Oxford's DAILY INFO
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Next issue: Saturday 11th November
Deadline: 10am, Friday 10th November

Thurs 9th & Fri 10th November 2006 (5th Week)

Oxford's world famous Covered Market
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WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

Holywell Room, Sat. 11th Nov. 7.30pm

Geoffrey Hopkins

plays the *Chopin Études*

Ticketsoxford.com 01865 305305

YOGA (HATHA): suitable for beginners and intermediate. Relaxing and renewing. 6.00-7.15 pm every Friday at the Yoga Garden, behind Cibo in Summertown. £5.50/£4.50 conc. joannajeczalik@yahoo.com 01865 453307 www.yogagarden.co.uk

RADCLIFFE ORCHESTRA. Mozart, Khachaturian, Rachmaninov. 7.45pm, Saturday 11th November. Tingewick Hall, John Radcliffe. £8 including refreshment. 01993 702518. For the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

'Reflections on the foundation of the State of Israel'
DR ANTHONY JULIUS
Consultant, Mishcon de Reya,
Visiting Professor at Birkbeck College, London
Mon. 13 Nov., 8pm: Exeter College, Saskatchewan Room
More info: **lsi2006@herald.ox.ac.uk**

WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKET
European Food, Fair Trade Arts, Crafts, Clothing and Jewellery.
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GLOUCESTER GREEN, OXFORD, November 2006
Friday 10th 9.00 - 18.00 Saturday 11th 9.00 - 17.00
Sunday 12th 9.00 - 16.00
www.thefreemarketeers.co.uk

RUSSIAN PARISH BAZAAR
Sat 11th Nov — 10.00 - 2.30
Russian & Greek Foods, Hot Borsch, Piroshki
Icons, Books, Gifts
Wesley Memorial Church Hall
New Inn Hall Street
Russian Orthodox Parish of the Annunciation. Registered Charity no. 273241

Icon painting demonstrations by Russian icon-painter
at Russian Parish Bazaar
Wesley Memorial Hall
10am – 2.30pm, Sat 11th November.

MUSIC, LIGHTING & KIT HIRE

DISCOS, LIGHTING, PA HIRE: Crossfade - soundtrack to your party. 01865 873970. www.crossfade.co.uk

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CINEMA
Until Thu 9th Nov

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

A GOOD YEAR [12A] Thu: 4.45pm
Financier returns to the vineyard of his childhood.

BARNYARD [PG] Thu: 12.15, 2.15pm
Family film about dancing farmyard animals.

BOLLYWOOD PRESENTATION: UMRAO JAAN [12A]
Remake of the 1981 film. Thu: 4.20, 8.00pm, Fri: 8.00pm

BORAT [15] Thu: 12.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.30, 9.30pm
Fri: 12.45, 1.45, 3.00, 4.15, 5.20, 6.30, 7.30, 8.45, 9.45, 10.50, 11.50pm
Sacha Baron Cohen makes fun of people.

SAW III [18] Thu: 1.15, 3.45, 6.30, 9.00pm
More sadism. Fri: 1.15, 4.00, 6.50, 9.20, 11.45pm

HISTORY BOYS [15] Thu: 2.30, 7.15, 9.40pm, Fri: 1.00, 6.40pm
Alan Bennett's tale of teenage boys in pursuit of sex, sport, and higher education.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA [PG] Thu: 1.40, 4.10, 6.45, 9.15pm
Meryl Streep & Anne Hathaway in fashion industry satire. Fri: 3.20, 9.00, 11.30pm

THE DEPARTED [18] Thu: 5.30, 8.45pm, Fri: 5.30, 8.45pm
Jack Nicholson and Leonardo DiCaprio in gangster epic.

STEP UP [PG] Thu: 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.10pm, Fri: 12.00, 3.10, 5.40pm
Angry outsider gets romantic dancing opportunity.

OPEN SEASON [PG] Thu: 1.30, 3.30pm, Fri: 1.30, 3.45, 6.00pm
Domesticated grizzly finds himself in the woods at the wrong time of year.

THE PRESTIGE [12A] Thu: 2.30, 5.15, 8.20pm
A deadly rivalry between magicians. Fri: 2.15, 5.10, 8.15, 11.00pm

STARTER FOR 10 [12A] Fri: 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pm, 12.00am
80s romantic comedy featuring University Challenge.

