

# Showtimes

## Theatre and rock sounds

### Entertainments at a glance

**THEATRE**

**Wokingham Theatre**  
Dec 3 to 7 and Dec 10 to 14 — *Gaslight and Garters*, a traditional Edwardian music hall. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**South Hill Park**  
Nov 13 to Nov 17 — *The Wilde Community Theatre Company present Breezblock Park* by Willy Russell. Performance 8pm. Tickets £5.50, concessions £4.50.  
Nov 20 to Nov 21 — *The Natural*. Theatre Company present *Nutrackers*. Performance 8pm. Tickets £6.50, concessions £5.

**Camberley Civic Hall**  
Nov 25 to 30 — *Comus* present *Calamity Jane*. Ticket and performance details from box office.

**Theatre Royal, Windsor**  
Until Nov 9 — *Susan Hampshire*. *Doors open* in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Performance and ticket details from box office.  
Nov 12 to Dec 7 — *One For The Road* by Willy Russell. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**The Hexagon, Reading**  
Nov 10 — *Jimmy Jones*. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 19 to 23 — *The Sainsbury Singers* present *Hello Dolly*. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**21 South Street, Reading**  
Nov 9 — *Henry Normal*, comedian. *Doors open* 8pm, show starts 8.30pm. Tickets £6, concessions £5.  
Nov 12 and 13 — *Red Shift* presents *The Hammer*. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 27 — *Lip Service* present *Knit One, Murder One*. Performance 8pm. Tickets £5 (concessions £4.50).

**Mill at Sonning**  
Until November 16 — *Two and Two Make Sex*, a comedy by Richard Harris and Leslie Darbon. Directed by Nicholas Parsons.

**Redgrave, Farnham**  
Until Dec 7 — *King Dong Dead*, a comedy thriller by Robert Thomas. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford**  
Until Nov 9 — *Susan Hampshire*. *Doors open* in Noel and Gertie. Performance and ticket details from box office.  
Nov 11 to Nov 23 — *Donald Sinden* and Michael Williams in *Out of Order* by Ray Cooney. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**Civic Hall, Guildford**  
Nov 11 to 16 — *The Windsor*, the story of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**Nov 24 — Jimmy Jones**. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office. Adults only.

**Watermill, Baginbun, Newbury**  
Nov 6 to Nov 23 — *Miss Helen Watson's Music Hall*. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke**  
Until Nov 23 — *Alan Ayckbourn's Absurd Person Singular*. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**West End Centre, Aldershot**  
Nov 15 to 16 — *Snarling Beasts* present *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband*. Performance 8pm, tickets £7.50, concessions £5.50.  
Nov 21 — *Round the Hat Rack* present *The Tourist Trap*. Performance 8pm, tickets £4.50, concessions £4.

**OPERA**

**South Hill Park, Bracknell**  
Nov 12 to Nov 16 — *East Berkshire Operatic Society* presents *Iolanthe*. Performance and ticket details from box office.

**DANCE**

**Princes Hall, Aldershot**  
Nov 16 — *The Wayne Sleep Show*. Performance 8pm. Ticket details from box office.

**South Hill Park, Bracknell**  
Nov 7 — *Common Ground Dance Theatre* presents *An Angel or The Old Fear of Flying*. Performance 8pm, tickets £5.50, concessions £4.50.  
Nov 19 — *Karen Greenhouse* and *Erica Stanton* present *Run on the Rocks*. Performance 8pm, tickets £5 (concessions £3.50).  
Nov 22 — *Living Lindy Hoppers* present *Echoes of Harlem*. Performance 8pm, tickets £6 (concessions £5).

**MUSIC**

**Loddon Valley Leisure Centre**  
Nov 30 — *Wokingham Choral Society* present *Mozart's Requiem*. Performance 7.30pm.

**South Hill Park, Bracknell**  
Nov 6 — *Festive Flutes*. Performance 8pm. Tickets £5, concessions £4.  
Nov 17 — *Woodley Festival of Music and Arts*. Performance 7.30pm. Tickets £5.50, concessions £4.

**Fyson-Blum Hall, Yateley**  
Nov 9 — *Yateley Choral Society* present *Handel's Messiah*. Performance 7.30pm. Tickets £5, concessions £3.50 on 0252 878503.

**St Mary's, Reading**  
Nov 9 — *Reading Symphony Orchestra*. Concert includes Elgar's *Second Symphony* and *Poulenc's Organ Concerto*. Performance 7.30pm. Ticket £6 (adults), £4.50 (OAPs, children and students).

