

Events to Check Out this February

Posted by Samantha Clark | Feb 5, 2025

Whether you're looking for rainy day activities, things to do during half-term, or ideas on how to use those final annual leave days, be inspired by our roundup of February events.

Leicester Comedy Festival and The UK Kids' Comedy Festival
5th – 23rd February, Leicester



Taking place across 80 venues in the city of Leicester and the wider Leicestershire county, with more than 720 events, the Leicester Comedy Festival and The UK Kids' Comedy Festival, has something for everyone and all ages. With shows for as little as £5 per ticket, you can find a variety of entertainment; from stand up to sketches, musical, improv, exhibition, discussions and workshops. With so much to see, why not book on to a Secret Tour where event organisers will book you on to a variety of shows for an evening packed with comedy!

Leicester Comedy Festival

Comedians performing at this year's festival include Katherine Ryan, Milton Jones, Seann Walsh, Darren Harriott, Zoe Lyons, Marcus Brigstocke, Jack Dee & many more.

The festivals are proud to welcome their patrons Eshaan Akbar, Rosie Jones, Stewart Lee & Sikisa who will all be performing, with Eshaan Akbar and comedy legend Jenny Eclair interviewed live on stage.

Nurturing talent is at the core of the Leicester Comedy Festival, and once again, Circuit Breakers and Leicester Comedian of the Year will spotlight exciting emerging acts.

The 2025 festival will see the launch of Bridging the Gap from Big Difference Company*, with public fundraising supported by Big Give Arts for Impact. This new initiative will create a support scheme for comedians from underrepresented groups to perform in the festival.

At a time when women and non-binary people still experience discrimination in the industry, the festival is proud to partner with the Funny Women organisation. During the first weekend of the festival, two shows, workshops, mentoring sessions, and networking events will be held.

*Big Difference is a charity that originated from the highly successful Leicester Comedy Festival. The festival hosts a wide variety of events, featuring established names and up-and-coming talents. The charity operates year-round, working with communities across Leicester and Leicestershire. They produce programs, projects, and events aimed at enhancing the lives of the community through comedy, laughter, and the arts.

The UK Kids' Comedy Festival

The UK Kids' Comedy Festival is the only comedy festival in the UK dedicated to children, young people, and their families. Celebrating its seventh year in February 2025, The UK Kids' Comedy Festival invites families to join in the laughter, creativity, and fun over 19 days across more than 25 venues.

The fun-packed festival programme includes Marcel Lucont's 'Les Enfants Terribles – A Gameshow for Awful Children' ('insanely funny', The Scotsman), beatboxing & guaranteed LOLs from The Mighty Kids Beatbox Comedy Show by Jared Christmas & Hobbit, and 'Pirates, Pharaohs and Pterosaurs' – a hilarious journey through history from BBC broadcaster, comedian and author Iszi Lawrence.

Britain's Got Talent star Abi Carter-Simpson shares uplifting stories, hilarious comedy and musical interludes with her show 'Enough', A.L.Ex & The ImpRobots Present: An AI Show For Kids – an interactive science, theatre and comedy impro show featuring real robots. Audiences can also expect sausage birds, radioactive bogies and truth-telling cheese in 'The Stupidest Super Stupid Show So Far' as the festival welcomes back Olaf Falafel, winner of the Leicester Comedy Festival's Best Kids Show (2024).

The festival is excited to continue its outreach and education initiatives, bringing the joy of comedy to inspire the next generation of performers. From workshops for aspiring comedians to partnerships with local schools, nurturing talent at every level and improving confidence and mental health.

Activities include Laugh Academy, a dedicated half-term programme (17th -21st February 2025) for aspiring stand-up comedians aged 11-18 to develop their skills and experience performing live comedy, with workshops leading up to an exciting live showcase.

The London Card Show

8th & 9th February, Sandown Park Racecourse in Surrey



Image: The London Card Show

Whether you – or your little one – is into Pokemon, the Premier League, Marvel, Lorcana, or NBA (and so many more) in the trading game sphere, The London Card Show, the largest card show in Europe, is not to be missed. Taking place at Sandown Park Racecourse in Surrey on the 8th & 9th of February, the two-day event promises an unforgettable experience for fans of trading cards, anime, pop culture, and sports; with celebrity guests, rare and valuable cards and collectibles, and interactive activities.

The 15th edition will feature an exclusive appearance by Matthew Sussman, the official voice of iconic Pokemon character Meowth – one of the few Pokémons who can talk, and a key member of Team Rocket in the long-running Pokémon anime series. Flying in from America, Sussman will connect with fans during meet-and-greet sessions and a special Q&A, where he'll share insights about his experience working in the cult animation, and voicing Meowth, a character beloved by generations.

