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Oxford's DAILY INFO

Issue No. 7704

www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Next issue: Sat 13th May
Deadline: 10am, Fri 12th May

Thu 11th - Fri 12th May 2006 (3rd Week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

QIGONG WORKSHOP in Oxford
Learn how to be healthy and happy with the delightful Master Yap.
Master Yap Soon-Yeong is an internationally renowned healer, qigong master, and meditation teacher, and is the founder of the CFQ system.
May 20th & 21st, 2006, CFQ level one:
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CINEMA
Until Fri 12th May

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)
Oxford International Film Festival - last chance to see cool and strange international films on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th. Call the Phoenix to check what's on.

ARMY IN THE SHADOWS [12A] Fri: 6.15pm
Doom-laden WW2 thriller.

BRICK [15] Fri: 6.30, 9.00, 11.30pm
Hard-boiled high school mystery in the Donnie Darko mould.

PARADISE NOW [15] Fri: 8.50pm
The experience of suicide bombers.

CAPOTE [15] Fri: 11.30pm
Philip Seymour Hoffman gives BAFTA-winning performance as the controversial novelist.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

16 BLOCKS [12A] Thu: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
A policeman has to escort a very unpopular witness over a very short distance...

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III [12A] Thu: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm; Fri: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm
Tom Cruise. Returns. To do another impossible thing. Wheelchair access Friday.

AMERICAN DREAMZ [12A] Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
The President judges a talent show.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

SLITHER [15] Thu: 9.15pm (wheelchair access)
They hang by a thread of their own mucus and fire arrows into each other.

AMERICAN DREAMZ [12A] Thu: 2.30, 5.15, 8.15pm
The President judges a talent show.

SILENT HILL [15] Thu & Fri: 8.45pm
A mother goes to a strange place in search of a cure for her child...

ICE AGE 2 [U] Thu: 12.30, 2.15*, 3.15, 4.30*, 6.45pm*; Fri: 12.00, 2.15, 4.30, 6.45pm
Another mammoth undertaking. (*=wheelchair access)

CONFETTI [15] Thu: 12.45, 3.30, 6.30, 9.00pm (wheelchair access); Fri: 12.45, 3.30, 6.30, 9.15pm
Mockumentary about couples trying to win a wedding competition.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III [12A]
Thu & Fri: 1.00, 2.00, 4.00, 5.00, 7.00, 8.00pm
Tom Cruise. Returns. To do another impossible thing.

PRIME [12A] Thu: 8.45pm, Fri: 12.30, 3.15, 6.15, 9.00pm
Romantic comedy with Uma Thurman & Meryl Streep.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS [15] Fri: 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pm
Remake of terrified babysitter horror.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

EIGHT BELOW [PG] Thu: 1.45, 4.10pm
Men and dogs battle to survive the antarctic winter.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III [12A]
Thu: 1.30, 2.15, 3.00, 3.45, 4.30, 5.15, 6.00, 6.45, 7.30, 8.15, 9.00, 9.45pm; Fri: 1.15, 2.00, 2.45, 3.30, 4.15, 5.00, 5.45, 6.30, 7.15, 8.00, 8.45, 9.30pm
Tom Cruise. Returns. To do another impossible thing. 10.15, 11.00, 11.30pm

ICE AGE 2 [U] Thu: 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm
Another mammoth undertaking. Fri : 2.30, 4.45, 7.00pm

16 BLOCKS [12A] Thu: 1.15, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30pm; Fri: 9.15, 11.35pm
A policeman has to escort a very unpopular witness over a very short distance...

SILENT HILL [15] Thu: 5.25, 8.00pm, Fri: 1.45, 5.15, 8.15, 11.10pm
A mother goes to a strange place in search of a cure for her child...

CONFETTI [15] Thu: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15pm; Fri : 2.15, 4.30, 6.45, 9.30, 11.15pm
Mockumentary about couples trying to win a wedding competition.

PRIME [12A] Thu: 6.30, 8.45pm, Fri: 1.30, 3.45, 6.00, 8.30, 11.05pm
Romantic comedy with Uma Thurman & Meryl Streep.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS [15]
Have you checked the children...? Fri: 1.00, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 9.45, 11.45pm

DR ARTHUR MAGGREGOR DISCUSSES: 'WILLIAM HUDDESFORD AND THE RESCUE FROM OBLIVION OF THE 18TH-CENTURY ASHMOLEAN'. Thursday May 11th. 7pm. Admission Free. Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. All welcome. The museum will remain open after the talk for viewing. For further details contact: 750@abingdon.org.uk or tel: 01235 849123.

