

The List

What's on in August and September

COMPILED BY
CLEMMIE MILLBANK



VIBE KILLER

Comedian and former host of *The Mash Report*, **Nish Kumar**, explains how he deals with political chaos, comedic contradictions and onstage word vomit

My new show is a string of topics that are not necessarily everyone's idea of a fun night out. My setlists look like catalogues of human misery. I'm constantly afraid that people will see my notebooks, because they look psychotic. War, income inequality, climate crisis – it looks like I'm deliberately trying to list all the worst possible things that one could talk about.

I don't think anything is off limits when it comes to comedy. I've seen people do standup about every conceivable subject, and I think it's all about your approach and tone.

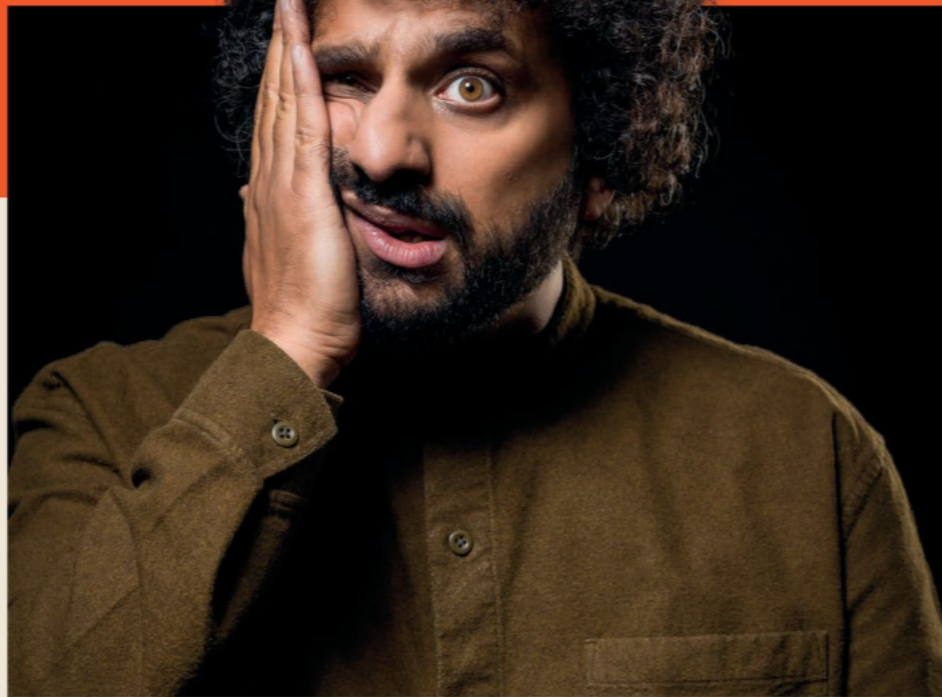
I grew up admiring lots of comedians. In terms of people working right now, I love Bridget Christie and Maria Bamford, and Roy Wood Jr is incredible. There's a really exciting crop of new acts coming through, some of whom are supporting me on tour. I think there's a lot of problems within the industry and the infrastructure of comedy right now, but we certainly don't have a problem in terms of the talent supply.

'Writing process' feels like too grand a term for what I do. I generally just get on stage and complain at volume. My shows end up being a snapshot of all of the things that are upsetting me at any one time. It's just the churn of things going through my head on a day-to-day basis, and then they get vomited out on stage.

I've been doing comedy for 15-16 years. At a certain point you have to accept that you've learned a lot of lessons. I've learned how to control my nerves. If you let nerves dominate, then the spectre of the gig ruins your day and that's unsustainable on tour. Now, nerves are something I release just before the show.



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Mark Ernestus' **Ndagga Rhythm Force**
Strange Brew, Bristol
August 23

In which dub-techno don Mark Ernestus (Basic Channel) reconvenes his Ndagga Rhythm Force collaboration with some seriously talented Senegalese sabar musicians for a live show that will leave your brain rattling. Joyously deep and dubby, but also thrillingly dark and intense.

nfd.io/rhythmf

This Is the Kit
Cheese & Grain, Frome
August 17

Always with the emphasis on beguiling, Kate Stables has stuck resolutely to her own path for over 20 years now, performing propulsive yet warmly introspective folkish alt-pop with her group, This Is the Kit. Stables is in danger of becoming a fully-fledged star.

nfd.io/thiskit

Before a show, I generally tend to eat a lot of Nando's. I also talk shit with my support act and try to be as relaxed as possible. However, there's such a thing as being too comfortable on stage. The five minutes before I go on, I think, OK, release the adrenaline. Let's be sharp.

