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Oxford's DAILY INFORMATION

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Wednesday 12th MARCH 2003 (8th Week)

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Next issue: Thursday 13th March
Deadline: 10am, Wednesday 12th March

COMING

THURSDAY 13 MARCH 8.00PM Sheldonian Theatre.
Mozart Violin Concerto No 5, Beethoven Symphony
No 3 'Eroica', Oxford Philomusica Orchestra, Mayumi
Fujikawa violin, Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Box Office 01865 305305

'Daughters of Jerusalem' - an Oxford novel
"Superb, hilarious...lyrical, poignant, redemptive"
- The Guardian

Reading by the author, Charlotte
Mendelson, at Waterstone's, Broad St.
7pm, Wednesday 12 March. £3*

*Includes wine & is redeemable against the price of the book

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CINEMA

Until Thurs 13th March

Odeon Magdalen Street
0870 5050007

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (12A) Daily: 2.30, 8.15
Hanks, DiCaprio, Walken & Sheen in true story of a
successful conman. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

MAID IN MANHATTAN (PG) Daily: 12.30, 3.15,
6.00, 8.45
Fiennes & Lopez in fleeting accidental romance. Review
at dailyinfo.co.uk

Odeon George Street 0870 5050007

ANALYZE THAT (15) Daily: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Crystal, De Niro & Kudrow return in sequel to the gang-
ster-shrink comedy 'Analyze This'

ADAPTATION (15) Wed & Thu: 12.00, 2.45, 5.30, 8.30
It's a hard life being a screenwriter! Cage, Streep & Swin-
ton star. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

TWO WEEKS' NOTICE (12A) Daily: 11.45, 8.15, 8.00
2.30, 5.15, 8.00
Sandra Bullock & Hugh Grant in 'stuffed-you, Boss!' flick

JACKASS: THE MOVIE (18) Daily: 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15
People being extremely stupid. On purpose! See review
at dailyinfo.co.uk

THE RING (15) Daily: 12.15, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
It's a remake of recent excellent far eastern horror. See
review at dailyinfo.co.uk

DAREDEVIL (15) Daily: 12.00, 5.45
Justice is blind. So is Ben Affleck. See review at
dailyinfo.co.uk

THE GOOD THIEF (15) Daily: 12.30, 3.00, 5.45, 8.15
Nick Nolte as ageing gambler caught red-handed.
Review at dailyinfo.co.uk

SENIOR SCREEN: MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
(PG) Wed: 10.45am
Nice Bloke falls for reinvigorated US Greek lass. Over
55s only!

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

CITY OF GOD (18) Wed & Thu: 9.15
Story of the slums of Rio de Janeiro. See review at
dailyinfo.co.uk

8 WOMEN (15) Wed & Thu: 7.00
French musical murder mystery. See review at
dailyinfo.co.uk

Phoenix Picture House 512526

THE KID STAYS IN THE PICTURE (15) Wed: 4.40, 9.00
Thu: 4.40, 11.30pm
Autobiographical tale of the rise, fall & rise of film pro-
ducer Robert Evans. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS (15) Wed & Thu:
1.50, 9.00
'Unrespectable' girls kept as laundry slaves by Catholic
church in 1960s Ireland. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

FAR FROM HEAVEN (12A) Daily: 1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9.10
Julianne Moore & Dennis Quaid shatter their 1950s sub-
urban idyll. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

WRITTEN ON THE WIND (PG) Thu: 11.20pm
Lush 1950s melodrama with Lauren Bacall & Richard
Hudson.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL: 8½ (15) Thu:
6.45pm
Ox. Uni. lecturer Erminia Passanti speaks on women in
western cinematography before Federico Fellini's film on
artistic inspiration & women

