Oxford's DAILY INFO

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Next issue: Thu 12th February
Deadline: 10am, Wed 11th February

Tue 10th & Wed 11th February 2009 (4th week)

The Jupiter Trust presents
DR RICARDA STEINBRECHER: GM – the risks to food, farming and biodiversity
7.30pm, Friday 13th February, £8 (£3 students)
NOA Community Centre, Summertown, Oxford
www.jupitertrust.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

FUNERAL NOTICE: Jon Sherrard died last Tuesday at the age of 32. Anybody who frequented the Thresher stores on Oxford Road, George Street or in Barton over the last few years may remember being served by this cheery, idiosyncratic Irishman. A service will be held at the Oxford Crematorium shortly after 2pm this Thursday 12th February. All welcome.

FOOD & DRINK

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CINEMA REVIEW

Revolutionary Road [15]

Showing at the Odeon George Street, Phoenix Picture House & Vue Cinema to at least Thu 12th Feb.

See cinema listings, below.

Notable because it sees Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio reuniting for the first time since *Titanic*, as well as being the first movie in which Winslet is directed by husband Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*, *Road to Perdition*), *Revolutionary Road* is the story of April and Frank Wheeler, an idealistic young couple who find themselves becoming strangers to each other as their lives play out on Revolutionary Road, the archetypal bland suburbia of Einsenhower's 1950s America. Saddled with two young children, the Wheelers see an 'emptiness and hopelessness' in the conformist, uneventful lives they have fallen into and despair at their splintering dreams. April, who harboured dreams of acting, is forced to make do with performing in pitiful local productions; Frank is riddled with conflict at being stifled physically and creatively in an office cubicle, but increasingly attracted to the financial security it affords. The pair become so disenchanted they decide to emigrate to Paris, to discover themselves and live away from the mundanity of the US suburbs. When April falls pregnant again, their plans unravel and their previous antagonism towards each other escalates rapidly. Both embark on affairs and one night stands with people they don't care for, and fire barrages of poisonous verbal abuse at each other as they try to work out how their lives panned out the way they did.

This is the story of a marriage dissolving; each fail to realise the expectations the other places in them but the time and society they inhabit doesn't seem to offer them a way out of their misery. We only have to look at Kathy Bates' Mrs Givings and her husband to see what the future might hold for the couple. There is nothing new in this indictment of the 'American Dream'; it could easily tell the story of *American Beauty*'s Lester Burnham's parents, and there's a certain degree of inevitability to the plot. However as the story reaches its finale, there is much for the audience to marvel at. The anti-romance is performed savagely by Winslet and DiCaprio, whose talents were somewhat wasted in the saccharine and overblown *Titanic* - you can't help but wonder if they relished going at it hammer and tongs if only to put paid to the memory of their previous sentimental pairing. Where *Titanic* was huge and sprawling, *Revolutionary Road* is full of the claustrophobia of too-tidy living rooms and identical front lawns, with neighbours and friends constantly impinging on the couple's need for emotional space. Winslet and DiCaprio express this feeling of entrapment very well, and DiCaprio is especially good as a man lacking the insight to make sense of his actions. His performance is notable not only for this, but also because it is so very generous to Winslet, allowing her to mine issues of feminism, motherhood and depression enough to step out from the mahogany furnishings and into the centre of the camera time and time again.

Winslet is well, Winslet - she was made for April's '50s wardrobe and she imbues her character with a sparkiness and zest which makes up for April being a bit of a bitch to Frank at the start. You can excuse her nastiness just as you can his trite excuses for his infidelity - both are deeply unhappy. However, it has to be said: the pair are not the most likeable of characters and the theatrical style Winslet has serves to distance you from proceedings, meaning that the ending's impact is less powerful than intended to be. There's something a bit 'stagey' about the direction too. Although Mendes' lush style of film-making is beautiful (check out the rail station scenes for a lesson in how to direct crowds with symbolism and grace), its flawless costumes and lighting contribute to the sense of an idea of tragedy rather than a full blown feeling, which is why I couldn't bring myself to completely empathise with the characters and have a good cry at the end.

