

FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2000

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CINEMA

Until Thursday 18th May

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526
CRADLE WILL ROCK (12)
Daily 1.30 (not Sat / Sun), 6.30
Based on true events in 30's America.
GHOST DOG (15) Daily 4pm, 9.15
Gangsters, Samurais and Eastern philosophy.
OF FREAKS AND MEN (18)
Daily 1.45, 6.40 (not Mon)
Pornography in turn of last century Russia.
ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST (15)
Fri - Sun 3.35, 8.30
Epic Spaghetti Western from Sergio Leone.
THE NEW EVE (18) Fri & Sat 11.30pm;
Sun 1.20; Mon - Thur 4.30, 9pm
French exploration of personal independence.
RUGRATS (U) Sat 2pm
No unaccompanied adults.
AU HASARD BALHAZAR (PG)
Sun 12 noon; Mon 6.30
French Cinema: the life and death of a donkey.
THE MISFITS (15) Fri 11.30pm
Melancholy anti-western.
CULT CINEMA: FLASH GORDON (15)
Sat 11.30pm
Battle against the forces of evil.
LAKE PLACID (15) Thur 11.30pm
Something's lurking in an American lake.
CULT CINEMA: CITY OF LOST CHILDREN (15) Thur 11.30pm
Noir-toned fairytale of children kidnapping.
UPP, Jeune Street 245288
AMERICAN PSYCHO (18)
Fri/Sat 7, 9.15, 11.30 (also Sat 4.45)
Sun/Mon 8.15pm, 10.30pm (also Sun 3.45)
Tue - Thur 7.30pm, 9.40pm
Adaptation of Brett Easton Ellis's gory black comedy.
ABC Magdalen Street 251998
Bookings 0541 550509 / Enquiries 725305
GLADIATOR (15) Daily 1pm, 4.25, 7.50
Julia Roberts stars.
ABC George Street 251998
Bookings 0541 550501 / Enquiries 723911
ERIN BROCKOVICH (15) Daily 8pm
Julia Roberts stars.
GALAXY QUEST (PG) Daily 2.55, 5.20. Sat 12.30
Sci-fi drama.
KEVIN AND PERRY GO LARGE (15)
Fri and Mon-Thur 1.45, 4.10, 6.25, 8.45
Sat/Sun 6.40, 8.45 (also Sat 4.35)
Harry Enfield and Kathy Burke.
SCREEN 3 (18)
Daily 2.15 (not Sat/Sun), 5.35, 8.20.
Last in the horror/comedy trilogy
101 Dalmations (U) Sat 10.30am
Adaptation of Dodie Smith's children's classic.
TIGGER THE MOVIE (U) Sat / Sun 1.15, 3.25
Animation with A A Milne's famous characters.
POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE (PG)
Sat 12.15, 2.25. Sun 2.20, 4.30
Animation.

TESSERA STRING QUARTET (David Ormerod, Basil Kouvaritakis, Hagit Amirav, Bernard Conolly). Mozart K 156 & 157, Haydn 'The Bird'. Sunday, 14th May, 7.45pm. St Giles Church. Refreshments. Retiring Collection.

FREVD

FRI 12 TAVEUNI DANCE
SAT 13 JAZZ BYTES VERSION 2 DANCE JAZZ
SUN 14 DAVE DUNBAR PIANO (2-4)
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THEATRE

