



comedy • digital media • drama • family events • film • literature festival • music • workshops

Arts Centre

Exhibitions

cre8 studios

summer. guide

May – July 2006

Arts Services



Arts Services News

WOW have we got a fabulous summer of arts in Swindon lined up for you: a galaxy of stars at the Arts Centre; the wonderful outdoor concerts at the Bowl; inspirational courses at cre8 and our biggest and brightest event yet, the Swindon Brunel 200 Festival. Join us in July to celebrate the genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and discover how modern Swindon was created. Look out for our special *Brunel 200 in Swindon* brochure out soon.

We'd love to know what you think about Arts Services so please do send us your feedback.



Arts Centre,
Madame Galina



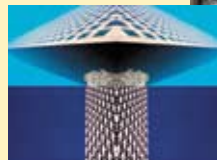
Brunel Festival



cre8 studios,
Media Circus



Literature Festival,
Nick Hornby



Visual Arts, Open Art

Coming Up...

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still booking for april... see centre page listings

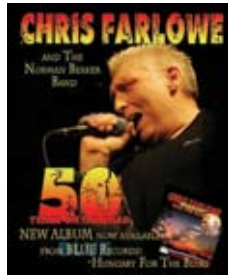
Chris Farlowe & The Norman Beaker Band

Rocker Chris celebrates 50 years in the music business this month. His classic Out of Time track also marks an anniversary – it hit the number one spot in the week that England won the World Cup in 1966 – 40 years ago this summer. As the driving force behind Chris Farlowe and the Thunderbirds, The Hill, Colosseum and Atomic Rooster, Farlowe has worked with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards (who wrote Out of Time for him), Deep Purple’s Jon Lord and Ian Paice, Led Zeppelin’s Jimmy Page, and Albert Lee (who also appears at the Arts Centre this month).

www.chrisfarlowe.co.uk

Saturday 13 May 8pm

Tickets £13 



Paul Turner (piano)

Swindon Recital Series

Programme: Bach (*Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue*), Beethoven (*Appassionata*), Ravel (*Sonatine*), Milhaud (*Saudades do Brazil*) and Debussy (*L'Isle Joyeuse*).

Lauded as one of the most versatile pianists of his generation, Paul Turner performs as part of the Swindon Recital Series. Paul has given live broadcasts on both Classic FM and BBC Radio 3.

www.swindonrecitalseries.org

Sunday 14 May 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (concessions £8),

music students £2,

accompanied children under 15 free

Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes

Some of the best-known and most respected rock 'n' roll and country musicians in the UK have come together to form this band. Albert Lee is a Grammy Award-winning musician who tours not only with his own band, but with Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings. Steel guitar player Gerry Hogan (Country Fever, Head Hands & Feet, Matchbox), bassist Brian Hodgson (Billy Fury, Marty Wilde, George Harrison), Pete Wingfield on keyboards (Keef Hartley Band, Colin Blunstone, Maggie Bell, Van Morrison) and drummer Peter Baron (Elkie Brooks Band, Night, Renaissance) complete the line-up.

www.albertleeandhogansheroes.com

Wednesday 17 May 8pm Tickets £17.50 



Arts Centre News

“Swindon Arts Centre has recently welcomed two new staff members to the team: Nigel Perrott (familiar to customers of the Palette Cafe) is our new casual Duty Manager, and Jaime Bullock is Box Office/PR Assistant during the latter part of the week - so look out for them when you call up or come in!

Don't forget that we rely heavily on our much-valued team of front-of-house volunteers to staff our events - have you considered joining yet? If you'd like to get involved, please email artscentre@swindon.gov.uk or talk to the Duty Manager when you see a show.

Now - on with the programme...”

Clarry Bean, Arts Programming Manager

Arts Centre



Book more than one event and get cheaper tickets

Music madness, comedy cracker, theatre treat, film fiesta – if you see these names next to the ticket prices for an event you can get the cheaper price. All you have to do is buy at least one ticket for two shows (three for films) from the same category at the same time. For example – buy a ticket for the Karine Polwart Band (page 5) and Juliet Turner (page 6) you get the *music madness* ticket price of £10.50 & £10 – saving £4 in total!

Group rates

Unless you're on a romantic date, why not bring a few friends? If you bring nine other people you get the *party booking* ticket price (where mentioned). Find ten more (group of twenty) and you get your seat free! For example if you book up ten tickets or more for Sue Perkins (page 9) each ticket is the party booking rate of £10.50, saving £1.50 per person!

We're pretty flexible when you book a group – you don't need to know exact numbers or pay up there and then. Give our friendly box office a call (01793 614837) with rough numbers - the sooner you ring the more likely there are enough tickets and you can all sit together. Give us exact figures and payment when you've collected everyone's money.*

*If the event is selling out or is within one week of the show, we will need to confirm numbers and payment.

Other discounts

Some events have a *student* ticket price for full-time students and children – show evidence when you book or collect. To get *Swindon Card* ticket prices, see inside back cover. Many Festival of Literature events have double ticket offers – buy a tickets for both events at the same time to get the *double ticket* discount price.

Friends of Swindon Arts Centre

What would Swindon be like without the Arts Centre?

Show your support and get:

- a newsletter with insider gossip three times a year
- book tickets a *week earlier* for most events
- get an *early bird* discount of **£2** on some events with **EB**
- get up to **30% off** up to two tickets the *week* before a show when marked with a tick **✓**

For all this you only pay £12 per year – ask box office for further information or go online at www.swindon.gov.uk/artscentre. Offers subject to availability.

The Palette Café

10.30am–3.00pm, Mondays to Fridays, 10.30am–2.00pm Saturdays, and on professional show evenings during the interval.



For snacks, sandwiches, and light lunches; special events or food for meetings at the Arts Centre. Meet in Old Town, relax, take a break, and enjoy the art!

Nigel and Jane are looking forward to serving you.

The Galini Trio



Lunchtime recital

The Galini Trio play a programme of music including Beethoven's *Trio in E Flat op70 no2*, Rachmaninov's *Trio Elegaique* and Mendelssohn's *Trio in D Minor op49*. The Galini Trio are Andrew Watkinson, first violin of the Endellion Quartet for over 25 years and former leader/director of the City of London Sinfonia, Shuna Wilson former cellist of the Kandinsky Quartet and principal cello of the City of London Sinfonia and London Bach orchestras and Soula Petridou, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Thursday 18 May 12.30noon, ends 1.30pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £5), students & children £2

Karine Polwart Band

The 2005 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards ceremony was a good night for Karine – she left with a clutch of gongs including Best Album for the album *Faultlines*, Best Original Song and the Horizon Award for Best Emerging Artist. Her writing combines folk storytelling tradition with probing intellect; disturbing tales of twentieth century genocide, TV executions and sex trafficking are offset by wistful musings upon the beauty of the night sky, comic tales of lovelorn gas installers and wry observations on the links between cosmetic dentistry and global domination.

www.karinepolwart.com

Friday 19 May 8pm ✓

Tickets £12.50, Swindon Card £12, party booking £11, music madness £10.50



David Knopfler & Harry Bogdanovs with special guest Megan Slankard



David Knopfler was the founding member of Dire Straits (*Money for Nothing*, *Walk of Life*, *Romeo and Juliet*) with brother Mark, and began recording solo albums in 1983. Last year's *Ship of Dreams* was received with critical acclaim and also played by Bob Harris and Terry Wogan on BBC Radio 2. His 10th solo album is released this year. David is joined on his tour by his long time friend and multi-instrumentalist Harry Bogdanovs and new talent Megan Slankard.

www.knopfler.com

Saturday 20 May 8pm

Tickets £12, Swindon Card £11,

party booking £10.50, music madness £10 ✓



Arts Centre



Charlie Dore



Rescheduled from February, Charlie, one of the UK's most respected songwriters, has penned platinum-selling hits for diverse artists on both sides of the Atlantic. Her own recording, *Pilot of the Airwaves*, a US Top Ten, is still a radio classic and her recent *Sleep All Day* single is a Terry Wogan favourite. Her fourth album, *Sleep All Day and Other Stories*, is a return to her acoustic country roots.

“File under: treasure.”
***The Observer* (re album *Sleep All Day*)**

www.charliedore.com

Tuesday 23 May 8pm

Tickets £10, Swindon card £9.50, party booking £9, music madness £8.50 ✓

Juliet Turner

Singer-songwriter Juliet Turner stumbled into making music. She was given a guitar for her fifteenth birthday and met a poet who told her to start writing her own songs. In 1996 she was offered the chance to record those songs. The result was *Let's Hear it for Pizza*. In 2000 Juliet released her second album *Burn the Black Suit*, which went double platinum in Ireland. *Season of the Hurricane* was released in February 2004 and went platinum in Ireland. This offered the radio hit *Everything Beautiful is Burning* and went Top 10 in the Irish album charts.

www.julietturner.com

Thursday 25 May 8pm ✓

Tickets £12, Swindon Card £11, party booking £10.50, music madness £10



Lorraine Ayensu



Bristol-based singer-songwriter Lorraine is as passionate about world music as she is about pop, folk and jazz from Britain and America. Supporting Lorraine on her debut tour of the South West are a six-piece band, bringing traditional and contemporary acoustic sounds together against the backdrop of her West African and British heritage. Expect a range of songs from tender ballads to up beat Afro-soul rock.

www.lorraineayensu.com

Saturday 27 May 8pm

Tickets £10, Swindon card £9.50, party booking £9, music madness £8.50 ✓

Degutis



Created by songwriter Steve Degutis from musicians he knew from society function band The Mighty Quintet (fronted by Manfred Mann's Mike d'Abo), Degutis play soulful rock with jazz, country and blues influences. The band consists of Chris Kerridge on bass, Dik Cadbury on guitar and vocals, Colin Green on keyboards and vocals, Owen Howell on drums and Steve Degutis on guitar and vocals. Their recent demo was recorded in Steve's Swindon studio.

