Oxford's DAILY INFO

Issue No. 7819

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Next issue: Sat 16th June
Deadline: 10am, Fri 15th June

Thu 14th - Fri 15th June 2007 (8th week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

Funi
Bára Grímsdóttir & Chris Foster sing traditional songs from Iceland and England
Sunday 17 June
Port Mahon, St Clements
'It's not every day that an unfamiliar, yet readily accessible new tradition comes along, so check this out' -fROOTS Magazine
listen at: www.myspace.com/funireykjavik

CFQ RELAXATION CLASSES, Oxford. MONDAY AFTERNOON, 4.30 - 6.00pm, North Oxford Community Centre annexe. Taught by Kate Forster. Current run of classes: Mon 14th May to Mon 16th July . £4 per class. Enquiries to Kate on 01865 251871. WEDNESDAY EVENING, 7.00 - 8.45pm, SS Phil & Jim School hall, Aristotle Lane. Taught by Ian Threadgill. Ongoing every week, £5 per class. Enquiries to Ian on 07799 184522 or email cfqoxford@gmail.com www.cfq.org.uk Beginners welcome any time.

HOLIDAY PUBLICATION DATES

Daily Info will return to weekly publication for the long vacation. Coming issues: Sat 16th, Fri 22nd & then every Friday until October.

Deadline, as ever is 10am the previous day.

To advertise, call 241133, email info@dailyinfo.co.uk, or place your ad via www.dailyinfo.co.uk

BANDS, MUSICIANS & KIT

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THEATRE REVIEW

Molora

Oxford Playhouse, to Sat June 16th

Europeans have watches, Africans have time, so the saying goes. A woman walks slowly across the stage, rolls up a piece of plastic, then starts the singing that will accompany the whole play. She is joined by 5 other women wrapped in traditional blankets, and a man, and these provide the chorus. The Playhouse has been transformed into a much smaller and more intimate in-the-round theatre: the seats are on three sides of the almost bare stage. There are two tables, each with a microphone, under the glare of neon lights and the outline of a grave. Two women sit and face each other, they start to give their evidence and the story unfolds.

Molora, which means ash, is based on the Greek tragedy of *Klytemnestra* and revolves round her relationship with her daughter Elektra and her son Orestes. The two women, played by Dorothy Ann Gould and Jabulile Tshabalala, dominate the stage throughout the play with their powerful performances and build up the difficult relationship which is at the heart of the drama. Elektra wants to avenge the death of her father, who was killed by Klytemnestra, and any softness at the beginning towards her mother turns to unremitting hate. Klytemnestra could be portrayed as just a monster and she is indeed dreadfully cruel, but Gould manages to make her a much more complex character and to capture her ambivalent attitude towards her children – part love, part hate, part fear. When Orestes appears later in the play, he has the choice of avenging his father's death, as his sister wishes him to do, or stopping the cycle of violence.

As we have come to expect from Farber Foundry productions, singing and dancing is integral to the plot: the women who make up the Greek chorus give a deep rhythm to the play and the prowling movements of Sandile Matsheni as Orestes provide a menace which is truly frightening.

The play is set loosely in the atmosphere of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: a time in South Africa in the mid 1990s when perpetrators of crimes under apartheid were given the chance to come clean and their victims were given the chance to know the truth. For many people on both sides, this was a huge relief. There is an ancient African philosophy that seeks unity and reconciliation rather than revenge and punishment; this play, in the end, is the embodiment of that philosophy.

Kathryn

CINEMA
until Fri 15th June

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

WEDDING DAZE [15] Thu: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 9.00pm
Romantic comedy.
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END [12A] ✍ Thu: 11.00am, 12.00, 3.00, 4.00, 7.00, 8.00pm
A last decisive battle... Fri: 11.15am, 12.30, 3.15, 4.15, 7.15, 8.00pm
OCEAN'S 13 [PG] Thu: 11.30am, 1.30, 2.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30pm
More robbery with insolence. Fri: 1.15, 2.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30pm
ARE WE DONE YET? [PG] Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.45pm
Comedy sequel.
VACANCY [15] Fri: 2.45, 5.45, 8.15pm
Couple stop at a deadly motel.
FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER [PG]
Earth faces destruction once again. Fri: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.15pm

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

THE LIVES OF OTHERS [15] ✍ Thu: 6.30pm
Controlled lives in communist East Germany. German with subtitles.
HOT FUZZ [15] ✍ Thu: 9.30pm
Simon Pegg as supercop banished to the country.
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER [15] ✍ Fri: 6.30pm
From the director of House of Flying Daggers.
THE GOOD GERMAN [15] Fri: 9.00pm
Drama about the spoils of war.
JOHN CARPENTER'S THE THING [18] Fri: 11.30pm
Death in the Antarctic.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

