

THE MIDLANDS ESSENTIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

MIDLANDS

What's On

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ESSEX BOY IN BRUM

INSIDE:

**Samantha
Womack**

from Walford to
South Pacific
interview inside

Steve Hughes

Aussie comedian bigs
up British comedy
interview inside

Matthew Bourne

on why Nutcracker has
stood the test of time...
interview inside

THE DEFINITIVE
LISTINGS GUIDE
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Nicole Scherzinger

bringing some Killer Love to the Midlands...

INTERVIEW INSIDE

What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP

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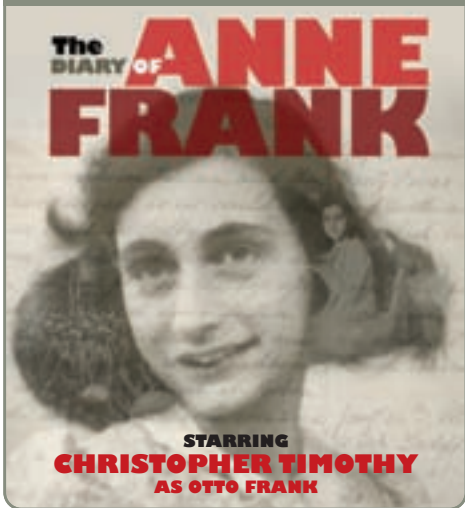
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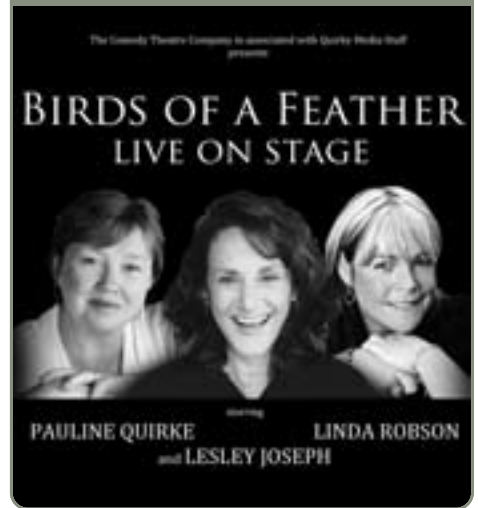
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The National Theatre arrives in North Shropshire

Wem Town Hall has announced that it's to host a series of live performances screened directly from London's National Theatre. Travelling Light kicks-off the NT Live season in February, and will be followed by A Comedy Of Errors, starring Lenny Henry, and She Stoops To Conquer, in March. Rose Manley, Projects and Events Officer, said of the news: "Thanks to Shropshire Screen and the BFI rural cinema pilot scheme, the introduction of this new state-of-the-art equipment will allow us to screen live theatre, music, sport and much more, giving cinema-goers in rural north Shropshire the chance to access high quality presentations." For further information, visit, www.wemtownhall.co.uk

Brand new experience awaits visitors to Silverstone

Recognised as the home of British Motor Racing, Silverstone Race Circuit hosts some of the largest international and domestic motor sport series in the world, as well as event and corporate facilities, driving experiences and track days. Now the Northampton venue has added a brand new attraction, courtesy of The Hypersonic - a custom-built two-seater race car that promises to 'offer a thrill like no other' as it facilitates passenger rides around sections of the circuit. Passengers in the 3.7 litre V6 Ford Cyclone Hypersonic car, which accelerates from 0 to 60mph in just three seconds, will be taken on 'the ride of their life' by a professional driver, reaching speeds of up to 150mph. To celebrate the launch of this sensational two-seater experience, The Hypersonic is available at an introductory price of just £50. For further information, visit, www.silverstone.co.uk, or call 0844 3728 270



The Hypersonic

Writing West Midlands to launch new programme

Literature development agency Writing West Midlands has announced that, as a result of its recent admittance into the Arts Council England's National Funding Portfolio, it plans to expand on the services that it currently offers. From April, a new writer development programme, Room 204, will work with writers



Jubilee celebrations announced

With Her Majesty The Queen this year celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, councils and households around the UK are busy making arrangements for community events to mark the occasion. The Midlands is no exception, and there'll be plenty of celebrations in evidence throughout the region - including in Wolverhampton, where the City Council has already announced its plans. On the evening of 4 June, as Her Majesty lights the first of the Diamond Jubilee Beacons, the party will get underway in the city's West Park. The Civic Halls and Banks's Brewery have got together to organise an enormous summertime bonfire party, complete with fireworks, rock music and funfair rides. Children's favourites Rastamouse and Peppa Pig will be on hand to entertain younger visitors, while She Will Rock You - the first ever female-fronted Queen tribute band - are sure to get the crowds rocking with an array of iconic tunes. Then, as the sun sets, and prior to the bonfire being lit, a lone guitarist will perform the national anthem in Brian May style. Councillor Elias Mattu, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said: "This is a once in a lifetime chance for everybody to get involved in celebrating our monarchy at a great event for all of the family,"

to develop their skills and talents by giving them access to expertise, activities, opportunities and networks. Writers wishing to take part in the new scheme should submit an application by 20 February. To find out more, visit www.writingwestmidlands.org/room-204

Calling all choristers!

Choirs in Staffordshire and Cheshire are being invited to take part in a competition to showcase their talents. The event, which takes place at Hanley's Victoria Hall, will see various choirs battle it out to win the prestigious Choir Wars 2012 Champions trophy. Auditions take place on 25 February, with relevant heats running from 3 to 5 July, and the grand final taking place on 6 July. Application forms are available from stokesstagedoor@theambassadors.com

New festival debuts in Brum

A new, darker dimension is being added to Birmingham's already thriving music scene this month, as the city hosts the first ever Midlands Goth Festival on 18 February. The one-day

event features a dark market, cinema, sideshows, live music and disco, as well as sets from Salvation, Inkubus Sukkubus, Mechanical Cabaret, Zeitgeist Zero and T Lab, followed by Vince Ripper and the Rodent show. For further information, visit, www.midlands-gothfestival.co.uk



Inkubus Sukkubus

Sir Elton John to publish his first book

Publishing house Hodder & Stoughton has announced that it's acquired the rights to publish Sir Elton John's debut book, *Love Is The Cure*.

The internationally acclaimed and multi-award-winning artist has dedicated much of the past twenty years to raising funds to fight AIDS worldwide, and *Love Is The Cure* offers a candid account of his life during this time. By recounting the personal stories of those closest to him who've been taken by the disease - Freddy Mercury and Ryan White amongst them - Sir Elton conveys the personal toll AIDS has taken on his life, and his infinite determination to stop its spread. *Love Is The Cure* is scheduled for release in July.



Primary schools to create their very own Dr Who adventure...

The BBC is inviting primary school children from across the UK to come up with their very own sports-themed Dr Who mini-adventure, the best of which will be screened later in 2012.

The Script To Screen competition asks upper primary school children to create a three minute script that will take the resident Time Lord on a new quest through time and space. There are, however, two prerequisites that must be adhered to - the action-packed script must have an Olympic theme, and it needs to feature the current Doctor, actor Matt Smith. Find out more by visiting, www.bbc.co.uk/teachers/doctorwhocompetition



Matt Smith in an episode of Dr Who, courtesy of BBC Pictures

Arts Centre welcomes new Head of Programme and Audiences

Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre has announced the appointment of Matt Burman as Head of Programme and Audiences. Matt's credentials cover the artistic spectrum, with previous roles including General Manager for Forced Entertainment and, most recently, Executive Producer for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival.

Of his new appointment, Matt says, "I am very excited by the challenges that are ahead in delivering on the ambitions of our Transform strategy. We are looking forward to working as a team in bringing the region's, country's and world's best artists and companies to make new work in Coventry, and to welcoming, entertaining and moving loyal and new audiences and friends to Warwick Arts Centre over the coming years."



Circus meets hip hop in the city...

Birmingham Hippodrome has announced that it's to host a Birmingham premiere of *Urban* - an acclaimed production from highly regarded youth circus act Circolumbia. The troupe is made up of young performers in their teens or early twenties, some of whom have graduated from the Circo Para Todos, Columbia's national circus school. The establishment, which takes young people off the street and teaches them circus skills, is the only circus school in the world set up to train disadvantaged young people in a range of abilities. *Urban* - which fuses acrobatics, fire-juggling, stilt-walking, street dance and hip hop - is a freestyle portrait of society that incorporates both joy and violence, and is based on the lives of the young cast.

Circolumbia make their first appearance in Birmingham as part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012, performing three dates at the Hippodrome from 16 to 18 May.

IN BRIEF

Double celebrations at Midlands show

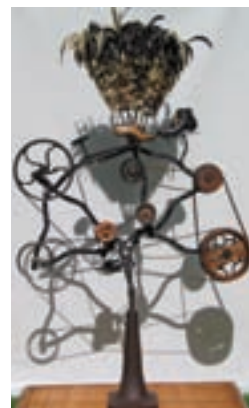
Next month sees two main anniversaries being celebrated at Tractor World, which takes place at the Three County Showground in Malvern. Special displays are promised during the two-day event to mark one hundred years of the International tractor and fifty years of the iconic Massey-Ferguson 35X.

This year's event also sees the arrival of a new attraction - the Old Sodbury Sortout. Described as a giant treasure hunt, it offers enthusiasts the chance to turn unwanted clutter into cash, whilst buyers get to rummage among various tractor bits and other agricultural by-gones. Tractor World also offers numerous practical demonstrations, a Build-a-Fergie challenge, and an auction and road run.

Stratford's MAD new visitor attraction set to open its doors

Shakespeare's home town of Stratford-upon-Avon gets a new visitor attraction next month when the MAD (Mechanical Art and Design) Museum opens its doors on 23 March. Situated on Sheep Street, the museum will house all kinds of wacky interactive equipment, including Kinetic Art and Steampunk machines. The new venue is the work of entrepreneur Richard Simmons, who says of his venture: "I've always been fascinated by how things work, and love to see how mechanical parts interact with each other. The MAD Museum will be a collection of some of the best pieces from artists across the UK and Europe, and we hope to have over two hundred items to showcase."

For further information, visit www.themadmuseum.co.uk



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“ As long as there are fans, and the people connect and love it and will have me, I will continue to do it **”**

Nicole Scherzinger

brings some Killer Love to the Midlands...

Singer, model and actress Nicole Scherzinger first received international recognition as lead singer of the chart-topping Pussycat Dolls, leaving the group in 2010 to pursue a solo career. Nicole's recent debut album has received rave reviews, and this month finds the American artist heading to Birmingham to perform her first solo gig in the city. Warren Higgins recently caught up with Nicole to find out what fans can expect...

Are you pleased with the reaction to your debut album over here? The UK seems to hold a soft spot for you...

Oh my gosh, I am beyond pleased; it means everything to me. I'm so happy, I'm so excited and I'm so grateful. I mean, I had my first number one single in the UK, and am very fortunate to have five singles here from this album so far. I'm so grateful for my UK fans, Pussycat Dolls fans and the X Factor fans.

As you've just mentioned, you've had five singles off this album here in the UK. Are there plans for anything more, or is there new material that you've been working on which could perhaps go on to a new edition of the album?

I'm always in the studio. We repackaged the album late last year. I added four extra songs - Try With Me, Right There featuring 50 Cent, Trust Me I Lie, and Tomorrow Never Dies. After this Killer Love album, there's gonna be another album, and I'm never gonna stop! As long as there are fans, and the people connect and love it and will have me, I will continue to do it.

When you were working on this album, you were appearing on Dancing With The Stars. Was it literally a case of going from the dance studio to the recording studio for many months?

Always. Well, I did the studio *with* Dancing With The Stars and then *after* Dancing With The Stars, because it was so time-consuming. I didn't take a break for three months; I didn't take one day off for three months! After that, I went to Europe, and that's when I really honed-in on this album, with RedOne in his camp.

Is there going to be any new material on your live tour that you've been working on, or will it be everything we've heard so far from the album and singles?

On the tour, I'm going to have the singles that you'll all have heard, and I'll pay homage to the Pussycat Dolls with a couple of songs that I love and adore. I'm going to do an acoustic set, probably a cover, and I was thinking of maybe doing some new material. Whether it's the new material from the repackaged album that I put out, I don't yet know. As far as the new material I've been writing, I'm going to wait for the next album, because I want the fans to at least have been acquainted with it and to have heard it a little bit before I perform it for the first time ever. But I will maybe do Pretty, Trust Me I Lie and Try With Me. We'll see!

Are you looking forward to returning to Birmingham, and is this your first time here since the Pussycat Dolls in 2009?

Yes, this is actually the first time since 2009, and I'm so excited. We had the best tours and the best runs there with my PCD tour, so I'm really excited to be going back and giving them a show they'll never forget.

When you're at these towns and cities for your shows, do you get the chance to look around and be a bit of a tourist, or is it straight in, sound check, gig, and then straight on to the next town?

It's on to the next one. You get acquainted with the hotel, the tour bus, the airport, the venues, so you judge the towns by the people in the crowd!

Because you go down so well with the British public, would there be scope for a bigger tour?

That's my goal, that's my dream, that's why I'm putting my own money into this tour and that's why I've been preparing for it. That's my ultimate dream - to have a world tour, but also a bigger UK tour. But you've got to start somewhere, and I'm honoured that I get to start in the theatres, and that the fans are going to come out for it. I can guarantee these shows are going to be so great that fans will be wanting more, so I'll be back!

Speaking of theatre, you did musical theatre at college. Then, at the Royal Variety Performance, you blew everybody away with some of your renditions. Would you like to do a full run some day on Broadway or in the West End in a musical?

Absolutely, theatre has a big part of my heart. There's nothing like the stage, and that's why I was honoured to play Christine in the The Phantom Of The Opera at the Royal Variety Show. It's just rewarding, as an

artist, for me to be able to have that outlet.

How did it feel to be a judge on X Factor in the US, seeing as you took a similar route yourself?

First of all, after starting out on a show like that, I've come full circle, and I feel like that gave me an advantage because, for me as an artist, I could empathise with the contestants. I knew what they were going through, I knew how they felt, and I knew how much it really meant to them, so I felt real empathy. Then, guesting for the X Factor UK was definitely great prep work for me. I do miss X Factor UK, because I found the contestants to be a lot more bubbly and fun, and I found the crowd could be really outrageous and very outspoken, which I love. I loved that they really welcomed me with open arms.

You came second this year - are you aiming for first next year?

I'll always aim for first. Like Simon says, you don't go into a competition hoping you get second. But second for me was first this year with Josh. I'm proud of the work we did together, and for me, I feel like we won. And I just want to say that I can't wait to do this tour in the UK for my fans. They really are the best fans, and I'm going to give them a show that they will never forget.

Nicole Scherzinger performs at the O2 in Birmingham on Thurs 23 February



“ for comedy there’s
no other country in
the world that can
compare. In
America you can be
a comedian, but
you have to be
famous first ”



Steve Hughes

Aussie comedian bigs up British comedy...

Australian musician and stand-up comedian Steve Hughes has been touring the UK comedy circuit for the past ten years, gathering an army of die-hard fans along the way. After supporting Reginald D Hunter on his British tour in 2011, Steve is now about to embark on his first solo tour. What's On recently caught up with him, to find out why he thinks the UK comedy scene is so popular with international comedians.

For those who don't know that much about you, Steve, how would you best sum up your brand of comedy? - politely?

It's funny but about unfunny things. You know, there's ridiculous funny things, and there's also the stuff about things like bombing in Iraq, which isn't funny; it's deadly serious.

You were in a band before becoming a comedian. How did the shift from music to comedy come about?

On stage, I tell a joke where someone asks "is it hard to go from being a drummer to being a comedian?", and I go "no, it isn't, just move the drum kit and you're already there - sack the band and get rid of the drum kit". No, seriously, we all used to watch Billy Connolly and Richard Prior DVDs, so comedy was always there, in a way. I was always determined to get out of Australia, which I managed to do with a certain band for a while. It wasn't for long enough, though, and I knew that, once back in Australia, I'd get stuck there. So comedy became this route of escape. I was always intrigued by how these blokes could stand up on stage for an hour and talk about their lives and make people laugh, so I just started to do it.

So being a comedian wasn't a desire you'd had from an early age?

Glen Wall, a friend of mine, knew he wanted to be a comedian when he was nineteen, but at that time I was more interested in music and bands. I always knew that I was funny. Anyone who goes into comedy must think that they're funny. I always had an ability to make people laugh.

Do you still play music?

I do indeed. I've taught myself guitar since I've been in England, because it's very difficult to practise drums in a flat. I've just recorded an EP, with me doing basically everything - singing, bass, guitar, drums. I wrote the songs, then got a few of my friends to do guitar solos, because I can't play the guitar that good, and another friend of mine engineered it.

Was the move from Australia to the UK purely to push your comedy?

Yeah, definitely. My father and stepmother are English, so I grew up in an English house. I don't particularly like Australia in its cultural sense, because it's all sport and mainstream and conservative, and there aren't enough people there to really do anything. There are only so many barbecues you can have.

Ten years on, have your perspectives on Britain changed in any way?

Bureaucracy-wise, it's a nightmare, but I understand this nuance of making things just a little bit hard. It's in the British psyche; my parents are like it. But for comedy, there's no other country in the world that can compare. In America, you can be a

comedian, but you've got to be famous first. Here, you can actually work and not be famous, and there's lots of stuff to do. That's the uniqueness of Britain.

Has your style and delivery changed much over the years?

Yes, massively. I started out with a very screamy, angry, yelling, American style, which didn't really suit me. Then I became more deadpan, which is a very good thing to master, because it teaches you about timing. It really gives you the ability not to fear silence, and standing in silence can be very powerful. But then I realised that I'd mastered deadpan, and it started to bore me.

You've been on the comedy circuit for quite a while now, yet this is your first solo tour. Why's it taken so long?

Probably because my comedy isn't particularly mainstream and I don't pander. I'm an old bastard, and I understand the nature of moving me into the mainstream. Some people get pushed in that direction. I knew Russell Howard when he was a kid in Bristol, and he ticks all the boxes to sell to a certain age group, so they've moved him in. Russell's a great guy, but he's not particularly my brand of humour. A lot of comedians have a very clear idea of how they want to move into the mainstream. I've always been very wary of becoming 'super big' in that sense, because you move into a realm where you're no longer in control of what you do. If you move into the real mainstream, you're limited in terms of what you can say, and you become a different entity. You become somebody else's bread and butter, somebody else's wage.

Does your comedy have any boundaries?

Not really, the only boundaries are things that I'm not interested in doing comedy about. I've never been offended by a comedian. I've only ever been offended that they're shit, but I've never been offended by their choice of material. To think that you can stand in front of a few hundred people and make a decision about what will negatively affect them is arrogant to begin with; you have no idea what these people think. So to pander to them in the first place is arrogance. I once got accused of being anti-semitic in a newspaper. The journalist wasn't a stupid man and he understood the nature of comedy, which is usually to expose the weaknesses or the hypocrisies of society. He said that comedians should take into consideration who they might be offending in their audience, and I totally disagree with that. You can't take into consideration who you might offend. I think that all things should be used in comedy. If they're used by a very bad comedian, or someone who has a low intellect, or someone who has a poor moral code themselves, then of course it can be brutally offensive, but I have no desire to go out there and freak anyone out. When I stand in front of five hundred people,

I can't be looking out for the odd ones that I may offend. It's your choice to be offended when you buy a ticket to see a show - that's simplified Buddhism.

Do you think your comedy travels well?

Yes, I do, because it's about universal topics. And if you're a good comedian, you can make people laugh anywhere. Just look at Rick Mayall - all he has to do is drop his trousers.

Would you say that your humour appeals more to a male audience?

No, not particularly. Another thing that's great about England is that women will just go out to see comedy as a social thing. You wouldn't get that in Australia.

Why do you think England attracts so many international comedians?

I think it's the size of the country and the amount of work that you can get. It's also about the culture; comedy is in the British psyche. That's another thing about Australia. Even if you do get something good happening there, there's no internal structure for it to happen, so it can't even become part of the cultural psyche. Maybe I'm a little biased because I've always been obsessed with British comedy, but I'm still amazed when I meet a Brit and they tell me that they've never seen an episode of *Blackadder*.

So was that the sort of humour that you grew up with in Australia?

Oh completely! We had a real mix of English and American TV, but I grew up in the 1970s and was really into the likes of *Fawlty Towers*, *On The Buses*, *Mind Your Language*, *Dave Allen and Dad's Army*. *Fawlty Towers* is like a great record, it just doesn't get old.

Who's your favourite comedian of the moment?

There are quite a lot of guys on the circuit who I really like, but who aren't that well known. Ian Stone is one of my favourite comics. He's so prolific, he can MC, and he's just a top bloke. It's funny, really, because I like serious or satirical comedy, stuff that's about the person's life.

In your opinion, what's the worst type of humour?

Un-funny!

Who's the naffest comedian you know?

I don't want to name names, but I'm not into the way they're pushing really young guys who don't have any real life experiences. The only one that I really like is Kevin Bridges, because he's an old man in a young man's body. Comedy has to be a bit ugly and a bit freaky. I don't like it when they make it pretty. You've got to be able to stare at the ugliness of life. That's why comedy sometimes has to be almost offensive, just so it can give you an avenue to stare into

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the abyss of our own folly and not go insane. That's why I don't like political correctness.

What would be your preference - to be in the world's greatest heavy metal band, or to be recognised as the world's greatest comedian?

Oh, that's a difficult one. There are great things about being on your own as a comedian - you don't have to compromise, you can talk about what you want. A heavy metal band, or any kind of band, is very difficult to be in. They're like a relationship without the sex. I learned the art of being with other people in bands, and it's difficult - but there's a great joy when you bring something together with other people. There are great things about both, so I don't really know which one I'd choose.

Would you like to be in a band again?

Yeah, I'd love it.

Apart from yourself - obviously - who would you consider the best artist to come out of Australia?

Performer-wise it would have to be Michael Hutchence. He was probably the first guy to give Australia a band that had an androgynous guy in it. Before then, it was all pub and bloke rock - like Jimmy Barnes, AC/DC and The Angels. Australia has this music scene that the rest of the world doesn't know anything about, because they sing about things which are so innate to Australia that they don't resonate with anyone else.

Anything planned for after the tour?

I'm straight off to Australia to do some gigs, and that's where I'm up to. I can't think beyond that. At the moment, I'm having difficulty thinking beyond this tour.

And long term?

The ambition has always been to make a living out of performing, and to have a big enough reputation to get off touring club circuits. I've got other creative things that I'd like to do, so I'd like to get to the stage where I can think, right, I'll take six months off so that I can write. I have an animator friend who's animating a half-hour film which I'm helping him with, and we're hoping to release that next year. Oh, and I'd like to do another DVD.

Steve Hughes performs at the Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 5 February; The Marr's Bar, Worcester Thurs 16 February; The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Wed 22 February; The Place, Oakengates, Telford, Thurs 23 February; The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 28 March



“ What I love about this version is that the comedy seems to come from the drama, which is quite a difficult transition to make when your playing something for real then have to launch into song. **”**



Samantha Womack

from Walford to South Pacific...

Ex-Eastender Samantha Womack makes her stage debut in the Midlands this month, starring as the naive Nellie Forbush in Bartlet Sher's adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific. What's On recently caught up with Sam for some Happy Talk and to find out more about the show and to see whether she's got any plans to revisit Walford...

How does this new production of South Pacific differ from previous offerings?

It's a very interesting production, and I certainly think there's a bit more pathos brought to the role of Nelly. The earlier version was a lot more sanitised than this. I think Mary Martin had established this kind of hicky, low-down comedic role, and I wanted to do something different with it, make it more gritty and certainly more relevant to today. So to reinstate racism and the word 'coloured', which is shocking for the audience, and for Nelly to be clean and not to be flawed, in the past took away the central story. If she's not flawed then she can't find redemption. This version sees all that brought back. What I love about this version is that the comedy seems to come from the drama, which is quite a difficult transition to make when you're playing something for real, then you have to launch into song. Bartlet Sher, the director, has struck a very clever balance between it being a spectacle - looking and sounding good - and having this slightly dark undertone. I think all the characters are a little bit more three dimensional than the way they've been portrayed in previous productions.

Are you looking forward to making your debut in Birmingham?

I'm really looking forward to it. It's a changing and very exciting city; a really buzzy place. And I hear that the audiences are fantastic.

How different is going out on the road for you now that you've got two young children?

Well, I'm very careful how I do it, and the dates have to work for both me and them. It's certainly not easy, but then it's the same for any working mum. I'm no different to anybody else really.

You've got quite a varied acting CV.

What's been your favourite role to date?

I have two. I loved a piece that I did called Imogen's Face. It was by Andrea Newman, who wrote Bouquet Of Barbed Wire, and it was about sibling rivalry. It had a real kind of melancholy, and was a dark thriller which was beautifully shot. I also had a great time doing Game On, because I laughed so much making it.

Did you always want to be an actress?

No, I don't think I did. I sort of fell into it, really. I went to a theatre school, I got offered roles, and it all seemed to happen very quickly. It wasn't until I was in my thirties that I started to concentrate on it, or maybe take it - and myself - seriously. I don't think I considered myself a worthy actress until that point. I then took some time off to have my son, and it was around then that I decided to make more of a commitment.

What was your first ever acting role?

I did an awful children's series called Spatz, about a burger bar or something. Then I did a John le Carre adaptation for TV called

Murder Of Quality, which was really good. Very early on, I also did Demob, which was another one that I really enjoyed.

What's the downside of being an actress?

The lack of security and not being able to plan things. In some ways it's a great thing, but as you get older, it takes a lot of guts. My son's now ten, and his life's important. When he was younger, I could very much pick him up and take him where I wanted, and he didn't mind. But now he's older, I have to consider his feelings as a person in his own right, and that makes things more difficult. With children, I think it's about having to manage geographically where you are and where they are. I'm also married to an actor, so that doesn't make it any easier.

Looking to the future, is there one big role that you'd like to perform?

I like doing new pieces. It's always quite difficult to recreate something that's been done before. What's very exciting for me is coming across a new character and developing that role for yourself. I do love taking on iconic roles, but with that comes all the anxiety as to whether you're living up to other versions. I love musicals, and I'd love to do Cabaret.

Is Cabaret your all-time favourite musical, then?

I certainly think that the last version I saw, which was by Bill Kenwright, was excellent. It was very grubby and very realistic. I just think that it's got a very cool edge and feels very modern. With some musicals, you have to have a very clever director or they feel dated. It's always a tricky transition from pathos to music, so someone like Steven Sondheim, who's a very grown-up writer, makes it a lot easier, as he comes up with very cleverly placed lyrics that are more conversational, making it easier to break into song.

Talking about breaking into song, you sang at Eurovision!

I wouldn't call it singing. Gyrating uncomfortably in a peach bath is more like it. Not one of my finest hours! There are clips of it everywhere, and this is the problem with Youtube - my very embarrassing perm is now there for all to see.

Is singing something you'd consider doing in the future?

Well, I was trained and I'm fairly soprano, so I've got quite a good classical voice. My voice is in good shape at the moment, and it's certainly got better as I've got older.

Would you ever consider recording?

I'd love to do a recording for myself, but I'm always aware that 'soapstar releases another album' seems a bit naff. I know you shouldn't be swayed by things like that, but it's not something that I'd relish. If I did ever do anything, then I'd do it anonymously.

Tell us about your meeting with Simon Cowell for Britain's Got Talent...

Well, I flew out to LA, had dinner with him at a hotel, and talked to him for a few hours, but the Britain's Got Talent thing just wasn't going to work. I'm contracted here with South Pacific until the beginning of March, but I absolutely loved meeting him. I completely fell for him, and he's really difficult not to like. He's so charming, he's very down-to-earth, and he makes you feel very comfortable. I really enjoyed the experience of meeting him, and I actually think that the panel he's now got is going to be great. David Walliams is a brilliant addition. I think him being part of it will make the show far more hip and trendy. I think he'll be hysterical on the panel. Alesha Dixon's fantastic too. She's quite feisty and speaks her mind, and I think Simon coming back is perfect.

We have to touch on EastEnders. How difficult was it portraying such a complex character day in, day out?

I loved playing Ronnie and I loved developing the role. I felt quite instrumental in how she came along. I always wanted to make her a bit more three dimensional and a bit more damaged, but I think playing that kind of trauma over and over again, where so many bad things happen to you - well, I was just finding it very difficult to keep it truthful, and you can't afford to lose track of truth. I know it's heightened and I know it's that genre, but I was starting to bore myself with crying all the time. If you no longer believe in what you're doing, then it's time to put the character to bed.

Ronnie's not been written off completely. Can you see yourself ever returning?

I'd never say never. This business is strange, and how you feel next year will be different to how you feel this year. But for now it wouldn't be right, because it's too recent. In a few years, though, who knows...

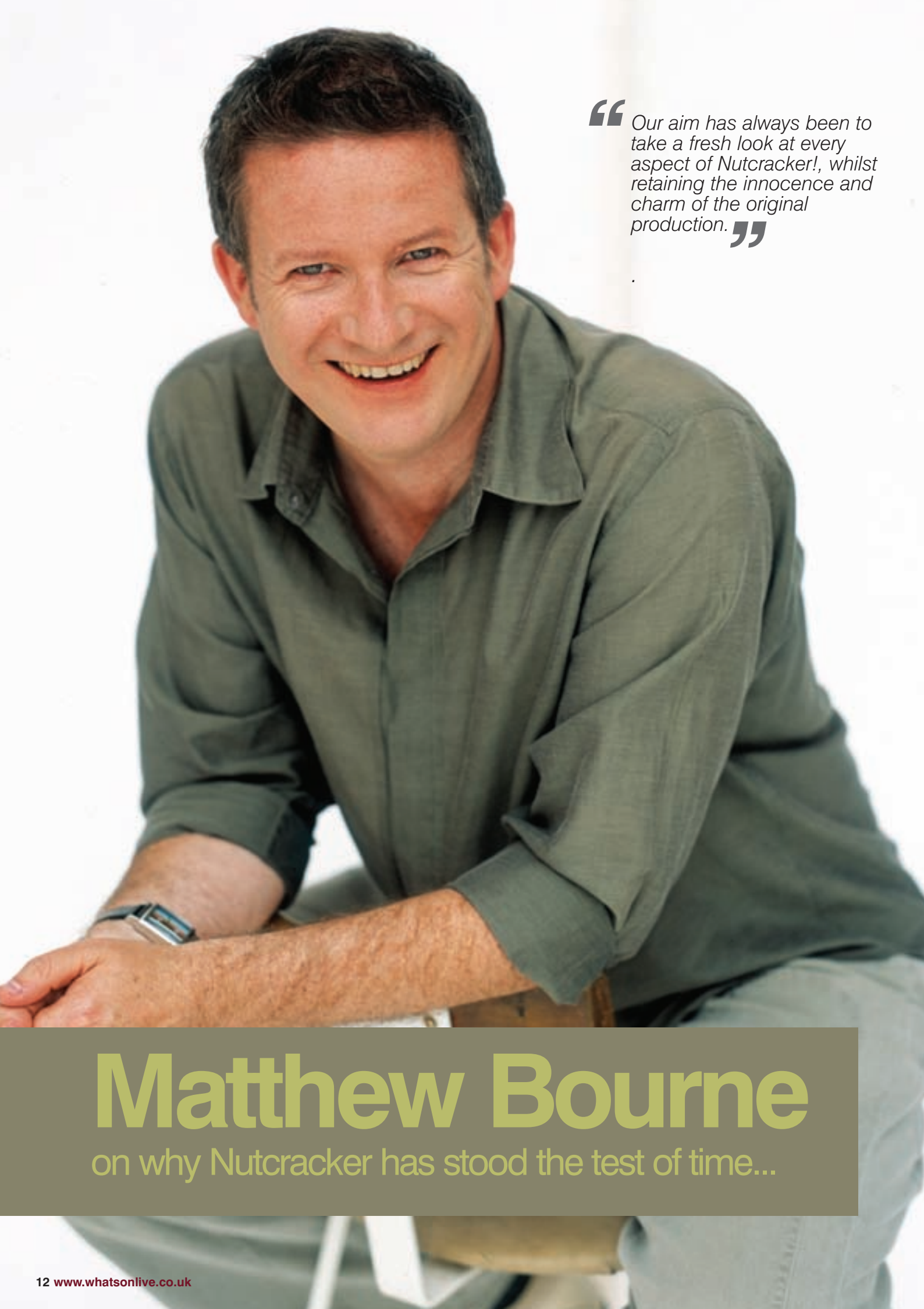
So, when you're not working, how do you spend your spare time?

Obviously a lot of my time is taken up with the children, but I'm a real nurturer of arts and crafts and furniture restoration. I buy furniture on Ebay and then do it up for our home.

What's on the cards for you after the tour?

Well, there are rumours of South Pacific going to the West End, which I'm hoping are true because I just love performing there. So I'm hoping that that comes to fruition in the middle of the year. Apart from that, I'm just looking forward to spending some time with my family.

Samantha Womack appears in South Pacific at New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham from Tues 7 to Sat 18 February and Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent from Tues 6 to Sat 17 March



“ Our aim has always been to take a fresh look at every aspect of Nutcracker!, whilst retaining the innocence and charm of the original production. ”

Matthew Bourne

on why Nutcracker has stood the test of time...

Award-winning choreographer Matthew Bourne has achieved international recognition for his contemporary re-workings of classic pieces, including Swan Lake, Cinderella, Edward Scissorhands and Mary Poppins. His much-loved, colourful and comedic production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker is celebrating its twentieth birthday. What's On caught up with Matthew to talk about the much-admired production, ahead of its Midlands date.

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker is now one hundred-and-twenty-years-old. Why does it remain so popular, Matthew?

Well, it's about growing up and it's about first love, and these are themes we can all relate to. They are particularly relevant to this production, which casts adult performers as a group of very needy young orphans. It's also a touching coming-of-age story, told through the dreams and nightmares of one particular young girl, Clara.