Wednesday 31 May time 8pm

Tickets £8

Mountain

Stars on 1969's legendary Woodstock festival, Mountain bring their power rock to Swindon as part of a two-week whistle-stop tour of the UK. Between 1971 and 1973 Mountain released three incredible albums, *Nantucket Sleigh Ride*, *Flowers Of Evil* and *Live – The Road Goes On Forever*, with sales figures running into millions. Mountain enjoyed hits with *Mississippi Queen*, *Theme From An Imaginary Western* and the awesome *Nantucket Sleigh Ride*, used as the theme tune to London Weekend TV's *Weekend World* programme for 20 years.

www.mountaintheband.com

Friday 2 June 8pm

Tickets £20 ✓



Stan Webb's Chicken Shack

Since 1968, Stan Webb's blistering guitar style matched with a huge stage presence have made Chicken Shack a firm favourite of rock and blues fans everywhere. Since those heady days of the late sixties, seventeen albums have been released together with numerous compilations proving that Stan really is 'The Man'. The live album *Still Live After All These Years* was released in 2004 and there are plans for a new album and DVD in 2006.

www.stanwebb.co.uk

Friday 9 June 8pm

Tickets £12.50, Swindon Card £12, party booking £11, music madness £10.50 ✓





Arts Centre



Two Sopranos and a Piano

Kentwood Show Choir

Two established soloists of the Kentwood Show Choir, Kathy Hobson and Gill May, share some of their favourite songs, accompanied by Sheila Harrod on the piano. Profits from this performance will be donated to the Prospect Hospice Foundation.

www.teamckct.co.uk/kentwood

Saturday 10 June 7.45pm

Tickets £8

The Jim Tomlinson Trio and Stacey Kent

Perhaps best known for his work as the compelling counter-voice to singer and wife, Stacey Kent, Jim is increasingly recognized as a distinctive saxophone voice in his own right. The Jim Tomlinson Trio was formed to record his debut album, *Only Trust Your Heart*, in 1998. A new album featuring Stacey Kent, *The Lyric*, is out now.

www.staceykent.com

Wednesday 21 June 8pm

Tickets £15 ✓



James Warren and Friends

James and his eight-piece band perform the best of Stackridge and The Korgis. James is responsible for the classic pop ballad *Everybody's Got to Learn Sometime*, covered many times and most recently featured in the film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. James and Friends will be singing Korgis and Stakeridge favourites as well as material from latest albums, *Sex and Flags* (Stackridge), *The Korgis Kollection* and his solo release *Jim's Easy Listening Album*.



Friday 23 June 8pm

Tickets £10, Swindon card £9.50, party booking £9, music madness £8.50 ✓

Gretchen Peters Trio

Hailed by many as one of Nashville's best contemporary songwriters, Gretchen Peters' intelligent and introspective songs have been covered by pop, country, blues and folk artists all over the world. Peters won Grammy nominations for the heart-wrenching Patty Loveless hit, *You Don't Even Know Who I Am*, as well as Martina McBride's award-winning recording of *Independence Day*, an in-your-face look at domestic violence. In 2003, she was nominated for a Golden Globe award for her work on the Dreamworks animated film, *Spirit- Stallion of the Cimarron*, and the movie's hit single by Bryan Adams, *Here I Am*.

www.gretchenpeters.com

Friday 21 July 8pm

Tickets £12, Swindon Card £11, party booking £10.50, music madness £10 EB



The Book Club



Robin Ince

In association with Swindon Festival of Literature

If you'd like to spend time with some of the country's best stand ups but don't want your comedy on a plate.

If you like lots of jokes, a song on the ukulele about the first dog in space, stories about people who thought they were John Lennon's lover in the fifteenth century, jokes about rhinoceroses, cover

versions of Queen and Radiohead, Boggle matches live on stage, readings from strange and terrible books, and lots of jokes, then this is for you.

Book Club performers include comedians Howard Read, Josie Long, Tom Meeton, Danielle Ward, accordion king Martin White, all dragged on stage by Robin Ince.

"The finest literary event in Edinburgh this summer" *The Observer*

Wednesday 10 May 8pm

Tickets £8 (concessions £7),

double ticket with Ned Sherrin (see page 27) £12

Sue Perkins

In the Autumn of 1988, Sue Perkins got onto a stage to perform her first ever stand-up routine. She was interrupted, mid flow, by a strange and hunched figure, dressed in a cerise New Romantic boiler suit. This person turned out to be a girl called Mel. For the next seventeen years the pair were best known as Mel & Sue.

Now in her first one woman show, Sue will finally finish what she started that night. Except with different jokes, obviously.

Enjoy a tour round Britain's first online Romany community; see the prototype of the Pentagon's Gay Bomb; find out why you should always keep a badger in the fridge.

Sue has appeared in *Have I Got News For You*, *Good Evening Rockall* (BBC3), *Movie Babylon* (SkyTV); has written additional material for Ab Fab, and appears regularly on radio shows such as *It's Been A Bad Week* (Radio 2) and *Just A Minute* (Radio 4). She also presents the *99p Challenge*, which has just received a Silver Sony Award for Comedy.

Friday 26 May 8pm

**Tickets £12, Swindon Card £11, party booking £10.50,
comedy cracker £10**





Anything For A Tenor Madame Galina Ballet Star Galactica

In *Anything for a Tenor*, Lestyn Edwards sings the songs of Cole Porter, Franz Schubert, and Richard Rodgers. He goes off at tangents such as his parents putting sleeping tablets into his Ribena to stop him singing along to Mary Poppins at 4 am on Christmas morning. In *Ballet Star Galactica*, Edwards stars as Russian ballerina Madame Galina, forced to take advantage of Lotto funding by doing outreach work in a village that cannot otherwise access art. Meant to be in residence for two months she has gone AWOL to film a pop video with McFly.

“A fine tenor and truly gifted comic”

**Libby Purves,
The Times**

www.jgpm.co.uk/ie.htm

**Saturday
6 May 8pm,
ends 10pm
Tickets £10**



Laura Solon

Newcomer Laura Solon made Perrier Award history last year by becoming only the second female to win the prize for a solo show. Laura has stirred up a whirlwind of industry excitement and has been hailed as the new queen of character comedy. In a series of strange and deranged monologues, Laura transforms into nine different odd-ball characters with amazing dexterity. To give you some idea of what to expect, Solon has previously appeared on BBC Two's Sack Race posing as a fundamentalist Christian who found God in a pizza, trying to get fired from a Wimbledon nail bar.



Thursday 8 June 8pm

Tickets £10, Swindon Card £9.50, party booking £9, comedy cracker £8.50

Laurence Clark – Jim Fixed It For Me

In 1990 Laurence Clark briefly appeared on Jim'll Fix It. He's still getting over it!

In this new show disabled 'sit-down' comedian Laurence Clark re-examines his past, recounting stories about telling Jimmy Saville to 'get lost' on TV, being taken to Lourdes, using urinals and becoming a father. To contrast with the stand-up routines about real life, the show is interspersed with short video sketches, sending up the tragic portrayal of disabled people in TV documentaries.

www.laurenceclark.com.uk

Friday 7 July 8pm

Tickets £10, Swindon Card £9.50, party booking £9, comedy cracker £8.50



20,000 Leagues Under the Office

Publick Transport

Two office workers on a lunch break suddenly find themselves plunging towards the centre of the earth in this parody of the disaster genre. Verbal slapstick, visual wisecracks and vertiginous melodrama combine in this very funny staging of the unstageable. A hair-raising cock-eyed meditation on life.

“Entertainingly absurd” “Barr and McKinnon are skilled physical comedians...” *The Scotsman*

www.publicktransport.com

Tuesday 16 May 8pm, ends 9pm no interval ✓

Tickets £10, Swindon Card £9.50, party booking £9, theatre treat £8.50, students £6



Old Times

London Classic Theatre Written by Harold Pinter.

Deeley, a film-maker, and Kate, his wife of twenty years, live in an isolated farmhouse by the sea. The calm and seclusion of their world is splintered by the arrival of the beautiful Anna, a solitary dinner guest and old friend. As the trio reminisce, they bring to life the events and echoes of a shared past in 1950's London. But memories like these, mixed with desire, can be dangerous. Soon a battle of wills begins, an emotional duel in which past and present will merge with shattering consequences. Challenging, accessible drama of the highest quality.