I always want to deliver something that justifies people spending their money on me. I don't take it lightly. But you can't get yourself worked up three to five nights a week. Comedy is a combination of contradictory things; it's about being incredibly prepared, but also completely spontaneous, and it's about being very intense, but also not intense at all. If I stopped enjoying comedy, then I would stop doing comedy.

I'm in Bristol all the time. I did a lot of gigs there when I was starting out. I really enjoyed doing Chops [the comedy night at 57 North Street Bar].

I was anticipating having to frantically rewrite the show through an election campaign. Having the election in July settles the big political question of this year, and there's some comfort in that. But if we've learned nothing from the last decade, it's that you can never rely on the news to stay calm and reasonable. So, who fucking knows what state we'll be in by the time I start the tour.

Nish Kumar comes to Bristol Beacon, September 26, and The Forum, Bath, on October 12.
nfd.io/nishk

Massive Attack
Clifton Downs, Bristol
August 25

The Bristol band's first UK show in five years marks the culmination of 25 years of climate activism. This show aims to set a new standard for the decarbonisation of live music and is the product of an R&D collaboration with climate scientists. Support from Killer Mike, Lankum, Sam Morton and DJ Milo.
nfd.io/mattack

Part Chimp
Komedia, Bath
September 19

A rare southwest show from one of the UK's finest (and loudest) underground bands. Twenty-four years after their tinnitus-inducing formation, Part Chimp keep grinding out a sludgy, lurching onslaught that channels Melvins, Black Sabbath and noise rock into one almighty, super-fuzzed *sturm und drang*.
nfd.io/pchimp

Fern Brady: I Gave You Milk to Drink
Bristol Old Vic
September 22

Scotland's current queen of comedy brings her latest show to the iconic Bristol theatre. She'll be sharing tales of spirit guides, magic mushrooms and Botox, as well as her experiences of being pigeonholed as an 'inspirational autistic woman'. Book tickets for her matinee or evening performance.
nfd.io/fbrady



MR DOODLE! MUSEUM MAYHEM

3 May – 1 September

A Garden of Botanical Art
Badminton Estate
September 8-15

In 1703, the first Duchess of Beaufort commissioned an artist to paint the plants she had grown from seed. The collection was bound in the two-volume 'florilegium' and for the first time in 300 years the public will be able to view these botanical artworks as both prints and in their original bound volumes.

nfd.io/botart

The World in Bristol Festival
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
September 14

A full day of family-friendly goings-on, celebrating the city's migrant and diaspora communities who shape and enrich the city. Drop in to the Caribbean singing workshop, have a go at holistic African dance, catch storytelling about olde Polish legends, or get crafting communal flags.

nfd.io/wbfest



Presence: The Figure in British Postwar and Contemporary Sculpture
Messums West, Tisbury
Until September 23

This collection of figurative sculpture explores the myriad ways in which artists have chosen to represent the human form since 1945. The exhibition aims to encourage visitors to reflect on their own perceptions of the body.

nfd.io/presence



Adébayo Bolaji: In Praise of Beauty
Arnolfini, Bristol
Until September 29

Taking over the first floor, celebrated London artist Adébayo Bolaji's kaleidoscopic and multidisciplinary work is a philosophical inquiry into the idea of beauty. Alongside monumental acrylic and oil pastel pieces, you'll find films and mythology-inspired sculpture.

nfd.io/bolaji

Rockaway Arts Weekend
Rockaway Park, Temple Cloud
September 20-22

The freewheeling arts community nestled in a bucolic corner of the Somer Valley is putting together another anarchic weekend of arty fun, featuring artists, open studios, workshops, kids' activities, vegan food, film and live music. Mark Perry, creator of the famous *Sniffin' Glue* fanzine, will be performing with his band ATV.