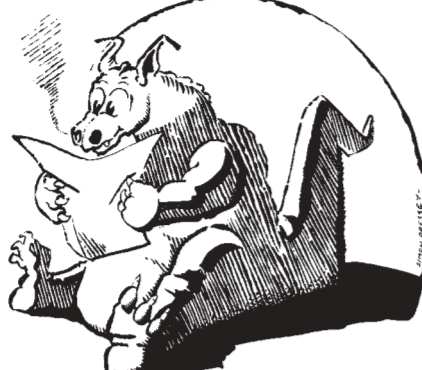
WHAT'S ON * ACCOMMODATION * JOBS

THEATRE REVIEW

DR FAUSTUS

Christchurch Cathedral until Fri 14th

A troupe of bare-topped demons flits about
inexplicably at the doors of Christ Church Cathed-
ral. Only when you get inside do you realize
that they are probably awaiting the arrival of
the audience for the in-house production of Christo-
pher Marlowe's Dr Faustus, and that they may have a
function. One of them slid towards me as I arrived,
offered me a soft unclad arm, and took me silently to
my seat. She was extraordinarily beautiful. "Are you a
Deadly Sin?" my companion innocently asked the simi-
larly silent and underdressed lemur-like figure who was
about to take her to her place. Even before we were
in our seats we had been drawn in and affected by the
eroticism of this unusual and haunting production. The
demons darted everywhere, full of strangeness, moving
the scenes, magnetizing the audience, drawing the
action forward.



Most people will know something of the story of Dr
Faustus, which appears in many legends. Tired of scholarship,
and unsatisfied by his worldly
achievements, Faustus turns towards magic for satisfaction,
and he sells his soul to the Devil in
return for a period of unbridled pleasure and power on earth.

Touched by the beautiful demons, perhaps many of the audience realized that
they too had just been obliquely entangled into the world of sensual pleasure which Marlowe's
Faustus is shown to find so much more interesting and attractive than the world of duty and learning.
The pact which Faustus dramatically makes is shown to have its resemblances with the way in
which most of us live with the questions of good and evil, pleasure-taking and conscience.

I have long thought that this play teaches its moral in a particularly pungent way. The sheer lush-
ness of temptings of sin is laid richly out before us. The scene in which the seven deadly sins
parade themselves before Faustus reminds us of how thin and penny-whistle-like the Good Angel's
voice may sound when set against the orchestral voices of temptation. So we sympathize with
Faustus, for his condition is our condition, and it is perhaps partly for this reason that the final
moral so accurately reaches its "home" in us.

This company uses the Cathedral in a way more inspired and exciting than I have ever seen before,
and they fill it with noise, too, with fabulous sounds from violins and harp, with huge vital blasts
of organ music, and with one small lovely unforgettable quavering voice too, at the very end. Indi-
viduals whose performances stand out are Freya Cox Jensen as Mephistophilis, Harry Lloyd as
Faustus, Saskia de Groot as envy. The large physical spaces mentioned in the play lend themselves
naturally to a promenade performance, and so indeed the audience does promenade for a while
- in chains. Don't miss this experience! Bring your friends! You will never forget it!

