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FRIDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2002 (THIRD WEEK)

COMING

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CINEMA

To Thurs 7th Feb
Odeon George St 0870 5050007
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (PG)
Fri, Mon-Thur: 12.30, 4.15, 8.15
We think you know the story by now
RAT RACE (12) Fri - Sun: 11.40 Mon-Thurs: 12.10
Slapstick
IRIS (15) Daily: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30,
Fri: 2.30, 7.00, 9.30, Sat & Sun 7.00, 9.30
Judi Dench in biopic of authoress Iris Murdoch.
VANILLA SKY (15) Fri, Sat, Sun: 12.00, 3.00, 6.10, 9.10
Mon-Thurs: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Womanising Tom Cruise gets his comeuppance.
BEHIND ENEMY LINES (12) Fri: 2.10, 4.30, 7.00, 9.45
Sat: 4.30, 7.00, 9.45 Sun: 2.40, 5.30, 8.45
Mon-Thurs: 12.05, 2.40, 5.30, 8.45
Owen Wilson lost in Bosnia. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
BLACK HAWK DOWN (18) Fri, Sat, Sun: 2.00, 5.30, 9.00
Mon - Thurs: 12.45, 4.30, 8.00
"True story" of an American military engagement in Somalia.
SHALLOW HAL (12) Fri-Sun: 12.10, 3.15, 6.45, 9.30
Mon-Thur: 12.20, 3.00, 5.55, 8.45
Gwyneth Paltrow in a 400lb 'fatsuit'. Another triumph of
sensitive characterization.
TRAINING DAY (18) Fri-Sun: 2.20, 6.00, 9.00
Mon-Thur: 2.50, 5.40, 8.40
Ethan Hawke and Denzel Washington in suspenseful cop film.

MONSTERS INC. (U) Sat & Sun: 12.00, 2.30, 5.00,
7.30, 10.00
Incapable furry fright-mongers.
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG) Sat & Sun: 12.00,
4.15, 8.30
Epic fantasy adventure. (Possibly not suitable for under-8s)
SENIOR SCREEN : TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (12)
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Refreshments included.
MOVIE MOB: SHREK (U) Sat & Sun: 11.00am
Animated fairytale. All tickets £2

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Sat & Sun: 11.00am
Episode one of seven....
GOSFORD PARK (15) Daily: 2.10, 5.10, 8.10
English domestics via Robert Altman

Phoenix Picture House 512526
LAST ORDERS (15) Fri, Tue-Thur: 2.20, 4.40, 7.00, 9.20
Sat & Sun: 4.40, 7.00, 9.20, Mon: 7.00, 9.20
Adaptation of Graham Swift's Booker winning novel.
KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE (U) Fri: 11.30pm
Sun: 12noon
A 13 year old witch learns to fend for herself. Animation.
GOSFORD PARK (15) Daily: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
Sun: 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
English domestics via Robert Altman
GHOST WORLD (15) Fri, Sat: 11.30pm Sun: 12.15
Graphic novel adapted for the screen
KIDS CLUB : KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE (U) Sat: 2.00
See above. No unaccompanied adults!
CULT CINEMA: WILD AT HEART (18) Sat: 11.30pm
David Lynch in playful/scary mode. (for a change!)
LA VACHE ET LE PRESIDENT (PG) Sun: 2.30
Mon: 2.00, 6.30
An eight year old fights to save his bovine friend. In
association with the Maison Française
THIS IS SPINAL TAP (15) Thurs 11.30pm
Legendary spoof rockumentary.
SPY GAME (15) Thurs 11.30pm
Redford rescuing Pitt from incarceration in China.

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (15)
Fri: 7.00, 9.15, 11.30
Sat: 4.30, 7.00, 9.15, 11.30 Sun: 3.30, 6.00, 8.15, 10.30
Mon: 6.00, 8.15, 10.30 Tue-Thur: 7.00, 9.15
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HUNGARIAN SOCIETY / Showing of film Szindbad
/ 8pm / Kellogg College, Wellington Square

GIGS
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/ 8.30 / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

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Abingdon / 7ish-10:30 / Web: Http://
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THEATRE
Apollo Theatre 0870 6063500
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The 1966 Moscow production

Old Fire Station 297170
COMPANY Fri 1st: 7.30, Sat 2nd: 2.30, 7.30
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED Tue 5th - Sat 9th Feb
Daily: 7.30pm Sat Mat: 2:30pm

Pegasus Theatre 722851
WASHING DAY Sat 2nd Feb: 12.00pm & 3.00pm
Russell's play of a working class girls' hunger for education

Playhouse 305305
MEDEA (OX. UNI. CLASSICAL DRAMA SOCIETY)
Fri 1st: 2.30, 8.00, Sat 2nd: 2.30, 7.30
Greek revenge drama with English subtitles. See
today's Review, right.

