STEVE HUGHES:  
BIG ISSUES TOUR**

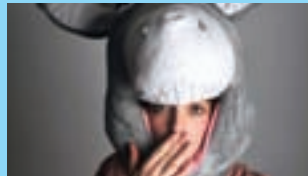


Australian comic and ex heavy metal drummer, Steve Hughes embarks upon his eagerly-awaited debut tour.

**Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £14 (£12 concession)**

## COMEDY

**FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER**  
**BRIDGET CHRISTIE:  
WAR DONKEY**



After rave reviews at the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe, the beautifully insane Bridget Christie brings us her brand of baffling stand-up with a brilliant political bite.

**Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £10**

## COMEDY

**FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER**  
**PIFF THE MAGIC  
DRAGON: JURASSIC  
BARK**



Piff the Magic Dragon embarks on his first major UK tour accompanied by Mr Piffles the World's First Million Dollar Chihuahua.™

**Starts 8pm (bar opens to serve food 6pm) | £12 advance, £14 on the door**

## FILM

**SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER**  
**A FRIGHT TO  
REMEMBER!**



The return of The Public's Horror film all-nighter!

Have you got what it takes to undertake the ultimate endurance test - five horror movies over the course of one night!

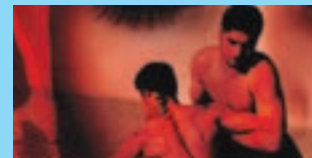
**7.30pm - 7.30am | Admission only £17.50 | Admission + Pizza, £20**

## THEATRE

**WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER**

**KALI THEATRE PRESENTS:  
KABADDI, KABADDI,  
KABADDI** By Satinder Chohan

A co-production with Pursued  
By A Bear Productions



A powerful new drama about sport, nationality and belonging, - a haunting love story at its heart.

**Starts 7:45pm | £10 (£8 concession)**

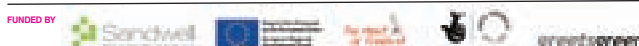
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST EVENTS

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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Week Commencing MON 1 OCT

**TITANIC TRAIL** Follow the Titanic trail around the museum and discover the city's links with the doomed ocean liner, until Mon 31 Dec, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**THE WITCHES OF WARWICK** Morbid spells and the darkest witchcraft games create an atmosphere so malevolent and chilling that even seasoned scare-mongers will be terrified, until Mon 31 Dec, Warwick Castle

**WEB OF LIFE** A rare opportunity to see previously hidden treasures from the museum collection, until Mon 31 Dec, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

**THE DIRECTOR TALKS** An onstage event that offers a chance to join the Director for a fascinating insight into the process of creating a performance, Mon 1 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WALSALL THROUGH TIME** A series of historic and contemporary images of Walsall... Mon 1 Oct, Walsall Local History Centre

**TINY TOT EXPLORERS: ART PLAY** Opportunity for children to have fun and get messy at the same time, Tues 2 - Thurs 4 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**NO DIG LIVE** The UK's major biennial event showcasing trenchless technology, Tue 2 - Thurs 4 Oct, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

**CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD** Wed 3 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**CELLAR TOURS** Guided tour of Aston's cellars, usually closed to the public, Wed 3 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**POETRY CAFE** Featuring a new theme every month, Wed 3 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**NATIONAL TRUST LECTURE** An illustrated talk on Charles Dickens - the life and times of the most famous novelist in the world, Wed 3 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

**HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW** Wed 3 - Sun 7 Oct, LG Arena, Birmingham

**ADULTS CRAFT WORKSHOPS - MOD-ROC MOD-ELLING** Learn new skills or brush-up existing techniques.... Thurs 4 Oct, Walsall Museum

**FOOD & CRAFT MARKET** Thurs 4 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow

**DIESEL ENTHUSIASTS GALA** Featuring a full diesel-only timetable, operating over three days, with a train service running well into the evenings, Thurs 4 - Sat 6 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster

**INTERNATIONAL AUTUMN HORSE TRIALS** Three-day event for the National Junior Championships, National Under-21 Championships and the CCI\* and CCI\*\* classes, which consists of dressage, cross-country and showjumping, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Oct, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**SHIFNAL FESTIVAL** Featuring music from the City of Birmingham Orchestra in Brass, a Victoriana exhibit of artists, Taiko Japanese drumming, a craft fair and workshops, Thurs 4 - Sun 7 Oct, various locations around Shifnal, Shropshire

**BIRMINGHAM BOOK FESTIVAL** An assortment of literary events throughout the city, Thurs 4 - Sat 13 Oct, Various locations across Birmingham

**FAMILY SLEEPOVER** Unique night time event, Fri 5 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

**MALVERN CARAVAN SHOW** Fri 5 - Sun 7 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**THE NATIONAL WEDDING SHOW** Hints, tips and ideas galore for the Big Day, Fri 5 - Sun 7 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**CHELLENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL** Featuring appearances from some of the country's top stand-ups, interactive media sessions, writing workshops, family fun talks and activities, Fri 5 - Sun 14 Oct, various locations in and around Cheltenham

**AMERICAN SUPERSLAM WRESTLING** Enjoy all the thrills, spills and excitement of All Star American Super Slam Wrestling, with two-hours of non-stop action from the best of British and American wrestling stars, Sat 6 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**BIRMINGHAM VINTAGE,**

**PRE-LOVED & CRAFTS EXTRAVAGANZA** Featuring live music, a retro vintage coffee bar and the promise of a great day out for all the family, Sat 6 Oct, Aston University Guild Of Students, Birmingham

**RAG RUG MAKING WORKSHOP** Learn the history of this specialist craft with Jessie Lindon, Fri 6 Oct, Birmingham Back to Backs

**WINTER CRAFT FAIR** Showcasing exhibits from the local area, Sat 6 Oct, Oswestry Memorial Hall, Oswestry, North Shropshire

**'TREASURE DAYS' A** weekend event where visitors can admire some of Shugborough's most prized hidden treasures, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

**EXTREME PERFORMANCE BIKE WEEKEND** Straightliners RWYB and race series with a round of the ACU Drag Bike Championships, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**THE YOUNG TUDORS LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND** Interactive demonstrations and living history in the Merchant's House featuring pupils from King Edward's School, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**GLORIOUS ASTON!** A fun family activity day celebrating Aston Hall's life as a Victorian museum, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**TALES OF TORMENT** A weekend of spooky stories and activities for all ages, Sat 6 - Sun 7 Oct, Aston Hall, Birmingham

**SHAKESPEARE FILM FESTIVAL** A two-week programme of iconic films and adaptations of Shakespeare's works, Sat 6 - Sun 21 Oct, Stratford Picturehouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

**WEDDING FAYRE** Local companies showcase their products and services, Sun 7 Oct, Welcome Menzies Hotel Spa & Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon

**A COUNTRY FAIR** Sun 7 Oct, Worcestershire County Museum

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR** Sun 7 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**TUDOR DAY** Free guided tours of the hall, demonstrations of needlework and Tudor food, Sun 7 Oct, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

**FEMALE TATTOO ARTIST SHOW** Featuring fifty of the very best female tattoo artists from the UK and beyond, trade supplies, market stalls,

a bar, live music, performers, tattoo competitions and an aftershow party, Sun 7 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**BRIDAL FAYRE** Sun 7 Oct, Himley Hall & Park, Dudley

**BMX RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS** Sun 7 Oct, Redditch Skate Park

**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE** Join the Friends of the Museum as they bring the 1837 Darby Hand Chapel to life and re-enact a traditional Harvest Festival service, Sun 7 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

**KATHERINE HOUSE FUN RUN** 10K run to raise money for Katherine House Hospice, Sun 7 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Stafford

**BIG BRUM OPEN TOP MUSEUM BUS** Starts in Birmingham's Victoria Square, stopping off at Aston Hall, Soho House & The Pen Room, Sun 7 Oct, Birmingham

**FUNGI WALK** John Hughes from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust will help guests identify this extraordinary fruit and how to pick it properly, Sun 7 Oct, Weston Park, Staffordshire

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW** Chance to see spiny visitors from around the globe, Sun 7 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**DUDMASTON ESTATE FUN RUN** Sun 7 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

## Week Commencing MON 8 OCT

**RETURN TO TITANIC** See the artefacts on the seabed and appreciate their significance with a two-part eighty-minute presentation, Wed 10 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC DRIFT DAY** Wed 10 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**THE ORIGINAL DUDLEY GHOST TOUR** Chance to visit various haunted sites around the town, starting at the Station Hotel, Wed 10 Oct, Dudley

**CIVIC SOCIETY LECTURE** Wed 10 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**PREMIER LEAGUE SNOOKER** Mark Selby v Ding Junhui & John Higgins v Stephen Lee, Thurs 11 Oct, Malvern Theatres

**NATIONAL HUNT AFTERNOON RACING** Thurs 11 Oct, Worcester Racecourse

**AN EVENING WITH QUENTIN WILLSON** Spend an evening with one of the UK's best-known television pre-

senters and motoring experts, Thurs 11 Oct, Coventry Transport Museum

**LUDLOW LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET** Thurs 11 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**ILLUSTRATED TALK BY AENEAS WILDER** Listen to Aeneas as he discusses the inspiration for - and development of - his work, from his student days through to his most recent installation at the Mead Gallery, Fri 12 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

**FASHION SHOW** Fri 12 Oct, Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Bromsgrove

**GRAND DESIGNS LIVE** Based on the popular Channel 4 TV series, Fri 12 - Sun 14 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**1940'S HANGAR DANCE** An historic warplanes hangar hosts this unique event, which allows guests to dance the night away to music from Paul Drakeley and his All Star Band & Singers, Sat 13 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sat 13 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**AUTUMN VINTAGE AND CRAFT FAIR** Vintage clothes, accessories, homewares, antiques, handmade crafts, The Mad Hatter's tearoom, live music and a licensed bar, Sat 13 Oct, Perton Civic Centre, Wolverhampton

**WALSALL LOCAL HISTORY FAIR** A celebration of all things historical and genealogical across the borough... Sat 13 Oct, Walsall Museum

**THE MALVERN CLASSIC VEHICLE WEEKEND & AUTOJUMBLE** Returning for its sixteenth year, Sat 13 - Sun 14 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**BOOK & CRAFT FAIR** Sun 14 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**APPLE DAY** Join in a traditional celebration of apples and orchards, Sun 14 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**THE BIG ONE - MIDLAND RED DAY** Celebration of the motorbus' successful reintroduction, Sun 14 Oct, The Transport Museum, Wythall, Worcestershire