“...a brilliantly controlled, tantalizingly enigmatic masterpiece...” *Daily Telegraph*

www.londonclassictheatre.co.uk

Wednesday 24 May 7.30pm, ends 9.15 including interval

Tickets £10, Swindon Card £9.50, party booking £9, theatre treat £8.50, students £6 EB

In association with



Club Class

Practical Productions

Ages 16+

Join a cast of four as your cabin crew, playing everyone from pilots to baggage handlers, passengers and even bits of the Airbus A320 on a charter flight to the Algarve... all set to the music of Steps. Written by stand-up comic and former airline pilot Harry Denford, this play has been touring regional theatres for the past year after its London run, which *The Times* voted in its top five recommendations.

Saturday 22 July 8pm

Tickets £12, Swindon Card £11, party booking £10.50, theatre treat £10 ✓





Arts Centre



Pramface

**Eleanor Lloyd and
Critical Mass**

Ages 12+ (strong language)

It girl, blinger, pikey, chav: in a world where image is everything, what face have you got? Pramface, a chavette in a tracksuit, keeps an obsessive secret locked in her cellar and an obsessive sense of injustice locked in her heart. When Danny Wells, the kid next door, is humiliated on TV talent show *Star Search*, Pramface's anger turns to action, with horrifying consequences. Pramface is a disturbing and darkly comic satire on social racism and celebrity fixation.



“...a clever thriller that lures you into believing it is a comedy about chav culture before upending preconceptions.” *Sunday Times*

Tuesday 6 June 7.30pm followed by chat with Lizzie Hopley AKA Pramface

Tickets £10, Swindon Card £9.50, party booking £9, theatre treat £8.50, students £6

In association with



Julius Caesar

Old Town Theatre Company

Forget BBC TV's *Rome*, William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar is the original tale of a 2,000 year old empire driven by ambition, lust, power and treachery. Swindon's own OTTC gives the story a modern spin in their innovative style.

www.swindonweb.com/ottc

Thursday 15 – Saturday 17 June 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £4)

Caught on the Hop

Western Players

Frenetic, hectic and catastrophic activity takes place when George is forced to help his friend Phil. After falling for a girl on the top of a No 49 bus, Phil decides to divorce Maggie and move in next door with his new girlfriend. Confusion, illusion and delusion follow. Derek Benfield's play by a Swindon-based group.

www.westernplayers.co.uk

Wednesday 28 June – Saturday 1 July 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £5) from 01793 433297 only

High Society

Ray Dance & Judith Sharp

Cole Porter's glorious musical masterpiece based on *The Philadelphia Story*. Includes all-time classics *True Love*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, *What a Swell Party This Is*, and *You're Sensational*.

Wednesday 12 - Saturday 15 July 7.30pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Tickets £7.50 (concessions £6.50)

Bink and the Giant Wizzpop

The People's Theatre Company Workshop and play, ages 5-11



Princess Verity's falls under a sinister sleeping spell. She will only wake when a riddle's answer is found. But not even Murkor, the king's cunning advisor, can conjure up the solution. Hope rests with Bink the elf. However, Bink has been banished and thinking is not exactly his thing. Can a fairy queen, the loyalty of his friends or a sprite secret persuade Bink otherwise? A swashbuckling, new musical adventure about true love and the importance of using your head.

www.ptc.org.uk

Half term Thursday 1 June

Workshop: 1.30pm & 4.30pm. Tickets £3

Performance: 2.30pm ends 4pm, & 5.30pm ends 7pm, includes interval

Tickets £7.50, children £6, family £22 (4 tickets, max 2 adults) ✓

Wind in the Willows

Image Theatre Company

Kenneth Grahame's Tales of the River Bank, the Open Road, the Wild Wood, the exuberant Mr Toad and Mole, Ratty and Badger in this vibrant musical production. Image Musical Theatre's popular format means everyone can take part in the show. Before the show gets underway, some children are plucked from the audience to go back stage and learn to play the rabbits, the ducks and the thieving weasels. The rest learn the chorus of four songs to sing in the main performance.

www.imagemusicaltheatre.co.uk

Saturday 8 July 2.30pm, ends 4.15pm with interval

Tickets £6, children £5, family £18 (4 tickets, max 2 adults)



Wizzil



The Nuffield Ages 4-10

Wizzil is a Witch. More than that, Wizzil is a bored Witch! She's bored stiff and that can only lead to trouble... A play based on the original book by William Steig, cartoonist and award-winning, best-selling author of children's picture books and novels, including the Hollywood phenomenon Shrek. Wizzil is a delightfully original, funny and energetic tale with unexpected results.

Presented by the Arts Centre as part of Swindon Festival of Literature.

www.williamsteig.com/wizzil.htm

Monday 8 May 4.30pm, ends 5.30pm no interval
Tickets £6, children £5, family £18 (4 tickets, max 2 adults)

Artyfacts children's art club

After school arts and crafts club – see Visual Arts page 38.

Yes 15

Part of Literature Festival, see page 24

Tuesday 2 May 9.30pm

Stone Reader 12

Part of Literature Festival, see page 25

Thursday 4 May 8.45pm

The Constant Gardener 15

Love at any cost.

Directed by
Fernando Meirelles
(*City of God*).

Ralph Fiennes
and Rachel Weisz
earned BAFTA

nominations for their electrifying performances in this gripping suspense-thriller. A diplomat on the hunt for his wife's murderer uncovers a treacherous conspiracy that will destroy millions of innocent people – unless he can reveal its sinister roots. From the bestselling spy novel by John Le Carre comes this edge-of-your-seat story of murder, deception and revenge.

www.theconstantgardener.com

Thursday 18 May 7.45pm, ends 10.05pm



Keeping Mum 15

Some family secrets are best kept...buried.

Directed by Niall Johnson. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott Thomas, Patrick Swayze and Maggie Smith. Walter Goodfellow, the well meaning vicar of the parish of Little Wallop, is so obsessed with writing the perfect sermon that he is oblivious to his wife Gloria's dalliance with her brash golf instructor Lance.

Neither does he notice that his daughter Holly has a different boyfriend every week, and his young son Petey is the whipping boy for the school bullies. Enter Grace, a sweet old lady and discreet housekeeper who has her own unique way of keeping house and solving problems.

www.keepingmumthemovie.com

Tuesday 30 May 7.45pm, ends 9.35pm



Munich 15

The world was watching in 1972 as eleven Israeli athletes were murdered at the Olympics. This is the story of what happened next.

Directed by Stephen Spielberg. Starring Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciaran Hinds and Geoffrey Rush. In the aftermath of an unprecedented terrorist Palestinian attack on the Israeli team at the Munich Olympic Games, a young Israeli patriot is asked to go on a revenge mission. With his team of four, Avner circles the globe tracking down the eleven men believed to have carried out the massacre. Torn between their desire for justice and their growing doubts, they realise the longer they hunt, the more danger they are in of becoming the hunted.

www.munichmovie.com

Wednesday 7 June 7.45pm, ends 10.40pm



The Libertine 18



He didn't resist temptation. He pursued it.

Directed by Laurence Dunmore. Starring Johnny Depp, Samantha Morton, John Malkovich and Johnny Vegas. John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester, is known for his scandalous ways, living life in pursuit of vice with little recourse. Married but not satisfied, he has a passionate romance with a young actress, Elizabeth Barry, and writes a scurrilous play that lampoons its commissioner, King Charles II. The blistering and bawdy attack leads to the earl's banishment and eventual downfall. The Libertine is a period piece that combines the dark debauched underbelly of London with the allure and glamour of the Restoration court.

www.thelibertine-movie.com

Thursday 22 June 7.45pm, ends 9.50pm

Where the Truth Lies 18

When you have everything you want, how far is too far?

Directed by Atom Egoyan. Starring Kevin Bacon, Colin Firth and Alison Lohman. In the 1950s, Lanny Morris and Vince Collins are the most beloved entertainers in America. They are at the top of their game when a dead beauty turns up in their hotel suite. Neither are charged but their partnership is destroyed, the reason becoming one of show business' greatest mysteries. Fifteen years later, up and coming writer Karen O'Connor turns this cold case into a story. She unravels a serpentine, shocking tale of talent and treachery, love and lust, buried secrets and betrayed trust.



www.wherethetruthliesfilm.com

Thursday 6 July 7.45pm, ends 9.45pm

March of the Penguins U



In the harshest place on earth, love finds a way.

Directed by Luc Jacquet. Narrated by Morgan Freeman. With short steps, bent under the pitiless burden of a driving snowstorm, the emperor penguin labours through a vast labyrinth of ice. Around him, all is white, all is in violent flux. Yet the valiant bird never falters, undaunted by seemingly insurmountable obstacles. He keeps going. In this land where no other creature ventures, the emperor continues on to his romantic rendezvous. As it follows the winter migration of the emperor penguin, March of the Penguins tells a tale of legendary proportions, portraying the strange, spectacular destiny of powerful and emotionally-involving characters, rich in courage and humour, mystery and manifest drama.

www.marchofthepenguins.com

Thursday 20 July 7.45pm, ends 9.20pm

The Swindon Brunel Festival

7-16 July 2006 information/programme from 01793 614837

This year's festival is the flagship event of the Brunel 200 celebrations in Swindon. Request a Brunel 200 brochure with details of all events from April-September and a Swindon Brunel Festival programme from 01793 614837 or visit www.swindonbrunel200.co.uk.

