Oxford's DAILY INFO

Issue No. 7637

Queries & Adverts: 01865 241133 (Mon-Fri 9-5)
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Next issue: Sat 8th October
Deadline: 10am, Fri 7th October

Thu 6th & Fri 7th October 2005 (0th Week)

WHAT'S ON/COMING SOON

Friday 7th October, 7.30pm
SATISH KUMAR
'Personal and Planetary Sustainability'
NOA Community Centre (Ferry Centre, Summertown)
£6. Pay on door
Telephone Jupiter trust: 01865 407490

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The Fourth Oxford Lieder Festival
15th - 29th October

19 concerts of song and chamber music with many world-renowned artists, as well as talks, workshops and masterclasses.

Performers to include Olaf Bär, Sarah Connolly, Jonathan Lemalu, Christopher Maltman, Roderick Williams and others.

See www.oxfordlieder.co.uk for full details, or call **07790 201941** to request a brochure.

Tickets : **www.ticketsoxford.com / 305305**

"...a prestigious and burgeoning festival" (The Independent)

DRUMMING WORKSHOP (TABLA), every Wednesday, 7pm, Pitt Rivers Balfour Building (no. 60 Banbury Road). Interested? Phone 01865 552000 / caroline@caroline-h-j.demon.co.uk

'IQ FOR ARISTOCRATS': a seminar by Dr Celia Green, Tuesday, 2nd week, 18th October, at 2.30pm. The Kings Arms, Holywell Street. Free. All welcome.

DAILY INFORMATION'S YEAR PLANNER 2005-06

Get Organised!
Daily Info's Year Planner
Oct 2005 - Dec 2006
Available now
A2, write-on days, important dates & holidays, lots of useful info. Free within Oxfordshire.
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CINEMA
Until Fri 7th Oct

Ozone Multiplex (0870 444 3030)

WOLF CREEK [18] Thu: 8.15pm
Hitchcockesque bowel loosener.

THE LONGEST YARD [12A] Thu: 3.15, 5.45pm
Prison sports movie - add water and shake.

KING'S GAME [12A] Thu: 3.00, 5.30, 7.45pm
Slick political thriller

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE [U] ✍ Thu: 2.30, 5.15, 8.00pm; Fri: 2.15, 5.00, 7.45pm
Bitesize revision of Austen classic.

LAND OF THE DEAD [15] Thu: 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15pm; Fri: 2.45, 4.45, 7.30, 9.40pm
Does exactly what is says on the tin.

REVOLVER [15] Thu: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00pm, Fri: 9.15pm
Latest crime caper from Mr Madonna.

GOAL! [12A] Thu: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45pm, Fri: 3.15, 5.45, 8.15pm
Roy of the Rovers, but different.

DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO [15] Thu: 2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pm, Fri: 1.45, 4.30, 7.15pm
Bigalow returns - this time in Amsterdam.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE [18] ✍ Thu: 2.45, 5.00, 7.30, 9.40pm; Fri: 1.30, 4.15, 6.45, 8.45pm
Aragorn from LOTR might be a gangster. Or not.

FOUR BROTHERS [12A] Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm; Fri: 2.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Four brothers look to avenge their mother's death.

SERENITY [15] Fri: 1.00, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00pm
Starwarsesque sci fi from Buffy creator.

OLIVER TWIST [PG] Fri: 2.00, 5.15, 8.00pm
What the Dickens do you want more for?

KINKY BOOTS [12A] Fri: 1.15, 4.00, 7.00, 9.30pm
The fall and rise of a Northampton shoe factory.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

CRASH Thu: 8.15pm, Fri 9.30pm
Not Cronenberg's flick about car crashes, but Paul Haggis's flick about racial conflict.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOVE [15] Fri: 7.30pm
Italian drama about a mystery man who runs into trouble when he falls in love.

Odeon George St (0871 2244007)

REVOLVER (15) Thu: 2.40, 5.40, 8.20pm
Guy Ritchie's latest gangster caper. Are its intellectual pretentions followed through?