**GTI FESTIVAL** RWYB event for watercooled VWs and show'n'shine, car clubs, auto jumble and more... Sun 14 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton

**WEDDING FAYRE** Sun 14 Oct, Stanbrook Abbey, Worcestershire

**COVENTRY HALF MARATHON AND MILE** Sun 14 Oct, Coventry City Centre

## Week Commencing MON 15 OCT

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS EVENT** Mon 15 Oct, RAF Cosford, Nr Wolverhampton

**APPLE AND BULB DISPLAY** Mon 15 - Sun 28 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**LUDLOW LECTURES** Series of six lectures on the history and landscape of Ludlow and the Marches, Tue 16 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**JOHN GODWIN AUCTION** Tue 16 - Wed 17 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern

**THE MOTORHOME AND CARAVAN SHOW** The UK's biggest motorhome and caravanning event returns to the NEC, Tue 16 - Sun 21 Oct, NEC, Birmingham

**TEME VALLEY DECORATIVE FINE ARTS SOCIETY LECTURE** Wed 17 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**SPOTLIGHT** Put your own object under the spotlight Wed 17 Oct, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

**MIDLANDS MODEL ENGINEERING EXHIBITION** Comprehensive selection of trade stands and workshops staffed by leading experts, Wed 17 - Sun 21 Oct, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre

**FOOD & CRAFT MARKET** Thurs 18 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire

**GILLETTE SOCCER SATURDAY LIVE WITH JEFF STELLING** Thurs 18 Oct, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

**SNOOKER LEGEND: RONNIE O'SULLIVAN VS JIMMY WHITE** World Champion Ronnie O'Sullivan takes on Seniors World Champion Jimmy White, Thurs 18 Oct, Bedworth Civic Hall

**HISTORICAL COOKERY & MAYHEM... THE COURT OF THE MIKADO** Culinary journey back in time to the court of the Emperors of Japan, 19 Oct, Lichfield Garrick

**MOROCCAN NIGHT** Fri 19 Oct, Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Worcestershire

**ALL STAR AMERICAN WRESTLING** Two hours of non-stop action from the best of British & American wrestling stars, Fri 19 Oct, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, Shropshire

**MONOTYPE PRINTING WORKSHOP** Fri 19 Oct, Museum of Royal Worcester, Worcestershire

**THE 1575 FESTIVITIES -**



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# DIVE 2012

NEC, Birmingham 27/28 October 2012

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Ticket Hotline  
 020 8977 9878



**DIVE 2012**  
 NEC Birmingham

SATURDAY  
 27 October

SUNDAY  
 28 October

**TICKETS on sale NOW!**

Advance Tickets: £8.50  
 £7.50 per person for groups of 10 or more  
 At the gate: £11.50  
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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**GUIDED TOUR** Tour that discusses the nineteen days of festivities and entertainments offered to Queen Elizabeth I during her final visit to the castle in 1575, Fri 19 Oct, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire  
**LUDLOW CASTLE FINE ART WEEKEND** A selling exhibition displaying the work of fifty professional artists, Fri 19 - Sun 21 Oct, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire  
**CHILDREN'S GHOST WALK** Sat 20 Oct, The Ghost Walk of Worcester, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester  
**IRON LADIES OF CRADLEY HEATH** Celebrating the Women Chainmakers, 1910, Sat 20 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Birmingham  
**DROP-IN FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITY** Spooky Spirals family craft activity, Sat 20 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham  
**FAMILY ART DAY** Creative team activities for all the family to enjoy, Sat 20 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**SHROPSHIRE COUNTY RBL FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE** Sat 20 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
**THE STORY GARDEN** Introduce your family to the stories of Shakespeare in a fun and lively way, where everyone gets involved, Sat 20 Oct, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**TRAFALGAR DAY CELEBRATIONS** Discover the story of Nelson's visit to Soho in 1802, Sun 21 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham  
**DRIFT WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC DRIFT DAY** Sat 20 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**IMAGINEERING FAIR 2012** Get up close with engineering and technology in a fun-filled family day out, Sat 20 Oct, Ricoh Arena, Birmingham  
**WALK AND TALK** Walk and talk around this fascinating medieval site, Sat 20 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham  
**SPOOKY SPIRALS** Drop-in craft activity, Sat 20 Oct, Weoley Castle, Birmingham  
**APPLE AND ALE FESTIVAL** Real ales, ciders and cheese-tasting, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, The Fleece Inn, Worcestershire  
**STEAMPUNK AT THE COMMANDERY** Explore the world of Victorian science fiction through displays of strange curiosities, exciting

contraptions, fashion and design, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, The Commandery, Worcestershire  
**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FAIR** Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, Hagley Hall, Stourbridge  
**THE TELEGRAPH CRUISE SHOW** The UK's only event dedicated to discovering a world of voyages - from small boutique river boats to modern resort-style ships that are perfect for the whole family, Sat 20 - Sun 21 Oct, NEC, Birmingham  
**LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP** Family event where visitors can take part in making willow lanterns and painting glass lanterns, Sat 20 - Sun 27 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire  
**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Sat 20 - Sun 28 Oct, Cadbury World, Birmingham  
**HALLOWEEN SPECIALS** Sat 20 - Sun 28 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley, Nr Kidderminster  
**HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Horrible historians at the Black Country Living Museum will be on hand to disgust and delight with a Halloween-themed Gore And Grime Trail, Sat 20 - Sun 28 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
**PLAGUE & PESTILENCE** Dress in your scariest costume and see the hall in disarray, Sat 20 - Sun 28 Oct, Blakesley Hall, Birmingham  
**SPOOKY SPECTACULAR** Sat 20 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley  
**HALLOWEEN AT HOO** Spooky fun and games in the Halloween barn, as well as pumpkin kiddies maze, pumpkin carving and storytime with Witch Winnie, Sat 20 - Wed 31 Oct, Hoo Farm Animal Kingdom, Telford, Shropshire  
**TECHNO TERRORS** Join the drop-in workshop and build the meanest, scariest Techno Terror you can... Sat 20 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Ingenuity, Telford, Shropshire  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sun 21 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**THE 12TH MALVERN MINI SHOW & SPARES DAY** Sun 21 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern  
**TABLETOP SALE** Hassle-free way to sell surplus items and unwanted gifts, Sun 21 Oct,

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**FAMILY FUNDAY** Sun 21 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR** Sun 21 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow  
**EARLY YEARS CREATIVE MOVEMENT SESSION: DANCING WITH DINOSAURS** Playful movement class for children aged two to five, Sun 21 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

## Week Commencing MON 22 OCT

**SEARCH AND RESCUE** Opportunity for children over five years to become actively involved in a sea rescue operation, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Oct, RAF Cosford, W'hampton  
**THE BIG BANG SHOW** Vote to see your choices from Thinktank's top ten list of demonstrations, Mon 22 - Fri 26 Oct, Thinktank, Birmingham  
**PUMPKIN TRAILER TRAIL** Mon 22 - Mon 29 Oct, Top Barn Farm, Holt Heath, Worcester  
**SPOOKY MASKS WORKSHOP** Chance to create your own creepy mask, Tues 23 Oct, Walsall Leather Museum  
**BOOKMAKING BONANZA! FAMILY WORKSHOP** Create a simple handmade concertina book, illustrated in a Gothic style using printing and collage techniques, Tue 23 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**LUDLOW LECTURES** Series of six lectures on the history and landscape of Ludlow and the Marches, Tue 23 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire  
**BOULTON'S BIG DRAW** As part of the Big Draw, take part in funky art activities inspired by the museum's new displays, Tue 23 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham  
**THE BIG DRAW - DRAW THE BAYARD'S COLTS!** As part of this year's Big Draw, try sketching the museum's historic Bayard's Colts, or design your own drawing of a carved head... Tues 23 Oct, Walsall Leather Museum  
**GUY DAY'S HINTS AND TIPS - WINTER SALADS** Guy talks about warm seasonal salads, dressings and accompaniments, Tue 23 - Wed 24 Oct, Weston Park, Staffordshire  
**SPOOKY SOHO** Soho's spooky cellars are transformed into the Soho Dungeons for Halloween, Tue 23 - Sun 28 Oct, Soho

House, Birmingham  
**PUMPKIN TRAIL** Tues 23 - Sun 28 Oct, Birmingham Back to Backs  
**'FUNKY BROOCHES' - FAMILY WORKSHOP** Join designer/maker Anna Lorenz and create your own colourful brooch or pendant out of stamped plastic, Wed 24 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**CREEPY CRAWLY DROP-IN** Make your own creepy-crawly to give your friends a scare, Wed 24 Oct, Walsall Leather Museum  
**TAKE THE GHOST TRAIN** Thrilling ride out into the countryside, from Kidderminster to Arley and back, Wed 24 Oct, Severn Valley Railway, Kidderminster  
**NATIONAL HUNT AFTERNOON RACING** Wed 24 Oct, Worcester Racecourse  
**THE ORIGINAL DUDLEY GHOST TOUR** Chance to visit various haunted sites around the town, starting off at the Station Hotel, Wed 24 Oct, Dudley  
**PUMPKIN CARVING EVENT** Carve your own spooky design into a pumpkin lantern in a fun and messy workshop led by museum staff, Wed 24 Oct, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch  
**BOULTON GOES TO BOLLYWOOD** Black History Month event, Wed 24 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham  
**FINE ARTIST & MASTER GUILDER DEMONSTRATION** Wed 24 Oct, Museum of Royal Worcester  
**CASTLE GREEN GAMES DAY** An interesting day full of games and activities for all the family, including guided tours, archery, birds of prey and a Living History tent, Wed 24 Oct, Ludlow Castle, South Shropshire  
**SPOOKY SOHO** Halloween craft activities, Thurs 25 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham  
**'RECYCLED RICHES' - FAMILY WORKSHOP** Join artist Jolene Smith and create designer jewellery from recycled materials, Thurs 25 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**LUDLOW LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET** Thurs 25 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire  
**DROP-IN FUN FOR CHILDREN** Get in the Halloween spirit and make a spooky head inspired by the museum's mysterious Bayard's colts, Thurs 25 Oct, Walsall Museum  
**BARNARDOS BRIDAL FAIR** Thurs 25 Oct, Brides By Appointment, Wellington, Shropshire  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ART**

