Oxford's DAILY INFO

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Next issue: Sat 7th June
Deadline: 10am, Fri 6th June

Thu 5th & Fri 6th June 2008 (7th week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

OXFORD GOSPEL CHOIR

5th anniversary summer concert in aid of the charity For Life Thailand (www.4lifethailand.org)

Award winning, vibrant, soulful and energetic choir offering something for everyone.

Saturday 7th June 2008

St Aldate's Church, St Aldate's, Oxford

Family Matinée 2.30pm, Evening 7.30pm, £10/£7/£5
Gospel Singing Workshop 5pm, £15

Workshop and performance £20/£12
Group Special Offer: Buy 10 tickets for the price of 8

www.ticketsoxford.com, 01865 305305

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There are two weekly CFQ classes in Oxford:

Monday afternoon, 2.00 - 3.30pm. £4.50
Wednesday evening, 7.00 - 8.30pm. £5

Also a full day class on Sunday June 15th
Full details on www.cfq.org.uk

SOLO PIANO RECITAL. Touring Canadian pianist Christine Vanderkooy performs Schubert & Shostakovich. Saturday 7th June, 7.30pm: free. St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford.

FOOD AND DRINK

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MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Thu 5th

ATTITUDINAL HEALING / Let your peace, joy & inspiration arise within. / www.attitudinalhealing.org / 20.00 - 21.30. Don's appx £4.50 / Ann 01869 246839 / 43 St. Giles

GO / BADUK / WEIQI: PLAY & LEARN / Oriental board-game - play or watch; also free lessons / Free - Visitors welcome. 7pm 248775 / 273928 / Freud's, Walton St

AFTER HOURS / Local businesses networking opportunity - come down after work! / 5pm - late, free / 241261 / The Regal, 300 Cowley Rd, (the old Bingo Hall), OX4 1US

ISIS SPEAKERS CLUB / Watch & practice public speaking in a friendly group! / 7.00pm - Visitors free! / Oxford Town Hall, 109-113 St Aldate's

CONTRACT RESEARCHERS IN OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: A NEEDS ANALYSIS / Dr Lynn Erler, Department of Education, University of Oxford / 4pm-5.30pm. Free / Oxford Learning Institute, Littlegate House, St Ebbe's Street

CHAMBERS HALL (1786 - 1855) / A talk on this collector and major benefactor. Meet at front desk. / 4 - 4.45pm, Free, booking req'd / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St / 278000

THE ARTISTIC PROGRAMME - WHAT NEXT? / Friends of MOA Talk By Andrew Nairne / 6.30pm. Free. / 813800 / Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke Street.

FLASH USER GROUP OXFORD / 7.30pm / Free / OFVM Centre for Film & Digital, 54 Catherine St Oxford OX4 3AH / 792731

Fri 6th

INAUGURAL LECTURE BY THE PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS / Professor Aditi Lahiri / 5pm / Taylorian Institute

OXFORD IMPROVISERS / Musicians Dominic Lash, David Stent & Chris Stubbs to be measured! / £3/ SO Friends free / www.scienceoxford.com / 728953 / Science Oxford, 1 - 5 London Place, St Clements

EMBROIDERED PICTURES / Introductory talk. Meet in Randolph Gallery (Rm 1). / 1.15 - 2pm. Free, optional donation £2 / 278015 to book / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St

TEN MINUTE TREASURE TALKS / One of the objects on display. Suitable for all / 12.15pm. Free. / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St / 278000

ANNE AMBLER / local branch meeting / 12.00pm - 2.00pm / 872628 / Brittania Pub - Headington

GIGS

Thu 5th

GLASVEGAS / 7pm / £7.00 adv / The Zodiac ‰ Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Rd, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

TWISTED WHEEL / 7pm / £6.00 adv / Bar ‰ Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Rd, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

CUBANA BOP / Latin-jazz group / 8.15, band 9pm / £9 £7 / 245537/741909 / The Spin‰The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High St, OX1 4DF

