

FUNNY THINGS

MAKING WOLVES LAUGH

FULL LISTINGS

23 October - 5 November, 2017

funny-things.co.uk / @FunnyThingsBC

Venues across Wolverhampton

Full Event Listings - ADULT & FAMILY EVENTS

Saturday 21st October (warming up for the festival)

Workshop

Women's Comedy Course with Janice Connolly

10.30am – 3.30pm

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Funny Things and Women of Wolverhampton present a comedy course for women, with Janice Connolly (aka comedy circuit headliner Barbara Nice)

Can you make people laugh?

Ever fancied having a go at stand-up comedy?

The comedy course provides a great opportunity for women to develop stand-up skills and have a laugh together.

During the Saturday workshop on 21st October, participants will work with Janice Connolly to develop their skills and confidence in stand-up comedy and produce their own 3-5 minute set. There will also be an opportunity to take part in a showcase performance for your family and friends at Newhampton Arts Centre on Monday 30th October, hosted by Barbara Nice, with an opportunity for a one-to-one rehearsal slot during that day with Janice, to get you ready for the performance that evening.

'A fantastic opportunity, met some wonderful people, I loved the experience.' – Lindsay, previous comedy course participant.

Age guidance 16+

Tickets £10 per person. Contact funnythingswolves@gmail.com or call 07967 187822 to reserve your place.

(this fee covers the workshop session and participation in the showcase performance).

Lunch is not included in the price, but the gallery café will be open during the workshop day, serving food and hot and cold drinks.

Monday 23rd October

In Conversation

FRANCESCA MARTINEZ IN CONVERSATION WITH BARBARA NICE

7.30pm-9pm

Slade Rooms

We're kicking off the Funny Things Festival with the fabulous Francesca Martinez in conversation with Barbara Nice about being wobbly in a world obsessed with being 'normal', and her brilliant book 'What The **** Is Normal?!' which was nominated for the Chortle Comedy Best Book Award. It'll be available afterwards and she might even sign one if you'd like a copy.

[Tickets £12 from Midlands Box Office](#)

Tuesday 24th October

Stand-up

BLUE GIRAFFE COMEDY CLUB FEATURING JACK KIRAN AND FRIENDS

8pm – 11pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Wolverhampton's very own Blue Giraffe Comedy Club hosts a night of brilliant comedy, with local comedian Jack Kiran and guests.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door

Wednesday 25th October

Funny Kids and families

SILENT CLOWNS: A SLAPSTICK WORKSHOP FOR KIDS - Age 5-11

10am–11.30am and 12.30pm-2pm

Newhampton Arts Centre

In this workshop, we'll be introducing a group of budding silent comedians to some of the funniest scenes from the silent film era, and teaching them the tricks of the silent comedy trade through clowning, games, and performing little skits. At the end of the workshop, parents will be invited to see a short performance.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

[Tickets £5 per child from Newhampton Arts Centre](#)

Funny Kids and families

CUSTARD PIE CEREMONY WITH LIVE MUSIC - Fun for all the family

3pm-4.15pm

Newhampton Arts Centre

We'll be celebrating the art of throwing the custard pie with a selection of silent and sound shorts and extracts from films from the 1910s, 20s, and 30s. Featuring, amongst others, Mabel Normand and Fatty Arbuckle in *A Noise from the Deep* (1913), Charlie Chaplin in *His Trysting Places* (1914) and *Behind the Screen* (1916), and everyone's favourite comedy duo Laurel & Hardy in *The Battle of the Century* (1927). A pianist will accompany the films, whilst performer Katie O'Malley will orchestrate the ceremony.

[Tickets £5 adult, £3 child from Newhampton Arts Centre](#) or Midland Box Office.

Spoken Word

BINGHAM & WOODALL COMIC POETRY

7.30pm-8.15pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

These local poets have wowed audiences in the Black Country with their topical off the wall, comical and slightly bonkers style. You have been warned.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Spoken Word

WITTY WENCHES

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Witty Wenchies are three funny women from Wolverhampton who entertain with sharply-observed topical poetry. Emma Purshouse, Jane Seabourne and Marion Cockin share stories of flamingos from Dudley Zoo, a man with 100 pairs of specs and the Wednesbury Mangle Theory.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

FUNNY THINGS STUDENT & GRADUATE COMEDY SHOWCASE

8pm-10pm

The Outback

Come and see the local up-and coming comedy talent from students and recent graduates of the University of Wolverhampton, hosted by professional comedian and alumni Shaun Hartman.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Variety

SEAN KELLY & THE STARS OF STORAGE HUNTERS: A NIGHT OF COMEDY & CHARITY AUCTION

8pm

Wulfrun Hall

Star of Storage Hunters, Sean Kelly, the ever-smiling, ever shouting auctioneer, has led a crazy life... be prepared to learn a hell of a lot more about his unusual story in this raw and funny show. He will be joined by the show's other stars; T-Money and Green Mile.

[Tickets £21 + booking fee.](#)

Thursday 26th October

Funny Kids and families

SIGNOR BAFFO - OH PRODUCTIONS - Age 3+

2pm

Newhampton Arts Centre

An interactive children's show, there's chaos in the kitchen when Signor Baffo is left in charge. Expect plates-full of fun, with generous helpings of silliness, mischief and adventure. What's the best way to mix meatballs with spaghetti? How do you make a chicken lay an egg, and how does a sausage roll? All is revealed in the charming culinary chaos of Signor Baffo's kitchen.

[Tickets £6.50 Adult / £4.50 Child / £20 Family from Newhampton Arts Centre](#)

Improv

IMPROVISATIONS WITH NICHOLAS HOLT

7pm-8pm

The Outback

Dance artist Lewys Holt and comedian/producer Daniel Nicholas will be writing, choreographing and performing simultaneously on stage. Sometimes funny.

Sometimes not. Who knows what will happen? They don't.

Age guidance 16+

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

In Conversation

AN EVENING WITH STEVE DALEY

7pm-10pm, Doors open at 7.00pm for food.

Molineux Stadium

Join *Steve Daley*, one of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC's funniest players of all time, as he chats about his career in football.

Steve Daley is most famous for scoring after 17 seconds in his UEFA Cup debut in the semi-final against Ferencváros. That goal still holds the record for being the fastest goal ever scored in European football cup competitions.

Comedian *Sam Harland* will host the evening, with his unique, observational humour, drawn from his working-class roots. Sam will share some of his own colourful past escapades in his self-deprecating, ironic and honest style.

Ticket price includes burger & chips and one drinks voucher (pint of Beer, small glass of wine or soft drink) and a private table. Food will be served between 7pm & 7.45pm, show will start at 8pm. Tickets £20 from Midland Box Office + BF.