**Civic Hall, Guildford**  
Nov 25 — *David Essex*. Ticket details from box office.

**The Hexagon, Reading**  
Nov 8 — *Barbara Dickson*. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 14 — *The Whistle Stop Jazz Troup* starring Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk and Humphrey Lyttelton. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 15 — *Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra*. Performance 7.30pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 16 — *Reading Brass Band Guild*. Performance 7.30pm, ticket details from box office.

**Camberley Civic Hall**  
Nov 7 — *Mary O'Hara*. Performance 8pm, ticket details from box office.  
Nov 8 — *Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Concert* with special guest star Anne Shelton. Performance 7.30pm, ticket details from box office.

# WHY MADONNA'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED

**Enduring fame for the Bevs was earned by pure talent not the hype machine**

**By SARA CARTER**

BABS, one third of the Beverley sisters, feels sorry for Kylie Minogue and Madonna. In the Fifties, the sisters — Babs, Teddie and Joy — were superstars in a bigger way than even today's pop idols. The novelty of television encouraged viewers to see them as some sort of magical figures beamed into their living room by nothing short of a miracle.

Nowadays we are much more blasé about John Logie Baird's invention, Madonna or Kylie can sing their heart out while writing half-naked on the screen and still be regarded as little more than background noise.

"It is all very synthetic now. It's not just the performer; it's the director, the producer and the hype. If you have got talent but no hype, you are not pushed forward now," says Babs.

"It is not the real person that comes across; it is an image and that doesn't last as long. They will not be allowed to grow older like us."

Certainly, it is unlikely Madonna will be reviving her touring career like the Bevs, who have been back out on the road again in a light-hearted way since 1984.

Sixteen years before motherhood had put an end to their hugely successful careers, which had included Top 10 hits *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* and *Little Drummer Boy*.

"Women have to make that decision. If we were the Rolling Stones, we could go. But we have children," says Babs.

**Return**

But, ironically, it was Joy's children Vicky and Babette and Teddie's daughter Sasha who brought them back to the stage.

Babs never had children of her own but, as she is biologically identical to twin Teddie, she says they share the same three daughters had formed their own singing trio, *The Little Foxes*. Anxious to make it on their own, they had kept rehearsals secret from the Sisters.



■ The Beverley Sisters whose comeback tours are inspired by their enjoyment of showbusiness and performing

people and the only avenue of contact with them is through a press agent.

It therefore came as a bolt out of the blue when Babs rang up for a chat — Oh, what a refreshing change!

And, on tour, there are no flash hotels and chauffeurs for the sisters — they take it in turns to drive to concerts and home again afterwards.

But then, at the height of their fame, they never really

don't seem human anymore."

Being human, down-to-earth and approachable is part of the secret of the Bevs' enduring popularity.

There are some stars who appear to read too much of their own publicity material and see themselves as demigods.

Household names maybe, but certainly not everyday

went in for showbusiness parties.

Growing up in a theatrical family, the sisters were not allowed to see their job as any more special than anyone else's.

"We weren't allowed any airs and graces at home. We might have been up on stage, but back home we were just the three girls and had to pull our weight like anyone else," says Babs.

The three sisters have also kept each other in check.

"You can always trust your sister to be honest. If you look about 10p in something, they will tell it to you

straight," says Babs.

The twins were born on Joy's birthday and the three have never strayed far from each other.

In the words of their most famous song *Lord help the mister* that comes between these "devoted" sisters!

But, in reality, Babs admits she and Teddie often end up sticking up for brother-in-law Billy Wright against sister Joy.

"And it wasn't for nothing that he became captain of England football team — he can cope!" says Babs.

**Changes**

But there are some changes in the music business that they lament.

"We used to go out on television live, with every mistake, so people saw us like part of the family. Now they are the lost all the spontaneity," says Babs.

With videos you can cut everything out and they

**'It is not the real person that comes across; it is an image and that doesn't last as long'**

## Sounds By Shelley Rister

### Cranberries stop off at university

IRISH band Cranberries could be taking Reading by storm if their debut EP is anything to go by.

The dynamic foursome, who are based in Limerick, will be taking part in a 20-date tour stopping off at Reading University on Saturday.

"Uncertain", the EP shows great potential, but it is track two, 'Nothing Left At All' which is a cut above the rest.