BREAKING & ENTERING [15] Fri: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 9.10, 11.55pm
An architect starts a relationship with his burglar's mother.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

THE HISTORY BOYS [15] Thu: 1.15, 3.45, 8.45pm, Fri: 2.15pm
Alan Bennett's tale of teenagers.

THE PAGE TURNER [15] Thu: 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00pm
Failed pianist exacts a devastating revenge on her examiner. Fri: 4.45, 6.45, 8.45pm

A GOOD YEAR [12A] Fri: 1.30, 6.30pm
Financier returns to vineyard of his childhood.

A SCANNER DARKLY [15] Fri: 11.30pm
Adaptation of Philip K Dick's cult book, in hallucinatory animation style.

RED ROAD [18] Fri: 4.00, 9.00pm
CCTV operator succumbs to obsession.

THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED [18] Fri: 11.30pm
Bold documentary about censorship.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH [U] Thu: 7.15, 9.30pm
Al Gore's exposé of man's inhumanity to the environment.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

THE DEPARTED [18] Thu: 1.15, 4.45, 8.15pm
Leonardo di Caprio on a mole-finding mission.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA [PG] Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.00pm
Anne Hathaway and Meryl Streep in fashion industry satire.

BORAT [15] Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
The man behind Ali G moves on to America. Fri: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm

SAW III [18] Thu: 2.30, 6.15, 9.00pm
Jigsaw's new apprentice kidnaps a doctor... Fri: 3.15, 6.15, 9.00pm

SIXTY-SIX [12A] Thu: 1.30, 4.00, 6.45, 9.15pm, Fri: 12.45pm
A boy's Bar Mitzvah clashes with the world cup final.

THE HISTORY BOYS [15] Thu: 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.45pm
Alan Bennett's tale of schoolboys. Fri: 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.45pm

STARTER FOR 10 [12A] Fri: 1.30, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15pm
80s romantic comedy featuring University Challenge.

THE PRESTIGE [12A] Fri: 2.00, 5.00, 8.15pm
A deadly rivalry between magicians.

BREAKING & ENTERING [15] Fri: 1.45, 4.45, 8.00pm
An architect starts a relationship with his burglar's mother.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

STEP UP [PG] Thu: 2.30, 5.15pm
Channing Tatum & Jenna Dewan in Astaire & Rogers-style contemporary dance story.

THE PRESTIGE [12A] Thu: 8.30pm
A deadly rivalry between magicians.

BORAT [15] Thu: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30pm
Sacha Baron Cohen takes on Kazakhstan. Fri: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30pm

THE DEPARTED [18] Fri: 5.15pm
Leonardo di Caprio on a mole-finding mission.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA [PG] Fri: 2.30, 8.30pm
Anne Hathaway and Meryl Streep in fashion industry satire.

FILM REVIEW

SAW III [18]

Showing at two Oxford cinemas for at least another week. See Cinema Listings, left.

Saw III is the latest example of ordeal cinema. Like its predecessors, and last year's *Hostel*, the point - like a sickening theme park ride - is not so much to be entertained as to see if you can take it. What's surprising is that 'torture porn' has become such a mainstream attraction, with this film topping the US and UK charts by huge margins on its opening weekend.

The film is staged with demented brio, but it's troubling that so many of us (and I'm no less guilty) can sit with wincing camaraderie watching scenes of terrible human suffering. If these were animals being tortured, I'm sure the great majority of the audience would leave in disgust - but somehow it's different with our fellow species. By far the scariest thing about *Saw III* is us.

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THEATRE
Until Sat 11th Nov

New Theatre, Oxford (0870 6063500)

RUSSELL WATSON Sat 11th: 7.30pm
'The People's Tenor' in concert. £50, £35, £30 & £20.

Moser Theatre, Wadham College

HEDDA GABLER Tue 7th - Sat 11th: 7.30pm
Henrik Ibsen's dark tale of love, loyalty & literary ambition. £5/£4

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

CRIME PASSIONNEL Thu 9th, Sat 11th: 2.30, 7.30pm Fri 10th: 8pm
By Jean-Paul Sartre, translated by Kitty Black. £12.50/£9.50/£7.50.