SPARKY'S FLYING CIRCUS / Weekly open music, poetry and song session / 9pm free / The Half Moon, 17 St Clements, Oxford

CATWEAZLE CLUB / Performance space for music, poetry and story. / 8-11pm / £4/£3 / East Oxford Community Centre, 44b Princes Street (corner of Cowley Rd), OX4 1DD

INTERNATIONAL JETSETTERS / Indie rock / 8pm £5 / Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton St. / 311775

CRUSADER, CITIZENS OF EARTH / 8pm / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

THE WIND UP MERCHANTS / Rhythm & blues, old jazz, rockabilly, calypso, soul & obscure 78s / 8-12am / Free / 245999 / The Brickworks, 182 Cowley Road

WENDYCODE, MOLLOY, ANTON BARBEAU, DEAR LANDLORD / 8pm, £3 / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Rd / 244516

NOT MY DAY, GENUINE FREAKSHOW, ALPHABET BACKWARDS / 7.30pm, £4 / Exeter Hall, 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.) / 776431

Fri 6th

ALVIN ROY'S REEDS UNLIMITED / Swing/Mainstream jazz / 8.30-11pm free / 792718 / Old Orleans Bar, George St.

BEDOUIN JERRY CAN BAND / A collective of musicians, dancers, poets and Sufi singers from the Egyptian Sinai desert. 7.30pm. £13.50 (£10). / www.bigvillage.org / 305305 / Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall St;

SOULJACKER / 8.30pm, entry £3 / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

THOMAS TRUAX, STORNOWAY / Folk pop / Exeter Hall, 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.) / 776431

BARRY & THE BEACHCOMBERS, RISING DRAGON, MR SHADOW, BROOKS WEST / 8pm £4. / The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High St, OX1 4DF / 721156

F*CK ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER: THE IMPROV MUSICAL / 7.30pm. £5/£4 / Cellar Bar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket / 244761

RACHEL UNTHANK AND THE WINTERSET + KTB / All-girl modern folk-rock 6.30 - 10pm, £12.50 / Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

FRESH 'N' FUNKY / Hiphop, Funk, Soul, Breaks, Indie, Rock, DnB...... / 9 til 3am / £3 b4 11/ £5 after / Thirst Lodge, Penny Farthing Place, St. Ebbes

HOT CLUB DE PARIS / 7pm / £8 adv / Bar ‰ Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

STEVE TILSTON / Celebrated British singer-songwriter, superb guitarist / 8.30pm £5 / 768128 / Folly Bridge Inn, Abingdon Rd / 790106

ENFANT DE LA RUE: FUNDRAISER / Natureboy presents a concert (tabla, piano, sitar & kora) for Congolese street children / 7.30pm / £11 / 305305 / Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St. Hilda's College, Cowley Place

THE MOROSE BROS. / Irish folk & country band / 9 pm / free / 243203 / Chester Arms, Chester St, off Iffley Rd

RONNIE HEREL / 1'Xtra's Ronnie Herel presents a slick night of RNB. / 241261 / The Regal, 300 Cowley Road (corner of Magdalen Road), OX4 1US

CINEMA to Fri 6th June

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244007)

IRON MAN [12A] ✍ Thu: 12.45, 6.00pm
Arms dealer becomes superhero.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS [12A] Thu: 3.30, 9.00pm
A couple wake up married and wealthy.

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A] ✍ Thu: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm; Fri: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
Harrison Ford sets off once more.

SUPERHERO MOVIE [12A] Fri: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Spoof of the costume hero genre.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

NIM'S ISLAND [U] Thu: 11.30am
Fiction and reality blend in fantasy adventure.

SEX AND THE CITY [15] ✍ Thu & Fri: 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30pm
Will Carrie marry?

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A] ✍ Thu: 11.45am, 12.45, 1.45, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00pm; Fri: 12.45, 3.00, 4.00, 6.00, 7.00, 9.00pm
Harrison Ford sets off once more.

