

**UBU ENCHAINED.** ALFRED Jarry. Absurdist comedy. Worcester gardens. Tuesday 6 June - Saturday 10 June. 7.30pm

**COMING**

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MUSIC**  
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THE HOLYWELL MUSIC ROOM  
Friday 9th June, 1 p.m.  
with Aline Nassif, Violin, & Thomas Wood, Piano  
Haydn: Quartet in B flat, Op. 103  
Chausson: Concert, Op. 21  
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Thursday 15 June, 5pm  
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**THEATRE REVIEW**

**As You Like It**  
by William Shakespeare

at New College Cloisters until Saturday  
With an idyllic little nook of New College for its venue, and wonderful Regency costumes from the Bristol Old Vic, Isobel Akenhead's production of *As You Like It* already has a lot of things going for it. Some spirited acting (and champagne in the interval!) completes a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

One of Shakespeare's better comedies, the plot of *As You Like It* hinges around the story of Rosalind (Catriona Ward), whose father the Duke has been banished to the Forest of Arden by his usurping brother. Having been retained to advise her cousin Celia (Kaffy Rice-Oxley), Rosalind is just fallen for the handsome Orlando, when she is forced to flee to the Forest herself, dressed as a man ("change the record, Will"). Much frivolity (as well as some desperately unfunny Shakespearean axioms) ensues, before the lovers are united and the rightful Duke restored.

Catriona Ward gives an assured and attractive portrayal of the heroine, superbly complemented by Kaffy Rice-Oxley's beautifully-spoken Celia. Daniel Metcalfe's endearingly dashing Orlando is another highlight, and Olivia Tebbutt's lovely singing voice is used to great effect (if occasionally superfluously). Richard Godwin's witty and confident portrait of the professionally melancholy Jaques is hilarious, and along with a cameo from Le Beau (Matt Kosusko), the production really does succeed in making its audience laugh - a rare achievement for a Shakespearean comedy!

Ms. Akenhead's production obviously revels in the escapism of the text, and if one is looking for an evening's escape from revision or essay-crisis, *As You Like It* is a fun and engaging distraction (as long as you wrap up warm!).  
**Rob Crompton, 6.5.00**

**CINEMA**

Until Thursday 8th June

**Ultimate Picture Palace 245288**  
**Jeune St**  
MANSFIELD PARK Thur 7pm  
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A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (18) Thur 9.30pm  
Adaptation of Burgess's novel.

**The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526**  
**THE FILTH AND THE FURY (15)** Daily 4.30, 9.10  
Sex Pistols documentary.  
NORA (15) Daily 4.15, 9pm  
James Joyce and his muse, Nora Barnacle.  
EARTH (12) Daily 2pm, 6.45  
2nd part of Indian trilogy inspired by the elements.  
IN ALL INNOCENCE (15) Daily 2.15, 7pm  
Fast-paced French tale of attraction and repulsion

**THE ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHHAUSEN (PG)** Thur 11.30pm  
Epic fantasy adventure from Terry Gilliam.  
**THE ANNABEL CHONG STORY** Thur 11.30pm  
Documentary about the promiscuous film-star.

**ABC Magdalen Street 251998**  
Bookings 0541 550509 / Enquiries 725305

**GLADIATOR (15)** Daily 1.15, 4.20, 7.45  
Gory new tale of blood and honour in the arena.

**ABC George Street 251998**  
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**MAYBE BABY (15)** Mon-Thur 1.10, 3.25, 5.50, 8.25  
Ben Elton comedy, with Hugh Laurie and Rowan Atkinson.

**SAVING GRACE (15)** Daily 3.35, 8.15  
Hilarious British comedy with Martin Clunes.  
**HONEST (18)** Thur 5pm  
Dave Stewart directs All Saints.

**THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (15)** Thur 2pm, 8.35  
New American gangster comedy.  
**KEVIN AND PERRY GO LARGE (15)** Daily 1.30, 6.10  
Harry Enfield and Kathy Burke.