GOAL! [12A] Thu: 2.20, 5.20, 8.10pm (wheelchair access for all)
Roy of the Rovers, but different.

FOUR BROTHERS [15] Thu: 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40pm
Four brothers look to avenge their mother's death.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE [18] ✍ Thu: 1.45, 4.10, 6.30, 8.50pm; Fri: 1.35, 4.00, 6.20, 8.40pm
Viggo Mortensen as a reformed gangster.

40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN [15] Thu: 3.10, 5.50, 8.30pm
American cherry popping comedy with a twist.

KINKY BOOTS [12A] Fri: 1.25, 3.55, 6.20, 8.50pm
The fall and rise of a Northampton shoe factory.

SERENITY [15] Fri: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Spaceship crew defy corporation of the future. From the creator of Buffy.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE [U] ✍ Fri: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
No - it's not as good as the TV series.

NIGHT WATCH [15] Fri: 2.40, 5.40, 8.20pm
High energy Russian fantasy thriller.

OLIVER TWIST [PG] Fri: 2.00, 4.55, 8.00pm
What the Dickens do you want more for?

Phoenix Picture House (512526)

NICK DRAKE EVENT Thu: 8.00pm. Booking Advised
Keith James performs songs of Nick Drake, + screening of "A Skin Too Few".

The Big Scream: HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE [U] Thu: 11.30am
Special screening for parents with children under one year.

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE [U] Thu: 1.30, 4.00pm
Beautiful, intricate and enchanting - the latest animated fantasy from Studio Ghibli.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE [18] Thu: 1.15, 3.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15pm; Fri: 3.15, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15pm
Confrontational look at on screen violence. ✍

DIG! [15] Fri: 1.00, 11.30pm
Rockumentary on American bands Brian Jonestown Massacre and The Dandy Warhols

NIGHT WATCH [15] Fri: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00, 11.30pm
Dark forces do battle in Moscow.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244007)

SERENITY[15] Thu: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Spaceship crew defy corporation of the future. From the creator of Buffy.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE [U] ✍ Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
No - its not as good as the TV series. But then, it doesn't have 12 hours to play with.

FOUR BROTHERS [15] Fri: 3.30, 8.15pm
Four unrelated brothers look to avenge their mother's death in gritty Detroit.

40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN [15] Fri: 3.40, 6.10, 8.40pm
American cherry popping comedy with a twist.

GOAL! [12A] Fri: 1.10pm
Danny Cannon (of Judge Dredd fame) shoots footballs around Newcastle.

LAND OF THE DEAD [15] Fri: 1.20, 6.00pm
George Romero directs the Zombies' last assault on mankind.

✍ **= review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk**

EXHIBITIONS

Ongoing...

ART EXHIBITION: 'OTHER WORLDS' / Mixed media colourful landscape and architectural paintings / 11am-10.30pm / me_vb@hotmail.com / Freud's. Walton St; Tel: 311171

BEAUTIES OF THE FOUR SEASONS / Japanese woodblock prints from the Edo period (1600 - 1868). Room 25 / Ashmolean Museum. Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tue-Sat 10 - 5, Thu 10 - 7, Sun 12 - 5, Bank Hol Mons 10 - 5, Tel: 278000; Fax: 278018

THE MYSTERY OF EMPTY SPACE / A selection of 20th century Chinese painting, higlighting the use of empty space. (ends Oct 16) / Ashmolean Museum. Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tue-Sat 10 - 5, Thu 10 - 7, Sun 12 - 5, Bank Hol Mons 10 - 5,; Tel: 278000; Fax: 278018

INVENTION AND INSPIRATION: EARLY ITALIAN PRINTS / 15th and early 16th century woodcuts and engravings from the Ashmolean's holdings. / Ashmolean Museum. Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tue-Sat 10 - 5, Thu 10 - 7, Sun 12 - 5, Bank Hol Mons 10 - 5,; Tel: 278000; Fax: 278018