The classical Nutcracker has also become a Christmas tradition; it's often the first ballet that many people see. It can, though, be a difficult story to follow, and be a bore for the men of the family. I've tried to tell a story for everybody. Adults, kids, girls and boys should all find something to thrill them and touch them in Clara's adventure.

I'd also like to think that the main reason The Nutcracker has retained its perennial appeal is because of Tchaikovsky's incredible score. Act One contains some of his most engaging and, at times, profound storytelling music, and Act Two has one glorious melody after another. After one hundred-and-twenty years, it retains its mystery, its magic, and the power to transport us to another world.

Your first production of Nutcracker was for Opera North in 1992, as part of the piece's centenary celebrations. Why has it become such an important work for your company New Adventures?

It was the first full-evening story ballet that I had the chance to choreograph, and started me on an unexpected journey, creating new and alternative productions of other classic works (Highland Fling (La Sylphide), Swan Lake, Cinderella, The Car Man. When Nicholas Payne asked me and my company to take it on, it came as a surprise. After all, we were a small touring company of six dancers, so a large-scale classical ballet hadn't seemed a realistic option. It didn't take me long to realise, though, that this was a gift, and a challenge that couldn't be passed up. The experience of creating it was a very happy one. With only five weeks rehearsal before an opening at the 1992 Edinburgh Festival, the ideas had to come fast, by necessity. Somehow, with the help of Anthony Ward's now-iconic designs, it all worked out, and was brought back for two Christmas seasons at Sadler's Wells in 1993 and 1994. In 2002, it was substantially reworked in a major new production, which helped to launch my new company, New Adventures. It's since become one of the most popular productions in our repertoire, and probably the most successful single production of the piece ever produced in the UK. We wanted to celebrate that success, and acknowledge this much-loved production's twentieth birthday, as well as introducing it to another generation of dance/theatre lovers.



In most classical versions of the work, the piece begins at a very heavily populated and extremely wealthy Christmas party. An enormous Christmas tree usually acts as the centrepiece, and many luxurious gifts are given. Your production begins in a very bleak Dickensian orphanage, where the children are experiencing a very different kind of Christmas. Why did you choose to do this?

I've always felt that the Christmas party which opens most productions of Nutcracker represented a fantasy in itself for most audiences. Therefore, when we're transported into Clara's fantasy world, we've really just gone from one idyllic fantasy to another. Martin Duncan (the original 1992 director) and I had an instinct that we would feel the transformation so much more if the Christmas party that begins the piece was less opulent and more bittersweet. We came up with the notion of an awful Dickensian orphanage, enjoying the annual Christmas Eve visit of the institute's governors. Dr Dross and his wife, who run the orphanage, contrive to create a pleasant Christmas atmosphere for the benefit of the visitors, only to snatch the governors' gifts back from the children as soon as they leave and before Christmas Day has even begun. Clara is, of course, one of the orphans, and the Nutcracker boy is a fellow orphan on whom she has a young girl's crush. Fritz and Sugar are the Dross's awful spoilt children, who terrorise the other children. So the basis for the whole story developed out of this grim and fearful place. I should say, though, that as well as having this bittersweet quality, it's also very funny, and when the orphans eventually revolt and escape from the clutches of Dr Dross, you want to cheer them on.

The famous 'snowflake' sequence, which ends Act One, is transformed into a glorious ice-skating extravaganza in your staging. What was the inspiration for this?

There are certain things that every production of Nutcracker should deliver - the growing Christmas tree, the transformation of the Nutcracker into a young man, and the falling of snow during the 'snowflake' sequence. Everyone feels a sense of childlike pleasure when snow begins to fall,

and I wanted to try and capture that sense of pure joy, as seen through the eyes of the orphan children. So, rather than depict the snowflakes themselves, as in the classical version, I have the orphans skating across a frozen pond as an exhilarating expression of their newfound freedom. The idea, however, came not from Torvill and Dean, much as I love them, but from 1930s movie skating star Sonje Henie. For me, she is the perfect image of Princess Sugar, and Anthony Ward certainly found inspiration in her many and varied skating ensembles.

One of the highlights of the Petipa/Ivanov original is always the suite of national dances that are staged for Clara's edification in the Land of the Sweets. I believe that you created some new characters for these dances?

One of the pleasures of creating these characters was to link them with their orphanage counterparts. In Clara's imagination, her friends become the fluffy Marshmallow girls, the yobby Gobstopper boys, the vain Liquorice Allsorts trio and the lewd and sticky Knickerbocker Glory. Her best friends, the twins, become her heavenly helpers, the Cupids. Dr and Mrs Dross transform into the glamorous rulers of Sweetieland, King Sherbert and Queen Candy, and their brattish children, Sugar and Fritz, grow up to become Princess Sugar and saucy Prince Bon Bon. Everything is edible in Sweetieland, and its inhabitants are judged not by how they look but by how they taste!

How will this production differ from the one that was last seen at Birmingham Hippodrome?

Our aim has always been to take a fresh look at every aspect of Nutcracker, whilst retaining the innocence and charm of the original production. As each new generation of dancers take on these wonderful roles, we always find new ideas and new things to inspire us. Years on, I find Tchaikovsky's music more and more profound - its magic turns us all into kids again.

Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker shows at the Birmingham Hippodrome from Tues 7 to Sat 11 February



“ It was enjoyable playing the bumbling ‘early John’. There are some lightly comic touches as well, some lovely scenes which were really enjoyable. **”**

Stephen Mackintosh

talks about new BBC drama...

With TV credits that include Luther, Camelot, Mo and Criminal Justice, Steven Mackintosh has become a familiar face on the small screen. This month will see Steven, together with Ashley Walters, Warren Brown and Kierston Wareing, return to the BBC in a new, four-part drama titled Inside Men. What's On caught up with Steven to find out more...

Can you tell us about your character and the type of man he is?

John is working as a manager of a cash warehouse, where large amounts of cash are coming in and being stored and counted. It's his job to make sure that everything tallies up, that everything passes through as it should, and that none goes missing.

He's a very responsible man and lives quite a regimented existence, where every day is very much like the next. John is quite a stickler for doing things as they should be done. He tries to be fair to everyone at work and tries to be nice to everyone, but he doesn't get a lot of thanks for it. As the story progresses, this starts to grate with him, and he feels like he's always picking up the pieces for other people at work. He even gets to a point where he's replacing small amounts of money that are being stolen by some of his staff, because ultimately the responsibility lies with him.

His relationship with his wife is okay. There's no great animosity, but there is a sense that maybe they're both a little bit stuck and unsatisfied. They're about to adopt a child, which he's nervous about, as it's a whole new world to him.

How does it all suddenly change for John?

In Episode One, he uncovers a plot by two of his team at work, Marcus (Warren Brown) and Chris (Ashley Walters), to try and steal a large amount of money from the warehouse. He's cross about it, and cross that they seem so disrespectful towards him.

He takes them into his office, and while he's reprimanding them, all of his frustration and the things he's been thinking about, how his life feels slightly stuck and unsatisfied, comes to a head. It dawns on him there and then that, rather than just trying to patch up the mess and replace the sum they've already taken, maybe they should try and steal all the money.

This is utterly shocking to Marcus and Chris. And it's shocking to John, too, that he's even said it, but it sparks something in him. He thinks, "you know what, I think this is what I need in my life. I need to take a risk, because life is frustrating. I'm dissatisfied and I'm not the man I want to be. I want to take a huge risk."

So he floats this idea with Marcus and Chris, and that's really where the three of them suddenly embark on this journey, which has very different consequences for each of them.

We start with the heist itself and then we work our way backwards, from the planning and the build-up to the day it's carried out. During the course of it all, John goes through a fundamental change in his personality, and we discover what his real motives are for doing it.

It's clear that Marcus and Chris see themselves as the leaders and can't imagine John taking control. What are the dynamics between the three men?

There's a power struggle between the three of them about who's going to be in charge of the heist. From the off, John very clearly feels like it absolutely has to be him, because he's the manager, he's the man who understands how the warehouse operates and how it can be done. John is also quite a pedantic character and a control freak, so that side of him starts to emerge. But then Marcus also feels like he should be the one in charge. He has all sorts of connections and contacts he feels he can bring to the table. Ashley's character is stuck somewhere in the middle, so it's interesting to see the power struggle, which John very much feels he must win. There's no question that if they're going to do this, John is going to call the shots, which creates a tension between the three of them.

We see a very different side to John when he starts talking about the logistics of the heist. What changes him?

It all plays into John's idea of suddenly taking risks in a way he never would have imagined before. First of all, he's decided to take this massive risk of stealing. This is a guy who never stole anything in his life, and now he's just decided to try and steal millions of pounds. Then there's this added element of it being an armed robbery. So now guns are involved, and suddenly he's even more terrified yet excited by the idea. It all becomes part of the excitement; it's part of the new him.

How did you find switching between characters like that?

They both had interesting aspects, and it was nice exploring the contrast between the two. I really had to keep focused while shooting, because we would be shifting in time in the story. We could be doing a scene from the present day and then we'd be

going right back in time to the very beginning and how it all started, so you had to be really focused.

It was enjoyable playing the bumbling 'early John'. There are some lightly comic touches as well, some lovely scenes which were really enjoyable. And then it was really nice exploring that later side of him, where he suddenly feels in control and is giving orders to gangs of men. It was exciting feeling that gear-change, where suddenly the alpha male has arrived and he's calling the shots. So there was a lot to enjoy and think about.

What was it like filming the actual heist scenes in the vaults at the old Bank of England in Bristol?

It was amazing to be able to use that building, and, of course, the huge vault door leading to where the money was. That's a great 'reveal' moment, and it gave us a fantastic sense of reality to be able to use those corridors and that loading-bay, knowing it was the real deal.

The design on the drama was fantastic. The counting house was brilliantly designed - it has a big 'open factory' feel, with John's glass office looking out over the top of the counting room, so it looks really good. With the heist scenes, we would film small segments at a time, so you could be filming one little segment one week, which was being shot in the Bank of England vault, and then a week later you might be doing the next segment in a corridor at a completely different location. It was interesting trying to film like that, because the energy in the early stage of the heist is quite frantic, so you had to keep finding that energy for those moments, which was quite a challenge.

The new four-part series of Inside Men starts on BBC One on Thursday 2 February



Scene from Inside Men, courtesy of BBC Pictures



“ I do feel a connection with Birmingham – which might sound like a strange thing for a Scouser to say! ”

Neil Buchanan

Art Attack star in the Midlands...

Neil Buchanan the creator, presenter and artist behind two times BAFTA award winning Art Attack first entered our living rooms in 1990 and has been credited with raising and introducing two generations of young people to art. Now the creative powerhouse has painted his first ever collection of published art - Neil Buchanan's HOPE STREET - a nostalgic collection of limited edition prints based on the story of childhood. What's On caught up with 'the Art Attack Man' to find out more...

What inspired you to start painting HOPE STREET, Neil?

Four years ago, I switched on my laptop whilst on holiday with my children to find 69,000 messages of condolence pouring into a Facebook site entitled 'RIP Neil Buchanan', following my rumoured 'death'. We were marooned in a remote, mountain hideaway in Wales, in a mobile phone blackspot, and it took me several days before I was able to contact my family and shocked elderly mother in Liverpool to reassure them that I was alive and well! Out of these dark and sinister rumours, I started questioning the excesses of modern technology and its negative influences, and began to record my own childhood memories in Liverpool in the early 1960s, long before the days of Facebook, Twitter and the internet, when life somehow seemed simpler. In a series of rough sketches, I started to depict a time before computers banished us to cyberspace and traffic clogged up our streets. And so the seed of an idea was sown for a new, yet strangely familiar, adventure playground, which eventually grew into the HOPE STREET collection.

Tell us about the pictures in the collection?

My HOPE STREET is not a place, it's a state of mind... and it's a nice place to be. I'm a sucker for nostalgia, and each picture tells a story. I skip across all sorts of memories, from fishing with homemade rods, shared bike rides and hanging out on the swings, to the 'dead exciting' arrival of the ice cream man and eating chips straight from the wrapper on the street!

Do you feel a connection with the West Midlands at all?

Funnily enough, I do feel a connection with Birmingham - which might sound like a strange thing for a Scouser to say! When I was growing up, the Liverpool accent was much softer - think Ringo Starr rather than Steven Gerrard! I always felt the Brummie accent and Liverpudlian were much closer then. Also, having been brought up in a big industrial city that's been transformed into a modern cultural centre, I feel there are many similarities between the two cities.

Whose opinion do you value most?

I had six million art critics tuning in to Art Attack every week, and it was their opinions I valued above all. The greatest honour will be if my art critics in the West Midlands like the HOPE STREET paintings enough to hang them on their walls. That will be the biggest approval rating for me.

Who has influenced you as an artist?

The biggest influence in my life - head and shoulders above anybody else - is my dad. It was my father who first spotted that I had a natural talent for drawing, and we would

spend hours together making pictures. I was nuts about cartoons, and literally lived inside The Beano when I was young. I even used to stick my cartoons onto the 'telly', so that they'd be brought to life by the flickering TV screen.

As an adult artist, I love the post-impressionist Toulouse Lautrec, and both Norman Rockwell and Jack Vettriano have inspired me in the creation of HOPE STREET. Norman Rockwell was such a gifted artist, and his ability to add humour and narrative to his paintings was legendary. Vettriano's work is rich in narrative too - he is a great self-expressionist and a magnificent artist.

How did you first get into TV?

I spotted a bizarre advert which asked 'Have you ever had breakfast with a gorilla?'. I responded, saying I hadn't ever had breakfast with a gorilla but I did once let a monkey sit on my lap... and I sent a photo to prove it! I got the job as the caricaturist on a show called No 73, and this gave me a great chance to show the world that I could draw on live TV!

By the second series, I'd blagged my way into a presenting role, and went on to present Motormouth, Finders Keepers and Animal Crazy. And I created an award-winning programme for deaf children called ZZZap!

Is it true Art Attack nearly didn't make it to the screen?

That's right! I collaborated with my TV mate, Tim Edmunds, to create Art Attack, but persuading the network that there was a gap in the market for a new style of art programme proved more challenging. After initial scepticism from the decision-makers, I spotted a pile of fax paper and laid it across the office floor where I was pitching the concept. I started drawing a long line across the paper trail with a marker pen, and when, after several minutes, I was asked "What are you doing?", I simply answered, "Art... and you've just spent the last two minutes

watching me do it". That sealed the deal!

What's On heard that you were a rock star before you were an artist?

Yes, I was a rock star a long time ago, but our success was rather short-lived! Growing up in the 1960s surrounded by 'Beatlemania' had a big impact on me. I formed a band called Marseille, which meant I had to give up the chance to study art at Liverpool College of Art. The college said I had to choose between art and the band. I chose the band and never looked back. Marseille appeared on TV in 1977 in the first ever Battle Of The Bands, and we won! We made a series of records and became the first New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) bands to break into the US, supporting Nazareth and Blackfoot in 1980. Sadly, the record company collapsed and Marseille reluctantly split in the early 1980s. Fast-forward to 2010 - and I decided to reform the band. We released a new album, appropriately called Unfinished Business, and went back on tour. During 2012 we're shooting a video and touring some of the big 'heavy rock' UK festivals.

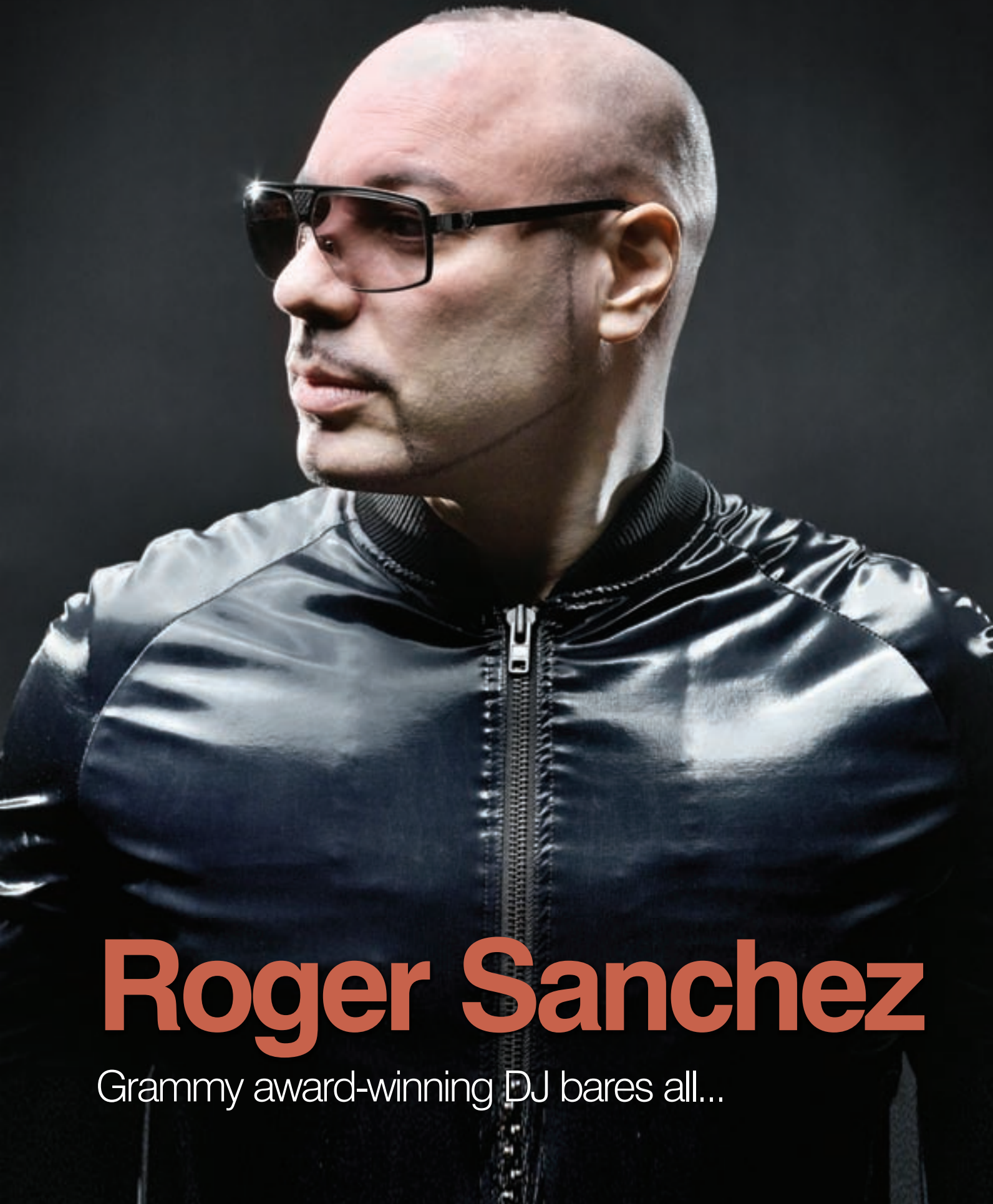
What have been the three highlights of your life?

Winning the first of two BAFTAs for Art Attack - for an ordinary lad from Liverpool, it doesn't get much better than that! I had some pretty amazing highs in my early twenties when I was with Marseille. Having 40,000 gorgeous American girls screaming our names when we went on tour in the States was pretty cool! Oh, and on a personal note, I would have to say the birth of my children Molly and Fred were real high points - otherwise they'll kill me!

Neil Buchanan's HOPE STREET limited edition art will be on show at the **Jamie Leigh Fine Art Gallery, Rubery**, throughout spring. Neil will make a personal appearance at the gallery on Saturday, 4 February



The Secret ©Copyright Neil Buchanan 2011



Roger Sanchez

Grammy award-winning DJ bares all...

Roger Sanchez is one of the world's greatest DJs, an icon of house music. With a villa in Ibiza and gigs planned in superclubs around the world, the American DJ is best known for winning a Grammy for his remix of No Doubt's Hella Good, his Release Yourself online radio show - which has a global audience of 15 million - and his hit Another Chance, which reached Number One in the UK and spawned a video that amassed four million Youtube plays. He's worked with some of the biggest names in pop, including Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Daft Punk, Alicia Keys, Kylie Minogue, Madonna, Depeche Mode, Sergio Mendes, Robbie Williams and Brandon Flowers, and returns to Birmingham's Gatecrasher on 25 February.

You played a sell-out Gatecrasher show in Birmingham in 2011 and you're back on 25 February as part of a series of gigs in European superclubs. What can the audience expect?

Birmingham has always had a fantastic audience, and they can definitely look forward to a lot of energy and a lot of brand new tracks that I've been working on. I'll be previewing some of the things I plan to release in 2012. I've always loved the vibe there. The sound system is really, really top-notch, so I'm looking forward to a great night.

I've got big plans for this year. There are always my releases of compilations, but I've also got some new tracks coming out too. My next single will be out soon, called Flashing Light, and I collaborated on that with Sidney Samson. That will probably be dropping in February, so I'll be playing stuff from that. There are other new collaborations. I've been in the studio with people like Sam Obernik, Kid Massive and Robbie Romero. I'll be dropping a lot of those upcoming tracks when I come to Birmingham.

You'll be joined by the acclaimed DJs/producers/artists and models NERVO - the feisty twins best known for their songwriting collaboration with David Guetta on his smash-hit When Love Takes Over. They recently supported Britney Spears and Nicki Minaj in the Femme Fatale arena shows. Do you enjoy working with them?

Definitely. I've been writing with them too, so it's good to catch up with them on the road. We're working on a song for an artist called Christina Milian. But we've also thrown ideas about before, so it'll be good to work with them.

You've also been working with Sarah Harding and Danny Jones, the singer/guitarist from McFly. Can you tell me about that?

I've been working a lot with those people, especially with Danny. He and I have a project called Saturn V. I'm just finishing up the first single for that right now, so hopefully I'll have that ready to go soon. It's interesting, because the stuff that I've been doing with Danny is house but it's very big. It's blending his style with mine. My own material ranges from hands in the air to more of an underground vibe, like when I do tracks under the name of S-Man. The Roger Sanchez production is more about jams.

Amazingly, I understand there's even more work scheduled, with an S-Man release called Animalz. Will that showcase the deeper, darker side of your music?

Yes. I've just finished up a new track, which I'll probably release during the early part of

this year. I've also got a project called Architecture, and I'm collaborating on that with people like Carl Craig. The S-Man project is definitely the deeper, darker side of what I do.

Cool. Don't you have a background in architecture? Is that project a musical synthesis of artistic ideas surrounding architecture - almost a musical equivalent of creating amazing buildings?

Yeah. What I do with that particular project is take inspiration from certain architects whose work I love. There are a number of them. I take some of their designs and let them inspire me to create a track that's specifically representative of them; it's my musical interpretation of what they do.

2011 proved to be a hectic and exciting year for you, with countless appearances in Europe's party hotspots, the release of your album, and the 10th anniversary and landmark 500th broadcast of the Release Yourself radio show. Where do you get your stamina from?

Look, it gets to be a little bit exhausting sometimes, but I know I've got a very understanding family who allow me to do a lot of the stuff that I do. What I figured is that I have a lot more to do and a lot more ideas that I want to put out there. Being able to balance different aspects of my career is very inspiring. I think the ability to express different vibes allows me to do the S-Man and my Roger Sanchez productions work. I have a lot of different sides and sounds in my head, and I need to express them.

There are others events on the horizon, including the Miami Winter Music Conference 2012. What are your plans for that?

Yeah, we're doing a big live event there. It'll be a very big event, Stealth Live Miami. I've kinda merged my Release Yourself with the Stealth. We're going to be doing a very big event at the Fountain Blue. We're planning to announce that very shortly.

Release Yourself has been an incredible triumph. When you released the 1996 class Release Yo Self, did you imagine it would grow into a globally recognised brand that's synonymous with quality house music and damn good parties?

It's interesting, because when you start a project like that, it's more about the moment. My goals were to provide an avenue to really focus on the dancefloor and the crowd, so I didn't really think it would be a world dominance brand, not in the beginning. But I think over time it just really evolved into what it is. That was good, because it allowed me to have a longer-range vision for it. I love that house music has re-asserted itself

across all spectrums of dance music. From tech to electro to crossover to mainstream radio play, it's all about house music. It will continue to change as the years go on. I'm looking forward to it.

You're synonymous with Ibiza, and have a villa on the clubbing paradise. What are your Ibiza plans for 2012?

Hey, look, we've got a lot of great surprises lined up for that. It's probably a little bit too early to tell you all about it. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag, as it were. But there are definitely lots of big things planned for this year, Release Yourself-style.

You had a five-episode TV series on summer in Ibiza, with director Terry Church. How did that come about?

I was introduced to Terry and his team through a friend of ours, and we really had the idea of trying to give the fans a glimpse of what goes on, what the summertime is like in Ibiza. I think they did a fantastic job. I loved the way Terry filmed it and put it together. It was very realistic, it was like a snapshot of my life and what it's like to be on the road. It was good to give people a bit of a look behind the curtain.

It portrayed you as a Grammy-winning DJ, trying to balance the twin responsibilities of being an icon of house music and a devoted father and husband. How difficult is it to combine the different aspects of your life?

Well, it's a difficult thing. That's the most difficult thing to get right, trust me. To do what I do, you have to have a very understanding family. It doesn't always make it easy, but I'm blessed to have a lot of support with it. Changing nappies definitely brings you back down to earth. So having a family allows me to get away from the stage and be a very real person.

You've been one of the best house DJs in the world for many years, while others have come and gone. How have you managed to stay fresh and at the cutting-edge?

I thank God for having the ability to do what I do. I'm very passionate about what I do, and I'm very focused about it. Not losing sight of what initially got me interested in music is what allows me to continue to be inspired by the crowd. The ability to change has definitely helped, especially with the radio show. I always try to get a lot of new sounds in, and I try to let them soak into me. You have to have the ability to be on the edge of what's happening. But at the same time, I have a specific musical ethos that runs through all that I do, in my productions and my sets. I don't go with this fad or that fad. I have a style of my own.



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Which elements of what you do are the most enjoyable for you?

You know, people always ask me that question! Do I like to DJ or mix or record or any of the other things that I do. But that's kinda like asking which of your children do you like the most? You love them all; they all do different things and they all fulfil you in different ways. I love each and every aspect of what I do equally. One thing I'm not crazy about is having to get on planes to fly all over the place, because flying just eats up a lot of time. But even in that, being able to see different places is still cool. Producing gives me one outlet, playing gives me another, and the radio shows allow me to reach more people. I really do appreciate and enjoy each and every aspect of it.

You've had an incredible career, and there have been amazing achievements. The video for Another Chance, for instance, scored more than four million hits on Youtube: it was a brilliant mix of music and visual art, with the girl with the heart. Talk us through it.

It's kinda crazy when you look at those numbers, but coming to terms with the world that we live in now, that's the nature of things. The good thing is, when you're able to touch a pulse and do something that people can relate to, it allows you to broaden your reach, and that's something I'm very thankful for. I really don't think about it too much. I just try to get stuck in and be as truthful as I can in terms of the music I'm making. I just like to put that stuff out there, then it takes on a life of its own.

So your Grammy Award win for your remix of No Doubt's Hella Good - I'm guessing you enjoyed the work more than winning the award?

Exactly. Absolutely. The Grammy is like an after-effect. For me, it was more about doing the track with No Doubt, one of my favourite bands. That was really what the kick was with that.

You have more strings to your bow than most. You speak five languages and love art and fashion. It seems you are constantly immersed in art and contemporary culture.

I love it all. I think because I went to school for art and architecture, I got a very deep appreciation of art and different forms of expression. I think all art, music, fashion and design, is an expression of will and an expression of creativity, and I'm drawn to that. I gravitate towards anything like that.

You're well known for your house remixes with some of pop's biggest stars, from Michael Jackson to Madonna. Who are the people you most enjoyed working with?

What's interesting is that every single experience has been different. You know, recently, working with Danny Jones has been fantastic. He and I have become really good mates. He's just a brilliant songwriter, so I've had great times working with him. Doing remixes for Michael Jackson was amazing, working on his raw vocals and seeing what he could do. Working with people who are so talented raises my game even further. I want to push myself and do phenomenal work. It's important to be with people who

challenge you, so that you can strive to go beyond what you normally do. I also learn a lot when I work with other people. I learn different production techniques, different recording techniques, and I get to teach people stuff. I think these projects are mutually beneficial. Every experience I've had with artists like that has been the same.

You toured Brazil at the back end of 2011. How was that?

Brazil has become such a big market for me, and I definitely feel a lot of love from the Brazilians. It's funny, because what traditional Brazilian music is, that's not what they're listening to in the clubs. The kids don't listen to that, though elements of it creep in. It also influences me. I've always been very much on that Latin percussive vibe, on that side of things, so places like Brazil influence my sound.

You said earlier that you were still brimming with ideas. Is there no end to the things that Roger Sanchez has in store?

There's loads. I mean, right now, I'm getting involved in producing a TV series, I'm getting involved in film and I'm getting involved in animation. There are loads of different areas that I'm getting involved in, and things that I want to do. But I still loving DJing. It's fun. So for as long as I can keep doing it, I definitely will.

Roger Sanchez performs at **Gatecrasher, Birmingham** on Saturday 25 February



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Music

Rizzle Kicks

HMV Institute, Birmingham, Sat 25 February

Following on from a killer 2011, the Mobo Award-nominated Brighton duo look to be continuing their success with their first ever headlining tour. Taking in seventeen dates, the tour supports October-released debut album *Stereo Typical*, which went gold in December. Having met in London, relocated to Brighton and reunited at the age of eleven, Jordan Stephens and Harley Alexander-Sule formed Rizzle Kicks in 2008. Their first official single, *Down With The Trumpets*, made a big impact last June, peaking at number eight, whilst *Mama Do The Hump* reached the top five.



The Devil Wears Prada

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 3 Feb;
O2 Academy, Birmingham, Wed 8 Feb

Formed before the release of the film of the same name, Mike Hranica (vocals), Chris Rubey (lead guitar), Jeremy DePoyster (rhythm guitar, vocals), Andy Trick (bass), Daniel Williams (drums) and James Baney (keyboards) are The Devil Wears Prada. Named as an anti-materialistic comment, the Ohio-based Christian rockers play eighteen UK, Australian and South American dates in support of their latest LP. Having released four albums and one EP, latest offering *Dead Throne* is their highest charting release yet, peaking at number ten on the Billboard 200.



Paul Carrack

Malvern Theatre, Wed 1 Feb; Theatre Severn,
Shrewsbury, Mon 6 Feb; Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, Sat 18 Feb

Sheffield-born singer, songwriter and musician Paul Carrack has enjoyed a long and distinguished career, performing in his fair share of bands down the years, including such heavyweights ensembles as Ace, Squeeze, Mike And The Mechanics and Roxy Music. He's also paid his dues as a session and touring musician, and can point to his fair share of solo success too. Oh, and he's no slouch when it comes to songwriting either, with Tom Jones, The Eagles and Jools Holland all having benefitted from his remarkable talent.



Snow Patrol

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 4 February

Formed in 1994 in Northern Ireland, Snow Patrol have found international fame since the release of debut album *Final Straw*, which sold over three million copies worldwide. With 2006 follow-up *Eyes Open* cementing their status as stars, the band has recently released sixth album, *Fallen Empires*. Heralding a departure from their pop rock sound towards electronica, the album has been well received, despite the band anticipating a mixed response. Catch them on this thirteen-date tour, with *Everything Everything* supporting.

Rammstein

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 25 February

Having completed their longest ever US tour in over a decade last Spring, the German industrial rockers are now heading over the pond to play five UK arenas. Touring in support of their first Greatest Hits compilation, *Made In Germany*, the band has remained intact since forming in 1994, with not so much as a single line-up change. Famous for their live shows, which usually feature pyrotechnics, lights and theatrics, this should be an audio-visual feast. Swedish goth rockers *Deathstars* support.



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Transatlantic Sessions

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 8 Feb

Following the success of four TV series, Transatlantic Sessions has spawned CDs, DVDs, and now a second tour. Comprising a mix of Celtic and American musicians, expect the stage show to follow the same format as the TV one, with plenty of witty banter and changing dynamics between new and old contributors.



Grouplove

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Sun 26 Feb

Formed in 2009, Grouplove met at an artists' residency in Crete, where they gravitated towards each other and started making sweet indie music. Recording an EP in 2010, the five-piece then nabbed the hottest slot in town when they supported Florence And The Machine on her US tour, and have been heavily championed by Radio One DJs Fearnie Cotton, Zane Lowe and Nick Grimshaw. Now on the road to promote the release of critically acclaimed debut album Never Trust A Happy Song, the band play nine UK dates before heading to Europe in the summer.



The Floating Palace

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Sun 12 Feb

The brainchild of English eccentric and renowned singer-songwriter and guitarist Robyn Hitchcock, The Floating Palace is an intimate evening of freewheeling musical collaboration. Based upon the idea that musicians like to perform with other musicians who they admire, but usually only do so behind the closed doors of studios, The Floating Palace brings the magic to life in public. Robyn Hitchcock, Scottish singer KT Tunstall, folk idol Eliza Carthy, Krystle Warren and alternative country experimentalist Howe Gelb here perform on stage together before an audience for the very first time. What will follow, no-one knows, but the experiment is sure to delight.



James Morrison

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Tues 7 February

BRIT nominee James Morrison returns to the Midlands this month to further promote his third album *The Awakening* - a collection of classic but contemporary folk-soul songs which James describes as feeling like his "first proper album." Soaring record sales saw the album go platinum last month, offering further evidence, were any to be needed, of James's continuing huge popularity, six years on from the release of his debut single *You Give Me Something*. Morrison's been a big deal on the music scene ever since that time, with his breakthrough album, *Undiscovered*, turning him into a global star virtually overnight. Expect plenty more in the coming years from this immensely gifted performer.

Breabach

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Thurs 9 Feb

Scottish folk quintet Breabach are set to experience a year to remember, with their third album due for release next month, a new tour to enjoy and a new line-up to bed-in. June 2011 saw James Duncan Mackenzie and Megan Henderson replace Donal Brown and Patsy Reid. However, rather than slow down the pace to accommodate the changes, the band got straight back into the studio to create *Bann*, their latest offering, hot on the heels of Calum MacCrimmon's nomination as composer of the year in the Scottish Traditional Music Awards 2011.