Stand-up

ELEANOR CONWAY: WALK OF SHAME

7.30pm

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Ferocious clubber and party girl Eleanor Conway has partied around the world as a music journalist, ran off to Asia to work for the triads, made hardcore porn and Tinder'd her way through most of London... Now sober she's failing to find moderation and meaning.

[Tickets £12 / £10 concs + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

TOM STADE: I SWEAR

7.30pm

Wulfrun Hall

Direct from the Edinburgh Festival, the Canadian tour-de-force is back with a brand-new show that combines off-the-scale charm, razor-sharp wit and a no-holds barred attitude; Tom pledges to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

[Tickets £17 + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

BLUE GIRAFFE COMEDY CLUB FEATURING IAN COGNITO

8pm -11pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Blue Giraffe Comedy Club hosts a jam-packed night of brilliant comedians, with headliner Ian Cognito.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

SARAH BENNETTO: ALL MY LIFE'S MISTAKES, CATALOGUED (VOLUME 1)

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Outback

One dimwit comedian's every dumb decision. Presented in list form. 50 great mistakes guaranteed.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BEC HILL: OUT OF ORDER

10pm-11pm

The Outback

Stand-up, pop-ups and post-its from the award-winning Australian comedian.

[£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.](#)

Friday 27th October

Funny Kids and families

FUNNY BONES COMEDY WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

9.30am-12pm for ages 5-10. 1.30pm – 4.30pm for ages 11-16

Newhampton Arts Centre

Find your funny bone in these comedy workshops for children led by professional actress and funny woman, Tonia Daley-Campbell. Find out what makes people laugh and discover your own unique funny style. Plus there's a chance to perform at the Funny Market on 28th and 29th Oct as part of the Funny Things comedy festival.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

[Tickets £3 per child from Newhampton Arts Centre](#)

Funny Kids and families

HANNAH AND MARIE'S COMEDY FOR WHIPPERSNAPPERS - Age 5-12

2pm-3pm

Molineux Stadium

Who likes comedy? We do! Hannah Silvester and Marie O'Connor have been performing together since they met at university and made each other laugh so much they nearly passed out. They've been performing comedy for kids for a while now, and people think they are pretty good at it. Come and see their silly show.

Tickets £5 adult / £3 child from Midland Box Office.

In Conversation

AN AFTERNOON WITH CHRISTOPHER BIGGINS

2pm

The Grand Theatre

Join star guest Christopher Biggins in an afternoon talk about his career on the stage, presented by BBC Midlands Today's Nick Owen.

[Tickets from £15 +BF from The Grand Theatre or Midland Box Office.](#)

Variety

BOONYEDS

7pm-8pm

The Outback

The Boonyeds bring us their own brand of comedy, spoken word and song with traditional tales and weird inventions, be entertained by two Black Country philosophers through and through.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

JON COLLINGS: THE GREAT EUROPEAN RIB-TICKLE

7pm-8pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Comic tales from Northern Europe. So that means death, deceit, debauchery and the devil. Robust and earthy, but told in the best possible taste.

Age guidance 12+

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

HENNING WEHN - WESTPHALIA IS NOT AN OPTION

7.30pm

Civic Hall

Join German Comedy Ambassador Henning Wehn for an evening of Teutonic jolliness at its best. Henning's having an unbiased look at immigration and wonders, if, generally speaking, people are competent.

[Tickets £17 + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

HANNAH SILVESTER: WILD-ISH

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Hannah Silvester is lost in a metaphorical wilderness, due to a metaphorical sat-nav malfunction. Join her as she battles the forces of darkness and tries to keep on top of the ironing pile.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

FREDDIE FARRELL & MASAI GRAHAM: BRAND NEW JOKES

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Outback

Local comedian Masai has won Best Joke of Edinburgh Fringe and the UK Pun Championships and is one of Creative Black Country's 100 Masters, while Freddie recently released his debut comedy album.

Age guidance 16+

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

JAY HAMPSON: TERRIFIED

10pm-11pm

The Outback

Jay Hampson hit his 30's, had a kid and realised that the world is a dark and scary place filled with worry and anxiety, the perfect recipe for comedy gold.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Saturday 28 October

FUNNY MARKET

11am – 4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

Free entry

Exhibition

JOKE EXCHANGE PLACARD PARADE

12pm – 2pm

Wolverhampton City Centre

See all of the Joke Exchange placards being paraded around the city centre together for one day only.

Funny Kids and families

PAPER PUPPETS WORKSHOP - Age 5-11

9am-10am

Windsor Toys, Penn

In the intimate setting of a toy shop, work with artist Ruth Swallow to create paper puppets and a theatre for them to perform some hilariously bad jokes. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets £4.50 from Windsor Toys or Midland Box Office.

Funny Kids and families

A CENTURY OF CHAPLIN WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT - All ages

Films showing: The Adventurer | Easy Street | The Immigrant

2pm-3.30pm

Light House Media Centre

1917 was a stellar year for Charlie Chaplin with three of the funniest two-reelers including his favourite short, The Immigrant. We'll be showcasing some of the best moments from the Chaplin archive in this short film compilation in honour of Chaplin's centenary.

Tickets £7 / £5 concessions from Light House Media Centre

Stand-up

STEPHANIE LAING - MAD ABOUT THE BOY

3.30pm-4.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Stephanie's love life has been a rollercoaster ride of awkward sex, self-sabotage and therapy. Come and hear this lovable little weirdo talk about all the boys she's done stuff with, including some proper wrong-uns in this eye-wateringly honest show.

Age guidance 16+

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Performance

BOSTIN BOOTS

4pm-4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

This original comedy play, written and performed by local company, Sneaky Beast, follows the escapades of flamboyant sisters, Caitlyn and Beth, and the kooky characters they encounter at a Black Country car boot.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Tickets available from the Light House box office.

Stand-up

GORDON SOUTHERN: LONG STORY SHORT

3.30pm-4.30pm

The Outback

A vital and timely show about family life, how you shouldn't always meet your heroes and coping with dementia and Alzheimer's.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Performance

BOARD GAME SMACKDOWN

5pm-6pm

The Outback

Fresh from a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe, hosted by award-winning comedian and UK board game champion James Cook, comedians play classic and new board games live on stage.

Age guidance 12+.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Performance

SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK THEATRE DO SHAKESPEARE

6.30pm-7.30pm

The Outback

Back with their hit new show of songs, sketches, socks and violence, taking on The Bard himself. Howl at their Hamlet, roar at their Romeo & Juliet, and peer into their Coriolanus. Hit routines include their versions of Richard the Third and Othello, an investigation of gender roles in Shakespearean comedies, and a demonstration of how the comedy

routines in Shakespeare can be done funny.