WILFRED THESIGER'S IRAQ, 1949-1958: PHOTOGRAPHS OF TRAVEL / Some of the 4,500 pictures taken recording the life of the marsh people & the country's spectacular scenery / Pitt Rivers Museum. Parks Road. Open Mon-Sat 12.00-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-4.30pm. ; Tel: 270927 (info 270949); Fax: 270943, prm@prm.ox.ac.uk ✍

TA-RA-RA BOOM-DE-AY. / The British Music Hall Song 1850-1920 / Bodleian Library / 9.30-4.45 / Bodleian Library Exhibition Room. Old Schools Quadrangle, Broad Street.; Tel: 277213

ART EXHIBITION - MICHELE FIELD / Oxford canal / flowers / modern / all day / www.saa.co.uk/art/michele / Old Radcliff Infirmary Hospital, Oxford

THE GENIUS OF THE NORTH: FROM THE DIVINE TO THE EVERYDAY / 15th - 17th century Netherlandish and German drawings / Christ Church Picture Gallery. Christ Church (entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oriel Square) Open: 1 Oct - 31 Mar: Mo-Sa, 10.30-1pm & 2-4.30; Su, 2-4.30. Adults £2, concs £1 ; Tel: 276172; Fax: 202429

FU BAOSHI AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES / Display of works by one of the leading painters of 20th Century China, marking the centenary of his birth / Room 13 / Ashmolean Museum. Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tue-Sat 10 - 5, Thu 10 - 7, Sun 12 - 5, Bank Hol Mons 10 - 5; Tel: 278000; Fax: 278018

PRESERVATION / Paintings and stories of 5 mummies by artist Vicky Vergou / Vale and Downland Museum / 2.30pm - 5pm / museum@wantage.com / Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage

'NEW DIRECTIONS' / An exhibition of paintings and embroideries by Denise Harrison / Vale & Downland Museum / 2.30pm - 5pm / museum@wantage.com / www.wantage.com/museum / Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION / Latest work by Rebecca Buck displayed in peaceful garden setting / 9.30 - 7 pm. Free entry. / www.turrillsculpturegarden.org.uk / Turrill Garden, Summertown Library, South Parade, Oxford

THEATRE
Until Sat 9th

New Theatre (0870 6063500)

BEAUTY & THE BEAST Tue 4 - Sat 8 Daily 7.30pm; Thu, Sat : 2.30pm
Adaptation of Disney's multi-award winning musical.

COMPLETELY HOLLYWOOD Sun 9: 7:30
The Reduced Shakespeare Company shrink the movies.

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

OTHERWISE ENGAGED Mon 3 - Sat 8 Daily: 7.30pm, except Fri 7: 8pm plus Thu, Sat Mats : 2.30pm
Richard E Grant in a wicked comedy. £15-£24.50

Old Fire Station Theatre (297170)

SWEENEY TODD Wed 5th - Sat 8th Wed & Thu: 7.30pm; Fri & Sat : 5.00, 8.00
Bloodbath with an ironic outcome. RAF Theatrical Association.

Pegasus Theatre (722851)

AURORA Sat 8th & Sun 9th : 8pm
Triple bill of dance. £8, £5.50 concs (£3 under-18s)

Burton Taylor Theatre (305305)

SPLINTERS Tue 4th - Sat 8th Daily 7.30pm, except Fri 7th: 9.30pm
A play about psychotherapy by Chris Elliot.

CHRIS TUTTON IN PERFORMANCE Fri 7th: 7.30pm
Short sharp poetry. £6/4

Headington School Theatre (759138)

THE EDINBURGH & BEYOND COMEDY TOUR 2005 Fri 7: 7.30pm
Stand-up comics Reginald D Hunter, Russell Howard, Russell Kane, Ray Peacock £12 (£10)

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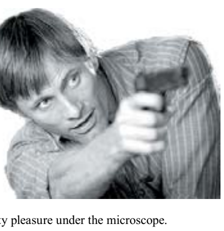
FILM REVIEW: A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE [18]

Dir: David Cronenberg
Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello, Ed Harris



Most people would agree that violence is a Bad Thing. Necessary sometimes, but mostly to be avoided. So how come we pack the multiplexes to wallow in the stuff? Just this year audiences gleefully lapped up the pulp noir viscera of *Sin City* and giggled at the bullet-strewn battle of the sexes in *Mr & Mrs Smith*. *In A History of Violence*, cult Canadian director David Cronenberg – not one to shy away from exploding heads and intestinal worms – puts our guilty pleasure under the microscope.

