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CINEMA

Phoenix Picture House 512526 THE ROAD TO PERDITION (15) Sat: 4.00, 6.30, 9.00 Sun: 4.10, 6.30, 9.00 Mon & Thu: 1.30, 4.00, 9.00 Tues, Wed: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00 30s gangster varn with style to spare. See review, far SWEET SIXTEEN (18) Daily (exc Sun): 2.00, 4.30, 6.50, 9.15 Sun: 2.50, 4.50, 7.00, 9.15 Ken Loach's latest tale of hope and despair THE FOLLOWING (15) Sat: 11.30pm Sun: 12 noor Crisp. Hitchcockian thriller in black and white DOUBLE BILL: FREAKS/ THE DEVIL DOLL (12A) Sat: 11.30pm Sun: 12 noor Insettling discoveries ripe for rediscovery MUJHSE DOSTI KAROGE (U) Sun: 1.20 Grand Yash Chopra romantic comedy **KIDS CLUB: HALO (PG)** Sun : 2.00pm

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42 SPACES: SCANNER - A LOVE UNHEARD Thu : 7pm Internationally acclaimed sound artist Followed by Q & A with Scanner. Booking: 0870 750 0659 £8/£6 AKA Thu : 11.30p Working class lad pretends to be aristocrat in Thatch

er's Londor SEX AND LUCIA (18) Thu: 11.30pm

Spanish love story Ultimate Picture Palace 245288 TOGETHER(15) Fri - Mon : 9.30 commune life in Sweder

STAR WARS : ATTACK OF THE CLONES (PG) Sat & Sun: 4.00, 6.45 Mon-Thurs: 6.45

A Jedi shall not know Love BANGKOK DANGEROUS (18) Tue - Thu : 9.30 deaf-mute hit-man (!)

Odeon Magdalen St 0870 5050007 THE ROAD TO PERDITION (15) Daily: 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.30

30s gangster yarn with style to spare. See review, far riaht.

SWEET SIXTEEN (18) Daily: 12.30, 3.00, 5.45, 8.15 Ken Loach's latest tale of hope and despair

Odeon George St 0870 5050007 LILO AND STITCH (U) Fri & Mon-Thurs: 1.00. 3.00

5.45, 8.40 Sat & Sun: 10.45, 1.00, 3.30, 5.45, 8.40 On a distant planet alien authorities have captured the nost dangerous of all criminals THE BOURNE IDENTITY (12A) Sun - Wed : 3.00, 8.30 Assassin on the run with amnesia. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk VAN WILDER: PARTY LIAISON (15) Sun- Weo Another brainless beer fest : 12.30. 6.00 BOAT TRIP (15) Daily: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00 Utter silliness as hormonal straight guys on gay cruise ship ONE HOUR PHOTO (15) Daily: 12.15, 2.30, 5.15, Obsession with suburban family 8.15 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING (PG) Daily: 1.15, Marrying the WHOLE family 3.45, 6.15, 9.00 SIGNS (12A) Daily: 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.45

Are aliens coming? See review at www.dailvinfo.co.uk RED DRAGON (15) Daily: 11.30, 2.45, 5.30, 8.30 Prequel to Silence of the Lambs SPIDERMAN (12A) Sat - Sun: 10.45 Nebslinging action. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk STUART LITTLE 2 Sat - Sun: 11.00

Little creatures rescue friend SENIOR SCREEN: CIDER HOUSE RULES (12) W : 10.45

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Tue 8th

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EXHIBITIONS

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THEATRICAL NEEDS

an Oxford Theatre Guild production, OFS 10-14 Decemeber 2002. A scheduled reading will be held Monday 7 October at 730pm - United Reformed Church NS. Hall. Summertown and is open to the public. All attendees will be considered for parts. For more

THEATRE

Old Fire Station Theatre 297170 AFKA'S DICK Sat 5 Daily: 7.30pr Alan Bennett's comic exploration of the myth of the artist £8 / £6. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Oxford Playhouse 305305 GOODBYE GILBERT HARDING Sat 5: 2.30 & 7.30pn Edward Woodward stars as 'Britain's rudest man' £8.50-£21.50. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE Tue 8 - Sat 12 Daily (except Fri: 8pm) 7.30pm.Thurs & Sat mats 2.30pm The Touring Consortium present Arthur Miller's raw

American tragedy. £8.50-£21.50 The Apollo Oxford 0870 6063500 THE KING AND I Tue 1 - Sat 1 Mon- Sat: 7.30pm, Sat & Wed mats: 2.30

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Pegasus Theatre 722851 TRILOGY: THE SEED CARRIERS Sat 5 : 8pn Story of human frailty. 3rd of 3 of Stephen Mottram's productions. Ages 12 up. Prices as above Tue 8th: 7.30pm MARK THOMAS See review at www.dailvinfo.co.uk

THE NIGHTWATCH Thu 10 & Fri 11 : 1.30pm, 4.30pm Pop-Up present Michael Punter's tale of a haunted house. Ages 7 up. £3.50/£2.50

merely for curiosity's sake. One look, though and we were destined to have to loosen our belts: a shared crème brulée lured us in, which was as faultless as the rest, prepared as it was with just the enough of a spiced hint to keep us wishing we had ordered one each.

