

# Life going out

## Our big break... thanks to Joan

**T**WO local music acts are being given the opportunity of a lifetime when singer-songwriter Joan Armatrading's tour stops off in the West Midlands next week.

The singer, whose hits include Love And Affection, Stop The Pilot and Rosie, has personally picked 52 local artists to appear before the main support act, folk singer Chris Wood, at each of the dates on her current UK tour. A three-CD compilation has been released, featuring all the acts appearing with her.

And a date in front of a potential 4,000 crowd at the Symphony Hall on October 26 is a massive step-up for Birmingham r'n'b duo Jeiso And Platt, when their usual pub audience is between 50 and 150 people.

Paul Platt first met music partner

### GIGS

#### Local Talent Supporting Joan Armatrading

John Sambo, aka Jeiso, when John moved into a house across the street from his family home in Stechford in 2000, when they were both ten. He says: 'I rap and Jeiso sings.'

Paul heard Joan give an interview on the radio last year asking people to send in songs and, more in hope than expectation, he admits, they decided to send in a track.

'I didn't think we had a chance, as she doesn't play the same sort of music,' he explains. 'We're into r'n'b and she plays the blues.'

But about six months ago, they heard they had been successful, and there was a further surprise when they met Joan,

herself a Brummie, at a photo-shoot at Liverpool FC for all 52 winners.

Paul recalls: 'When she came up to us she said she liked our music, she was a great fan of what we were doing and she was looking forward to hearing us perform on the night.'

'We asked her if it was a group of people who picked the songs and she said, "No, it was me who went through all those songs". What's so great is to think someone like Joan is listening to our music.'

Paul and John are now working 'stupidly hard' to be ready for the show later this month and are timing the release of an EP, video and website to coincide with the gig.

Paul, who works at Jaguar Land Rover in Castle Bromwich by day, adds: 'It's an adrenalin rush just knowing that we are going to be there. This is our one shot.'

Meanwhile, Coventry acoustic guitarist Jamie Sheerman will be taking to the stage when Joan appears at Warwick Arts Centre next Tuesday.

The 26-year-old says: 'I have been gigging in various bands since I was 18, then three or four years ago, I took the solo route.'

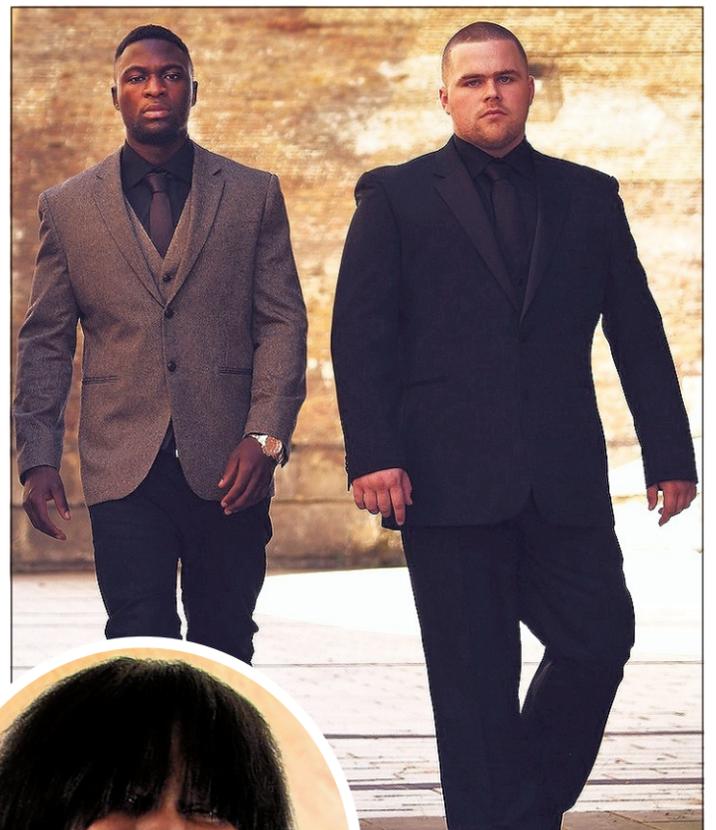
He has an EP, Stripes, out on iTunes and will be performing songs from that during his 15-minute slot.