SAID AND DONE Fri 10th: 5pm
Liverpuddlian poet Roger McGough with Andy Roberts on guitar. £10 adults, £5 kids

OFS Studio (297170)

CAROUSEL Tue 7th - Fri 10th: 7.30pm, Sat 11th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm
Magical musical. £8.50/£6.50

Burton Taylor Theatre (305305)

UNDER MILK WOOD Tue 7th - Sat 11th: 9.30pm
The strange and sensual world of village voices and dream visions. £5/£4

PORTRAIT OF DYLAN Tue 7th - Sat 11th: 7.30pm
Exploring the colourful life of the poet Dylan Thomas. £5/£4

Hertford College Bop Cellar

ONE FOR THE ROAD Tue 7th - Sat 11th: 9.00pm
Pinter's dark, intense and confusing play, with a different special guest each night.

O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College

THE MEMORY OF WATER Tue 7th - Sat 11th: 7.30pm
One dead mother, three living daughters, and two hapless male companions. £10/£8

GRADUATE PRESENTATION

Ensoft
Software Engineering, starting salary, £30,000
Thursday 9 November at 6.30 p.m. Randolph Hotel
Interviews: Thursday, Nov 23rd
www.ensoft.co.uk

JOBS OFFERED

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The Old Parsonage Hotel requires a full time Guest Host/Porter.

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Please email a covering letter and your CV to sue@oldparsonage-hotel.co.uk or mail to Sue Monk,The Old Parsonage Hotel, 1 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN. Closing date Friday 17th November.

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Main Duties:
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Oxford OX2 6JT
doris.suchet@regent.ox.ac.uk

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PROGRAMMER WANTED for thriving software development company. View website for more details: http://www.oxfordweb.com/jobs

CHARTERED SURVEYORS REQUIRED? Please contact 01235 468405 quoting ref 6362.

TECHNICAL SALES PEOPLE required. Please contact 01993 778541 ref 6583.

CREDIT CONTROL CLERK. Please contact 01993 778541 quoting ref 6539

RETAIL STORE MANAGER - Summertown. Please contact 01235 468405 quoting ref 6622.

SOFTWARE TRAINER, Witney. Please contact 01993 778541 quoting ref 6636.

OFFICE ASSISTANT, Long Hanborough, £12,000. Please call 01993 778541 quoting ref 6589.

ENGLISH AU-PAIR GIRL needed in February for Anglo-Dutch family near Geneva. Minimum 6 months, driver, some French, n/s. Two children, 13/11. Enjoy children, country walks, dogs, cooking. Time to learn French./discover Switzerland. Offer help kept. steph@peopleworld.freeserve.co.uk

NEED WORK FOR DECEMBER? Smart, articulate and presentable waiting staff required for events work around Oxfordshire. Interested? www.ays.co.uk

GIGS

Thu 9th

OKEANOS / An exploration of Japanese traditional instruments. / Oxford Contemporary Music / S.45pm £3/£2 conc. / www.ocmevents.org / Modern Art Oxford. 30 Pembroke Street. / 722733

CATWEAZLE CLUB / Oxford's legendary performance space for music, poetry, story and song (now in its 12th year). / 8pm. £4/£3 / performers free (arrive before 8.30 to book in) / www.catweazleclub.org / East Oxford Community Centre. Princes Street

SPARKY'S FLYING CIRCUS / Weekly open mic - music, poetry, song. / 9.00pm free / The Half Moon. 17 St Clements

CHRIS GARRICK / DAVE GORDON / Violin/piano summit with two virtuosi / Doors 8pm/Band 8.45pm / £8/£6 / www.spinjazz.com / The Spin@The Wheatsheaf. Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street/ Tel: 243276

PEACE & DUB / Reggae Night with Live Music. / 8-12pm £3 / £2 before 9pm / peaceanddub@hotmail.com / Jericho Tavern. Walton Street/ Tel: 311775

THE FEELING / 7.30pm SOLD OUT / Oxford Brookes University Student Union. Headington Hill Campus/ Tel: S.U. Box Office: 01865 484750