Age guidance 12+.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

PAUL SAVAGE IS SET TO SELF DESTRUCT

7pm-8pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Paul Savage gets himself into good positions, then blows it all up. What is this capacity for self-sabotage, and can he fix it?

Age guidance 18+.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

JOSH PUGH

8pm-9pm

The Outback

Work in progress show from the English Comedian of the year 2016.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Theatre

14/48 FOR LAUGHS

7.30pm-10pm

Arena Theatre

14/48 For Laughs sees four short comic plays written, rehearsed and staged in just 24 hours. Hosted by Barbara Nice with support from a selection of local stand-ups, the night throws quick fire challenges at our comedians alongside the speedily produced pieces of comic theatre.

[Tickets £7 / £5 concessions from Arena Theatre](#)

Stand-up

CLEAN COMEDY CLUB

8pm-10pm, Doors open 6.30pm for food.

Zuri Coffee

If you prefer clean comedy (without swearing) with a cuppa in a cosy café, then this night is for you.

Age guidance 12+

Tickets £5 for event only or £13.50 for event and food, from Midland Box Office.

(Food available: Zuri's special chicken or paneer & spinach proutini and drink.) Pre-booking for food is essential.

Film

SING-A-LONG ROCKY HORROR SHOW

8pm

The Grand Theatre

The Campest Cult Classic of all time gets the Sing-along-a treatment! The evening begins with your host leading a vocal warm-up before they show you how to use your free interactive props bag. A screening of the movie - not a live stage show.

Age guidance 15+

[Tickets from £11 + booking fee from The Grand Theatre or Midland Box Office.](#)

Stand-up

BEN VAN DER VELDE: SIDEKICK

9.30pm-10.30pm

The Outback

Some people are life's heroes: leading men and women full of swash, buckle and daring-do. Others just hold their jackets. As the credits roll and the heroes hump, join Ben off-camera as he salutes the Barney Rubbles, Boo- Boos and Dr Watsons of the world.

£5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Sunday 29th October

FUNNY MARKET

11am – 4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

Free entry

Funny Kids & Families

FUNNY POEMS WITH EMMA PURSHOUSE

10.15am-11am and 11.15am-12pm

Windsor Toys, Penn

Here Emma's funny poem collection from her book 'I Once Knew a Poem Who Wore a Hat'.

£3.50 each or £10.50 for a family of four [available from Midland Box Office](#) or Windsor Toys.

Stand-up

SEVEN WONDERS

12.30pm-1.30pm

Bantock House Museum

We've all heard the story of the six wives of Henry VIII, but how much do we really know about them? Wouldn't it be interesting to meet them if they were alive today? Paralleling the lives of these remarkable women with the problems and humour of the modern world Laura Liptrot explains her fascination with each of them.

Suitable for all ages. Free entry.

Workshop

JAM WITH JUMPROV! IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

2pm-3.30pm

The Outback

Improvational comedy session for beginners where you will unleash your awesomeness with the power of improv! No previous experience required, just come along prepared to have fun! Booking is recommended.

Age guidance 16+. Tickets £5 from Midland Box Office.

Comedy Music

ORCHESTRA OF CHAOS

2.30pm-3.30pm

Bantock House Museum in the Tractor Shed

Funny Things Festival Band – Orchestra Of Chaos are making a special appearance at Bantock House as part of their tour to the Four Corners of Wolverhampton.

Free entry.

Performance

BOSTIN BOOTS

4pm-4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

Bostin Boots is an original comedy play written and performed by local company, Sneaky Beast following the escapades of flamboyant sisters, Caitlyn and Beth, and the kooky characters they encounter at a Black Country car boot.

Tickets £5 from Light House Media Centre

Film

GIRL SHY (1924) - FILM WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

4.30pm-5.50pm

Bantock House Museum in the Tractor Shed

A great of the silent era Harold Lloyd stars in one of the most important and influential films of all time. A shy tailor's apprentice with a stutter, he spends his evenings writing 'The Secret of Love Making' – a book that advises bachelors how to find a girlfriend. He learns that the girl he loves is about to marry a bigamist which leads to the exhilarating and hair-raising race sequence.

Promoted by Finchfield & Castlecroft Community Association, supported by Black Country Touring

Age guidance 4+.

£5 each, family ticket £15 (2 Adult, 2 Child) from Midland Box Office and from Bradmore Wines, Trysull Road, Bradmore.

Improv

JUMPROV

5pm-6.30pm

The Outback

A 90-minute sketch comedy show completely made up on the spot and 100% improvised. Jumprov is an energetic local collective of diverse talent with Sunny Dhap, Jade Samuels, Adaya Henry, David Jackson, Chantal Erraoui, Jay Droch and Marius Turner.

Age guidance 16+.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

DAMON CONLAN: JOCLAR PRESTIDIGITATOR (COMEDY MAGICIAN)

6pm-6.45pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Come, mortals, and witness the devilish and original legerdemain that Conlan expertly effuses. There will be humour to delight those faced with the harsh realities of a nuclear winter, miracles of a scientific nature, a racoon in peril, and lots of chocolate.

Age guidance 16+.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

FREDDY QUINNE: QUITE THE CATCH

7pm-8pm

The Outback

Having performed to sell-out audiences at both the Nottingham and Leicester comedy festivals, this debut hour from a bona fide funnyman is already receiving rave reviews.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

STRUAN LOGAN: STRUAN ALL OVER THE WORLD

7pm-8pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Globetrotting Scottish comic shares stories of his gigs and travels through Australia, New Zealand and south east Asia recounting his attempts to understand various cultures whilst failing not to make an ass of himself.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

PAUL KERENSA: NAVELLESS GAZING

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

ITV award-winning comedian Paul Kerensa has no bellybutton. Never had one. What's the point? He keeps his fluff in his pockets. In a world of innies & outies – Paul's a smoothie. Hear tales of bellybuttonlessness, stepbladders and Cornishness (ah yes, that explains it). Plus comedy's last taboo: the new C-word - in a show about disability, dissing ability & insanitary insanity.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

DIANE SPENCER

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Outback

Diane Spencer's new standup show contains more of her sparkling storytelling that has delighted audiences worldwide. With 7 hit shows on YouTube and multiple 5-star reviews, her mix of personal experiences and unflinching honesty make for a brilliant hour.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Monday 30th October

Family Theatre

SIDNEY'S SHED: RHUBARB THEATRE

7.00pm at Penn Hall School, Vicarage Road, Wolverhampton. WV4 5HP

Maisie is running from the bullies and thinks she's just found the perfect place to hide.

But this is no ordinary shed and Sidney Waffles is no ordinary gardener...

Inventor, explorer and winner of this year's 'Best-Veg-in-Show', the potty flower-potter has made some rather unusual improvements to his allotment – Sidney has created the world's first time travelling shed!