He, too, is full of admiration for the Birmingham singer-songwriter who made it all possible. He says: 'When we had the photo-shoot at Liverpool football ground, she didn't just show up for the photo and then leave.'

'She was the first one there, she chatted with everyone and must have stayed for a couple of hours.'

*Next Tue, Warwick Arts Centre, University Of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, 8pm, £25 to £27.50. Tel: 024 7652 4524. www.warwickartscentre.co.uk Oct 26, Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, 7.30pm, £29.50. Tel: 0121 780 3333. www.thsh.co.uk*

Michael Wood



Big break: John Sambo (left) and Paul Platt of Jeiso And Platt (above), Jamie Sheerman (below) and Brummie songstress Joan Armatrading, who has made it all possible



### New Bus Network in Sandwell From Sunday 28 October 2012



Following consultation and market research in May 2012, partners Arriva Midlands, Central Buses, Centro, Diamond, National Express West Midlands, West Midlands Special Needs Transport and Sandwell and Birmingham councils have reviewed the bus network in Sandwell to try and make it better for customers.

There will be changes to routes, timetables and numbers for some bus services in the area from Sunday 28 October 2012.

Detailed below are the information exhibitions that you can attend to speak to staff to find out more about the changes.

Date	Time	Location
Thurs 18 Oct	10am to 2pm	Network West Midlands (NWM) marquee by Stone Cross shops, junction of Walsall Road/ Jervoise Lane.
Fri 19 Oct	10am to 3pm	Exhibition at ASDA Great Bridge, Brickhouse Lane
Sat 20 Oct	9am to 1pm	NWM marquee, Bearwood Bus Station, Bearwood Road
Sat 20 Oct	2pm to 5pm	Exhibition at Cradley Heath Interchange
Mon 22 Oct	10am to 3pm	NWM exhibition bus at Wednesbury Bus Station, Loxdale St
Tues 23 Oct	12pm to 6pm	Static indoor exhibition at West Bromwich Bus Station by the Travel Information Centre
Weds 24 Oct	10am to 4pm	NWM marquee at Oldbury by Council House/ Sainsburys
Thurs 25 Oct	2pm to 6pm	NWM marquee at Sainsburys, Halesowen Street, Blackheath
Fri 26 Oct	10am to 2pm	NWM bus at Windmill Centre in front of Peacocks and Pure Gym, Cape Hill
Sat 27 Oct	10am to 3pm	NWM marquee Tipton Shopping Centre, Owen Street
Tues 30 Oct	10am to 3pm	NWM marquee at West Bromwich Markets, High Street
Thurs 1 Nov	11am to 3pm	NWM exhibition bus at Oldbury by Council House/Sainsburys

To find out more log onto [Networkwestmidlands.com/busreview](http://Networkwestmidlands.com/busreview) or you can plan your journey on the go – download our FREE NetNav app now at

[Networkwestmidlands.com/apps](http://Networkwestmidlands.com/apps)

SEPT2005

Comedian Lee Hurst will be heading to the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington, tomorrow, as part of the town's first comedy festival.

The former They Think It's All Over panellist, who has not performed a full tour for a decade, heads for the comedy festival as part of a tour entitled Too Scared To Leave The House, which also calls in at The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, the following night.

The show tackles the things that frighten us. Lee says: 'It could be about literally anything from global disasters to spiders to fear of dying or relationships... anything you can think of that bothers you.'

Lee has always done things a

### COMEDY

#### Lee Hurst: Too Scared To Leave The House

little differently. He made his breakthrough as the warm-up act for the Have I Got News For You? audience and it led to appearances on the show and a chance to join BBC sports quiz They Think It's All Over, sparring with the likes of Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and David Gower for six seasons.

His main project in recent times has been running his own

venue, The Backyard Comedy Club, in Bethnal Green.

Also providing festival laughter in Leamington are Jerry Sadowitz (Royal Spa Centre, tonight), Hardeep Singh Kohli (Royal Spa Centre, Friday) and The Boy With Tape

On His Face (Town Hall, tomorrow).

Tomorrow, Studio, Royal Spa Centre, Newbold Street, Leamington, 7.45pm, £13, £12 online. Tel: 0845 218 3540. www.leamingtoncomedy.co.uk

Thu, Slade Rooms, Broad Street, Wolverhampton, 7pm, £14. Tel: 0870 320 7000. www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Marion McMullen