GONE, BABY, GONE [15] Fri: 2.30, 5.30, 8.15pm
Two Boston private eyes risk everything to find a missing child.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

THE WICKER MAN [15] Thu: 4.00, 11.00pm
Horror classic. The original version.

MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD [15] ✍ Thu: 6.00pm
Politcally opposed Italian brothers.

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S [PG] Thu: 8.30pm
Classic romantic comedy.

YOU THE LIVING [15] Fri: 6.30pm
Swedish tragi-comic vignettes.

FLIGHT OF THE RED BALLOON [PG] Fri: 9.00pm
Paris. A boy, his mother, a nanny and a balloon.

TWO-LANE BLACKTOP [18] Fri: 11.30pm
Cult road movie.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A] ✍ Thu: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm
Harrison Ford sets off once more.

SEX AND THE CITY [15] ✍ Thu & Fri: 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15pm
The film of the series.

MONGOL: THE RISE TO POWER OF GENGHIS KHAN [15] Fri: 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.00pm
Portrait of legendary Mongol leader.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

IRON MAN [12A] ✍ Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm, Fri: 3.45, 9.00pm
Arms dealer becomes superhero.

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS [12A] Thu: 3.15pm
City star goes home to the country.

NIM'S ISLAND [U] Thu: 12.45pm
Fiction and reality blend in fantasy adventure.

SEX AND THE CITY [15] ✍ Thu: 1.00, 2.30, 4.00, 6.00, 7.30, 9.15pm; Fri: 12.45, 2.00, 4.15, 5.15, 7.30, 8.45, 11.00pm
Will Carrie marry?

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A] ✍ Thu: 12.30, 1.15, 2.00, 2.45, 3.30, 4.15, 5.00, 5.45, 6.30, 7.15, 8.00, 8.45, 9.30pm; Fri: 12.15, 1.00, 1.45, 2.30, 3.15, 4.00, 4.45, 5.30, 6.15, 7.00, 7.45, 8.30, 9.15, 10.00, 10.45pm
Harrison Ford sets off once more.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS [12A] Thu: 1.45, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00pm; Fri: 1.15, 6.30, 11.45pm
A couple wake up married and wealthy.

PROM NIGHT [15] Fri: 12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30, 11.35pm
A dark secret emerges.

SUPERHERO MOVIE [12A] Fri: 1.30, 3.30, 6.00, 8.15, 10.30pm
Spoof of the costume hero genre.

THEATRE to Sat 7th June

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

THE ENGLISH GAME BY RICHARD BEAN ✍ Wed 4th: 7.30pm, Thu 5th, Sat 7th: 2.30, 7.30pm, Fri 6th: 8pm
Dazzling new play exploring the modern British psyche through cricket. £10.50-£23.50

Garsington Opera (361636)

COSI FAN TUTTE Sat 7th: 5.35pm
Mozart revival. £80-£135

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon

ODN DRAMA FESTIVAL Mon 2nd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm
A Festival of one-act plays by groups from all over Oxfordshire. £5 per night

OFS Studio (297170)

THE LAST 5 YEARS ✍ Tue 3rd - Fri 6th: 8pm; Sat 7th: 2.30pm, 8pm
Contemporary musical chronicling a couple's romance: his story starts at the beginning, hers at the end. £9 / £7.

O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College

THE AGE OF ANXIETY Wed 4th - Sat 7th, 7.30pm
World premiere of Auden's pulitzer prize winning text. £5

New Theatre, Oxford (0870 6063500)

JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT ✍ Wed 4th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Thu 5th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Fri 6th: 5pm, 8pm ; Sat 7th: 2, 5 & 8pm
Starring Craig Chalmers. £11-£24.50

Oxford & Cherwell Valley College - City Centre Campus (550550)

OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR Wed 4th & Thu 5th: 7pm
OCVC'S BTEC Performing Arts students present this provocative favourite. £5/£2.50

Burton Taylor Studio (305305)

AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm
By Alan Bennett. Can we feel sorry for Guy Burgess, nostalgic spy? £6/£5

Worcester College (278300)

THE TEMPEST ✍ Tue 3rd - Fri 6th: 7.30pm, Sat 7th: 2.30pm
In the gardens by the lake. NB audience will be required to stand / move around for much of the play. £8/£5

The Theatre At Headington (759138)

BREATHING CORPSES Fri 6th: 7.30pm
Three corpses, and their discoverers, are strangely linked... £6/£4.50

JOBS OFFERED

BRIGHTON COLLEGE

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

Starting salary no less than £27,500 plus attractive menu of benefits amounting to a further £1,500. Accommodation may also be available.

