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Oxford's DAILY INFORMATION

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Next issue: Saturday 7th June
Deadline: 10am, Friday 6th June

WHAT'S ON * JOBS

JOBS OFFERED

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GIGS

ATHENA / Jazz / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton St; Tel: 311171

ANAHATA AND MARY HUMPHREYS / Oxford Folk Club, £3.50/£2.50 / 8.30 pm / Email: pamcooper@hotmail.com / Web: <http://www.oxfordfolkclub.com> / Port Mahon, St. Clement's; Web: <http://members.aol.com/OxfordFolkClub>

MISHMASH / Deco, slides and cine projections turn the bar into a multi-media environment. Everyone has an opportunity to play three times at a time. / 8pm to 11 ish / East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street

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MEETINGS/LECTURES

PUBLICIZE YOUR SOCIETY HERE!
Put your meetings or lectures up - immediately, any time and free - at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

ROCK 'N' ROLL JIVE CLASS / IVC Social Events Club / 8 pm / Clarendon Sports Club Jordan Hill Oxford

BLACKWELL'S PRESENTS SIMON WINCHESTER / The author of 'The Surgeon of Crowthorne' introduces his new title 'Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded'. Tickets: Free from Customer Services: 333623 / 7pm / Blackwells Bookshop, 48-51, Broad St, Oxford OX1 3BQ; Tel: 792792; Fax: 794143

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THEATRE REVIEW

As You Like It

Oxford Playhouse until Saturday 7th

Shakespeare fans may be rubbing their hands with glee at the moment. They've been blessed with both "As you like it" this week and two (yes, two!) productions of "Twelfth Night" opening next week (Headington Hill Park and St Catherine's College).

When I first heard that "As You Like It" (one of my favourite Shakespearean plays) was being squeezed into the clever concept of a Japanese setting, I must admit that I began to relish the opportunity to savage it. However, I have to hold my hands up and admit that I was partially wrong. Polly Findlay (the clever director) has used the idea that the French Forest setting would have been a world away from Shakespearean London, and the best way to create a distancing effect today was to set it in a new kind of foreign world. This isn't a literal forest of wellies and wax jackets, but a state of mind. When the characters go off to the forest they take on new identities, new partners and new ideas. At the end one wonders if they'll be able to settle back into real life.

As the photographs in the programme show, this is a pretty young cast playing pretty young things romping about in love and laughter. There are some very effective doubling of characters. Lorna Beckett shows her skill and ability by playing both Celia and Adam, shifting effortlessly from Old Yorkshire bloke to young gung-ho 'jolly hockey sticks' girl. The evening should belong to Lily Syke's Rosalind, but she seems to lack the requisite spunk needed to power her way past the boys surrounding her. Instead the evening belongs to Mark Lowen as Orlando and Daniel Harkin as Touchstone.

Lowen has grace, good looks and the voice of an actor born to play Shakespeare's great young men. He delivers a performance that is thoughtful and shot through with good humour. Harkin sometimes kills the text by capering and mugging at the audience, but his performance is so energetic that you don't really care that the occasional word is lost.

So here's the big question: Is it any good? Well... it is and it isn't. Some of the devices work really well. It's worth going just to see the flock of sheep upstage everyone. Also there are some wonderful moments of beauty and clarity. However, there are moments when the whole conceit jars against what Shakespeare has written: characters refer to French places and people and yet clearly this isn't France or even a British forest. Nonetheless, this is an interesting play with a very clever conceit. Catch it if you can.

Ben Whitehouse, 05.06.03

* ACCOMMODATION

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COMING

BLACKWELL'S IS PLEASED TO PRESENT the author of 'The Surgeon of Crowthorne', Simon Winchester, who will be introducing his new title 'Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded' on Friday 6th June, 7pm at Coffee Republic, Blackwell's, 50 Broad Street, Oxford. Tickets are FREE and are available from Blackwell's Customer Services. Call (01865) 333623.

JAVANESE DANCE PERFORMANCE, ACCOMPANIED BY GEMELAN. Saturday 7 June, 7.30pm. Newman Rooms, Rose Place, St Aldates. Tickets £10(£7) from Playhouse, or on the door

THE ARCADIAN SINGERS will be performing Tippett's '5 Negro Spirituals', Stanford's 'Magnificat for Double Choir', Elgar & Dove. Saturday 7th June, Exeter College Chapel, 8pm. Tickets £8/£5/£4 from tickets@arcadiansingers.org.uk

Friday 6 June, 8.00 pm. Sheldonian Theatre

Brahms: Concerto for Violin and Cello, and Symphony no 2.
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Thomas Bowes, violin
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Marios Papadopoulos, conductor
Tickets 01865 305305

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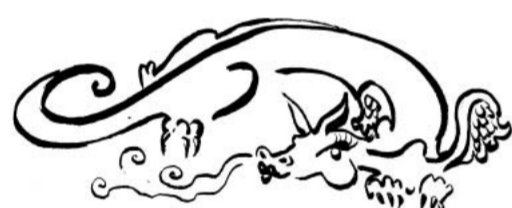
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LOCAL FOOD

"PILE IN, CHAPS - GRUB'S UP": A PERSONAL VIEW

1. Asparagus season ends about Saturday, 14th June. You want nice thick stems, as at Medley - thin ones, sometimes in shops, are a bit stringy. Cook in a small amount of boiling water for about ten minutes till a fork slides in easily. Eat dipped in melted butter. Best way to keep them in good condition for up to a week is to cut half an inch off the stem bottoms and place them in an inch or so of water in a cool, dark place - changing it each day or so (treat them like flowers). Don't put them in the fridge - it bursts the cells.

2. Strawberries £3/kg. Also mixed with George and Davis' Ice cream.

3. New spuds (Rocket). £1.20/kg

4. Spinach - cook with a teaspoon of water and some butter - takes some 2/3 minutes while it wilts and turns a darker green. In the final minute, sprinkle with grated cheese.

All available - except the cheese - 9.30am - 7pm daily at Medley Manor Farm, Binsey Lane, off Botley Road. Latest news on 241251.

John Rose, 05.06.03



CINEMA

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She breaks out of prison to be with him... X-MEN 2 (12A) Daily: 1.00, 4.15, 7.30 (1.00, 4.15 subtitled Saturday)

They're, erm, back. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk
THE MATRIX RELOADED (15) Daily: 12.45, 1