

GO!



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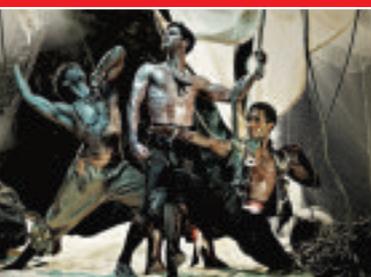
MILTON KEYNES THEATRE

ATG TICKETS 0844 8717652 (bkg fee)
www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes (bkg fee)

English National Ballet

LE CORSAIRE

THU 17 - SAT 19 OCT



'RAZOR-SHARP BRILLIANCE'
THE AUSTRALIAN
'SIDE-SPLITTINGLY FUNNY'
STAGE WHISPERS, AUSTRALIA
WED 23 - SAT 26 OCT

National Theatre On Tour ★★★★★ THE TIMES
People
TUE 29 OCT - SAT 2 NOV

● What's On

It's an organic sort of thing!

MK MUSEUM

BY GEORGINA BUTLER
by georgina.butler@jpress.co.uk

Experience fairground and hand-turned mechanical organs in all their glory at the South Midlands Organ Festival this weekend.

The two-day event is being held in the grounds of Milton Keynes Museum, in McConnell Drive, Wolverton, and organisers Bob West and Ernie Thomas expect around 30 organs to be on show. From huge fairground sound-creators to the small 20 note amateur hand-built machines – all examples will be represented at the family-friendly festival.

A number of miniature steam engines and old music boxes from the beginning of the 20th century will also be on display. Ask Ernie why he thinks the organs remain so popular, and he is quick to answer: "They are old-worldly and old-fashioned and have a sound you just can't get anywhere else."

> One of the city's oldest bands



WHAT A WIND UP!: The South Midlands Organ festival is happening at Milton Keynes Museum this weekend

will showcase its youngest musicians on Saturday. Bradwell Silver Band is blowing its own trumpet by featuring four of the younger members in the much-coveted solo spots for a concert of music new and old in St James Church at 7.30pm.

The band has a long tradition of training young brass talents and several members have gone on to join the armed forces or into careers in music education. Right now, they are currently looking for a principal cornet as the previous holder of that

position is now teaching music in Kuwait. To learn more contact Robin Allen on MK 616 463 or secretary@bradwellband.co.uk.

> The Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club is hosting a Food and Drink Fair this Saturday, with lots of tasty stuff to get your chops around, and your teeth into. "We have been amazed at how many small, fledgling, artisan businesses are out there," said a spokesman for the Lions. "We are inviting them to show themselves off – Laurence Conisbee, pressing local apples for his award-winning ciders, Gareth Roberts baking wonderful breads in Emberton, or the honey lady, the fudge lady, and not overlooking Dan from the Concrete Cow brewery." Tastebuds will go into overdrive, your belly will start rumbling and the aroma of tempting treats and fancies will fill the air at the United Reformed Church hall in the High Street, Newport Pagnell, between 10am and 3pm. Entry is free, and prices reasonable.

Say cheers to beer-illiance

BEER FESTIVAL

Exciting news for appreciative beer drinkers in Milton Keynes – The Concrete Pint Beer Festival is back next week with a multitude of brews to get your tastebuds tingling. From Wednesday and until Saturday October 19, Milton Keynes & North Bucks CAMRA branch will present the 20th edition of the festival, held for the third year at The Buszy. Following last year's sell-out success, the festival will feature more than 90 beers as well as a selection of ciders and perries. No shortage of choice here. Take a trip throughout the UK and sample the beers on offer from East and West Midlands breweries, as well as ales from elsewhere – including those from right here in the concrete city. Savour your pint while enjoying live music on the Saturday, from 7pm, courtesy of Isabelle and The Band. Hot and cold food will be

available to soak up all that alcohol, along with a tombo-la to try your luck on. Patrons are invited to vote for their beer and cider of the festival and will encouraged to support chosen charity, Willen Hospice. Visit www.mkcamra.org.uk/ beerfestival for times and details.



> Potential animal-adopters are invited to HULA on Sunday for one of the Aspley Guise venue's ever-popular fundraising opportunities.