Join Sidney and the bravest little girl in Windy-on-the-hill as they take a time-travelling journey to dig up the past and weed out the bullies! This event is being run by Penn Hall School Young Promoters. The Young Promoters Scheme, run by Black Country Touring, brings quality, professional theatre and dance to local venues at a subsidised cost.

Age guidance 5+

Tickets £3 Adults / £1.50 Child / £8 Family from Penn Hall School – 01902 558355

Stand-up

RADU ISAC: ONE ROMANIAN ANSWERING QUESTIONS

7pm-8pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Radu Isac started comedy in 2006 in Bucharest where he was known as Romania's comedian's comedian. In 2015 he moved to London to be known as an open mic comedian. After about 18 months, eight competition finals and BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Wide appearances Radu is proud to call himself the poorest professional comedian on the UK comedy circuit.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BRIGHT CLUB

8pm-9.30pm

Arena Theatre

Bright Club is the thinking person's variety event, where researchers become comedians for just one night. Hear from brilliant academics from the University of Wolverhampton and University of Birmingham tell you funny stories about the fascinating work they do.

The evening will be hosted by professional comedian Paul Duncan McGarrity, who will then be sticking around to perform his show Ask An Archaeologist at 9.45pm.

Age guidance 16+

[Tickets £5 from Arena Theatre or pay what you want on the door.](#)

Stand-up

PAUL DUNCAN MCGARRITY: ASK AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, THE MINORTOUR

9.45pm-10.45pm

Arena Theatre

Paul Duncan McGarrity, the UK's foremost Stand-up comedian archaeologist, as seen on BBC4's The Big Dig, is bringing his critically acclaimed sell out Edinburgh Fringe show 'Ask an Archaeologist' to Funny Things. The 'Ask an Archaeologist' show does exactly what it says in the title. An Archaeologist (Paul) sits in a room with an audience and answers their questions. Most audiences tend to ask about life in the field, but other questions have been about Brexit, time travel and knitting patterns.

Age guidance 16+

[Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.](#)

Tuesday 31st October

Stand-up

DAVE CHAWNER: MENTAL

7pm-8pm

The Outback

A show about mental health (not mental illness) and what it means to have good mental health. Dave is an award-winning comic, published author and campaigner.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up & film

THE ELVIS DEAD

7.30pm-8.30pm, followed by showing of Evil Dead 2 until 10.15pm Arena Theatre

Cult classic horror movie Evil Dead 2 reinterpreted through the songs of Elvis. Every now and then an idea strikes that seems extremely absurd and yet at the same time bizarrely fitting. A tribute concert to the sequel to the ultimate in gruelling terror... and the King of Rock'n'Roll is such an idea.

[Tickets £12 / £10 concessions from Arena Theatre.](#)

Price includes show and film.

Stand-up

HOLT AND TALBOT

7.30pm-8.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Thrown together through financial necessity, without enough material for their own solo shows, Christian Talbot and Rosie Holt will be performing stand-up, sketches and music while barely concealing their mutual contempt for each other.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Film

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

8pm-9.30pm

Giffard Arms

Vampire housemates (Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi, Jonathan Brugh) try to cope with the complexities of modern life and show a newly turned hipster (Cori Gonzalez-Macuer) some of the perks of being undead whilst maintaining an age-old rivalry with the local werewolves.

Age guidance 15+

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BENTLEY BROWNING: TINDER REHAB

8.30pm-9.20pm

The Outback

Come and get detoxed at Tinder Rehab where Browning will take you through the 12 steps to attract love into your life. As featured on BBC Breakfast, The One Show and made fun of on Russell Howard's Good News.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Live Podcast

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME?

9pm-10pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

A podcast hosted by Christian Talbot and Rosie Holt about first loves, relationships, crushes, heartbreaks, unrequited love and bedroom disasters.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Wednesday 1st November

Stand-up

ANDY WHITE: DADDY FOOL

7pm-8pm

The Outback

Do you strive to be a better parent? Don't worry, you'll always be a better one than Andy White. He loves everything about parenthood apart from actually doing it. He's written this funny and honest stand-up show about being a dad. Come see it. You'll laugh, you'll cry and you'll probably want to call social services.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

JIMEOIN

7pm

Wulfrun Hall

Refining a lost art of the commonplace, Jimeoin is a comic with a delightful sense of the absurd and a uniquely low-key style.

[Tickets £17 from Midland Box Office, subject to booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

ZAHRA BARRI: ZIG-AH-ZIG ZAHRA

7.30pm-8.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Zahra has never stood in front of a mirror and taken a Selfie, despite this she feels qualified to talk about popular culture. From Kim Kardashian's Career to Kim Jung Un's Korea, from George Clooney to Wayne Rooney and from Kendal Jenner to Kindle Touches.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Character Comedy

FUTURE PERFECT PRESENTS ANGELOS + BARRY: NEW POWER GENERATION

8pm

Newhampton Arts Centre

Are you lost? Is your soul knackered? Are you disillusioned with the current state of things? If you answered yes to one of these then why not come along to see Angelos and Barry in The New Power Generation? They will identify your weaknesses, expose them in front of everyone and then cure you 100% from whatever rubbish you might have. Like therapists and Gods rolled into one.

Tickets £15 + BF from Newhampton Arts Centre

Stand-up competition

FUNNY WOMEN AWARDS: MIDLANDS HEAT

8pm-10pm

Slade Rooms

Funny Things are working with Funny Women to host the Midlands heat of the National Funny Women Stage Award, with Barbara Nice compering the event.

The Funny Women Awards have left a massive impression on the UK comedy scene. Previous winners and finalists include Bridget Christie, Zoe Lyons, Sara Pascoe and Katherine Ryan.

"I had just started stand-up comedy when I won the award, and loads has changed since then. Funny Women provided me with lots of friends, advice, and exposure." Katherine Ryan, winner Stage Award 2008.

Come along to this event to see the best local comedy talent, who could be the stars of tomorrow. Register to take part in the Funny Women Stage Award here:

funnywomen.com/awards/stage-award/

Deadline to register for the Stage Award is 30th September 2017.

Age guidance 16+

[Tickets £10 / £8 concessions + BF from Midland Box Office.](#)

Music comedy

BAZOOKA CHICKEN

8.00pm-8.30pm

Giffard Arms

Bazooka Chicken has been a band since 1994 and haven't improved at all. Jonny Mon-goose Wa is a jazzhand guitarist and Benny Bobble Bibblefish sings but cannot hit notes.

Age guidance 18+

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

*Please note that this is a new date.