Friday 7 – Saturday 8 July

Building Bridges. The best of Swindon talent with performances especially devised to celebrate Brunel 200.

Wyvern Theatre

Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 July

Lunchtime Performances featuring International street theatre, comedy and music. **Under the canopies on the Parade.**

Saturday 15 July

A spectacular carnival parade on the theme of Brunel: Engineer of the imagination! Followed by one BIG day of street theatre, comedy and music with the accent firmly on creativity and invention. **Swindon town centre**

Sunday 16 July

Crossing the Great Divide. Performance, food, children's activities and more incorporating the Children's Fete.

Faringdon Park & Railway Village.

Sunday 16 July

A sensational Festival Finale with some breath-taking performances, a spectacular fire show and pyrotechnics.

Faringdon Park



Picture by Josephine Williams, courtesy of the Commonweal School.

Relax and enjoy or dance the night away to the best of live outdoor music over the summer, in the beautiful surroundings of the Old Town Gardens Bowl.

The Butterfly Ball

Summer is coming! Dance music from top local DJs and headline act (to be announced).

Saturday 3 June Doors 6.00pm finish 10.30pm

Salsa Celtica

Edinburgh-based eleven-piece band Salsa Celtica have stolen the show at gigs and festivals throughout the world with their high-energy fusion of Latin and Celtic sounds and rhythms. The Salsa Celtica mix blends pipes, with congas, brass with fiddles by musicians hailing from Cuba, Ireland, Scotland and Venezuela.



**“A stunning marriage of musical styles...
Virtuosos to a man...” *The Scotsman***

Saturday 17 June Doors 6.00pm finish 10.30pm

Otis Grand and the Big Blues Band

The UK's leading bluesman supported by Swindon's leading bluesman, Bob Bowles.

Saturday 1 July 6.00pm Doors 6.00pm finish 10.30pm

Freshly Ground (tbc)

Sensational South African band who mix township with pop, rock and hip hop. Recently signed to Sony BMG Freshly Ground are set for the big time!!

Saturday 15 July Doors 6.00pm finish 10.30pm

Jazzy B

The Crown Prince of Bhangra - a mix of traditional and progressive Bhangra.

Saturday 29 July Doors 7.15pm finish 10.30pm

Lion Train

One of the best roots reggae bands around – inspired by the legacy of Bob Marley.

**Saturday
12 August
Doors 6.00pm
finish 10.30pm**



Swindon Mela

Swindon's annual vibrant and colourful celebration of Asian arts and culture. Named in 2005 by *The Times* as one of the top three Melas in Britain!



This full day of events (most free) includes:

- Three stages** – Bollywood & Bhangra music and dance.
- Mela market** – a shoppers' paradise of clothes, jewellery, crafts and music.
- Mela food** – a mouth-watering variety of Indian nosh.
- Activities Zone** – Asian arts and crafts for adults and children.
- Health Zone** with massages, treatments and workshops.
- Kids' Zone** with funfair rides, bouncy castles and face-painting.
- Evening Bowl concert** with the "Crown Prince of Bhangra" Jazzy B (see previous page).

Entry during the day is FREE.
Book the evening concert on 01793 614837 (from 17 April)
Saturday 29 July 12noon-10.30pm,
Old Town Gardens



What's on at a glance...

April

exhibition	Until Sat 13	Benoit Philippe: Weaving Lights of Wiltshire (at Wyvern Theatre)
forum	1st and 3rd Tues, monthly	Media Surgery (at cre8 studios)
workshop	Sat 1, 10am–5pm	Film Editing (at cre8 studios)
family	Sat 1, 2pm	Professor Burm's Story Machine (The Black Sheep)
drama/comedy	Sat 1, 8pm	The Joy of Wine (The Black Sheep)
forum	Wed 5, 7pm	Future cre8ives (at cre8 studios)
film	Fri 7, 7pm	Preloader Wiltshire & Swindon Film Festival (at cre8 studios)
workshop	Sat 8, 10am–5pm	DVD Design Skills (at cre8 studios)
music	Mon 10, 8pm	Bruce Katz Band
family	Tue 11, 7.30pm	Bloodhand (Moby Duck)
film	Wed 12, 7.45pm	Maria Full of Grace (15) (SFS)
film	Tue 18, 7.45pm	Broken Flowers (15)
workshop	Weds 19 April–24 May, 4pm	Artyfacts children's art club
film	Wed 19, 7.45pm	A Thousand Months (12A) (SFS)
music	Fri 21, 8pm	Putting on the Style – Lonnie Donnegan tribute
workshop	Sat 22 April - 20 May, various times	Media Circus (at cre8 studios)
comedy	Sat 22, 8pm	Alan Carr
workshop	Tues 25 April–23 May, 10am	Painting and drawing
forum	Wed 26, 7pm	Interface (at cre8 studios) was 12 April
Mela	Sat 29, 11am	Asian Health Mela (Swindon Mela at Broadgreen Community Centre)
exhibition	29 April - 8 June	Open Art
May		
literature	Mon 1, 7pm	Being Alive
literature	Tue 2, 6pm	James Geary: We Are What We Think!



Media Circus

■ cre8
 ■ Visual Arts
 ■ Arts Centre
 ■ Festivals
 ■ Swindon Festival of Literature
 At Arts Centre unless otherwise stated. SFS = Swindon Film Society

Visit www.swindon.gov.uk/artsandculture

What's on at a glance...

Arts Services Guide – Booking Office 01793 614837

May continued

literature	Tue 2, 8pm	Ann Widdecombe
film	Tue 2, 9.30pm	Yes (15)
literature	Wed 3, 6pm	Bettany Hughes: Helen of Troy
literature	Wed 3, 8pm	Matthew Parris
workshop	Thur from 4 May, 10am	Expressions Unlimited
literature	Thur 4, 7pm	Julian Spalding: The Art of Wonder
film	Thur 4, 8.45pm	Stone Reader (12)
literature	Fri 5, 6pm	Satish Kumar
literature	Fri 5, 8pm	Les Barker
literature	Sat 6, 11am	Youth Slam
literature	Sat 6, 2pm	Melvin Burgess
comedy	Sat 6, 8pm	Anything for a Tenor / Madame Galina - Ballet Star Galactica
literature	Mon 8, 12.30pm	Vicki Feaver and Robin Robertson: Two Poets
family	Mon 8, 4.30pm	Wizzil (The Nuffield)
literature/ music	Tue 9, 7pm	Claire Williamson: Ride On
literature	Tue 9, 9pm	John Hegley: Uncut Confetti!
literature	Wed 10, 12.30pm	Mark Lawson: Enough is Enough!
literature	Wed 10, 6pm	Ned Sherrin
literature/ comedy	Wed 10, 8pm	The Book Club
literature	Thur 11, 12.30pm	Marina Lewychna
literature	Thur 11, 6pm	Will Self
literature	Thur 11, 8pm	Nick Hornby
literature	Fri 12, 12.30pm	Dr Patrick Harding: Patrick's Florilegium
literature	Fri 12, 6pm	Will Hodgkinson: Guitar Man
literature/ music	Fri 12, 8pm	Preparing for Paraguay
literature	Sat 13, 12.30pm	Anna Massey: Telling Some Tales
music	Sat 13, 8pm	Chris Farlowe & The Norman Beaker Band
music	Sun 14, 7.30pm	Swindon Recital Series - Paul Turner
exhibition	16 May - 1 July	Syd Pycroft: Watch: Wait (at Wyvern Theatre)
drama	Tue 16, 8pm	20,000 Leagues Under the Office (Publick Transport)
forum	Wed 17, 7pm	Interface (at cre8 studios)



Will Self

May continued

music	Wed 17, 8pm	Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes
music	Thur 18, 12.30pm	Classical Lunchtime Recital - The Galini Trio
film	Thur 18, 7.45pm	The Constant Gardener (15)
music	Fri 19, 8pm	Karine Polwart Band
music	Sat 20, 8pm	David Knopfler
music	Tue 23, 8pm	Charlie Dore
drama	Wed 24, 7.30pm	Old Times (London Classic Theatre)
music	Thur 25, 8pm	Juliet Turner
comedy	Fri 26, 8pm	Sue Perkins
workshop	Sat 27 & Sun 28, 10am-5pm	Professional TV News Editing (at cre8 studios)
music	Sat 27, 8pm	Lorraine Ayensu
film	Tue 30, 7.45pm	Keeping Mum (15)
music	Wed 31, 8pm	Degutis



Juliet Turner

June

family	Thur 1, 2.30pm & 5.30pm	Bink & The Giant Whizzpop (The People's Theatre Company)
music	Fri 2, 8pm	Mountain
workshop	Sat 3, various times	X Team (at cre8 studios)
music	Sat 3, doors 6.00pm	Bowl Concert: The Butterfly Ball
workshop	Tue 6 June - 11 July, 10am	Painting & drawing
drama	Tue 6, 7.30pm	Pramface
workshop	Wed 7 June - 19 July, 4pm	Artyfacts children's art club
film	Wed 7, 7.45pm	Munich (15)
comedy	Thur 8, 8pm	Laura Solon
music	Fri 9, 8pm	Stan Webb's Chicken Shack
workshop	Sat 10 June - 8 July, 2pm	Media+ (at cre8 studios)
exhibition	10 June - 8 July	Ana Maria Pacheco
music	Sat 10, 7.45pm	Two Sopranos and a Piano
drama	Thur 15 - Sat 17, 7.30pm	Julius Caesar (Old Town Theatre Company)
music	Sat 17, doors 6.00pm	Bowl Concert: Salsa Celtica
forum	Wed 21, 7pm	Interface (at cre8 studios)



Pramface



Ana Maria Pacheco

What's on at a glance...