However, for all its predictability and polish, the Wheelers' story still resonates. Economically, we live in a much more turbulent time than them, with many clinging to often monotonous jobs to retain a sense of security, just as Frank does, to the detriment of what we once held dear. The story of Frank and April is a warning to us all about the roads our choices can take us down and how very far from revolutionary those choices can be. As a look at a young relationship turned sour there's also a lot to make you think, about how you perceive a future with someone and how 'true' that belief really is - and what that can do to your partner. A technical and intellectual film, if not as heartfelt as you would imagine.

Lindsey Davis

CINEMA to Thu 12th

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

MILK [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 12.15pm
Story of California's first openly gay elected official, Harvey Milk.
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15] ✍ daily: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
Fifties couple seek fulfillment in France. Subtitled: Fri 5pm, Mon 8pm, Thu 2pm.
VALKYRIE [12A] ✍ daily: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm
Plot to assassinate Hitler at the height of WWII.
ROLE MODELS [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 3.30, 6.30, 9.15pm
Comedy about men on probation helping teenagers.
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Vibrant tale of life & love on the streets of Mumbai.
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU [12A] Mon - Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
Romantic comedy with Jennifer Aniston, Scarlett Johansson et al.
DOUBT [15] Mon - Thu: 12.45, 3.15, 6.15, 8.45pm
A nun confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student.
SENIOR SCREEN: EASY VIRTUE [PG] ✍ Wed: 10.45am
Adaptation of Noel Coward comedy about transatlantic marriage.

East Oxford Community Centre

MEPHISTO - CREDIT CRUNCH CINEMA ✍ Wed: 6.30pm & 9pm
I'm A Cyborg And That's OK & *Oldboy* (sort of Korean *Count of Monte Christo*). £2.50 for both.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A]
Brad Pitt is born old and gets younger... daily: 12.30, 4.15, 8.00pm
FROST/NIXON [15] ✍ Mon, Wed & Thu: 3.00, 8.45pm, Tue: 3.00pm
Account of historic interview with disgraced former president.
SEVEN POUNDS [12A] Mon - Thu: 12.00, 6.00pm
Will Smith tries to make up for manslaughter with suicide.
GRAN TORINO [15] Tue: 8.45pm
Clint Eastwood plays misanthropic Walt.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A] Mon - Tue, Thu: 1.30, 5.00, 8.30pm
Brad Pitt is born old and gets younger... Wed: 5.00, 8.30pm
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 12.45, 3.30, 6.20, 9.00pm
Fifties couple - Winslet & Di Caprio - seek fulfillment in France.
BIG SCREAM: THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A] Wed: 11.30am
Brad Pitt is born old and gets younger. Exclusive screening for parents with babies under one.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 6.15, 8.45pm
Vibrant tale of life on the streets of Mumbai.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [U] ✍ Mon, Wed & Thu: 12.10pm
Posh dog, voiced by Drew Barrymore, gets lost in Mexico.
SEVEN POUNDS [12A] Mon - Thu: 12.40, 3.20, 6.10, 9.00pm
Will Smith tries to make up for manslaughter with suicide. Subtitling Tues 6.10pm.
VALKYRIE [12A] ✍ Mon - Thu: 12.20, 3.00, 5.50, 8.45pm
Plot to assassinate Hitler.
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 2.20, 5.10, 7.45pm
Winslet & Di Caprio seek fulfillment in 50's France.
DOUBT [15] Mon - Thu: 12.50, 3.10, 5.40, 8.15pm
A nun confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student.
THE SECRET OF MOONACRE [U] Mon - Thu: 1.20, 3.50pm
Orphaned girl goes to live in mysterious Manor with eccentric uncle.
THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A]
Brad Pitt is born old and gets younger... Mon - Thu: 12.30, 4.00, 7.30pm
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU [12A] Mon - Thu: 2.00, 5.05, 8.00pm
Romantic comedy with Jennifer Anniston, Scarlett Johansson et al.
BRIDE WARS [12A] daily: 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm
Two friends schedule their weddings for the same day. With Anne Hathaway.
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15] ✍ Mon - Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Vibrant tale of life on the streets of Mumbai. Subtitling Sunday 1pm.
THE READER [15] ✍ daily: 6.20, 9.15pm
Complicated love affair in post WW2 Germany.
AUSTRALIA [12A] ✍ Mon - Thu: 1.30pm
Sweeping period epic from Baz Luhrmann with Nicole Kidman.
SENIORS CLUB: CHANGELING [15] ✍ Tue: 12.30pm
Shocking true story of a missing child.

✍ = see review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk
- & now watch film trailers online !