Lightning Seeds

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Wed 15 February

Formed in 1989, The Lightning Seeds was originally a studio-based solo project for Ian Broudie, formerly of Big In Japan. The alternative rock and pop band started touring in 1994, following their success with *Jollification*. They arrived on the scene just in time to make their mark on the mid-1990s Brit Pop era, perhaps becoming best known for their *Three Lions* single, a chart-topping collabora-

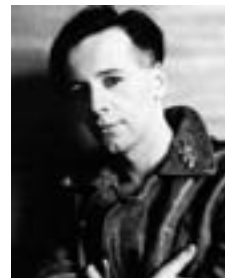
tion with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner in recognition of football's European Championship tournament coming to England in 1996. The band took an 'elongated break' at the end of the decade, but returned in 2006. They appear in Leamington as part of a nine-date tour.



Simple Minds

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 24 Feb

Famous as the band behind the 1985 song from *The Breakfast Club*, *Don't You (Forget About Me)*, Simple Minds have sold forty million albums since forming way back in the 1970s. This year is their thirty-fifth anniversary, and what better way to celebrate than with a European tour? Playing sixteen dates, the Scottish boys will perform five songs from each of their first five albums on the 5X5 tour, chronicling the music of the post-punk era and the birth of the new wave electro sound that emerged in the late 1970s.



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Music PREVIEWS

Suggs

Birmingham Town Hall, Sat 4 Feb;
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, Sun 19 Feb

A man of many talents, Graham McPherson, better known as Suggs, is actually a singer, actor, former radio DJ, TV and radio personality, and, most recently, a stand-up comedian. He's best known, of course, as the lead singer of Madness, the 1976-formed seven-piece band which had no fewer than twenty hit singles in eight years, including Baggy Trousers, It Must Be Love and Our House. Now, Suggs has turned his life into a one-man show, sharing with the audience anecdotes, jokes and musical numbers. With the band currently recording a new album, there's even a chance you might hear a sneak preview during this Saturday night show.



Feeder

Kasbah, Coventry, Thurs 2 Feb

One of Newport in Wales' greatest ever exports, Feeder formed in 1991 and went on to become one of the greatest alternative rock bands. Mainstream breakthrough Echo Park came in 2000, with Pixies-influenced single Buck Rogers hitting the top ten. The boys are returning to the road in support of soon-to-be-released eighth album Generation Freak-show. Well accustomed to selling out arenas, don't miss this opportunity to catch them on an intimate four-date UK tour.



Michael Kiwanuka

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 14 Feb

Winner of the prestigious Sound of 2012 list, Michael supported Adele on her 2011 tour and is gearing up for the March release of his debut album, Home Again. Compared to artists including Bill Withers, Marques Toliver, Al Green and Terry Callier, the soulful singer appeared on Later With Jools Holland last November, alongside the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Bjork. All-sister group The Staves will be supporting, playing some sweet country folk.



Olly Murs

LG Arena, Birmingham, Fri 10 Feb

The cheeky chappy with the silly name off X Factor is back in the Midlands and playing another arena. Over the years, plenty of the hit ITV1 talent show's aspiring stars have found that scoring a success on X Factor is no guarantee of a future in the limelight. Not so Olly Murs, who seems to have successfully side-stepped the difficulties inherent in transforming from 'talent show wannabe' to 'celebrity music-maker in his own right'. Olly's last Birmingham gig, back at the NIA in May 2011, was a sell-out, so this step up to the larger LG Arena looks to be one that he's absolutely ready to make. Expect plenty of material from Olly's recently released second album In Case You Didn't Know, including the hit singles Heart Skips A Beat and Dance With Me Tonight.

Pete Williams

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Tue 21 Feb

After making his name as a founding member of Dexys Midnight Runners, Pete Williams is going it alone this year, releasing his first solo album and heading out on tour. Pete numbers Imelda May among his many fans - "he tells terrific stories set to beautiful melodies and sung with passion, charisma and heartfelt honesty" - while fellow admirer Richard Hawley says of him, "We can smell each other out. Pete smells good and is a damn fine man and musician". Expect a set comprising songs of mystery, imagination, love, loss, joy and memory...



and continues to turn heads both as a musician and a composer. He appears in the Midlands in support of his twenty-fourth album, Beyond The Shrouded Horizon.

Purescence

The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, Sat 4 Feb

Hailing from Greater Manchester and citing folk legend Judy Collins as their biggest fan, Purescence are James Mudriczki (vocals), Kevin Matthews (bass), Lowell Killen (guitars) and Tony Szuminski (drums). With their classical guitar sound, emotional, soulful lyrics and big choruses, they've proved to be a force to be reckoned with on the indie music scene. Although achieving a certain amount of success with previous offerings, it wasn't until the release of Solid State In Recital in 2011 that they began to develop a core identity. Expect to hear the acclaimed Swathes Of Sea Made Stone, When Your Eyes Close, Elsewhere and In Harm's Way when they stop off in Wolverhampton this month.



Steve Hackett

The Assembly, Leamington Spa, Fri 24 Feb,
The Robin, Bilston, Sat 25 Feb

Genesis' lead guitarist in the 1970s needs no introduction. Steve Hackett is widely considered to be one of the world's most talented and innovative rock musicians - and he's got the seminal albums to prove it. His solo career launched as long ago as 1977, and has seen him draw on a wide range of influences, from blues and jazz to classical and ethnic. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in New York a couple of years ago,

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Music GIG REVIEWS

For further reviews, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Ed Sheeran

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

In less than a year Ed Sheeran has gone from gigging to an audience of seventy-five at Birmingham's Hare & Hounds to performing to a capacity crowd of three thousand-plus at this Civic Hall gig. And judging by the charismatic singer-songwriter's performance, it's easy to see why he's not only so in demand but also so deserving of his four BRIT Awards nominations. 'Ed mania' was very much in evidence in Wolverhampton, with deafening cheers and screams greeting him as he took to the stage. An octave higher and I'm sure my ears would have bled!

Give Me Love kicked off a one hundred-and-ten-minute set. The evening featured acoustic anthems from his acclaimed debut album, +, including The A-Team, Grade 8 and Drunk, a couple of his earlier releases and three covers, one of which was a credible re-working of Nina Simone's Be My Husband. With vocals on top form throughout, and armed with just his acoustic guitar and an enjoyable line in friendly banter, Ed certainly delivered a perfect evening's entertainment, topped off by a magnificent fifteen-minute encore of You Need Me, I Don't Need You. Let's just hope that the BRITs do the Suffolk lad proud. He certainly deserves them! **Davina Evans** ■■■■■

Katherine Jenkins

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Despite the heartache of her recent split with fiancé Gethin Jones, the diminutive Welsh Soprano shone like the star that she is, taking to the stage to thank her fans for their continued love and support in what she described as "a very difficult time". Looking resplendent in a sparkly Marilyn Monroe-style black and silver gown, Katherine opened the first of three Symphony Hall concerts to promote her latest album Daydreaming. An eclectic set followed, which saw her joined on stage, from time-to-time, by talented American singer Nathan Pacheco. Still relatively unknown in the UK, Pacheco delivered a wonderful rendition of Nessun Dorma, as well as duetting with Kathryn on West Side Story's Tonight.

In a show punctuated by numerous costume changes and much warm and witty banter, Katherine - supported by the acclaimed National Symphony Orchestra - delighted the audience as she sang a fusion of modern love songs from Daydreaming, together with well-received classics including The Arms Of An Angel, Time To Say Goodbye and a beautiful rendition of I Dreamed A Dream, sung in French, the song's native language. In all, it was a showstopping performance that was well deserving of the standing ovation it received from a devoted audience. **Reggie White** ■■■■■

CD/Download RELEASES

Ting Tings

Sounds From Nowheresville

The platinum-selling British electro-pop duo The Ting Tings are hoping that this, their long-awaited second album, will be as popular with their fans as their 2008 debut offering, We Started Nothing.

Having ditched their original batch of songs, stating that they weren't happy with them, the duo (Jules de Martino & Katie White) subsequently packed their bags, moved to Southern Spain, and recorded what they describe as 'happy music'.

Available 27 February



Azari & III

Azari & III

Said to be the hottest property presently on Island Records' books, the Canadian neo house four-piece Azari & III this month release their critically acclaimed debut album in CD format. The self-titled album, previously available on import and limited edition vinyl only, fuses minimal house pop with underground electronica, and will be preceded by the single Reckless (With Your Love), produced by the award-winning Paul Epworth.

Available 19 February



Music LISTINGS

For full listing information on gigs, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

WED 1 FEB

OVER THE RAINBOW - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY The Swan Theatre, Worcester
PAUL CARRACK Malvern Theatres
PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
SHAKATAK The Jam House, Birmingham
JEFF WILLIAMS QUARTET The Cross, Moseley, Birmingham

THUR 2 FEB

CANTERBURY The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
OVER THE RAINBOW - THE EVA CASSIDY STORY The Swan Theatre, Worcester
FEEDER Kasbah, Coventry
BIOHAZARD HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE HAMSTERS Solihull Arts Complex
ALL STAR 60S SHOW Tamworth Assembly Rooms
GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
ARGENT The Robin, Bilston
BARB JUNGR SINGS BOB DYLAN The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
THE SUBS The Jam House, Birmingham
SENIOR CITIZENS ORCHESTRA CONCERT Forest Arts Centre, Walsall

FRI 3 FEB

ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
THE DEEP PURPLE FAMILY TREE The Robin, Bilston
REGGAEBABY LOUNGE The Drum, Birmingham
PHIL BEER Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS - HOW SWEET IT IS The Swan Theatre, Worcester
ACKER BILK AND HIS PARAMOUNT BAND WITH THE CHRIS BARBER BIG BAND Birmingham Town Hall
VOWS & ATLUM SCHEMA Taylor John House, Coventry
4 POOFS AND A PIANO Artrix, Bromsgrove
COAST IS CLEAR Kasbah, Coventry
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA The Sugarmill, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
MODRAPHENIA FEAT THE JAM DRC The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MHQ JAZZ BLUES TRIO Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LOVE FROM OUTER SPACE

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BIG UP THE 90'S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
MISFITS & JUICE HEAD The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, Birmingham
EDGUY & VODOO SIX HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE CALL OUT The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire
JUPITER ATE, VELVET RIOT & SHADES The Rainbow, Birmingham
WILLIAM BREAKSPEAR WITH SUPPORT FROM DMC TRIPLE BADMAN DJ SWITCH The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE HOT POTATO SYNCO-PATORS Longden Village Hall, Shrewsbury
ONLY THE GOOD The Flapper & Firkin, Birmingham
ESTHER MILLER Bohemia Restaurant, Selly Oak, Birmingham

SAT 4 FEB

KICK UP THE 80'S The River Rooms, Stourbridge
PURESENCE The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA Bedworth Civic Hall
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS Tamworth Assembly Rooms
THE HOT POTATO SYNCO-PATORS Chelmarsh Parish Hall, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
THE BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
SUGGS: MY LIFE STORY IN WORDS AND MUSIC Birmingham Town Hall
TALON - THE BEST OF THE EAGLES The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
FRED ZEPPELIN Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
LAURA VEIRS HMV Institute, Birmingham
SNOW PATROL LG Arena, Birmingham
MIKE PIGGOTT'S HOT CLUB

TRIO Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
COUNTERFEIT STONES The Robin, Bilston
LOS PACAMINOS FEAT PAUL YOUNG The Robin, Bilston
THE RED LEMONS The Jam House, Birmingham
NUTCRACKA'S BIRTHDAY BASH HMV Institute, Birmingham
XOVA PLUS DINKY, SICUM, FRAMED & THE OFFBEAT The Ballroom, Birmingham
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, Worcestershire
NEW BUDAPEST CAFE ORCHESTRA Heightington Village Hall, Bewdley, Worcestershire
THEATRE OF BLUES FESTIVAL Featuring Pieter 'Big Pete' van der Pluijm, Dave Arcari, Big Jo, Lazy Lester, R L Burnside, Big Jack Johnson, Homesick James, Rev Charlie Jackson, Roosevelt 'Booba' Barnes & Louisiana Red, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SUN 5 FEB

SUGGS: MY LIFE STORY Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
BRAVADO - TRIBUTE TO RUSH The Robin, Bilston
THAT'LL BE THE DAY ROCK-N'ROLL SPECTACULAR The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
SONGS & MUSIC OF BAGPUS WITH SANDRA KERR mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
T-REXTASY Artrix, Bromsgrove
MARTIN SIMPSON Birmingham Town Hall
LEVI FRENCH TRIO Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kitchens Heath, Birmingham
HOWLER & MAN MADE HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE HOT POTATO SYNCO-PATORS Shifnal Village Hall, Telford

MON 6 FEB

DEAD WOLF CLUB & THE SUBURBIANS Kasbah, Coventry
PAUL CARRACK Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury



Dave Arcari who'll be performing at the Theatre of Blues Festival at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn

This spring the Barber Institute welcome internationally acclaimed concert pianists Richard Goode, Alasdair Beatson, and Leon McCawley along with LSO horn player David Pyatt, world renowned cellist, Natalie Clein, and leading British violinist Lucy Gould.

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WEDNESDAY 8 FEB 7.30 PM

Richard Goode
piano

Schumann
Kinderszenen, op. 15
Kreisleriana, op. 16
Chopin
Nocturne in E flat, op. 9, no. 2
Scherzo in C sharp minor, op. 39, no. 3
Waltz in A flat, op. 64, no. 3
Waltz in C sharp minor, op. 64, no. 2
Waltz in F, op. 34, no. 4
Ballade No. 3 in A flat, op. 47

**NATALIE
CLEIN**

WEDNESDAY 29 FEB 7.30 PM

NATALIE CLEIN cello
ALASDAIR BEATSON piano

Debussy
Sonata for cello and piano
Dutilleul
Trois strophes
Fauré
Sonata No. 2 in G minor

Webern
Three Little Pieces, op. 11
Brahms
Cello Sonata in F, op. 99

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CONCERT**

WEDNESDAY 14 MAR 7.30 PM

DAVID PYATT horn
LUCY GOULD violin
LEAN McCAWLEY piano

Beethoven
Sonata for horn and piano
in F, op. 17
Liszt
Les Cloches de Genève
(Nocturne)
Debussy
Cloches à Travers les
Feuilles
Schumann
Sonata for violin and piano
in A minor, op. 105
Brahms
Trio for horn, violin and
piano in E flat, op. 40

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Music LISTINGS

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ALESANA, WE CAME AS ROMANS, I WRESTLED A BEAR ONCE & GLAMOUR OF THE KILL HMV Institute, Birmingham
KINA GRANNIS The Glee Club, Birmingham

TUES 7 FEB

JAMES MORRISON SUPPORTED BY VAGABOND 02 Academy, Birmingham
GRANDPA BANANA The Robin, Bilston
NEXT BIG THINK FEAT. EXIT TEN, THE TREWS & RAVEN VANDELLE HMV Institute, Birmingham
MATT RATCLIFFE TRIO The Spotted Dog, Digbeth

WED 8 FEB

TRANSATLANTIC SESSIONS Featuring Raul Malo, Declan O'Rourke, Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson, Tim O'Brien, Aly, Bain and Jerry Douglas Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 02 Academy, Birmingham
MARK BUTCHER & MATT TAYLOR The Jam House, Birmingham
GYPSY FIRE Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire
ONE NIGHT IN VEGAS Crewe Lyceum
DJ OBERT & REEPS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
SONIC BOOM The Ballroom, Birmingham

THUR 9 FEB

JORDAN REYNE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
VIEUX FARKA TOURE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
BREABACH Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MERCURY - THE ULTIMATE QUEEN TRIBUTE The Swan Theatre, Worcester
B-SPOKE The Jam House, Birmingham
COLIN BLUNSTONE & BAND The Robin, Bilston
AWOLNATION HMV Institute, Birmingham

FRI 10 FEB

THE PRETTY THINGS The Robin, Bilston
LIANE CARROLL Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
KOBO TOWN The Drum, Bilston
DAVE MCPHERSON The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire
OLLY MURS LG Arena, Birmingham
MASTODEN HMV Institute, Birmingham
GREEN BAY - TRIBUTE TO

GREEN DAY Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
BOTOWN Palace Theatre, Redditch
SAMBASUNDA QUINTET mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Tamworth Assembly Rooms
ROCK 'N' ROLL PARADISE Bedworth Civic Hall
GROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham
BETRAYAL WITHIN THE RANKS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE 2TONICS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
JACKSON - LIVE IN CONCERT The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM BIG BAND Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAT 11 FEB

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
UPSET THE RHYTHM UK TOUR The Assembly, Leamington Spa
SPECTOR Kasbah, Coventry
THE BRYAN ADAMS EXPERIENCE Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
80'S MANIA Lichfield Garrick
AND FINALLY - PHIL COLLINS TRIBUTE SHOW Solihull Arts Complex
GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Artrix, Bromsgrove
ROCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR Palace Theatre, Redditch
ACES HIGH, THE NOOSE, COUNTERCULTURE & KUPOVTI The Ballroom, Birmingham
JOHNNY 2 BAD The Public, West Bromwich
SOUL SURVIVORS Dudley Concert Hall
T-REXTASY The Robin, Bilston
DOYLE & THE FOURFATHERS The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire
SWV, GINUWINE, DRU HILL & SPECIAL GUESTS The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE JOHNNY CASH STORY Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ROMANS & ACODA The Rainbow, Birmingham
GROUPER The Jam House, Birmingham
SECONDHAND STORY/SCHOLARS & CALL ATLANTIS The Flapper, Birmingham

SUN 12 FEB

BLACK DYKE BAND Symphony Hall, Birmingham
PAIN OF SALVATION The

Robin, Bilston
EMMA SKIPP & FREINDS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
THE FLOATING PALACE FEATURING ROBYN HITCHCOCK, KT TUNSTALL, ABIGAIL WASHBURN, ELIZA CARTHY & HOWE GELB Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
ERROL LINTON Lichfield Guildhall
HYRO DA HERO PLUS MARMOZETS AND ASTEROID BOYS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
THE TWILIGHT SAD Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
ERRORS, REMEMBER REMEMBER, VICTORIES AT SEA & FREE SCHOOL DJS The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE WAR ON DRUGS, CLOUD CONTROL & WE WERE EVERGREEN HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE PHIL BEER BAND The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

MON 13 FEB

DEADBEAT DARLING Kasbah, Coventry

TUES 14 FEB

A VALENTINES EVENING WITH ANDY LLOYD The Robin, Bilston
RICH ROBINSON (THE BLACK CROWES) The Ironworks, Oswestry, North Shropshire
JULIAN SMITH Solihull Arts Complex
MICHAEL KIWANUKA The Glee Club, Birmingham
PATSY FULLER & THE REVELATORS The Jam House, Birmingham
DAVID SPROULE & PAUL CURRERI'S Taylor John House, Coventry

WED 15 FEB

THE RAT PACK The Robin, Bilston
DAVID GILES The Rainbow, Birmingham
LIGHTNING SEEDS The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MILES HUNT & ERIC NOCKALLS HMV Institute, Birmingham
CAPITAL GROOVE The Jam House, Birmingham
DECADE The Flapper, Birmingham
JACK BLACKMAN, MARK HARRISON & STEWART GARRY Taylor John House, Coventry

THUR 16 FEB

SKINNY MOLLY FEAT MIKE ESTES The Robin, Bilston
BIG PINK HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE LONNIE DONEGAN Story Lichfield Garrick
A 60S NIGHT OUT FEATURING THE FORTUNES & THE IVY LEAGUE Solihull Arts



Spector

Complex
SOUL PATCH The Jam House, Birmingham
DIESEL PARK WEST Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
WE HAVE BAND HMV Institute, Birmingham

FRI 17 FEB

GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY Crewe Lyceum
THE ACOUSTIC STRAWBS Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
KATY SETTERFIELD - AS DUSTY - IN CONCERT The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury
MAGIC - A KIND OF QUEEN Palace Theatre, Redditch

A 60S NIGHT OUT 2012 FEATURING DAVE BERRY, CHRIS FARLOWE, TONY CRANE AND THE NEW AMEN CORNER Fri 17 Feb, Artrix
DRESSED TO KILL - TRIBUTE TO KISS The Robin, Bilston
GARETH GATES - ACOUSTIC TOUR Lichfield Guildhall
KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

MAX BOYCE & SPECIAL GUESTS The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
GREYISH QUARTET The Drum, Birmingham
SHINEDOWN HMV Institute, Birmingham
STEVE KNIGHTLEY SOLO TOUR 2012 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS PHILLIP HENRY AND HANNAH MARTIN Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
THE DOORS ALIVE The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE INTENTIONS The Jam House, Birmingham
FUTUREBOOGIE 10TH BIRTHDAY FEAT. JULIO BASHMORE, COAT OF ARMS & FUTUREBOOGIE Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
60'S BIG NIGHT OUT WITH THE MERSEYBEATS Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
ALIVE & KICKING VS THE UNDERCOVER POLICE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
ALESTORM The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
STEVE CRADOCK & SOL-

DIER (ACOUSTIC) HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE STAFFORDSHIRE BAND WORLD TOUR Forest Arts Centre, Walsall
SEVENTH HORIZON, NO ID, STRANGER IN DEATH & SCRUFFY SOMETHINGS The Flapper, Birmingham
HEROES OF HANOI The Marr's Bar, Worcester

SAT 18 FEB

THE COMMANDMENTS The River Rooms, Stourbridge
THE BIG BLUES TRIBE Wem Town Hall, South Shropshire
NYJO PLAYS THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
REBEL CITY RADIO The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
THE PINK FLOYD DIMENSION The Assembly, Leamington Spa
THE INTENTIONS The Jam House, Birmingham

IT'S ALL GOSPEL The Drum, Birmingham
JOHN HOLT The Drum, Birmingham
BACK TO BACK BACHARACH Taylor John House, Coventry
APART FROM ROD - THE ORIGINAL ROD STEWART BAND The Robin, Bilston
PAUL CARRACK Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
THE MOTELLAS The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
RICHARD DIGANCE Palace Theatre, Redditch
EMPIRICAL mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
MARTY WILDE & THE WILDCATS Tamworth Assembly Rooms
PIAF - THE SONGS Bridge House Theatre, Warwick
JIM MULLEN QUARTET The Hive, Shrewsbury
MIDLANDS GOTHS FESTIVAL The Ballroom, Birmingham
THE MISERS AND FUNKINSTEINS Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
SHIN PARWANA Symphony Hall, Birmingham
PANIC! HMV Institute, Birmingham
RAT PACK The Roses

Theatre, Tewksbury

SUN 19 FEB

MARTIN SIMPSON The Hive, Shrewsbury
MARY COUGHLAN Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MIKE MCGOLDRICK, JOHN MCCUSKER & JOHN DOYLE mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
KARNATAKA The Robin, Bilston
KENT DUCHAINE Lichfield Guildhall
BAND OF SKULLS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
SUGGS: MY LIFE STORY Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
FINK The Glee Club, Birmingham
JULABA KUNDA Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
FINK & RACHEL SERMANNI The Glee Club, Birmingham

MON 20 FEB

DOG IS DEAD 02 Academy, Birmingham
KYLESA, CIRCLE TAKES THE SQUARE & KEN MODE HMV Institute, Birmingham
GEHTIKA Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
PULLED APART BY HORSES & COMPUTERS HMV Institute, Birmingham

TUES 21 FEB

FAIRPORT CONVENTION Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
BREABACH Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
ABBA - THE SHOW Dudley Concert Hall
PETE WILLIAMS The Glee Club, Birmingham
THE PETE HARRIS QUARTET The Jam House, Birmingham
ACODA PLUS The Flapper, Birmingham

WED 22 FEB

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
LISA MILLS WITH IAN JENNINGS The Robin, Bilston

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THE MOBO TOUR 2012 HMV Institute, Birmingham
GOSPEL JAM The Jam House, Birmingham
WOODEN HORSE & LEE GLASSON Taylor John House, Coventry

THUR 23 FEB

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC Malvern Theatres
A 60S NIGHT OUT Lichfield Garrick
SPECTOR The Rainbow, Birmingham
THE ANTI-NOWHERE LEAGUE The Robin, Bilston
DEL CAMINO The Jam House, Birmingham
AN EVENING WITH DAVID HASSELHOFF Symphony Hall, Birmingham
KATE RUSBY Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
LABRINTH HMV Institute, Birmingham
CHARLENE SORAIA The Glee Club, Birmingham



Kate Rusby

NICOLE SCHERZINGER 02

Academy, Birmingham
RICHARD DURRANT: DANZA PARAGUAYA Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
JOYCE SIMS Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
THE SOUTH The Assembly, Leamington Spa
MICKY GREANEY Symphony Hall, Birmingham
JEZABELS HMV Institute, Birmingham
SPECTOR & DAVID'S LYRE The Rainbow, Birmingham

FRI 24 FEB

STEVE HACKETT The Assembly, Leamington Spa
DOG IS DEAD The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
ONE STOP BOOGIE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
SIMPLE MINDS 02 Academy, Birmingham
TAKE FAT The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE CHRISTIANS The Robin, Bilston
ROCKIT FUEL Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE RAT PACK Lichfield Garrick
UP 4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, Birmingham
PHIL SAYER Basement Restaurant, Leamington Spa
SHOWADDYWADDY The Roses Theatre, Tewks-

bury
MILOS KARADAGLIC Malvern Theatres
MARTY WILDE & THE WILDCATS Palace Theatre, Redditch
PAUL VERON CHESTER Symphony Hall, Birmingham
BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE JAZZ ORCHESTRA Birmingham Town Hall
DECAPITATED, AORTED & CYANIDE SERENITY HMV Institute, Birmingham

SAT 25 FEB

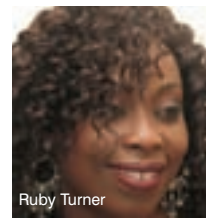
THE ELO EXPERIENCE Palace Theatre, Redditch
ONE STOP BOOGIE The River Rooms, Stourbridge
TAKE FAT The Swan Theatre, Worcester
THE CHARLESTON CHASERS Lichfield Garrick
RAMMSTEIN LG Arena, Birmingham
UP 4 THE DOWNSTROKE The Jam House, Birmingham
JOE BROWN IN CONCERT Birmingham Town Hall
COLIN BLUNSTONE & BAND Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
VOICE OF THE HEART - KAREN CARPENTER Crewe Lyceum
STEVE HACKETT The Robin, Bilston
BEN - A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE The Ballroom, Birmingham
ABBA BY ARRIVAL The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford

SIX TOWNS The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent
ST DAVID'S DAY CONCERT Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
RIZZLE KICKS HMV Institute, Birmingham
THE KABEEDIES PLUS COVES, UNCLE TIM AND LIGHT CASCADES The Assembly, Leamington Spa
ANDY HAMILTON: SAX IN THE CITY Symphony Hall, Birmingham
NAPALM DEATH - HOMETOWN SHOW HMV Institute, Birmingham
PRESSURE KIDS PLUS GUESTS The Flapper, Birmingham

SUN 26 FEB

STEFAN CUSH & THE FERAL FAMILY Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
GROUPLOVE 02 Academy, Birmingham
PALLAS The Robin, Bilston
PATSY MATHESON & BECKY MILLS Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
MILES HUNT & ERICA NOCKALLS Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
THE LEISURE SOCIETY The Glee Club, Birmingham
LEE MEAD Symphony Hall, Birmingham
THE LEISURE SOCIETY The Glee Club, Birmingham
THE WHIP & THE GOOD NATURED The Rainbow,

Birmingham
THE BIRTHDAY SUIT FEATURING ROD JONES PLUS BOOM & TURN OFF THE SUN The Ballroom, Birmingham
RUBY TURNER Warwick



Arts Centre, Coventry

MON 27 FEB

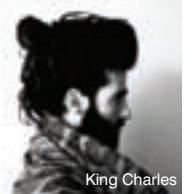
EYES SET TO KILL & SHADOWS CHASING GHOSTS HMV Institute, Birmingham
IRON BUTTERFLY Mon 27 Feb, The Robin, Bilston
THEORY OF A DEADMAN HMV Institute, Birmingham
KATHLEEN EDWARDS The Glee Club, Birmingham

TUES 28 FEB

THE SOUTH The Robin, Bilston
BIG BOY BLOATER Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
BEN HOWARD HMV Institute, Birmingham
MICK RYAN & PAUL DOWNES The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

WED 29 FEB

THE SENSATIONAL 60'S EXPERIENCE Featuring The Tremeloes, Marmalade & The Dreamers Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
BIG BOY BLOATER The Robin, Bilston
ANDY HAMILTON The Drum, Birmingham
BETH JEANS HOUGHTON & THE HOOVES OF DESTINY Hare & Hounds, B'ham
BENGA + YOUNGMAN Kasbah, Coventry
INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT FEATURING BRIAN GORE & ADRIAN LEGG New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
THIS IS THE KIT Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
SBTRKT HMV Institute, Birmingham
CAT MCTIGUE The Jam House, Birmingham
AL BRITTEN Taylor John House, Coventry
CAPITAL SUN, BROTHER & BONES The Flapper, Birmingham
KING CHARLES The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton



King Charles

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Birmingham

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 CBSO CENTRE 0121 780 3333
 CUSTARD FACTORY, 0121 224 7777
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 THE VARSITY, WOLVERHAMPTON 01902 711166
 WULFRUN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON 0870 320 7000

Shropshire

THE EDGE ARTS CENTRE, MUCH WENLOCK 01952 728911
 THE HIVE, SHREWSBURY 01743 234970
 THE IRONWORKS, OSWESTRY 01691 679123
 THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY 01743 281281
 THE PLACE, OAKENGATES, TELFORD 01952 382382
 WEM TOWN HALL 01939 232299

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 THE SUGAR MILL, HANLEY STOKE-ON-TRENT 01159 454 593
 TAMWORTH ASSEMBLY ROOMS 01827 709618
 VICTORIA HALL, HANLEY 0844 871 7649
 STAFFORD GATEHOUSE 01785 254653

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 THE KASBAH, COVENTRY 02476 554473
 NAILCOTE HALL, BERKSWELL 02476 46 6174
 STRATFORD CIVIC HALL 01789 207100
 TAYLOR JOHN'S HOUSE, COVENTRY 024 7623 0699

Worcestershire

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SPECTACULAR GRAND FINALE
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Thursday 15th March at 7.30pm
 Civic Hall, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
 Box Office 01789-207100

Tuesday 20th March at 7.30pm
 The Town Hall, KIDDERMINSTER
 Box Office 01562-748095 & 01562-732158

Thursday 22nd March at 7.30pm
 The Town Hall, CHELTENHAM
 Box Office 0844-576-2210

Friday 23rd March at 7.30pm
 Theatre Severn, SHREWSBURY
 Box Office 01743-281281

Sunday 25th March at 7.30pm
 Burton Town Hall, BURTON-UPON-TRENT
 Box Office 01283-508100

www.RussianSpectacular.co.uk



Hugh Bonneville. Picture credit: Philip Thorne

Scott Of The Antarctic Centenary Concert

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 3 February

This centenary concert sees the City of London Sinfonia join forces with the Holst singers and Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville to present a landmark concert retracing the steps of Captain Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole. Excerpts from Vaughan Williams' film score for *Scott Of The Antarctic* (1947) will be fused with readings from the explorer's diary and a world premiere of a piece setting to music words from Scott's poignant final letter, *To My Widow*.

A selection of Herbert Ponting's original expedition photos will be projected in the background during the performance of Williams' *Sinfonia Antarctica*.

European Union Chamber Orchestra

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Tues 28 February

Since its formation in 1981, the EUCO has gained itself an international reputation as a musical ambassador for the European Union, entertaining a host of kings, queens and well-known dignitaries along the way. This Warwick concert, conducted by Hans-Peter Hoffmann, sees the EUCO joined by one of the UK's foremost creative musicians, Julian Lloyd Webber, to perform Haydn's brilliant C major concerto, as well as Handel's *Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba*, Elgar's *String Serenade*, Sibelius' *Romance*, and Mozart's *Symphony No.29 in A major K.201*.

The Arts Centre will also host a pre-concert event that will see Lloyd Webber engage in conversation with Paul McGrath, Director of Music at Warwick University.



Martinu String Quartet

The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Thurs 23 February

Boasting a broad repertoire, with a particular emphasis on Czech chamber music, the Martinu String Quartet have toured the UK annually since 1988, receiving numerous accolades along the way. Originally founded in 1976 as the Havlák Quartet, the musicians subsequently decided to promote the music of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů, and in 1985 changed their name accordingly.

This Leamington Music concert sees the quartet performing Martinu's *Quartet No7 Concerto da Camera*, Mendelssohn's *Quartet in E minor Op 44 No 2* and Beethoven's *Quartet in F Op 131*.

CBSO: The Planets

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Wed 15 - Sat 18 February

Yorkshire-born soprano Sarah Fox here joins the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra - under the leadership of principal guest conductor Edward Gardner - to perform an 'out of this world' musical odyssey. Fellow soprano Pamela Helen Stephen, bass Kostas Smoriginas, and the CBSO Chorus complete the line-up for a programme that includes Holst's *The Planets 55'*, Dukas' *La Péri 19'* and Szymanowski: *Stabat Mater* (sung in Polish with English surtitles) *23'*.

Natalie Clein

The Barber Institute, Birmingham, Wed 29 February

Former BBC Young Musician of the Year and Classical BRIT Award-winning cellist Natalie Clein returns to the region this month to perform with established pianist Alasdair Beatson. Both artists are former Royal College of Music students, and have gone on to garner international acclaim for their recordings and live performances. This Barber Evening Concert sees the duo perform Debussy's *Sonata for cello and piano*, Dutilleux's *Trois strophes*, Faure's *Sonata No.2 in G minor*, Webern's *Three Little Pieces, op.11* and Brahms *Cello Sonata in F, op.99*.



