

# ODEON BIRMINGHAM

For film times or to book tickets  
ODEON.CO.UK · 0871 22 44 007 · SKY ACTIVE

Register at [www.odeon.co.uk](http://www.odeon.co.uk) to get  
film times by e-mail free every week

Antiques/  
Flea Market  
Saturday  
20<sup>th</sup> February  
Coleshill Town Hall  
10.00am - 4.30pm  
ENQUIRIES  
01827 895899

## MAMA & CLASSIC ROCK FESTIVAL PRESENT HIGH VOLTAGE

SATURDAY 24 JULY 2010 SUNDAY 25 JULY 2010



FOREIGNER JOE BONAMASSA  
GARY MOORE ASHMAN PEACHMAN & TURNER

Black Label Society HAMMER STAGE  
CLUTCH

PROG STAGE  
TRANSATLANTIC marillion  
MAGNUM Argent  
STEVE HACKETT

MARTIN TURNER'S WISHBONE ASH (PERFORMING ARGUS) URIAH HEEP (PERFORMING DEMONS & WIZARDS)  
THE REASONING • TOUCHSTONE • PENDRAGON • FOCUS

VINYL EXCHANGE, CLASSIC ROCK CINEMA  
BEER TENT, CLASSIC MOTORBIKE & CAR EXHIBITION

LONDON VICTORIA PARK  
FESTIVAL'S 24 HOUR HOTLINE: 0871 230 5582  
JAZZ CAFÉ BOX OFFICE, CAMDEN.  
OPENING HOURS MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10.30AM TO 5.30PM  
WWW.HIGHVOLTAGEFESTIVAL.COM

SUBJECT TO LICENSE

Custom built by rock fans, for rock fans

## What's On

# Cheer yourself up with a laugh

IT'S cold and dark outside, the recession is biting, the Americans have nabbed our chocolate and spring may feel a long way off – but you can always cheer yourself up with a comedy show.

There are a host of comedians heading to Birmingham in the next few weeks to make us laugh.

American musician and comedian Stephen Lynch comes to the Alexandra Theatre on March 4, followed by

Cornish comic Jethro on March 7. Then Stafford comic Dave Gorman arrives five days later with his Sit Down, Pedal, Pedal, Stop and Stand Up Tour. It's a continuation of the tour he embarked on last year when he cycled 1,500 miles across Britain in 33 days with a gig every night, only this time he's left the bike at home.

The Loaded LAFTAS Comedy Tour comes to the Highlight on Broad Street on February 24, showcasing

the talents of Luke McQueen, Eric Lampaert, Joe Bor and Lee Kern.

On the same night, Richard Herring plays the Glee Club, where Chris Addison stops by on March 3.

Then, looking ahead to April, Irish comedian Andrew Maxwell comes to the Glee Club. The award-winning star of Mock The Week, Have I Got News For You and Never Mind The Buzzcocks brings his tour to Birmingham on April 21.

# Sean tries sit down comedy

## Comedy

By Roz Laws

**SEAN Collins isn't so much a stand-up comic as a sit-down one.**

"It started when I did a show in Alaska and was so hungover that I couldn't stand," says the amiable Canadian, who's on his way to Birmingham.

"I thought I was going to be sick, so I sat down. But why not, if you can? I always have a chair now as it suits my style of storytelling. I'm slower than other comics. People say I remind them of Dave Allen."

Sean, 43, came to comedy after working for eight years in Vancouver as a child counsellor on the psychiatric unit of a local hospital.

"Half my audiences are more mental than the kids I worked with, which made the transition to comedy easier," he says.

"I worked on a ten bed unit with never less than 100 people on the waiting list.

"We dealt with kids who had been abused in some way. It was difficult to go home and leave their problems behind."

Sean's first attempt at comedy didn't go well.

"It was an open mic night and I was supposed to do five minutes. At three, this voice came over the PA saying 'Get off the stage'. I leant into the mic and said 'sorry' and that was the only laugh I got. It was awful, but I'm a glutton for punishment so I went back

for more. Touring lumberjack camps in northern Canada helped. If you can make them laugh, you can make anybody laugh."

Sean moved to Britain five years ago and lives in Hampshire with his British wife Clare and their two-year-old son Joel.

"As I've grown up and had a kid, my act has changed. I can be dirty but I find that less amusing these days.

"There was a time in my life when I was smoking drugs, but now I'm up at 7am with my son, so I talk about different things."

Sean's gigs are now much more successful than his first disastrous attempt, but he admits that some work out better than others.

"The worst gigs for me can be corporate ones when you worry about offending people. If you're dying and required to do 30 minutes, you die for 30 minutes, because you don't want the guy not to pay you."

Sean is a regular at Birmingham's Glee Club and returns in April, appearing with former Bilston resident Tom Stade.

But first he headlines three shows at Highlight (formerly Jongleurs) on Broad Street.

"I like coming to Birmingham," he says.

"I always enjoy the accent, it makes me laugh."

## TicketInfo

For tickets to Sean's shows at Highlight on February 26 and February 27 ring 0844 844 0044 or go to [www.thehighlight.co.uk](http://www.thehighlight.co.uk)



Easy transition: Comedian Sean Collins

The world's most visited ice show!

**Holiday on Ice**  
*Spirit*

Ice Dance at its best with world class skaters

Children only £10 all seats!

'best I've ever seen... irresistible entertainment for all the family'

Mail on Sunday

LG Arena Birmingham  
26 - 28 February 2010  
Box Office 0844 581 1314  
[www.holidayonice.co.uk](http://www.holidayonice.co.uk)

heart 100.7

\*Excluding VIP seats