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AUDITIONS

AUDITIONS MONDAY 9TH Feb, 6.45pm, Oxford Community Centre, Cowley Road FOR - Witch Way (Jewson Film Productions). Due for release on ITV, Oxford Premiere, also to be screened to top casting directors. Youth Project for a mixture of kids; some have special needs. Project title: Open set. Please call 07899 877161.

PERFORMERS SOUGHT

PERFORMERS SOUGHT FOR short paid slots at regular Oxford-based contemporary Cabaret/Variety Night. Do you have circus, dance, theatre, magic, comedy or music skills at a professional or very good amateur level? Showcase your work in front of a friendly, receptive audience. Please send cv / myspace / details, or for more info, email portmayhem@yahoo.co.uk

THEATRE to Sat 14th

Burton Taylor Studio (305305)

BLACK COMEDY BY PETER SHAFFER Tue 10th - Sat 14th: 7.30pm
A fuse blows, with, ahem, hilarious consequences. £5/£4
SQUIRRELS BY DAVID MAMET Tue 10th - Sat 14th: 9.30pm
With the creative urge thwarted by the banalities of life, no one is happy. £5/£4

New Theatre, Oxford (0844 8471585)

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN Sat 14th: 7.30pm
Gary Mullen, winner of 2000 'Stars In Their Eyes', backed by his band The Works. £18.50

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

THE CONVICT'S OPERA ✍ Tue 10th & Wed 11th: 7.30pm
Thu 12th, Sat 14th: 2.30, 7.30pm; Fri 13th: 8pm
A re-imagining of The Beggar's Opera, set on a creaking convict ship bound for Australia. Includes the original folk songs. £10.50 - £23.50

OFS Studio (0844 847 2360)

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY Tue 10th - Fri 13th: 7.30pm
Phillip Barry's 1939 screwball comedy. £9/£7 Sat 14th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm

Witney Corn Exchange (249444)

HANSEL & GRETEL ✍ Wed 11th: 7.00pm
A sparkling re-telling of a familiar tale of food, families and a very wicked witch! £8/£6 family £25. Also showing at: **The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury (01295 279002)**, Thu 12th: 6.30pm; **Little Milton Village Hall (782453)**, Fri 13th: 5.00pm; **Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Hall (351373)**, Sat 14th: 5.00pm.

JOBS OFFERED

P/T Inspirational Maths and DT teachers wanted
for small groups (max 14) of 11-16 year olds at independent Farm school in Elsfield, Oxford.
Contact w.judith2@googlemail.com

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The winners will be announced later in the week, but meanwhile here are some worthy entries:

PRO:

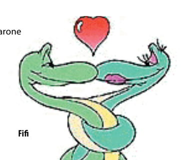
You little pappardella
Come and join this saucy fella
Let us make little fratelli
In that holy wholesome belly

We can have a marinara
Make the new scarlett o'cara!
Or how about a bolognese?
Pedigree Italo-Inglese

Puttanesca better not
Could turn out a little hot
Saltimbocca could be trouble
In that cauldron boil and bubble

A cannellone or calzone
Might breed a well-endowed barone
Or a nice fresh Ortolana
Earthy goddess bella e sana

Polpettina, come, amore
To this Cockerel Cacciatore
Come swim in a glass of vino
With Casanova Valentino.



Fifi

I cannot be late, he'll be here at eight, I won't make him wait – my Valentine!
What should I wear? Or do with my hair? I don't want to scare – my Valentine!
I must look my best, so I'll pass the test, as he will attest – my Valentine!
We're going out to dine, on good food and wine, we'll have a great time – it's Valentine's!
We'll eat tortellini, and deep fried zucchini – don't spare the bikini – it's Valentine's!
If I know my man, he will have a plan, if he asks – I can – it's Valentine's!
He'll get down on one knee, look up at me, and then make his plea–my Valentine!
He'll give me a ring, some sparkling bling, to make my heart zing – my Valentine!
I'll wear my red dress, it's cut to impress, for when I say "Yes" – to Valentine!
Then I'll be his wife, his trouble and strife, I'll have a great life – with Valentine!
So I cannot be late, he'll be here at eight, I won't make him wait – my Valentine!

Max

ANTI:

On Feb 14th the world goes mad,
Restaurants hike up their prices,
Card shops, florists, chocolatiers,
Commit comparable vices.

