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Issue No. 7011

Next issue Wed 11th October Deadline 10am, Tues 10th October

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PIANO RECITAL BY Peter O'Hagan. J.S. Bach, Goldberg Variations, Beethoven, Sonata Opus 110. Holywell Music Room, £6 (£4), Sunday 15th October,

ESPERANTISTS NEWLY IN Oxford? Oxford and District Esperanto Society is ready to welcome you. Friendly meetings, library, study centre. New learners welcome too. Contact: Dr M. Boulton, 36 Stockmore Street, Oxford OX4 1JT, or telephone 246918 or 245509 ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY. DR Helen Davies. Tel: 01865 725204

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EXHIBITIONS

IMAGES OF WOMEN. Old master drawings dating from the 15th to the 17th century, featuring goddesses, muses, aristocrats, paupers, portraits and genre scenes. 10 August - 15 November, Christ Church Picture Gallery. Mon-Sat 10.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 4.30, Sunday 2 - 5.30. Tel. 276172.

ARTHUR EVANS AND THE KNOSSOS FRESCOES: REDECO-RATING THE PALACE OF MINOS. Celebrating the centenary of Evans's excavations at Knossos. Crete. Focus on frescoes found at the site, and their reconstruction. 19th September - 5th November. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Admission Free. Further info: 288298, sarah.brown@ashmus.ox.ac.uk.

CONTACTS

GUY 46, LOOKING for female friends, any age, maybe 'relationship', but friendship more juggler1200@hotmail.com Box 8/10/CN/1

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CINEMA

Until Thursday 12th October

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288 Jeune St GLADIATOR (15) Daily 9.15

Ridley Scott's classical epic. **SHAFT (18)** Wed, Thur 7pm New remake of the classic blaxploitation film. DIRECT ACTION VIDEO CELEBRATION Followed by discussion in Elm Tree pub.

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526

DANCER IN THE DARK (15) Tue-Thur: 3.20, 6.00, 8.50 Bjork finds herself on death row TITUS (18) Daily 1.20, 6.15 Anthony Hopkins in a vivid interpretation of

Shakespeare. THE RING (15) Tue: 1.00, 4.15, 9.15 Wed/Thur: 4.15, 9.15 A killer video tape hits Tokyo.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (15) The BBC series translated to Chicago, with a song

RAGING BULL (18) Thur 12th: 1.00, 11.30pm Scorsese's biopic of prizefighter Jake La Motta. CULT CINEMA: BRAZIL (15)

Thur 12th 11.30pm

Futuristic fantasy from Terry Gilliam 251998 ABC Magdalen Street Bookings 0870 333063 / Enquiries 725305

BILLY ELLIOT (15) Mon-Thur: 2.15, 5.45, 8.30 An 11-year old from a mining family acquires a

ABC George Street

Bookings 0870 333064 / Enquiries 723911 NUTTY PROFESSOR II: THE KLUMPS (12) Daily 2.35, 5.50, 8.30 Standard sequel with Eddie Murphy. ME, MYSELF & IRENE (15)

New Farrelly brothers comedy. THE HOLLOW MAN (18) Mon-Thur: 2.15, 5.35, 8.15 A scientist goes invisible and mad.

Daily 2.20, 5.30, 8.20

SENIOR SCREEN: SAVING GRACE (15) Wed 11th, 10.15am Tickets £2 Over 50s complimentary

refreshments.

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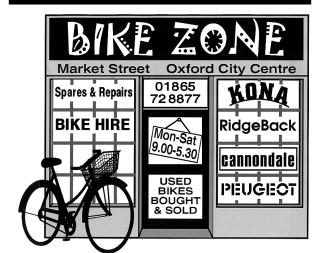
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THEATRE

Oxford Playhouse

GOD ONLY KNOWS Mon 9th - Wed 11th: 7.30pm Thur 12th: 2.30pm & 7.30pm Fri 13th 8pm; Sat 14th 7.30pm Sir Derek Jacobi stars in Hugh Whitemore's

Old Fire Station

controversial new play. 794490

Tue 10th - Sat 14th 7.30pm; Sat mat. 2.30pm Jean Anouilh's take on Sophocles' tragedy.

0870 606 3500 Apollo Theatre

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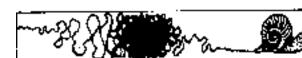
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FILM REVIEW

at the Phoenix Picture House this week

That Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* is a gorefest, somewhat bereft of poetry, and dubious in its authorship, no one can dispute. It is not in hopes of encountering subtlety that we look forward to a film version with something akin to glee, for even the silver screen treatment seems unlikely to transform the leaden-versed, over-plotted play into a

miracle of depth and complexity. What we've come for is not taste, but spectacle, our appetites whetted already by Gladiator's feast of Roman blood, guts and vengeance; we look to director Julie Taymor's muchlauded originality to splash even more searing images across the screen, to hyperstimulate our imagination, along with our adrenal glands.

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Taymor to overlay a skein of imagery over the original text which would allow visual, if not verbal, significance and complexity to emerge, despite the two-dimensionality of its characters, the strictlyfor-thrills plot. Unfortunately, the film mirrors the faults of its dialogue, forever cranked up to a fever pitch with shrilling music and stomach-turning scenes whose nauseating effect is made still worse by wild, jumbled interjections of MTVesque surrealism. There are moments of stillness and sheer, striking imagery that achieve the poetry of tragedy - Lavinia poised in the barren marshland, twigs

male crucifixion, or Anthony Hopkins' fine Titus, face-down in the middle of a crossroads, imploring the fates, despairing of justice. However, despite striking costumes and haunting sets, the film lacks coherence; anachronisms jostle and jangle with cluttered, inchoate ideas, thematic patterns fail to form, the sense of spectacle is strangled. When the final bloody feast arrives, Taymor treats it like a farce, and understandably so,

tied to her stumps, mute, iconic, a fe-

for by this point, any tears shed or gasps groaned for mutilated Lavinia and beleaguered Titus have long since been replaced by a grim forbearance. As Titus says, there is little else to do but laugh, once sorrow has been exhausted. Everything's absurd, if dazzling, and we end, like the little boy, made hostage to a nerve-shattering thrill-ride of violence that yields neither mythology nor mean-

Sharae Deckard 8.10.00

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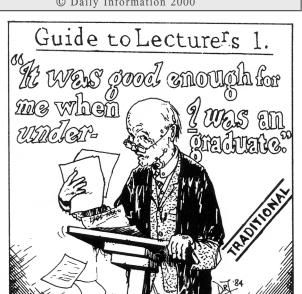
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Tuesday 10th October

MICHAEL HESELTINE discusses his autobiography Life in the Jungle. / 6pm / Borders, Magdalen Street 203902/www.bordersstores.com

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Tuesday 10th October

DOROTHY SHAW (Piano) / 10pm-midnight/Freud Walton Street / 311171 DENNY ILETT JNR + guests Jazz@The Bully / 8pm / The Bully, 162 Cowley Road / 244516 / £5(£2.50) www.thebully.f9.co.uk

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