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With fancy dress competition.
BRIAN PATTEN Mon 15th, 1.30pm
7-12 year old's book reading, with signing.
RUSSELL MALIPHANT COMPANY
Tue 16th, 7.30pm
Contemporary dance and movement
LEE HURST Thur 18th, 7.30pm
Stand-up from star of "They Think it's all over."
Apollo Theatre 0870 6063500
RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY
to Sat 13th 7.30
Contemporary dance.
ROY CHUBBY BROWN Sun 14th, 7.30
Coarse comedy.
SHAOLIN MONKS Tue 16th, 7.30
Performance martial arts.
Old Fire Station 794490
ABIGAIL'S PARTY
Fri 12th 7.30; Sat 13th 2.30, 7.30
See review.
GUYS AND DOLLS Tue 16th - Sat 20th 7.30
Sat mat. 2.30
Frank Loesser's musical set on Broadway.
Pilch Studio, Jowett Walk
LYSISTRATA to Sat 13th May
Ancient Greek women subdue their men by crossing their legs. Aristophanes.
Burton Taylor Theatre
SINCERITY to Sat 13th, 7.30pm
SECOND AMENDMENT CLUB
to Sat 13th, 9.30pm
Two new plays by Peter Morris.
PICNIC ON THE BATTLEFIELD
Tue 16th-Sat 20th 7.30
Fernando Arrabal's absurdist piece.
NO EXIT Tue 16th-Sat 20th 9.30
Sartre's examination of Hell.
Pegasus Theatre 722851
CHARTWELL DUTIRO Fri 12th 8pm
Spirit Talk Mbrira with African Music.
LEE MACK WITH TONY LAW Thur 18th 8pm
Stand-up comedy.

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Friday 12th May

KATHRYN WILLIAMS / 7.30 / £5/£6 / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road / 420042.
CLINIC / £5 adv / 8pm / The Point, The Plain, Oxford. / 798794 / mac@thepoint.oxfordmusic.net
OXFORD JAZZ CLUB / The Mitre / 8.30pm / £3.50 (E2.50) / www.oxfordjazzclub.co.uk
TAVEUNI Dance / 11pm - 2am / Freud / Walton Street / 311171

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EXHIBITIONS

VISUALISING INSULIN SECRETION. The work of the scientist Frances Ashcroft on insulin secretion interpreted by the painter Benedict Rubbra. 6 May-31 July 2000. 12-5pm daily. Free admission. Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford.
COLLECTOMANIA! Free exhibition exploring individuals' emotional attachments to their collections. Monday - Saturday, 1pm - 4.30pm, until Autumn 2000. Balfour Galleries, Pitt Rivers Museum Annex, 60 Banbury Road, Oxford. 01865 270927. www.pitri.museum.ox.ac.uk
MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES MONTH MAY 2000 - GALLERY TALKS. Informal introductions to the Pitt Rivers Museum and its collections. Saturdays and Sundays in May, 2.30pm. Pitt Rivers Museum, Parks Road, Oxford. Free admission.
MASTER DRAWINGS BY JOHN RUSKIN. A loan exhibition of his drawings and watercolours from a private collection; this is the only showing of this exhibition in the UK. Christ Church Picture Gallery. 7 April - 21 May Mon-Sat 10.30 - 1 and 2.00 - 4.30, Sunday 2 - 4.30 (till 5.30 after Easter). Tel. 276172.
WEEGEE 02.04.2000 - 02.07.2000 at MOMA, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford. 01865 722733 Over 220 photographs from the Berinson Collection, Berlin. www.moma.org.uk
ORLANDO'S BUTTERFLIES exhibition by Sara Davidmann 2.04.2000 - 2.07.2000 at Café MOMA, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford. 01865 722733 of the transvestite world. www.moma.org.uk
JEFF CLARKE: NEW WORK. Landscapes and still-lives painted over the last three years. 28 May - 25 June. Christ Church Picture Gallery. Mon-Sat 10.30 - 1 and 2.00 - 4.30, Sunday 2 - 4.30 (till 5.30 after Easter). Tel. 276172.
TURNER'S OXFORD. A major loan exhibition, charting the artist's long love affair with the city. 20 June - 1 September 2000. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Admission Free. Further info: 288298, sarah.brown@ashmus.ox.ac.uk

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3 SEATER SETTEE £25 863879
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FUTON - BLUE, METAL frame. £7001865-864444
FRIDGE FOR SALE £80 863879
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THEATRE REVIEW

ABIGAIL'S PARTY by Mike Leigh
Old Fire Station Theatre until Saturday 13th

As the lights come up, *Love to Love You Baby* drones out of a radiogram and Beverly (Laura Murray) applies the final touches to her face - checking her appearance in the mirror of a vivid purple compact. A low-slung, blue leather sofa and matching swivel chairs, framed by gold drapes and fibre optic lamp, create an authentic 70's scene. Hanging above the set is a large carpet emblazoned with a female nude, lowering the tone of the room and visually reinforcing the sexual innuendo prevalent throughout Mike Leigh's text.