The college, one of England's leading schools, is situated in the exciting and vibrant city of Brighton.

No PGCE is required, just a great deal of enthusiasm and a willingness to share it with pupils.

Letters of application and a full CV to be sent to The Headmaster, Brighton College, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 0AL by Tuesday 10th June 2008.

Further details are available from
Lisa Weller in the Headmaster's Office on 01273 704292 or Email: lweller@brightoncollege.net
Brighton College, Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 0AL.

WWW.BRIGHTONCOLLEGE.NET

BRIGHTON COLLEGE

TEACHER OF CHEMISTRY

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

Starting salary no less than £27,500 plus attractive menu of benefits amounting to a further £1,500. Accommodation may also be available.

The college, one of England's leading schools, is situated in the exciting and vibrant city of Brighton.

No PGCE is required, just a great deal of enthusiasm and a willingness to share it with pupils.

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Further details are available from
Lisa Weller in the Headmaster's Office on 01273 704292 or Email: lweller@brightoncollege.net
Brighton College, Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 0AL.

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- Who have suffered from depression in the past
- Who are now recovered
- Who are **not** currently using antidepressants

The study will take about eight hours and will involve drinking a special protein mixture followed by a short brain scan (MRI). If you're aged between 18 and 60 and think you're suitable for this study, please get in touch for further information. **Expenses will be paid!**

jamie.horder@psych.ox.ac.uk
(01865) 223614 COREC : 07/H0607/60

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Lucy Properties

Juxon Street, Jericho

Newly refurbished three/four bedroom Victorian terrace house. Sitting room, dining room/ bedroom four, open plan kitchen, breakfast room, three further bedrooms, two bathrooms. Can be furnished or unfurnished. Rent £2100 pcm exclusive of utilities.

For viewings please call Rachel at Lucy Properties: 559973

Lucy Properties

Iffley Road, Central East Oxford

Spacious six bedroom house, five doubles and one single. Three kitchens, living room, shower room and two w.c.s. Four of the rooms have own shower cubicles. Ideal for students. For viewings please contact Sarah. Rent £2400 exclusive of utilities. Available end September for twelve months.

For viewings please contact Sarah at Lucy Properties: 559973

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Lucy Properties

Studio Flats, Juxon Street, Jericho

Three studio flats available in popular location from early/mid May for six months plus. Comprises sitting room/bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. Can be furnished or unfurnished. Rent £695 pcm exclusive of utilities.

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KENILWORTH COURT, EAST OXFORD
Lovely, spacious two bedroom apartment situated in quiet side road in Cowley. Property comprises two good sized bedrooms, bright lounge, kitchen/ dining area and a bathroom with shower over bath. The property is offered furnished and includes one secure parking space. *£750 PCM*

THE CHILTERNS, GLOUCESTER GREEN
Beautiful two bedroom furnished apartment situated in the heart of Oxford city centre. The property has been refurbished and includes a newly fitted bathroom and kitchen, a spacious living area and one double and one single bedroom. *£1,000 PCM*

THE CHILTERNS, GLOUCESTER GREEN
One bedroom apartment in fantastic location. The property comprises a good sized living area with open plan kitchen, one bedroom and a bathroom. This property is offered furnished. *£775 PCM*

James C. Penny
113 Walton Street
Oxford OX2 6AJ

www.jamescpenny.co.uk
01865 558818

Long and Short Lets Available

- **Thackley End:** A luxury one bedroom apartment situated just off the Banbury Road, within walking distance to the City Centre.
Available start June; furnished. £950 per month.
- **Summertown:** A pretty two bedroom apartment five minutes walk from Summertown shops.
Available start June; unfurnished. £1000 per month.
- **Waterside:** A luxury two double bedroom ground floor apartment in this popular development.
Available June; part furnished. £1150 per month.
- **North Oxford:** A luxury three bedroom apartment situated in the sought after Waterways development.
Available immediately. £1495 per month.
- **City Centre:** A luxury two bedroom apartment, well located in central Oxford.
Available beginning July; furnished. £1500 per month.