Classical LISTINGS

For full listing information on classical concerts, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

ANDREAS SCHOLL SINGS

BACH Programme includes works by JS Bach, Wed 1 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO: A FIRST FOR BRAHMS

Featuring Andres Orozco-Estrada (conductor) & Akiko Suwanai (violin). Programme to include works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky & Brahms, Thurs 2 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FRANCOIS-FREDERIC GUY

Part of the Yamaha Series 2011/12. Programme features three works by Beethoven, Fri 3 Feb, Malvern Theatres

BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP:

MUSICIANS WRESTLE EVERYWHERE

Featuring Clement Power (conductor) & Susan Narucki (Soprano). Programme includes works by Judith Weir, Sean Clancy, Gerald Barry & Gerard Grisey, Fri 3 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC CENTENARY CONCERT

Programme includes works by Vaughan Williams, Fri 3 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Featuring violinist Stephanie Gonley & pianist Derek Han. Programme to include works by Bach & Glass, Sat 4 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

DORIC STRING QUARTET

Programme includes works by Haydn, Chausson & Schubert, Sun 5 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

KHATIA BUNIATISHVILI SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE CONCERT

Programme includes works by Chopin & Liszt, Sun 5 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

CBSO FAMILY CONCERT:

LEMONY SNICKET'S ORCHESTRAL WHODUNIT

Featuring Michael Seal (conductor), Catherine Arlidge (presenter) & Matthew Sharpe (narrator), Sun 5 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SENIOR STRING QUARTET

Mon 6 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

THOMAS TROTTER WITH THE BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHOIR:

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Programme to include works by Murrill, Vaughan Williams, Howells & Faure, Mon 6 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

BARBER EVENING CONCERT WITH RICHARD GOODE - PIANO

Programme to include works by Schumann & Chopin, Wed 8 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CBSO: IMAGES OF 1912

Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor) & Ingrid Fliter (piano). Programme to include works by Bartok, Debussy & Beethoven, Thurs 9 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GOULD PIANO TRIO

Programme to include works by Haydn, Dvorak & Messiaen, Fri 10 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SUPER SIZE POLYPHONY

Featuring the combined forces of the Armonico Consort and The Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Fri 10 Feb, Malvern Theatres

THE CBSO PLAYERS: CENTRE STAGE

Programme to include works by Bartok & Mozart, Fri 10 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

CBSO FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS: BROADWAY THE CONCERT

Featuring Martin Yates (conductor) & Jacqui Scott, Andrew Halliday & David Shanon (vocals) Fri 10 Feb, Birmingham

Town Hall OPERA HIGHLIGHTS:

MOZART'S LEADING LADIES

Featuring sopranos Amelia Burns & Rachel Farr, Fri 10 Feb, The Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

HAPPY & GLORIOUS

Jennie Bond hosts a performance of much-loved songs to celebrate the year of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Sat 11 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ENSEMBLE 360 - THE CHIMPANZEES OF HAPPYTOWN

Concert aimed at two to seven year olds, Sat 11 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

ENSEMBLE 360

Sun 12 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

JOHN LILL PLAYS BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS

Programme to include works by Beethoven, Brahms & Fugue, Sun 12 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

PRIMROSE QUARTET

Programme to include Faure's Piano Quartet in C minor Op.15, Mon 13 Feb, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

HEPPELWHITE PIANO TRIO

Programme to include works by Beethoven & Piazzola, Mon 13 Feb, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

Featuring Katherine Manley (soprano), Christopher Ainslie (counter tenor), Sarah Sexton (violin), Tim Smedley (cello) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord) Tue 14 Feb, St Mary's Church, Warwick

CARDUCCI QUARTET CONCERT

Programme to include works by Mozart & Beethoven, Tues 14 Feb, Recital Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

CBSO: THE PLANETS

Featuring Edward Gardner (conductor), Sarah Fox (soprano), Pamela Helen Stephen (mezzo) & James Creswell (bass). Programme to include works by Dukas, Szymanowski & Holst, Wed 15 - Sat 18 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENT SHAKESPEARE PLUS

Thurs 16 Feb, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCE FROM B.R.B

Popular annual performance that features repertoire highlights from one of the UK's leading ballet companies, accompanied by the BRB Orchestra, Fri 17 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

WIND, STRINGS & BRASS ENSEMBLES

Programme to include works by Dvorak, Britten & Musorgsky, Fri 17 Feb, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire

MIDLAND SINFONIA

Programme to include works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven & Mozart, Sat 18 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE TETRAKTYS STRING QUARTET

Programme to include works by Mozart & Beethoven, Sun 19 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Programme to include works by Bartok, Berg & Bruckner, Sun 19 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

THOMAS TROTTER LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERT

Programme to include works by Bach, Howells, Karg-Elert, Holloway & Saint-Saens, Mon 20 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN: TUESDAY CLASSICS

Tues 21 Feb, Stratford Civic Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon

CBSO: DURUFLE'S REQUIEM

Programme to include works by Faure, Ravel, Satie (orch. Debussy) & Durufle, Wed 22 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Kharkiv Opera present Puccini's classic opera. This production will be sung in Italian with English surtitles, Wed 22



English Chamber Orchestra

Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN WITH JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER

Programme to include works by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich & Mozart, Wed 22 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall

LA TRAVIATA

Kharkiv Opera present Verdi's classic love story, Thurs 23 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

MARTINU STRING QUARTET

Programme includes works by Mendelssohn & Beethoven, Thurs 23 Feb, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa

CBSO PLAYERS

Programme to include works by Rachmaninov & Schumann, Thurs 23 Feb, CBSO Centre, Birmingham

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA FEATURING TASMIN LITTLE

Sat 25 Feb, Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry, North Shropshire

LUDWIG STRING TRIO

Programme to include works by Beethoven, Hindersmith & Mozart, Sun 26 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC

Featuring Michael Seal. Programme: Mahler's Tenth Symphony, Sun 26 Feb, Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Featuring Julian Lloyd Webber on Cello. Programme to include works by Handel, Elgar, Haydn, Sibelius & Mozart, Tue 28 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

NATALIE CLEIN & ALASDAIR BEATSON

Programme to include works by Debussy, Dutilleul, Faure, Webern & Brahms, Wed 29 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

Classical Box Office

ADRIAN BOULT HALL, B'HAM 0121 331 5901

ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE 0121 331 5901/2

BARBER INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL 0121 780 3333

CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM 0121 780 3333

CREWE LYCEUM 01270 537333

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WARWICK ARTS CENTRE 02476 524524

Sundays at Warwick's BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE



February 5

Doric String Quartet

3pm Quartets by Haydn, Chausson & Schubert

BBC Radio 3 to record for future transmission



February 12

Ensemble 360

11.30am The Chimpanzees of Happytown

Family Concert for 2-7 year olds

3pm Schubert Quintet in C, Janacek Quartet No2



February 26

Ludwig String Trio

Beethoven Serenade Op 8, Hindemith Trio Op 34

& Mozart Divertimento K563



March 18

Calefax Reed Quintet

11.30am Introducing oboe, clarinets, saxophone & bassoon.

Family Concert for 7-11 year olds

3pm Arrangements by this amazing Dutch group of Rossi, Debussy, Shostakovich & Bach



Tickets online www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk or call 01926 776438

Part of Leamington Music's Winter Season

Do visit www.leamingtonmusic.org



Comedy

Pete Firman

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 23 February

Pete Firman's been described as 'funnier than most comedians and more magical than Dumbledore on a good day' - which, as reviews go, isn't a bad one. Combining comedy and magic to excellent effect, this Middlesborough-born funnyman looks to have a bright future ahead of him. TV appearances include Comedy Rocks with Jason Manford, Saturday Live Again!, For One Night Only, Dirty Tricks, Derren Brown's 3D Magic Spectacular and The Secret World Of Magic.



Robin Ince

The Slade Room, Wolverhampton, Wed 8 February; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Thurs 9 February

As with many a comedian nowadays, versatile comedy veteran Robin Ince is no stranger to all manner of laughter-inducing television programmes, with Mock The Week, Never Mind The Buzzcocks, The Now Show, The News Quiz and Loose Ends all having benefitted from his often-hyperactive ranting. This latest show follows on from Uncaged Monkeys, with Professor Brian Cox, and finds Robin pondering whether it's possible to be happy and rational at the same time. Or, as his publicity puts it, 'spend an entertaining evening in Robin's company as he orienteers through the craggy landscape of evolution whilst plumbing the depths of his own murky consciousness, all without the aid of a safety net'.

Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival

Various venues in and around Leicester, Fri 3 - Sun 19 February

Now sponsored by satellite TV channel Dave, the Leicester Comedy Festival is the longest-running event of its kind in Europe, attracting audiences of as many as sixty thousand. As usual, the 2012 incarnation of the festival blends plenty of old favourites with a few new surprises. This year's line-up features Alistair McGowan, Terry Alderton, Ceri Dupree, Chris Addison, Dave Spikey, Patrick Monahan and Sarah Millican, to name but a few. Visit www.comedy-festival.co.uk for more details.



Terry Alderton



Billy Connolly - The Man Live

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Fri 24 - Sat 25 February; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 2 - Sat 3 March

This man is a comedy legend, and as such needs no introduction. His latest tour celebrates fifty years as a performer and not surprisingly is an absolute sell-out. A disarmingly gregarious fella with a larger-than-life persona, Connolly peddles his material with the assured touch of a comedian who absolutely knows he's got his audience eating out of the palm of his hand. Jokes include, "Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes. After that, you've got his shoes and he's a mile away!", and "Marriage is a wonderful invention; but then again, so is a bicycle puncture repair kit".

Sarah Millican

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 - Sat 4 February; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Wed 7 March; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sun 29 April

One of the brightest young comedians around, Sarah Millican enjoyed a roaring sell-out success on her very first tour, with bums on all seats on no fewer than one hundred-and-twenty laughter-filled nights. Sarah's certainly an original, and offers great value for money, not least because she's willing to share her knowledge of how to construct a home-made treadmill or access party food even if you don't like parties.



Comedy Box Office

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0121 780 3333
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LUDLOW ASSEMBLY
ROOMS
01584 878141
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0121 446 3232
PALACE THEATRE,
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01527 65203
THE PUBLIC, WEST
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0121 533 7161
REGENT THEATRE, STOKE-
ON-TRENT
0844 871 7649
RICOH ARENA, COVENTRY
0844 873 6565
THE ROSE THEATRE,
KIDDERMINSTER
01562 743745
ROYAL SPA CENTRE,
LEAMINGTON SPA
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STAFFORD GATEHOUSE
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WARWICK ARTS CENTRE
02476 524524
WEST BROMWICH TOWN
HALL
0121 596 4429
WULFRUN HALL,
WOLVERHAMPTON
0870 320 7000

Comedy LISTINGS

For full listing information on comedy gigs including times and dates visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

RICHARD HERRING Wed 1 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
PAUL KERENSA, TIM CLARK & MC CARL HUTCHINSON Thurs 2 Feb, The George Hotel, Lichfield
KEVIN MCCARTHY, GORDON SOUTHERN, TOM WRIGGLESWORTH & IAN COPPINGER Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
JO ENRIGHT, GREG COOK, RHYS JONES Fri 3 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
SARAH MILLICAN Fri 3 - Sat 4 Feb, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
ANNETTE FAGON & KWAKU Fri 3 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham
KILL FOR A SEAT COMEDY CLUB Featuring Jason Cook & John Robins, Fri 3 Feb, mac, Birmingham
JIM SMALLMAN, TANYALEE DAVIS, NICK WILTY & TONY HENDRICKS Fri 3 - Sat 4 Feb, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
THE PUBLIC COMEDY SHOWCASE Headlined by the highly acclaimed

Mickey Sharma and compered by Lee Gee, Fri 3 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich
DAVE'S LEICESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL Fri 3 - Sun 19 Feb, Various Venues Around Leicester
MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS Sat 4 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
OMID DJALILI Sat 4 Feb, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa
STEVE HUGHES Sun 5 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
PATRICK MONAHAN Wed 8 Feb, mac, Birmingham
ROBIN INCE Wed 8 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
PATRICK MONAHAN Wed 8 Feb, mac, Birmingham
LAUGHING COWS COMEDY CLUB Featuring resident MC Maureen Younger, Wed 8 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
ROBIN INCE Thurs 9 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
MIKE BUBBINS, ANDY

ROBINSON & PAUL F TAYLOR Thurs 9 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ABANDONMAN Fri 10 Feb, The Ballroom, Birmingham
MIKE BUBBINS, ANDY ROBINSON, MARK NELSON Fri 10 - Sat 11 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
DAVID WARD, STUART BLACK, KAI HUMPHRIES & JASON COOK Fri 10 - Sat 11 Feb, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
COMEDY FACE-OFF FEATURING RICHARD BLACKWOOD Sun 12 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall
ANDREW DOYLE, JAMES MULLINGER, DAVE GIBSON & DAVID MORGAN Wed 15 Feb, mac, Birmingham
RICHARD HERRING Thurs 16 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
STEVE HUGHES Thurs 16 Feb, The Marr's Bar, Worcester
TONY CAMPBELL, DES BISHOP, STEVE SHANYASKI & DOMINIC FRISBY Thurs 16 - Sat 18 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS Thurs 16 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
STEVE HUGHES Thurs 16 Feb, The Marr's Bar, Worcester

ANGIE MCEVOY, JOE LYCETT, BRIAN HIGGINS & BEN NORRIS Fri 17 Feb, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS Fri 17 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
HENNING WEHN - NO SURRENDER Sat 18 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
TOMMY CAMPBELL, PETE FIRMAN, STEVE SHANYASKI, DOMINIC FRISBY Sat 18 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
ANGIE MCEVOY, JACKIE FABULOUS, BRIAN HIGGINS & BEN NORRIS Sat 18 Feb, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
RICHARD HERRING Sat 18 Feb, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester
STEVE HUGHES Wed 22 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
LAFACINO CABARET Featuring Jo Enright, Wed 22 Feb, Kitchen Garden Cafe, Kings Heath, Birmingham
MIKE DOYLE Thurs 23 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
FASCINATING AIDA Thurs 23 Feb, Birmingham Town Hall
STEVE HUGHES Thurs 23 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
PETE FIRMAN - JIGGERY POKERY Thurs 23 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
SIMON CLAYTON,



MICHAEL FABBRI, NICK HELM & KOCKOV Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED Thurs 23 Feb, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
PEACOCK AND GAMBLE Fri 24 Feb, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire
BILLY CONNOLLY Fri 24 - Sat 25 Feb, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
PATRICK MONAHAN Fri 24 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
KEVIN MCCARTHY, MICK FERRY, KEITH FARNAN & PHIL BUTLER Fri 24 - Sat 25 Feb, Highlight Comedy Club, Birmingham
DAVE SPIKEY - WORDS DON'T COME EASY Sat 25 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY NIGHT Sat 25 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove
ANDREW LAWRENCE Sun 26 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
SEVERN JESTERS FEATURING JASON JOHN WHITEHEAD, KEITH FARNAN, DANNY PENSIVE & MC DAN NIGHTINGALE Sun 26 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
MICK FOLEY Tue 28 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham
LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB Wed 29 Feb, The Place, Oakengates Theatre, Telford
RICHARD HERRING Wed 29 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
DAVE SPIKEY Wed 29 Feb, The Glee Club, Birmingham

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Theatre



Sister Act

The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 7 - Sat 18 February

This family-friendly West Ender is based, of course, on the Whoopi Goldberg movie of the same title - and 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!

This is a real feelgood show that should have you happily dancing in the aisles long before the encore. Denise Black, Michael Starke and Cynthia Erivo all star.



South Pacific

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Sat 18 February

Samantha Womack - once upon a time better known as Samantha Janus (she of EastEnders fame) and Alex Ferns star in Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical. The story of two love affairs on a Pacific island during World War Two, the show has no fewer than seven Tony awards - not to mention two sell-out years on Broadway - under its belt. It also boasts a veritable raft of memorable songs, including Younger Than Springtime, There Is Nothing Like A Dame and Some Enchanted Evening. *Check out our interview with Samantha Womack on page 10*

Monty Python's Spamalot

Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 27 February - Sat 3 March

Monty Python's Tony Award-winning stage show returns to the region, complete with West End favourite Bonnie Langford. The brainchild of John DuPrez and former Python star Eric Idle, the show blends funny songs with funny gags and routines, all presented in the quirky, off-the-wall style you've come to expect from a Monty Python-endorsed product. If you love Python, you'll love this latest dose of silly mayhem too. If, on the other hand, the boys have repeatedly failed to float your boat these last forty-odd years, Spamalot is unlikely to do much to change your opinion.





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Gravity
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Stalin's Favourite

The Old Rep, Birmingham,
Wed 22 February

This emotionally engaging work offers a very human insight into the momentous events which took place in the Soviet Union during the Stalin era. Adapted from Orlando Figes' groundbreaking book *The Whisperers*, it focuses on Konstantin Simonov, whose hugely popular 1941 poem, *Wait For Me*, projected him into the literary stratosphere of the Soviet Union. But what price would he have to pay for becoming Stalin's favourite writer?... Theatre Unlimited's production premiered at the National Theatre in November, and stops off in Birmingham as part of its first tour.



Image from Theatre Unlimited's production of *Defying Hitler*, which is also appearing at the Old Rep

'Tis Pity She's A Whore

Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry,
Wed 1 Sat 4 February

Incest, morality, religion and corruption lie at the heartland of John Ford's hugely entertaining Jacobean tragedy. This latest version of the once-controversial play is presented by the highly regarded *Cheek By Jowl*, an ensemble which can boast a proud history of bringing fresh life to classic texts. The company has toured to over three hundred cities in forty countries, and is an Associate Company at the Barbican theatre in London.



The Heresy Of Love

The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Thurs 2 February - Fri 9 March

A poet, nun and major Baroque literary figure of Mexico, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz is the intriguing subject of this brand new play, commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Sister Juana lives in a convent, where she struggles to reconcile her love for God with her love of the acclaim her plays and poetry receive. Persecuted by a zealous archbishop and betrayed by those closest to her, Juana's world is a fragile one, and it isn't long before dangerous ambition and illicit desires conspire to threaten everything that she holds dear...



Calendar Girls

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 4 February;
Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 9 - Sat 13 October

Based on a true story, *Calendar Girls* tells the tale of a group of women who spark a global phenomenon when they decide to pose nude for a charity calendar. This stage version of the hit Julie Walters film has enjoyed an award-winning West End run, and returns to Birmingham by popular demand.

Lynda Bellingham, Camilla Dallerup, Jan Harvey, Sue Holderness, Deena Payne, Lisa Riley, June Watson, Ruth Madoc and Kevin Sacre star in the Birmingham Hippodrome run of the production, while casting for the Regent Theatre run is subject to change.

Swallows And Amazons

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
Tues 14 - Sat 18 February

Tom Morris, the director of the internationally acclaimed *War Horse*, is the man at the helm of this action-packed musical adventure, which follows Captain John and his able crew as they set sail for Wildcat Island, where encounters with savages, pirates and mortal enemies await them. Presented by The Children's Touring Partnership.

Macbeth

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
Mon 27 - Wed 29 February

Shakespeare's famous tragedy recounts the blood-curdling story of Macbeth's meteoric rise to the throne of Scotland. Having been spurred into action by the prophesies of three supernatural women, Macbeth and his wife's ambition gets the better of them, and they embark on a campaign of cold-blooded murder. Slaughtering first Duncan and then his own best friend Banquo, Macbeth begins to lose his grip on sanity, and decides the only course of action open to him is to commit even more atrocities, including the murder of women and children.

Steven Berkoff In Shakespeare's Villains

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
Wed 8 - Thurs 9 February

With Steven Berkoff having toured this show to great acclaim overseas, as well as having presented it in the West End, *Shakespeare's Villains* arrives in Wolverhampton with a real seal of approval. And why wouldn't it have, bringing together, as it does, one of the most highly rated actors of contemporary times

and some of the greatest ne'er-do-wells ever to grace the pages of literature. Iago, the Macbeths, Shylock and Richard III are among those featured in a show that's positively bursting with characters who are inherently evil, others whose situation leads them to evil deeds, and some who find themselves at the mercy of an evil society.



Gravity

mac, Birmingham, Thurs 23 February
- Sat 3 March

Birmingham Repertory Theatre here present a contemporary play that's based around the subject of provocation and which focuses on a man named David. Struggling with the challenges of life as secondary school teacher, David's passion for physics is shared by one of his pupils - Kyle, the class loner. But when Kyle is picked on by classmates, all of David's good work starts to unravel, and an explosive reaction ensues...





My Father & Other Superheroes

Spring highlights at mac birmingham

Nick Makoha: **My Father and Other Superheroes**
Wed 1 - Sat 4 Feb, 8pm (Matinee Thu 2 Feb, 2pm)
Tickets £10 (£7)

My Father and Other Superheroes is a moving and powerful story about the journey from childhood to fatherhood.

The Songs & Music of Bagpuss

Sun 5 Feb, 2.30pm | Tickets £12 (£9)

Join original cast member Sandra Kerr for an afternoon of musical nostalgia and audience participation from the hit show.

The Birmingham Repertory Theatre presents:

Gravity by Anthony Peckham

Thu 23 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, 8pm (Matinee Thu 1 & Sat 3 Mar, 2pm)
Tickets £12 (£7.50)

A teacher struggles to stay afloat in the stressful world of secondary education until colliding personalities in his classroom result in an explosive reaction.

Birmingham Jazz and mac birmingham

Empirical

Sat 18 Feb, 8pm | Tickets £10 (£7)

2010 MOBO Award-winning British Jazz group perform tracks from their new album 'Elements of Truth'.

The Speech Project

Sat 17 Mar, 8pm | Tickets £12 (£9)

Gerry Diver performs a ground-breaking collection of new musical works incorporating recordings of the spoken word of Irish folk musicians.

Shobana Jeyasingh: **Classic Cut**

Tue 20 Mar, 8pm | Tickets £13 (£10)

An intriguing new show from choreographer Shobana Jeyasingh - revisiting the past and boldly stepping into the new.

Pentabus: **For Once**

Tue 27 - Thu 29 Mar, 8pm | Tickets £12 (£9)

Life, love and loss in a picture postcard town are laid bare in this heartbreaking but darkly comic new play.

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Friday 17 Feb - Tickets £6

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3 great acts from the London
Comedy Circuit. Content 18+



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Edward Elgar to Lloyd Webber

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Age 16+

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The Jive Aces

Hot jive meets lively swing
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Friday 9 March - Tickets £14

EZIO

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Monday 12 March - Tickets £17

Ireland's Brendan Shine

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Stomp

Birmingham Hippodrome,
Tues 14 - Sat 18 February

Theatre, dance, comedy and percussion combine in a show which sees eight performers using boots, bins, brooms and even the kitchen sink to hammer out an explosively feelgood rhythm.

If you've never seen Stomp before, this is a great opportunity to check it out. The show has been a global phenomenon for years, and is well worth a look...



The Chuckle Brothers: The Return Of The River Rother 2

Bedworth Civic Hall, Wed 15 February

More Chuckle-style fun from Paul and Barry this time finds the boys setting off on a swashbuckling adventure 'pon the high seas. Magic, mystery and mayhem are all much in evidence as the fellas not only have their timbers well and truly shivered but also find the time to do a spot of 'main brace'-splicing.

My Favourite Summer

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 15 February;
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Sat 18 February

Reform Theatre return after their previous successes with Thick As Thieves, Studs and Housebound. The company here presents a play that focuses on the character of Dave, a man who's spending a month working alongside a nutcase in an attempt to make enough money to take the girl he loves away on holiday before she disappears from his life forever.



Teachers

The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 2 - Sat 11 February

John Godber's highly acclaimed comedy is twenty-five years old this year, and tells the story of three school leavers, Salty, Hobby and Gail. The three perform to the audience an account of their time in high school, focusing mainly on their experience of Mr Nixon, the drama teacher who inspires them with his belief that all children should be treated equally. A play which deals with the



Avenue Q

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, Tues 28 February - Sat 3 March; Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 20 - Sat 24 March

Described by no less an authority than The Times as 'the best musical of the decade', the Tony Award-winning Avenue Q arrives in Wolverhampton following a hugely successful five-year stint in the West End. Focusing on subjects such as dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life, it tells the story of Princeton - a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance, the distraction of a busty blonde, and a variety of weird and wonderful friends - as he sets out on a journey towards self-discovery.

sense of disillusionment evident not only in students but in many of those who educate them, Teachers remains as relevant today as it was when first performed at the Edinburgh Festival way back in 1987.

The Crucible

Crescent Theatre, Sat 25 February -
Sat 3 March

In the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy got a bee in his bonnet about Communists and began a witch-hunt designed to weed out the reds under the bed. Anyone who displayed even a spark of creativity or non-conformism with his rigid code was subjected to brutal investigation and interrogation, and, in many cases, livelihoods were lost. Enter Arthur Miller, playwright, Pulitzer prize-winner and McCarthy target. Taking as his inspiration the Salem witch-trials of 1692, he wrote this enduring masterpiece, a play which cleverly mirrors his own tribulations at the hands of an irrational man. The play is a forceful and unsettling reminder of the effects of suspicion and doubt, and the opportunity they provide for manipulation and the abuse of power.

Nora

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry,
until Sat 18 February

Nora is Ingmar Bergman's highly acclaimed adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, and follows on from the Belgrade's adaptation of another Bergman classic, Scenes From A Marriage, in 2008. With beautiful children, a splendid home and a loving husband, it would seem that Nora has a perfect life. The problem is, her world is held together by a dark secret, a secret

which, were it to be revealed, would bring everything crashing down around her...

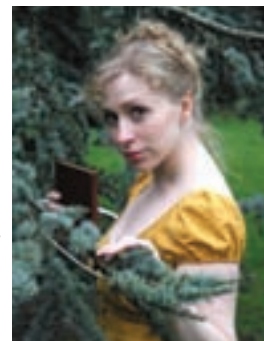


Photo credit: Nicola Young

Austen's Women

The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury,
Thurs 9 February

Adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughn, Austen's Women brings together no fewer than thirteen of Jane Austen's most celebrated female characters, including the much-loved Lizzy Bennet, Emma Woodhouse and Marianne Dashwood. Using only Austen's words to offer an illuminating distillation of nineteenth century feminism, Vaughn has created a show that's garnered praise wherever it's been performed, with stop-offs having included destinations as far apart from one another as Edinburgh and Adelaide.





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Friday 9th March, 7.30pm

STARS OF BENIDORM LIVE

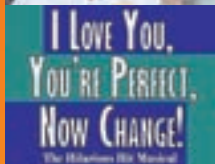
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FEAT. DAVE BERRY, CHIP HAWKINS AND CHRIS FARLOW



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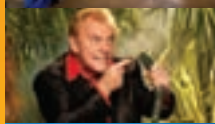
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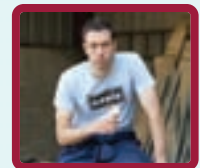
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THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY THE WHEELS ON THE BUS

JOIN BUSTER THE BIG RED BUS WITH ALL OF HIS FRIENDS ON THEIR MAGICAL ADVENTURE.



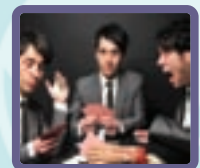
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY ANDY KERSHAW - NO OFF SWITCH

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STAR QUALITY Liza Goddard stars in Noel Coward's observant satire that's set behind the scenes of a new West End production, until Sat 4 Feb, Malvern Theatres

CALENDAR GIRLS Highly acclaimed drama inspired by a true story and featuring a stellar cast, until Sat 4 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

ON GOLDEN POND Stefanie Powers, Elizabeth Carling and Richard Johnson star in a stage adaptation of the classic, multi-award-winning film, until Sat 4 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE Birmingham Stage Company present Roald Dahl amazing tale of a young boy who develops a medicine to cure his grandmother of her foul temper, until Sat 11 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham

TAMING OF THE SHREW The Royal Shakespeare Company present The Bard's early comedy, until Sat 18 Feb, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Northern BroadSides present a fast-paced production of Shakespeare's battle of the sexes, until Sat 18 Feb, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

NORA Ingmar Bergman's highly acclaimed adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, until Sat 18 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

WRITTEN ON THE HEART A new play by David Edgar, until Sat 10 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Roxana Silbert directs Shakespeare's dark exploration of virtue as a political currency, until Sat 10 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE TRIAL Blackeyed Theatre present an adaptation of Franz Kafka's masterpiece, Tue 1 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

POSTCARDS FROM BLACKPOOL About Face Theatre Company fuse

film footage with performance to explore the glitz, glamour and dark side of Blackpool.

Wed 1 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

AMERICAN ANTHEMS ON ROUTE 66 New musical that promises to take the audience on a trip along America's most infamous road, Wed 1 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

THE CHINESE STATE CIRCUS Wed 1 - Thurs 2 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LORDS AND LADIES The fairies are back, but these don't just want your teeth...Granny Weatherwax and her tiny coven are up against real elves, Wed 1 - Sat 4 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY Warwick School Drama Department present their version of Harold Pinter's best-known play, Wed 1 - Fri 3 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE Warwick University Drama Society perform John Ford's controversial masterpiece, Wed 1 - Sat 4 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

MY FATHER AND OTHER SUPERHEROES A moving and powerful drama that tells the story of one man's journey from childhood to fatherhood, Wed 1 - Sat 4 Feb, mac, Birmingham

RING Fuel present a sound journey in complete darkness that forms part of a brand new commissioning and artist development programme at Warwick Arts, Thurs 2 - Fri 3 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

THE HERESY OF LOVE Nancy Meckler directs a new play by Helen Edmundson, Thurs 2 Feb - Fri 9 Mar, The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

TEACHERS John Godber's acclaimed fast-moving comedy, Thurs 2 - Sat 11 Feb, The Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

ALADDIN presented by Starlight School of Dance, Thurs 2 - Sat 4 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch

AN AUDIENCE WITH COLIN FRY Thurs 2 Feb, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

DISCOMBOBULATED Publik Transport present a biometric-enhanced security roadshow that's so utterly stupid it might just save your life... Thurs 2 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolver-

hampton

AN AUDIENCE WITH TONY BENN Fri 3 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

D'BI YOUNG An evening of lyrical wonder with cutting-edge Afrikan-Jamaican-Canadian dubpoet and warrior, Sat 4 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

THE MAGICIAN WHO LOST HIS SPELLS Amateur production for young children and their families, Sat 4 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE ERPINGHAM CAMP & BREADSTICKS The Oggie Players present a double-bill of comedy from Joe Orton & Julie Waring, Sat 4 Feb, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

WATCH THE BIRDY A Lyngo Theatre Company production for children, Sat 4 Feb, Birmingham Repertory Theatre

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS Students from Thomas Adams School present an evening of music from the musicals, Sat 4 Feb, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire.