Arts Services Guide – Booking Office 01793 614837

June continued

music	Wed 21, 8pm	The Jim Tomlinson Quartet plus Stacey Kent
film	Thur 22, 7.45pm	The Libertine (18)
music	Fri 23, 8pm	Korgis
course	Sun 25 June - 30 July, 10am-5pm	Shoot From the Hip+ (at cre8 studios)
drama	Wed 28 June - Sat 1 July, 7.30pm	Caught on the Hop (Western Players)

July

music	Sat 1, doors 6.00pm	Bowl Concert: Otis Grand and the Big Blues Band
film	Thur 6, 7.45pm	Where The Truth Lies (18)
exhibition	7 July - 4 Sept	The Railway Comes to Town (at Wyvern Theatre)
festival	7-16 July	The Swindon Brunel Festival
comedy	Fri 7, 8pm	Laurence Clark: Jim Fixed It For Me
family	Sat 8, 2.30pm	Wind in the Willows (Image Theatre Company)
exhibition	11 July - 29 Aug	The Seven Deadly Sins
drama	Wed 12 - Sat 15, 7.30pm & 2.30pm	High Society (Ray Dance & Judith Sharp)



Wind in the Willows

music	Sat 15, 6.00pm	Freshly Ground (tbc)
forum	Wed 19, 7pm	Interface (at cre8 studios)
film	Thurs 20, 7.45pm	March of the Penguins (U)
music	Fri 21, 8pm	Gretchen Peters Trio
comedy/drama	Sat 22, 8pm	Club Class (Practical Productions)
festival	Sat 29, 12noon	Swindon Mela (in Old Town Gardens)
music	Sat 29, doors 7.15pm	Bowl Concert: Jazzy B

August

music	Sat 12, doors 6.00pm	Lion Train
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Being Alive

live performance of poems and music from around the world

Packed with drama, emotion, and excitement, music and visual images too, this is a cutting edge live performance performed by Gem Ahmet, Lewis Harwood, and Natasha Godfrey and produced by Jonathan Davidson. It takes international poetry from page to stage with a selection of fabulous verse from the accessible best-selling anthology, *Being Alive*. It will include poems by U A Fanthorpe, Norman McCaig, Helen Dunmore, Brendan Kennelly, and Julia Darling.



Bank Holiday Monday 1 May 7pm Tickets £6 (concessions £5)

We Are What We Think!

the world's wisest and wittiest words, with James Geary

Our lives are what we make them, and our words minister to this need. When a mere saying has the power to reach out and affect our lives, it is no longer a platitude, or even a proverb. It has become an aphorism! James Geary is a self-confessed aphorism addict. He has collected sayings from ancient Eastern prophets, American one-liners, wise words from Greek stoics, and challenging ones from European philosophers. His book has them all.



Tuesday 2 May 6pm Ticket £5 (concessions £4), double ticket price with Ann Widdecombe £10

Ann Widdecombe

on writing, life, and modern fatherhood

More than a politician, more than a writer, more than a television personality, Ann Widdecombe is an informative, engaging, and entertaining thinker and speaker. Long-serving MP and international traveller, she knows how to range far and wide in thought and talk. Tonight she will talk about her latest novel *Father Figure*, while addressing the many related modern issues brought up by this topic. And with Ann, this could be almost anything!



Tuesday 2 May 8pm

Ticket £7 (concessions £6), double ticket price with *We Are What We Think* £10

Literature Festival News

“Welcome to the thirteenth Swindon Festival of Literature!

Reaching thirteen, like becoming a teenager or understanding prime numbers, is both a tricky and exciting business. In lining up a groovy list of authors, poets, and performers, we have done the tricky bit. Here they are.

Now we invite you to join us for the exciting part: to hear the writers speak, take their words from page to stage, entertain us and engage us.

We are delighted to be bringing so many authors and performers to the Arts Centre. It is a venue perfect for festival events, whether serious and exploratory, or playful and entertaining. The Festival team loves coming here. Hope you do too!

To request a complete programme and full details of all other events e-mail litfest@lowershawfarm.co.uk, telephone 01793 530328, or see www.swindonfestivalofliterature.co.uk Looking forward to seeing you in May.”

Matt Holland, Festival Director



Swindon Festival of Literature



Film: Yes **15**

a love affair between two people from different cultures.

Directed by Sally Potter. Presented in association with Swindon Film Society

This remarkable story not only confronts some of the trickiest topics of our time - religion, politics and sex - but is written almost entirely in verse, iambic pentameter no less, giving the feeling of film as poetry and song.

For more films see pages 14-15.

Tuesday 2 May 9.30pm, ends 11.10pm

Tickets £4 (concessions £3)

Bettany Hughes: Helen of Troy

goddess, princess, or whore?

Because she was reckoned to be sex incarnate, her face - according to Marlowe's poetic pentameters - being able to launch a thousand ships, Helen of Troy has survived for centuries in the minds of historians and the general public alike. Television presenter, academic, and hands-on ancient historian with edge, Bettany Hughes looks at Helen's world-shattering story, which reclaims her from centuries of misunderstanding and places her in the centre of a world in which the primordial power was female.



Wednesday 3 May 6pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £5),

double ticket with Matthew Parris £10

Matthew Parris

on a mountain ruin, an impossible dream, and one or two other things.

Walking in the Pyrenees more than thirty years ago, a man and his sister came across a magnificent medieval mansion, in ruin. In subsequent years, the man would dream about the house, about transforming it into his own castle in Spain. In his latest book, Matthew Parris, former MP, television presenter, parliamentary sketch writer, columnist, reviewer, and travel writer, tells the story of how his dream came true. He will talk about his book *A Castle in Spain* as well as his autobiography *Chance Witness: and Outsider's Life in Politics*.



Wednesday 3 May 8pm

Tickets £7 (concessions £6), double ticket with Bettany Hughes £10

Julian Spalding: The Art of Wonder

and the wonder of art

Really seeing what is in front of our eyes is an art because really seeing is an imaginative process. Art invites us to fully engage our imaginations. And our relationship with art is part of our relationship with others and with ourselves. Founder of the Ruskin Gallery, the Open Museum, Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art, and the Campaign for Drawing, Julian Spalding is passionate, knowledgeable, and clear-sighted about art. In his two most recent books he looks closely at both the history of seeing and the role of art today.



Thursday 4 May 7pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4), double ticket with Stone Reader £7

Film: Stone Reader (recommended 12)

a fictional masterpiece and the quest for its author, some strong language

Director Mark Moskowitz. Presented in association with Swindon Film Festival



Some stories we hear or read are so potent, so memorable, so remarkable, that they can change our life. In this gripping film the camera follows Mark Moskowitz as he becomes the final chapter in a literary odyssey that began in 1972. His quest revolves around an amazing read, a masterpiece, written by one mysteriously absent novelist, Dow Mossman.

Thursday 4 May 8.45pm, ends 10.55pm

Tickets £4 (concessions £3), double ticket with The Art of Wonder £7

Satish Kumar

on the role of *Resurgence* and why *You Are, Therefore I Am*



Could you walk from India to America, without any money? Would you found an educational institution with the modest name of Small School? Would you dare, in today's political and religious climate, to title a book *The Buddha and the Terrorist*? Well, Satish Kumar, erstwhile Jain Monk, peace campaigner, winner of an award for promoting Gandhian values abroad, has done all that. He is perhaps best known as editor of *Resurgence*, an international magazine promoting peace, non-violence, ecology, sustainability, organic agriculture, and a holistic philosophy. He will tell us why.

Friday 5 May 6pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4), double ticket with Les Barker £10

Les Barker

on life from the age of three until nearly teatime

Absurdly funny, very difficult to describe, very funny, unique, up the creek without a poodle, quite funny, a bloke in a cardi, international man of comedy, prolific author, a hoot, marathon runner, broadcaster, Les Barker will have you wondering whether to trust your ears, believe where you are, or ponder which planet he is on. Brilliant wordsmith, mischievous beyond the bounds of literature, his writing has spawned heroes like Jason and the Arguments and Spot of the Antarctic.