E.T., 10.03.03

JOBS OFFERED

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Digital Imaging Assistant
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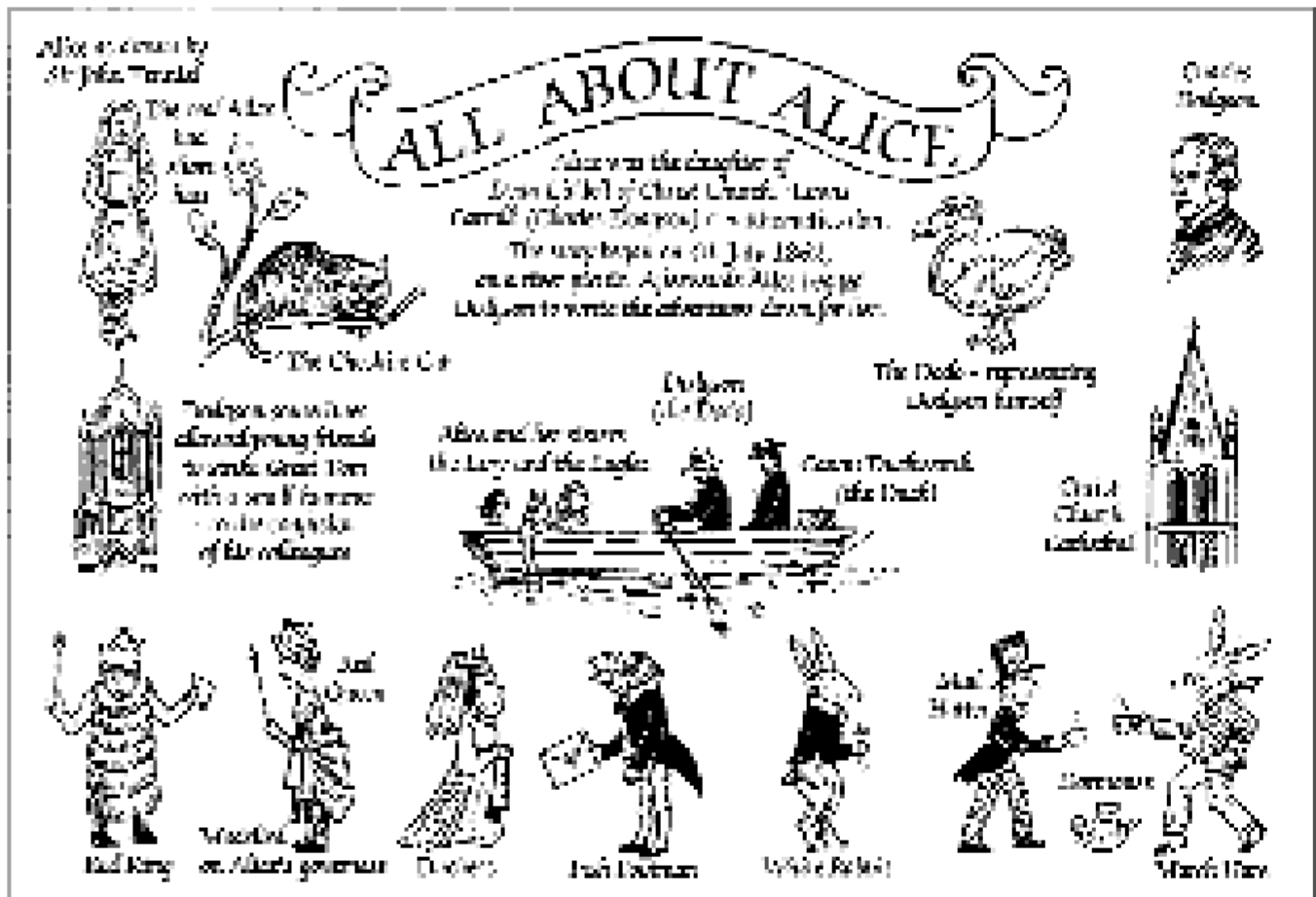
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OXFORD HISTORY

Taken from Mary Potter's Oxford Calendar 1986

- For Christmas 1864, Charles Dodgson gave Alice Liddell a handwritten story, with his own drawings, called Alice's Adventures Underground. The version with which most of us are familiar - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, illustrated by Sir John Tenniel, a Punch artist - was published a year later. The Wonderland title was suggested by Alice's father Dean Liddell, influential Dean of Christ Church and an eminent lexicographer.
- Dodgson had hoped to use his own illustrations for the printed version, but Ruskin (who was also Alice's drawing master) told him that they showed insufficient talent to warrant spending the time to improve them. Ruskin appears in the book as 'an old conger eel that used to come once a week' to teach 'drawing, stretching and fainting in coils.'
- It was agreed with Tenniel that his drawings should not resemble the real Alice, whose hair was short and dark. Photographs and a portrait by Dodgson show an intelligent, serious little girl with deep-set eyes and a heart-shaped chin, quite different from the popular image. Tenniel caricatured himself in the White Knight.
- As for the original manuscript, Alice sold it to raise death duties after the death of her husband, Reginald Hargreaves, in 1928. It went to an American dealer for £15,400. Now, however, it is in the British Museum, having been presented to us in 1948 by the Americans 'as the slightest token of recognition for the fact that (you) held off Hitler while we got ready for the war.' A facsimile edition is now available, published by Michael Joseph in collaboration with Alice's granddaughter. It includes Dodgson's portrait of Alice.
- Classical scholars may recognise Alice's father as the co-author of the Greek Lexicon 'Liddell & Scott'. Alice herself shared with Dodgson a delight in wordplay. Dodgson created the bizarre atmosphere of the books by distortion of some of the events and characters in Alice's own life.
- There is a story (hotly denied by Dodgson, who claimed it was "utterly false in every particular") that Queen Victoria liked Alice's Adventures in Wonderland so much that she wrote to ask Dodgson to send her a copy of his next book. Soon afterwards she was surprised to receive the mathematician's Treatise on Determinants.
- The original stuffed dodo, in the Tradescant Collection at the Ashmolean since 1683, became infested with moths. The remains (the feet and a few feathers) are now in the University Museum, along with a copy of a fine painting of the bird dating from 1651.
- It is thought that hatters had a tendency to mental deterioration because of the toxic effects of the mercury they used to weight hat bands.
- Further reading: 'Alice's Adventures in Oxford' by Mavis Batey.



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