Stand-up

SEAN MORLEY: EARNED HELPLESSNESS

8.30pm-9.20pm

The Outback

Top lad Sean Morley is here with some of the biggest jokes, ready and raring to smash the gig, raze the venue and salt the Earth. Best Show Nominee - Leicester Comedy Festival 2017.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

SUSAN MURRAY: 'YA COR SAY THAT'

9pm-10pm

Giffard Arms

Willenhall's only professional comic comes back to her roots with a bunch of jokes not heard anywhere else in the country knowing full well her Black Country comrades can take her particular brand of dark humour. Strap in cocka.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BEN BRIGGS

9pm-10pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

After sell-out shows at the Leicester Comedy Festival in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, Ben Briggs brings an hour of confrontational and dark, but always very, very funny stand up comedy to Funny Things.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Thursday 2nd November

STAND-UP CHALLENGE SHOWCASE

7pm-10pm, Doors open 6.30pm for food.

Molineux Stadium

The Stand-Up Challenge arrives in Wolverhampton and is supported by local business people who take up the challenge to write and perform their first ever five minutes of stand-up comedy. Performing live on stage, in front of their colleagues, clients, friends and family, whilst raising funds for Funny Things in 2019.

After months of preparation and training by a leading comedian, these six well known leaders of the local business community will attempt this amazing feat and one will be crowned the Wolverhampton Stand Up Challenge Winner 2017.

Hosted by a special guest comedian - these brave participants from the business community take centre stage whilst you feast on food included in your ticket price.

Book now to avoid disappointment.

Supported by Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Molineux Stadium, Black Country Business Festival, Ramada Park Hall, BodyKraft, Wolverhampton Racecourse and organised in association with Associate Events Limited.

Age guidance 18+

Tickets: £25.00 +VAT or £31.00 + VAT inc. Food. Tables of 8 (inc food): £225.00 + VAT from standupchallenge.co.uk.

Stand-up

MICKEY SHARMA: SHARMA SHARMA SHARMA SHARMA SHARMA.....COMEDIAN!

7pm-8pm

The Outback

Watch Mickey's evolution from an Indian teenager to British comedian. Expect stories about travelling, immigration, relationships and offending people unwittingly.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Poetry

WILLIS THE POET'S COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA

7.30pm-9.30pm

Clarendon Hotel

Willis the Poet presents an extravaganza of comic verse and rib-tickling spoken word wizardry by some of the funniest performance poets he knows.

Tickets £5 from Midland Box Office or pay what you want on the door.

Variety

RICH HALL'S HOEDOWN

7.30pm

Wulfrun Hall

Join Rich and his virtuoso musical mates for a gratuitous mash-up of the very best of comedy and music. Performing will be Rich's regular band of talented yet chronically unemployed urchins.

[Tickets £17+BF from Midland Box Office.](#)

Film

DOTS & LOOPS #5: SHORT FILM NIGHT WITH LOUIS HUDSON & IAN RAVENSCROFT

8.30pm-10.30pm

The Outback

Flatpack bring their popular short film night to Funny Things, with a comic twist. The evening's curators and special guests, director/ animator Louis Hudson and writer/ producer Ian Ravenscroft, having worked together on a number of short films, will pick out some of their favourite collaborations as well as a bunch of comedy shorts that have influenced them and their work throughout their careers.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

KATIE PRITCHARD: HURRICANE KATIE

8pm-9pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Like the most memorable of UK gales, Katie Pritchard is blowing over the patio furniture of comedy, partially damaging the garden fence of genre and dropping a large, sturdy branch onto the car bonnet of musicality.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Variety

THE GLANG SHOW

8pm-9pm

Giffard Arms

Earth's most prestigious comedy anti-competition has landed. Who shall succeed? Who shall perish amidst the fires? Who shall be crowned earth's champion? The Glang Show is a fully interactive gong show set in an anarchoutopian magical realist feudal theocracy.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Cabaret

MAGICAL SCIENCE AND THE DANGEROUS

9.30pm-10.30pm

Giffard Arms

This show is cabaret like you have never seen before. A combination of real science, mischief, comedy and downright dangerousness with two of the Black Country's Leading performance scientists Martin Khechara and Jon Wood. If you thought that science was boring then think again.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Friday 3 November

Talks

BEYOND A JOKE DISCUSSION SERIES

Chancellor's Hall, University of Wolverhampton

11.30am – 1pm MAKE ME LAUGH with Brett Mills, University of East Anglia

The 'Make Me Laugh' project followed members of British TV's comedy industry for 3 years, to find out how they do their jobs, what gets in the way, and how programmes get made. This session will give you insights into the machinations of the industry, and how those who work in it survive. What do they have to go through in order to make you laugh?

2.30pm – 4pm THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMOUR AND ITS LINK TO WELL-BEING

with Tracey Platt, University of Wolverhampton

Ask a layperson if they have a "good sense of humour", and they will often report in the affirmative, with more than 90% claiming theirs is "above" average. Yet, defining what a good sense of humour is, or more basically, what humour is, is an ongoing task for humour researchers. This talk will explore some of the roots of humour as an academic topic and how psychologists have defined the construct. However, I will argue that understanding the psychology of humour is not simply a historic artefact but that it is highly relevant in the 21st century and our technological world by showing some of the cutting edge work on how humour is being added to avatars. Knowledge found in studies of those who struggle to comprehend humour in social interactions to the point of fearing it, will also be highlighted. Finally, showing the positive impact humour has on our overall well-being.

Free entry

Stand-up

LINDSEY SANTORO & SARAH JOHNSON

7pm-8pm

The Outback

Sarah Johnson and Lindsey Santoro have teamed up to deliver an hour of hilarious stand-up.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

JIMMY CARR: THE BEST OF, ULTIMATE, GOLD, GREATEST HITS TOUR

7pm

Civic Hall

Jimmy is gathering a selection of his very best jokes along with brand new material for the ultimate comedy show.

[Tickets £28.50 from Midland Box Office + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

LEE NELSON - SERIOUS JOKER

7pm

Wulfrun Hall

All profits from the show will be going to Lee.

“YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF” – Sepp Blatter

“GET HIM OUT!” – Donald Trump

“YOU’VE GOT FOUR YESSSES.” – Simon Cowell

[Tickets £22.50 from Midland Box Office + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

UPFRONT COMEDY CLUB

8.30pm-10.30pm

Light House Media Centre

Upfront Comedy present a riproaring line up for their Funny Things Festival debut with comedian turned Teletubby John Simmit (aka Dipsy) introducing some of the best Midlands comedians, including motormouth Annette Fagon, the funniest daughter of a Jamaican Leicester based newsagent you’ll ever see, West Bromwich gangster Masai Graham, making the short, mind blowing trip into “enemy territory” with award-winning jokes and the Birmingham’s very own Shazia Mirza.

Tickets £12 from Light House Media Centre.