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**LIGHTING AND STAGE** crew. 9th week production. Burton-Taylor. Tel: 0958 343359

**AUDITIONS FOR PINTERS** The Birthday Party Wednesday. Thursday. Friday 3-6pm St Catherine's PDR. 07939 412436

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**THEATRE**

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**The Apollo Theatre 0670 6063500**  
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Fri 9th-Sat 10th 5pm, 8pm  
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**Old Fire Station 794490**  
**ION**  
Tue 6th-Sat 10th 7.30  
Sat Mat 2.30  
New adaptation of Euripides.

**Burton Taylor Theatre 798600**  
**THE SKRIKER** Tue 6th-Sat 10th 7.30  
Gritty drama by Caryl Churchill (see Review).

**Pegasus Theatre 722851**  
**LARK RISE** Tue 6th - Sat 10th 8pm  
Based on Flora Thompson's books set in Rural Oxfordshire.

**Holywell Music Room**  
**RUBDYGORE** Fri 9th - Sat 10th 8pm  
Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

**Merton College Chapel**  
**SEJANUS, HIS FALL** Tue 6th - Fri 9th 7.30  
Ben Jonson.

**New College Cloisters**  
**AS YOU LIKE IT** Tue 6th - Sat 10th, 7.30  
Traditional staging of Shakespeare's comedy (See Review).

**Worcester College Gardens**  
**UBU ENCHAINED** Tue 6th - Sat 10th, 7.30  
Alfred Jarry's absurdist comedy (See Review).

**Christ Church Cathedral Gardens**  
**ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS** Tue 6th - Sat 10th, 7.15  
Adaptation of Lewis Carroll's sequel.

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**ECONOMIC POLICY PROJECT** management. Postgraduates contact@oxford-policy.com

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**THEATRE REVIEW**

**Ubu Enchained**  
by Alfred Jarry

at Worcester College Gardens until Saturday

"It's our duty to be free... so disobey on the count of three." Ubu Enchained, part of Alfred Jarry's series of strange comedies, is currently being staged in the garden of lovely old Worcester College, down by the lake. So bring something warm, even though the play only lasts an hour or so.

Ubu started as a schoolboy's lampoon, a caricature of one of Jarry's physics teachers, who typified the qualities of the bourgeoisie, a perfect target for a smart alec schoolboy. Ubu, perhaps the world's first truly unredeemable character, is hollow, stupid and ugly. He steals and kills when he feels like it, runs and hides when he's threatened. In Ubu, the stage met with its first true anti-hero.

In part one, a parody of Macbeth, Ubu is goaded by his wife into taking over the world. In this next play in the series, Ubu comes to America to become the opposite of a King. Eventually put into ball and chains for his sins, he becomes envied for this large jewelry he is wearing around his ankles.

Jarry broke staging conventions with Ubu that have helped feed the imaginations of designers and directors alike. First performances of the play led to riots. The violent battle for and against Ubu as the King of Poland moved into the Parisian press. The tradition then was of form over content. Jarry attacked theatrical realism, asking for descriptive placards as replacements for scenery. It was a theatre of entertainment that catered to a bourgeois public. The scandalous success of Jarry's play had far-reaching repercussions. He became the adopted father of a number of departures from conventional theatre, including symbolism, surrealism and the Theatre of the Absurd.

Performed outdoors, this historically significant play was unfortunately a bit hard to understand, partly due to the inaudibility of some of the cast, and partly because of some of their absurd affectations of speech, which were, nonetheless, in keeping with the spirit of the comedy. Throughout the show, a four-piece ensemble adds amusing background music. The seating could have been arranged in a semi-circle for better viewing, though there were groundsheets in front on which to lie. All in all, between the whimsical plot, the costumes, the choreography and the accompanying songs of birds in the trees, this production is fun and enjoyable.

Andrew Cohen 6.6.00

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**BARAKA** Oxford's Phattest House and Trance / The Cowen II / £5 on door / 0956 267181 / BarakaOxfordcity.com  
**THE PEDESTRIANS** + support / £4 / 8pm / The Point, The Plain / 798794 / thepoint.oxfordmusic.net  
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