Adding to the star-studded lineup, former professional footballer Saheed Adebayo Akinfenwa will also make a special appearance. Known for his larger-than-life personality and impressive career as a striker, Akinfenwa has played for clubs such as Swansea City, Millwall, Wycombe Wanderers, and AFC Wimbledon. Fans will have the opportunity to engage with Akinfenwa during a Q&A session and meet him during an exclusive signing event.

Some of the world's most iconic, rare, and highly valuable trading cards will be on display at the London Card Show too, including:

- The Messi-Ronaldo Dual Auto Superfractor card, consigned at the August 2024 show and later sold for £67,000.
- A one-of-a-kind Superfractor 1/1 Wolverine Topps Chrome card, unveiled at November 2023's show and currently valued at £140,000.
- The Gold-plated Pikachu card, which sold for thousands at the May 2024 show.
- The No Rarity Japanese Base Set Charizard from 1996, worth an estimated £16,000.
- A 1/1 Hulk card from Topps' Marvel Chrome Sapphire series.

These legendary collectibles highlight the London Card Show's reputation as a premier destination for enthusiasts and collectors.

Needle Dance Exhibition

17th February – 2nd March, art*otel London Hoxton



Image: Carlos Basillisco

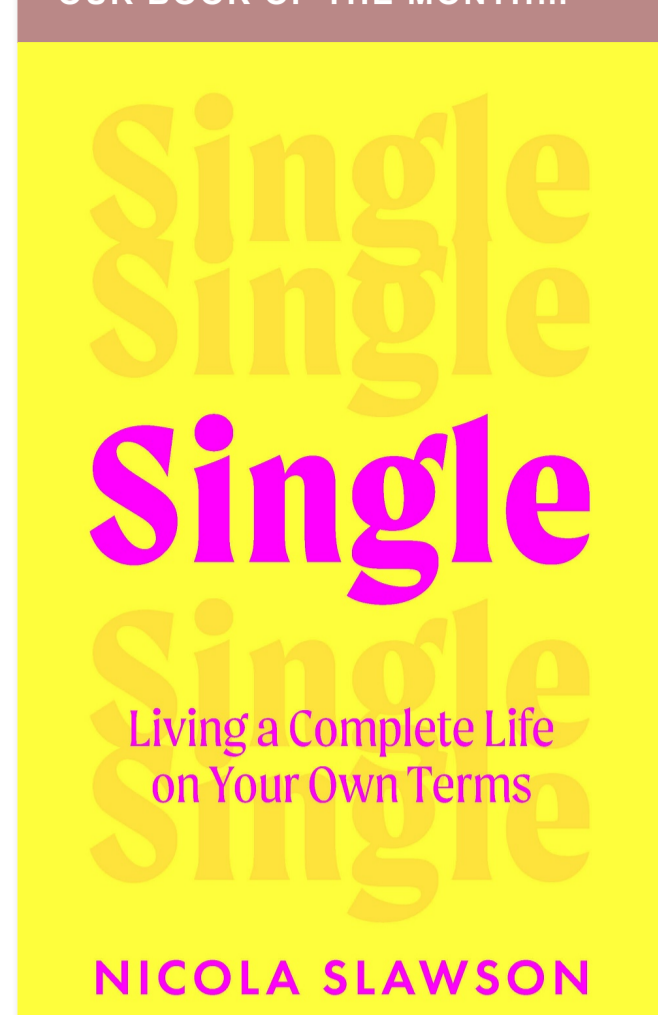
Interdisciplinary artist Makiko Harris has a brand new bold, conceptual art film and multimedia exhibition – Needle Dance – at art*otel London Hoxton from 17th February to 2nd March.

At the heart of Needle Dance is the Japanese legend of the red thread of fate—an invisible bond tying two people together destined to meet. The tension between fate and autonomy fuels Makiko's work, informed by her own Japanese-American heritage and the legacy of her grandmother, whose sewing needles became both a metaphor for constraint and a tool of creative liberation.

The exhibition features:

- An underwater film where dancers, entwined in red thread, move between struggle and surrender.
- Monumental needle sculptures that domesticate a domestic tool into a feminist symbol. ("Historically, the needle was overshadowed by the pen—but if we enlarge it to the size of a weapon, we subvert the idea that women's work must remain small." Harris explains.)
- A genre-defying violin score co-composed and performed by Makiko herself.
- Original costumes by Deborah Milner (former head of couture at Alexander McQueen).

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