Call Light House box office on: 01902 716055

Stand-up

RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE FACT IS THIS IS TOM LITTLE

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Outback

Tom Little won the Leicester Mercury Comedian of the Year 2015 and was a BBC Radio New Comedy Award 2014 finalist. These are impressive accolades so, you know, be impressed.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Character Comedy

PRESIDENT OBONJO: THE RISE OF A COMEDY DICTATOR

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Following civil unrest due to the President's long periods secretly perform stand-up comedy in Britain, there was a military coup in the Lafta Republic. The official line is that President Obonjo was tried and executed for his neglect of the Laftarian people however, some say it's a myth... turn up to find out.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Saturday 4 November

Funny Kids and families

PAPER PUPPETS WORKSHOP - Age 5-11

9am-10am

Windsor Toys, Penn

In the intimate setting of a toy shop, work with artist Ruth Swallow to create paper puppets and a theatre for them to perform some hilariously bad jokes. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

[Tickets £4.50 from Windsor Toys or Midland Box Office.](#)

Funny Kids and families

SHINY HAPPY SPACE FOR BABIES AND THEIR CARERS - Age 2 and under

30-minute sessions at 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am, 1pm, 1.30pm, 2pm and 2.30pm

The Joke Exchange Exhibition Space in Wulfrun Shopping Centre Piazza (next to Poundland entrance)

Relax, take your shoes off and explore the Shiny Happy Space, a sensory tactile, chill-out space for babies and their carers to play and laugh in. There will be lots of fun and funny things to discover.

Tickets £5 per family from Midland Box Office.

Talks

BEYOND A JOKE DISCUSSION SERIES

Chancellors Hall, University of Wolverhampton

11am – 12.30pm RELIGION, FAITH & COMEDY

with Jo Enright, Bec Hill, Dr Sophie Quirk, David Wright & Yusuf Shafi

What are the roles of comedy in shaping discussions about religion? What are the relationships between comedy, religion and free speech? How far is too far for religious comedy? These questions are more will be hotly debated by a panel of comedians, public figures and academics.

2pm – 3.30pm BLACK COUNTRY HUMOUR

with Gwendolen Powell, Josiane Boutonnet, Dr Brian Dakin, Brendan Hawthorne, David Tristram & Kate Fox

The Funny Things Comedy Festival has been set up to celebrate the great tradition of comedy & humour across the Black Country. This inaugural festival contains many local performers and comedians showcasing their work, alongside guests from across the UK. But are there things that make the Black Country's sense of humour distinct and different from humour elsewhere across the UK? This panel discussion will explore this using examples such as the character Dooren and the Boonyeds.

Free entry

Funny Kids and families

*AN INTRODUCTION TO CARTOON DRAWING FOR KIDS (AND THEIR GROWN-UPS)
WITH LAURA HOWELL - Age 8+*

1.30pm-3pm

Newhampton Arts Centre (Room 4)

If you like drawing – or even if you think you can't draw at all – this family-friendly cartooning class with Beano and Regular Show artist Laura Howell is for you. Starting with simple doodles, you'll uncover your inner artist and be amazed at what you can create. Suitable for ages 8 and over, including the grown-ups! Adults are welcome to accompany children and take part in the workshop but will need to purchase a ticket, as workshop space is limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets £4 from Midland Box Office.

Funny Kids and families

DIY DRIVE-IN: NATURE'S TALES - Age 2-8

2pm-4pm

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Families are invited to join us for a DIY drive in cinema experience! We'll be building our own cars using scrap and craft materials and then settling in to watch Nature's Tales. You'll find all kinds of creatures, great and small setting off on funny little adventures in this programme of colourful short animated films featuring an exuberant fire-fighting Rhino and a troupe of dancing robots as well as a greedy little reptile who bites off more than he can chew. Full of fun, this selection will tickle the whole family. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets £4 per child, £2 per accompanying adult from Midland Box Office.

Theatre

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL PRESENTS: THE LOST HANCOCKS: VACANT LOT

2pm-3.15pm and 7pm-8.15pm

Light House Media Centre

Join us for the Birmingham Comedy Festival Production of two long lost radio scripts from

the 1950s, written for comedian Tony Hancock by acclaimed comedy writer Larry Stephens.

In 1952, West Bromwich-born Larry Stephens (The Goon Show, The Army Game) convinced the BBC to let him create a new comedy series for his friend, rising radio star Tony Hancock (Workers' Playtime, Variety Bandbox, Educating Archie).

Entitled Vacant Lot, the series focused on life in the dull faded fictional seaside town of Churdley Bay, where the blundering, slightly pompous and barely tolerated Hancock aspires to better his lot.

Despite featuring a supporting cast of colourful characters (and with such actors as Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and Carry On's Kenneth Connor all mooted for roles), Vacant Lot lay buried in the BBC archives ... until now.

Recently rediscovered, we proudly present the much belated premiere of a forgotten slice of British comedy history from two West Midlands comedy heroes performed live by actors.

Vacant Lot: Episode One – After accidentally auctioning off a prized clock, would-be councillor Hancock's election chances look grim. Can he track down the buyer and save himself from ruin?

Vacant Lot: Episode Two – In a drive to promote tourism Mayor Ambrose Tripfield calls on Hancock for assistance. But a copywriting gaffe looks set to destroy the reputations of both Hancock and Churdley Bay.

Tickets £12 from Light House Media Centre CALL 01902 716055 to book.

Q&A

THE LOST HANCOCKS Q&A

3.30pm-4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

Find out more about The Lost Hancocks, the story behind their original creation and eventual rediscovery, as well as their belated staging, 65 years after they were conceived. With members of the cast and project team, along with Larry Stephens' biographer (and cousin) Julie Warren, whose new book, Glarnies, Green Berets and Goons: The Life and Legacy of Larry Stephens, tells the full story of the Black Country boy who helped reshape post-war British comedy.

Tickets £1 from Light House Media Centre CALL 01902 716055 to book.

Film

THE PUNCH & JUDY MAN

4.40pm-6.15pm

Light House Media Centre

Cert: U, 1963

Starring Tony Hancock, Sylvia Syms, Ronald Fraser, John Le Mesurier, Hugh Lloyd. Directed by Jeremy Summers. Written by Philip Oakes and Tony Hancock.

In a snobbish seaside resort, Delia (Syms), the wife of Punch and Judy man Wally (Hancock), dreams of social acceptance. So when he's invited to perform at a celebration gala

attended by Lady Jane Caterham (Barbara Murray), it looks like Delia may get her wish. But the sullen Wally refuses ... Based on an idea by Hancock, his second (and final) big-screen starring role is filled with echoes of his own life - from the south coast location (a background shared with *The Lost Hancocks: Vacant Lot*), to marriage difficulties. An understated and introspective comedy, ripe for reappraisal. "Hancock's finest celluloid hour and-a-half" - TimeOut The original puppets from the film will be on display in the Light House Gallery, on loan from the National Puppetry Archive.

