

# Why Cyndi is done with just having fun

**She's the star from the 1980s who made it big because she just wanted to have fun. But these days, Cyndi Lauper has a different aim: she just wants to be taken seriously.**

The hit-maker who enjoyed smashes with Time After Time, True Colors, She Bop and Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, is back on the road and headlines Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Wednesday.

Five years after her last UK appearances and after the phenomenal success of the award-winning Broadway hit Kinky Boots, Lauper is on the road with her Detour Tour.

She burst onto the world stage as the quintessential party girl. And after more than 30 years and global record sales in excess of 50 million, she has proven that she has the heart and soul to keep her legion of fans compelled by her every creative move.

Lauper's celebrated musical journey took an unexpected southern turn on Detour, her latest studio album. The Grammy, Emmy and Tony-winning singer-songwriter has put her signature spin on a dozen classic country songs.

Recorded in Nashville alongside a band comprised of the city's top session players, Detour showcases Lauper's unmistakable voice on country classics from the 40 - 60s.

She said: "These songs to me are pop



Singer Cyndi Lauper is back with a country inspired album and supprting tour which arrives in Birmingham next week

music because when I was a kid, the radio wasn't so compartmentalized. I can remember hearing Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn on the radio at my aunt's house. The women in country music were so strong and glamorous that as a little girl, you can bet I was listening. I mean, I think I had a pony stick myself at the time."

She enjoys confounding critics and

making left-field moves. "I'm sick and tired of being told what I can and can't do. If you diversify, you grow as an artist, and that's all I ever wanted. Everyone always goes on about Thriller being a phenomenon, but Michael Jackson made another record before that which was equally great [Off the Wall]. But they put him in a box and said: 'Oh, it's a black record, it's R&B'. No

it freakin' wasn't, it was a dance record and it shouldn't have been relegated to one group."

Lauper remains grounded thanks to her husband, actor David Thornton, and their teenage son Declyn. "My husband is very funny. You've got to have a sense of humour in our house."

By Andy Richardson



## antonychristou's clubbing guide

Weekend warriors, two days of decadence and a day of rest are upon us again. So without any more messing about, let's have a look what's on.

Friday's a bit slim for pickings but the cream of the crop looks to be Fables X Leftfoot presents Loft Party at the Hare and Hounds. There's a strong Detroit aesthetic in place and it's matched by a hand-picked musical selection of funky house, disco, techno and disco provided by residents Fry & Elmes, Adam Regan & Matt Beck. To make things even better, tickets are cheap as chips at only £2 for early release or £4 for standard.

Elsewhere, The Rainbow Venues has Get Together with their first summer party. They're taking over the Blackbox and The Rooftop with a mash up of all sorts of bass music - bassline, garage, house, grime and more. Beats are getting supplied by Murlo, Gundam, Jack Dat & Riz La Teef.

Saturday, however, sees a lot more variety. The big event is City of Colours. Throughout the day, Birmingham's Digbeth plays host to a range of graffiti and street art work shops and sees 10 musical stages run by some of Birmingham's biggest promoters including Positive Vibration, Listening Sessions, People Stand Together and Suki10c. As well as a day worth of activities the night time sees the whole event move to PST for a night of hip hop, dub, reggae, jungle and drum & bass with headline sets from Nicky Blackmarket, DJ Switch, Fleck, Aries, Jinx & Gold Dubs and loads more. Definitely the biggest thing the city has seen in a while.

If that's not your sort of vibe, then check out Amusement 13 where you can find the launch of Form, a new weekly tech, house and techno night. Earth shaking VOID acoustics power the night while the tunes are supplied by some of the finest local DJs, some wicked lighting and cheap drinks round it all off to make a promising weekly endeavour.

Meanwhile, at Boxed there's a fully old-skool mash-up occurring as 1 Night Stand present Rewind. Arena 1 takes us back to the heyday of bassline with a live PA from Platinum amongst a host of other DJ performances including DJ EJ and Joe Hunt, while Arena 2 sees a blend of house, bass and UK garage.

That's it for this week. Get your raving shoes on, dance till you drop. See you next Friday!