It's Valentine's Day – designed for schmucks,
I know a few – they love it.
If anyone gives a card to me,
I'll tell them where to shove it.

The beating, bleating, blood red hearts,
The sissy, kissy verses,
I grumble as I pass the shops
And spit Tourette's style curses.

Please don't fall for all the hype,
Wake up and see your folly,
Retailers prey on gullible fools,
It makes them lots of lolly.

So opt out of the pink champagne
Shucked oysters? Waste of cash.
Instead, go to a poetry slam
And eat great bangers and mash!

Frau Wurst

Over ice cream for two slowly melting:

He sees me as a crossword
he can't finish.
I am his fork in the road.
He will change me
mould me as clay
warm to the touch
now solidity has left
our relationship.

Lita Doolan

And did those cards, in ancient time,
Mount up on England's landfill site?
And will the card shop shareholders
Be toasting big profits tonight?
And did that drunken youth divine
Declare his love, so deep and true –
That he could not recall, the next day
When he asked "Who are you?"

Bring me my pen, of poison ink,
Brink me my notepad full of spite,
Bring me a flagon full of drink,
To imbibe on my own tonight,
As I will not be going out,
No one will ever invite me,
I'll be alone again, there's no doubt
In Valentine's misery.

Pieman

On Febuary 14 2009
You'll be my valentine:

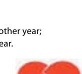
There is no need for you to fear -
The vows were pretty clear.

I hate you more than moldy bread;
I wish that you were dead,

But on Febuary 14 2009
You'll be my valentine:

Tick tock there goes another year;
It's called a marriage, dear.

Deborah



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GIGS

Tue 10th

THE HOWARD PEACOCK QUINTET / Free live jazz plus DJs / The Oxford Jazz Club / 8pm-2am. Free entry / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford/ 244516

BASKERY PLUS GUESTS / 3 sisters from Sweden playing high-voltage killbilly, banjo punk and mud-country / 8pm. £9 / Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton St./ 311775

SOLD OUT - MAGAZINE / Exclusive warm-up show for influential post-punk band / 02 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, OX4 1UE/ / 0844 477 2000

MATHS CLASS, HOORAY FOR HUMANS, SHOES & SOCKS OFF, AIDEN CANADAY / 8pm £5 / The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street, OX1 4DF/ 721156

Wed 11th

THE BRENT FLOOD, GOOD DOG / London-based 4 piece post-punks / 8pm. £5 / Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton St./ 311775

PHAT SESSIONS JAM NIGHT / Open jam night with house band... Bring your tools! / 10pm. £4, £3 (students), £2 (musicians) / Cellar Bar, Frewin Court / 244761

DANCEHALL NICE AGAIN / DJ Baps & Nico D + guests. Ska Roots Dancehall / 8.00pm - 12.00am free entry / 07813 355448 / James St Tavern

NIGHT BY NIGHT, DEAR SUPERSTAR, GUNNBUNNY, THE CRUSHING / Rock and metal / 8pm. £5 / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Road / 244516

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OX4 – COWLEY/LITTLEMORE: Double room in quiet, relaxed household. N-S, friendly professional/post grad only. Wifi/garden/animals. £450 pcm inc. bills. nicolashorter@btinternet.com

AVAILABLE NOW: A single and a double in new shared house, East Oxford. From £400pcm INCL. ALL BILLS and unlimited broadband. Single occupation both rooms, NS. n.calvocoressi@macmillan.com

GORGEOUS LARGE SINGLE and 2 lovely singles in private house in central north Oxford. 2 bathrooms and kitchenette. Wifi and weekly cleaner; linen laundered. £130 a week inclusive. 07977 009365.

OX4, TEMPLE COWLEY: large double in quiet, friendly N-S professional houseshare. Available 8th March. £410pcm inclusive. http://salegate.livejournal.com p.arad@hotmail.co.uk

LIVE SEMI-INDEPENDENTLY with own room, kitchenette, shower room within large house. Furnished, onstreet parking, garden, close transport. £550pcm - includes bills, council tax, broadband. Single nonsmoker please. zen121853@zen.co.uk

IMMACULATE HOUSE, OX3, Dene Road. Newly decorated single room overlooking park. Non-smoking all female house. £290pcm inc council tax, water rates, TV and broadband. 07714 534729 or 01865 435543

809 more Oxford rooms & 249 more Oxford flats and houses on www.dailyinfo.co.uk !