**WORKSHOP** Thurs 25 Oct, Barr Beacon Local Nature Reserve, Walsall  
**MAKE YOUR OWN KNOCK-DOWN SCULPTURE** The Mead Gallery Joins in the national Big Draw initiative by offering visitors the opportunity to 'take a line for a walk', using a linear section of wood - inspired by Aeneas Wilder, Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry  
**TOP GEAR LIVE** Enjoy all the fuel-injected shenanigans of the TV show and catch the famous presenting trio of Clarkson, Hammond and May, Thurs 25 - Sun 28 Oct, NEC, Birmingham  
**GOthic GHOST WALK WITH CHRIS UPTON** A spooky walk through the Jewellery Quarter's Gothic buildings and graveyards to celebrate Halloween and the Pugin Bicentenary, Fri 26 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**'JEWELLERY MAKING' - FAMILY WORKSHOP** Join designer/maker Bonnie Styles and create your own unique piece of jewellery, Fri 26 Oct, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham  
**BEACON BYGONES - GHOST NIGHT** Free children's ghost story walk where children attending in fancy/Halloween costumes receive a free baddy bag, Fri 26 Oct, Barr Beacon Local Nature Reserve, Walsall  
**BOULTON'S BIG DRAW** Celebrate Eid al-Adha with the Big Draw, Fri 26 Oct, Soho House, Birmingham  
**BONNETS UP DAY** An opportunity for technically-minded types to get under the bonnets of three of the Heritage Motor Centre's cars, Fri 26 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**HALLOWEEN EVENING** Visit the museum's eerie gas-lit village, where 'little devils' can trick-or-treat in safety along the museum's cobbled streets, collecting sweets as they go... Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley  
**AUTUMN QUILT FESTIVAL** Featuring quilt displays from all around the world, Fri 26 - Sun 28 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern  
**BRITISH SKI & BOARD SHOW** Fri 26 - Sun 28 Oct, NEC, Birmingham  
**CARNEVAL SPOOKTACULAR 2012** Featuring ghoulish games and frightful fun, demented disco and three-course carvery, Fri 26 - Sat 27 Oct, Heart Of England Conference & Event Centre, Birmingham  
**THE MAJOR MIDLAND**

**SERIES** Off-road run featuring running, mud, water and obstacles, Sat 27 Oct, Weston Park, Staffordshire  
**NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS** Watch as the Grand Wizard Popple weaves his magic with a series of special magic shows, and The Cone's glass artists magically create witches' hats and pumpkins in the hot glass studio, Sat 27 Oct, Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge  
**BLOXWICH BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY** Sat 27 Oct, King George V Playing Fields, Walsall  
**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SAVES THE DAY!** Discover History brings the Crimean War to life... Sat 27 Oct, Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery  
**STRUCTURES OF SPLENDOR** Big Draw event, forming part of the nationwide initiative, Sat 27 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry  
**DIVE 2012** International sub-aqua and water-sports show, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, NEC, Birmingham  
**GHOSTLY GASLIGHT** The friendly Victorians have been replaced by creepy characters, so dress in your most frightening costume to keep ghosts and ghouls at bay!, Sat 27 Oct, Blists Hill Victorian Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire  
**SPOOKY CROOME ADVENTURE** Frighteningly fun ghost tour in the mansion house, Sat 27 Oct, Croome Park, Worcestershire  
**MURDER MYSTERY EVENING** Sat 27 Oct, Market Hall Museum, Warwick  
**ALL STAR SUPERSLAM WRESTLING** See the latest team of World Federation Superstars battle it out in a two-hour action-packed spectacular against a home team of British stars, Sat 27 Oct, O2 Academy, Birmingham  
**MVSA SCREEN AWARDS** The sixth annual music video and screen awards. This year's event - which forms part of the Black International Film Festival - will be hosted by Hugh Quarshie (Dr Rick Griffin in Holby City) and EastEnder's Kim Fox, Tameka Empson, Sat 27 Oct, International Convention Centre (ICC), Birmingham  
**WEST MIDLANDS VEGAN FESTIVAL 2012** Featuring more than one hundred stalls, cookery demonstrations, talks, live entertainment, a licenced vegan bar and a push-up competition, Sat 27 Oct, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
**ALL STAR SUPERSLAM**



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### Whats On

Thu 11 Oct

**An Evening With Quentin Wilson**

Spend a fascinating evening with one of the UK's best known TV presenters and motoring experts - tickets £10.

Fri 26 Oct 2012 to Sun 3 March 2013

**ScooterMania**

An exhibition of British scooters from the 1950s and 60s.

Sat 27 Oct to Sun 4 Nov

**Half Term Activities**

A range of retro crafts and activity trails for families to enjoy together

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Nov

**Christmas Craft Fair**

Local craftspeople, beautiful one-off gifts and a lovely day out.

Sat 17 Nov

**Blitz Family Day**

Experience life during World War II at the Transport Museum, the Herbert and Coventry Cathedral.

Sun 18 Nov

**Campers Christmas**

A Christmas light show with a difference - come and see camper vans and scooters 'blinged' with lights and decorations in front of the Museum.

[www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)

**Tel: 024 7623 4270**





# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**WRESTLING** Sat 27 Oct, Dudley Concert Hall  
**HALLOWEEN SILENT FILM - THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI FOR HALLOWEEN** Featuring on-stage live piano accompaniment from Tony Whittaker, Sat 27 Oct, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa Centre  
**FLAME & THUNDER SHOW** An action-packed family day of drag racing, stunts and more, Sat 27 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**MURDER MYSTERY** Look for clues and solve the mystery in the moated manor house, and enjoy a three-course dinner in the restaurant. Booking essential! Sat 27 Oct, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull  
**PUTTING SHUGBOROUGH TO BED** Watch as Shugborough gets ready for winter, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire  
**HAUNTED HALLOWEEN** A spooky tour around the museum's old buildings, which are popu-

lated by a host of scary characters, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove  
**GHOST WALK** An eerie evening's walk where you can discover the haunting tales that are associated with the Old Mill and the Bordesley Abbey site, Sat 27 - Sun 28 Oct, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch  
**SPOOKY SHAKESPEARE** Halloween-inspired fun, Sat 27 - Wed 31 Oct, Mary Arden Farm, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN TRAIL** Discover spooky secrets and ghostly tales, Sat 27 Oct - Sat 3 Nov, Kenilworth Castle  
**HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM** Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Trentham Monkey Forest, Stoke-on-Trent  
**BUBBLING CAULDRON AND TUDOR MEDICINES** Meet and help the Apothecary make the potion for Macbeth, see the cauldron bubble and learn about Tudor medicines, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Shakespeare's

Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**TOSS OF A COIN** Get hands-on with a range of archeology activities, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**THE PLAGUE RETURNS** Learn about the cost of colour in clothing in the Elizabethan era, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Hall's Croft, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN TRAIL** Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire  
**THE HAUNTED CASTLE** Warwick Castle is the place for frightful family fun this Halloween, with creepy characters galore, spookily themed walking trails and haunted towers and turrets, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Warwick Castle  
**SPOOKY SHAKESPEARE** Halloween-inspired fun Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Hall's Croft, Nash's House & New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon  
**HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES** A series of themed events based around the museum's latest temporary exhibition, Scootermania!, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Coventry Transport

Museum  
**FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN** Enjoy the outdoor trail around the grounds with activities to take home, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Baddesley Clinton, Solihull  
**HALLOWEEN TRAIL** Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire  
**SPOOKTACULAR CROOME!** Have fun along the site's popular Halloween trail, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Croome Park, Worcestershire  
**FAMILY FUN DAYS - HALLOWEEN** See how many bats you can spot in the house and uncover Coughton's links to the infamous Gunpowder Plot, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Coughton Court, Worcestershire  
**WALKING FESTIVAL** Walks to Croome's outer eye-catchers all week. Choose from Panorama Tower, Pirton Castle and Dunstall Castle, Sat 27 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, Croombe Park, Worcestershire  
**HALLOWEEN MARKET** Sun 28 Oct, Castle Square, Ludlow, South Shropshire  
**LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT SHOW** Annual indoor show featuring over one hundred large-scale radio-controlled

model aircraft, demonstrations and aircraft simulators, Sun 28 Oct, Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire  
**RUN WHAT YA BRUNG PUBLIC TRACK DAY** Sun 28 Oct, Santa Pod Raceway, Northampton  
**THE 29TH MALVERN CLASSIC BIKE SHOW & AUTOJUMBLE** Sun 28 Oct, The Three Counties Showground, Malvern  
**HALLOWEEN WALK 5K** walk in aid of Lingen Davies Cancer Fund - fancy dress encouraged, sponsorship optional, Sun 28 Oct, Shrewsbury Castle  
**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY DAY** Follow a spooky trail around the garden and have a go at the themed craft activities, Sun 28 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire  
**WEDDING FAYRE** Featuring styling ideas, a catwalk, photographers and tours of the house, Sun 28 Oct, Hampton Manor, Warwickshire  
**ORCHID SHOW** Exotic blooms from around the world, with a range of displays, sales and expert advice, Sun 28 Oct, Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
**ZOMBIE INVASION** Sun 28 - Wed 31 Oct, Worcester City Centre

**SPOOKTACULAR CROOME!** Take a ghost walk around the park at Hanbury Hall, then head up to Hanbury Church and see if you can meet any ghosts from Hanbury's past on your way, Sun 28 - Wed 31 Oct, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire  
**DRAGON DETECTIVES** Workshop where visitors aged three to eleven can learn how to identify a dragon from its droppings, footprints and scales, as well as create a replica dragon's egg and experiment with dragon's blood, Mon 29 Oct, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire  
**HIDDEN WIGHTWICK TALKS: THE LIFE & WORKS OF EDWARD BURNE-JONES** Walking tour of artworks plus a unique chance to see items from the collection not usually on show, Mon 29 Oct, Wightwick Manor & Gardens, Wolverhampton  
**JUICE-RASSIC PARK** Drop-in family event where artist Jim Morris will be on hand to help young visitors construct a dinosaur from a juice carton, Mon 29 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**FLAME & THUNDER**  
**SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

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 2 ADULTS & 6 KIDS (UNDER 16)

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SATURDAY WEEKEND	£17	£20
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GATES OPEN FROM 11AM FOR WEEKEND TICKETS, 9AM FOR DAY TICKETS

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# Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## **HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM FUN**

Including pumpkin carving and spooky masks workshops, Mon 29 - Wed 31 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

## **HALF TERM FAMILY FUN AT THE FARM**

Autumn activity week with spooky crafts, pumpkin carving, fun quizzes and trails, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

## **CERAMIC DROP-IN WORKSHOPS**

Create crazy ceramic Halloween monsters at one of the drop-in workshops taking place throughout the half-term school holidays, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire

## **TILE DECORATING WORKSHOPS**

Make your own 'terrifying tile' with the spookiest of designs, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, South Shropshire