nfd.io/rockarts

Somerset Art Weeks Festival 2024
Various venues
September 21 to October 6

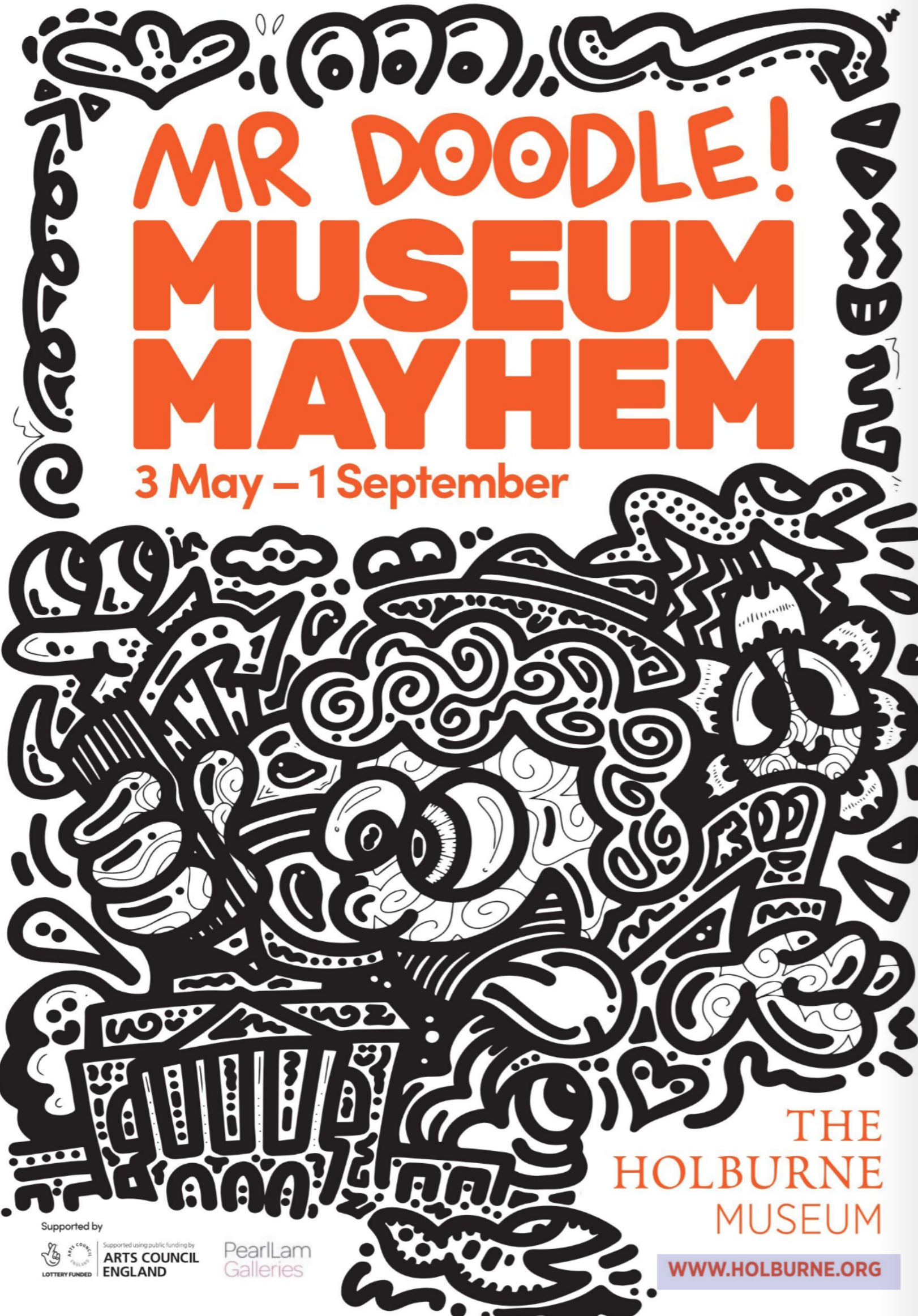
From around late September time, you'll spot the distinctive yellow signs of the Somerset Art Weeks Festival popping up in every corner of the county. Follow the arrows to discover all mediums under the sun, from painting to performance, interpreting this year's theme of Landscape: Flux and Flow.

nfd.io/somart

Photo: Lisa Whiting Photography

thenearfield.com

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6

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR AT WHIRLIGIG

Photos: Simon Richardson

Here's what you can expect from Weston-super-Mare's free, family-friendly festival of international outdoor arts



1 FEMINIST FLAMENCO

Taking the male tradition of flamenco firmly by the horns, Noemí Pareja is one half of the multitalented Spanish duo Zen del Sur, and the first female guitarist to have performed at the celebrated Paco de Lucia Legacy Festival. Be seduced by her incredible fingerpicking, interspersed with flamenco dance and acrobatics.