BEECH ROAD, HEADINGTON. Luxury 2 bed apartment, short/long let. n.2.cook@herts.ac.uk

2 DOUBLE BEDROOMED, modern, fully furnished flat in Witney with parking. £750 pcm excl. Suit n/s professional. 07770 781908 r_warne@hotmail.com

4 BEDROOMS. JERICHO. 2 bathrooms. Family house. High standard. baker.michael.james@gmail.com

NORTH OXFORD, OX2: Well-presented 2 bedroom furnished flat (1 double, 1 single), peaceful location off Woodstock Rd, parking available. Suit professional single or couple. N/S, no pets. Available start August for min. 12 months. £850 pcm (excl). 01865 315080. kathrynsarasmith@yahoo.co.uk

SPACIOUS SINGLE ROOM in Headington available to let as of July 3rd until mid-September. £284pcm + rates. Call Jake: 07853 145288 jacobivatts@hotmail.co.uk

ROOMS TO LET

LARGE SINGLE ROOM £340pcm. letting@wongcna.co.uk, http://www.wongcna.co.uk/letting

OX2: LARGE ROOM for non-smoking professional. Must like dogs! £420 pcm, includes bills & broadband. 01865 514651.

ROOMS TO LET for students. Opposite Brookes University, £290 pcm excl. Contact Sam: 07880 866121. sjs_properties@yahoo.co.uk

ALEXANDRA ROAD, ROOM available now, minimun of six months, suit n/s prof, £320pcm (inc c.tax). Phone 07989 052226.

NORTH OXFORD. £475 pcm, inc. bills & council tax. Double room for n/s single professional sharing with 3 others. Large house with lovely garden, parking. Available now for long let. 07798 881620

DAVENANT ROAD, SUMMERTOWN, very large room, single occupancy, n/s professional, £445 pcm inc. bills and broadband. mike@orson.uk.com

LARGE DOUBLE ROOM, OX3, sharing with professional man and woman. Suit professional n-s. £350 pcm excl. Parking, broadband, guinea pigs. Available 6th June. markmadden7@googlemail.com

LARGE SINGLE ROOM, short let. £120 pw inclusive of bills. Wifi. Near centre. jteroom@gmail.com

BOTLEY ROAD, SINGLE room for male, shared professionals, all mod cons, garden, wi-fi, £335 inc. 01865 372444

£25 PER DAY, St. Johns Street, good people welcome. lewisfletcher@gmail.com

CENTRAL NORTH OXFORD, above average bed-sitting room with own adjoining kitchen. Early September, single person, n/s, £460 pcm, c/t included. Tel 01865 863797.

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THEATRE REVIEW

The English Game by Richard Bean

Oxford Playhouse, to Sat June 7th. See theatre listings, left.

Cricket has been the inspiration for some splendid words. From Sir Henry Newbolt's *Vitai Lampada*:

"There's a breathless hush in the Close tonight
Ten to make and the match to win..."

From Francis Thompson's *At Lords*:

"For the field is full of shades as I near a shadowy coast,
And a ghostly batsman plays to the bowling of a ghost,
And I look through my tears on a soundless-clapping host."

And even from A.A.Milne's *Ode To my Cricket Bat*:

"Revered, beloved, O you whose job
Is but to serve throughout the season
To make, if so be it, a blob."