In cosy, smalltown America, Tom Stall (Viggo Mortensen) quietly manages his diner and loves his two-kid family to bits. When two murderers hold up his store, he kills them both in an intense act of self-defence. Fêted as a local hero, Tom's life is turned upside down and not just by the media. Soon, black-clad mobsters come calling, claiming Tom isn't Tom at all, but Joey, the missing brother of a mob-boss: why else, they ask his doubting wife, 'is he so good at killing?'. With his identity in question and his family in the balance, a showdown is inevitable.

Sounds like a by-the-books movie. And so it is, if you want it to be. But as you'd expect from cine-philosopher Cronenberg, *History* is far from straightforward. It's a western, a gangster flick and a thriller rolled into one, with a dose of romance and full-on marital sex. A multi-layered musing on movie sex and violence and why we like it. You're unsettled all the way. Tom's home is so cutesy it's deliberately comic, with banal, love-you dialogue, and plangent music. Most of the script and soundtrack is so overdone you soon sense Cronenberg's having a laugh. And he is, subverting every formula he sets up. We cheer as father and son smack down the baddies and the school bullies. But the quick-cuts to missing faces and bloody noses are sobering. The powerhouse pull of *History* isn't the violence, it's the reaction to it – all the scenes in fact without any dialogue or soundtrack. All credit to Mortensen and particularly Maria Bello as wife Edie, whose committed performances carry the film.

Ed Harris and William Hurt add sparkle as cracking, boo-hiss baddies. And it's beautifully filmed and paced. And if *History* is Cronenberg-lite, it's no less affecting for that. His themes are still there – identity and the consequences for self and society when bodies are damaged, and passions let loose. *History* is tense, intelligent and dramatic. Refreshing rather than revolting. Expect a mainstream, Tarantino-esque movie and be mistaken.

If you like your violence neat, and lots of it, then wait for *Sin City 2*. While *History* also has a comic book origin, it's take on violence is way more mature and rewarding. It doesn't pander, it challenges. Cronenberg's is a cinema of unease not escapism. That's not just a silver screen up there. It's a mirror.

Glenn Watson 02/10/05

MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Thu 6th

OPEN DOOR DROP-IN CENTRE / Drop-in centre for refugees & asylum seekers, relax, mingle,network / Open Door / 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. / East Oxford Community Centre. Princes Street; Tel: 792168

READING GROUP IN JERICHO / Meeting to discuss William Golding's 'The Inheritors' / 8pm / esbooks@hotmail.com / The Harcourt Arms

STUDENTS AND ESPERANTO / Oxford and District Esperanto Society / 7.45pm / www.esperanto.net/info/index_en.html / 36 Stockmore Street

THE 7 SPIRITUAL CONQUESTS / Explore the variety of conquests the soul undertakes on its journey. / Brahma Kumaris / 7.30pm, free / www.globalretreatcentre.org.uk/events_guide/talks/default.htm

SPEEDWELL SUPPORT GROUP / For anyone with serious illness interested in complementary therapies / Speedwell & WellBeing Trust / 11.30am - 1.30pm / speedwellbeing@tiscali.co.uk / www.speedwellbeing.org.uk / Friends' Meeting House. 43 St Giles; Tel: 01865 557373

BRITAIN AND GERMANY - WHAT THE MEDIA DO NOT REPORT. / Dr John Thum / 7.30pm / Abbey Chapel. Chequer Walk, Abingdon

BROOKES X-TREME: INTRODUCTORY MEETING / Extreme Sports "Appreciation" club. / 7.00pm / info@oxfordstuntfactory.com / Brookes Sports Bar, Headington Campus

Fri 7th

WOLVERCOTE OLD BOYS REUNION / 7.30pm / WYPC

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HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

Last seen getting into a car, reg. **H553 THO** 8pm 3rd October outside The Big Bang, Walton Street, Jericho.