Burton Taylor Theatre 305350
EDUCATING RITA Fri 1st & Sat 2nd Feb: 7:30pm
Russell's play of a working class girls' hunger for education

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Valentine's Day News
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REVIEW: THEATRE

Medea
Oxford Playhouse until Saturday 2nd February
You've attended lectures/meetings all day, and they all seem Greek to you, so why should you pay to go to a play in greek? Well, this has subtitles, for a start. It takes a while to get used to it, but by the end of the introductory aria, one should have been able to ease into the spirit of things. Just like the highlighted physical features of the actors, the actors' expressions are overt and emphatic and there will be no subtle nuance missed in between reading the subtitles and assessing the present situation.
Medea is no ordinary woman. Her curriculum vitae includes helping Jason snitch the Golden Fleece, tearing apart her own brother to stop her father's pursuit, and successfully inciting patricide in another land to save her own skin. It would seem that decimating her own children wouldn't be too far out of her repertoire. However, her internal struggle is put across well, and her argument is reiterated by a nine-strong chorus who provide harmony amidst an otherwise discordant situation. The audience will find themselves facing a similar struggle in deciding whether to sympathize with her situation, or to condemn her and empathize with Jason. Jason enters the play strutting his stuff, and yes, baring half his body, but by the end of the play, he is a broken man, and Medea gloats from her chariot in the sky. (I was personally a bit disappointed by the chariot, which came across as not much more than an airlifted box...but to be fair I probably had overly grandiose expectations!)
Having said all that, Medea faced problems that ordinary women faced and still face - such as the huge stake risked by women in marriage. This ancient Greek play should speak to everyone in the audience as it focuses on relations between man and woman, husband and wife, parents and children. Indeed, the whole sticky situation seems to come about via fathers trying to secure the best for their offspring: Creon is obtaining Jason for his daughter, and Jason in marrying royalty to obtain privilege for his children. Euripides declares that besides a man's love for himself and his country, his children come next. Hence, Medea - with nothing left to lose and nowhere to turn, and her passionate love turned to desperate hate - decides to kill her children, fathered by Jason. All in all, this is a well-integrated play, and there is an impressive and comprehensive website to boot - www.medea.org - which is definitely worth a visit in order to gain a full appreciation of the intricacies (the significance of costume design, for example) of this full-bodied, half-clad play.
Ching-Li Tor, 31.01.02

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OXFORD HISTORY

Eccentrics
Somerville College
Dr Enid Starbuck
The eccentric Dr M.
was said to have
bitten the Bishop of
Oxford in the leg,
because they disagreed
Balliol College
...the 'Great Jowett' ...
"I am the Master
of this College,
and what I know
isn't knowledge"
New College
Dr Spooner, who gave
a word to the language
"Spoonerism" ...
"We will sing the hymn
'Kingsmen Kings Their
Titles Take' ...
W.A. Pantin,
who lived in
a small space
left by books ...
Merton College
It was reported
that an elderly
Don appeared
in chapel 'dressed'
like a girl
Magdalen College
Oscar Wilde
led the
'aesthetics'
in the 1870s
Dr Buckland, Christ Church,
who lived surrounded by animals
...and ate most of them! Guests
were often given roast crocodile
Christ Church
The Cathedral
Canon Jenkins, described as the 'last great eccentric'
His pet aversions were
'cats and matrimony' ...
(He died in 1961)

Eccentrics
In the single-minded pursuit of their subjects some academics become detached from the ordinary things of life. Fewer do so now, perhaps because more are married and their wives won't have it.
A side effect of dons' detachment was disinterest in modern facilities. When, in the 1950s, Pembroke undergraduates complained of a lack of washbasins and baths, the Master was reputed to have said "What do they want baths for? They're only here for eight weeks."
Jowett was a great educationalist, who nevertheless tended to intimidate those he attempted to help. A.J.C Hare recalled: "Walking with this kind and silent friend was...a terrible ordeal...He scarcely ever spoke, and if, in my shyness, I said something at one milestone, he would make no response at all until we reached the next, when he would say abruptly, 'Your last observation was singularly commonplace.'" Jowett was responsible for that invaluable piece of advice: "Never retreat. Never explain." He also maintained for many years a passionate correspondence with Florence Nightingale. When asked what she was like, he replied: "Violent, very violent."
Spooner, who was Warden of New College from 1903 to 1924, was an albino. He inspired great affection among his students, who delighted in immortalising his occasional slips in speech. One of his most famous utterances (possibly apocryphal) runs as follows: "You have tasted a whole worm. You have hissed my mystery lectures. You will leave by the town drain." It was Spooner who caused a memorial to be erected in New College Chapel to those members of college who died fighting on the enemy side in World War I: "In memory of the men of this college who coming from a foreign land entered into the inheritance of this place and returning fought and died for their country in the war 1914-1919".
A pupil of WE Pantin recounts that on one occasion he was reading out his essay when Pantin stopped him over a point it was necessary to verify in one of his many books. The student was directed to the third stack in the fifth row - seventh book down. Sure enough the relevant passage was there - marked by a bacon sandwich. On another occasion, during the World War II blackout, a guest asked Dr Pantin if he might use a torch to find his way across the quad. The answer was negative, but nicely put: "Dominus illuminatio mea."* Pantin's subject was History. If ever a gap was discovered in his knowledge, he would mutter: "Illo tempore." If pressed, he would declare his period to be English Church History from 1350 - 1375.
First published in *The Oxford Calendar*, 1977
*The University motto: 'God is my light'.