2 LIVING ART

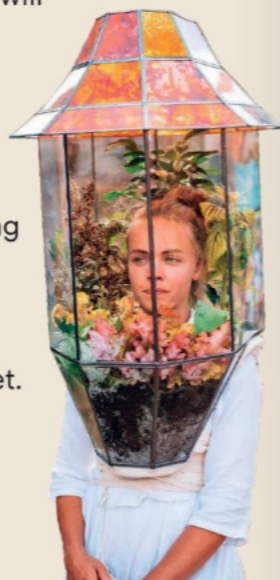
Drawing inspiration from the traditional art of Indian and Persian miniature painting, Sonia Sabri Company's Mughal Miniatures presents living pictures that whisk visitors across the seas and back in time to the days of the Mughal Empire. Expect incredible dancing and a brilliant original soundtrack, south Asian style.

3 FLYING WHEELCHAIRS

Anchored in Air is the debut show from Head Over Wheels – a disabled and non-disabled multidisciplinary arts company. You'll have your attention lassoed by a frenzied mix of flying wheelchairs, integrated audio description, live music, gravity-defying acrobatics and the captivating challenge of navigating a colossal tower.

4 MIND-BENDING HEADWEAR

The Gardeners will be appearing with their *prêt-à-porter* terrariums, designed to stop us in our tracks while also reminding us that we all need to dedicate some thinking space to caring for the planet.

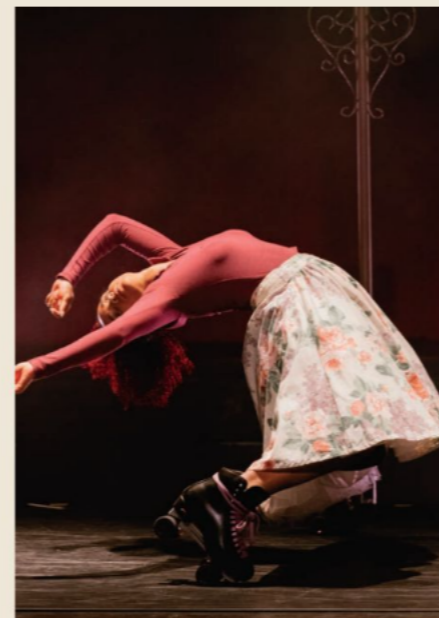


5 FRAGILE BALLS

There's juggling at Whirligig – but with a difference. Bristol's Matt Pang and Owen Reynolds ditch the usual balls (steady, now) in favour of glass ones and a ton of bricks for their unique show, *Those in Glass Houses*. Not to be tried at home, kids!

6 SATIRICAL CIRCUS

Gorilla Circus's mesmeric new show RPM combines exhilarating acrobatics, adrenaline-pumping street dance and breathtaking roller-skating – all set on a giant treadmill, natch. Unravelling links between our current problems and the UK's troubled past, this is a high-octane performance that isn't afraid to hit you with a political punch.



Whirligig Festival takes place in the Italian Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, on September 7-8. nfd.io/whirli



Palette and Pasture Maize Maze Pyle Farm, Frome Until September 1

See if you can puzzle your way out of this a-maize-ing five-acre living corn maze – set in an idyllic Frome dairy farm with its own gelato parlour. When (if?) you find the exit, jump on the tyre hopscotch and prepare to put your back into the serious sport of welly-wanging. nfd.io/maizem

Seasonal Posy Making Bath City Farm August 31

Gather up some seasonal flowers and decorative foliage and learn how to create a beautiful bouquet or show-stopping centrepiece. You'll discover how to build up and layer your posy to make the most of those late-summer blooms. nfd.io/posy

Soil & Dance Higher Farm, Castle Cary September 6-7

A late-summer weekend filled with nature, local food, music and dance, set in the grounds of this innovative regenerative food and farming project. This is a free event, but you need to register to get yourself on the guest list. nfd.io/soild