The Cranberries' sound resembles a mixture of Enya — rather mellow and quite smooth.

But on a downside, their lyrics are sometimes muddled and difficult to make out. Yet I am sure this can be easily overcome.

### Scrum down with Carter

CARTER USM are rebels, or so they want us to believe.

The new bad boys of pop were doing their best to cultivate their growing notoriety at Guildford Civic Hall.

After an early evening appearance on Top of the Pops, alongside Kiri Te Kanawa, Carter USM were anxious to assure their legions of fans they had lost none of their credibility.

With a none too polite phrase likely to provoke disunion, Dame Kiri was told where to get off by guitarist Leslie Carter — or so singer Jim Bob assured us.

It came as a surprise to learn, several days later, that Leslie shares a passion with Dame Kiri — for rugby.

In front of millions of television viewers Leslie ran across the stage at the Smash Hits awards show and rugby tackled Phillip Schofield.

Evidently Leslie was annoyed at the latest single. After the Watershed, being phased out 20 seconds early.

There was just as much angst

### Gig guide... Gig guide...

- ROCK, POP, FOLK and ALL THAT JAZZ**
- **NOVEMBER 7:** Pendulus at the Cellar, South Hill Park, £2; Dislocation at the Old Trout, Windsor, £3.50; Score at Cafe Piazs, Bracknell; Orchid Storm at the Granby Tavern.
  - **NOVEMBER 8:** Back to the Planet, Sun-Shed and Fahrenheit at the Old Trout, Windsor, £4; TI Jaz at 21 South Street, £5.50; Excel at the Granby Tavern.
  - **NOVEMBER 9:** The Poppans at the After Dark Club, Reading; The Cranberries at Reading University; Sandman's Last Summer at the After Dark Club, Reading; Press Gang at the Granby Tavern.
  - **NOVEMBER 10:** Blue Wall at the Granby Tavern.
  - **NOVEMBER 11:** Love and Confusion at the Purple Turtle.
  - **NOVEMBER 12:** John Lloyd Quartet at the Cellar, South Hill Park, £4/£3; Hate Syndicate, Big Wednesday and The Rileys at the Old Trout, Windsor, £5.50; Grace In Danger at the Granby Tavern; Feyd at the Purple Turtle.
  - **NOVEMBER 13:** Top and The Cranberries at the Old Trout, Windsor, £5/£5; Cheyene at The Granby Tavern; Dama Yarma at The Purple Turtle.
  - **NOVEMBER 14:** Gun Street, Reading, (0734) 509191.
  - **NOVEMBER 15:** Gun Street, Reading, (0734) 509095.
  - **FARNHAM MALTINGS:** Bridge Square, Farnham, (0483) 728254.
  - **FLOCKS:** 46 Woodbridge Road, Gosport, (0703) 280100.
  - **GATZERS:** Reading, (0734) 508133.
  - **FOXARBES:** Dumas Lane, Wokingham, (0734) 789723.
  - **GROVE:** Church Street, Wokingham, (0734) 502537.
  - **THE HEXAGON:** Queens Walk, Reading, (0734) 350020.
  - **THE OLD TROUT:** River Walk, Windsor, (0734) 516647.
  - **PIPPERS ISLAND:** Bridge Street, Caversham, Reading, (0734) 646773.
  - **PURPLE TURTLE (FRIENDS):** 12 London Street, Reading, (0734) 509110.
  - **3'S CAPE BAR:** Town Hall, Basingstoke, (0734) 509110.
  - **TRADE UNION CLUB:** Chatham Street, Reading, (0734) 517491.
  - **21 SOUTH STREET:** Reading, (0734) 509110.
  - **WASHINGTON HEIGHTS:** Caversham, Reading, (0734) 509110.
  - **WEST END CENTRE:** Queens Road, Aldershot, (0252) 330040.

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**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

7-9 Nov	★	10-16 Nov (Not Monday)	★
<b>MICHAEL BARRYMORE</b>		<b>BOB MONKHOUSE</b>	
17-23 Nov (Not Monday)	★	24-30 Nov (Not Monday)	★
<b>JIMMY TARBUCK &amp; KENNY LYNCH</b>		<b>JIM DAVIDSON</b>	
1-14 Dec	★	15-21 Dec	★
<b>HALE &amp; PACE</b>		<b>DRIFTERS</b>	

CHRISTMAS WEEK TO NEW YEARS EVE

★ 22-31 Dec ★

**THE BARRON KNIGHTS**