Tickets £5 from Light House Media Centre CALL 01902 716055 to book.

Workshop

AN INTRODUCTION TO CARTOON DRAWING FOR ADULTS WITH LAURA HOWELL

3.30pm-5pm

Newhampton Arts Centre (Room 4)

This 90-minute cartooning session is aimed at budding artists who want to improve their drawing skills, and perhaps learn some new ones. You'll explore character design, putting together a comic page and more, with the chance to ask Laura Howell (Beano and Regular Show) questions about working as a professional cartoonist.

Age guidance 16+

Tickets £5 from Midland Box Office.

Stand-up

TONY COWARDS: PUNDERDOG

4pm-5pm

The Outback

'The best joke writer around' (GQ) performs his new show bursting at the seams with glorious gags, preposterous puns and witty one-liners. Punderdog is the follow up to last year's hilarious Daft Pun, which featured in the Top Jokes of the Edinburgh Fringe for The Scotsman, The Daily Mirror, The Evening Standard and The I newspaper.

Tickets £5 from Midland Box Office or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

RAHUL KOHLI: NEWCASTLE BROWN TALES

5.30-6.30pm

The Outback

Ever been pee'd on by a tiger? Accidentally joined a Romani Gypsy Drug Smuggling Ring? Nearly Killed by a fire breathing dragon? Rahul has. Come find out how.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

MILTON JONES IS OUT THERE

6.45pm

Civic Hall

Milton Jones is Out There. No, really out there and this time he hasn't just forgotten his keys. He's holding up the mirror of truth to society, and he can see right through it, which means it's probably just a window.

[Tickets £29.25 from Midland Box Office + booking fee.](#)

Live Podcast

THE RABBIT HOLE LIVE PODCAST

7pm-9pm

The Outback

The Rabbit Hole is a live phone-in podcast recorded before your very eyes! Hosted by Iain Lee (11 O'Clock Show, talkRADIO) and Katherine Boyle (BBC, talkRADIO) it's a show built from nothing. Anything goes and the conversation is dictated by the audience and the randoms who call in. You can even take part now. Call 0203 286 6370 or Skype HeyRabbit-HoleShow and leave a message!

Tickets £11 from Midland Box Office + BF.

Stand-up

AN EVENING WITH PAM AYRES

7.30pm

The Grand Theatre

Pam Ayres has been making the nation laugh for over 40 years. Funny and warm, her charming understated manner belies a rare comic precision. Her hairtrigger timing, her eye for the absurd details of everyday life, and unforgettable turn of phrase, combine to make her a true national treasure.

[Tickets from £23.50 from The Grand Theatre or Midland Box Office + booking fee.](#)

Stand-up

CHRIS KEHOE

7pm-8pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Would the world be a better place if piratical misanthrope Chris Kehoe was in charge? Without a shadow of a doubt. Join the award winning stand-up as he tackles climate change, racism and asks what would motivate 23 people to leave a review of a pedal bin online?

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

CRAIG CAMPBELL: EASY TIGER

8pm-10.15pm

Slade Rooms

The majestic mountain moose brings his thrilling new show 'Easy Tiger' onto the world stage for his 3rd solo tour. Queens and Toms pack some nip and prowl on down to screech and howl the night away!

Tickets £15 from Midland Box Office + BF.

Stand-up

CHRIS STOKES: ETERNALIST

8.30pm-9.30pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Brand new stand-up show from award-winning comedian and returning local boy Chris Stokes.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

FRAN GARRITY: SECRET AGENT - TALES OF A FRAUD INVESTIGATOR

10pm-11pm

The Lych Gate Tavern

Fran is the only fraud investigating comedian on the circuit. Find out what it's like gathering evidence, anonymous tip off's, the interviews and when someone you're investigating turns up to your gig.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BRENDON BURNS

9.30pm-10.30pm

The Outback

Australian stand-up comedian and author Brendon Burns commands a devoted following, and has earned critical acclaim through his fearless live solo shows, winning the Edinburgh Comedy Award in 2007 for his show 'So I Suppose This Is Offensive Now'.

Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Cabaret

PATRICK LIVE AT THE SANDY HOLES HOTEL

10.15pm-11.30pm, Doors open 9.45pm with music from DJ Doris

The Grand Theatre Encore Lounge

Join seaside cabaret legend Patrick as he recreates his summertime spectacular from the infamous Sandy Holes Hotel. This cheerfully anarchic mash-up of new writing, cabaret and stand-up comedy is definitely the worst show you will see all year...in the best possible way.

Age Guidance: 16+

Tickets £12 from The Grand Theatre + booking fee.

Sunday 5 November

Workshop

GETTING STARTED IN COMEDY WORKSHOP

1pm-2.30pm

Light House Media Centre

If you're trying to develop your career in comedy, come and have lunch with comedy promoters, programmers and performers to get some top tips on how to get started.

Food available from the Light House Café, not included in ticket price.

Age guidance 16+. Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.

Stand-up

BBC ASIAN NETWORK COMEDY LIVE

7pm-9pm

Light House Media Centre

BBC Asian Network Comedy is coming to the Black Country. The hugely popular comedy night series is back and making a special appearance at Funny Things. BBC Asian Network will host a night of comedy featuring some of the hottest new names in stand-up. You could be there on the night – click below to get your tickets.

Laugh out loud and catch the hugest jokes as we bring another rib tickling evening of comedy with the biggest names of the industry.

Join BBC Asian Network's Guz Khan as he brings the finest comics on the scene and introduces them to you for a barrel of laughs on stage.

Line-up includes:

Don Biswas

Emily Lloyd Saini

Bilal Zafar

Lovdev Barpaga

Kane Brown

The Asian Network Comedy night from Wolverhampton will be available to watch on BBC iPlayer and Red Button.

Age guidance 18+.

[Tickets £10 plus booking fee from the BBC website only](#)

Stand-up

FUNNY THINGS FESTIVAL FINALE

7.30pm-10.30pm (Doors open 7pm)

The Slade Rooms

We've got a great line-up for our very own Funny Things Comedy Club, with some of the best Black Country acts, and a few non-locals who we think are bostin. Join Barbara Nice, Orchestra Of Chaos and the Joke Exchange team to discover all of the jokes and funny stories that have been collected during the festival, and let your hair down for a good party.

Entry is from 7pm, swing by at any point.

Full line up on website funny-things.co.uk

Age guidance 16+.