Friday 5 May 8pm

Tickets £7 (concessions £6), double ticket with Satish Kumar £10

Swindon Youth Slam

with Swindon Schools, who stanza & deliver!



Fast-paced, fun-filled, fully-fantastic performance poetry contest for the young at heart, young in mind, young in years but with wisdom beyond them! Following workshops run by seasoned slamsters Sara-Jane Arbury and Marcus Moore in schools across the region, Swindon's wittiest young wordsters will perform their most slamazing poetry in a bid to reach the hearts and hearing parts of the audience.

Saturday 6 May 11am

Tickets £5 (under 16 FREE) Book in advance to avoid disappointment



Swindon Festival of Literature



Melvin Burgess

telling it like it is

Kelly Osborne starred in the television adaptation of *Doing It*. Another of his books, *Junk*, is the definitive tale of teenage heroin addiction. His controversial novel *Lady: My Life as a Bitch*, helped put Melvin Burgess in the public eye, won him the coveted Carnegie Prize, and earned him the title Godfather of Young Adult Fiction. His latest book is a chilling tale of a young girl who is persuaded to give her face away. Come and hear him talk about his ideas and why he writes for young people.



Saturday 6 May 2pm

Tickets £3

Wizzil



Ages 4-10. In association with the Arts Centre.

Wizzil is a Witch. More than that, Wizzil is a bored Witch! She's bored stiff and that can only lead to trouble! See Family events, page 13.

Monday 8 May

Vicki Feaver and Robin Robertson: Two Poets

Two established poets with two new collections offer poetry-lovers a midday treat. The long-awaited third collection, *The Book of Blood*, from one of England's finest poets, is hot off the press. It explores human experiences, ranging from the personal to the political, with unflinching force and clarity. With wonderfully vivid meditations on childhood, landscape, and history, *Swithering* is the newly-published third collection from Robin Robertson, a multiple prize-winning poet who hails from the north-east coast of Scotland.



Monday 8 May 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4)

Ride On

A poem, a film, and a live musical experience, with poet Claire Williamson, film-maker Cluna Donnelly, and flamenco guitarist Mark Dennett. A 'tender, breath-taking, gripping, moving, and ultimately hopeful' multi-media show inspired by Claire Williamson's narrative poetry collection



Tuesday 9 May 7pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4), double ticket with John Hegley £10

John Hegley: *Uncut Confetti!*

Dogs, glasses and Luton are themes few other poets can do as much with, creatively and comically, as comedy's poet laureate John Hegley. He is one of Britain's best-loved poets, also tackling childhood, love, and family relationships, in his eight best-selling collections, each with the author's inimitable line drawings and observations on everyday life. And now, here comes *Uncut Confetti!*: funny, poignant, and appropriately colourful in almost every imaginable way!



Tuesday 9 May 9pm

Tickets £7 (concessions £6), double ticket with Ride On £10

Ned Sherrin

talks about his newly-published, frank, affecting, and hilarious autobiography. With Marcus Moore

Innovative satirist on *That Was The Week That Was*, novelist, anthologist, film producer of, among others, *Up Pompei*, celebrated theatre director, and host on BBC Radio 4's *Loose Ends*, Ned Sherrin offers a fascinating insight into the world of entertainment and broadcasting from the 1960s to the present day. His ability to remember every story worth telling, and knowing how to tell it, especially when the joke is on him, makes his newly-published *Autobiography* a delightful and intelligently rollicking read.



Wednesday 10 May 6pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £5), double ticket with Book Club (see page 9) £12

Mark Lawson and Julie Myerson

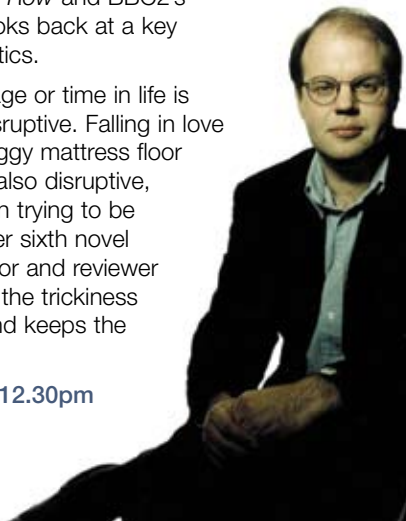
on when and why *Enough is Enough* and *The Story of You*

How intelligent is intelligence? In politics, is what we see, what we get? Can a war ever be popular? Where in the world do you find the most lying, spying, blackmail, and back-stabbing? In his most recent book, Mark Lawson, host of *Front Row* and BBC2's *Newsnight Review*, looks back at a key moment in British politics.

Falling in love at any age or time in life is both delightful and disruptive. Falling in love from memory on a saggy mattress floor in a student house is also disruptive, especially for a woman trying to be mother and wife. In her sixth novel *The Story of You* author and reviewer Julie Myerson tackles the trickiness of key relationships and keeps the reader in suspense.

Wednesday 10 May 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4)



The Book Club

In association with the Arts Centre. Some of the country's best stand ups and sketch comedians.

See Comedy, page 9. Wednesday 10 May.



Swindon Festival of Literature



Arts Centre 11 May

Nick Hornby

talks about his latest book, writing, and maybe music and a little football. Introduced by Jill Tomalin

It's not easy to be both a good writer and a popular one, to tackle serious sensitive matters and serious sporting ones, to be admired by the literati cognoscenti and read by pop music fans and football followers alike.

Prize-winning, best-selling novelist Nick Hornby has managed all this. Author of *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, and *How to be Good*, and non-fiction works *Fever Pitch* (vide account of League Cup 1969, Arsenal FC v Swindon Town) and *31 Songs*, he now unveils his latest novel, *A Long Way Down*.

Thursday 11 May 8pm

Tickets £8 (concessions £7), double ticket with Will Self £12



Marina Lewychnka

on more than the history of tractors in Ukrainian

By taking two people, one 36 years young, the other 84 years old; the former with a penchant for green satin underwear, the latter for tractors; two feuding sisters; and a great deal more, Marina Lewychnka, herself born in a refugee camp, has produced a remarkable story, a wonderful first novel, with *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*.

Thursday 11 May 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4)



Will Self

on the rants and ruminations of all-knowing Dave

Will Self, journalist, broadcaster, and writer of books, talks about his most recent work *The Book of Dave*, an explosive satire and intriguing story about art, religion, love, the future, culture, urban life, parenthood, and the environment.

Thursday 11 May 6pm

Tickets £6 (concessions £5), double ticket with Nick Hornby £12



Patrick's Florilegium

an illustrated and illuminating talk on plants wild and tame, with field, forest, and fungi-friendly fun guy Dr Patrick Harding

The place of plants, the role of roots, the life of lichens, the mood of mosses, the sex of seaweeds, fun with ferns, and facts on fungi, are all topics tackled by author, broadcaster, garden guru, and captivating speaker Patrick Harding. His latest book, *Patrick's Florilegium*, beautifully illustrated and full of literary treats, looks at many species of plants and their uses, from the culinary to the medicinal.



Friday 12 May 12.30pm Tickets £5 (concessions £4)

Preparing for Paraguay

with stories, songs, pictures, poems, guitar and harp music, a sip of mate, and real Paraguayans

Alberto Pino has played the Paraguayan harp and guitar for most of his life, and his songs bear testimony to his love of life and his mother country. John Gimlette escaped the hostilities of the Falklands War by heading for Paraguay, and began a 20-year fascination with a people, a country, and its history, described in his book *At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig*. Matt Holland attributes his love of poetry, poultry, and the way the Swindon Festival of Literature is run to his childhood years running barefoot in Paraguay. This promises to be a fiesta within a festival.



Friday 12 May 8pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4), double ticket with Guitar Man £8

Guitar Man

a six string odyssey, or, you love that guitar more than me, with Will Hodgkinson

Why and how has this musical instrument, simple in appearance yet versatile and even complex in performance, become such a household classic? Nascent guitar player but man with a mission, Will Hodgkinson set out to find the answer. When he returns, he plans to do something very brave... Hear his story and his guitar – and a chord or three from Swindon's own young guitar man, Kit Hawes!



Friday 12 May 6pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4), double ticket with Preparing for Paraguay £8

Anna Massey

telling some tales. Introduced by Ashley Heath.

An actor's life can be a tricky life. It can also be a life intensely lived, as testified to by Anna Massey CBE in her newly-published autobiography, *Telling Some Tales*. It is a candid account of her fascinating career, of playing a range of parts, on stage and screen, meetings with remarkable actors and achieving personal happiness.



Saturday 13 May 12.30pm

Tickets £5 (concessions £4)

More to enjoy

Artsminds

The network and forum for creative artists in Swindon

News, discussion, creativity, planning, collaboration, partnership, networking...

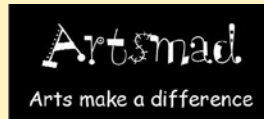


Next gathering: Wednesday 24 May 6.00 – 8.00
Community Crossroads [Former Railway Museum] Farringdon Road

For more information and to join the network visit www.artsminds.org.uk



Artsmad



If you are a school or youth organisation, Artsmad can help with your arts for children and young people. Get in touch and ask for help or get onto the newsletter mailing list. Contact co-ordinator Kirsty Carter on 01285 650658 or kirstycarter@aol.com.