Beverly, or rather "Bev", is soon joined by her henpecked-husband Lawrence (John Amberton). Lawrence is a hard-working estate agent who could offer one-to-one tutorials in the art of sycophancy. From this first encounter until the final denouement, the audience observes and participates in their marital discord. This conflict alone provides serious comic potential, but the arrival of neighbours Angie (Kathryn O'Connor) and Tony (Tom Wood) increases the social tensions - and thus the comedy - to such a degree that by the interval, the audience needs a stiff gin, if not a Valium.

Bev, a beautician, enjoys a touchy-feely relationship with Angie (and whenever possible with Angie's husband, Tony). She instructs her on how to colour-coordinate her lipstick, and on the difference between leather and leatherette. Lawrence also enjoys correcting Angie's faux pas. He painfully points out that the houses down the road are only mock-Tudor - much to Angie's surprise. It is these subtle class differences that are at the root of the comedy in the play. While Lawrence and Bev are worlds apart culturally (he enjoys classical music and Van Gogh; she prefers Elvis and erotic art), it is their *unsuitable* new neighbours that face the brunt of their social discrimination. Tony (Tone to Angie and Bev), is a computer operator who works "shifts", reads *Computer Crime* and drinks Pale Ale. Meanwhile, Lawrence regards himself as a professional who takes pleasure in art (albeit Lowry) and the literature of Shakespeare and Dickens. For Lawrence, Tony lowers the tone. For the audience, anything that would lower the screechy whines emitting from Bev and Angie would be salvation.

But why "Abigail's Party"? This is where Susan enters the fray. It is her fifteen year old daughter who is having the gathering next door. Susan (valiantly played by Clare Finnegan), represents some form of conservative normality. Wearing a frilly-necked Laura Ashley-style dress and formal shoes, she is the polar opposite of Bev. Divorced, with two children, she abandons the mayhem of her daughter's party only to find herself worrying about the consequences of 25 teenagers on the loose in her house. Told of the arrival of "two coloured chaps in a Ford Capri", she resorts to copious quantities of gin. It is Lawrence and Tony's running commentary of the events at the party that makes Susan's role so tragicomic - Clare Finnegan deserves an Olivier award for her performance.

This production of *Abigail's Party* captures all the awkwardness, humour and pathos of the original. It presents ensemble acting at its best and is directed with pace and flair. One word of warning, you may need a few drinks to wind down afterwards so count on an extended night out.

David Tolley, 11/5/00

MEETINGS

Free Barebones entries for day of meeting only. Societies running regular, repetitive meetings will be listed separately once a week during term, under "Regular Meetings".

Friday 12th May

TAMAS KABDEBO 'AN EVENING OF ATTILA JOZSEF' The well known writer, translator and librarian emeritus introduces a selection of recent English renderings of poems by this 20th-century classic. 8pm MacGregor Room, Oriel College.
NATIONAL PARKS: NOT OURS, BUT OURS TO LOOK AFTER. A talk by Adrian Thornton, Friend of the National Parks. The Society for Graduates, 8pm, upstairs lounge of University club, Halifax House, 6 South Parks Road.
THE ASHMOLEAN MILLENIUM LECTURE: Mother of the Universe The Indian Goddess, Durga. Prof. Tapan Kumar Raychaudhuri. A unique insight into Indian Art. 5pm/The Playhouse/E2.50/798600

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CONTACTS

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