## **MAD SCIENCE WEEK**

**SPOOKTACULAR!** A week of mad science work-

shops, where visitors can create gloppy lava lamps, make fake blood, discover bulging brains, spin edible spiders' webs and blow up pumpkins, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Arena Theatre, W'hampton

**WET 'N' WILD HOLIDAY CLUB** Featuring fun activities from team-building to inflatables, Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Top Barn, Holt Heath, Worcester

**SPOOKTACULAR HALF-TERM FUN** Mon 29 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Museum of Cannock Chase

**HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS AND FOCUS ON FAWKES** Half-term activities and crafts full of haunting horrors, alarming alchemy and gory goings on... Mon 29 Oct - Sun 4 Nov, The Commandery, Worcester

**ARTISTS' OPEN DAY** An opportunity for painters to capture the beauty of Anne Hathaway's Cottage through the seasons, Tue 30 Oct, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

**NATURE HUNT** Enjoy a walk with the site's ranger and take part in the challenge to see who can find the most unusual treasure, Tues 30 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**SERVANTS' TOUR A** behind-the-scenes look at life as a servant in Victorian times, Tues 30 Oct, Wightwick Manor & Gardens, Wolverhampton

**EARLY YEARS CREATIVE MOVEMENT SESSION: DANCING WITH DINOSAURS** Tues 30 Oct, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**HALLOWEEN FAMILY ACTIVITY DAYS** Themed trails, activities and face-painting, Tues 30 Oct - Thurs 1 Nov, Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire

**AUTUMN JEWELS - HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES** Tues 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Worcestershire County Museum

**COME-AND-MAKE-A-SAURUS!** Themed drop-in workshop, Tues 30 Oct - Fri 2 Nov, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**THE LUDLOW PUDDING EXPERIENCE** A great day out for foodies... Wed 31 Oct, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

**ROCK AND FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION** Have your rocks and fossils identified by resident experts, Wed 31 Oct, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

**HAUNTED HALLOWEEN A** spooky tour around the museum's old buildings, which are populated with a host of scary characters, Wed 31 Oct, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

**GHOST WALK** An eerie evening walk where visitors can discover the haunting tales associated with the Old Mill and the Bordesley Abbey site, Wed 31 Oct, Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR** Wed 31 Oct, The Assembly, Leamington Spa

**HALLOWEEN NIGHT WITH SCOOPY-DOO!** Wed 31 Oct, Cannon Park Shopping Centre, Coventry

**WITCHERY AFOOT** Find out about Tudor superstitions and how to repel a witch, Wed 31 Oct, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SCREAMATHON** An all-night screamathon, with scary events taking place throughout the theatre, Wed 31 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**THE BIG DRAW** Free family event, Wed 31 Oct, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

**PEG DOLLS & ROBOTS** Have-a-go at making paper dolls and robots out of household cardboard, Wed 31 Oct, Greyfriars, Worcester

**GHOST TOUR OF CROOME COURT** Adult-only event featuring a tour with a twist, Wed 31 Oct, Croombe Park, Worcs

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY FUN DAY** Carve a pumpkin to take home, take part in craft activities, play games and visit Dudmaston's resident witch for a spooky tale to end your day... Wed 31 Oct, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**HALLOWEEN NIGHT WITH SCOOPY-DOO!** Wed 31 Oct, Cannon Park Shopping Centre, Coventry

**WITCHERY AFOOT** Find out about Tudor superstitions and how to repel a witch, Wed 31 Oct, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Stratford-upon-Avon

**SCREAMATHON** An all-night screamathon, with scary events taking place throughout the theatre, Wed 31 Oct, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

**THE BIG DRAW** Free family event, Wed 31 Oct, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

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26 - 27 October 2012

This Halloween, visit the Museum's eerie gas-lit village where little devils and mini ghosts and ghouls can trick or treat in SAFETY along the Museum's cobbled streets, collecting sweets as they go. 6.30pm - 10.00pm

There is plenty for the family to see and do with activities including; street theatre performances, circus skill games, magic tricks, balloon animal making, face painting, fire juggling and meeting birds of prey.

BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM

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THIS IS A PRE PURCHASE ONLY EVENT.

Come along in fancy dress and join the musical parade through the Museum's village and you could win a prize for best dressed adult or child.



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[www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)



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[www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk](http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk)



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0121 202 2222

Every day between 22 - 26 October visitors can take part in The Big Bang Family Science Show and see spectacular and noisy science demonstrations. Plus, get up close to some feathery and furry creatures in our Animal Handling sessions with Tropical Inc.

For more information on all our activities visit [www.thinktank.ac/half\\_term](http://www.thinktank.ac/half_term)





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**So what will you be doing tomorrow?**



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# What our members are up to in **October 2012**

## Monday 1st October

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Masonic Temple Visit

## Tuesday 2nd October

- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

## Wednesday 3rd October

- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Badminton at NIA
- Chinese Meal and Quiz - Sutton Coldfield
- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

## Thursday 4th October

- An Introduction To Tai Chi
- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night
- Kababish Dinner Shuffle Experience
- Preview Evening (Arden Hotel)

## Friday 5th October

- Hairy Bikers - Larger Than Live
- Sailing RYA Day Skipper/Competent Crew (2 Weekends)

## Saturday 6th October

- Carriage Driving Experience Day
- Overnight Forest Experience
- Ramble, Scramble and Dangle
- Smash your Glass Ceiling with EFT
- Walk with Wolves - Bedford

## Sunday 7th October

- Bushcraft Day in the Forest
- Don't Diet - Change the way you Eat
- Llama, Camel + Mule Trekking with Lunch
- Miracle of Migration Wildlife Cruise
- Shugborough Easy Ramble

## Monday 8th October

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Spice Book Club

## Tuesday 9th October

- Fire Station - Fire Experience
- Solihull Pub Night

## Wednesday 10th October

- Badminton at NIA
- Nitty Gritty Weather Workshop
- Richard Street of the Temptations at the Jam House
- Sister Act

## Thursday 11th October

- Syriana Syrian/ Lebanese Dinner Shuffle
- Ten Top Tips of a Lawyer

## Friday 12th October

- Blackpool Social Weekend
- Leather Evening with Black Country Supper

- Skills for Walking the Hills (Navigation Awards)
- Source to Sea Wend 1 - Plynllynon to Rhyader
- Wiltshire Walking Weekend

## Saturday 13th October

- Bird Handling Course
- Colour U Confident Workshop
- Digital Photography for Beginners
- Fire Lighting and Wild Foods Day in the Forest
- Funny Girls Stage Show
- Gardeners Time with Lunch at Dunsley Hall
- Medieval Jousting

## Sunday 14th October

- Abbots Bromley + Bagot Forest Ramble
- Abseiling for the Terrified
- Feel the Fear .. and do it anyway®
- Indian Head Massage Workshop (Arden Hotel)
- Learn to Draw in a Day
- The Big Abseil - 200 Feet Straight Down

## Monday 15th October

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Bromsgrove Pub Night

## Tuesday 16th October

- Cafe Ceramica Experience
- Kings Heath Pub Night
- Wine Tasting - Pinot Noir

## Wednesday 17th October

- Badminton at NIA
- Drumming Experience for Beginners
- Peninsular Cantonese Meal

## Thursday 18th October

- Curry and Quiz - Harborne
- Sex and Contraception in 1580
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

## Friday 19th October

- Birds of Prey Weekend
- Country Pursuits Leisure Break
- Sailing Weekend around Malta and Gozo
- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House

## Saturday 20th October

- Autumn in the Forest
- Coton In The Elms Easy Ramble
- Fungi Forage
- Indoor Skydiving
- Leicestershire Villages Easy Moderate Cycle
- Lincoln Discovery Day by Coach
- Poker Night at Lea Marston
- Zombie attack 2.8 hours later

## Sunday 21st October

- Barrow and The Jack Mytton Way
- Birmingham Museum - Pre-Raphaelite Models
- Intro to EFT and Energy Connections
- Kenilworth Moderate Ramble
- Mind Management Workshop
- Retired Greyhound Centre Visit

## Monday 22nd October

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester

## Wednesday 24th October

- Badminton at NIA
- Confessions of a Health and Safety Inspector
- Lasan Indian Banquet
- Leamington Torchlit Ramble + Supper

## Thursday 25th October

- New Members Mix and Mingle

## Friday 26th October

- Creative Writing Weekend
- Dracula
- Fly Fishing Weekend
- Halloween Barn Weekend
- Sherwood Forest Luxury Walking and Social W/end

## Saturday 27th October

- Ballroom Dance Masterclass - Foxtrot!
- Canadian Canoe Adventure
- Pole Dancing with Pure Joy

## Sunday 28th October

- Bearley and Stratford Canal Easy Ramble
- First Aid Course Day
- Implementing "The Secret"
- Massage for Beginners Workshop
- Stow On The Wold Ramble

## Monday 29th October

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester

## Tuesday 30th October

- Ikon Gallery Tour and Tapas Dinner

## Wednesday 31st October

- Badminton at NIA
- Quiz
- Top Of The Pops Live

For future listings visit:  
[www.spicebham.com](http://www.spicebham.com)





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**SHERRIE  
HEWSON**  
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**KEN  
MORLEY**  
as The King

**NIGEL  
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# Looking ahead to Christmas!



It may be hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner - and preparations are well under way to ensure that Midlands audiences get to enjoy yet another bumper festive season of entertainment!

The region has always attracted some of the biggest names in show-biz for the Christmas period, and 2012 is certainly no exception. Hippodrome favourite Brian Conley will be up for some swashbuckling fun at the venue when he heads an impressive cast in a festive version of *Robinson Crusoe*. He's joined for the occasion by *Birds Of A Feather* star Lesley Joseph. Meanwhile, over in Wolverhampton, the Grand Theatre will become home to a host of veteran entertainers, with Keith Harris - along with Orville and Cuddles - performing alongside *Benidorm* and *Loose Women* presenter Sherrie Hewson, former *Corrie* shopkeeper Reg Holdsworth, and local lass Niki Evans in what's sure to be a 'giant' performance of *Jack And The Beanstalk*. Stoke favourite Jonathan Wilkes will be shining his buttons at the

Regent Theatre, making a welcome return to the Potteries to star in *Cinderella*, while a Christmas show with a difference is heading to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, where Bonnie Langford takes top billing in *Dolly Parton's 9 To 5 The Musical*. Alan Bennett's adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's much-loved children's tale *The Wind In The Willows* is sure to provide yet another festive treat, courtesy of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

So why not check out our full run-down of 'what's on where and with who' this forthcoming Christmas - we've included ticket prices as well, to help you make an informed decision about how best to enjoy the festive season 2012...