Wyvern Theatre

HIGHLIGHT

For tickets or details of all events at the Wyvern, ring 01793 524481 or visit www.wyverntheatre.org.uk

The Crowstarver theatre alibi

For ages 8-13 year olds & their families

It was clear that Spider isn't like other children from when he was abandoned as a baby on a Wiltshire Farm. He has an amazing way of communicating with animals, and when Spider gets a job as a Crowstarver, he's even fond of the crows he must scare away from the newly sown wheat. But life can be tough for Spider and danger is just around the corner.



The Crowstarver is based on the book by award-winning and popular children's writer Dick King-Smith, whose book *The Sheep Pig* was made into the Oscar winning film *Babe*.

www.crowstarver.com

Thurs 25 7pm, Fri 26 10am & 1.30pm,
& Sat 27 May 2pm & 7pm

Tickets from £10

Media Circus

Ages 8-16. No experience necessary.

Have fun with tutors evil twin artworks cre8ing animation, video filmmaking and website games. Concentrate on one film over the five weeks or cre8 a new one each time.

Saturdays 22 April – 20 May

Ages 8 - 10 yrs – 9.30am - 12.45pm

11 - 13 yrs – 12noon - 2.15pm

14 - 16 yrs – 3pm - 5.15pm

Prices: £29.50, Swindon Card £26.50



Media +



Ages 16-25. Some experience required.

Sign up if you're hungry to get into the film industry. Develop your skills with tutors evil twin artworks in 2 & 3D animation, live action, creative web design, special effects and more. Then work as a production team on a film.

Saturdays 10 June – 8 July, 2pm - 5pm.

Prices: £37, Swindon Card £33.50

cre8 news

“So what’s been happening behind the scenes at cre8? Swindon has its own group of Boffins as notorious as the Bletchley Park code crackers. In March, Hreod Parkway School’s Boffin Club took their film ‘Ice House’ – made through Mobile Media’s young cre8ives project and won the Preloader Swindon heats – to the National First Light Film Awards and came back with the award for Best Thriller! It was presented to them by Director Anthony Minghella, and if that wasn’t enough, they’ve recently received an award through SW Screen to establish a region wide Young People’s Film Council.

Highlights to look out for this season include our new adult professional courses, TV News Editing and Shoot from the Hip+, and younger ones can join the X-Team and become a superhero for the day!”

Stuart Webb, cre8 manager

X-Team



Ages 12+. No experience necessary.

Do you have the drive? Do you have the enthusiasm? Do you have what it takes to be a member of the X-Team? This year in Swindon you can find out. The Evil Twins will show you the skills required to give you the same powers on film as any of the heroes in this year's glut of superhero movies.

**Saturday 3 June, 9.30am-11.30am
or 12.30-2.30pm or 3.30-5.30pm**

Prices: £15, Swindon Card £13.50

Mobile Media News

Mobile Media is a cre8 studios youth arts project taking the excitement of new digital technologies and professional arts practice to children and young people in schools and community settings throughout Swindon.

Using animation, web-based work, moving and still imagery, cre8's Mobile Media project aims to create positive opportunities for people and their communities.

Recently, professional artists teamed up with Swindon schools to help young people share their stories with the town as part of a major digital media programme and exhibition, called *Past Present Future*.

Churchfields Secondary School children built interactive websites with a mixed group of pupils who include those from refugee or asylum backgrounds, to share their heritage. Pupils from Oaktree Primary School spent a week integrating animation with literacy and dance. Youngsters at Stepping Forward, an educational charity which delivers an 'alternative curriculum' for year 10 and 11 pupils, made a video installation representing their lives.

For more information visit www.mobile-media.org.uk



Media Surgery

FREE one-hour sessions to talk to cre8 professionals for career, education and training advice in film, video, TV, and digital media. They will look at your films, scripts, multimedia etc and point you in new directions, possibly arranging a mentor. Book through Keith Phillips on 01793 463678 or kphilips@swindon.gov.uk

**First Tuesday of the month
10am-2pm, third Tuesday of
the month 4pm - 8pm**

Volunteer Opportunities

Build up film skills learnt at cre8 or elsewhere by helping with cre8 courses, events and productions. Working with cre8 is a fun way to get work experience, develop your skills, and increase your network of useful contacts.

**To sign up, contact Keith
Seward on 01793 463226 or
kseward@swindon.gov.uk**



Shoot From The Hip+

Places are by application and are open to both individual writer-directors and writer/director teams of 2.

A script to screen filmmaking course for developing and emerging filmmakers. Six filmmakers or writer/director teams will each write and direct a 90 second micro-short.

For an application form or more information go to www.cre8studios.org, ring Keith Phillips on 01793 463678 or email kphilips@swindon.gov.uk

**Sundays 25 June – 30 July
10am – 5pm**

Prices:

**Individual writer-directors: £145,
Swindon Card £130.50
Writer/Director teams (2):
£85 each,
Swindon Card £76.50**

Professional TV News Editing

Experience required in professional editing packages such as Avid, Quantel or Final Cut Pro. Places are by application.

A professional course run by a news editor with more than 10 years' experience of editing the news for regional and national broadcasters.

Do you have a serious ambition to edit TV news and current affairs? Or do you wonder whether it would be a possible career path? Or maybe you are a journalist moving towards editing your own stories. If so this course is for you. Includes an in-depth look at the craft of editing using recent examples, followed by practical exercises.

Final Cut Pro editing suites will be available for students, but you are welcome to bring your own laptop system with your preferred software.

For an application form or more information go to www.cre8studios.org, ring Keith Phillips on 01793 463678 or email kphilips@swindon.gov.uk

Sat 27 & Sun 28 May 10am - 5pm
Prices: £120, Swindon Card £108



Screenwriting

Written a film script, but need advice from industry professionals? Use cre8's screenwriting surgeries, which offer written assessments and face-to-face discussion.

Written assessments:

Treatment (plot summary): £45

Script (up to 60 pages): £55.

Script (over 60 pages): £70.

Script surgery: £125 (face-to-face session following a written assessment).

To book or for more information, contact Keith Phillips on 01793 463678 or email kphilips@swindon.gov.uk

Test Bed

Adults who've completed cre8 courses can use cre8 studios equipment to develop skills.

Book through Keith Seward on 01793 463226 or kseward@swindon.gov.uk

Preloader Wiltshire & Swindon Film Festival

in association with the Swindon Film Festival

This autumn will see a new round of heats for Preloader. Films should be 10 minutes or less (including 60 second and 90 second micro-shorts), and contain no unlicensed copyright material (e.g. music). Get thinking now. To improve your chances, why not talk over your ideas with Keith (on 01793 463678 or kphillips@swindon.gov.uk) at a Media Surgery, use our screenwriting service or attend Shoot From The Hip+?

The deadline for entries will be late September. More details in September-December brochure.



Icehouse, winner of Swindon's 2005 heat



Interface

Practical creative sharing between visual artists and film-makers – see Visual arts workshops page 38.

Visual arts surgery

See page 38.



Welcome to Visual Arts

Visual Arts news

"This season, in addition to the visual pleasure of a wide range of exhibitions, there's opportunities for artists to promote their work, teachers looking for artist-led workshops on Arts Council's Hayward Gallery exhibitions, or one-off purchasers or collectors of contemporary art. After a taster at the Arts Centre in May, you can see artists creating in their homes and studios in this summer's Open Studios. If you are serious about a career in art, get advice and information in surgery sessions at cre8 studios. Alternatively, you could delve into Swindon's rich architectural and social history at the Wyvern Brunel 200 exhibition in July."

Barbara Dixon
Visual Arts Development Officer

Benoit Philippe: Weaving Lights of Wiltshire.

Benoit's oil paintings explore Wiltshire's landscape and the way light varies throughout the year.

Until 13 May



Syd Pycroft - watch: wait



French photographer Robert Doisneau often returned to a place in the knowledge that something would happen in relation to the surroundings. As Doisneau put it, it was "...as if everything was ready, the scenery, the light... waiting only for the actors." Syd Pycroft takes this statement as a starting point for studies of people in urban landscapes portrayed through traditional monochrome photographic prints.

16 May - 1 July

The Railway Comes to Town

In association with Swindon Brunel 200 celebrations

The story of Brunel's transformation of Swindon from a sleepy market town to a dynamic industrial setting as told through a series of photographs, prints and postcards of people and places. In partnership with English Heritage, Steam, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, the Civic Trust and Arts Services.

7 July - 4 September



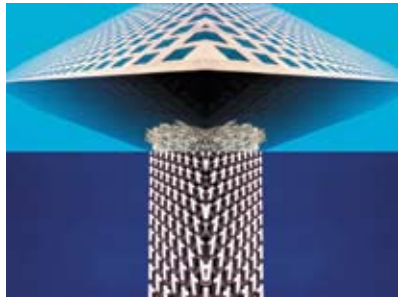


Visual Arts

Open Art

Showcasing work by local professional artists, from sculpture to painting to prints and more.