DIVINE COILS & SHAGGY PARASOLS / 8pm / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

OXFORD UNIVERSITY JAZZ SOCIETY / 8.00pm free / Market Tavern. 8 Market Street / 248388

JEREMY WARMSLEY + GUESTS /Singer-songwriter & friends / 7-10.30pm / £6 adv / 14+ / www.jeremywarmsley.com / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road/ Tel: 420042

ALABAMA 3 ACOUSTIC + UNPLUGGED / Offshoot of popular Delta blues outfit (responsible for theme tune to 'The Sopranos') / 7.30pm / £12.50 adv / 14+ / www.alabama3.co.uk / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road/ Tel: 420042

DUFUS & DAVID CRONENBERGS WIFE & FOXES / Antifolk and powerpop / 8pm- 3am / £4 / Cellar Bar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket/ Tel: 01865 244761

KARL DEMATA / Blues Duo / 10pm, free entry / Freud's. Walton St/ Tel: 311171

JACK LEWIS & THE CUT-OFFS / Pavement-ish NY singer/songwriter + Victoria Hesketh & Benjamin Prosser / 8 till late, non members welcome / @ Club. 16 Turl St / 200404

Fri 10th

BEVERLY KNIGHT / Dynamic soul/gospel singer. / 7pm £21.50 / New Theatre, Oxford. George Street/ Tel: 08706065500

THE INAUGRAL GAMMY LEG GIG / Script + The Smalltreaters + Dan Morgan / 8pm / £4 / £3 NUS / www.myspace.com/gammylegproductions / Exeter Hall Pub. 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.) / 726431

THE PETE FRYER BAND / 8.00pm free / Magdalen Arms, Iffley Rd

SHAKERVILLE + SUPPORT / 9.00pm £4 / Market Tavern. 8 Market St / 248388

ACOUSTIC NIGHT / The Victoria Arms, Jericho. just where Kingston Road becomes Walton St / 550487

HELEN CHADWICK IN CONCERT / The enchanting Helen Chadwick in concert with female trio Kismet / £10 / £7 con / £5 (12-18 yrs) 8pm / www.helenchadwick.com / Friends Meeting House, Charlbury, Oxon

PEGLEG FERRET / harmonies & humour / Oxford Folk Club / 8.30pm, £4 / www.oxfordfolkclub.com / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

THE ALIENS / psychedelia / 7.30 / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road/ Tel: 420042

MUSCLE & CURVES / a mix of southern, Celtic and Country Rock / 9 pm / free admission / http://chesterarmsoxford.co.uk / Chester Arms. Chester St, off Iffley Road

THE JAZZ GENE / Live jazz every fortnight with modern jazz quintet. /9pm / The Waterman's Arms, Osney Island

SCOTT MATTHEWS / Jeff Buckleian, Nick Drakesian troubadour from the Midlands / 7pm / £8.50 adv / 14+ / www.scottmatthewsmusic.co.uk / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Rd / 420042

BOSSAPHONONIK JAZZ-DANCE CLUB / Live act: 'GUILLERMO and ROPLATINESES' - Argentine Latin, tango, Milonga / 9pm - 3am / £5 / www.cellarmusic.co.uk / Cellar Bar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket / 244761

QUICKFIX RECORDINGS PRESENTS / Baby Gravy + The Family Machine + Little Cosmonaut / £4.50 / The Wheatsheaf. 129, High St

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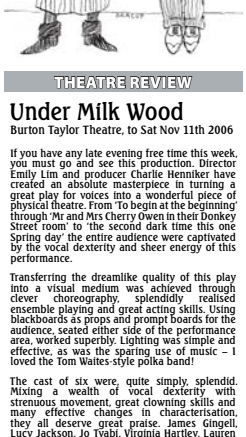

THEATRE REVIEW

Under Milk Wood

Burton Taylor Theatre, to Sat Nov 11th 2006

If you have any late evening free time this week, you must go and see this production. Director Emily Lim and producer Charlie Henniker have created an absolute masterpiece in turning a great play for voices into a wonderful piece of physical theatre. From 'To begin at the beginning' through 'Mr and Mrs Cherry Owen in their Donkey Street room' to 'the second dark time this one Spring day' the entire audience were captivated by the vocal dexterity and sheer energy of this performance.

