

Problems at Number 10?

HEADING the coalition government, the PM is staring disaster in the face...

Nope, it's not another dour news report (this time), but the return of Yes, Prime Minister, **writes Georgina Butler.**

The smash hit production rolls into Milton Keynes Theatre from Monday, following a successful stay in the West End.

Michael Simkins stars as Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby and Graham Seed as Prime Minister Jim Hacker.

We join the PM as the country teeters on the brink of financial meltdown...trust us, this is comedy and not another glum day of political rambling.

The only prospect of salvation comes from a morally dubious deal with the Foreign Minister of Kumranistan but can Jim Hacker justify such unsavoury allies?

In a world of spin, Blackberrys and 'sexed up' dossiers, the PM and his advisors attempt to rescue the

country from the edge – with deliciously comic consequences.

The unforgettable characters are in safe hands with Seed and Simkins.

Graham Seed is best known for his role as Nigel Pargetter in BBC Radio Four's 'The Archers', a position he has held for the best part of 30 years.

An associate member of RADA, Michael Simkins has made many film and television appearances, and starred as Billy Flynn in successful musical Chicago from 2007.

Antony Jay and Jonathon Lyn, the original writers of the classic Yes, Minister and Yes, Prime Minister series have received universal acclaim for this stage version.

Great institutions have a way of riding punches and bouncing back unscathed as we've all seen – but will this be the case for Jim Hacker?

If you want a night of politically

sharp, blissfully funny comedy with all the drama, intrigue and satire of the television show then say 'Yes' to Yes, Prime Minister and book your tickets today.

Call the box office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes.



**YES, PRIME MINISTER:
Vote with your credit
card and book a ticket**



A little Stables 'Chordination'



WE'LL kickstart this week's look at The Stables by telling you what shows you can't go to – and this evening's date by Kenny Ball has sold out, as has tomorrow's by UFO.

Instead of wasting precious column inches talking about those gigs, we'll move on to those that you can still make a connection with, beginning with the two strumming lasses, above.

They are Patsy Matheson and Becky Mills, who will be at the Wavendon haunt tomorrow night, plying their wares on stage 2 at the slightly later time of 8.45pm.

They have joined musical force to deliver the best in traditional and contemporary folk, acoustic blues, jazz and rock with the added benefit of intricate vocal harmonies and a smattering of humour to boot.

Talk about getting lots for your money!

Six hundred thousand people might have seen Jimi Hendrix at the Isle of Wight Festival, but there are a mere

400 seats available to watch the Tribute Mob Are You Experienced? on their return to town this Saturday evening.

Shake off that Purple Haze and get to booking seats quickly, or else resign yourselves to delving into the retro vinyl this weekend.

Mitch Benn, from Radio 4s Now Show, is out on the road with his band The Distractions and they call in at the haunt on Sunday night with the show Ode Warrior.

Tickets to catch the musical satirist are £12.50. A snip.

Maddy Prior will be joined by Giles Lewin and Hannah James on Tuesday night for another varied evening of collaboration.

An accordion and clog dancing will figure – and that's just Hannah's input.

Randolph Matthews and Byron Johnston bring a fusion of Spanish acoustic guitar and



African soul out to play over on Stage 2.

An album is in the racks too. Probe The Shadow of Leaves...

Stephen Triffitt is Frank Sinatra on Wednesday evening, but if 'ole blues eyes doesn't do it for you, blues guitarist Ben Poole just might.

His debut album isn't even in the bag yet, but Total Guitar Magazine have already labelled him as one to watch.

Last seen here at the Summer Fayre in Campbell Park, this gig will be a tad more intimate, on Stage 2. Call MK 280800 to book.

Madcap's comic opera

AS theatrical nights out go you can't get it far wrong with the Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

The company is offering a double-bill this week, with The Sorcerer and Cox & Box at Stantonbury Campus Theatre.

This production takes a vividly fresh approach to the G&S classics.

Cox and Box was Sullivan's first successful comic opera, and tells of the complications which arise when an unscrupulous housekeeper obtains double rent for one of his rooms by letting it out to two tenants simultaneously.

One works at night, the other works during the day but, when one has the day off, the two meet in the room and tempers flare.

Meanwhile, The Sorcerer follows a young man whose upcoming wedding has made him extremely happy.

So happy, in fact, that he calls upon a sorcerer to make the rest of his village as overjoyed as he is – with the help of a love potion served at the vicar's tea party – resulting in much romantic hilarity.

Tickets are £15 with concessions £13 from Tuesday to Thursday and the show starts at

7.30pm.

Visit www.wolvertongands.co.uk or call MK 2622560



> PROHIBITION era Chicago is brought to life by senior school youngsters at CentreStage Theatre School on Saturday.

The eager students will stage the iconic Bugsy Malone at the Chrysalis Theatre at 3pm and 6.30pm.

Having been rehearsing since before Christmas, they are looking forward to a fantastic show, complete with action sequences, costumes and loads of "splurge" – as the gangsters are "finished" of course!

Tickets are £12, concessions £10 (under 3's free). Call 01908 242649.

> DOUG Stanhope gives a brutally honest, shockingly uninhibited performance and is known for his abrasive comedy routines.

Catch the American in stand-up's heaven on Sunday, at MK Theatre. Call 0844 871 7652.

Titanic giveaway!

THE cinematic re-release of Titanic is almost upon us, issued to mark the 100th anniversary of the tragic ship setting sail. The Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio film classic is coming back in 3D, and opens on April 6.

But the film isn't the only newbie to satisfy the appetite of fans, and Sony Classical has announced the release of two soundtrack accompaniments.

Titanic: Anniversary edition features the standard album, alongside a bonus, previously unreleased disc of period music recorded for the movie by I Salonisti – the quintet that appears in the film.

A Collector's Anniversary edition is also available.

Accuracy was paramount and director James Cameron researched the music played on the ship and insisted on the authentic sounds, including the track rumoured to be the last played by the band as the ship went down, Song of Autumn.

We have copies of the Anniversary edition up for grabs in this week's competition.

To stand a chance of winning one,



simply tell us from where the Titanic set sail.

Send your entries, marked Titanic competition, together with your name and address, to: Citizen Newsdesk, Napier House, Auckland Park, Bond Avenue, Bletchley, MK1 1BU.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 28.

Usual terms and conditions apply.