Visitors to the Arts Centre will be able to see samples of work by artists who will be opening their homes, studios, garages, sheds, workshops - wherever they make their art - during Swindon Open Studios 2006.



Atlanta, Bent Art Gallery

The Arts Centre showcase will provide a taster/preview of Open Studios work and will provide directions, maps, information to visitors wishing to see more of the artists' work.

29 April – 8 June

The Seven Deadly Sins



Experience the Seven Deadly Sins – guilt free! An exhibition of work by Tim Carroll and Laura Copping; two artists with contrasting approaches to the rich tradition of eternal damnation.

11 July - 29 August

Ana Maria Pacheco

Ana Maria Pacheco (born 1943, Brazil) is an artist of extraordinary diversity. Her work draws on a wide variety of cultural references that include Brazilian folklore, classical myth, mystical Catholicism and medieval satire.



Pacheco uses her source material to create works that play with the art of storytelling. She has developed a particular use of symbols, motifs and devices that combine to produce a distinctive and fantastic imagery.

This exhibition focuses on Pacheco's work as a printmaker and brings together five sets of prints: in each series Pacheco has concentrated on a specific historic fable or social tradition to produce dramatic, highly charged images that illustrate the fine line between human comedy and tragedy.

Hayward Gallery Touring from the South Bank Centre, London on behalf of Arts Council, England. See over page for details of schools workshops.

10 June – 8 July



Tales of Transformations III

Gargantua and Pantagruel V

Arts Centre exhibitions
Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Saturday, free entry



Visual Arts

Painting and Drawing with Laurie Plant

Exploring visual ideas and examples of other artists' work with acrylics, watercolour and drawing materials.

**Arts Centre, Tuesday mornings from
25 April-23 May & 6 June-11 July, 10am-12.30pm
£7 per session (Swindon Card £5)**

Artyfacts children's art club

An informal yet structured after-school arts and crafts club for young people from 8-12 years old with artist Tracey Baker-Stewart. All materials provided. Please wear old clothes.

**19 April-24 May - £36
(Swindon Card £30)
7 June-19 July - £42
(Swindon Card £35)
£5 discount when 2 or more
family members book.**

Arts Centre, Wednesdays 4pm-5.10pm



Expressions Unlimited

An exciting innovative self-led group that welcomes people regardless of ability/disability. Enrolled classes, limited places. Contact Anthony Mays on 07776 470 530.

**Arts Centre, Thursdays 10am-noon
£2 per session**

Interface

Practical creative sharing between visual artists and film-makers – bring examples of work to screen and discuss. Contact Barbara on 01793 466520 or email bdixon@swindon.gov.uk

**cre8 studios
Wednesdays 7pm – 9pm
26 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July**

Visual arts surgery

FREE one hour sessions to talk about your work, exhibitions, education and career. We will look at your portfolio and will provide advice and information.

Contact Barbara Dixon on 01793 466520 or bdixon@swindon.gov.uk

**cre8 studios
First Tuesday of the month 10am-2pm,
third Tuesday of the month 4pm - 8pm**

Schools workshops – Ana Maria Pacheco Exhibition

For workshops linking this Arts Council touring exhibition to the National Curriculum, contact Barbara Dixon on 01793 466520 or bdixon@swindon.gov.uk

Useful Information

Buying tickets: unless otherwise stated book for events, courses and workshops or get more information at the Arts Centre box office in person or on 01793 614837. Visit www.swindon.gov.uk/artsandculture.

Reservations: reserve tickets for up to three days unless nearly sold out.

Payment: cheques payable to 'Swindon Borough Council.' If purchasing by post, please send a stamp addressed envelope to post tickets to you. We accept most credit/debit cards (minimum payment £5) at £1.50 per booking due to bank charges.

Refunds and exchanges: sorry, but we can't refund returned tickets. We will try to resell returned tickets for sell-outs or exchange advance tickets, for an admin charge of £1 per ticket.

Lost tickets: don't despair – lost tickets can be replaced for an admin charge of £1 each.

Arts Centre late arrival: if you are late, we will let you in when the performance won't be disturbed.

Child policy: to maximise enjoyment of Arts Centre performances for the majority of patrons, we regret that children under 3 are only allowed to family shows. We do our best to advise of suitability for children.

All details are correct at time of going to press. Sometimes there are changes or cancellations due to circumstances beyond our control – we will do our best to tell you, by letter, phone, website or local press.

We are not responsible for non-Swindon Borough Council websites.

Accessibility (also visit www.swindon.gov.uk/social-disabilityaccessguide)

There are some concession prices – please ask box office. There is a hearing loop at the box office. cre8 and Arts Centre have an accessible toilet and infrared hearing receivers.

Arts Centre: apart from two small steps to most of the auditorium, the centre is physically accessible. Tell us your needs when booking to get the best seats. Accessible parking is in the public car park behind the Arts Centre.

cre8 studios: due to the nature of the Town Hall, access is limited – tell us your needs when booking so we can do our best to accommodate you. Accessible parking is at the front of the building.

Marketing list & protection of your information (see also www.swindon.gov.uk/dataprotectionact)

We are committed to complying with the Data Protection Act (1998) and Swindon Borough Council procedures. When you book, box office staff will ask for your name, address, telephone number and email, and if you want to be added to the marketing list. You will only be contacted about Arts Services events unless you have said you want your details to be passed to other arts organisations (we DO NOT sell lists or pass to non-arts organisations). Please ring 01793 614837, email artscentre@swindon.gov.uk, or write to the Arts Centre if you wish to be removed.

Swindon Card discounts

Swindon Arts Services are proud to be part of the Swindon Card scheme for cheaper prices. If you have one, tell box office and to get the *Swindon Card* price often available. If you claim benefits you get an even lower Swindon Card price. Visit www.swindon.gov.uk/swindoncard or ring 01793 463000 for more information – open to non-Swindon residents too.

Arts Centre Seating Plan

STAGE


Main Entrance/Exit →

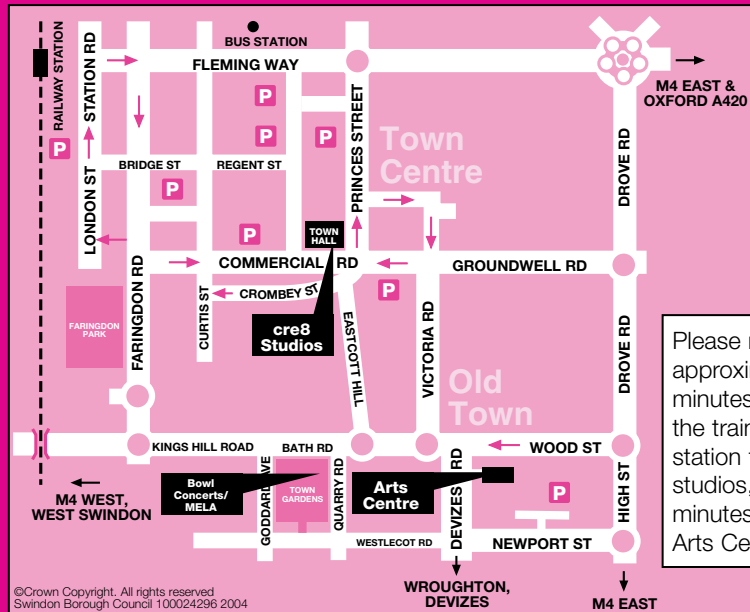
AA	13	12	11	10	9				
A	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
B	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
C	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
D	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
E	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
F	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
G	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
H	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
J	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
K	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
L	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
M	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	

AA	5	4	3	2	1				
A	5	4	3	2	1				
B	5	4	3	2	1				
C	5	4	3	2	1				
D	5	4	3	2	1				
E	5	4	3	2	1				
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G	5	4	3	2	1				
H	5	4	3	2	1				
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L	5	4	3	2	1				
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P	5	4	3	2	1				
Q	5	4	3	2	1				
R	5	4	3	2	1				
S	5	4	3	2	1				
T	5	4	3	2	1				

Steps - Entrance door/Exit

Q	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
R	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
S	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
T	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6

 Shaded area indicates that these spaces can provide four wheelchair spaces if pre-booked



Please note: It is approximately 10 minutes walk from the train or bus station to cre8 studios, and 25 minutes to the Arts Centre.

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Swindon Borough Council 100024296 2004



cre8 studios

Town Hall, Regent Circus, Swindon SN1 1QF

Management (01793) 463210

E-mail info@cre8studios.org.uk

Web www.cre8studios.co.uk



The Arts Centre

Devizes Road, Swindon SN1 4BJ

Management (01793) 466565

E-mail artscentre@swindon.gov.uk

Web www.swindon.gov.uk/artscentre

Swindon Borough Council Arts Services supports our future by using recycled paper. When you're done with this brochure, please recycle.

Booking Office:
(01793) 614837

Open 12.00noon–5.00pm, Weekdays, and 10.00am–1.00pm on Saturdays (except Bank Holidays and Saturdays in July and August).

Please tell us if you need this brochure in large print, audio tape, computer disc or braille.
Please contact Customer Services on (01793) 463725