Transferring the dreamlike quality of this play into a visual medium was achieved through clever choreography, splendidly realised ensemble playing and great acting skills. Using blackboards as props and prompt boards for the audience, seated either side of the performance area, worked superbly. Lighting was simple and effective, as was the sparing use of music – I loved the Tom Waites-style polka band!

The cast of six were, quite simply, splendid. Mixing a wealth of vocal dexterity with strenuous movement, great clowning skills and many effective changes in characterisation, they all deserve great praise. James Gingell, Lucy Jackson, Jo Tyabi, Virginia Hartley, Lauren Rowles and Dave Workman all worked with great energy and skill to create the wealth of grotesque and humorous characters with which Thomas peopled Llareggub. In addition they showed sublime comic timing and a startlingly mature array of physical acting skills to portray so many different characters with such individuality. Their energy in performance never dropped, and the audience was carried along, spellbound at times, by a fantastic performance.

Go and see this, if you can get tickets – it was sold out on Tuesday – it really is too good to miss. I hope they are going to recreate this at a later date, because such work deserves far more than a one week run in a small studio. Brilliant!

Simon Berry

MEETINGS

Thu 9th

ENSOFT GRADUATE PRESENTATION / Randolph Hotel / 6.30pm

NLP PRACTICE GROUP / For practitioners and those new to NLP wanting to discover and learn / Quadrant 1 International / 7:30 - 9:30 pm £8. / energise@quadrant1.com / www.quadrant1.com/oxfordnlp / Restore Learning Centre

PORTUGUESE CONVERSATION GROUP / All levels welcome / 7.30pm / www.mint-popport.com/portuguese.html / G&O's, St Aldates

MICHAELANGELO AND HIS CIRCLE / £90 for all six lectures. (begins 20/10) / 10.30am - 12noon / Rewley House. 1 Wellington Square/ Tel: 270380

THE BUMBLEBEES'S GARDEN PARTY / An illustrated talk on bumblebees by Ivan Wright / 7.30pm / free (but donations welcome) / events@oxtrust.org.uk / Science Oxford. 1 - 5 London Place, St Clements/ Tel: 01865 728953

OCTOBER 1956 REMEMBERED / A chance to remember and to review recent publications. / Oxford Hungarian Society / 8pm / http://hungsoc.com / McGeorge Room, Oriel College. Oriel Square, off High St.

LUNCHTIME TALK / The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy. Speaker: Rev Prof Michael Screech / 12.30 pm. Free. / www.st-giles-church.org / St Giles Church. St Giles

Fri 10th

STEM CELL RESEARCH / Royal Society. Research Professor Sir Richard Gardner will talk. / Emmaus Oxford / Drinks 7-7.30 £25, £10 conc / www.emmaus.org.uk/ / Said Business School. Park End Street

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Available now for six months plus.
Rent £895 pcm excluding utilities.
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The Letting Centre

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- JERICHO: 2 bed period ground floor flat with many original features. Recently renovated to a high standard. Suitable for family or professional sharers. Available mid November. £825pcm. *ref: 20kr*
- MARSTON: 3 bed modern mid terraced house. Unfurnished. GCH. Garden. Parking. Available early December. £900pcm. *ref: 475mr*

tel: 07899 993311
email: thelettingcentre@btinternet.com

Castle Mill House, Juxon Street, Jericho, Oxford.
Three spacious studio apartments available at purpose built block in popular area. Comprises sitting room/bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. Available from mid November/ early December for six months plus. Rent from £650 to £675 pcm excluding utilities.
Please contact Lucy Properties: 559973.

CITY CENTRE: a modern 4 bedroom semi detached property on the popular Rewley Park development, ideally situated for rail commuters and access to the city centre. Suit professional sharers or family. 1 allocated parking space. Unfurnished. £1450pcm. Available 1st December. Contact 01865 554577 or banburyroad@scottfraser.co.uk

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FILM REVIEW

Sixty-Six [12A]

Showing at the Odeon George Street until at least Weds 15th. See cinema listings, left.