## Festive show LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

**KNICK KNACK AND DOO DAD** Presented by Lyngo Theatre, The Lowry and mac, Tues 13 Nov - Sun 2 Dec, mac, Birmingham, £8.00

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** Birmingham Stage Company present Roald Dahl's classic adventure for children, Wed 14 Nov - Sat 2 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham, £12.00 - £18.50. Family tickets £56.00

**THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD** Tamsin Oglesby's adaptation of Russell Hoban's acclaimed children's tale, Sat 17 Nov - Sat 12 Jan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Tickets from £14.00

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Sat 17 Nov - Sat 19 Jan, New Vic Theatre,

Newcastle-under-Lyme, £14.00 - £21.00

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Alan Bennett's stage adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale, Wed 28 Nov - Sat 19 Jan, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, £9.00 - £28.00

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Featuring Iain Lauchlan as the Dame, Wed 28 Nov - Sat 5 Jan, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £12.00 - £20.50

**WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT** Adapted from the picture book written by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, Sat 1 - Sun 30 Dec, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, £12.00 (£10.00)

**CINDERELLA** Presented

by Image Theatre, Fri 30 Nov - Mon 31 Dec, Crewe Lyceum, £14.00 (£10.00)

**HELLO, DOLLY!** Fri 30 Nov - Sat 12 Jan, The Curve, Leicester, £9.75 - £30.50

**ERIC IN WONDERLAND** Fri 30 Nov - Sat 15 Dec, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, £16.00 - £21.00

**SLEEPING BEAUTY** Starring Linda Nolan as the Evil Carabosse, Mon 3 - Sun 30 Dec, Palace Theatre, Redditch, £14.50 - £17.50. Family tickets £61.00

**CINDERELLA** Tue 4 - Sat 29 Dec, Bedworth Civic Hall

**THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE** Wed 5 - Sat 8 Dec, Dudley Little Theatre

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Thurs 6 Dec - Sun 13 Jan, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, £12.00 - £16.00

**SNOW WHITE** Fri 7 - Mon 31 Dec, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington

Spa, £8.50 - £13.50

**CINDERELLA** Fri 7 - Mon 31 Dec, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, £8.00 - £14.50. Family tickets £45.00 - £48.00

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Fri 7 Dec - Sun 6 Jan, Lichfield Garrick, £13.50 - £22.50

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** Featuring Loose Women presenter Sherrie Hewson as Lady Temple Savage, alongside Keith Harris, Orville and Cuddles, Sat 8 Dec - Sun 20 Jan, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, £15.50 - £25.50

**CRACKERS** A brand new, crazy Christmas comedy, Sat 8 - Sat 22 Dec, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, £7.75 - £14.25 (£7.50 - £12.25)

**GRIMM TALES** Presented by Poole Hayes Youth Theatre, Wed 12 - Sun 16 Dec, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, £9.00 (£7.00)

**CINDERELLA** Featuring Jonathan Wilkes, Thurs

13 Dec - Fri 4 Jan, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, £9.50 - £30.25

**CINDERELLA** Starring Ruth Madoc, Jamie Rickers and Emma Nowell, Thurs 13 Dec - Sun 6 Jan, Malvern Theatre, £11.00 - £22.00

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL PANTO** The classic fairytale is given a rock 'n' roll twist, Thurs 13 Dec - Sat 12 Jan, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, £16.95 (£12.95). Family £50.00

**DICK WHITTINGTON** Starring Malcolm Stent, Fri 14 Dec - Mon 14 Jan, Solihull Arts Complex, £11.00 - £17.50

**PETER PAN** Sat 15 Dec - Sat 29 Dec, Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

**ROBINSON CRUSOE AND THE CARIBBEAN PIRATES** Starring Brian Conley and Lesley Joseph, Sat 15 Dec - Sun 27 Jan, Birmingham

Hippodrome, £14.00 - £37.50

**9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL** New musical comedy starring Bonnie Langford, Natalie Casey, Jackie Clune, Amy Lennox and Ben Richards, Sun 16 Dec - Sat 5 Jan, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, £15.00 - £42.00

**PUSS IN BOOTS** Thurs 20 Dec - Tue 1 Jan, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick. Tickets from £9.50

**THE SELFISH GIANT** Sealegs Puppet Theatre Company present an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's fairytale, Fri 21 - Sat 22 Dec, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, £7.00. Family ticket £24.00

**THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD** Tall Stories return with a musical stage adaptation of Julia Donaldson's award-winning story, Sat 22 Dec - Wed 16 Jan, Birmingham Town Hall, £10.50



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**C:21 NIGHTCLUB** 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821

**BUTTERMARKET** Howard Street, Shrewsbury Tel: 01743 281712

**VELVET** 13 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DJ Tel: 01743 281712

**FEVER** 19 - 21 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU Tel: 01743 247508

**THE OFFICE** 27a Market Street, Oakengates TF2 6EN Tel: 01952 616536

**PUSSYCATS NIGHT CLUB** 17 Tan Bank, Wellington, TF2 6EJ Tel: 01952 224260

**SPIRIT NIGHTCLUB** 18 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055

## STAFFORDSHIRE

**COURTURE & NOIRE ET BLANC** 139 Newport Rd, Stafford, ST16 2EZ Tel: 01785 244755

**LIQUID** Brunswick St, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR Tel: 01782 284333

**REFLEX** 3-5 Brockley Square, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5LY Tel: 01782 206170

**TRINITY NIGHTCLUB** Spinning School Lane, Tamworth, ST1 1DR Tel: 01827 58772

## WARWICKSHIRE

**CAREYS NIGHTCLUB** Hereford Place, Coventry CV1 3JZ Tel: 02476 227 397

**EVOLVE NIGHTCLUB** 2 Spencer Street, Leamington Spa, Coventry CV31 3NF Tel: 01926 881449

**JJ'S** Skydome Leisure Park, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ. Tel: 02476 555913

**LIQUID & ENVY** Leicester Road, Nuneaton CV11 4B. Tel: 02476 344216

**REFLEX** Church St, Nuneaton, CV11 4BW Tel: 02476 344216

## WORCESTERSHIRE

**BUSHWACKERS** Trinity St, Worcester WR1 2PW Tel: 01905 26878

**TRAMPS** Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN Tel: 019905 26936

**VELVET LOUNGE** Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN. Tel: 01905 619966



## Gatecrasher's birthday celebrations continue...

Gatecrasher, Birmingham, Sat 13 October

Since opening in 2008, Gatecrasher's Birmingham venue has attracted over three million visitors and gained global recognition for its technologically-advanced light and sound systems, unique design, state-of-the-art production and cutting-edge line-ups. The venue has also been ranked amongst the best clubs in the world by superstar DJs such as Swedish House Mafia, Paul Oakenfold, Deadmau5, Calvin Harris and Roger Sanchez. In celebration of its achievements, Gatecrasher is this month revisiting the glory days of Trance, courtesy of the return of Red And Black night - one of the biggest themed nights ever to have graced the dance music scene. After announcing his retirement last August, esteemed DJ Matt Hardwick has agreed to make a special appearance alongside two other legendary residents, Judge Jules and Scott Bond. And, as the theme for the event is Red and Black, clubbers are requested to adhere to the evening's strict dress code of - yep, you've guessed it - red and black...

## Return of the Midlands Big Gay Night Out

This month sees the return of an initiative to bring revellers from the region's outlining towns, cities and beyond into Birmingham's Gay Village for a night of non-stop partying. On Saturday 20 October, sixteen fifty-seater coaches from around the Midlands will travel to the second city, providing their passengers with the opportunity to visit no fewer than eighteen popular Gay Village venues. For just £15, the Big Gay Travel Pass includes return travel, entry into the Nightingale Club - the country's largest gay venue outside of London - and two free drinks. Coaches will depart from Leicester, Nuneaton, Manchester, Stoke, Shrewsbury, Telford, Wolverhampton, Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham, Tamworth, Bristol, Worcester, Gloucester, Northampton and Coventry. Tickets are available from the Nightingale Club at [www.nightingaleclub.co.uk](http://www.nightingaleclub.co.uk)



## GAY NIGHTCLUBS

### BIRMINGHAM

**CLUB CHIC** 28 Horsefair, B1 1DD. Tel: 0121 666 6808

**THE CORE** Sherlock Street, B5 6NB Tel: 0121 622 2797

**THE NIGHTINGALE** Kent St, B5 6RD Tel: 0121 622 1718

**THE VILLAGE INN & UNDERGROUND** 152 Hurst St, B5 6RY Tel: 0121 622 4742

### BLACK COUNTRY

**THE LION** Birchills St, Walsall, WS2 8NG Tel: 01922 610977

**GORGEOUS** Salop St Wolverhampton, WV3 0SR Tel: 0844 357 8570

### SHROPSHIRE

**C21** 18-21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821 (MON ONLY)

**SPIRIT** 22 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 355055 (MON ONLY)

### STAFFORDSHIRE

**THE FACTORY** Bryan St, Hanley, Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 2AA Tel: 01782 478799

### WARWICKSHIRE

**RAINBOWS** Short St, Coventry CV1. Tel: 02476 551738

### WORCESTERSHIRE

**VELVET CLUB** Angel Row, Worcester, WR1 3QN Tel: 01905 20218



## Is it Just Me?

By Miranda Hart

Her self-titled sitcom and numerous TV appearances have earned actress/comedian Miranda Hart an army of fans. But life has been little more than 'one long, embarrassing and frankly hilarious journey' for the woman dubbed Britain's Queen of Comedy. From an early age Miranda has suffered humiliation through a wealth of awkward situations. Now, with her very first book, she wants to share her experiences and impart her wisdom, as she works through the uncomfortable truths about life, offering guidance on how to navigate those 'more delicate' moments. From how to master the cocktail umbrella and bar stool on a first date through to conversational techniques for the kind of social events where you'd rather be in the loo eating a biscuit, *Is it Just Me?* serves as a perfect Miran-ual for fans everywhere - and for anybody wishing to avoid the social mishaps which Miranda has stumbled into at every turn.



Rebecca Ferguson

## Adaptation of Phillipa Gregory's historical novel series announced

A major new ten-hour adaptation of Phillipa Gregory's best-selling historical novel series *The Cousins' War* - telling the story of the women of the Wars of the Roses - has been commissioned by Controller of BBC Drama Ben Stephenson. *The White Queen*, which is currently filming on location in Bruges, will be screened on BBC One in 2013. Described as 'a thrilling story of a woman caught up in an ongoing conflict for the throne', this major epic promises to be a visually stunning tale of love, loss, seduction, deception, betrayal and murder, and will feature Max Irons (*Red Riding Hood*) and James Frain (*The Tudors*). Swedish model/actress Rebecca Ferguson takes on the mammoth role of *The White Queen*.