Week Commencing MON 6 FEB

LITE A one-woman show that uncovers the emotional and physical journey that a young woman will take to fit into society, Mon 6 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

ON GOLDEN POND Stefanie Powers, Elizabeth Carling and Richard Johnson star in a stage adaptation of the classic, multi-award-winning film, Mon 6 - Sat 11 Feb, Malvern Theatres

THE MERRY WIDOW Opera Della Luna present a new English translation of Lehár's classic operetta, Tues 7 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

OLIVER! WBS Musical Theatre Company present their version of Lionel Bart's much-loved musical, Tues 7 - Fri 10 Feb, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

SISTER ACT Denise Black (Coronation Street), Michael Starke (Brookside) and Cynthia Erivo star in the first ever tour of the hit West End & Broadway musical comedy that's based on the movie of the same name, Tue 7 - Sat 18 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

SOUTH PACIFIC Samantha Womack and Alex Ferns star in a new version of the Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic, Tue 7 - Sat 18 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre



THIS HAPPY BREED Noel Coward's highly regarded play that follows the fortunes of a suburban family over a twenty year period, Tue 7 - Sat 11 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

FIRST THINGS FIRST Derek Benfield's fast-moving comedy, Tue 7 - Sat 18 Feb, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield

YES, PRIME MINISTER A new comedy by Antony Jay & Jonathan Lynn, the original writers on the classic BBC TV series. Simon Williams & Richard McCabe star, Tue 7 - Sat 11 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

STEVEN BERKOFF IN SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS An exploration and analysis of some of Shakespeare's most villainous characters, including Iago, the Macbeths, Shylock and Richard III..., Wed 8 - Thurs 9 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

THIRSTY Multi-award-winning company Paper Birds present their critically acclaimed sell-out show that examines our nation's love affair with alcohol, Thurs 9 Feb, mac, Birmingham

BEAUTY & THE BEAST Music Theatre Warwick present an amateur production of the Disney classic, Wed 8 - Sat 11 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

CINDERELLA ON ICE The internationally acclaimed Russian Ice Stars stage a magical production of the classic fairytale, Wed 8 - Sun 12 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SINCERELY NOEL Alastair McGowan and Charlotte Page showcase the works of Noel Cow-

ard, Wed 8 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

TRAVELLING LIGHT Live broadcast from The National Theatre of a new play by Nicholas Wright, Thurs 9 Feb, Malvern Theatres

AUSTEN'S WOMEN Thirteen of Jane Austen's most celebrated female characters are brought to life in a production that fuses scenes of comedy and pathos, Thurs 9 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL Witness the final hour of Dr Jekyll's life as he bares all to the world about his experiments, Fri 10 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

LITE A one-woman show that uncovers the emotional and physical journey that a young woman will take to fit into society, Fri 10 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

GERALD DICKENS - MR DICKENS IS COMING! The moving, funny and entertaining world of Charles Dickens and his characters are brought to life by the author's great, great grandson, Fri 10 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

THE WIZARD OF AUZ Presented by Phoenix Productions, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Sat 11 Feb, Malvern Theatres

JOSH'S MONSTERS Absorbing theatre production that explores the frictions and fun of family life, Sat 11 Feb, Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY

WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Sun 12 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

JOHN PEEL'S SHED John Osbourne's ode to the radio which is partly adapted from Peel's book Radio Head, Sun 12 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

Week Commencing MON 13 FEB

THE LITTLE BIG CLUB LIVE IN CONCERT The line-up in this all-new show includes Barney, Bob the Builder, Angelina Ballerina, Pingu, Fifi and the Flowertots and Fireman Sam, Mon 13 Feb, The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre, Telford

HANDSWORTH GANG SHOW 2012 An ever-popular feast of fun with the Crescent's local Scouts and Guides, Mon 13 - Sat 18 Feb, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS An action-packed musical adventure for the whole family that's set in an idyllic era of endless summer evenings and the beauty of youthful imagination, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS : THE RETURN OF THE PIRATES OF THE RIVER ROTHER 2 IN STRANGER TIGHTS A swashbuckling adventure from two of television's best-loved children's comedians, Tue 14 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

NIL BY MOUTH STAC present John Chapman's comedy about the National Health

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS
NOW BOOKING FEBRUARY 2012



Saturday 4 February, 8pm

MIKE GUNN & SEAN COLLINS (16+)

Tickets: £12, Concessions £10



Monday 13 February, 1pm & 3.30pm
LITTLE BIG CLUB

Tickets: £14, Concessions £12, Family of 4 £46



Thursday 16 February, 7.30pm

CIRCUS OF HORRORS

Tickets from £13



Friday 17 February, 7.30pm

MAX BOYCE IN CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

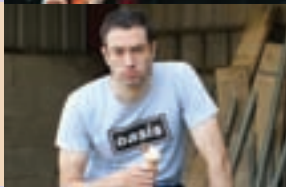
Tickets: £18.50



Tuesday 21 February, 7.30pm

MY FAVOURITE SUMMER

Tickets: £10, Concessions £8



Thursday 23rd February, 8.00pm

STEVE HUGHES: BIG ISSUES

Tickets: £12, Concessions £10



Friday 24th February, 7.30pm

THE BIG CHRIS BARBER BAND

Tickets: £18, Concessions £16



Saturday 25th February, 7.30pm

ABBA BY ARRIVAL UK

Tickets: £17, Concessions £16.50



Wednesday 29th February, 8.00pm

LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY CLUB

Tickets: £10 in advance, £12 on the door



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CREWE LYCEUM
Cheshire's Edwardian Theatre

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT

February - March 2012

Wed 8th February, 7.30pm

ONE NIGHT IN VEGAS

Tickets from £16.50

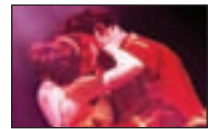


Sun 12th February, 7.30pm

Opera Della Luna presents

THE MERRY WIDOW

Tickets from £19.50



Tue 14th February, 7.30pm

JIMMY CRICKET

Tickets from £10



Fri 17th February, 7.30pm

GERRY CROSS THE MERSEY

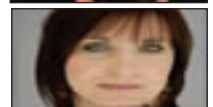
Tickets from £18.50



Sun 19th February, 7.30pm

PSYCHIC T.J. HIGGS

Tickets from £16



Thu 23rd & Fri 24th February, 7.30pm

THAT'LL BE THE DAY

Tickets from £16.50



Sat 25h February, 7.30pm

VOICE OF THE HEART

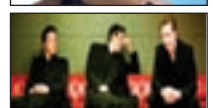
Tickets from £10



Sun 26th February, 7.30pm

TENORS UN LIMITED

Tickets from £16 (Family tickey £45)



Fri 2nd March, 7.30pm

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE

Tickets from £16.50/17.50

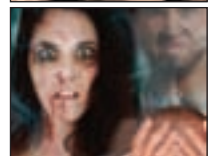


Tue 6th - Sat 10th March, 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30pm

Ian Dickens Productions presents Ron Aldridge's Psychological, Supernatural Thriller

HAUNTED featuring a Star Cast

Tickets from £10.50

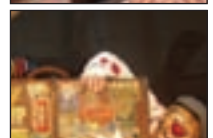


Tues 13th March, 8pm & Wed 14th March 5pm & 8pm

THE MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS

presents **BABUSHKIN SEKRET**

Tickets from £14



Fri 16th March, 7.30pm

THE GUNS 'N' ROSES EXPERIENCE

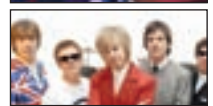
Tickets from £16.50



Tue 27th March, 7.30pm

THE BOOTLEG SIXTIES

Tickets from £17.50



Sat 31st March, 7.30pm (16+)

THE BURLESQUE SHOW

Tickets from £18.50



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01270 686 777 www.lyceumtheatre.net

Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Service, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

STOMP The West End theatrical spectacular returns to the Midlands, featuring brand new routines, new choreography and new music to the much acclaimed show, Tue 14 - Sat 18 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS Interactive theatre session for the under-5s, Tue 14 Feb, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

THE UGLY DUCKLING Children's theatre that's based on the much-loved tale by Hans Christian Andersen, Tue 14 - Fri 17 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

BEAUTY & THE BEAST Bridgnorth Musical Theatre Company present an amateur production of Disney's classic musical in celebration of the theatre company's 60th anniversary, Tues 14 - Sat 18 Feb, Bridgnorth Sports & Leisure Centre, Bridgnorth, South Shropshire

CHRIS & PUI Brand new children's show that's packed with songs, games, and a few surprises!, Wed 15 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Present Babushkin Sekret, Wed 15 Feb, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

JAMES CAMPBELL'S COMEDY FOR KIDS Stand-up comedy for children aged six and over, Wed 15 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

MY FAVOURITE SUMMER Reform Theatre present a heart-warming play by Nick Lane, Wed 15 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS: THE RETURN OF THE PIRATES OF THE RIVER **ROTHER 2 IN STRANGER TIGHTS** A swashbuckling adventure from two of television's best-loved children's comedians, Wed 15 Feb, Bedworth Civic Hall

FIREMAN SAM - PONTYPANDY ROCKS! Join Fireman Sam and all his friends as Pontypandy hosts its first ever music festival! Wed 15 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE TABLE Award-winning Blind Summit Theatre present a new adult puppetry show, Wed 15 - Fri 17 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

AN EVENING WITH PETER ALLIS An evening of anecdotes and broad-

casting highlights from one of the country's finest golfers, Thurs 16 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS Interactive theatre session for the under-5s, Thurs 16 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Thurs 16 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AN AUDIENCE WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES Join London's most famous detective for a classic retelling of some of his most celebrated cases, Thurs 16 Feb, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CIRCUS OF HORRORS- THE VENTRILOQUIST Featuring hair-hanging beauties, twisted contortionists, flying aerialists, demon dwarfs, gyrating jugglers,

voodoo warriors, pickled people, sword swallowers and the Circus of Horrors' latest star The Ventriloquist, Thurs 16 Feb, The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre, Telford

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Present Babushkin Sekret, Thurs 16 - Sun 19 Feb, Malvern Theatres

THE 50% FUNNIER TOUR Fizzog present an evening of fun and frolics featuring sketches, song and dance, Thurs 16 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham

RED RIDING HOOD Horse & Bamboo present a re-telling of the classic children's tale, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Feb, mac, Birmingham

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Fri 17 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY Enter the world of Charles Dickens in the company of his great, great grandson Gerald Dickens, Fri 17 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

A MEETING OF MINDS A dramatic portrait of the life of the young Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov, Fri 17 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY The People's Theatre Company bring one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes to life, Sat 18 Feb, The Public **WAGS WARWICKSHIRE GANG SHOW** Showcase

featuring over one hundred and fifty Guides and Scouts, Sat 18 - Sat 25 Feb, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

MY FAVOURITE SUMMER Reform Theatre present a heart-warming play by Nick Lane, Sat 18 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

CHILDREN'S THEATRE A short play performed by adults especially for children, Sat 18 Feb, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

Week Commencing MON 20 FEB

AN EVENING WITH ANDY KERSHAW Mon 20 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Oddssocks provide a unique take on Shakespeare's middle-class romp, Mon 20 - Fri 24 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR Musical starring David Essex that's inspired by his album of the same name, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES The Nonentities present a story of sexual manners and manipulation that's set in France before the revolution, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Feb, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

AN EVENING WITH JIMMY GREAVES Tue 21 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

MOGADISHU Vivienne Franzmann's acclaimed drama that explores the clash of youth, class, race and justice, Tues 21 - Sat 25 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS Dennis Potter's much-acclaimed drama follows the activities of seven children over the course of a summer afternoon during the Second World War, Tue 21 - Sat 25 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

MY FAVOURITE SUMMER Reform Theatre present a heart-warming play by Nick Lane, Tue 21 Feb, The Place, Oaken-gates Theatre

STALIN'S FAVOURITE Theatre Unlimited present a drama that looks back at the life of one of Stalin's Soviet elite, poet Konstantin Simonov, Wed 22 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham

SNOOKERED Award-winning Asian theatre company Tamasha present a drama that challenges friendships, as a clash of cultural expectations and personal dreams are brought to the forefront, Wed 22 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

All The Fun Of The Fair - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



AND OTHER LOVERS OF THE ROSE The Crick Crack club present a dark fairytale for grown-ups. Performed by storyteller Ben Haggarty, accompanied by Sherry Robinson, Wed 22 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS A show that promises to reveal the secret to understanding the opposite sex once and for all, Wed 22 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS An adaptation of Robert Tressell's acclaimed novel that introduces the audience to a year in the life of a group of painters and decorators, Wed 22 - Thu 23 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

BOBBY BAKER'S MAD GYMS & KITCHENS Unique display of performance art that explores ways to get better at feeling better, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Feb, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

OUTSIDE EDGE The Norbury Players present Richard Harris' acclaimed comedy that's centred around a Sunday league cricket match, Wed 22 - Sat 25 Feb, The Norbury Theatre, Droitwich

ALFIE Bill Naughton's acclaimed play that centres around a working class Don Juan in London's East End, Wed 22 Feb - Sat 17 Mar, New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme

ALL THE SINGLE LADIES Leslie Ash stars in a bitersweet tale of love and romance, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Feb, Malvern Theatres

DAZZLE! SoSage Factory prepare to take the audience on a journey

through space and time with their very own parody of Star Trek, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

DEFYING HITLER Theatre Unlimited present an adaptation of the award-winning memoir of the same name, Thurs 23 Feb, Old Rep, Birmingham

SING-A-LONG-A GREASE Thurs 23 Feb, The Roses Theatre, Tewksbury

GRAVITY Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company present a contemporary new play about provocation, Thurs 23 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, mac - Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Sci-fi adventure that fuses a blend of rock'n'roll with Shakespearean verse, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society present their version of the award-winning musical, Thurs 23 - Sat 25 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

UPRISING Alex Wheatle presents a one-man show that details his journey from being placed in a children's home in riot-torn Brixton, to becoming an award-winning author and MBE recipient, Fri 24 Feb, The Drum, Birmingham

CAROL ANN DUFFY An evening with the internationally acclaimed Poet Laureate, Fri 24 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

NEXT SWAN DOWN THE RIVER MIGHT BE BLACK Sean Burn's lyrical play that offers a personal response to being sectioned, Fri 24 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolver-

hampton

THE 50% FUNNIER TOUR Fizzog present an evening of fun and frolics featuring sketches, song and dance, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Feb, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

THE OWL WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK Theatre production for children aged three to seven, that's based on Jill Tomlinson's classic tale, Sat 25 Feb, Kidderminster Town Hall

THE CRUCIBLE The Crescent Theatre Company present Arthur Miller's modern classic, Sat 25 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Crescent Theatre, Birmingham

AN EVENING WITH SIMON CALLOW The acclaimed actor, author and biographer reads excerpts from his latest biography, Charles Dickens And The Great Theatre Of The World, Sat 25 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SCRAATCH BUILT PRODUCTIONS fuse masks, puppetry and extreme balloon modelling in an innovative piece of physical theatre that explores themes of love, loss and regret, Sat 25 Feb, Bridge House Theatre, Warwick

THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS: THE RETURN OF THE PIRATES OF THE RIVER **ROTHER 2 IN STRANGER TIGHTS** A swashbuckling adventure from two of television's best-loved children's comedians, Sun 26 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

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THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS: THE RETURN OF THE PIRATES OF THE RIVER **ROTHER 2 IN STRANGER TIGHTS** A swashbuckling adventure from two of television's best-loved children's comedians, Sun 26 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Week Commencing MON 27 FEB

CELTIC DREAM A showcase of music, song and dance, Mon 27 Feb, Tamworth Assem-

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

PATRICK MONAHAN
HUG ME I FEEL GOOD

CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY

Tue 14 Feb
Show me the funny winner Patrick Monahan blends a high-energy style with hilarious and engaging stories of his Irish/Irish/Irish/Teeside heritage. Laugh and be hugged at the same time!



8pm, £14, £12 conc

THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN WHO SWALLOWED A FLY

GATEHOUSE THEATRE



Thurs 16 Feb
Based on the hugely popular nursery rhyme with a charming blend of puppetry, live action, audience interaction and animation.

2.30pm, £8

THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE

GATEHOUSE THEATRE

Fri 17 Feb
The only Bon Jovi band in the world to have actually performed on stage with Jon Bon Jovi himself!



8pm, £17.50 - £16 conc

DAVE SPIKEY

WORDS DON'T COME EASY TOUR



Sat 25 Feb
Dave's hilarious new show examines many more situations in life where words really don't come easy. These include tongue-tied parents explaining the facts of life, ridiculous newspaper stories, poems and much more.

8pm, £18.00

CHRIS RAMSEY

OFFERMATION TOUR

Sat 25 Feb
Following a nomination from the hugely prestigious *Fosters' Edinburgh Comedy Awards*, Chris brings his critically acclaimed show to Stafford. Come and catch Chris as he takes a journey into the Offermation in his life.



8pm, £10.00

THE CIRCUS OF HORRORS

RECOMMENDED FOR 16+



Wed 29 Feb
As seen on *Britains got talent*, Circus of Horrors join us with a brilliant & awe inspiring supporting cast. The Circus of Horrors features some of the greatest, most bizarre & beautiful circus acts on earth.

8pm, £20.50, £17.50 conc

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COMING SOON TO THEATRE SEVERN

SAT 4 FEBRUARY

ALL DAY BLUES FEST

8 GREAT BANDS £25



Theatre of Blues



BIG JOE LOUIS & HIS BLUES KINGS
BIG PETE - JON AMOR BLUES GROUP
RHYTHM ZOO - NORTHBYDE - DAVE ARCAD BLUE BOY DAN - BARAJACK

WED 8 - SUN 12 FEBRUARY

THE RUSSIAN ICE STARS

Cinderella ON ICE

"Truly dazzling..."
"Surely sets a new benchmark for ice dancing..."
The Stage ★★★★★

An evening of awe and wonder awaits as Theatre on Ice producers Wild Rose, stage a truly magical production of the well loved fairytale.



Tuesday 14 February

THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS

Pirates of the River Rother 2

Paul and Barry return for another afternoon of mirth and mayhem.



Wednesday 15 February

FIREMAN SAM LIVE

Join Fireman Sam, and all his friends, as Pontypandy hosts its first ever music festival! Perfect family fun.



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Wem Town Hall

Music

Sat 18th Feb 7.30pm

The Big Blues Tribe



Sat 31st Mar 7.30pm

Foradante

Movie Music Classics



Fri 4th May 8pm

An Intimate Evening with

The Unthanks

with support from Jonny Kearney and Lucy Farrell



Comedy

Fri 24th Feb 8pm

Peacock & Gamble: Emergency Broadcast



Theatre

Sat 11th Feb 7.30pm

Josh's Monsters Multistory Theatre



National Theatre Live via satellite

Thurs 9th Feb 7pm
Travelling Light



Thurs 1st Mar 7pm
A Comedy of Errors



Thurs 29th Mar 7pm
She Stoops to Conquer



INFO/TICKETS:
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Wem Town Hall, High Street, Wem, SY4 5DG

Book Online

Theatre LISTINGS

For full listing information on theatre productions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

bly Rooms
MACBETH Icarus Theatre present their version of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, Mon 27 - Wed 29 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
OLEANNA An amateur production of David Mamet's play that's presented by arrangement with Josef Weinbeger Limited, Mon 27 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Highbury Theatre Centre, Sutton Coldfield
MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT Extremely funny musical that tells the legendary tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, Mon 27 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent
ME AND MY GIRL North Bromsgrove High School present an amateur production of the classic rags-to-riches story, Tue 28 Feb - Fri 2 Mar, Artrix, Bromsgrove
BLACK COUNTRY DIALECTS Mind The Gap present an inno-

vative show that celebrates local legends and myths, Tue 28 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS The Children's Touring Partnership present a new musical based on Arthur Ransome's tale of adventure and youthful imagination, Tue 28 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Malvern Theatres
PEPPA PIG'S TREASURE HUNT A brand new show for children, Tue 28 - Wed 29 Feb, Malvern Theatres
CIRCUS OF HORRORS-THE VENTRILOQUIST Tue 28 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
AVENUE Q Tony Award-winning musical that centres on a group of loveable yet hopeless characters on a downtown New York street, Tue 28 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
MUCH ADO ABOUT WENLOCK Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a



fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Tue 28 Feb, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster
VAMPIRES ROCK Musical comedy that's set in New York in the year 2030, where the dead are anything but..., Tue 28 Feb, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry
PHANTOMS AND THE MUSICALS Barry Walker's Smackee present the latest and greatest from London's West End and Broadway, Wed 29 Feb, Palace Theatre, Redditch
CIRCUS OF HORRORS-THE VENTRILOQUIST Featuring hair-hanging beauties, twisted contortionists, flying aerialists, demon

dwarfs, gyrating jugglers, voodoo warriors, pickled people, sword swallows and the Circus of Horrors' latest star The Ventriloquist, Wed 29 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
1 BEACH ROAD A tale of defiance that explores the metaphorical connections between alzheimer's and coastal erosion, Wed 29 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton
MUCH ADO ABOUT WENLOCK Worcester-based theatre company Vamos present a fully-masked show that centres on Much Wenlock's very own Olympic Games in 1850, Wed 29 Feb, The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

Theatre Box Office

Birmingham

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Fri 10th Feb 7.30 BOTOWN THE SOUL OF BOLLYWOOD £17.50 & £15.50 (disc)	Thur 23rd Feb 8.00 LAUGHTERHOUSE COMEDY SHOW £10.00 & £8.00 (disc)
Sat 11th Feb 7.30 ROCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR £20	FRI 24th Feb 7.30 MARTY WILDE & THE WILDCATS £18.00 & £17.00 (concs)
Wed 15th Feb 11am & 2pm CHRIS AND PUI ROADSHOW 2012 £11 & £10 (disc) £38 (family)	Sat 25th Feb 7.30 THE ELO EXPERIENCE £18.00 & £17.00 (concs)
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Directed by Colin Ward

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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

Strictly Come Dancing

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Fri 20 January

Strictly fever returned to Birmingham last month with the start of the Strictly Come Dancing arena tour at the NIA. Seven celebrities, seven professional dancers and three judges gathered under the glitter ball for a night of ballroom and Latin dancing. And what pure entertainment it was!

The show featured 2011 winner Harry Judd (McFly heartthrob), runners-up Chelsea Healey and Jason Donovan, dancing queens Anita Dobson and Nancy Dell'Olio, former footballer Robbie Savage and the 'rhythmically challenged' Olympic swimmer Mark Foster.

The tour has all the magic of the TV series. It features an all-male line-up of judges (no Alesha or Arlene), with Craig Revel Horwood, Len



Goodman and Bruno Tonioli camping it up with their withering put-downs and saucy humour. The dancing was fabulous (Jason Donovan's Argentinean tango and Harry Judd's quickstep) and at times hilarious (Robbie Savage doing the paso to Michael Jackson's Bad and Jason Donovan dropping Kristina Rihanoff on her bum). And then there's Nancy Dell'Olio, who lives on a different planet from everyone else. She was just hysterical, or, as Craig Revel Horwood would say, a dis-a-ster. All I can say is fab-u-lous! *Anita Champaneri* ■■■■■

Cinderella

Birmingham Hippodrome

This production saw panto veteran Brian Conley (who's trodden the boards in the Hippodrome on no fewer than five occasions) joined by fairy godmother Lynda Bellingham and Basil Brush, in a performance filled with opulent costumes, lush scenery and a big dose of pyrotechnic magic. The age-old plot of 'boy meets girl' did, at times, lose out to what felt like The Brian Conley Show - indeed Conley, who played Buttons, had had a hand in co-scripting the performance - but his starring role also very much made the evening, his boundless energy and jovial wit appealing to people of all ages.

For any young (or young at heart) girls who love horses, the panto was a delight. The audience were not only treated to a mechanical pegasus flying above the stalls, but a real horse and pony on stage. Children were left awestruck, with the adults equally so, wondering how on earth the animals had been hidden away in central Birmingham! The Hippodrome has certainly set the bar high for 2012's offering, Robinson Crusoe. *Claire Lloyd* ■■■■■



A Christmas Carol

Blue Orange Theatre, Birmingham

Yes, I admit it, I saw this production of the Dickens favourite three times. I would have seen it again too, if I'd had the time. It was, quite simply, stunning. Marc Phillips played a very believable Scrooge - a real humbug of a man who finally finds the humanity within his soul. Marc had only the one role to play, with the rest of the cast - Robert Beddall, Emma Sian Cooper, Sarah Gordon, Kaz Luckins and Dore Robinson - taking on all the other characters. This was an ensemble production with no weak links.

Tina Hofman directed, and her use of Commedia della Arte and Physical Theatre techniques brought the play alive with sound, gesture and movement. Congratulations to all those involved in what was a truly memorable night of theatre. *Jan Watts* ■■■■■



Spring And Summer Season 2012

THE REP
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Gravity @ mac 23 February to 3 March

Waiting For Godot @ The Old Rep Theatre 13 to 17 March

Wasted @ mac 23 March

Time Has Fallen Asleep In The Afternoon Sunshine @ Central Library 30 March to 7 April

Berlin Love Tour @ City Centre 30 March to 8 April

Mustafa @ mac 17 to 21 April

Spring Hill Stories @ Spring Hill Library 26 May

The Just Price Of Flowers @ A E Harris 15 to 30 June

Harborne Herald @ venue TBC 20 & 21 June

The Witches' Promise @ Weoley Castle ruins 7, 14 & 15 July

Kidnapping Cameron @ The Old Rep Theatre 18 to 21 July

Forests @ The Old Rep Theatre 31 August to 15 September



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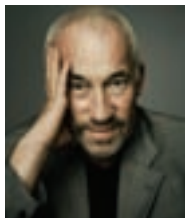


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Simon Callow brings Shakespeare to the West End

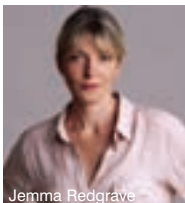
Shakespeare In Love and Four Weddings And A Funeral star Simon Callow has announced that he's to bring his one-man show, Being Shakespeare, to the West End this spring.

Jonathan Bates' new play, which recently took the Edinburgh Festival by storm, sees Callow bringing to life some of the Bard's most memorable characters and exploring the man behind the legend. Being Shakespeare will show at The Trafalgar Studios 1 Theatre from 7 to 31 March.



All star cast say Farewell To The Theatre

Ben Chaplin, Tara Fitzgerald, Jemma Redgrave and William French will be trading the boards in London next month when they appear in Richard Nelson's elegant and passionate new play, Farewell To The Theatre. Set in Massachusetts in 1916, the play presents a tale of lust and betrayal, and focuses on a group of British expats trying to find their way in an academic, theatre-obsessed community. Farewell To The Theatre shows at Hampstead Theatre from 1 March to 7 April.



Supermodel to make her stage debut in UK premiere

British supermodel Agyness Deyn has confirmed that she's to appear alongside acclaimed actor Ed Stoppard in the UK premiere of The Leisure Society when it opens in the West End later this month. Deyn, whose previous acting credits include Clash Of The Titans and the soon-to-be-released Pusher, will play the promiscuous Paula in François Archambault's satirical comedy. Described as a morality play with no morals, The Leisure Society provides a glimpse into

the world of a work-numbed, self-obsessed Yuppie couple (Stoppard and Melanie Gray), who, recognising that their lives are spiralling out of control, decide to reject their fast-living best friend Mark during a final supper party. What's intended as a tender farewell soon turns into an evening of drunken debauchery...

The Leisure Society plays at the Trafalgar Studio 2, from 28 February to 24 March



Agyness Deyn

WEST END LISTINGS:

MUSICALS

BACKBEAT Duke Of York's Theatre, booking until 18 Feb 2012

BILLY ELLIOT - THE MUSICAL Victoria Palace Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

BLOOD BROTHERS Phoenix Theatre booking until 24 Nov 2012

CHICAGO Garrick Theatre booking until 26 Jan 2013

CRAZY FOR YOU Novello Theatre booking until 28 July 2012

DREAMBOATS & PETTI-COATS Playhouse Theatre, booking until 24 Nov 2012

GHOST THE MUSICAL Piccadilly Theatre, booking until 13 Oct 2012

JERSEY BOYS Prince Edward Theatre, booking until 21 Oct 2012

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL Savoy Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012

LES MISÉRABLES Queen's Theatre booking until 27 Oct 2012

LION KING Lyceum Theatre, booking until 9 Sept 2012

MAMMA MIA! Prince of Wales Theatre, booking until 13 Apr 2013

MATILDA THE MUSICAL Cambridge Theatre, booking until 21 Oct 2012

MIDNIGHT TANGO Aldwych Theatre, booking until 31 March 2012

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Her Majesty's Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012

ROCK OF AGES Shaftesbury Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

SHREK THE MUSICAL Drury Lane, Theatre Royal, booking until 21 Oct 2012

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Palace Theatre, booking until 29 Sept 2012

STOMP Ambassadors Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

SWEENEY TODD - THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET Adelphi Theatre, 10 Mar 2012 - 22 Sept

THRILLER LIVE Lyric Theatre, booking until 23 Sept 2012

TOP HAT Aldwych Theatre, 19 Apr 2012 - 26 Jan 2013

WE WILL ROCK YOU Dominion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

WICKED Apollo Victoria Theatre, booking until 27 Oct 2012

WIZARD OF OZ London Palladium Theatre, booking until 28 Oct 2012

DRAMA

AFTER MISS JULIE Young Vic Theatre (maria studio), 15 Mar 2012 - 7 Apr 2012

BEING SHAKESPEARE Trafalgar Studio 1 Theatre, 7 Mar 2012 - 31 Mar 2012

BELONG Royal Court Theatre, 26 Apr 2012 - 26 May 2012

BINGO Young Vic Theatre, 16 Feb 2012 - 31 Mar 2012

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS? Lyttelton National Theatre, 9 Mar 2012 - 28 Mar 2012

CHILDREN'S CHILDREN Almeida Theatre, 17 May 2012 - 30 June 2012

COLLABORATORS Olivier National Theatre, 30 Apr 2012 - 30 May 2012

DUCHESS OF MALFI Old Vic Theatre, 17 Mar 2012 - 9 June 2012

FILUMENA Almeida Theatre, 15 Mar 2012 - 12 May 2012

GOING DARK Young Vic Theatre, 6 Mar 2012 - 24 Mar 2012

HENRY V Shakespeare Globe Theatre, 7 June 2012 - 26 Aug 2012

HORRIBLE HISTORIES - BARMY BRITAIN Garrick Theatre, 14 Feb 2012 - 26 Aug 2012

JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK Lyttelton National Theatre, booking until 26 Feb 2012

LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT Apollo Theatre, 2 Apr 2012 - 18 Aug 2012

MASTERCLASS Vaudeville Theatre, booking until 28 Apr 2012

MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL Cottesloe National Theatre, 7 Mar 2012 - 27 Mar 2012

MOUSETRAP St Martins Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

PITMAN PAINTERS Duchess Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

RECRUITING OFFICER Donmar Warehouse, book-

ing until 14 Apr 2012

TEMPEST Roundhouse Theatre, 9 June 2012 - 5 Jul 2012

WILD SWANS Young Vic Theatre, 13 Apr 2012 - 13 May 2012

WOMAN IN BLACK Fortune Theatre, booking until 15 Dec 2012

COMEDY

39 STEPS Criterion Theatre, booking until 20 Oct 2012

ABSENT FRIENDS Harold Pinter Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

ALL NEW PEOPLE Duke Of York's Theatre, 22 Feb 2012 - 28 Apr 2012

AWKWARD SQUAD Arts Theatre, 6 Mar 2012 - 7 Apr 2012

COMEDY OF ERRORS Olivier National Theatre,

booking until 1 Apr 2012

DEVIL AND MR PUNCH Barbican Pit, 2nd Feb 2012 - 25 Feb 2012

HAYFEVER Noel Coward Theatre, 10 Feb 2012 - 2 June 2012

JACKIE MASON - FEARLESS Wyndham's Theatre, 13 Feb 2012 - 17 Mar 2012

LADY KILLERS Gielgud Theatre, booking until 14 Apr 2012

NOISES OFF Old Vic Theatre, booking until 10 Mar 2012

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS Lyttelton Adelphi Theatre, booking until 25 Feb 2012

SHE STEPS TO CONQUER Olivier National Theatre, booking until 29 Mar 2012



Pitmen Painters - Duchess Theatre

Dance



Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 7 - Sat 11 February

Best known, of course, for his all-male version of *Swan Lake* and for later ballets like *The Car Man* and *Edward Scissorhands*, Matthew Bourne has also turned his attention to Tchaikovsky's ever-popular *Nutcracker*, producing a stylish and witty version of the much-loved piece, complete with breathtaking sets and costumes by Olivier Award-winning designer Anthony Ward. "The *Nutcracker* is about growing up and it's about first love, and these are themes we can all relate to," says Matthew. "They are particularly relevant to this production, which casts adult performers as a group of very needy orphans. It's also a touching coming-of-age story, told through the dreams and nightmares of a particular young girl, Clara. Adults, kids, girls and boys should all find something to thrill them and touch them in Clara's adventure."

Hobson's Choice

Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 22 - Sat 25 February

Birmingham Royal Ballet launch their spring season with David Bintley's much acclaimed staging of Harold Brighouse's classic story of boots, booze, love and laughter, first performed at London's Royal Opera House in 1989. Set in a bootmaker's shop in the early 1900s, Bintley's production presents a lighthearted tale of northern life that fuses witty social observation with imaginative choreography,



Layers Of Skin

Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 February

Regarded as Retina Dance Company's most ambitious work to date, this constantly evolving, multi-layered production blends dance and contemporary live music with challenging choreography to present a dynamic, fast-paced and mainly abstract performance. Since its formation in 2010, Retina has established itself as an innovative and dynamic voice on both the British and European contemporary dance scene, presenting small and large-scale productions and receiving great acclaim for the innovative nature of its pieces.

Dance LISTINGS

For full listing information on dance, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

REGENT THEATRE DANCE FESTIVAL 2012 The UK's biggest community dance festival, which will bring sixty community dance groups together in the Stoke-on-Trent venue, Thurs 1 - Sat 4 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

ANTON AND ERIN Anton du Beke and Erin Boag return with a sensational new show, Wed 1 Feb, Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

LAYERS OF SKIN Retina Dance present Filip Van Huffel's choreographed work that strips away external appearances to reveal motivations for movement, Fri 3 Feb, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

MATTHEW BOURNE'S NUTCRACKER Tue 7 - Sat 11 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

BRENDAN COLE LIVE AND UNJUDGED Sun 12 Feb, Malvern Theatres

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCE FROM B.R.B This ever-popular annual performance features

repertoire highlights from one of the UK's leading ballet companies, who, on this occasion, will be accompanied by the BRB Orchestra, Fri 17 Feb, Symphony Hall

LA FILLE MAL GARDEE The Russian State Ballet & Orchestra of Siberia present Frederick Ashton's comic ballet that tells the story of the desire of an ambitious mother to marry her daughter into wealth, Mon 20 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

HOBSON'S CHOICE BRB perform David Bintley's choreographed staging of Harold Brighouse's classic story of boots, booze, love and laughter, Mon 20 - Sat 25 Feb, Birmingham Hippodrome

SWAN LAKE The Russian State Ballet & Orchestra of Siberia present the greatest romantic ballet of all time, Tue 21 Feb, The Grand Theatre,

Wolverhampton

BALLETBOYZ: THE TALENT Ten male dancers fuse live performance with film and behind-the-scenes footage to produce a mixed programme of four works, Tue 21 Feb, Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

DANCE SHOWCASE 2012 NEW College students present an evening of dance performance, Wed 22 Feb, Artrix, Bromsgrove

SLEEPING BEAUTY The Russian State Ballet & Orchestra of Siberia present a classic story of love, innocence & mystery, all set to Tchaikovsky's magical score, Wed 22 Feb, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

FLOURISH An evening of dance created and performed by children and young people from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Sun 26 Feb, The Swan Theatre, Worcester

BALLETBOYZ: THE TALENT Ten male dancers fuse live performance with film and behind-the-scenes footage to produce a mixed programme of four works, Mon 27 Feb, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

TRANSITIONS DANCE COMPANY An electrifying evening of dance, Tue 28 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

SPRING PASSIONS Birmingham Royal Ballet perform two uplifting stories of survival and young love,

including **DAPHNIS AND CHLOE** - a fantastical tale set on an island paradise in ancient Greece, and Frederick Ashton's poignant Parisian idyll **THE TWO PIGEONS**, Wed 29 Feb - Sat 3 Mar, Birmingham Hippodrome



Dance Box Office

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024 7637 6707

BELGRADE THEATRE, COVENTRY 024 7655 3055

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BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
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01902 429212

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THE SWAN THEATRE, WORCESTER
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THEATRE SEVERN, SHREWSBURY
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VICTORIA HALL, STOKE-ON-TRENT
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WARWICK ARTS CENTRE, COVENTRY
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Barb Jungr sings Bob Dylan



Barb Jungr
Thursday 2 February 7.30pm
Full: £15.50, Concs: £14.50, Young Adults: £9

Austen's most exciting moments



Austen's Women
Thursday 9 February 7.30pm
Full: £12.50, Concs: £11.50, Young Adults: £9

A comedic solution to relationships



Men Are From Mars
Wednesday 22 February 7.30pm
Full: £14, Concs: £13, Young Adults: £9

The dark comedy of love, life & loss



For Once
Saturday 17 March 7.30pm
Full: £12.50, Concs: £11.50, Young Adults: £9

Housewife Superstar Comedy



Mrs Barbara Nice
Wednesday 21 March 8.30pm
Full: £10, Concs: £8

Happiness and heartbreak



Sense And Sensibility
Wednesday 28 March 7.30pm
Full: £12.50, Concs: £11.50, Young adults: £9



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From
FRI 24
FEB

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

CERT 12a (124 mins)

Starring **Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Penelope Wilton, Celia Imrie, Dev Patel, Maggie Smith**
Directed by **John Madden (UK)**

An opportunity to watch Judi Dench and Maggie Smith (close friends in real life) bat off each other is a good reason to go to the cinema. The director, John Madden, steered Dame Judi to an Oscar in his Shakespeare *In Love*, and here he's marshalled a mouthwatering cast to be utterly English in the Indian state of Rajasthan. A group of British retirees have descended on a hotel in Udaipur, which looked a good deal more appetizing in the travel brochure... Based on the 2004 novel *These Foolish Things*, by Deborah Moggach.