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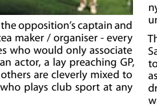

Added to the canon is Richard Bean's splendid play. Set on a Sunday in a South London cricket ground, it provides the ideal setting to pull together a group of disparate souls of all ages and different degrees of world-weariness. What unites and divides them is the timeless ritual of a sporting contest and how much it matters.

The group of eleven players, bolstered by the opposition's captain and the father of the club fixture secretary / tea maker / organiser - every club has and needs one – represent types who would only associate in the theatre of club sport. A rock star, an actor, a lay preaching GP, a journalist, a schoolboy, a plumber and others are cleverly mixed to create the normal tensions that anyone who plays club sport at any level will recognise.

Added to the mix is an outsider – in this case a Daily Mail reading, card carrying member of Little England. So thick skinned that he fails to see his casually racist and boorish attitudes are not shared by his new team mates, he is nonetheless aware enough of the presence of a schoolboy to be concerned at bad language.

What makes this production such a joy is the wonderful ensemble playing. Each character is clearly defined and well realised. They all have their strengths and failings: from the captain (determined to win, but win fairly), who is struggling to survive his loveless marriage, to the disillusioned sixties radical who has become embittered and increasingly conservative; from the rock star joker whose gags hide insecurities to the GP who wants everything to be 'nice' but finds it beyond his powers to make this so.

What the play shows is distilled from reality. I have only to look at the hockey club I play for to recognise similar types and behaviours, hesitating to identify which player best represents me – a job I will leave to others! The skilful direction of Sean Holmes balanced the humour with the moments of tension, through well-judged pace and pause; enhancing the words and relationships to convey life through the metaphor of cricket. Congratulations to the excellent cast and to Anthony Lamble for his splendid design.

I can heartily recommend this production for anyone and everyone, but I believe that club sportsmen and sportswomen will understand best this most English of plays about this most English of games.

Simon Berry

THEATRE REVIEW

The Tempest

Worcester College, to Sat June 7th. See theatre listings, left.

(NB audience will be required to stand / move around for much of the play.)

It was the drool on Sam Kennedy's chin

that summed it all up. It takes real physical and dramatic commitment to be able to run around with a streak of cold, glutinous phlegm hanging from your face and he – and this production - had these in spades.

The physical commitment was in evidence from the very start – despite a day's worth of rain having turned much of the performance space into a swamp an earlier decision to move indoors had been rescinded, on the basis of what can't have been more than an hour of dry weather. But it was also visible throughout as the cast danced, loped and crawled their way around the gardens. The elemental ceremony that accompanied the marriage of Miranda (Nai Webb) and Sebastian (Mark Penwill) was a notable example – the gyrating, drumming nymph quartet managed to invest one of Shakespeare's more irritatingly weedy young couples with an unexpected erotic grandeur.

The dramatic commitment was shown both on and off-stage. Directorial team Toby Pitts-Tucker and Salmaan Mirza made some fine decisions – while their deft handling of the text gave them the confidence to allow their cast a little improvisation (particularly in the excellent, robust clowning of Charmaine Lazenby as Stephano), they were not so blankly reverent that they could not allow lines to be garbled, swallowed or drowned out by music if the theatre of the situation demanded it. To return to Sam Kennedy, his Caliban was genuinely distressing – a stuttering, spitting man-child who manages to inspire sufficient disgust for us to come to a somewhat guilty understanding of Prospero's cruelty.

There were a few flaws. Maanas Jain's full-on capering as Ariel got a little wearing. Colin Burnie's Prospero gave a performance straight out of the orotund, slightly windy school of a previous generation of Shakespearian actors – although this occasionally worked in his favour, making the character seem genuinely 'out of time'. The promenade space was not used as imaginatively as it could have been – a lot of the time we were simply watching stuff happen in front of us in a way that could have worked equally well on an indoor stage.

These, however, really are quibbles. This was an excellent piece by anyone's standards. Brave, thoughtful and (a rarer quality than you'd imagine) genuinely theatrical, the only thing that separated it from 'professional' theatre was the presence of a paycheck.

Matt Bright

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