## Endeavour Morse back by popular demand

Following the success of the recent one-off Inspector Morse prequel *Endeavour*, ITV has decided to produce a full series focusing on the early life of the iconic detective. Shaun Evans won much critical acclaim for his debut performance as Morse, and is now engaged in filming four, two-hour-long episodes on location in Oxford. Acclaimed novelist Colin Dexter, whose first Morse story was published in 1975, will act as consultant on *Endeavour*, while James Bradshaw, John Thaw's daughter Abigail, and *The Hour* star Anton Lesser are also lined up to appear.



Shaun Evans

## Maxine Peak and John Simm in epic drama

The BBC has announced that *Silk* star Maxine Peak is to appear opposite *Life On Mars* actor John Simm in *The Village*, a new drama penned by BAFTA-winning writer Peter Moffat. The six part series, which will be filmed on location in the Peak District, charts the turbulent times of one English village across the whole of the twentieth century, with births, love and betrayal, great political events, upheavals in national identity, ways of working, sex, religion and class all covered. Emily Beecham (*The Runaway*), Jim Cartwright (writer of *The Rise And Fall Of Little Voice*), Anthony Flanagan (*Being Human*) and Annabelle Apsion (*Shameless*) all star in the series, which is scheduled to air in 2013.

## David Mitchell: Back Story

By David Mitchell

With *Peep Show*, *That Mitchell And Webb Look* and various panel shows and sitcom appearances under his belt, acclaimed actor, writer and comedian David Mitchell has now taken it upon himself to produce a book about his life. *David Mitchell: Back Story* tells of the British Academy Award-winner's pain at being denied a childhood birthday party at McDonald's, explains the satisfaction of writing jokes about suicide, and reveals why, by the time he got to Cambridge, he really, really needed a drink. Mitchell also explains why it would be worse to bump into Michael Palin than Adolf Hitler on

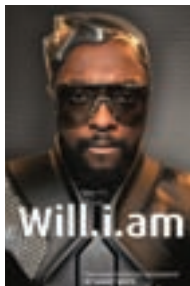


holiday. Other topics covered include the curious French habit of injecting everyone in the arse rather than the arm, and the singular, pitbull-infested charm of the FRP (Flat Roofed Pub).

## Will.i.am

By Danny White

An eventful first series on *The Voice*, a performance at Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert, and a torch-bearing role in the lead-up to the Olympics has seen American rapper, musician and entrepreneur Will.i.am further cement his rapport with the British public during 2012. In this unauthorised biography, author Danny White explores Will.i.am's (real name William James Adams) troubled childhood, his flamboyant dress sense, and how rap saved him from the sad fate that befell many of his friends.



### TOP 5 BOOKS

- 1 **The Hairy Dieters**  
Hairy Bikers
- 2 **Fifty Shades Freed**  
EL James
- 3 **Fifty Shades Darker**  
EL James
- 4 **Fifty Shades Of Grey**  
EL James
- 5 **Now You See Her**  
James Patterson







## Brazilian steak house turns a meal into a feast

Ceremoniously opened in the presence of scantily clad samba girls, Rodizio Rico is an entirely new concept to Birmingham.

The Churrascaria, or Brazilian steak house, is the first Rodizio Rico to be opened outside London, and its chic canal-side location at The Cube offers one of the best views in town.

The spacious, stylish interior is modern, with exposed wood offering a nod to authenticity. The pièce de résistance, however, is the stunning floor-to-ceiling wine display, which divides the bar and restaurant. Settling into the best seats in the house, our window-side view was deliciously cosmopolitan. Here, we were introduced to a whole new way of eating - one which involves the non-stop provision of freshly cooked meat and the use of a red/green card to alert your pasador (meat carver) that you're either ready for more or taking a breather.

With a selection of fourteen cuts of meat served straight from the grill, beef, pork, lamb and chicken on the menu, and a hearty

salad bar with up to ten hot and ten cold Brazilian street food dishes, lettuce lovers need not apply.

Succulent, fresh and well-seasoned, the chicken leg, fillet steak, lamb leg and beef rib stood out in particular, whilst the hot rice and refried beans from the salad bar helped to balance out the protein. For a set price of £23.50, the menu is a carnivore's delight, and is best appreciated on a growling stomach. Great value if you can take the heat, a visit to Rodizio Rico turns a meal into a feast. *Alev Dervish*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
<b>OVERALL</b>	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Rodizio Rico**  
**The Cube**  
**Commercial Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B1 1RS**  
**Tel: 0121 285 2856**

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit: [www.whatsonlive.co.uk](http://www.whatsonlive.co.uk)

## Birmingham

**AALTO RESTAURANT** Hotel La Tour, Albert Street, Birmingham B5 5JT 0121 718 8000

**AL FRASH** 186 Ladypool Road, Sparkbrook, B12 8JS 0121 753 3120

**THE ASQUITH** 11 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3NY 0121 200 1588

**ASHA'S** 12-22 Newhall Street, B3 3LX 0121 200 2767

**AZZARI TOO** 204 Lightwoods Rd, B67 5AZ 0121 429 6621

**BANK** 4 Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 633 4466

**BAR EPERNAY** 171-172 Wharfside Street, The Mailbox, B1 1RL 0121 632 1430

**BAR ESTILO** 10-114 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B11RF 0121 643 3443

**BARNT GREEN INN** Kendal End Rd, Rednal B45 8PZ 0121 445 4949

**BARAJEE** 265 Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 643 6700

**BELLA ITALIA** 102 New St, B2 4HQ 0121 6431548

**BERLIOZ** Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JQ 0121 633 1737

**BLUE MANGO** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121 633 4422

**BLUE GINGER** 32 Poplar Road, Kings Heath, B14 7AD 0121 444 0999

**BLUU** Fleet St, Summer Row, B3 1JH 0121 236 9013

**BRANDED BULL STEAKHOUSE** 175 Broad Street, B15 1DT 0121 643 5968

**BUONISSIMO** 1 Albany Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX 0121 426 2444

**BYZANTIUM** 11 York Road, Kings Heath, B14 7SA 0121 444 5444

**CAFE IKON** 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS 0121 248 3226

**CAFE ROUGE** Brindleyplace, Broad Street, B1 2HJ 0121 643 6556

**CAFE SOYA** Unit 2, Upper Dean Street B5 4SG 0121 622 3888

**CARLUCCIO'S** The Water's Edge Brindleyplace B1 2HP 0121 633 9262

**CELEBRITY INDIAN** 44 Broad St, B1 2HP 0121 643 8969

**THE CHAMELEON** 1 Victoria Square, B1 1BD 0121 643 2233

**CHEZ JULES** 5a Ethel St, B2 4BG 0121 633 4664

**CHI** 61 Newhall St, B3 3RB 0121 233 3150

**CHUNG YING** 16-18 Wrottersley Street, B5 4RT 0121 622 5669

**CHUNG YING GARDEN** 17 Thorpe St, B5 4AT 0121 666 6622

**CIELO** 6 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB 0121 632 6882

**CITY CAFE GRILL** Hylton Garden Inn, 1 Brunswick Square, Brindleyplace, B1 2HW 0121 643 1003

**COFFEE ROOM BAR & BISTRO** Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 605 4343

**COTE** The Mailbox, B1 1RX 0121 631 1587

**CUCINA RUSTICA** 24 Ludgate Hill, B3 1DX 0121 233 2277

**DEL VILLAGGIO** Unit 528, Middle Mall The Bullring B5 4BE 0121 643 1400

**DEOLALI BAR RESTAURANT** 23A St Mary's Row, Moseley B13 8HW 0121 442 2222

**DUET CUISINE** Unit 1, Fort Dunlop B24 9FD 0121 748 1234

**EDMUNDS** 6 Brindley place, B1 2JB 0121 633 4944

**FUMO** 1 Waterloo Street, Birmingham B2 5PG 0121 643 9979

**HARJEES SPICES** 512 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4AH 0121 773 6130

**THE HORSESHOE BAR & RESTAURANT** 1214 Stratford Road, B28 9BH 0121 777 2340

**ITHAAS** 18 Fleet St, B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

**ITHAAS BRASSERIE** Selfridges Food Hall, Bullring, Birmingham B5 4BP 0121 212 3383

**JAMIES ITALIAN** Middle Mall, Bullring Shopping Centre, B5 4BE 0121 270 3610

**JIMMY SPICES** Regency Wharf, Broad St, B1 2DS 0121643 2111

**JIMMY SPICES** 64-66 Station Rd, Solihull, B91 3RX 0121 709 2111

**JUJU'S** Canal Square, B16 8EH 0121 456 3384

**THE JUNCTION** 212 High Street, Harborne, B17 9PT 0121 428 2635

**KINNAREE THAI** 22 Waterfront Walk, B1 1SN 0121 665 6568

**LA BASTILLE** 220 Corporation St, B4 6QB 0121 236 1171

**LASAN** 3-4 Dakota Buildings James St, St Paul's Square, B3 1SD 0121 212 3664

**LAS IGUANAS** Arcadian Centre, Hurst St, B5 4TD 0121 622 4466

**LA TASCA** Regency Wharf, B1 2DS 0121 643 9888

**THE LOFT LOUNGE** 143 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG 0121 622 2444

**LOVES** The Glasshouse, Browning St, B16 8FL 0121 454 5151

**MANIC ORGANIC** 46 Poplar Road, B14 7AG 0121 441 3802

**MAHARAJA** 23/25 Hurst St, B5 4AS 0121 622 2641

**MECHU** 47 - 59 Summer Row, B3 1JJ 0121 212 1661

**METRO BAR & GRILL** 73 Cornwall St, B3 2DF 0121 200 1911

**MILLER & CARTER** 178-180 Wharfside St, The Mailbox, B1 1RN 0121 643 7738

**MINT** Yew Tree Retail Park, Stoney Lane Yardley, B25 8YP Tel: 0121 789 8908

**MIRAGE FUSION** Broadway Casino, Broadway Plaza Ladywood Middleway, B16 8LP 0121 456 5557

**MOUNT FUJI** The Bullring, B5 4BH 0121 633 9853

**OLD SPECKLED HEN** Mere Green Road, Sutton Coldfield. B75 5BL 0121 308 9410

**OLD JOINTSTOCK PUB** 4 Temple Row, B2 5NY 0121 200 1892

**OPUS** 54 Cornwall St, B3 2DE 0121 200 2323

**THE ORIENTAL** The Mailbox, 128-130 Wharfside St, B1 1RQ 0121 633 9988

**PASTA DE PIAZZA** 11 Brook Street, St Paul's Square, B3 1SA 0121 236 5858

**PEACHY KEENS** 1741 Coventry Road, Yardley B26 1DS 0121 764 5519

**PENNY BLACKS** The Mailbox, 132-134 Wharfside St, B1 1XL 0121 632 1460

LOOKING FOR A RESTAURANT ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

VISIT [whatsonlive.co.uk](http://whatsonlive.co.uk)