TOP 5 FILM BOX OFFICE

- 1 **War Horse (12a)**
- 2 **The Iron Lady (12a)**
- 3 **Sherlock Holmes: Game Of Shadows (12a)**
- 4 **Mission: Impossible: Ghost Protocol (12a)**
- 5 **The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (18)**



From
FRI 17
FEB

Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close

CERT 12a (129 mins)

Starring **Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn, Max Von Sydow, Viola Davis, John Goodman, Jeffrey Wright, Zoe Caldwell** Directed by **Stephen Daldry (USA)**

The Dorset-born Stephen Daldry previously directed *Billy Elliot*, *The Hours* and *The Reader*, so expectations surrounding this drama are running high. Set in the aftermath of 9/11, the film follows its ten-year-old protagonist (Horn) as he searches the five boroughs of New York for a secret linking him to his late father (Hanks), who was killed in the World Trade Centre attack. Based on the 2005 novel by Jonathan Safran Foer.



War Horse

Released from Fri 3 Feb

Chronicle CERT tbc

Starring **Michael B. Jordan, Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell** Directed by **Josh Trank** (USA/UK)

In the tradition of *The Blair Witch Project*, *Cloverfield* and *Paranormal Activity*, *Chronicle* is cobbled together from 'documentary' footage. On this occasion we have a trio of high schoolers who find themselves endowed with superhuman powers. But how they apply these new-found faculties leaves a lot to be desired... Scary.



Chronicle



Carnage

Martha Marcy May Marlene

CERT 15 (102 mins)

Starring **Elizabeth Olsen, John Hawkes, Sarah Paulson, Hugh Dancy, Brady Corbet**, Directed by **Sean Durkin** (USA)

Nobody saw it coming. Remember the Olsen twins, Mary-Kate and Ashley? Well, they were hardly known for their thespian chops, but now their younger sister, Elizabeth, is eliciting raves for her role as a woman recovering from her spell in the embrace of an abusive cult.



Carnage CERT 15 (80 mins)

Starring **Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz, John C. Reilly** Directed by **Roman Polanski** (France/Germany/Poland/Spain)

Between them, Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz and John C Reilly have won four Oscars. On the evidence of this four-hander, they might as well be Tony winners. An adaptation of Yasmina Reza's play *The God Of Carnage*, the film sticks to the central set of a New York apartment and, under Polanski's direction, the actors let rip. As a facsimile of the play, *Carnage* captures the thespian pyrotechnics skilfully enough - just don't expect a shred of credibility (or even a chuckle).

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Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

CERT PG (94 mins)

Starring **Dwayne Johnson, Michael Caine, Josh Hutcherson, Vanessa Hudgens, Luis Guzman, Kristin Davis**
Directed by **Brad Peyton (USA)**

It's hard to believe that there is any uncharted territory left on earth, but the Mysterious Island is off the chart. A remote land that was the inspiration for Gulliver's Travels, Treasure Island and Jules Verne's Mysterious Island, the eponymous locale has few literary connections but is more in keeping with the star's erstwhile moniker (The Rock). Here, The Rock - er, Dwayne Johnson - replaces Brendan Fraser in a 3D sequel to 2008's Journey To The Center Of The Earth, while Josh Hutcherson returns as the teenage adventurer Sean Anderson.



Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

Like Crazy

CERT 12a (90 mins)

Starring **Anton Yelchin, Felicity Jones, Jennifer Lawrence, Alex Kingston**
Directed by **Drake Doremus (USA)**

Following roles in *Brideshed Revisited*, *Cemetery Junction* and *The Tempest*, the Birmingham-born Felicity Jones is going from strength to strength. For this independent American romance, she was bestowed with an award by America's National Board of Review, while the film itself picked up the Grand Jury Prize at last year's Sundance film festival. It's based on the experiences of the writer-director when his girlfriend was forbidden from entering the US because of visa problems.

Man On A Ledge

CERT 12a (102 mins)

Starring **Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks, Jamie Bell, Ed Harris, Ed Burns**
Directed by **Asger Leth (USA)**

You can visualize the premise on the back of an envelope. There's a man on a ledge. Crowds gather to watch. The plot thickens. Actually, you'd need several reams of A4 to accommodate all the twists and turns of this frenetic thriller, even though throughout most of it Sam Worthington stands teetering on the window ledge of a New York skyscraper. Fans of *Phone Booth* (the one with Colin Farrell) should appreciate the entanglements of this apparently static thriller ride.



Man On A Ledge



A Dangerous Method

Young Adult

CERT 15 (94 mins)

Starring **Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson, Elizabeth Reaser**
Directed by **Jason Reitman (USA)**

Mavis Gary is smart, literate, cynical, staggeringly beautiful and more than a little bit evil. She's also feeling isolated, and has a serious drink problem, a habit she supports by ghost-writing a successful chick-lit series called *Young Adult*. Then she gets it into her head that she's meant to be with her high school boyfriend, who's married and has just had a baby... *Young Adult* is so good that when it ends, just shy of ninety minutes, one feels short-changed. Would an extra thirty minutes have made it a better film?



Young Adult

Jack And Jill

CERT PG (91 mins)

Starring **Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes, Al Pacino, Tim Meadows, Johnny Depp**
Directed by **Dennis Dugan (USA)**

It's a drag but somebody's got to do it. Last month we had Leonardo DiCaprio donning his mother's wardrobe in *J Edgar*, and next month we see Sean Penn in lipstick and mascara in *This Must Be The Place*. Here, Adam Sandler plays both the family man Jack Sadelstein and his passive-aggressive sister Jill. So the pantomime season isn't over quite yet...

Released from Fri 10 Feb

A Dangerous Method

CERT 15 (100 mins)

Starring **Keira Knightley, Viggo Mortensen, Michael Fassbender, Vincent Cassel**
Directed by **David Cronenberg (Germany/Canada)**

There is much to admire in Cronenberg's analysis of Carl Jung's early career in psychiatry. A beautifully crafted and thoughtful drama, it benefits from a solid performance by Michael Fassbender as Jung. Christopher Hampton's screenplay is an adaptation of his own 2002 play, but fails to cure itself of its talkiness and often suffers from dramatic rigor mortis. It's left to Keira Knightley - as Jung's damaged patient Sabina - to spice things up, which she does with a courageous selflessness.

The Vow

CERT 12a (104 mins)

Starring **Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Sam Neill, Scott Speedman, Jessica Lange**
Directed by **Michael Sucsy (USA)**

Primed to open in time for St Valentine's Day, *The Vow* is a tearjerker based on true events. After his wife loses her memory in a car accident, a man struggles to woo her all over again.



The Vow



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The Woman In Black

The Woman In Black

CERT 12a (95 mins)

Starring **Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds, Janet McTeer, Sophie Stuckey** Directed by **James Watkins (UK)**

Susan Hill's 1983 novel was adapted for the stage in 1989 and has been running in London's West End for twenty-three years non-stop. Now comes the film, a Hammer production, which adds a bit of star power to the story of a presence that haunts a small English town. The screenplay is by Jane Goldman, wife of Jonathan Ross.

Big Miracle

CERT PG (107 mins)

Starring **Drew Barrymore, John Krasinski, Kristen Bell, Vinessa Shaw, Ted Danson** Directed by **Ken Kwapis (USA)**

Just in time for half-term (already!), this should appeal to the young and the young-at-heart. Based on Tom Rose's 1989 book *Freeing The Whales*, the film views the international effort to extricate three grey whales from pack ice in Alaska through the eyes of a non-profit aid worker. Expect some romance, and related toys from Burger King.

The Muppets

CERT U (110 mins)

Starring **Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper, Rashida Jones, Kermit, Miss Piggy** Directed by **James Bobin (USA)**

You can't keep a good Muppet down. After an absence of twelve years, the Muppets return to save their theatre from being demolished by an oil prospector (Chris Cooper). In America, the film was a huge critical success.



The Muppets

Rampart

CERT 15 (108 mins)

Starring **Woody Harrelson, Ned Beatty, Anne Heche, Ice Cube, Cynthia Nixon, Sigourney Weaver, Robin Wright** Directed by **Oren Moverman (USA)**

Oren Moverman, a former Israeli soldier, cast a new light on the military with his directorial film debut, *The Messenger*, a movie about the men who had to break the news of a fatality to the next-of-kin. With his follow-up, also starring Woody Harrelson, Moverman explores the dirty underbelly of the Los Angeles Police Department. Harrelson's veteran cop - dubbed 'Date Rape' - is a three-dimensional, almost charismatic rogue who we only know is truly evil because of what the film shows him do. If Moverman overplays the hand-held camera and the neon blur, Harrelson gives the film its centre of gravity.



Rampart

Released from Fri 17 Feb

Ghost Rider: Spirit Of Vengeance

CERT 12a (95 mins)

Starring **Nicolas Cage, Johnny Whitworth, Ciarán Hinds, Idris Elba, Christopher Lambert** Directed by **Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor (USA/United Arab Emirates)**

While comic geeks wait agog for the arrival of *The Avengers* in April, here's another superhero offering from Marvel to sate their thirst. Nicolas Cage returns as Johnny Blaze, the stunt motorcyclist who sold his soul to the Devil, now pitted against the supervillain Blackout (he who can obliterate light). The 3D process was added in post-production.

This Means War

CERT tbc

Starring **Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine, Tom Hardy, Til Schweiger, Chelsea Handler** Directed by **McG (USA)**

A couple of CIA agents - and best friends - discover that they are dating the same woman. Anybody who's seen *Prizzi's Honor* or *Mr And Mrs Smith* will know that romance and espionage do not mix. And here it gets positively bellicose.



This Means War

Released from Fri 24 Feb

One For The Money

CERT tbc

Starring **Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara, Daniel Sunjata, John Leguizamo, Debbie Reynolds** Directed by **Julie Anne Robinson (USA)**

When the newly divorced Stephanie Plum (Heigl) lands a job at a bail-bond business, she finds herself on the trail of an old boyfriend, a cop wanted for murder. British director Robinson previously steered Miley Cyrus through the motions in the box-office hit *The Last Song*.

Safe House

CERT 15 (115 mins)

Starring **Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds, Vera Farmiga, Brendan Gleeson, Sam Shepard** Directed by **Daniel Espinosa (USA)**

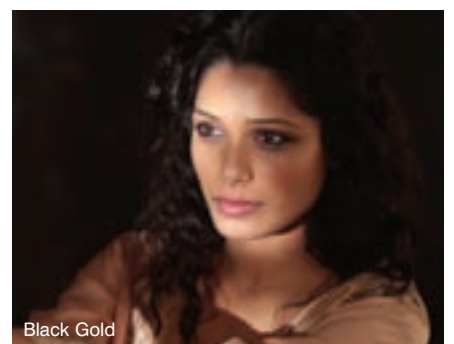
The Swedes seem to be taking over the world, and now the thirty-four-year-old Stockholm-born Daniel Espinosa is directing Denzel and Ryan in his first English-language feature. Ryan is a CIA gent and Denzel is the crook in his charge - and they're both on the run from rebel soldiers. Expect lots of testosterone - and male bonding.

Black Gold

CERT 12a (130 mins)

Starring **Tahar Rahim, Antonio Banderas, Mark Strong, Freida Pinto, Riz Ahmed** Directed by **Jean-Jacques Annaud (France/Italy/Qatar)**

Arab epics don't come along very often, so this should be one to watch. Set in the 1930s at the birth of the oil boom, an Arab prince (Rahim, from *A Prophet*) finds himself torn between the old order and the new world of extreme prosperity.



Black Gold

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

A Jihad For Love tbc

An insightful documentary on gay and lesbian Muslims struggling to reconcile their religious faith and their homosexuality in the homophobic Islamic world. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 21 Feb*

Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked u

Sequel that sees the incorrigible squirrels go on an Atlantic Cruise with their female counterparts The Chipettes. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 10 - Fri 17 Feb; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Mon 13 - Tues 14 Feb*

The Artist pg

Original romantic comedy that's being deemed a front-runner in the Oscar buzz for Best Film and Best Actor. *Showing at The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 17 Feb - Thurs 1 Mar; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 24 - Wed 29 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 24 Feb - Sun 4 Mar*

Beginners 15

Acclaimed comedy that sees veteran actor Christopher Plummer present a highly credible performance as a cancer-ridden homosexual, whilst Ewan McGregor assumes the role of his son. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 20 Feb*

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 12a

See Preview Page 47

Big Miracle pg

See Preview Page 51

Black Gold 12a

See Preview Page 51

Bluebeard 15

Catherine Breillat's

adaptation of the classic French tale of a wealthy aristocrat with a penchant for young wives. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 7 Feb*

Breakfast At Tiffany's

Hollywood classic starring Audrey Hepburn & George Peppard. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Tues 14 Feb*

Brief Encounter pg

Classic romantic drama. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 14 Feb*

Carnage 15

See Preview Page 48

WATCH THE FILM TRAILERS AT whatsonlive.co.uk

Coriolanus 15

Ralph Fiennes' contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's play of political power and intrigue. Gerard Butler stars. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 & Mon 27 - Wed 29 Feb; Malvern Theatre, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 28 - Thurs 1 March; mac, Birmingham, Fri 17 - Wed 22 Feb*

Chronicle tbc

See Preview Page 48

Christmas In July u

Preston Sturges classic romantic comedy that concerns an office clerk who loves entering con-

tests in the hope of someday winning a fortune and marrying the girl he loves. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 6 Feb*

A Dangerous Method 15

See Preview Page 49

The Descendants 15

George Clooney stars in Alexander Payne's acclaimed drama that blends comedy and tragedy while exploring a father's journey to re-examine his past and embrace his future. *Showing at The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, until Thurs 2 Feb; The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; mac, Birmingham, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Feb*

Despair 15

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's drama that follows chocolate magnate Hermann Hermann as he slowly submerges into the world of madness. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Wed 15 - Fri 17 Feb*

Dreams Of A Life

A powerful documentary that follows one woman's quest to piece together a portrait of Joyce Vincent, a woman who lay dead in her bed in North London for three years before being found. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, until Thurs 2 Feb; mac, Birmingham, Wed 1 - Fri 3 Feb; The Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 21 Feb*

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close 12a

See Preview Page 47

Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit Of Vengeance 12a

See Preview Page 51

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo 18

Adaptation of the first novel in Stieg Larsson's literary blockbuster, The Millennium Trilogy. Daniel Craig and Christopher Plummer star. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 10 - Wed 15 Feb; Malvern*

Theatre, Thurs 16 Feb

Happy Feet Two 3D u

Animated family comedy that features the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Matt Damon and Pink. *Showing at The Royal, Leamington Spa, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb*

The Help 12a

A timeless and universal story about the ability to create change. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 Feb*

Hugo u

Martin Scorsese's acclaimed family drama that features an all-star cast, including Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Ray Winstone, Jude Law, Christopher Lee & Johnny Depp. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 2 Feb*

The Ides Of March 15

George Clooney stars and directs in a story that focuses on an idealistic press secretary who's forced to take a crash course in corruption in order to serve his boss. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 3 - Sat 4 Feb*

The Iron Lady 12a

Meryl Streep stars as Margaret Thatcher in Abi Morgan's compelling story that paints an intimate portrait of Britain's first-ever female Prime Minister. *Showing at The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Feb; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Sat 4 - Sun 12 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until Tues 7 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 17 - Sat 18 Feb; Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 17 - Tues 21 Feb*

J Edgar 15

Leonardo Di Caprio & Naomi Watts star in Clint Eastwood's exploration of the public and private life of one of the most powerful, controversial and enigmatic figures of the twentieth century. *Showing at The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Feb; Giant Screen Cinema,*



The Iron Lady

Millennium Point, Birmingham, until Thurs 9 Feb; The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Feb

Jack and Jill pg

See Preview Page 49

Jane Eyre pg

Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender star in a contemporary take on the Charlotte Bronte classic. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 6 Feb*

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical pg

Evocative tale of love, lust, madness & murder that's based on the world famous novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Sun 26 February*

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island pg

See Preview Page 49

The Kids Are Alright 15

Julianne Moore, Annette Bening and Mark Ruffalo star in Lisa Cholodenko's witty exploration of family life. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Tues 14 Feb*

L'Atalante pg

Jean Vigo's timeless romantic masterpiece that's regarded by many as one of the greatest films ever made. *Showing at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Mon 13 - Tues 14 Feb*

The Lady tbc

Luc Beeson presents the extraordinary story of pro-democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent more than a decade under house arrest. *Showing at OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs 23 Feb*

The Lady Eve u

Romantic comedy starring Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 13 Feb*

The Lighthouse 12

Maria Saakyan's part autobiographical Russian drama. *Showing at The Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 21 Feb*

Like Crazy 12a

See Preview Page 47

Man On a Ledge 12a

See Preview Page 49

Margin Call 15

Kevin Spacey stars alongside Demi Moore, Jeremy Irons and Stanley Tucci in a thriller that's set in an investment bank during the early stages of the economic downturn - aka the Great Recession. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 10 - Sat 11 Feb*

CINEMA Box Office

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ODEON, NUNEATON 0871 224 4007
SHOWCASE, COVENTRY 0871 220 1000
APOLLO 4, LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 427 448
ROYAL, LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 334418
WARWICK ARTS CENTRE COVENTRY 02476 524524

Worcestershire

ARTRIX, BROMSGROVE 01527 577330
MALVERN THEATRE 0845 287 2146
WAREHOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER 01562 747773
VUE, WORCESTER 0871 224 0240

Visit whatsonlive.co.uk for venue website details

For full listing information, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Martha Marcy May Marlene 15

See Preview Page 48

Margaret 15

Anna Paquin and Mark Ruffalo star in Kenneth Lonergan's drama that concerns a young woman who gets caught up in the aftermath of a fatal traffic accident. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Tues 7 - Thurs 9 Feb*

Melancholia 15

Psychological drama starring Kirsten Dunst and Charlotte Gainsbourg as two sisters who find their relationship challenged when a mysterious new planet threatens to collide with the Earth. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 13 Feb*

Morgiana 15

Czech horror that centres around sibling rivalry. *Showing The Library Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 7 Feb*

Mother & Child 15

Annette Bening, Naomi Watts and Kerry Washington star in Rodrigo Garcia's moving story of three women and the power of the unbreakable bond between mother and child. *Showing at*

OMH, Warwick Arts Centre, Fri 10 - Sun 12 Feb

The Miracle Of Morgan's Creek u

Preston Sturge 1944 classic starring Betty Hutton and Eddie Bracken. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 27 Feb*

The Muppets u

See Preview Page 51

My Week With Marilyn tbc

Michelle Williams stars as Marilyn Monroe in an acclaimed drama that follows the sex symbol's sojourn to Britain to film *The Prince And The Showgirl* opposite Laurence Olivier. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, until Thurs 2 Feb; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 2 Feb; OMH, Shrewsbury, Fri 17 - Thurs 23 Feb*

One For The Money tbc

See Preview Page 51

The Palm Beach Story u

Preston Sturje's 1942 romantic comedy that follows an imaginative wife as she seeks a solution to her inventor husband's funding crisis. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 20 Feb*

Pinchcliffe Grand Prix u

Animated tale of an inventor and his two friends Sonny (a magpie) and Lambert (a hedgehog), who live at the top of a hill making ingenious devices. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Sat 4 Feb*

Puss In Boots 3D u

Antonio Banderas recycles his wily feline character from *Shrek* and goes it alone in an acclaimed animation that's loosely based on Charles Perrault's folk character. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Mon 13 - Wed 15 Feb*

Rampart 15

See Preview Page 51

Romantics Anonymous 12a

French romantic comedy that's executed with warmth and charm. *Showing at Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 14 Feb*

Safe House tbc

See Preview Page 51

Shame 18

Steve McQueen's compelling and timely examination of the nature of need, how we live our lives and the experiences that shape us. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, until Thurs 2 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, until*

Thurs 2 Feb; The Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, Fri 3 - Thurs 9 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Fri 24 - Sat 25 Feb

Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows tbc

Robert Downey Jnr and Jude Law return to face their most formidable foe, the criminal mastermind Professor James Moriarty. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 3 - Tues 7 Feb; Wem Town Hall, North Shropshire, Thurs 16 Feb*

The Skin I Live In PG

Antonio Banderas stars as a plastic surgeon who creates a new kind of synthetic skin that can withstand all sorts of wear and tear. *Showing at The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire, Mon 27 Feb*

Steve Severin's Music For Silents: Vampyr PG

Ex Siouxsie & The Banshees member Steve Severin performs a live score to Carl Dreyer's unsettling classic. *Showing at The Electric Cinema, Birmingham, Sun 26 Feb*

Tatsumi e

Animated drama based on the manga memoir and short stories of Japanese comics artist

Yoshihiro Tatsumi. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 3 - Mon 6 Feb*

This Means War tbc

See Preview Page 51

Tomboy u

Innocent French film, a thoughtful and provocative fable about the parameters of sexual identity. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 8 Feb*

The Vow 12a

See Preview Page 49

W.E 15

Madonna's acclaimed drama that concerns Wally Winthrop, a woman in 1998 Manhattan who becomes obsessed with the love story between King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. *Showing at mac, Birmingham, Fri 10 - Tues 14 Feb*

War Horse PG

Emily Watson, Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan & Benedict Cumberbatch star in Steve Spielberg's blockbuster tale of loyalty, hope & tenacity, set during the First World War. *Showing at Malvern Theatre, until Thurs 9 Feb; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry, Fri 10 - Thurs 16 Feb; The Royal, Leamington Spa, Fri 10 - Sun 19 Feb*

Way Of The Morris E

Tim Plester's evocative exploration of the origins and impulses behind Morris Dancing. *Showing at Library Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 Feb*

We Were Here 15

A documentary that illuminates the profound and personal community issues raised by the AIDS epidemic, as well as the broad political upheavals it unleashed. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Fri 17 Feb*

Weekend 18

Romantic drama starring Tom Cullen and Chris New. *Showing at Artrix, Bromsgrove, Sat 11 Feb; Stoke Film Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent Thurs 16 Feb*

The Wild Hunt 15

Canadian thriller that sees a medieval re-enactment game turn into a Shakespearean tragedy when a non-player crashes the event to win back his girlfriend. *Showing at The Library Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 16 Feb*

The Woman In Black tbc

See Preview Page 51

Young Adult 15

See Preview Page 49

DVD NEW RELEASES

Midnight In Paris 12

Woody Allen sitcom that sees Owen Wilson cutting up with Carla Bruni on the boulevards of the city of lights.

Released 6 February



Friends With Benefits 15

Romantic comedy starring Mila Kunis and Justin Timberlake as two friends whose friendship becomes complicated when they add a new dimension.

Released 6 February

Footloose 12

Remake of the cult 1984 teen musical that follows a troubled city kid as he moves to a small town in the deep south.

Released 6 February



Dolphin Tale u

Morgan Freeman heads an impressive cast in a family drama that's based on a true story.

Released 13 February

Contagion 12

A multi-stranded disaster movie from Steven Soderbergh, tracing the spread of a lethal virus that becomes a worldwide pandemic.

Released 13 February

Johnny English Reborn PG

Spy spoof that sees Rowan Atkinson reprise his role as the wildly incompetent secret agent.

Released 13 February



Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark 15

Katie Holmes and Guy Pearce star in a horror that tells the story of an eleven-year-old girl who is menaced by creatures in her parents' new home.

Released 20 February



One Day 12

Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess star in a romantic drama that's based on the best-selling novel by David Nicholls.

Released 6 February

Real Steel 12

Sci-fi action film set in a near future where robots have replaced humans. Hugh Jackman stars.

Released 20 February

Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes 12

James Franco heads an acclaimed cast in a story that's set in a modern-day San Francisco, where man's own experiments with genetic engineering breed a new kind of ape.

Released 27 February

Three Musketeers 12

A state-of-the-art retelling of the classic tale

of D'Artagnan, a young man who leaves home to become a member of the fighting force of the French King.

Released 27 February

We Need To Talk About Kevin 15

Emotional thriller starring Tilda Swinton as a mother trying to deal with her grief after her teenage son commits an unforgivable crime.

Released 27 February

In Time 12

Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried star in a sci-fi thriller that's set in a near future where people stop ageing at twenty-five.

Released 27 February



Exhibitions

There is a Place.....

Until 14 April 2012

Zarina Bhimji

Yellow Patch

Until 14 April 2012

Blue skies, nothing but blue skies.....

Until 12 May 2012

Martin Parr

Black Country Stories

20 January – 7 April 2012

Garman Ryan Collection and Exhibitions

Garman Ryan Collection

on display all year round

Epstein's Rima:

'A Travesty of Nature'

4 February – 2 June 2012

Make Room2

Interventions into the Garman Ryan Collection

Until 22 September 2012

Free Regular Events

Art Start

Wednesday 1 February, 11am-12noon

Sessions for pre-school children 1 year old upwards with their carer.

Flying Machines

Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 February

1-3pm each day

Baby Palace

Friday 24 February 2012

10.30-11.30am, 12-1pm, 2-3pm

Free Adult workshops

Creative Play

Friday 3 and Saturday 4 February, 1-4pm

Events

Young People's Days:

Face of Fascination

Saturday 11 February, 11am-4pm

In Conversation

Saturday 25 February, 2pm

Laura Oldfield Ford will be discussing her newly commissioned work in the There is a Place...exhibition.

Select Edit: Public Private

Wednesday 29 February, 2pm-7pm

Sharing day on the theme of Live Art and Health.

For a full list of exhibitions and events
thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk

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The New Art Gallery Walsall

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11 February – Free event

Bird-Box Making

Bilston Craft Gallery

13 February – Free event

Paper Valentine

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

14 February – Free event

Once upon a time

Bantock House

15 February - £2 per child

Hand-stitched door sign

Bilston Craft Gallery

16 February - £2 per child

Leaping Lizards, Jumping Frogs

Bantock House

15 & 17 February £3 per child

Cast a Medal

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

15 & 18 February - £2 per child

Craftplay – Stay and Play

Bilston Craft Gallery

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Visual Arts

Hamish Fulton Exhibition

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Wed 15 February - Sun 22 April

London-born conceptual artist and photographer Hamish Fulton regards himself as a 'walking artist', with his work fusing the two separate disciplines of walking and art. Having travelled extensively throughout the world, Fulton's work provides photographic evidence of places visited, with each piece supported by subjective overlaid text, or descriptive captions.

This exhibition, a major collaboration between Ikon and Turner Contemporary, Margate, is the first museum show for Fulton since his critically acclaimed retrospective at Tate Britain in 2002.



Henry Moore In The Arts Council Collection

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, Thurs 23 February - Sunday 15 April

The work of one of Britain's most celebrated and pioneering modern artists features in this new exhibition from the Arts Council Collection. For the first time ever, the Collection's complete holdings of eleven sculptures and fifteen works on paper are being displayed together, to offer an insight into Moore's practice between 1929 and 1962.



Kitchen Garden

Bilston Craft Gallery, Sat 18 February - Saturday 28 April

Capturing the British fascination with homemaking, cooking and gardening, this new exhibition at Bilston's craft gallery showcases an array of themed wares - from sleek and functional to rustic and decorative. From hand-turned wooden platters by John Fishenden to screenprinted textiles by Kate Farley, Kitchen Garden promises to provide something of interest for all tastes. The exhibition also includes a unique creative play environment, which, commissioned by Craftplay, enables families with young children to explore the themes of Kitchen Garden.



Martin Parr's Black Country Stories

The New Art Gallery, Walsall, until Sat 14 April

Produced by Multistory, a community arts organisation based in West Bromwich, Black Country Stories presents the results so far of renowned Magnum 'snapper' Martin Parr's photographic journey across the Black Country, an endeavour which he undertook last year and will complete in 2014. Martin's journey sees him visiting markets, temples, factories, social clubs, tea dances, dog training classes, summer fetes and all manner of other places in Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley. There will also be a chance to listen to a selection of stories from Walsall residents talking about their lives, work, families, and experiences of the Black Country, while visitors can share their own personal memories on a dedicated memory wall.

Ten Drawings By Leonardo da Vinci

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, until Sun 25 March

This exhibition, which stops off in Birmingham as part of a small UK tour in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, features ten specially selected drawings - in a variety of media - to illustrate the scope of Leonardo da Vinci's interests. An exhibition that provides visitors with a rare opportunity to see works by one of the world's greatest artists, Ten Drawings... includes some of the greatest treasures in The Royal Collection, usually housed at Windsor Castle, including The Head of Leda, c.1505 - 6 (pictured).



Ongoing exhibitions

The Joy Of Making

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Sat 11 February - Tues 15 April

Intricate baskets, colourful Polish folk paper cut designs, needlework samplers, dolls and toys all feature in an exhibition designed to celebrate traditional handmaking processes. The objects on show, all of which come from the art gallery's collection, share space with works created by community groups via the venue's Arts and Social Care programme. Meanwhile, a new installation adds a contemporary twist to the exhibition...



We English By Simon Roberts

Light House Media Centre, Wolverhampton, until Fri 13 April

This portfolio of large-format tableaux photographs of the English at leisure is the result of Robert's time spent touring England in a motor home. Seeking out ordinary people engaged in diverse pastimes, Robert's work explores the notion of what it means to be English, and focuses on leisure activities as a way of looking at the country's shifting cultural and aesthetic identity.



Architecture

Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford, Sat 11 February - Sun 25 March

Paintings by Mark Lippett, Rob Pointon and David Jones feature alongside photographs by Noel Bennett in this themed exhibition, the centrepiece of which will be a 360 degree view of Stafford's Market Square. Also featured will be a selection of works from the museum's permanent collections, including a set of six commissioned works by watercolour artist Catherine Brennand RI and paintings by Brendan Neiland RA.