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

HOUSE-TRAINED LAWYER, male, seeks room in shared Oxford house. 07796 643854. pdgcivil@tiscali.co.uk

1 BED FLAT / apartment in the city centre wanted immediately. xinyuan0066@hotmail.com

WANTED: 2 BED new furnished house/flat in city centre, Summertown or Jericho, up to £1000 pcm. hihe166@gmail.com

BANDS, MUSICIANS & KIT

DISCO, PA, AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT – hire and sales. 118 Cowley Road, 01865 722027.

DISCOS, KARAOKES AND EQUIPMENT Hire - Dave Seamer Entertainments: (01865) 240054.

BANDS, DISCOS, KARAOKE. Equipment hire from ODS. (01865) 736660.

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Tue 10th

TELESCOPES NOW / Prof Phil Diamond talks about Jodrell Bank, the Lovell Telescope and e-MERLIN / 7pm, free / www.mhs.ox.ac.uk / 277280 / Museum of the History of Science , Old Ashmolean Building, Broad St.

DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH / Speak German, play games, organise other activities. / 8.30pm, Free, All welcome / Anchor Pub (corner Kingston & Polstead Roads)

GLOBE CAFE / Friends, coffee, conversation for international students & visitors / 8-10pm, Free refreshments / 07925 394122 / St Andrew's Church, Linton Rd

RECOGNISING & CONSERVING SOIL DIVERSITY / Dr John Conway / Ashmolean Natural History Society / 8pm, non-members £2 / Earth Sciences Dept., Parks Road

RECESSION-PROOF YOUR INCOME / 7.30-8.30pm, free / adam@bfank.fsnet.co.uk / 07891 131592 / North Oxford Association, Diamond Place, Summertown, OX2 7DP

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP / Informal group for those who would like to meet up to speak Irish. / 8.00pm to 10.00pm, free / Half Moon Public House, St Clements

THE STATE & CLASS SOCIETY / What is the state for? Whose side is it on? Can we do without it? / Communist Corresponding Society / 7.30pm, all welcome / Town Hall, St Aldates

THE CHANGING LEGAL LANDSCAPE / Professor Susan Bright. / Housing Seminars / 1pm-2.30pm / Nuffield College, New Road

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT / Local & international questions / Oxford Transport Network / 5pm, £6 / http://oxtran.tsu.ox.ac.uk / 285533 / School of Geography, Mansfield Rd

ANNE GREEN'S AFTERLIVES / Anne Green's story through literature, 17th C to present day, with Dr Lynn Robson / 6-7.30pm, £5 / www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk / 260668 / The Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle - Unlocked, Castle Complex, New Road

CAROLINE BLUNDELL / Breakfast & an interesting speaker. / City Business Breakfast Club / 7.30am, £10 door, please book at: citybusinessbreakfast@googlemail.com / Blake Lapthorn Seacourt Tower, Botley

Wed 11th

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION / As taught by John Main. Beginners welcome! / 7.25pm / £2 donation / www.wccm.org / 01856 515458 / 2, Canterbury Road, OX2 6LU

MASKING YOUTH: TRANSFORMATION & TRANSGRESSION IN ANNANG PERFORMANCE / David Pratten, Lecturer in the Social Anthropology of Africa / 6.15pm, £2 / Pitt Rivers Museum Extension, entry via Robinson Close, off South Parks Road.

DAVID PATTERSON SEMINAR / Dr J Rodriguez Arribas: Technical terminology in ibn Ezra's Biblical Excursuses / Hebrew and Jewish Studies Unit / 8pm free / www.ochjs.ac.uk / Yarnton Manor, Yarnton, OX5 1PY / 377946

THE DOMAIN OF PLEASURE & THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN MUGHAL SOCIETY - Dr Katherine Brown / All welcome 5.00pm (free) / 278730 / Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, George St, OX1 2AR

AUTISM: OUR LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE / Davina Bannister. / 7.30pm, £2 members, £4 others / www.speedwellbeing.org.uk / Green Templeton College, Woodstock Rd, OX2 6HG / 274770

COMPARATIVE EDUCATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH PARTICULARLY NIGERIA / Dr D Johnson / Royal Commonwealth Society / 1.45pm, £5, members free / 43 St. Giles

The grit of information on the snow of ignorance:
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