[Tickets £5 in adv or pay what you want on the door.](#)

OTHER EVENTS

FUNNY MARKET

28 & 29 October, 11am-4.30pm

Light House Media Centre

The Light House Media Centre will be full of Funny Things on the weekend of 28th and 29th October with the Funny Market. There will be stalls full of Funny Things to buy, including comics, whoopee cushions, funny books and loads of Funny Things to see and do:

11.30am - The film Titanic Love by local film maker Mark Pressdee will be showing at 11.30am each day along with some funny shorts from Central Youth Theatre.

12pm - We've got a kid's joke corner with Barbara Nice each day, where you can tell her your best kids' jokes (big kids also welcome!).

12.30pm - There's an open mic session for people to have a first go at stand-up hosted by Barbara Nice at 12.30pm on Saturday. A talk by photographer Steve Best about his adventures Clicking Comedians at 12.30pm on Sunday.

2pm - A showing of Chaplin short films with live music at 2pm on Saturday.

4pm - Black Country theatre company Sneaky Beasts will be performing their show Bostin Boots at 4pm each day.

Throughout the weekend

-You can create your own funny creature and make up a silly story about them with -Curious Oddities throughout the weekend.

-Our festival band Orchestra of Chaos will be making a special appearance.

-Funny short films from Flatpack showing during the day.

Entrance to the Funny Market is free, but some events and activities within the venue do ask for a ticket fee or donation. See individual event listings for more information.

JOKE EXCHANGE

ART INSTALLATION BY REDHAWK LOGISTICA

23 October - 5 November

Wulfrun Shopping Centre, opening times: Monday–Saturday, 9am-5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am-4pm

28th October Joke Exchange placard parade - all day throughout the city centre

We've done our own survey to find out how funny Wolverhampton is with the Joke Exchange. During August we asked people to tell us a joke and we'd tell them one back, and we had lots of laughs. In September the best jokes are being displayed on hand-held placards in the city centre, with a different joke on display on the streets of Wolverhampton each day.

Look out for all the placards being out on the streets together on Saturday 28th October. During the festival, an exhibition of large-scale photographs of the project will be shown in an empty shop in Wulfrun Shopping Centre and the placards will be on display for you to have the chance to get your own photo taken with them. Share your photos with #JokeExchange and tag @FunnyThingsBC

THE ORCHESTRA OF CHAOS

Throughout the festival

Funny Things 2017 is proud to present our very own festival band, The Orchestra of Chaos!

The Orchestra of Chaos features Barry Bling from the Black Country on his Yamyamha Keyboard and Mr Velvet on miniature drums. The band will be performing throughout the festival as well as representing Funny Things on the road when they will be joined by the glamorous Blingettes 'Press Gang' for additional comedy chaos. The Foursome will head to the four corners of the Black Country in their Bling machine tour bus to bring the Funny Things Comedy Festival experience to your doorstep.

They will be collecting your funny stories and photos on their travels, for a digital live social media zine. Expect much singing, dancing, comedy capers galore, laughter and plenty of audience participation with a sprinkling of chaos guaranteed. Look out for the festival band popping up in a café, chip shop, street corner or hairdressers near you. You have been warned.

FUNNY THINGS POP-UP ART SPACE WITH CENTRALA

23 October - 5 November

Opening times: Monday–Saturday, 9am-5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am-4pm.

Wulfrun Shopping Centre

Centrala is transforming a shop in the Wulfrun Shopping Centre into a pop-up art space full of Funny Things. They will exhibit examples of the most exciting Eastern and Central European artists, host film screenings, and run art workshops suitable for all ages. The space will be a thriving festival hub open to all for the duration of the festival and a central meeting space for the diverse communities of Wolverhampton. Pop along whenever you're in the city centre to say hi, maybe get involved and make or see something funny, or share a joke with someone.

Centrala is an arts space in Digbeth, Birmingham, which is run and was initiated by the Polish Expats Association.

Free Entry.

JAMBO CINEMA

26 - 31 October

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Monday-Saturday: 10.30am-4.30pm, Sunday: 11am-4pm.

Jambo Cinema is a unique Bollywood living room experience, with film and conversation. Guests are invited to step inside the 1980s Indian African recreated living room of Auntie and Uncle Bansal. Curated by Dawinder Bansal and informed by her own upbringing in a Wolverhampton video shop.

Free Entry.

CLICKING COMEDIANS EXHIBITION

23 October - 5 November

Light House Media Centre

Gallery opening hours Monday-Friday 9am-8.30pm, Sat 28th & Sun 29th Oct

11am-4.30pm, Sat 4th Nov 2pm-8.30pm

Steve Best's many years on the comedy circuit has allowed him to build trust with some of the funniest people on earth. This exclusive access has given him an opportunity to take hundreds of intimate, deeply moving images from backstage to front of stage, from the very new comedians, the seasoned professional, to the downright famous. These 23 pictures are a small selection of fine art prints that will be included in Steve's next book **COMEDIANS BACK TO FRONT**. Pictures include Frankie Boyle, Harry Hill, Jimmy Carr, Daniel Kitson, Stewart Lee, Alan Davies and Ed Byrne. Steve will be at the Funny Market on 28th and 29th October, selling his books and prints of his photography, and doing a talk at 12.30pm on Sunday 29th October at Light House Media Centre.

How to book tickets

Tickets for the majority of events at the festival are available from Midland Box Office. Get them in person at Wolverhampton Art Gallery or call to book tickets on 0870 320 7000. You can book online via the links for each event at funny-things.co.uk.

Some of the events are priced at £5 in advance or pay what you want on the door. Ticket holders will be given priority entry to those events, so if you want to guarantee a good seat we advise you book in advance, but you are very welcome to take your chance and turn up on the night, and you can choose how much you pay according to how much you enjoy the event.

Venues

The Giffard Arms

64 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NX
01902 426664
<http://www.thegiffardarms.co.uk/>

The Lychgate Tavern

44 Queen Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1TX
01902 399516
<http://www.lychgatetavern.co.uk/index.htm>

Molineux

Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton WV1 4QR
0871 222 2220
<https://www.wolves.co.uk/business/>

Light House

The Chubb Buildings Fryer Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1HT
Phone: 01902 716055
<http://light-house.co.uk/>

Bantock House Museum

Finchfield Road, Wolverhampton WV3 9LQ
01902 552195
<http://www.bantockhouse.co.uk/>

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1DU
01902 552055

<http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/>

Newhampton Arts Centre

Dunkley St, Wolverhampton WV1 4AN

01902 572090

<http://www.newhamptonarts.co.uk/>

The Outback Nightclub

50 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 3BJ

<https://www.outbacknightclub.co.uk/>

Civic & Wulfrun Halls

North Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1RQ

Phone: 01902 552122

<http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk/>

The Slade Rooms

Address: Broad Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1HP

Phone: 01902 552122

<http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk/>