For full listing information on Visual Art exhibitions, including times and dates, visit www.whatsonlive.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Machines and gadgets that have been used through the ages to write, send messages, play music and make recordings are the subject of this intriguing and educational permanent exhibition, Thinktank, Birmingham

FREAK RED BLOCK A collection of thematic portraits that explore three unrelated issues, until Sat 4 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

HOLocaust EXHIBITION until Sat 4 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

WIRE JEWELLERY BY MAXINE ROSE Showcase of work from local designer Maxine Rose who sites everyday shapes and patterns as inspiration for her creations, until Sat 4 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

SIGNS FOR SOUNDS The contemporary practice of letter-forming, from traditional calligraphy to the use of digital technologies and performance art, is explored in this exhibition that focuses on how lettering communicates through meaning, context and style, until Sat 4 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

GILLIAN WEARING REAL BIRMINGHAM FAMILIES A display of some of the photographs that were taken at Ikon's temporary drop-in centre at Birmingham's Pallasades Shopping Centre during 2011, until Sun 5 Feb, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

JOHN MYERS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION This, the first major exhibition by Bradford-born photographer John Myers, comprises a series of photographs taken during the early 1970s, until Sun 5 Feb, 2012, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

STUART WHIPPS, WHY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF UGLINESS? A photographic exhibition that centres on the work of Birmingham architect John Madin, famed for his brutalist 1960s structures, until Sun 5 Feb, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

DEAN KELLARD: THE DESPERATE HOURS Exhibition that showcases a variety of artistic media to explore cultural and collective identities, until Sun 5 Feb, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

LEISURELY PURSUITS Eleven works on paper that provide an insight into leisure activities in Victorian Britain. All works featured in this exhibition are from Punch - a popular satirical magazine of the time, until Wed 8 Feb, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

IDENTITY Solihull College exhibition featuring sculpture, paintings and mixed media, until Sat 11 Feb, Solihull Arts Complex

JAMES EDWARD DUGGINS EXHIBITION A unique opportunity to see a wide range of works by the popular, but now often forgotten, Leamington artist and photographer, until Sun 12 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

TELFORD & WREKIN OPEN ART EXHIBITION Exhibition of works from local and regional artists, until Sat 18 Feb, The Place, Oakengates, Telford

LIGHT FANTASTIC Work from acclaimed contemporary artist Tracey Emin takes centre-stage in this exhibition, which celebrates the use of neon in modern art, until Sun 19 Feb, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

LOST IN LACE: NEW APPROACHES Featuring large-scale and theatrical works alongside items from the museum's own lace collection, this exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see how contemporary art can emerge from a traditional craft form, until Sun 19 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

PAINTING SHOW This exhibition forms part of a series of group productions that examine modes of display and the construction of a public sphere - the gallery, until Sat 25 Feb, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

MOTORGRAPHS Exhibition that showcases a variety of motoring photography from the museums archive, until Sun 26 Feb, Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, Warwickshire

GOING UNDERGROUND A display of coal mining memorabilia that relates to the safety and comforts of miners working underground, until Mon 27 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

OUR SPORTING LIFE: SPORTING HEROES Display of images - ranging from football, cricket and quito teams to rowing clubs and coracle racing - that celebrates Shropshire's sporting heroes, until Wed 29 Feb 2012, Coalbrookdale Gallery, Ironbridge

PER FORMS Exhibition from artist, architect and street-jazz dancer Saranjit Birdi that features videos, photography and action paintings to explore issues of freedom, territoriality and stereotypes, until Fri 2 March, The Drum, Birmingham

A LIFE IN PRINTS: THE TESSA SIDLEY BEQUEST Featuring works from Josef Albers, Patrick Caulfield, Richard Long and Gilbert Spencer, until Sun 4 March, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

CRAFT SHOP NEW YEAR SHOWCASE Featuring an array of beautiful hand-made craft, including works by Nick Ozanne, Alys Power and Rowan Bailey, until Sat 10 Mar, Bilston Craft Gallery

THE INDISCIPLINE OF PAINTING This exhibition features works from forty-nine artists from the 1960s to now and explores why abstraction remains a source of inspiration for artists, until Sat 10 Mar, The Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

GEORGE SHAW: I WOZ ERE Turner Prize nominee George Shaw returns to the Midlands to showcase his first major exhibition in his hometown of Coventry, until Sun 11 March, 2012, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

THE NORTHERN IRELAND COLLECTION Powerful display of work that addresses the political situation and history of conflict in Northern Ireland, taken from the only collection of its kind in the UK, until Sat 17 March, W'hampton Art Gallery

WHEELS & WAVES A specially designed seaside set - complete with surf shack and sand dunes - provides the backdrop for this new exhibition that celebrates the ever-popular sport of surfing, until Sun 18 March, Coventry Transport Museum

WORCESTERSHIRE CINEMA THROUGH THE AGES Worcester's cinema history is here explored through a collection of historic artefacts and contemporary images from local photographers, until Sat 24 March, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

TEN DRAWINGS BY LEONARDO DA VINCI: A DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION Exhibition that showcases the extraordinary scope of the artist's interests, until Sun 25 March, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

TOM HUNTER EXHIBITION Acclaimed artist Tom

Museums & Art Galleries

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ARTIFEX Sutton Coldfield
0121 323 3776

BARBER INSTITUTE
0121 414 7333

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 0121 303 2834

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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 COE
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 for venue website details

Hunter presents a new series of photographs inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and the paintings of the Romantic artist Henry Fuseli, until Sun 1 Apr, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THERE IS A PLACE Our psychic connectivity to landscape is explored in this exhibition of drawings, paintings and prints, until Sat 14 April, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

THE SUPER VIVERE BY SUSIE REA A series of photographic portraits that explore the lives of brothers and sisters in the UK and Europe who are over the age of ninety, until Sat 14 April, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

ARTISTS AND PRINTMAKERS Exhibition featuring works from a group of artists known as the Senefelder Group, active from 1910 to 1930, until Sun 15 April, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

ZARINA BHIMJI: YELLOW PATCH World premiere of Zarina Bhimji's latest film that - while shot on location in Mumbai, Kutch and Gujarat - provides an evocative exploration of space,

until Sat 14 April, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

ME, YOU AND EVERYTHING ELSE A photographic project that looks at life in Castle Vale as it is lived today, until Sun 15 April, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

OLYMPIC POP Celebrating the run-up to the 2012 Olympics, this exhibition features a selection of posters designed by a variety of Pop artists, including David Hockney, Allen Jones and Tom Weyermann, until Sat 28 April, W'hampton Art Gallery

GEORGE CHAKRAVARTHI: THIRTEEN Newly commissioned photographic installation that features thirteen of Shakespeare's tragic characters, all of whom meet their ends through suicide, until Sun 29 April, 2012, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

IF WARDS COULD TALK A people's history display that features the stories of former patients, current and retired nurses, doctors and support workers, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

PICTURING THE POTTERIES An evocative exhibition exploring how artists and photographers have created striking images of the local area, until Mon 7 May, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

BLUE SKIES, NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES... A wide range of media and styles are here used to depict the power of the sky. All exhibits form part of Walsall's collections, until Sat 12 May, The New Arts Gallery, Walsall

WILL ALSOP - A BOX OF DELIGHTS The Stirling Prize-winning architect creates an environment designed to make us think about architecture and how it makes us feel, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

JOHN WOOD AND PAUL HARRISON 'TWENTY SIX (DRAWING AND FALLING THINGS) A series of twenty-six short films that explore rhythm and synergy within different surroundings, until Sun 20 May, The Public, West Bromwich

PUGIN, DURER AND THE GOTHIC Display that showcases eight prints and a single drawing by the well-known Renaissance artist

Albrecht Durer, together with two stained-glass designs by 16th century German artists, Hans Holbein and Abel Stimmer, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

CRAFTSENSE Exhibition that celebrates the links between eighteenth century industry and modern craft practice, until Sat 1 Sep, Bilston Craft Gallery

OUR SPORTING LIFE: THE SCIENCE OF SPORT EXHIBITION Exhibition that focuses on the relationship between science & sport, in particular how technological advancements have shaped achievements and performance in the elite sporting world, until Sun 9 Sept, Egnuity, Ironbridge, Shropshire

EPSTEIN'S RIMA: 'A TRAVESTY OF NATURE' Featuring a selection of Jacob Epstein's preparatory drawings for the WH Hudson Memorial, this exhibition provides a rare opportunity to explore the artist's creative imagination and question the controversy that surrounded much of his work, Sat 4 Feb - Sat 2 June, The New Art Gallery, Walsall

THE AGE OF LEONARDO A special collection dis-

play that features ten works by some of the greatest 16th century Italian print-makers, until Thurs 21 June, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

DEBRA DEE: PAINTINGS OF ROY WOOD Collection of images of the Midlands rock legend, captured by Australian artist Debra Dee, Thurs 2 - Thurs 23 Feb, St Paul's Gallery, Birmingham

FRANS WESSELMAN EXHIBITION Series of stained glass paintings and etchings, Sat 4 - Wed 29 Feb, Artifex Gallery, Solihull

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED Exhibition that illustrates the political, social and cultural heritage of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community and the experiences of local people contributing to and living through times of great change, Wed 8 Feb - Sun 4 March, Artrix, Bromsgrove

DAN WRIGHT EXHIBITION This exhibition by Staffordshire maker Dan Wright features an array of handmade earthenware alongside original line drawings, on show for the very first time, Sat 11 Feb - Sun 25 March, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

MADE IN THE MIDDLE: CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FROM ACROSS THE MIDLANDS Touring exhibition featuring works from thirty-five of the best contemporary craft makers from the East and West Midlands, Sat 11 Feb - Sun 15 April, mac, Birmingham

KITCHEN GARDEN Themed exhibition featuring an array of crafts, from sleek and functional to rustic and decorative, Sat 18 Feb - Sat 28 April, Bilston Craft Gallery

VERSATILITY Selling exhibition by The Ironbridge Society of Artists, showcasing their talents in a variety of media, Tues 21 Feb - Sat 31 March, The Place, Oakengates, Telford

UNSEEN: TREASURES FROM THE RESERVE COLLECTION An exhibition featuring some of the Barber's 'forgotten' paintings, Fri 24 Feb - Sun 22 April, The Barber Institute, Birmingham

LOCALITY A collection of works from three of Birmingham's foremost realist painters, Mon 27 Feb - Sat 21 April, Solihull Arts Complex



Big Family Portrait Day at Ikon

Saturday 4 February, 12-5pm - FREE
Visit Ikon for a day of free creative activities exploring family and portraiture. Open to all ages, just drop in.

Make your very own portrait badges
Contribute to the giant family map
Write a family portrait
Trace your family's faces

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.co.uk
Tuesday - Sunday, 11am-6pm, free entry

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Events



British Supercross

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sat 18 February

The Future West ACU British Supercross Championship rides into the LG Arena this month. SX1 and British Supercross defending champ Tom Church will be ready to take on the best of the Brits, including former British Motocross champion Stephen Sword. Defending SX2 champion Jack Brunell is also expected to come out with all guns

blazing, along with a host of top British riders. As well as a full youth and clubman programme, the 2012 event features a new, chaos-causing, heart-pumping four-wheel quad class, which is sure to provide plenty of additional excitement.

Chinese New Year Celebrations

Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge, Shropshire, Mon 13 - Fri 17 February

Celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dragon in Ironbridge this month, as the Coalport China Museum marks the occasion with a variety of themed, hands-on activities. During the half-term period, visitors will be able to have a go at modelling their very own clay dragon, painting either an oriental ceramic flower or a fridge magnet, depicting an animal from the Chinese Zodiac.



Aviva Grand Prix Athletics

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Sat 18 February

Regarded as one of the world's best indoor athletics events, the Aviva Grand Prix brings together many of the sport's elite ahead of London 2012 in July. World Championships 1500m silver medalist and Olympic medal hopeful Hannah England will don an Aviva GB & NI vest to compete on home soil one last time ahead of the

Games, as will Mo Farah and Kim Collins. The Aviva Grand Prix is just one of six athletics events to take place at the National Indoor Arena this month. Others include The Birmingham Games, Athletics Training 2012, Midland Championships, MCAA 2nd Open Meeting and the Aviva England Athletics Age Group Championships.

TRACTOR WORLD



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A friendly indoor event at

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- UK 2012 Tractor championship
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- The first major tractor auction of 2012 (Saturday)
- Charity tractor road run into the Malvern Hills (Sunday)
- Old Sodbury Sortout (Sunday)
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For auction information contact HJ Pugh on:
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Tourist accommodation information: 01684 892289

Sorry, no dogs allowed in the halls

Ticket prices

Weekend: £18 at gate, £12 in advance*

Adult: £12 at gate, £8 in advance*

Children (aged 5 to 15): £8 at gate, £6 in advance*

Note: up to two children FREE with each paying adult on the Sunday only

* Advance tickets are plus £1 admin fee per order.

Ticket Hotline
01959-543575

(Mon to Fri 9-4.30)

POST: with cheque payable to Kelsey Publishing Ltd
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Tel: 01959 541444 Fax: 01959 541400 Email: shows@kelsey.co.uk

The International MG Show

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, Sun 19 February

The MGB sports car turns fifty this year, and what better way for fans to celebrate than by spending the day with fellow enthusiasts at the first classic car event of 2012.

This one-day event features displays from many of the UK's most dedicated motoring clubs, and showcases numerous rare examples of models from the Midlands-based manufacturer. So if you're on the hunt for an MG but haven't yet found the right one, or if you're just in need of some spare parts, then a day out at Warwickshire's Stoneleigh Park should be right up your street.



The Games And Me

Enginuity, Ironbridge, Sat 11 - Sun 19 February

In celebration of the forthcoming 2012 London Games, this week-long event enables visitors to test their athleticism using state-of-the-art sports equipment. A Beat The Bolt challenge forms the centrepiece of The Games And Me, offering visitors the chance to race alongside a virtual Usain Bolt to see if they can beat his world record run of 100metres in 9.58 seconds - or indeed match his stride of 2.44 metres. There's also a Batak Wall, where speed of reaction and peripheral vision can be tested. Meanwhile, the Enginuity presenters deliver another of their popular shows - this time exploring the science and technical developments behind speed and movement challenges encountered and mastered by athletes in Olympic and Paralympic arenas.



Look Twice! Half-Term Activities

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, Sat 11 - Sun 19 February

A variety of activities is on offer at Dudley's living history museum this month, as the venue opens its doors for the half-term holidays. Alongside the static attractions that enable the young (and young at heart) to play as Black Country children once did, the museum also features a fact-finding trail,



Meet The Scientist

Thinktank, Birmingham, Mon 13 - Fri 17 February

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.

allowing visitors to explore the world of moving pictures by hunting out various on-site optical illusions and hidden features. There's also a chance to join in with some Valentine's Day and historical-themed craft activities, including the making of your very own thaumatrope - a toy popular in Victorian times.



Surfing Safari

Coventry Transport Museum, Mon 13 - Fri 17 February

Working in conjunction with the Wheels & Waves exhibition - a display of vehicles and memorabilia relating to British surfers from the 1950s onwards - the Coventry Transport Museum has devised an array of events to keep visitors entertained throughout the holiday period. After exploring the exhibition, and taking part in the museum's Surfing Safari activity trail, visitors will be able to engage in numerous themed craft activities - including the making of surfboard book-marks, animal masks, collages, picture frames and sun visors.



Model Making

Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Mon 13 - Fri 17 February

This family-friendly event is sure to evoke a touch of nostalgia for a certain generation of dads, with the RAF Museum inviting visitors to take part in building an Airfix 1:72 Spitfire. Models will be built alongside a full-sized aircraft, and modelling skills are not required in order to take part, as staff will be on hand to provide assistance. If you need a little inspiration regarding how to paint your model Spitfire, sessions will be taking place next to the venue's famous 1:1scale model Spitfire, as built by James May for the BBC Toy Stories series.



Gigglefest

Library Theatre, Birmingham, Wed 15 February

A packed programme of entertainment awaits visitors to this annual comedy festival for kids when it returns to Birmingham this month. Small World Animation will facilitate free animated workshops, while gagmasters Tiernan Douieb and James Campbell are sure to keep youngsters amused with their unique brand of stand-up comedy. For younger audience members, the festival offers Shoofly Theatre's Two Four Six Eight, which promises to make numbers fun for youngsters. Other activities available during the week-long event include magic, potty poets, bonkers balloon modelling and open mic sessions.

Half-Term Activities

The West Midlands offers some of the very best attractions and days out for families in the UK, including theme parks, living history museums, animal sanctuaries, heritage sites, and an array of museums and art galleries. And, with the first school holiday of 2012 this month upon us, it's time to think about how to keep the kids entertained. Whatever their preference, there are plenty of activities taking place over the half-term break. Check out our recommendations below...



Ackers Adventure

Golden Hillcock Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 2PY Tel: 0121 772 5111. ackers-adventure.co.uk

Whizz Kids sessions for 8-to-16-year-olds offering skiing, climbing, canoeing, archery, £8 per person. Tobogganing for 4yrs-plus, £3 and 'Buy one ski lesson and bring a friend for half-price!'



Birmingham Botanical Gardens

12A Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, B15 3TR Tel: 0121 454 1860 birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk

Sunday 19 Feb - Look around for £2! Quality book sale, plus 15 acres of landscaped gardens, four glasshouses, a children's playground, gift shop and tea-room. Ideal for a family visit at half-term.



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH Tel: 0121 303 2834 bmag.org.uk

To celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Birmingham's Museum and Art Gallery is displaying Ten Drawings by Leonardo da Vinci (until 25 March, admission free).

The Royal Collection (c) 2011. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Black Country Living Museum

Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ Tel: 0121 557 9643 bclm.co.uk

With over fifty authentic shops, houses and workshops carefully reconstructed within twenty-six acres of former industrial land, the Black Country Living Museum offers a unique day out that's full of sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the past.



Coventry Transport Museum

Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JD Tel: 024 7623 4270 transport-museum.com

Discover the fascinating story behind the development of road transport, from the earliest cycles to land speed record-breakers.



Heritage Motor Centre

Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ Tel: 01926 641188 heritage-motor-centre.co.uk

Whatever the weather, the Heritage Motor Centre is a great day out for all the family, offering plenty of activities to enjoy. Check out the new Motoring Record Breakers Exhibition, which opens on 11 February.



RAF Museum Cosford

Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 8UP Tel: 01902 376 200 rafmuseum.org.uk

The RAF Museum houses one of the largest aviation collections in the UK, with seventy aircraft displayed within three wartime hangers. Admission to the venue is free, and there are numerous events throughout the year.



Red House Glass Cone

High Street, Wordsley, Stourbridge, DY8 8AZ Tel: 01384812750

Pick up a free audio guide and learn about the history of the glassworks, the characters from the industry, and the magical process of glassmaking. The Cone also has an array of events and activities on site throughout the year.

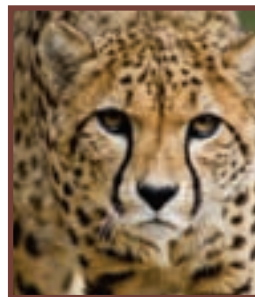


Thinktank

Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG Tel: 0121 202 2222 thinktank.ac

Four floors of interactive displays and exhibits await you at Thinktank - something for all the family.

- Discover the past
- Investigate the present
- Find the future



West Midlands Safari Park

Spring Grove, Bewdley, DY12 1LF Tel: 01299 402114 wmssp.co.uk

This well-established nature reserve affords visitors an opportunity, from the safety of their own car, to view a variety of animals roaming freely.

Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, www.whatsonlive.co.uk

From WED 1 FEB

ICE SKATING FUN until Sun 19 Feb, The Trentham Estate, Stoke-on-Trent

CONSERVATION TOUR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD Wed 1 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK Wed 1 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 1 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LUDLOW ART SOCIETY: THE MAGIC OF CHINESE PAINTING Moira Gibbs talks about, demonstrates and attempts to de-mystify the origins of this ancient art form, Thurs 2 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

WEST BROMWICH WRITER'S GROUP MEETING Covering all aspects of creative writing and supporting local creative writers in and around Sandwell, Thurs 2 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Special out of season tour, Thurs 2 Feb, Soho House, Birmingham

ADULT CRAFT WORKSHOP - FANTASY FILM SCULPTURE Opportunity to discover the magic of Fantasy Film before making your very own miniature sculpture to take home, Thurs 2 Feb, Walsall Museum & Art Gallery

FRIDAY FOCUS WITH JONATHAN TREADWELL The gallery's senior assistant talks about the inspiration that he's garnered from the James Edward Duggins: A Warwickshire Impressionist exhibition, Fri 3 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

LOST IN LACE CONFERENCE One-day conference that draws on the themes explored in the Lost In Lace exhibition, Fri 3 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

DICKENS AT THE LION The author's great, great grandson Gerald Dickens headlines a weekend of celebrations, Fri 3 - Sun 5 Feb, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

DUNGEONS AFTER DARK Prepare to experience the darkest, bloodiest and most frightening times in Warwick Castle's history, Sat 4 Feb, Warwick Castle

NATIONAL LIBRARIES DAY - DICKENS EVENT

Featuring a storytelling marathon to celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, Sat 4 Feb, Central Library, Wolverhampton

GALLERY TOUR Sat 4 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

THE BIG FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY A day of family photography, with drop-in workshops and activities throughout the day, Sat 4 Feb, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

ANNUAL MEGA BOOKSALE Chance to purchase thousands of second-hand books, CDs and DVDs at bargain prices, Sat 4 - Sun 5 Feb, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, South Shropshire

BRIDAL FAYRE Featuring over sixty exhibitors, demonstrations, cat-walk shows and a variety of entertainment, Sun 5 Feb, Shugborough, Staffordshire

Week Commencing MON 6 FEB

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 8 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

FRIDAY FOCUS WITH ROZ CRAMPTON The Head Gallery Assistant talks about Sir George Clausen's painting, The Red Hat, Fri 10 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

HOOKING HEARTS - RAG RUG TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP Fri 10 Feb, The Back to Backs, Birmingham

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR Access-all-areas tour that explores parts of the court seldom open to visitors, Fri 10 Feb, Witley Court & Gardens, Worcester

HISTORICAL COOKERY & MAYHEM Fri 10 Feb, Lichfield Garrick

ANTIQUAIRE WITH ERIC KNOWLES The acclaimed antiquarian shares his extensive knowledge of the world of antiques, Sat 11 Feb, Huntingdon Hall, Worcester

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP: MAKE A BIRD BOX Drop-in workshop with Martin Harrison from Black Country Living Landscape, Sat 11 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

VALENTINE'S WORKSHOP FOR MEN An opportunity for men to get crafty and create a Valentine's card using paper-cutting and printing, Sat 11 Feb, Wolverhampton

Art Gallery

SATURDAY ART CLUB: VALENTINE CARD MAKING SPECIAL Get creative and make some heart-warming Valentine's Day cards for your loved ones, Sat 11 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

GHOST HUNT Sat 11 Feb, The Feathers Hotel, South Shropshire

KINGMAKER'S MEDIAEVAL BANQUET Join the Earl of Warwick's household for an unforgettable evening of eating, drinking and merriment, Sat 11 Feb, Warwick Castle

PLACE OF WORDS Join poet-in-residence Roz Goddard for one of her informal writing workshops, Sat 11 Feb, Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry

UK TO BEIJING BY BICYCLE Illustrated lecture by Christopher Smith, who rode his bicycle 16,500 miles from Bewdley to Beijing, Sat 11 Feb, The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster

THE GAMES AND ME Event that affords visitors the chance to try out some state-of-the-art equipment to test their speed and reaction times, Sat 11 - Wed 15 Feb, Enginuity, Ironbridge

VALENTINE'S CARD AND HEART-SHAPED BISCUIT-MAKING Crafty fun to keep the kids entertained throughout the half-term holiday, Sat 11 - Sat 18 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Pottery - Factory Outlet, Stoke-on-Trent

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Learn how to make feathered hats and crowns. Free decorating time in the studio for everyone dressed in fancy dress, Sat 11 - Sat 18 Feb, Emma Bridgewater Pottery - Factory Outlet, Stoke-on-Trent

CHOCOLATE HEAVEN HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Featuring magicians, ventriloquists and other family-friendly entertainers, including favourites Kimmo and Rags, 11 - Fri 19 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham

HALF-TERM FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Cadbury World, Birmingham

HALF-TERM FUN - CONSERVATION IN ACTION Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Wightwick Manor & Gardens, Wolverhampton

STORYTIME TRAIL Find the characters dotted about the museum, then match them to their story, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

PIRATE TREASURE TRAIL Free pirate-related craft activity, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Broadfield House



Bags of half-term activities and Valentine's treats in store for visitors to Birmingham's Cadbury World this month.

Glass Museum, Dudley & Red House Glass Cone, Dudley

HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN TRAIL A fun day out for all junior investigators, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Wenlock Priory, Much Wenlock, South Shropshire

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY TRAILS Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Attingham Park, Nr Shrewsbury

HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN TRAIL A fun day out for all junior investigators, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Stokesay Castle, South Shropshire

HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN TRAIL Fun day out for all junior investigators, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

SCRUBBING UP FOR SPRING Hands-on activities for all the family, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton

HALF-TERM FAMILY FUN TRAIL A chance for junior investigators to help crack clues and solve a mystery, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

GREAT BRITISH BATTLE ACTIVITIES Learn about British battle and survival techniques from history, including mighty machines, deadly weapons, powerful armoury and siege strategies, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Warwick Castle

ALTON TOWERS HALF TERM! A selection of rides and attractions to suit all tastes! Open every day during the February Half Term, Sat 11 - Sun 19 Feb, Alton Towers, Staffordshire

TITANIC TRAIL Follow the trail around the museum to find the city's links with the doomed ocean liner, Sat 11 Feb - Mon 31 Dec, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

WEDDING FAIR Sun 12

Feb, Ford Green Hall, Stoke-on-Trent

AMERICAN STYLE WRESTLING Sun 12 Feb, The River Rooms, Stourbridge

DARWIN MEMORIAL LECTURE Featuring speaker Dr Jim Endersby - an authority on Charles Darwin and science in the Victorian era, Sun 12 Feb, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF CHARLES DICKENS

Author Lucinda Hawksley talks about her new book, written to celebrate the bicentenary of her great great grandfather Charles Dickens, Mon 12 Feb, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

VALENTINE'S MYTHS & MYSTERIES WALK A special guided walk of the gardens and parkland to uncover the myths and mysteries that surround them, Sun 12 Feb, Shugborough Historic Working Estate, Staffordshire

TOY COLLECTORS' FAIR Sun 12 Feb, NEC, Birmingham

Week Commencing MON 13 FEB

HOLIDAY ART CLUB: BUILDING BUILDINGS Use projectors, models, computers and cool construction kits to explore the world of architecture and building, Mon 13 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

FUN PHYSICS WITH ENGINUITY Interactive experiments throughout the day. This event forms part of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival, Mon 13 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

LITTLE PEOPLE'S ART ZONE Playful workshops to experience every-

thing from puppet building to giant drawing mats, Mon 13 - Tue 14 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

TROPICAL INC - ANIMAL HANDLING SESSIONS Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Thinktank, Birmingham

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES Enjoy the Wheels And Waves exhibition, then go on a 'surfing safari' activity trail. A different surf-themed activity is available each day, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Coventry Transport Museum

MEET THE SCIENTIST Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Thinktank, Birmingham

MODEL MAKING WORKSHOPS A chance to have a go at building an Airfix 1:72 Spitfire or Hurricane, with help and advice from skilled modellers. All materials provided, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, RAF Cosford, Wolverhampton

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS Celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit with drop-in ceramic workshops, Chinese puzzles, Shadow Puppet Theatre and a variety of other activities, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

TILE DECORATING WORKSHOP Fun, hands-on activities for children and adults alike, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Jackfield Tile Museum, Ironbridge, Telford

REMARKABLE ROMANS Chance to discover numerous facts about the world's inventive invaders, Mon 13 - Fri 17 Feb, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, South Shropshire

DRAWBOT DERBY Build your own unique drawing robot using batteries and a simple motor, Tue 14 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

BRITISH ALPACA FUTURITY 2012

Hall 3A,
National Exhibition Centre
16 + 17 March 2012



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First ever alpaca show at the NEC where hundreds of alpacas will be shown. Find out more about these beautiful animals at the 'Discover Alpacas' presentations. Meet the breeders and their alpacas. See what can be made from their fabulous fleeces. Go shopping for fleeces, tops, yarns, knitwear and textiles.

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 Birmingham City Council

Events LISTINGS

For full listing information on Events including times and dates visit, www.whatsonlive.co.uk

HALF TERM: ADVENTURES ART CART: VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL Special themed makes, decorating love hearts and flowers, Tue 14 Feb, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

ONCE UPON A TIME... Storytelling followed by craft activities, Tue 14 Feb, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

OUTBACK2BASICS: SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST A journey through the ages that forms part of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival, Tues 14 Feb, Shopshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

FISHY FUN! Aquatic-themed fun for children. Pre-booking essential, 14 Feb, Walsall Leather Museum

VALENTINE'S PICTURE FRAME WORKSHOP Decorate a card picture frame with decoupage roses, lovebirds and hearts for the one you love, using textured papers and fabrics, Tue 14 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

KILN FUSED GLASS KEY RING WORKSHOP Drop-in craft sessions for children aged five-plus, Tues 14 Feb, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

DAHL IN DUDLEY Make crafts linked to some of Roald Dahl's infamous characters, Tues 14 & Wed 15 Feb, Dudley Museum & Art Gallery

IN NEVERLAND Become a fairy of Pixie Hollow or one of Peter Pan's lost boys and enjoy this craft extravaganza where you can create maps, headdresses, wands and crowns, Tue 14 - Fri 17 Feb, Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove

BACK TO BACKS STORYTELLING Tues 14 - Sat 19 Feb, The Back to Backs, Birmingham

HAND-STITCHED DOOR SIGN Discover the world of embroidery with artist Claire Diamond, and learn simple stitching techniques to create your own door-sign, Wed 15 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

TALK WITH GREG SYLVESTER Join Greg as he talks about his career in the Special Olympics, Wed 15 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

THE ANIMAL MAN Part of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival, Wed 15 Feb, Shopshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

THE LITTLE BOOK FACTORY Join paper artist Sue Mallows and make your very own folded little book! Suitable for children aged seven to twelve, Wed 15 Feb, Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

CONSTRUCTION AND DEN BUILDING DAY Build and construct your very own base camp from a selec-

tion of materials and ideas, Wed 15 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

NEST BOX MAKING Celebrate National Nest Box Week by making your own nest box for the feathered visitors to your garden, Wed 15 Feb, Dudmaston Estate, Nr Bridgnorth

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 15 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

LET'S GO NATIVE Stories and crafts of Native Americans, suitable for children aged five to eleven, Thurs 16 Feb, Pendeford Library, Wolverhampton

STORY & CRAFT Listen to a story, make a craft and take part in a trail around the museum, Thurs 16 Feb, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

CHILDREN'S HALF-TERM CRAFT DROP-IN Suitable for children aged five to twelve, Thurs 16 Feb, Walsall Museum

HOLIDAY ART CLUB: BUILDING BUILDINGS Use projectors, models, computers and cool construction kits to explore the world of architecture and building, Thurs 16 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 16 Feb, Soho House, Birmingham

WEST BROMWICH WRITER'S GROUP A group that covers all aspects of creative writing and supports local creative writers in and around Sandwell, Thurs 16 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

FUN PHYSICS WITH ENGINUITY Interactive experiments throughout the day. This event forms part of the Shrewsbury Darwin Festival, Thurs 16 Feb, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Shrewsbury

CLAY TILES WORKSHOP Drop in, design, and make your own textured clay tile before decorating it with colourful paints and collage materials, Thurs 16 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

WORKSHOP: LEAPING LIZARDS, JUMPING FROGS Design and make animated paper animals, Thurs 16 Feb, Bantock House & Park, Wolverhampton

CLAY TILES WORKSHOP Design and make your own textured clay tile before decorating it with colourful paints and collage materials, Thurs 16 Feb, Bilston Craft Gallery

LITTLE PEOPLE'S ART ZONE Playful workshops, where you can experience everything from puppet building to giant drawing mats, Thurs 16 - Fri 17 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

RECEPTION OF THE WAR WOUNDED IN WOLVERHAMPTON Illustrated

talk that explores the history of Wolverhampton, Fri 17 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

KIDS ART CLUB Drop-in art and craft sessions for children, Fri 17 Feb, Upton House & Gardens, Worcestershire

PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP: TEXTURE, SHAPE AND SURFACE Explore the world of printmaking by using dry point, mono, collograph and clay bed printing techniques, Fri 17 Feb, The Public, West Bromwich

KILN FUSED TILE WORKSHOPS Decorate your very own glass tile. Pre-booking essential, Fri 17 Feb, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Dudley

VALENTINE'S GHOST TOURS Fri 17 Feb, Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire

BRITISH SUPERCROSS Witness the defending champion Tom Church take on the best of the Brits, including former British Motorcross champion Stephen Sword, Sat 18 Feb, LG Arena, Birmingham

MANCHESTER CAMERATA: FAMILY CREATIVITY DAY A day packed with activities that incorporate music, arts & crafts and drama, Sat 18 Feb, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre

AVIVA GRAND PRIX ATHLETICS An afternoon of exciting athletic action that brings together some of the world's most talented sports people, Sat 18 Feb, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham

ADULT BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP Learn how to bind your very own photo album under the expert tuition of Nick Wells, Sat 18 Feb, Walsall Leather Museum

TOUR WITH WILLIAM SHAKE-SPEARE: NO HOLDS BARD! Sat 18 Feb, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon

ROMAN LEGIONARIES Meet soldiers from The Ermine Street Guard as they demonstrate the life of a soldier in Ancient Britain, Sat 18 Feb, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

NATURE DETECTIVES - 'FEATHERED FRIENDS' Themed workshop where you can make your very own bird feeder to take home, Sat 18 - Sun 19 Feb, Hanbury Hall, Warwickshire

PANCAKE DAY RUN & ACTIVITIES Join the ladies of Blists Hill Victorian Town as they take part in the annual Pancake-flipping Contest, Sat 18 - Tue 21 Feb, Blists Hill, Ironbridge, Shropshire

MG SHOW 2012 Sun 19 Feb, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

HISTORY OF THE GARDENS WALK A guided walk of the formal gardens followed by lunch in the Lady Walk Tea Room, Sun 19 Feb, Shugborough, Staffordshire

MOLINEUX BRIDAL FAIR

Featuring over twenty local wedding suppliers, Sun 19 Feb, Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton

FLEA FAIR Sun 19 Feb, Three Counties Showground, Malvern

Week Commencing
MON 20 FEB

AFTER THE PARTY HERBAL WORKSHOP Learn about how to detox and revitalise your body with Fiona Taylor, Mon 20 Feb, Upton House & Gardens, Worcestershire

PANCAKE DAY CELEBRATION Featuring entertainment from City Organist Steve Tovey, Tues 21 Feb, Mayoral Suite, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 22 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

VALUATION DAY: FINE ART & ANTIQUES Facilitated by Fieldings Auctioneers, Thurs 23 Feb, Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton

MEET THE BUILDERS Gain insight into the making of an authentically recreated Roman town house, Thurs 23 Feb, Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire

HAVE-A-GO LEATHERCRAFT Drop-in workshop where you can make your very own leather memento to take away with you, Thurs 23 - Fri 24 Feb, Walsall Leather Museum

FRIDAY FOCUS EXTRA Laura Robinson, sculpture Co-ordinator for the Arts Council Collection, introduces the site's latest exhibition - Henry Moore: In the Arts Council Collection, Fri 24 Feb, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

RACE RETRO 2012 Fri 24 - Sun 26 Feb, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

SILVER SKILLS Learn basic jewellery-making skills as you choose to make and finish a ring, bangle or pendant from a range of silver wires, Sat 25 Feb, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford

RECYCLED ACCESSORIES WORKSHOP Explore creative ways to make pretty things with recycled materials, Sat 25 Feb, Wolverhampton Art Gallery

TOUR WITH WILLIAM SHAKE-SPEARE: NO HOLDS BARD! Sat 25 Feb, The Falstaff Experience, Stratford-upon-Avon

POTTER'S WHEEL WORKSHOP See what you can achieve in this one-day workshop, where all levels of experience are catered for, Sun 26 Feb, Eastnor Pottery, Ledbury, Herefordshire

Week Commencing
MON 27 FEB

WINTER GUIDED TOUR Wed 29 Feb, Aston Hall, Birmingham

ORIGINS OF MIDDLE EARTH WALK Wed 29 Feb, Sarehole Mill, Birmingham

What's On in Walsall

Walsall Leather Museum



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14 February
10.30am - 12.30pm, ages 5 - 7
(must be accompanied)
1.30pm - 3.30pm, ages 8 - 12

Fishy Fun! with Ruth Turnbull

Half term fun
£1.50, Booking essential



15 February
10.30am - 12.30pm &
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Fish Kites - Drop In

Free, no need to book

16 & 17 February
10.30am - 12.30pm &
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Have-a-Go Leathercraft - Drop In

50p per item (max of 2 items per person), no need to book

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places you've always wanted to go. Events take place at locations across the West Midlands. Lots of our members are single and come along on their own, but we also welcome couples and groups of friends. There's no hidden agenda – we're just one happy family of friends. Members are all ages (18–80!) and from all walks of life.