We English love a loser. And in the new Brit-comedy *Sixty-Six*, our one-time big win plays backdrop to a bittersweet coming of age comedy, as a boy's bar mitzvah clashes with the 1966 World Cup Final. Based on director Paul Welland's own experience – a true-ish story – *Sixty-Six* pinpoints the tragi-comic growing pains of young Bernie Rodgers (Gregg Sulkin) whose dreams of finally being centre stage are thwarted by the family purse strings and England's unexpected passage to the Final.

Coming from the stables that brought us *About A Boy*, *Sixty-Six* is – appropriately – about a boy. Two boys really – young Bernie and his obsessive-compulsive disorder suffering dad, Mannie (Eddie Marsan). Both are in the shadow of their more popular brothers, misfits in a world that ignores them. Mannie shares a failing grocery business with his younger sibling and is knocked for six when a supermarket opens next door. And Bernie – asthmatic, never picked at football, left behind at the beach by his parents – sees his bar mitzvah as the big-day event to change his life. And if he has to voodoo-doll the England squad to stop them getting to the Final and ruining his day, so be it.

Newcomer Sulkin excels as Bernie, and the ever-excellent Eddie Marsan pitches it perfectly as Mannie. The under-appreciated Helena Bonham Carter does fine work as the wife and mother trying to keep the family together, supporting her husband's ticks, quirks and demeanour with a care-worn love that really rings true. Not easy when hubby insists on eating in his underwear – for fear of spills – and must revisit a switched-off gas fire several times to check it's out.

With a gallery of supporting parts – Catherine Tate as the aunt's-cook Auntie, Stephen Rea as the kindly, cuckolded doctor – and colourful Jewish characters (not caricatures), *Sixty-Six* has a texture and tone you can lose yourself in. Weaving in footage of the '66 footie world cup, Bernie's disasters are contrasted with the winning-against-the-odds ways of the English team. Growing up means facing up to who you are and how things are – as director Welland makes his point, peppering the film with piquant moments as the adult world bursts in to Bernie's dreams. But when the film veers full-tilt towards an appropriate feel-good finale you'd want nothing less: *Sixty-Six* conjures up characters you can believe in and want to spend time with.

Marsan and Bonham Carter are adept at comedy but also give the film an emotional punchiness – their dawning realisation of how they've treated their boy, and each other, is genuinely affecting. And with standout comic moments – the dog-on-the-car alone is worth the price of admission – *Sixty-Six* adds up to a small-scale, nostalgic, crowd-pleaser of a film. No losers here.

Glenn Watson

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THEATRE REVIEW

Carousel

OFS Studio, to Sat Nov 11th 2006

"A musical? At the Old Fire Station?" was my companion's reaction when I asked him along to last night's show. "How would it fit?" But yes, they've managed to cram an orchestra, including snare drums and a double bass, into the balconies. Add a large cast who sing, dance, unicycle, juggle and act their hearts out, and what you end up with can only be described as a musical extravaganza.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical set in New England in the 1870s, is somewhat like *It's A Wonderful Life* but darker; rather than a well-respected pillar of society, its hero Billy Bigelow is the laid-off and desperate ex-barker of the local carousel, played by Arden Moscatt with loose-cannon menace ("I'm frightened," my companion said as soon as he walked on stage). Alice Ream as Julie, the wife he constantly fails to communicate with, stands out like a beacon of sorrow and realism among all the gleeful energy. Rachel Bateman is mesmerising as her sassy best friend Carrie, with a voice to die for, and Arthur Carrington is very funny as Carrie's stolid, geeky fiancé Enoch Snow, with his grand plan to become a sardine millionaire.

The musical itself seems dated at times; it involves issues like domestic violence, class tension and gender inequality, but it's difficult to tell whether they're being looked at critically or just accepted, and some of the lines about relationships (and indeed, whaling) grate a little. And there's a great deal of pre-ironic tweeness – witness Carrie and Mr Snow's idyllic, rather naive vision of married life in When The Children Are Asleep.

But these are minor quibbles, hard to concentrate on when you're being blown away by the excellent singing voices and general exuberance of the cast, who are so joyfully insistent that "June is bustin' out all over" that for a moment you almost believe them and expect to walk out into a balmy night. Heartily recommended. Roll up! Roll up!

Deirdre Ruane, 08/11/06

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