



Razzle Dazzle 'n All That Jazz...

MURDER, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery – the very finest ingredients for a sexy and sassy musical set during the Prohibition-era, writes **Georgina Butler**.

Yes, that's right, the international award-winning musical Chicago is coming to put on a little 'Razzle Dazzle' at Milton Keynes Theatre this week.

A satire on corruption in the administration of criminal justice, the story is based on real life events back in the roaring 1920s and explores the concept of the infamous celebrity criminal – decades before our media-saturated obsession with all things 'celeb'.

Nightclub singer Roxie Hart

(Strictly semi finalist and Burn The Floor star Ali Bastian) shoots her lover after a spat and – along with her Cell Block rival, double-murderess Velma Kelly (Corrie's Tupele Dorgu) – fights to avoid death row with the help of smooth-talking lawyer, Billy Flynn (Stefan Booth of Eastenders and The Bill fame).

Can Billy make a celebrity of his latest client to win sympathy and sway public opinion?

Touring aficionado Bernie Nolan (The Nolans, Calendar Girls, Flashdance, Blood Brothers) stars as the corrupt Mamma Morton ('When You're Good to Mamma') who presides over prisoners in Cook County Jail and believes all favours she gives should be reciprocated.

Created by the musical theatre talents of John Kander, Fred Ebb and legendary choreographer Bob Fosse, Chicago delivers a universal tale of fame and fortune, one show-stopping song after another and the most incredible dancing.

With six Tony, two Olivier, one Grammy, two Bafta and six Academy Awards, Chicago truly is 'The sharpest, slickest show on the block', just as The Times said.

A nightclub singer, a double-murderess, a smooth-talking lawyer and a cell block of sin: it really would be a crime to miss all that jazz.

Chicago runs Monday through to Saturday and tickets are £12 – £33.50.

Book on 0844 871 7652.

'No Comment' says Westbury Studio

A SELECTION of playlets of comedies, tragedies and sonnets will give the work of Shakespeare a big presence at Westbury Studios this Saturday and Sunday, supporting an exhibition of oil paintings showcasing the talent of Gino Ballantyne.

His show, *No Comment*, will be hosted in the barn gallery.

View from 10am daily, then at 4pm, the performance will come into play at the venue in Shenley Wood.

Admission is free. "The paintings pose questions such as 'Who are we?' and 'Why

are we here?' as Gino 'seeks to contextualise the essence of our universal human condition.'

For more information call MK 564967.

> Gino's second show is being housed at the UCMK Galleries in Silbury Boulevard.

He will use the space of two galleries to create an installation exploring the notion of drawing and what it can be.

Existing in a Rational Field of Artistic Conformity, right, and top, *Don't Cross The Lines*, by Gino Ballantyne



Bootlegging Bros. are Lawless

NEW to the big screen this week, *Lawless*, the true story of bootlegging siblings the Bondurant Brothers – a trio who made a run for the American Dream in Prohibition-era Virginia.

The thrillingly vivid slice of American outlaw history has pulled together an impressive cast to do justice on the big screen, with the terrifically talented Guy Pearce and Gary Oldman leading a cast of new-generation stars, Shia LaBeouf, and Tom 'Bronson' Hardy among them.

Collectively they will bring to life Matt Bondurant's fictionalized account of his family – paternal grandfather Jack, and Great Uncles Forrest and Howard.

"The basics of this story are drawn from various family stories and anecdotes, newspaper headlines and articles and court transcripts... all involved are now deceased and little record exists.

"There are no letters and my grandfather and his brothers did not keep diaries. "My intention was to reach the truth that lies beyond the poorly recorded and understood world of actualities."

Crime and corruption, loyalty and love, brutality and tenderness... this American

gangster feast has it all in plentiful portion. John Hilcoat, who previously directed *The Proposition*, was asked in to lead the piece, and he in turn called upon long-time associate Nick Cave to write the screenplay and the music, just as he did deliciously for *The Proposition*.

The result is a fabulous blend of old and new, of rough and retro. Contributors including Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson and Mark Lanegan make for one traditional, yet edgy score – every bit as engaging as the film.

To celebrate the release of *Lawless*, GO! has copies of the book, and promotional Moonshine Jars to give away in this week's competition.

Want to win? Then tell us the who starred in *The Road*. Was it Gary Oldman or Guy Pearce? Send your answer, along with your name, address and a daytime telephone number, to: Forever Lawless, Citizen News Desk, Napier House, Auckland Park, Bond Avenue, Bletchley, MK1 1BU. Closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 12, 2012.



**GREAT FILM,
GREAT MUSIC:**

Lawless makes it to the big screen this week, left, and above, Mark Lanegan, one of those artists contributing to the soundtrack

She's the spitting image of Kate

FUNNY MAN Patrick Monahan was to have appeared at The Stables today, but that date has been cancelled, and Jenny Eclair's Stage 2 date tomorrow is sold-out too.

While that may cap your reasons to giggle, there is still reason to smile if you are a fan of Shakatak.

The eighties chart bohemians with a long reaching career are back at the venue tomorrow night, and another long-time industry name is up on Saturday night, in the shape of Kate Robbins.

In 1981 she shifted half a million records with *More Than in Love*.

But when she wasn't doing the singing thing 'properly', Kate let her talents loose on

Spitting Image too, as a leading voice on the rubbery show for the best part of a decade.

The new show *In Voice* is a cabaret show to plug her jazzy



elpee *Soho Nights*, with the odd bit of impressionist stuff and comedy thrown in.

There are *Jazz Matters* to be

had on Sunday, from 11.30am and then in the evening, *Nine Below Zero* stir up the blues and rock as they celebrate their three decade anniversary with a new album, *It's Never Too Late*.

In what could almost be titled 'stalwart' week, the venue welcomes Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick to the fore on Tuesday night, and when the folk fades, Wednesday night will deliver the fruits of the relatively recent pairing of Amy Wadge and Pete Riley.

No doubt plenty of last spring's *Rivers Apart* opus will be on the musical menu.

Call the box office on MK 280800.