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

Issue No. 7840



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Street; Tel: 311775

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#### Fri 12th

# to Thu 11th October

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288) Thu: 9.15a

Odeon Magdalen St(0871 2244 007) Thu: 3.00, 5.45, 8.30p len Stiller meets h KENNY [15]

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

ATOMEMEN 1 1 1 2 1 --Based on the novel by Jan McEwan.
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY [12A]
Thu: 6.00s MICHAEL CLAYTON [15] Ø Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15 George Glooney as a corporate fine:

RUM FAT BOY RUM [12A] Thu: 3.45, 6.30, 9.15pm, Fri: 1.45pt

BUPERBAD [15]

Thu: 3.30, 6.15, 9.00pm, Fri: 12.45pt

Thu: 3.30, 6.15, 9.00pm, Fri: 12.45pt

North seek gift.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM [12A] 
The: 3.15, 8.45pm
Matt Bonan exturn as the deodly america.

THE KINGDOM [15]

U.S. agents investigate the barrising of an American facility in the Middle East.

THE INIMA CLO THE INVASION [12A] Fri: 3.15, 6.00, 8.30p

non sourer meets his true soulmate after marrying a beau RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION [15] Milla Jovovich battles evil in hot rooms ful shrew. Fri: 4.15, 6.45, 9.15e RATATOUILLE [U] rat who wants to be a chef BLACK SHEEP [15] Fri: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15pm Fri: 3.30, 6.30, 9.00p

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

Nerds seek girls.

RUN FAT BOY RUN [12A] 

Owild Schwimmer directs Simon Pegg. Thu: 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.20pn Fri: 1.00, 3.30, 6.15, 8.45pn Thu: 3.45, 9.00pm, Fri: 11.20pn

YOU CHUCK AND LARRY [12A] AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER? [12A] & Thu: 12.30, 2.40, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm, Fri: 10.35pm

ilm version of Blake Morrison's painfully honest memoir.
WICHAEL CLAYTON [15] Z Thu: 3.00, 5.45, 8.30pm, Fri: 9.15p

Secryc Gonery as a corporate finer.

THE HEARTREAK KID [15]
Bee Siller mets his soulmast after manying.

THE KINGDOM [15]

The KINGDOM [15]

The L1.03, 4.00, 6.30, 9.10pm

Fit 1.10, 3.45, 6.39, 9.00pm

in. CTION [15] Fri: 2.30, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40, 11.55p Fri: 1.25, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 8.00p

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218) Blake Meniscris parkelly honest memoir.

CONTROL [15]
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# THEATRE REVIEW

### The Burial At Thebes

Oxford Playhouse, until Sat October 13th 2007 The words are great - but then, you knew that already. Seamus Heaney's expert translation knows The words are great—but then, you knew that aiready. Seamus Heaney's expert translation knows when to bring out the poetry of everyday specch and when to let the more grandiose, traditional rhythms take over. He has also been admirably wary of 'contemporary relevance'. The word 'terrorist' is bandied about and the jeremiads of the prophet Tiresias — played with appropriate intensity by Robert Evans — are dismissed as 'tales of pollution'. In general, however, he takes Sophocles' original for what it is — a working-through of the perennial problem of power, the question of where duty and devotion lie.

The staging is decent, if not that original. The wall that forms the constant backdrop is pitted and holed - a constant reminder of the war that has ended as the play begins, the war which has started all the trouble by putting a vengeful king in power and leaving the violated body of his enemy outside the city gates. It's a nice touch, but in general what we got was standard-issue Greek drama kit – stark and empty stage, bare feet, people adopting oddly contorted poses and so on.

It's not clear whether Heaney was involved in arranging the chorus, but if he was it's one of his few missteps. It's always hard to know what to do with this strangest aspect of ancient drama, but choreographing dance routines for them and setting their lines to slightly clumsy folk songs doesn't seem to be the right answer. However well these are performed – and, to be fair, they are doesn t seem to be the nght answer. However well these are performed—and, to be fair, mey are performed well—on a nearly bear stage, in togas and grey beards, that sort of thing will tend to have the whiff of Python about it. There are some weak performances—Abby Taylor's wavering voice and high-speed delivery as Antigone undermines her character's dignity at every turn—and some very strong ones. In particular, Paul Bentall seems to have thought carefully about making a modern, believable character out of the (by our standards) completely irrational King Creon.

Greek dramas are difficult. Narrated offstage action, weirdly sketchy characters and an utterly foreign psychology can alienate the viewer no matter how good the translation. In the end, however this one convinces. One can never be absolutely sure how something like this was originally received, but there is an authentic feel to the way the story is handled here; partially a spectacle partially a philosophy lesson and partially an act of civic catharsis.

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