Avon Valley Walking Photographic Workshop Bradford-on-Avon September 13

Aqueducts, viaducts and bridges; swans, storks and ducks; Saxon churches, tithe barns and hidden villages – you won't want to put your camera down during this photography workshop. nfd.io/avonpic

Devil's Nutting Day Celebration Voltaire's Wood, Minchinhampton September 21

Known historically as Devil's Nutting Day, it was once thought that gathering nuts on September 21 would attract the attention of Old Nick himself. Taunt Beelzebub by foraging through the woods with a little help from an oak, ash and thorn expert, followed by deer tracking and a whittling masterclass. nfd.io/nutday

02 - 12 OCT 2024

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

OPERA PROJECT MAKE THEIR LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRES WITH MOZART'S COMIC MASTERPIECE.



'I left the theatre reeling from the experience'
- The Guardian on Eugene Onegin



'For opera novices and aficionados alike there is plenty to get to grips with'
- What's On Stage on La Traviata



'Opera Project's 12-piece orchestra... not only fits but fills the space to create a singular musical experience'
- The Reviews Hub on Tosca



29 NOV 2024 - 12 JAN 2025

HANSEL & GRETEL

TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRES WILL BE TRANSFORMED THIS YEAR INTO A MAGICAL AND MYTHICAL LAND IN THIS CLASSIC FAIRY-TALE BY THE BROTHERS GRIMM.



'An evening of exceptional entertainment'
- UK Theatre on Oliver Twist



'You couldn't find a better way to start your Christmas than this'
- StageTalk Magazine on The Snow Queen



'A real treat of a family show... gorgeous'
- The Times on Snow White

20 FEB - 29 MAR 2025

THE WINTER'S TALE

SHAKESPEARE'S MOST RICH AND DYNAMIC PLAY, PACKED WITH SURPRISES, ORACLES, MIRACLES AND HIS MOST FAMOUS STAGE DIRECTION: 'EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR'.



'A marvellous production of Othello - one of the best I have seen of this hard-to-love play'
- The Guardian on Othello



'accessible, funny and delightfully acted'
- Broadway World on A Midsummer Night's Dream



The World Revealed
Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute
Until October 12

A free exhibition exploring how some of BRSLI's most idiosyncratic objects found their way into the collection. Discover Jurassic fossils collected by Mary Anning, a phial of the brandy in which Lord Nelson's body was preserved after Trafalgar, and an ivory figurine from the ruins of Pompeii.

nfd.io/worldrev

MarshFest
Marshfield Cricket Club
September 14

This end-of-summer all-day set up by village mums and dads is back with another stacked line-up of fun. There's live street art, dance workshops, kids entertainment, two stages of music and a headline set by ex-Noah and the Whaler Matt Owens' band, The Delusional Vanity Project. All that, plus 100% of profits go to good causes.

nfd.io/mfest



Bristol Craft Brew Festival
Document, Bristol
August 30-31

How does five hours of unlimited, uninterrupted craft beer sampling sound? We thought so. As well as trying out the best ales around, you'll get to chat beer-making secrets with the independent brewers behind them. Soak up all that hoppy liquid at the tasty-looking street food stalls.

nfd.io/craftb



Photos: No.1 Royal Crescent / Bath Preservation Trust

The Jane Austen Festival
Various venues, Bath
September 13-22

Don your bonnets and breeches, and get lost in Austen for ten glorious days, with the Georgian splendour of Bath as your backdrop. Enjoy a Regency costume parade, summer balls, theatrical performances and expert talks, all inspired by the work of one of Britain's most beloved writers.

nfd.io/jausten

Ottolenghi: Comfort
Toppings, Bath
September 19

Mac 'n' cheese, chicken noodle soup, dhal or dumplings - as the latest Ottolenghi book attests, there is no one-size-fits-all comfort food. Join the book's co-authors Helen, Verena and Tara as they explore what comfort food means to us all and share their new reassuring recipes, all with that revelatory Ottolenghi twist.

nfd.io/ottoco

Bristol Sea Shanty Festival
Various harbourside venues, Bristol
September 21

The very best sea shanty crews, groups and choirs from counties within a day's sail from Bristol will be pouring into Bristol harbourside to fill the air with their salty earworms. Soak up the maritime history and get swept away on a tide of melodic (and boozy?) voices at this free event.

nfd.io/shantyf