THE OXFORD SONG EVENINGS: Saturday 13th May, 8pm. Finzi, Brahms, Britten and Schubert. Nathan Vale - tenor, Sholto Kynoch - piano. Pre-concert talk 7.15pm. Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College. £13/£10/£5 on the door or from www.ticketsoxford.com. 01865 305305. www.oxfordlieder.co.uk

GUIDED BIKE TOURS OF OXFORD and its backwaters. Every Sunday at 10am. www.capital-sport.co.uk

SIXTH FORM OPEN MORNING: D'OVERBROECK'S COLLEGE, OXFORD. Saturday 13th May, 10am to 12.30pm. Entry into First or Second Year Sixth. Tel: 01865 310000 or visit www.doverbroecks.com/sixthform for details. All welcome.

THEATRE REVIEW

The New Statesman
New Theatre until Sat May 13th

"Which Z-list celebrity can we expose as a love rat this week to distract the public from the rising rate of unemployment? I know! Richard and Judy! Fist dogging!"

In *The New Statesman: Episode 2006*, the B'Stard nightmare has fully unfolded. From his office at Number 9, Alan – now running New Labour – is the master puppeteer, his fingers firmly inserted in more filthy pies than ever. Whether he's telling Condoleeza Rice to invade Norway or arranging the murder of his ex-wife, B'Stard's 2006 Statesman is even more heinous than the young Tory of the eighties.

This play hasn't received rave reviews, and it's sadly clear why. By TV comedy writers Marks & Gran (*Birds of a Feather, Goodnight Sweetheart*), the script - which relies for its wit on 'fat-adulterous-Prescott', 'ugly-Cherie', 'stupid-Bush' jokes – is not sparkling. It's quite possible that some hit shows won't survive the journey from screen to stage, and this may be true here. But it's not just this that's the problem. The acting is clunky (though the play began touring in April), with frequent fluffs and pauses between lines slowing down what little action there is. The set is essentially a TV set: a ministerial office that, whilst having some clever tricks up its sleeve, makes things feel static. Alan rarely leaves it, and the audience's imagination doesn't get the chance to go far either. The laboured plot has a couple of nice twists, but is generally predictable, and the depictions of any real political figures are childishly simplistic.

Despite all this, audience reaction to the play was generally positive. Rik Mayall is still funny, after all, even if the only gems originate from improvised cover-ups, swearing and willy sight gags. Alan's cynical tirades against political correctness ('Single mothers? What about 'em? I can't have impregnated more than two dozen of the sluts this year!') received an almost unintelligibly positive response (I hope the play doesn't slowly gain a following of BNP supporters taking it at face value!). Holding the show up as an example of satire in the great tradition alongside work by Dario Fo, Bernard Shaw, Chris Morris and Armando Ianucci (as the printed programme does) is hubristic. During the first years of New Labour, it's true, political satire fell out of popular vogue, but in the government's declining years we are once more surrounded by material of a high standard. Shows like *The Thick Of It*, *Rory Bremner* and even *Little Britain* have familiarised us with the lampooning of all aspects of modern UK politics. *The New Statesman's* caricature of our current state sadly doesn't show us anything we haven't already seen done better, cleverer, and funnier.

I was young when I first saw Alan B'Stard on TV, but I still thought it was funny, cutting and clever. Let's hope I'm just too cynical now. After all, my disappointment at watching one of my comic heroes sink a little lower into the quicksand wasn't matched by the cries of 'excellent' and 'very good' to be heard outside the theatre after the show.

Su Jordan

GIGS

Thu 11th

CATWEAZLE CLUB / performance space for music, poetry, story and song / 8pm. £4/£3/performers free (arrive before 8.30 to book in) / East Oxford Community Centre.

DJ FORMAT / Rare Oxford appearance from UK hiphop star. / In aid of Bulgarian Children / 8pm-3am £5 / The Cellar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 01865 244761; www.cellarmusic.co.uk

OPEN MIC / Acoustic tunes, warm fires, smiles. anyone welcome / 8pm free / iliketoskateboard@hotmail.com / www.theturftavern.co.uk / Turf Tavern 4 Bath Place, Holywell St

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

SKYLARKIN' SOUNDSYSTEM / Reggae, Soul, Ska, Funk, Latin, Afrobeat, Jazz, Booze. / 8.30-11pm; free! / The Brickworks, 182 Cowley Rd; Tel: 245999

CURIOUS PARADISE / Exhilarating world jazz. / Doors 8pm, band 8.45pm / £8/£6 / The Spin@The Wheatsheaf. Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street; Tel: 243276; www.spinjazz.com

FELL CITY GIRL + THE HALF RABBITS / Ten seconds of the loudest music you've heard all year, and ten seconds of the quietest. / doors 7pm, £7 adv / www.decemberists.com

EXIT TEN + THE AWFUL TRUTH + INCLUDING LATIN / £5, 7pm / Bullingdon Arms. 162 Cowley Road, Oxford; Tel: 244516

Fri 12th

MP AND DUBBLEDGE + SYNTAX/NINES / UK hiphop / 8pm-3am / The Cellar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 01865 244761

TOWERS OF LONDON / TCT Music Presents / doors 7pm, £7 adv / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