The most comprehensive what's on listings website for Birmingham and the West Midlands



**PICCOLINO 9**  
Brindleyplace, B1 2HS  
0121 634 3055

**PONTE DI LEGNO 44-44a**  
Woodbridge Rd,  
Moseley, B13 8EJ  
0121 449 8064

**PUNJABI HAVELI 1558**  
Stratford Rd, Hall Green,  
B28 9HA 0121 745  
3636

**PURNELL'S 55** Cornwall  
St, B3 2DH. 0121 212  
9799

**PUSHKAR 245** Broad St,  
B1 2HQ. 0121 643 7978

**RABBEAN 17** Thorp  
Street, B5 4AT  
0121 622 5573

**THE RECTORY 50-54** St  
Paul's Sq, B3 1QS  
0121 605 1001

**RED PEPPERS 117**  
Wharfside St, B1 1RF  
0121 643 4202

**ROSE MURREE 94 -96**  
Hagley Rd, Edgbaston,  
B16 8LU 0121 456 4500

**SABAI SABAI 25**  
Woodbridge Rd,  
Moseley, B13 8EH  
0121 4494498

**SAN CARLO 4** Temple St,  
B2 5BN 0121 633 0251

**SHAH'S** Unit 16, 1160  
Warwick Road, Acocks  
Green B27 6BP 0121  
707 8297

**SHIMLA PINKS 215** Broad  
St, B15 1AY 0121 633  
0366

**SHOGUN TEPPANYAKI** The  
Mailbox, 27 - 29  
Wharfside St, B1 1RD  
0121 632 1253

**SIMPSONS, 20** Highfield  
Rd, Edgbaston B13 3DU  
0121 454 3434

**SPICE EXCHANGE,**  
1845 Pershore Rd  
Kings Norton, B30 3DJ  
0121 451 1007

**STRADA 109-111**  
Wharfside St, The  
Mailbox B1 1XL  
0121 643 7279

**SYRIANA 1** Constitution  
Hill, B19 3LG 0121  
2369444

**THAI EDGE 7** Oozells Sq,  
B1 2HL 0121 643 3993

**TIN TIN TANTONSE,**  
The Waters Edge,  
Brindleyplace, B1 2HL  
0121 633 0888

**ULYSSES 42a** Bristol  
Street, B5 7AA 0121 622  
3159

**THE VAULTS** Newhall  
Place, Newhall Hill, B1  
3JH 0121 212 9837

**VMF - ASTON VILLA FOOT-**

**BALL CLUB** Villa Park,  
Trinity Rd, B6 6HE 0121  
326 1570

**THE WAREHOUSE CAFE**  
54-57 Allison Street,  
Digbeth, B5 5TH  
0121 633 0261

**WING WAH 278**  
Thimblemill Lane, B7  
5HD 0121 327 7879

**WOKTASTIC** Paradise  
Place, B3 3HJ 0121 236  
3130

**WONGS 5-11** Fleet St, B3  
1JP 0121 212 1888

**YO! SUSHI** Bullring,  
Birmingham B5 4BP.  
0121 600 6712

**ZIZZI 183** High St,  
Harborne B17 9QE  
0121 428 4228 also at  
The Mailbox B1 1RL

0121 632 1333.  
10 Poplar Rd, Solihull,  
B91 3AB 0121 704 5030

## Black Country

**BELLA 82** Chapel Ash,  
Wolverhampton, 01902  
427555

**BILASH 2** Cheapside,  
Wolverhampton, WV1  
1TU 01902 427762

**THE BLUE BRICK**  
Broad Gauge Way,  
Wolverhampton WV1  
1AA 01902 875301

**BRAVACCIOUS 4** Upper  
Green, Wolverhampton  
WV6 8QQ 01902 756052

**CAFE CHAMPAGNE 253-**  
255 Bilston Road,  
Wolverhampton WV2  
2JN 01902 458024

**CAPELLANI'S 6** School St,  
Wolverhampton, WV1  
4LR 01902 428928

**THE COWSHED** Clive  
Farm Clive Rd,  
Pattingham, WV6 7EN  
01902 701888

**CINNAMON COURT**  
Bentley Mill Way, Walsall  
WS2 0BP 0121 568  
6664

**THE DITCH 1** Town Hill,  
Walsall, WS1 2EU 01922  
643215

**DUNSLEY HALL HOTEL 39**  
Dunsley Rd, Kinver,  
DY7 6LU 01384 877077

**FARADAYS** The  
Waterfront, Brierley Hill,  
Dudley, DY5 1UR  
01384 482 882

**THE FAIRLAWNS AT  
ALDRIDGE 178** Little  
Aston Road, Aldridge,  
Walsall WS9 0NU 01922  
455122

**RISTORANTE ROMAGNA 4**  
Upper Green, Tettenhall,  
Wolverhampton WV6  
8QQ 01902 756052



**FIVE RIVERS** Vicarage  
Place, Walsall WS1 3NA  
01922 646164

**FOUR STONES** Adam's  
Hill, Clint, Stourbridge,  
DY9 9PS 01562 883260

**FRANZLS 151** Milcote Rd,  
Smethwick, B67 5BN  
0121 429 7920

**FRENCH CONNECTION**  
3 Coventry St,  
Stourbridge DY8 1EP  
01384 390940

**FRENCH HEN** Bromsgrove  
Rd, Clent, Stourbridge  
DY9 9PY 01562 883040

**GOLDEN MOMENTS 2-3**  
Ablewell St, Walsall WS1  
2EQ 01922 640363

**HOGARTH'S HOTEL 4**  
Ashes Road, Solihull,  
West Midlands B93 8QE  
01564 779988

**KAMRAN BALTI'S 34** High  
Street, Lye, Stour-bridge  
DY9 8LF 01384 893030

**MADE IN THAI** Darlington  
St, Wolverhampton WV1  
4HW 01902 312512

**MALABAR 7** Anchor Rd,  
Walsall WS9 8PT  
01922 944 482

**THE PIE FACTORY 50**  
Hurst Lane, Tipton DY4  
9AB 0121 557 1402

**RED FORT** Ford St,  
Wolverhampton, WV1  
4LP 01902 424440

**RISTORANTE ROMAGNA 4**  
Upper Green, Tettenhall,  
Wolverhampton WV6  
8QQ 01902 756052

**THE SPRINGHILL**  
Warstones Rd, Penn,  
Wolverhampton WV4  
4LB 01902 342530

**SIMON'S 520** Chester Rd,  
Aldridge, Walsall, WS9  
0PU 0121 580 9293

**THE SUMMERHOUSE 92**  
Gospel End Rd, Dudley  
DY3 4AN 01902 676 102

**SAFFRON 909**  
Wolverhampton Road,  
Oldbury B69 4RR  
0121 552 1752

**THORNESCROFT**  
Bridgnorth Rd,  
Wolverhampton, WV6  
7EQ 01902 700 253

**THE WOODMAN** Claverley,  
Wolverhampton WV5  
7DG 01746 710 553

## Shropshire

**AFTAB 25** High St,  
Ironbridge TF8 7AD  
01952 432055

**ALBRIGHT SUSSEY**  
Ellesmere Rd,  
Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF  
01939 290 523

**BUTLERS** Park St, Shifnal,  
TF11 9BA 01952 460662

**CASA NARANJO** Barracks  
Passage, Wyle Cop,  
Shrewsbury SY1 01743  
588165

**CASA RUIZ 45** High  
Street, Bridgnorth, WV16  
4DX 01746 218 084

**CHEZ MAW** Best Western  
Valley Hotel, Buildwas  
Rd, Ironbridge, TF8  
7DW 01952 432247

**CROMWELLS 11**  
Dogpole, Shrewsbury  
SY1 1EN 01743 361440

**THE COTTAGE** Tern Hill,  
Market Drayton TF9 3PX  
01630 638984

**DA VINCI'S 26** High St,  
Ironbridge, TF8 7AD  
01952 432250

**DORRINGTON OLD HALL**  
PERSIAN CUISINE Main  
road, Dorington,  
Shropshire SY5 7JD  
01743 719100

**DRAPERS 10** St Mary's St  
Shrewsbury, SY1 1DZ  
01743 344679

**FENNELS 8** Market Place,  
Shifnal TF11 9AZ 01952

463020  
**THE FEATHERS** Brockton,  
Much Wenlock TF13  
6JR 01746 785202

**THE FOX INN 46** High St,  
Much Wenlock TF13  
6AD 01952 727292

**FRANK CAFE BAR 165-167**  
Frankwell, Shrewsbury  
SY3 8LG 01743 354422

**THE GOLDEN CROSS 14**  
Princess St,  
Shrewsbury, SY1 1LP  
01743 362507

**THE GOLDEN MOMENTS**  
50 Broad St, Ludlow  
SY8 1NH 01584 878488

**GRANARY BAR & GRILL**  
Weston Park, Weston-  
under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal,  
TF11 8LE 01952 852107