The St Francis Open Day between 1pm and 4pm promises plenty of fun and games for children, an opportunity to meet the animals of Glebe Farm, plus home-made refreshments, bargains in the bazaar and, of course, the chance to view the animals currently seeking a new home. Dogs are welcome and there will be an animal blessing at 2.30pm for your favourite creature companions. Entry is just £2 per adult, children go free, and all proceeds are for the care and welfare of HULA's animals. Please support if you can.

Marshall's Marinade CD launch

THE FOX & HOUNDS

A little advance notice about Terry Marshall's Jazz Marinade, who have a special launch for their CD album, Into the Night, next Thursday (Oct 17) at Stony Stratford venue The Fox & Hounds.

Featured numbers on the disc include Girl From Ipenema, Coming Home Baby, Blue Skies and many more standards everyone knows. The live set will feature rock 'n' roll and blues tunes giving a mixture of music from across the board – and something for everyone.

Admission to see the band – Terry on sax, Nick Jones on bass, Jeff Willett on drums, Dick Clarke on guitar, Janette Gailbraith and Jack Yates on vocals is free from 8.30pm. The CD will be available for sale on the night, so take a few extra quid along and treat yourself to a copy.



INTO THE NIGHT: Nick Jones, Terry Marshall and Dick Clarke

> Progressive rock outfit Infinite Wisdom are playing The Clocktower in Emerson Valley on Saturday. The band is influenced by luminaries including Led Zepelin, Pink Floyd, Genesis and Muse to name just a few. If you like the sounds of those,

you'll probably like the sound of this mob. Set the video for Strictly, and go enjoy a few drinks and some live sounds instead. Infinite Wisdom are currently working on writing and recording material for a forthcoming release of their own.

Here are a few ideas to help you 'sculpt' your weekend

ROUND-UP

Colourful and witty sculptures are the calling card of influential contemporary ceramic artist Richard Slee. You can discover Richard's new umbrella sculptures, along with a selection of his drawings, by popping over to Milton Keynes Arts Centre (formerly Artworks MK) in Parklands on Saturday for the launch of his exhibition and the unveiling of the new gallery space by architects Manalo & White. This relaunch of the space sees the organisation officially adopt its new name and open a new cafe and reception retail area. Entry is free and the exhibition continues until Tuesday November 12. Visit www.artworks-mk.co.uk.

Utter the word 'walk' in the home of a dog and you absolutely have to follow through. Bark in the Park makes doing so easy – park in Brooklands Farm School car park, Fen Street, and let your pooch socialise with others while you get some brisk exercise on Saturday at 10am (£1 per dog). If bikes are more your thing join the Easy Riders on Sunday for a 20-mile cycle ride touring the lakes of Milton Keynes. Meet at Willen Lake South by the miniature railway at 10am. Participation is free.

An artist renowned for his series of more than 5,000 paintings of the same empty glass, produced almost daily for the last 40 years, is presenting his very first UK exhibition at MK Gallery until November 24.

German artist Peter Dreher's work will also be the stimulus for a 10-15 minute dance response from English National Ballet on October 18. This special ballet event is free but places are limited and booking is essential via www.mkgallery.org.

For a jolly Sunday afternoon of a cappella singing session look no further than Stony-Voices at York House Centre in Stony Stratford. From 2pm enjoy a delightful concert of human voices courtesy of a splendid lineup featuring No Strings, The Reluctants and Strictly Harmony. The Last Quarter will provide a pleasing interlude of guitar/vocal duets and the musical magic will continue with an 'afterglow' session until 5pm. Entry is £5.

Just Barre-illiant!

THE STABLES

BY SAMMY JONES
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Former Jethro Tull guitarist Martin Barre is supporting the recent release of his fourth solo album *Away with Words*, with a UK tour – which stops off at The Stables on Monday.

The elpee comprises new arrangements of Tull songs, and some brand new compositions.

"Re-arranging and representing the Tull songs featured on this album became a very pleasant and rewarding task," Martin said.

"These lesser known songs have always been among my favourite pieces of music and re-working them brought back many good memories." We asked Martin to dig deep into his musical collection and share his most favoured discs with us in Cue and Play...

Tell us about the first record you bought/downloaded? The Dam Busters March by Eric Coates. I loved the movie as a youngster and the music was great.

An album you can't live without, and why? I can't live without After the Gold Rush by Neil Young; fabulous songs that you never tire of hearing and a brilliant voice.

Most embarrassing record in your collection Probably Steam Locomotive Sounds! I collect model trains and bought it in a moment of madness.