With a couple of glasses of splendid Chablis and a small liqueur, the bill came to just under £30 a head. You could easily have a very nice and slightly less indulgent meal for somewhat less, or you could get among the lobster and champagne and spend substantially more. Either way, to judge by satisfied murmurings from nearby tables, you should expect excellent value for money.

I. Threadgill & E. Buckle



GIGS

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MAVE & TRACE / Mavis Bayton & Tracey Collins. Free 1-2pm (ish) / Magic Café, 110, Magdalen Rd; Tel: 794604

Sun 6th

DAVE DUNBAR / Piano / 2-4pm then Viva Salsa! Latin dancing from 6pm / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel 311171

THE SELECTER / With original vocalist Pauline Black & special guest Rhoda Dakar (the Bodysnatchers). £10 adv. / 8pm-11.30pm / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516

KATE RUSBY BAND / Acclaimed English Celtic Roots band / 8pm / The Apollo Oxford, George Street; Tel: 0870 6063500

Mon 7th

MONDAY BLUES / Daniel Smith Band, UK / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford NEIL MASON / Piano / 10-12 midnight / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171

Tue 8th

FAT POPPADADDYS / Student night with everything from Bob Marley to Blur.£1 before 10, £3 after / Po Na Na. Magdalen Street: Tel: 249171 CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY / Freud's. Waltor Street: Tel: 311171 JERICHO COMEDY CLUB / Physical comedy from George Egg; Harvey Oliver; Colin & Rob. £5/£4 / Doors: 8pm. Show: 9pm / The Jericho. Walton Street JAZZ CLUB: SINATRA TRIBUTE / With Denny Illett Jr. Big Band, guest vocals Katya Gorrie, & DJ Kev Mulvaney. Free / 9pm-1am / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road: Tel: 244516

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FILM REVIEW

THE ROAD TO PERDITION

Sam Mendes grabbed the world's attention with his directorial debut, 'American Beauty', a satirical dissection of the middle-class suburban family in contemporary America - even if the film was somewhat overhyped and overrated (similar themes were treated far more bitingly in Todd Solondz's 'Happiness', released in the same year). Now Mendes returns with 'The Road to Perdition', another fable of family dynamics, this time set in the world of Depression-era organised crime.

Michael Sullivan (Tom Hanks) is a doting family man: he has a wife and two sons, and though Michael's own parents are long dead, he is cherished like a son by his employer John Rooney (Paul Newman) - so much so, in fact, that he vies with Rooney's real son, Connor (Daniel Craig), for Rooney's affection. Sullivan is also, however. a mob enforcer, and when his older son (Tyler Hoechlin) witnesses him and Connor at work, events force father and son to go on the run together, pursued by hired killer Maguire (Jude Law at his most joyfully sinister).

Most aspects of this film are perfectly adequate, if not outstanding. It was clearly a masterstroke to cast Tom Hanks, Hollywood's favourite everydad, in the role of a father who is deeply flawed- but Hanks has based his career on reducing his characters (be they AIDS victims, idiots savants, platoon leaders, or castaways) to dull ciphers, easy for the audience to identify with precisely because they are such careful studies in ordinariness, and in this film he is no different. Similarly, the big name actors whom Mendes has managed to attract with his new-found star status - Paul Newman, Jennifer Jason Leigh (as Sullivan's wife), Stanley Tucci (as Frank Nitti) - all do a professional job on their roles, but one senses that they do not really have a lot to work with (Jude Law excepted). David Self's script manages to find a balance between mobster action piece and subtle exploration of father-son relationships - but it never quite matches the impact or insight of 'The Godfather', 'Miller's Crossing', or any episode of 'The Sopranos' for that matter.

The real stars of 'The Road to Perdition' are its director, cinematographer, and set designer, who have collaborated to give this film a stylish look, rich in atmosphere and period detail. A thoroughly convincing world of speakeasies, diners and hotel suites has been recreated, where tobacco is sold by pharmacists, and banktellers know their customers by name. Mendes is clearly a director to watch, and while 'The Road to Perdition' may not be a masterpiece, it is certainly accomplished, and worth seeing.

Anton Bitel 01.10.02

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