One man and his Bob...

By Sammy Jones

One of the most remarkable and iconic creatures in Milton Keynes is the gorgeous black crows. "They inspired this project..." Edith – who has her studio at Artworks MK – has been shortlisted for the British Ceramics Biennial Award in 2013, and she is proud to say that her project has been featured in several exhibitions and workshops this summer.

"The project is called 'Birdy Brilliance with Black Feathers'," Edith explained. "It's a celebration of the beauty and resilience of these incredible birds, and it has been a joy to work with them on this project."

Black Feathers causes a flap!

Over the past couple of weeks, residents of Milton Keynes have been invited to follow Twitter clues to find one of a limited number of free sculptures, by artist Edith Garcia. AHA-MK commissioned Edith to make the ceramic pieces, all of which she has been leaving at random places across the city.

Whatever finds the birds gets to keep them.

The project – rolling out as part of MK Gallery’s Made in MK summer exhibition – runs until the end of the month so there is still time to find the clues and get your mitts on one.

But why crows? "I have found that since moving to Milton Keynes from London more than four years ago, it is the nature and green spaces that make MK such an amazing and wonderful place to live," she explained. "One of the most remarkable and iconic creatures in Milton Keynes is the gorgeous black crows. "They inspired this project...

Time to crow about it: Birdy brilliance with Black Feathers

SCULPTURE GIVEAWAY

A whole lot of Loveliness

Wednesday welcoming Carol Hill, who will give a demonstration on watercolour work. Carol – a member of the Society of Women Artists – has exhibited at prestigious Mall Galleries in London, and loves to talk about her work. The meeting is at The Buzzy, Eldergate, from 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome for £5.

The Pipe Shop Boyz, below left, will deliver their toe-tapping table-thumping set for listeners at the Black Tower, Emerson Valley this Friday night from 9pm.

The Alzheimer’s Society and Marie Curie Nurses will be the beneficiaries of a music event at York House, Stony Stratford, this Wednesday, from midday through to 9.30pm.

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Sofia tip-toe in for ballet

BY GEORGINA BUTLER
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Ballet fans are in for a treat this week when a triple bill of classic productions grace the stage of Milton Keynes Theatre.

The Sofia National Ballet company will perform three breathtaking ballets – Giselle, Don Quixote and Swan Lake – as part of their very first UK summer tour. The Bulgarian company – which is steeped in the Russian classical tradition – was formed in 1928 and has become a national cultural institution in Bulgaria.

Fast developing an international reputation, Sofia National Ballet features 90 performers, including an acclaimed corps de ballet and a full orchestra. Artistic director, Sara-Nora Kristeva, told GO!: “We very much prefer to have a live orchestra because it is a special occasion for the dancer. “When you have real music – live music – playing during the performance, the dancers, they merge with the music and you really create a unique experience every time.”

The company’s outstanding talents will be perfectly showcased throughout the three productions as magnificent artistry, elaborate sets and stunning costumes combine to bring the narratives alive.

Audiences on Monday evening will be treated to the poignant romantic era ballet of Giselle. This is the story of a lovely peasant girl who has a passion for dancing. When she discovers that the man she loves is engaged to someone else, she flies into a tragic fit of grief and dies of a broken heart.

The two-act ballet is a chilling and heart-rending tale of love, treachery and forgiveness from beyond the grave.

Tuesday evening’s performance of Don Quixote guarantees thrilling technique and explosive balletic fireworks. The enchanting story of an eccentric yet noble old gentleman who dreams of a fantasy world full of brave knights and beautiful ladies mixes flamboyant Spanish passion with love, duels and spectacular choreography.

Perhaps the best-known romantic ballet of all time, Swan Lake, tells the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer’s curse. She returns to her human form at night but the only way for the spell to be entirely broken is through the power of eternal love between Odette and a young man who will remain faithful to her.

Experience the electricity created when the lead ballerina adopts the dual roles of the white swan (Odette) and the black swan (Odile, daughter of the evil sorcerer) on Wednesday (2.30pm and 7.30pm). Tickets start at £12, rising to £36. Book for these ballet favourites through the Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or online at www.atgtickets.com/milton-keys.

Now known as Winslow Hall Opera, the company is run by founder and music director Robert Secret and the performers are looking forward to performing in the stunning grounds once again.

Visit www.winslowhallopera.co.uk to book and for full show details.

Orchestra is up on the roof

NEW ORLEANS songwriter Andrew Duhon brings his blend of raw and personal songs to Stage 2 this evening. Influenced by blues and folk music, Andrew’s music and performances reflect his perspective in a very real way as he sings with absolute conviction about the issues that matter to him.

Whether it’s love that crosses colour lines, a family challenged by life’s unexpected turns or the woeeful tale of a city left to drown, Duhon brings his audience into the most intimate of spaces through his storytelling.

Friday sees a change of pace with The Fortunes – Past and Present. The hit band of the 60s and 70s will perform all the tunes you’d expect (You’ve Got Your Troubles, Here It Comes Again, Storm In A Teacup) and a few drawn from their times in other bands.

Call MK 280800 to book. The new Stables season will kick off at the end of August.

Shrewd move for Cineworld

Experience the world’s most famous stage this week – on-screen at Cineworld. Audiences can enjoy the Taming of the Shrew from Shakespeare’s Globe on Screen season, broadcast in its entirety in pristine digital cinema quality – with full 5.1 surround sound – on Monday at 7pm.

> The stunning grounds of Winslow Hall will welcome audiences for performances of the opera Carmen from today until August 3. Last year restaurateur Christopher Gilmour, the owner of the magnificent mansion, opened up his gardens to invite Stowe Opera to perform under a canopy in the beautiful space.

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The last few shows before The Stables takes its summer break roll out this week, starting tonight with The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, who will be Puttin’ on the Ritz. Timeless classics from the Great American Songbook will spill after 8pm.

Their set comes with all the expected finesse, together with a big measure of wit and humour to help things along.

New Orleans songwriter Andrew Duhon brings his blend of raw and personal songs to Stage 2 this evening. Influenced by blues and folk music, Andrew’s music and performances reflect his perspective in a very real way as he sings with absolute conviction about the issues that matter to him.

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