Your favourite cheesy disc The Shadows by Atlantis, but

'Reworking Tull songs became a pleasant and rewarding task'

I have to say it's not cheesy in my opinion.

An album you wish you'd bought, but didn't I wish I had more by Johnny Kid and the Pirates. Any of their albums. We played a lot of their tracks in my band at school.

If we could grant you a wish to meet one musician or band, who would it be and why?

I don't wish to meet any of my favourite musicians to be honest, in case they might disappoint me with their personality and it would ruin the magic. There is also nothing I need to know that the music doesn't already do. However, I have been incredibly fortunate to play with some incredible musicians.

Name a song that never fails to pick you up Boys of Summer by Don Henley.

A truly great song with beautiful guitar playing.

And one that chills you out? Anything by Bach with Glenn Gould on piano.

What was the first gig you attended My first gig was Tony Sheridan and the Nightriders, who went on to be part of the Move, The Moody Blues, and other big Birmingham bands.

Tell us about your favourite record shop or online store, and what the appeal is?

Nowadays, any shop that sells CDs is a goldmine. Tower Records in San Francisco was the ultimate store in the 70s.

You can step into the shoes of your musical idol for 24 hours. Who do you choose and what do you do? The shoes would belong to Mark Knopfler and I would play a solo set in a small club.

Is there a new or undiscovered artist you think we need to hear? Mad Dog Macray. A fun band of Irish origins and a great whistle player.

You can banish one artist to the bargain bin. Who do you choose? I cannot put a musician in a bin, we learn what not to do from bad music, so we need them all!

> Other shows still booking at the venue this week: Tributees Viva Santana on Saturday, the Aortas Songwriting Competition Finals (for more on this, turn back a page to City Nights), Jazz Matters on Sunday lunchtime, Wishbone Ash on Tuesday and Moishe's Bagel on Wednesday.

> If you want to tip your ears to a new sound, check in with Devon Sproule. The American troubadour is back with new album *Colours*, a collaborative work with Mike O'Neill from Canadian indie band Inbreds. She checks in at the venue to share her 'panolpy of pop perfection' with you this Sunday evening. A more free, adventurous upbringing has doubtless influenced her eclectic, warm sounds. Rolling Stone magazine say 'her vocal and lyrical beauty is unmatched.'



SHOWING OUT: Former Jethro Tull guitarist Martin Barre and Canadian artist Devon Sproule are both checking in to The Stables this week.

Epic pirate ballet featuring a star dancer to premiere in MK

MK THEATRE

Set sail for the high seas when English National Ballet bring their swashbuckling ballet *Le Corsaire* (The Pirate) to MK Theatre next week, writes **Georgina Butler**.

As the UK's premier touring ballet company, English National Ballet (ENB) comprises dedicated and ambitious dancers and choreographers who bring stunning classical ballet to the masses. ENB debut *Le Corsaire* next Thursday – making ballet history as the first British company to perform the complete work.

Led by their artistic director, internationally-renowned ballerina Tamara Rojo, ENB aim to both honour and add to traditional ballet and engage with new audiences. But, before the stage show goes live, as part of their stay in MK, they will also provide creative workshops linked to

the production – dance, art and writing classes, as well as family-friendly activities are on offer, beginning next Tuesday. *Le Corsaire* is a thrilling ballet with four male leads – meaning plenty of opportunity for the men in the company to show off their athleticism

and technique. And, talking of technique, former Royal Ballet star Alina Cojocaru will make her debut with ENB at MK Theatre in the 7.30pm performance. > *Le Corsaire* runs from October 17-19, call 0844 871 7652 or to book tickets and enquire about those workshops.



Pair who have acted up for years

TREAD THE BOARDS

Two leading local amateur dramatic devotees are celebrating the news that their dedication has been recognised.

Mike Ames and Alex Tsang are members of Newport Pagnell theatre group Tread The Boards (TTB) and the pair have both been rewarded for their long service with the group. They received NODA (National Operatic And Dramatic Association) long-service medals after more than 25 years' of

membership and leadership roles. Alex joined TTB in 1986 and has enjoyed stints as chairman, secretary and publicity



officer, as well as performing in countless productions and directing many. She said: "I can truly say I was very surprised and also touched that the current committee organised the long-service award to be given to me. "It was totally unexpected but just goes to show that I must love being part of TTB – I have been part of it for so long," she added. Mike, who lives in Newport Pagnell, has also held committee posts since he joined TTB in 1987.