**HADLEY PARK HOUSE**  
Hadley Park, Telford TF1  
6QJ 01952 677269

**THE INN AT GRINSHILL**  
The High Street,  
Grinshill, Shrewsbury,  
SY4 3BL 01939 220410

**THE HAYWARDS** at The  
Lion Hotel, Wyle Cop,  
Shrewsbury SY1 1UY  
01743 353107

**KING & THAI** Avenue Rd,  
Broseley, Telford TF12  
5DL 01952 882004

**LA BÉCASSE 17** Corve St,  
Ludlow, SY8 1DA 01584  
872 325

**LA DOLCE VITA 35** Hills  
Lane, Shrewsbury SY1  
1QU 01743 249126

**LA LANTERNA** The Old  
Vestry, St Julian's  
Church, Shrewsbury  
SY1 1UH 01743 233552

**LION & PHEASANT 50**  
Wyle Cop Shrewsbury  
SY1 1XJ 01743 770345

**MAD JACKS 15** St Mary's  
St, Shrewsbury, SY1  
1EQ 01743 358870

**THE MALHOUSE** The  
Wharfage, Ironbridge  
TF8 7NH. 01902 433712

**THE MEADOW INN**  
Buildwas Road,  
Ironbridge TF8 7BJ  
01952 433193

**MINH'S CHINESE 20**  
Bradford St, Shifnal  
TF11 8AU 01952 463323

**MR UNDERHILLS** Dinham  
Weir, Ludlow Shropshire  
SY8 1EH 01584 874431

**MORGANS 1** Bellstone,  
Shrewsbury SY1 1HU  
01743 239114

**THE MYTTON & MERMAID**  
Atcham, Shrewsbury,  
SY5 6QG 01743 761220

**THE OLD ORLETON INN**  
Holyhead  
Rd, Wellington, TF1 2HA  
01952 255011

**THE OLD RECTORY HOTEL**  
& RESTAURANT Lowe Hill  
Road, Wem, Shropshire  
SY4 5UA 01939 233233

**PARKWAY** Unit 6 Corve  
St, Ludlow SY8 2PG  
01584 873 130

**THE PEACH TREE 21**  
Abbey Foregate,  
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE  
01743 355055

**THE POUND AT LEEBOT-**  
WOOD Leebotwood, Nr  
Church Stretton SY6  
6ND 01694 751477

**RENAISSANCE, 29a**  
Princess St, Shrewsbury,  
SY1 1LW 01743 354289

**ROMOLO** Victoria  
Avenue, shrewsbury  
SY1 1HH 01743 233244

**ROYAL BENGAL TANDOORI**  
32-34 The Broadway,  
Shifnal TF11 8AZ 01952  
460522

**SARACENS** Shrewsbury  
Rd, SY4 4AG 01939  
210877

**SEBASTIANS 45** Willow  
St, Oswestry SY11 1AQ  
01691 655444

**TIN TINS** Wellington  
Road, Telford TF2 8AJ  
01952 608688

**TRAITORS GATE** Castle St,  
Water Lane, Shrewsbury  
SY1 2BX 01743 249152

**THE WALLS** Welsh Walls,  
Oswestry SY11 1AW  
01691 670970

## Staffordshire

**NO 5** Gaol Mews,  
Stafford ST16 3AN  
01785 22 9900

**BELLA ITALIA 20**  
Greengate St, Stafford,  
ST16 2HS  
01785 211968

**CURRY KUTEER 31**  
Greengate Street,  
Stafford ST16 2HY



Dunsley Hall Hotel, Kinver



# Restaurant LISTINGS

01785 253279

**CHANDLERS** Corn Exchange, Conduit St, Lichfield, WS13 6JU 01543 416688

**THE CORNER HOUSE** Second Avenue, Burton-On-Trent DE14 2WF 01283 542321

**DUNSLEY HALL HOTEL** 39 Dunsley Road, Kinver, South Staffordshire DY7 6LU 01384 877077

**ESSENCE OF THE ORIENT** 27 Broad Eye, Stafford ST16 2QB 01785 229988

**FOUR SEASONS** Swinfen Hall Lichfield, WS14 9RE 01543 481494

**THE GREEN ROOM** Castle Dyke, Lichfield WS13 6HR 01543 412121

**JASMINE PEKING** 21 High St, Eccleshall, Stafford ST21 6BW 01785 851200

**LA DOLCE VITA** 19 Stafford St, Stone ST15 8QW 01785 817 985

**LODGE BALTI** 71 Birmingham Road, Lichfield WS14 0LQ 01543 483334

**MALABAR** 1-2 Water Street, Stafford, ST16 2AG 01785 227 500/600

**MARLOES** 13 London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST4 1LQ 01782 661983

**THE MILL** 1 Mill St, Stone, ST15 8BA 01785 818456

**THE NAVIGATION INN** Newport Road, Gnosall, Stafford ST20 0BN 01785 822327

**OLD VICARAGE** 2 Main St, Branston, Burton, DE14 3EX 01283 533222

**PASTICHE BISTRO** 1 - 2 Mill Street, Stafford, ST16 2AJ 01782 263 737

**THE PEARL** 18 Market St, Kidsgrave, ST7 4AB 01782 788887

**THE PEAR TREE** Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield, WS14 9QR 01543 481807

**PORTOFINO** 38-40 Marsh St Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 1JD 01782 209444

**THE RED ROOM** 7 Newcastle Road,

Congleton CW12 4HN 01260 297871

**THE SWAN HOTEL** 46 Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2JA 01785 258142

**THORNBURY HALL, RASOI** Lockwood Rd, Kingsley Holt, Stafford ST10 2DH 01538 750831

**WOLSELEY ARMS** Wolseley Bridge, Stafford ST17 0XS 01889 883179

## Warwickshire

**BLUE BISTRO** 21 Spon St, Coventry, CV1 3BA 024 7622 9274

**7 SQUARE** 7 Old Square, Warwick CV34 4RA 01926 411 755

**NO. 9 CHURCH STREET** Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6HB 01789 415522

**ART KITCHEN** 7 Swan St, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 494303

**AUBERGINE** 32 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 400 086

**THE ALMANACK** Abbey End North, Kenilworth CV8 1QJ 01926 353637

**THE BLUEBELL** 93 High Street, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, B95 5AT 01564 793049

**BROWNS** Earl St, Coventry CV1 5RU 0247 622 1100

**CARLUCCIOS** 13 Waterside, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6BA 01789 267424

**CASTLE BALTI** 11-13 St. Johns, Warwick CV34 4NE 01926 493007

**CATALAN** 6 Jury St, Warwick CV34 4EW 01926 498 930

**THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE** 16 Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HB 01789 262222

**EGO** 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 864463

**FIVE RIVERS** 20-22 Victoria Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 3AB 01926 431999



Hogarth's Hotel, Solihull

**GEORGETOWN** 23 Sheep St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6EF 01789 204445

**THE GRANVILLE** 52, Wellesbourne Rd, Barford, CV35 8DS 01926 624236

**HOGARTH'S HOTEL** 4 Ashes Rd, Solihull, B93 8QE 01564 779988

**THE LORD LEYCESTER** 17-19 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EJ 01926 491481

**MERCHANTS** Swan Street, Warwick CV34 4BJ 01926 403833

**NAILCOTE HALL** Nailcote Lane, Berkswell, Coventry, CV7 7DE 02476 466174

**NICOLINIS** 14 The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4DW 01926 421620

**QUEANS RESTAURANT** 15 Dorner Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA 01926 315522

**THE ONE ELM** 1 Guild St, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 6QZ 01789 404919

**OSCARS** 39 Chandos St, Leamington Spa, CV32 4RL 01926 452807

**PEEL'S** Hampton Manor, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0EN 01675 446080

**PREZZO** 1-3 High St, Warwick CV34 4AP 01926 475867

**RAFFLES** Grand Hotel 95-97 Warwick Rd, Kenilworth, CV8 1HP 01926 863100

**THE RED LION** Station Rd, Warwick CV35 8PE 01926 842291

**RESTAURANT 23** 34 Hamilton Terrace, Holly Walk Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY 01926 422422

**ROBBIES** 74 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HU 01926 400470

**ROSE & CROWN** 30 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SH 01926 411117

**ROOFTOP RESTAURANT** @ The RST, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB 01789 403449

**SAFFRON GOLD** Market St, Westgate House, Warwick CV34 4DE 01926 402061

**THE SAXON MILL** Coventry Rd, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN 01926 492 255

**SIGNATURES** @ The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, CV1 1GS 02476 846762

**TAILORS** 22 Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SL 01926 410590

**THAI ELEPHANT** 20 Regent St, Leamington Spa, Warwick CV32 5HQ 01926 886882

**THE TREVELYAN** Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0NR 01789 295252

**WARWICK SPICE** 24 Smith St, Warwick CV34 4HS 01926 491736

**THE VINE INN** 86 - 88 West St, Warwick CV34 6AW 07873 219005

**ZIZZI** 29 The Square, Kenilworth, CV8 1EF 01926 852980

## Worcestershire

**ANAKARI** 47 The Tythings, Worcester. WR1 1JT 01905 21412

**ANGEL CHEF** 1 Angel St, Worcester WR1 3QT 01905 731131

**ASHLEYS** 11 The Tything, Worcester WR1 1HD 01905 611747

**BENEDICTOS** 34 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HZ 01905 21444

**THE BEAR AND RAGGED STAFF** Station Rd, Worcester WR6 5JH 01886 833399

**BINDLES** 55 Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU 01905 611120

**BRAMBLINGS** Hither Green Lane, Redditch, B98 9BE 01527 406600

**BROWNS** 24 Quay St, Worcester WR1 2JJ 01905 26263

**CHESTERS** 51 New St, Worcester, WR1 2DL 01905 611638

**CROWN & SANDYS** Main Rd, Ombersley, WR9 0EW 01905 620252

**FARTHINGS** Bransford, Gt Malvern WR6 5JD 01886 833551

**THE FIG TREE** 99 Church Street, Gt Malvern WR14 2AE 01684 569909

**FOUR SEASONS** 61 Lowesmoor, Worcester WR1 2RS 01905 2702

**FUSION BRASSERIE** Hawbridge, Stoulton, Worcester WR7 4RJ 01905 840647

**THE INN AT STONEHALL** Stonehall Common, Worcester, WR5 3QG 01905 820462

**KING CHARLES II** King Charles House, New St, Worcester WR1 2D 01905 22449

**LITTLE VENICE** 1 - 3 St Nicholas St, Worcester WR1 1UW 01905 726126

**MASSALLA LOUNGE** 35 Broad St, Worcester WR1 3NH 01905 729955

**MUG HOUSE** Claines Lane, Worcester WR3 7RN 01905 456649

**OLD RECTIFYING HOUSE** North Parade, Worcester WR1 3NN 01905 619622

**THE OLD RECTORY** Ipsley, Redditch, B98 0AP 01527 517003

**PUCCHINI'S**, 12 Friar St, Worcester WR12LZ 01905 27770

**RILEY'S** The Quadrant, Redditch B98 8AE 01527 60544

**ROSADOS'S** 2 Finstall Rd, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ 01527 889948

**SAFFRONS** 15 New St, Worcester WR1 2DP 01905 610505

**SINGAPORE** 29 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2NA 01905 613005

**SPICE FUSION** 17 St Andrews St, Droitwich, WR9 8DY 01905 794188

**THAI GALLERY** 26-32 Friar St, Worcester WR1 2LZ 01905 25451

**VALENTINO'S** 43 Foregate St, Worcester WR1 1EE 01905 617773

**THE WILDMOOR OAK** Top Road, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove B61 0RB 0121 453 2696

**WYCH WAY INN** Worcester Rd, Wychbold, WR9 7PA 01527 860130

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