

Theatre



Brian Conley, Milton Keynes Theatre

He only vacates the Milton Keynes Theatre stage on Sunday, following an uber successful stint in pantomime. But, not content with raising the smiles for five weeks in Cinderella, Brian Conley is heading back to the new city, and the same stage with his one man show on March 25. Still The Greatest

Entertainer – In His Price Range will feature a colourful mix of new comedy, sketches and songs, together with some of his best-loved material from stage and screen. Judging by the reaction to him in panto, tickets won't wait around for long. The early bird catches the Conley ticket, the slow-coach mopes on the sofa! Book: www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes

The Snowman will be all white on the night!



A Passage to India

Northampton Royal, Jan 11-20
 "One cannot be friends with the English!"
 The advice was harsh but clear, and Aziz ignored it. Now he lies in jail on a charge of sexual assault. Forster's masterpiece poses a question more urgent today than ever, how can we love one another in a world divided by culture and belief? Multi award-winning ensemble, simple8, deliver the goods. www.royalandderngate.co.uk

The Snowman
 Milton Keynes Theatre

A flurry of magical entertainment is on its way to Milton Keynes Theatre courtesy of The Snowman stage show, writes Georgina Butler.

The Birmingham Repertory Theatre's heart-warming dance production arrives on Wednesday (January 17).

It is based on the celebrated 1982 animated film, which was inspired by Raymond Briggs' 1978 children's book.

On Christmas Eve, a young boy's snowman comes to life. Together, the pair embark on a starry-skied adventure to the North Pole where they meet all sorts of characters, including dancing penguins, an Ice Princess, the villainous Jack Frost, and Father Christmas.

The production, directed by Bill Alexander, boasts music and lyrics by the film's original composer Howard Blake – including the classic Walking In The Air theme - and choreography by Robert North.

It promises to delight young and old audience members alike with a captivating mix of dance (mostly ballet, along with theatrical jazz dance), music, storytelling, spectacle and magic.

Dancer James Leece, one of two performers who alternates the role of the Snowman, said: "Audiences love The Snowman show so it's a great



The Snowman: A snowy sensation

feeling to bring it to families outside London. The show is a magical winter wonderland brought to life with music and dancing."

Youngsters will easily follow the on-stage creativity.

"Definitely," James promised. "It's recommended for children aged three and up and it follows the film quite closely, so it is just magic for

the kids and nostalgic for us grown-ups.

The first act shows the boy building the Snowman and then Snowman coming alive and being shown around the boy's world.

There is enough happening to keep dance enthusiasts interested too.

"The whole show is told through dancing. Most of the

choreography is classically based and the cast is classically trained," James said.

"The Ice Princess is the ballerina, she wears pointe shoes and has the most pas de deux passages to dance, but all the characters have proper ballet choreography and partnering to do."

To book visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes



The Mitfords, Stantonbury Theatre, Wed, 7.30pm

The six Mitford Sisters lived in the 20th century and much of their varied lives are synchronous with major events that defined that time. Diana was married to Oswald Mosley and a lifelong fascist. Unity was a great close friend of Hitler's. Jessica was a dyed-in-the-wool

communist. Deborah became Duchess of Devonshire. Nancy was a well-loved novelist. Gail Louw's astonishing one woman tour de force follows four of the Mitford sisters through the world changing events of the 20th century. Book your seat: www.stantonburytheatre.co.uk