2ft tall, dark hair, oriental complexion, doesn't answer to the name of Oddjob but would if he could speak and has a broken right hand.

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Please call Max 07766 331150.

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Rachael (01865) 223601 rachael.ayres@psychiatry.oxford.ac.uk
Dr Ursula O'Sullivan (01865) 226395 ursula.osullivan@psychiatry.oxford.ac.uk
OFAF # 04:OX:026. Participants will be reimbursed for their time and expenses

GIGS

Thu 6th

THE CATWEAZLE CLUB / Oxford's performance space for music, poetry, story and song. / The Catweazle Club / 8pm. £4/£3 (performers free) / Email: mother@catweazleclub.org / Web: http://www.catweazleclub.org / East Oxford Community Centre. Princes Street; Tel: 792168/01865 247714

QUEEN ADREENA / "Fronted by the ever-eccentric Katie Jane Garside" £8 / 7pm / www.queenadreena.com / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

NURU KANE / A captivating and impetuous singer songwriter from Senegal / Oxford Contemporary Music / 5.45pm, £3 / £2, u 10's free / info@ocmevents.org / www.ocmevents.org / Modern Art Oxford Cafe

SKYLARKIN' SOUNDSYSTEM / Reggae, Funk, Ska, Soul, Latin, Dub & Afrobeat; Aidan Larkin + guests / 8:30 - 11pm, Free / dalton@tommykneecaps.com / www.skylarkin.co.uk / The Brickworks. 182 Cowley Rd; Tel: 245999

THE SPIN JAZZ CLUB / MARK LOCKHEART'S BIG IDEA - super hip 7 piece / £8 £6; open 8, band on 8.30 / The Spin@The Wheatsheaf. Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street; Tel: 243276

BURN YOUR MONEY AND DANCE TOUR / 2 great bands coming to Oxford. Aluminum Babe (New York), Frommars / 48v records presents... / £3 on door. Get there for 8pm / usfrommars@hotmail.com / www.from-mars.co.uk/burn/index.html / The Cellar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 01865 244761

SPARKY'S FLYING CIRCUS / Performers of all kinds welcome! / 9pm, Free / The Half Moon. 17 St Clements, Oxford

3SPIRIT MUSIC OPEN MIC / Musicians of all types welcome/ hoasted by LilG and Ian A / 3Spirit Music / BBQ + outside Bar in garden / spiritmusic@hotmail.co.uk / www.primefarm.co.uk / The Turf Tavern

Fri 7th

MISHMASH / Anyone can bring their own tunes, CD/Vinyl, to this multi-media night / Run by those that bring music / 8-11.30/ free / mishmash@youareinvitedto.co.uk / East Oxford Community Centre. Princes Street; Tel: 792168

RON TAYLOR & JEFF GILLETT / Mellow vocals and acoustic guitar/bouzouki accompaniment / Oxford Folk CLub / 8.30 pm, £3.50 (unwaged £2.50) / pamcooper@hotmail.com / www.oxfordfolkclub.com / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

BOSSAPHONIK JAZZ-DANCE CLUB / LIVE ACTS: 'Dee Nyoni' - Afro-jazz-funk-soul. Support from Rebecca Heyne / 8pm-2am £5/4 NUS/OUP / bossaphonik@yahoo.co.uk / www.cellarmusic.co.uk / The Cellar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 01865 244761

PAT THOMAS AT THE HOLYWELL / Cutting edge new music from pianist Pat Thomas and Oxford Improvisers / Moving Tone/Oxford Improvisers / 8pm £10 door or £8 in advance / domlash@hotmail.com / www.movingtone.com / Holywell Music Room. Holywell Street

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW + BRIGADE + THE BLACKOUT / £7 / 7pm / www.queenadreena.com / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

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