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So what will you be doing tomorrow?



“It's an opportunity to get to do lots of things you wouldn't otherwise do

life of Spice ...

What our members are up to in February 2012

Wednesday 1st March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Shakatak at the Jam House
- Tamworth and Lichfield Pub Night

Thursday 2nd March

- BBC Birmingham Behind the Scenes
- Halesowen and Quinton Pub Night

Friday 3rd March

- Cadmans Dance Weekend
- Murder Mystery Evening and Buffet
- Pie Factory Night with Michael Buble Tribute
- Poker Night at Lea Marston
- Scarborough Heritage Coast Walking W'end
- Teechers

Saturday 4th March

- Cathedral Library Tour with Canon Pete
- Hippodrome Back Stage Tour
- Latin Dance Masterclass - Rumba and Samba
- Turkish Bath and Swim

Sunday 5th March

- Aromatherapy For Beginners Workshop
- Beckbury Easy Ramble
- Cookery Workshop - Healthy Fast Food
- Lordshill Ramble
- Polo Indoor Lesson at Rugby

Monday 6th March

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Learn to Snowboard Course
- Recreational Skiing
- Ski Lesson - Beginners
- Spice Book Club
- Tobogganing and Meal

Tuesday 7th March

- Acupuncture - an Introduction
- Badminton at NIA
- Comedy at The Globe Inn, Tamworth
- Drumming Experience for Beginners
- First Things First
- Ten Pin Bowling (Broadway Plaza)

Wednesday 8th March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Ghostly and Grisly Birmingham Walk
- Preview Evening (Sutton)
- Sutton Pub Night

Thursday 9th March

- Chris Packham Goes Totally Wild
- Curry and Quiz - Sutton Coldfield
- Matthew Bournes Nutcracker
- Metro Bar and Grill Dining
- Spice Book Club

Friday 10th March

- Indoor Climbing in Coventry
- Keswick-Derwent, North Lakes Walking W'end
- Valentines Kirkby Stephen Weekend

Saturday 11th March

- Birmingham "City of Love" Walk
- Crocodiles of the World Evening Tour
- Culinary Showcase Lasan Eatery
- Fine Art Encounters - Pre Raphaelite Art
- Hoar Cross Easy Ramble and Lunch
- Rare Breeds Farmer for The Day and Lunch
- Silver Jewellery Making Taster Course

Sunday 12th March

- Arctic Hare Spotting Ramble
- CSI Workshop - Awakening The Dead
- Go Ape in Cannock
- Golf - Learn to Play in a Day
- Napton On The Hill Easy/Moderate Ramble
- Oscott College Seminary Visit
- Segway Intro and Woodland Race at Garlands

Monday 13th March

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester

Tuesday 14th March

- Non Valentines Dinner Shuffle in Droitwich
- Solihull Pub Night
- South Pacific

Wednesday 15th March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Stomp

Thursday 16th March

- Badminton at NIA
- Belly Dancing for Fun!
- Stafford Pub Night
- Warwick / Leamington Pub Night

Friday 17th March

- Cotswolds Luxury Walking + Social Weekend
- Dorset Coast and Country Walking W'end
- Spice Hits Town at the Jam House
- Winter Camping Pod and Walking Weekend

Saturday 18th March

- Don't Diet - Change the way you Eat
- Elisabeth Svendsen Trust Visit
- Le Jardin Punjabi Experience
- Slimbridge VIP Day
- Winter in the Forest

Sunday 19th March

- Attract, Create and Maintain your Perfect Relationship
- Bearley and Stratford Canal Easy Ramble/ Coventry City Walk
- Lathkill Dale In Winter
- Power Kiting and Kite Buggy Full Day

Monday 20th March

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Bromsgrove Pub Night

Tuesday 21st March

- Kings Heath Pub Night
- Soirée Gastronomique in Leamington

Wednesday 22nd March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Under The White Tent - Police Forensics

Thursday 23rd March

- Birmingham Pub Treasure Trail
- Unihoc (Mixed Indoor Hockey)

Friday 24th March

- Anne Boleyn at Tutbury Castle
- Borrowdale Walking and Wine Tasting W'end
- Cycling Weekend - Bath
- Egyptian Discovery Day
- Lake District Ultimate Challenge Walking W'end
- Owl Handling Experience

Saturday 25th March

- Claverdon Easy Ramble
- Colour U Confident Workshop
- Indoor Skydiving
- Jewellery Making with Beads (Was Bead Loft)
- Peak Classic Caves Day

Sunday 26th March

- Abseiling for the Terrified
- Cafe Ceramica Experience
- Hagley Hall Tour + Tea with Viscount Cobham
- Introduction to Acrylic Painting Day
- Moira and Donnithorpe *Easy/Moderate Ramble*
- My Time with the Gorillas + Sunday Lunch
- Six Hills Ramble

Monday 27th March

- Badminton For Fun - Worcester
- Jaguar Cars Visit
- Preview Evening (Arden Hotel)

Tuesday 28th March

- Badminton at NIA
- Quiz

Wednesday 29th March

- Badminton For Fun - Coventry
- Badminton For Fun - Wolverhampton
- Knowle Leap Year Torchlight Ramble

For future listings visit:
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...and meet lots of people you wouldn't otherwise meet". **Jamie, Spice member**

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BUSHWACKERS 103 Edmund St, B3 2HZ Tel: 0121 236 4994

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GATECRASHER 183 Broad St, B15 1DA Tel: 0121 525 1300

02 ACADEMY 16-18 Horsefair, Bristol St, B1 1DB Tel: 0121 622 8250

OCEANA BIRMINGHAM Hurst St, B4 4EH Tel: 0845 4025390

REFLEX 36-37 Broad St, B1 2DY Tel: 0121 643 0444

SNOBS NIGHTCLUB 29 Paradise Circus, Queensway, B1 2BJ Tel: 0121 643 5551

BLACK COUNTRY

INSOMNIA NIGHTCLUB 2 Bradford Place, Walsall WS1 1PL Tel: 01922 614300

OCEANA WOLVERHAMPTON Bilston Rd, Wolverhampton Tel: 0845 402 5290

SHROPSHIRE

C:21 NIGHTCLUB 21 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE Tel: 01743 271821

EDEN LOUNGE 13 Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DJ Tel: 01743 359020

FEVER 19 - 21 Hills Lane, Shrewsbury SY1 1QU Tel: 01743 247508

THE OFFICE 27a Market Street, Oakengates TF2 6EN Tel: 01952 616536

ONYX & BLU Raven Meadows, Shrewsbury SY1 1PL. Tel: 01743 289063

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

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EVOLVE NIGHTCLUB 2 Spencer Street, Leamington Spa, Coventry CV31 3NF Tel: 01926 435310

JJ'S Skydome Leisure Park, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ. Tel: 02476 555913

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TRAMPS Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN Tel: 019905 26936

VELVET LOUNGE Angel Place, Worcester WR1 3QN. Tel: 019905 619966



American DJ in the house...

Gatecrasher, Birmingham, Saturday 25 February

The internationally acclaimed and Grammy award-winning American house music DJ Roger Sanchez is set to return to the UK late this month to perform at Birmingham's premier dance venue. Recognised for pushing musical boundaries, Sanchez is responsible for some of the biggest dance tracks of all time, and has worked with superstars Diana Ross, The Police, Chic and Daft Punk, as well as enjoying success with his own recordings, three of which showed in the top 25 Billboard Charts in the same week. Roger also contributed to the soundtrack of Hollywood movie Blade. Check him out when he headlines fellow house DJs Nervo, Martin Wright and Kris Shaw at Gatecrasher on the 25th. *Read the interview with Roger Sanchez, online at www.whatsonlive.co.uk*

Gay SCENE

Relaunch for Birmingham venue

The Nightingale Club in Birmingham's gay village is relaunching its top floor on 25 February with a visit from the infamous Royal Vauxhall Tavern's Slags/Chill-Out night.

The evening's entertainment includes a special guest appearance from the DE Experience, as well as music from DJs Simon Le Vans (Gaydar Radio), Andy Almighty (7th Heaven/Almighty) and Sean Sirrs (Lovemuscle).

The night promises uplifting commercial house and dance anthems, plus mixes you won't have heard anywhere else.

Downstairs in the main room, there's a live PA from Brown Girl In The Ring stars Boney M, with the event being hosted by The Only Way Is Essex and Celebrity Big Brother star Kirk Norcross. Advance tickets are £5, with the price rising on the night to £10.



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THE NIGHTINGALE Kent St, B5 6RD Tel: 0121 622 1718

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WARWICKSHIRE

RAINBOWS Short St, Coventry CV1. Tel: 02476 551738

WORCESTERSHIRE

VELVET CLUB Angel Row, Worcester, WR1 3QN Tel: 01905 20218

Books

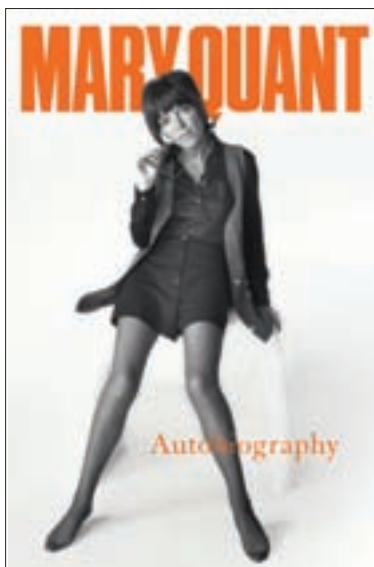
Mary Quant: My Autobiography

By Mary Quant

Creator of the micro-mini and plastic raincoats, Mary Quant will forever be known for having instigated a fashion revolution, and for setting the standard for those who followed.

Born in London in 1934, Quant trained at Goldsmith's School of Art, where she met her future husband and business partner, Alexander Plunket Greene. The couple, together with partner Archie McNair, opened their first shop, Bazaar, on the King's Road, followed by a second in Knightsbridge in 1961. Two years later, and at the height of her fame, Quant began exporting to the US, and had to move into mass production to meet demand.

Mary Quant: My Biography offers a unique account of the fashion icon's whirlwind life - how she started, where she came from, her relationship with her husband, the models she made famous and the photographers of her day. A great book for anyone interested in fashion iconography.



The Duchess Of Windsor: A Memoir

By Diana Mitford

One of the infamous Mitford family, Diana Mitford was a longstanding, intimate friend of both the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and therefore regards herself as well placed to provide an insight into the woman behind one of the biggest scandals ever to rock the British monarchy.

While Madonna's acclaimed film of the relationship between Wallace Simpson and Edward VIII attracts attention both in the UK and abroad, Mitford's witty memoir offers a candid portrait of

the woman she called her friend. What was it about Mrs Simpson that utterly captivated the heir to the throne, making him renounce his crown so that he would never be parted from her? This is the question that Diana Mitford attempts to answer...

Hollow Earth

By John and Carole E. Barrowman

Star of stage and screen John Barrowman has joined forces with his sister Carole to pen this, their first book for children.

Hollow Earth centres on twins Matt and Emily Calder, whose special bond goes beyond the usual connection so often associated with twinned siblings.

Together, Matt and Emily possess special powers - they are Animare: able to bring art to life, or enter paintings at will. When their powers become public, the twins find themselves sought by villains trying to access the terrors of Hollow Earth - a place where all the demons, devils and evil creatures ever imagined lie trapped for eternity. With their pursuers prepared to stop at nothing to get what they want, will the twins ever be free? You'll have to read the book to find out!

TOP 5 BOOKS

- 1 **Inheritance**
Christopher Paolini
- 2 **Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography**
Walter Isaacson
- 3 **Daughters-in-law**
Joanna Trollope
- 4 **Jamie's Great Britain**
Jamie Oliver
- 5 **Before I Go To Sleep**
S.J Watson

TV



New crime drama for the Beeb

Steven Mackintosh (Camelot, Luther), Ashley Walters (Outcasts, Five Days), Warren Brown (Single Father, Luther) and Kierston Wareing (The Shadow Line) all return to our TV screens this month when they appear in a brand new BBC One drama entitled Inside Men. The four-part series follows three employees of a security depot as they plan and execute a multi-million pound cash heist.

Inside Men screens on BBC One early this month.

Read the interview with Steven Mackintosh at www.whatsonlive.co.uk

The story of Mrs Biggs commissioned by ITV

Filming begins in Manchester this month on a new five-part drama that chronicles the life of Charmian Biggs, wife of notorious train robber Ronnie. The story, which will also be shot on location in London, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Paris, Australia and Rio de Janeiro, starts with Charmian's fateful meeting with Biggs on a train, and recounts their early struggle to stay together in the face of fierce opposition from her family. Described as one of the "great untold stories of the twentieth century", Mrs Biggs will take viewers through Charmian's roller-coaster life, which, in the wake of the Great Train Robbery, saw her flee to Australia with the couple's young children.

10 O'Clock Live returns to Channel 4

February sees the launch of a new series of Channel Four's contemporary current affairs show, 10 O'Clock Live. The weekly programme sees David Mitchell reunited with Charlie Booker, Lauren Laverne and Jimmy Carr to reflect on the week's events

and provide an alternative take on the facts, via satire, sketches and round-table discussions. The show, which will be broadcast live each week, also features guest appearances from politicians, cultural commentators and other experts.



Eating Out

Love is in the air...

If you're looking for ways to woo a loved one this Valentine's Day, then why not consider a meal out with a difference. Fusion restaurant Peachykeens, situated in Birmingham's Yardley district, is offering diners the chance to experience a taste of Michael Buble on 11 February, when singer James Williams performs some of the Canadian heartthrob's greatest hits. However, if your other half has a sweet tooth, then maybe a trip to the Horseshoe bar on the Stratford Road would be in order. With Valentine's Day in mind, the venue has created a sublime lychee martini, and will be offering a romantic selection of petit fours, including strawberry pannacotta, dark chocolate truffles and a lemon and berry sorbet, all priced at £7.95.

Mini-makeover for Brindleyplace restaurant

Thai Edge in Birmingham's Brindleyplace has re-opened its doors to the general public after undergoing a mini-makeover for 2012. The project, which was overseen by Antony Carty Interior Design, has given the acclaimed restaurant an ultra-chic feel. Antony Carty said, "The Thai Edge Restaurant was something of a trailblazer from its opening ten years ago. Its simplicity, white walls, and minimalism was very contemporary in its day, and very different for an ethnic restaurant. We wanted to maintain that wonderful sense of calm and simplicity. However, as things have moved on and customers' requirements changed, we've created an environment that is warmer and more inviting whilst adding a further element of glamour and style - a beautiful space in which to enjoy the excellent cuisine."



Comedian Patrick Monahan attends new restaurant opening

ITV's Show Me The Funny winner Patrick Monahan was in fine form as he entertained guests at the recent opening of Pasta di Piazza La Favorita Ristorante in Birmingham's Sparkbrook district. The restaurant, which is run by Carlo Crimmoli, offers classic Italian dishes as well as a new take on Asian cuisine - a fusion of Pakistani and Kashmiri dishes, freshly cooked to order. Carlo, who opened his first restaurant on Birmingham's Hagley Road twenty years ago, has two other restaurants, in Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone. To find out more, or to book at table at Pasta di Piazza La Favorita Ristorante, visit, www.lafavorita.co.uk



Patrick Monahan with Carlo Crimmoli & Cllr Mohammed Fazal



Hidden Indian treasure in Walsall

REVIEW

In the words (well, the word) of Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood, the newly opened Five Rivers Indian restaurant is simply a-mazing! The décor, the food, the service, the cocktails, the wine (the White Company toiletries in the rest rooms - very impressed) - it's all fantastic. My partner and I were looked after from the moment we stepped through the door to the point of getting into the taxi at 11pm, having experienced one of the most enjoyable evenings we'd had in a long time. We started in the bar with a large bottle of Cobra (£5.50) and a delicious Belvedere Cytrus Cosmo (£6.50), accompanied by a bowl of warm spicy nuts. The waiter suggested we had a bottle of Tamarind Garden white wine (£11.95) to accompany our meal - it's a Five Rivers exclusive and compliments Indian food very well. Traditional poppadoms were served warm and

very fresh with an assortment of spicy chutneys, after which our starters arrived: Tandoori Jingha (£6.95) - jumbo prawns marinated in a blend of spices, cooked over charcoal flames (extremely tasty), and Fish Amritsari (£5.50) - succulent chunks of cod in a gram flour batter, delicately spiced and deep-fried to a rich golden finish; perfectly cooked, light and very succulent. For mains, my partner chose the Nihari Shank (£10.50), a lamb shank cooked with ginger, garlic, garam masala, nutmeg, mace and fresh coriander. I chose the Karahi Gosht (£8.50), a meat braised dish in a spicy masala of garlic, ginger, onions, tomatoes, green chillies and fresh green coriander. We'd happily choose these dishes again, as both were beautifully cooked and boasted a spicy kick that made your mouth water. The mains were accompanied by a matar pilau rice (£2.50), steamed basmati rice (£2.50) and quarters of garlic & coriander naan (£2.50), all of which were delicious.

For dessert, I chose the Baileys bombe (£4) - Belgian milk chocolate and Baileys marquis-style mousse, infused with the fruity flavour of raspberry. The chocolate and raspberry were a perfect combination, and I enjoyed it immensely. My partner chose the Assiette de chocolat (£4) - a trio of desserts; chocolate and orange mousse, a pistachio dome, and a mini chocolate brownie. All three were exquisite. Would I go back? Most definitely, and for any occasion at that, as Five Rivers is perfect for a big celebration, family meal, a catch-up with friends or a romantic night out. It really does tick all the boxes!
Vicky Price

Food: ■■■■■
Service: ■■■■■
Ambience: ■■■■■
Overall value ■■■■■
OVERALL ■■■■■

Five Rivers Group
A la Carte | Outdoor
Vicarage Place
Walsall
WS1 3NA
01922 646164

Seafood heaven at Shrewsbury restaurant...

When you walk into a chain restaurant, you feel like you know what you're going to get - nothing too unexpected, nothing too out of the ordinary, and nothing that's going to make you sit up and take notice.

Unless, that is, you walk into Loch Fyne in Shrewsbury, which is, without question, one of the best chain restaurant experiences I've ever had! You open the door on a landscape of sensory excitement - the buzz of packed restaurant conversation (always a good sign), exposed kitchens and seafood counter, the smell of wine and fish sauces, warm décor and high ceilings, and friendly, knowledgeable staff.

After we'd sat down at our table in the centre of the restaurant, the lovely Assistant Manager Joe came over with the specials and some of his recommendations. We chose a very moreish dish of king prawns in hot chilli and garlic oil with lemon and herbs, along with the most indulgent mussel & clam chowder I'd ever eaten!

For the main course, we shared a three-tier platter of fresh seafood - packed with lobster, crab, langoustines, prawns, oysters, squid, clams, mussels, crayfish and scallops - and a big bowl of chunky chips. Manager Justine Ellory came over and explained the best way to eat the oysters. A fantastic, messy and very tasty experience ensued! We finished off with a refreshing mango & passion fruit sorbet and a dessert trio of panacotta, cheesecake and pear crumble. Even after all that, I still felt somewhat disap-



pointed to have missed out on all the other really appetising dishes that I *hadn't* selected.

It has to be mentioned that the fish inevitably aren't going to be as fresh-tasting as those that you find on stalls on the Cornish coast, so bear this in mind when you visit. That said, you'll no doubt still come away with the opinion that, should a desire for a hearty fish or seafood meal take hold of you when you're *not* holidaying on the English coast, Loch Fyne is the place to head for.

In fact, I can feel that desire for a hearty fish-dish coming on already... *Jessica Matthews*

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Loch Fyne Restaurant,
Market Street,
Shrewsbury,
SY1 1LG.
Tel: 01743 277140

New year, new look for Birmingham restaurant...

For many, the New Year is about starting afresh. In mid-January, with most people's attempts at detoxing having begun to wane, Thai Edge in Birmingham opened its doors, ready to welcome diners to a newly refurbished restaurant.

The interior makeover has created a beautiful restaurant which, unlike other Thai establishments, avoids being fussy and overwhelming. The contemporary design is reflected in the décor and newly installed frames that incorporate a creative Thai design. The venue offers a relaxing ambience.

Having received more than enough recommendations for the dish, I started with head chef Boi's signature offering, Tom Yam Goong. It provided just the right tonic for a cold January night. Accompanying this, I went for the Gai Ho Bau Tloy - appealing to the eye and also a joy to eat. The tender chicken wrapped in pandanus leaves left me wanting more.

My dining companion opted for Tord Mun Khao Phod - divine sweetcorn cakes which, though light and flavoursome, also had that all-important crunch.

Ordering our main proved to be troublesome, as the extensive menu, containing one hundred-and-forty-five dishes, meant that we were spoilt for choice! I ordered Gae Nong Khai Special, a lamb dish with a chilli kick, but not one that was *too* overpowering

- I was still able to taste the dish's other key flavours of lemon grass and sweet basil. My vegetarian guest chose the Choo Chee Pak dish, and found it to be so delightful that he intends to return to Thai Edge very soon to revisit the experience!

Our choice of a single dessert to share between us was the Mint Chocolate Bombe, a thoroughly enjoyable way to end a hugely satisfying meal.

The smart lines of the restaurant, combined with the stylish Thai design, reflect Thai Edge's intention to offer diners authentic, flavoursome Thai dishes in stylish surroundings. The attentive and very pleasant waitresses ensured that we were well looked after throughout the night.

Nestled in amongst the many eateries in bustling Brindleyplace, Thai Edge has generated a reputation for delivering beautiful-looking and authentic Thai cuisine. It's a reputation which looks likely to be further enhanced in the years to come.

Parv Gandham

Food:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Service:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Ambience:	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Overall value	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
OVERALL	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Thai Edge
7 Oozells Square
Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HL
Tel: 0121 643 3993

For full listing information on restaurants, including opening times and type of cuisine, visit:

www.whatsonlive.co.uk

Birmingham

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 7766

BAR EPERNAY 171-
172 Wharfedale Street,
The Mailbox, 0121 632
1430

BAR ESTILO 10-114
Wharfedale St, The
Mailbox, B11RF
0121 643 3443

BARN T GREEN INN
Kendal End Rd, Rednal
B45 8PZ 0121 445 4949

BARTONS ARMS
144 High Street, Aston,
B6 5UP 0121 333 5988

BARAJEE 265 Broad
St, B1 2DS
0121 643 6700

BELLA ITALIA 102 New
St, B2 4HQ
0121 6431548

THE BERLOIZ
Burlington Arcade,
New St, B2 4JQ
0121 633 1737

BLUE MANGO 5 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

BUONISSIMO 1 Albany
Rd, Harborne, B17 9JX
0121 426 2444

**BRANDED BULL
STEAKHOUSE**
175 Broad Street, B15
1DT. 0121 643 5968

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 70 Hurst
St, The Arcadian
Centre, B5 4TD 0121
683 8350

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

CHINA RED 193-194
Broad St, B15 1AY 0121
632 6688

CHUNG YING 17
Thorpe St, B5 4RT

0121 622 5669

**CITY CAFE
RESTAURANT**
Mint Hotel, 1 Brunswick
Square, Brindleyplace,
B1 2HW 0121 633 6300

CIELO 6 Oozells
Square, Brindleyplace,
B1 2JB 0121 632 6882

COTE The Mailbox, B1
1RX 0121 631 1587

CUIZENE 17 Thorp
Street, B5 4AT
0121 622 5573

**DEOLALI BAR
RESTAURANT**
23A St Mary's Row,
Moseley B13 8HW
0121 442 2222

DEL VILLAGGIO
Unit 528, Middle Mall
The Bullring B5 4BE
0121 643 1400

DUET CUISINE
Unit 1, Fort Dunlop
B24 9FD. 0121 748
1234

EDMUNDS 6 Brindley
place, B1 2 JB 0121
633 4944

GREEN ROOM Hurst
St, B5 4DT 0121 605
4343

HA HA BAR & GRILL
178-180 Wharfedale St,
The Mailbox, B1
0121 632 1250

HARJEE'S SPICES
512 Stratford Road,
Sparkhill, Birmingham,
B11 4AH
0121 773 6130

THE HOUSE Bennetts
Hill, B2 5RS 0121 643
2220

ITIHAAS 18 Fleet St,
B3 1JL 0121 212 3383

JAMIE'S ITALIAN
Middle Mall
Bullring Shopping
Centre, B5 4BE
0121 270 3610

THE JUNCTION
212 High Street,
Harborne, B17 9PT
0121 428 2635

JJUJU'S
Canal Square, B16 8BZ
0121 456 3384

JIMMY SPICES
Regency Wharf, Broad
St, B1 2DS 0121643
2111

JIMMY SPICES 64-66
Station Rd, Solihull,
B91 3RX 0121 709
2111

KINNAREE THAI
22 Waterfront Walk, B1
1SN. 0121 665 6568

LA BASTILLE 220
Corporation St, B4 6QB
0121 236 1171

**LAHORE KARAH
HALAL CHINESE AND
BALTI** 309 Highgate
Road, B12 8DN
0121773 7575

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 TASCIA Regency
Wharf, B1 2DS 0121
643 9888

LOCH FYNE Mere
Green Road, Sutton
Coldfield. B75 5BL 0121
308 9410

THE LOFT LOUNGE
143 Bromsgrove St,

Restaurant LISTINGS

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
01785 253279

CHANDLERS
6 Conduit St, Lichfield,
WS13 01543 416688

CHLOE'S George St,
Burton. DE14 1DP
01283 563697

THE CORNER HOUSE
Second Avenue,
Burton-On-Trent DE14
2WF
01283 542321

**ESSENCE OF THE
ORIENT** 27 Broad Eye,
Stafford ST16 2QB
01785 229988

FOUR SEASONS
Swinfen Hall Lichfield,
WS14 9RE 0844 567
2407

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
Shenstone, Wood End,
Lichfield WS14 (01543)
483334

MALABAR 1 Water
Street, Stafford, ST16
2AG 01785 227 500/600

THE MEETING ROOM
41 Piccadilly, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1EN
01782 205554

MARLOES 13 London
Road, Newcastle, ST5
1LQ 01782 661983

THE MILL 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
12 Percy Street, Hanley,
ST1 1NE 01782 263 737

THE PEARL 18 Market
St, Kids Grove, ST7 4AB
01782 788887

THE PEAR TREE
Swinfen, Nr. Lichfield,
WS14 9QR 01543
481807

PORTOFINO 38-40
Marsh St Stoke-On-
Trent, ST1 1JD
Tel: 01782 209444

THE RED ROOM
7 Newcastle Road,
Congleton CW12 4HN
01260 297871

SHIMLA PALACE
Wolsely Bridge Stafford
ST170XS 01889 881025

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
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 42 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 CELLAR 5 The
Knibbs, Smith St,
Warwick, CV34 4UW
01926 400809

EGO 29 The Square,
Kenilworth, CV8 1EF
01926 864463

FIVE RIVERS 20-22
Victoria Terrace,
Leamington Spa,
CV31 3AB 01926
431999

GEORGETOWN
23 Sheep St, Stratford-
Upon-Avon, CV37 6EF
01789 204445

THE GRANVILLE
52, Wellesbourne Rd,
Barford, CV35 8DS
01926 624236

LANE'S 6 Castle St,
Warwick CV34 4BP
01926 403030

**THE LORD LEYCES-
TER 17-19** Jury St,
Warwick, CV34 4EJ
01926 491481

MALBEC
6 Union St, Stratford-
Upon-Avon, CV37 6QT
01789 269106

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 RESTAU-
RANT 15** Dormer
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

**OYSTER LOUNGE 12-
14** Jury St, Warwick,
CV34 4EW 01926
495491

PEEL'S Hampton
Manor, Hampton-in-
Arden, Solihull, B92
0EN 01675 446080

PREZZO 1-3 High St,
Warwick CV34 4AP
01926 475867

RAFFLES 57 Warwick

The Granville, Barford



Rd, Kenilworth, CV8
1HN 01926 864 300

THE RED LION Station
Rd, Warwick CV35
8PE
01926 842291

RESTAURANT 23
23 Dromer Place,
Leamington Spa, CV32
5AA 01926 422422

ROBBIES 74 Smith St,
Warwick CV34 4HU
01926 400470

ROSE & CROWN 30
Market Place, Warwick
CV34 4SH 01926
411117

**ROOFTOP
RESTAURANT**
Royal Shakespeare
Theatre, Waterside,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
CV37 6BB
01789 403449

SAFFRON Market St,
Westgate House,
Warwick CV34 4DE
01926 402061

THE SAXON MILL
Coventry Rd, Guys
Cliffe, Warwick CV34
5YN 01926 492 255

**SIGNATURES AT THE
BELGRADE**
Belgrade Theatre,
Belgrade Square,
Coventry, CV1 1GS
02476 846762

TAILORS 22 Market
Place, Warwick CV34
4SL 01926 410590

THAI ELEPHANT
8-10 Theatre St,
Warwick CV34 4DP
01926 410688

THE TREVELYN
Warwick Rd, Stratford-
upon-Avon, CV37 ONR
01789 295252

WARWICK SPICE 24
Smith St, Warwick
CV34 4HS 01926
491736

THE VINE INN West
St, Warwick CV34 6AW
01926 490744

ZIZZI 29 The Square,
Kenilworth, CV8 1EF
01926 852980

Worcestershire

ANAKARI 47 The
Tythings, Worcester.
01905 21412

ANGEL CHEF Angel St,
Worcester WR1 3QT
01905 731131

ASHLEYS 11 The
Tything, Worcester WR1
1HD 01905 611747

BACCHUS 44
Worcester Rd
Bromsgrove B61 7AE
01527 877557

BENEDICTOS 34
Sidbury, Worcester WR1
2HZ 01905 21444

THE BEAR AND

RAGGED STAFF Station
Rd, Worcester WR6 5JH
01886 833399

BRAMBLINGS Hither
Green Lane, Redditch,
B98 9BE 0871 2079595

BROWNS 20 Quay St,
Worcester WR1 2JJ
01905 26263

CHESTERS 51 New St,
Worcester, WR1 2DP
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
Lovesmoor, Worcester
WR1 2RS 01905 2702

FUSION BRASSERIE
Hawbridge, Stoulton,
Worcester WR7 4RJ
01905 840647

GLASSHOUSE 55
Sidbury, Worcester
WR1 2HU 01905
611120

**THE HADLEY
BOWLING GREEN**
Hadley Heath, Hadley,
WR9 0AR 01905
620294

**THE INN AT STONE-
HALL** Stonehall
Common, Worcester,
WR5 3QG 01905
820462

KING CHARLES II
King Charles House,
New St, Worcester WR1
2D 01905 22449

LITTLE VENICE 1 St
Nicholas St, Worcester
WR1 1UW 01905
726126

MASSALLA LOUNGE
35 Broad St, Worcester
WR1 3NH 01905
729955

MONSOON 35
Foregate St, Worcester,
WR1 1EE 01905
726333

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

OAP 01527 517003

PEPPER & OZ 23
Abbey Rd, Gt Malvern
WR14 3ES 01684
562676

THE PRIORY VIEW
Abbey Rd, Gt Malvern
WR14 3ET
0845 084 8923

PUCCINI'S, 12 Friar St,
Worcester WR12LZ
01905 27770

THE QUAY Worcester
WR1 2JN 01905 745
792

THE QUEENS HEAD
Sugarbrook Lane,
Bromsgrove, B30 3AU
01527 877777

RED ROOMS Church
St, Worcester WR1
2RH
01905 28228

RILEY'S The
Quadrant, Redditch
B98 8AE 01527 60544

ROSADOS'S 2 Finstall
Rd, Aston Fields,
Bromsgrove. B60 2DZ
01527 889948

ROSEANNAS St.
Andrews Drive,
Droitwich, WR9 8AL
01905 779677

SAFFRONS 15 New
St, Worcester WR1
2DP 01905 610505

SINGAPORE 29 Friar
St, Worcester WR1
2NA 01905 613005

SPICE CUISINE 39-41
Bromyard Terrace,
Worcester WR2 5BW
01905 429786

SPICE FUSION St
Andrews St, Droitwich,
WR9 8DY 0871 961
7008

THAI GALLERY 26-32
Friar St, Worcester
WR1 2LZ 01905 25451

VALENTINO'S 43
Foregate St, Worcester
WR1 1EE 01905
617773

VENTURE INN
Ombersley, Droitwich,
WR9 0EW 01905
620552

THE WILDMOOR OAK
Top Road, Wildmoor,
Bromsgrove B61 0RB
0121 453 2696

WYCH WAY INN
Worcester Rd,
Wychbold, WR9 7PA
01527 860130

Hortons Fine Dining Restaurant, Solihull



To get your restaurant listed here
e: info@whatsonlive.co.uk
or call Jon Cartwright
on 01743 281703



Cucina Rustica

Saint Paul's Square, 24 Ludgate Hill
Birmingham, B3 1DX
Tel: 0121 233 2277
Email: info@cucinarustica.co.uk
web: www.cucinarustica.co.uk



- For lovers of finest food and attentive service
- An explosion of flavour of true Italian food
- The restaurant believes in traditional and authenticity on classic recipes with a modern twist
- Deciding where to go to add that special touch to family events, business meetings or social parties will no longer be a difficult decision.

THE DINNER CLUB (Est 86) SINGLE?

For the more discerning unattached person, age 30-45 or 45+

Events weekly include dining out, dinner dances, black tie balls, theatre, parties, weekends away and holidays abroad.

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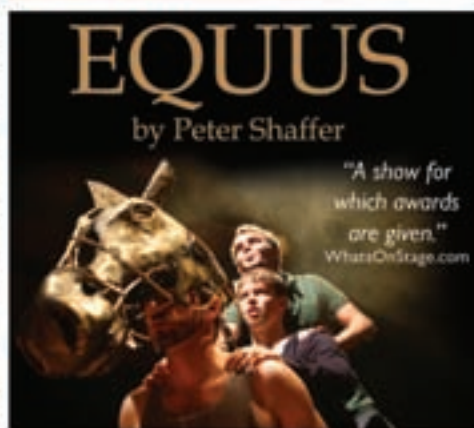
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