SLIDE WITH FREEFORM 5 / MYLO's best mates & electro heroes, FREEFORM 5, make their Slide debut / 10.30pm-4am / £8/10 / info@slideuk.com

THE BOOGIEMEN / a spin-off group of the very popular Slidewinder / entry free / 9 p.m. / Chester Arms. Chester St, off Iffley Road

THE DELTA FREQUENCY + THE SHIT + THE WISE & DJ THUNDERCAT + VESTIBULE / 8pm / The Wheatsheaf, High St

THEATRE
Until Sat 13th May

New Theatre (0870 6063500)

THE NEW STATESMAN To Sat 13th daily : 7.30pm
Rik Mayall's creation, up to date for the stage. £12-£27 Wed & Sat: 2.30, 7.30pm

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

EDWARD ALBEE'S THREE TALL WOMEN To 13th May
Mon-Wed: 7.30pm, Thu, Sat: 2.30, 7.30pm, Fri: 8.00pm
How we live, how we love, what we settle for and how we die. £8.50-£22.50

Burton Taylor Theatre (305305)

LOOT: A 'FARCE' BY JOE ORTON To Sat 13th: 7.30pm
A bank robbery, a funeral, a coffin full of cash and a dead body - £5/4

Pegasus Theatre (722851)

AQUARIANA Thu 11th: 7.30pm
A theatrical aquatic journey. £8/£5.50/£3/£2

Old Fire Station Theatre (297170)

AESCHYLUS' AGEMEMNON To Sat 13th: 7.30pm
A stark, violent adaptation of a classic Greek tragedy. Sat: 2.30, 7.30pm

Pembroke College Hall

GREASE To Fri 12th. Wed: 7.30pm, Thu & Fri: 2.30, 7.30pm
by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

- Review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk

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MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Thu 11th

WILLIAM HUDDESFORD AND THE RESCUE FROM OBLIVION OF THE 18TH-CENTURY ASHMOLEAN / Evening lecture by Dr Arthur MacGregor. / 7pm - admission free / www.mhs.ox.ac.uk / Museum of the History of Science. Old Ashmolean Building, Broad Street.

READING GROUP IN JERICHO / We'll be reviewing 'The Human Season' by Louise Dean / 8.00pm / esbooks@hotmail.com / Harcourt Arms, Jericho

PORTUGUESE CONVERSATION GROUP / All levels welcome / 7.30pm / portuguese@mintypoppet.com / G&D's, St Aldates

RACHEL BECKLES WILLSON / The Musical 'Genius' in Communist Hungary / Oxford Hungarian Society / 8 p.m. / hungsoc@hungsoc.com / http://hungsoc.com / MacGregor Room, Oriel

THE LATE SHIFT / A group for adults age 16+ suffering mental health problems / Mind / 5:30-8:30pm / Cowley Community Centre, Barns Road

TRANSLATIONS OF MEDIEVAL WELSH POETRY / Prof. Dafydd Johnston, Swansea, talks on Dafydd ap Gwilym's "Trafferth mewn Tafarn" / O'Donnell Celtic Lecture / 5pm / St Cross Building, Manor Rd

WHEN WILL I BE HAPPY / Are you ready to take the next step towards being truly happy? / Brahma Kumaris / 7.30pm / Free of Charge / info@globalretreatcentre.org / Global Retreat Centre, Nuneham Park, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxon, OX44 9PG

LUNCHTIME TALK / Rev Dr Allan Doig: An architectural and liturgical cat's cradle / St Giles Church, Oxford / 12.30 pm. Admission Free. / secretary@st-giles-church.org / www.st-giles-church.org / St Giles Church. St Giles

FIN DE SIÈCLE SEMINAR / Troublemaking in fiction: Wagner, Schopenhauer & religion. Mary Pierse / Free. 5.15pm / anthony.cummins@ell.ox.ac.uk / St Cross Building, Manor Rd

Fri 12th

EUPHORBIA STUDY DAY / All you ever wanted to know... £45 includes lunch. / 10am-4pm / Margaret Thatcher Centre. Somerville College

VICTORIAN PAINTINGS / Lunchtime gallery talk. / 1.15 - 2pm £2 Booking recommended / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St

LILLA RUSSELL-SMITH / Sir Aurel Stein's expeditions to Central Asia / Oxford Hungarian Society / 8 p.m. / hungsoc@hungsoc.com / MacGregor Room, Oriel

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SUNNY HOUSE TO LET in Headington. 4 people. Available August. 10 minutes walk from Gipsy Lane campus. £280/person/month. Bowness Avenue (off Headley Way). 4 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen diner, shower-bathroom, washing machine, garden. 07843 674055 / paulandellie@tiscali.co.uk

EXCELLENT FURNISHED ground floor apartment in Headington, near JR Hospital. 2 large double bedrooms. Fitted kitchen with dishwasher, washer/drier, all appliances. Power-shower and bath. GCH and DG. Secure storage areas. Quiet location. £825pcm. N-S only. jane.turner5@virgin.net

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