BLACK GOLD [U] Thu: 2.00, 6.45pm
Documentary on the coffee trade.
JINDABYNE [15] ✍ Thu: 4.15, 8.45pm
Story of murder and marriage from the director of Lantana.
TAKING LIBERTIES [12A] ✍ Thu: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00pm
Documentary exposing the erosion of civil liberties under Blair. Fri: 4.00, 6.30pm
THE PAINTED VEIL [12A] ✍ Fri: 12.30pm
20s love story based on Maugham's novel.
ZODIAC [15] ✍ Fri: 8.45pm
Serial killer film, based on a real, and unsolved, case.
TELL NO ONE [15] Fri: 12.45, 3.30, 6.20, 9pm
Murder in Paris, in adaptation of Harlan Coban's novel

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA [PG] ✍ Thu: 2.20, 4.45pm
Disney interpretation of the Katherine Paterson novel of the same name.
ZODIAC [15] ✍ Thu: 3.00, 8.30pm, Fri: 8.30pm
Serial killer film, based on a real, and unsolved, case.
VACANCY [15] Fri: 12.50, 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.40, 11.50pm
Couple stop at a deadly motel.
ARE WE DONE YET? [PG] Thu: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15pm
Comedy sequel. Fri: 12.40, 3.20, 6.00pm
WEDDING DAZE [15] Thu: 12.30, 6.15pm, Fri: 12.30, 2.45, 5.30pm
Romantic comedy.
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END [12A] ✍ Thu: 12.00, 1.15, 2.30, 3.45, 5.00, 6.30, 7.30, 8.45pm
A last decisive battle... Fri: 12.00, 1.15, 3.45, 4.45, 7.15, 8.45, 10.45pm
FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER [PG] Fri: 1.00, 2.15, 3.30, 4.30, 5.45, 7.00, 8.15, 9.30, 11.15pm
Earth faces destruction once again.
OCEAN'S 13 [PG] Thu: 1.00, 2.10, 4.00, 5.15, 6.45, 8.15, 9.40pm
Fri: 12.15, 2.00, 3.10, 5.00, 6.15, 8.00, 9.15, 11.00pm
Another installment of robbery with insolence.
PARADISE LOST [18] Thu: 7.15, 9.30pm, Fri: 11.30pm
Backpackers are stranded in Brazilian beach town.
SPIDERMAN 3 [12A] ✍ Thu: 2.45, 5.45, 9.00pm, Fri: 7.45pm
The spider suit turns black: Peter Parker develops new and strange powers.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

SPIDERMAN 3 [12A] ✍ Thu: 3.15, 9.00pm
The spider suit turns black: Peter Parker develops new and strange powers.
PARADISE LOST [18] Thu: 1.00, 6.30pm
Backpackers are stranded in Brazilian beach town.
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END [12A] ✍
A last decisive battle... Thu: 12.30, 4.30, 8.30pm
FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER [PG]
Earth faces destruction once again. Fri: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.15pm
WEDDING DAZE [15] Fri: 3.15, 8.45pm
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ARE WE DONE YET? [PG] Fri: 12.45, 6.00pm
Comedy sequel.

✍ = review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk

GIGS

Thu 14th

PINEY GIR & COUNTRY ROADSHOW / With Dean Wareham ex Galaxy 500 / £4 on door from 8.30pm / QI Club. 16 Turl St, OX1 3DH / 200404

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MORNINGTON LOCKETT / A Tribute to Michael Brecker / 8pm - band 8.45pm, £8 £6 / www.spinjazz.com / The Wheatsheaf. Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High St / 243276

TEDDY DAN / with Wayne McArthur & The Universal Players. 8.30pm £4.00 / Exeter Hall Pub. 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.) 776431

CATWEAZLE CLUB / Performance space for music, poetry, story, song . / 8-11pm / www.catweazleclub.org / East Ox Community Centre. Princes St

OPEN MIC SESSION / Weekly open music, poetry and song session / 9pm free / The Half Moon. 17 St Clements, Oxford

MIMAS, WITCHES, VON BRAUN / Danish atmospheric band Mimas making Oxford debut / 8.30 / Cellar Bar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket / 244761

THE SHAKER HEIGHTS, UNTITLED 1961, STRAIGHTJACKET / Tuneful indie rock / 8.30 / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

RUBBER DUCK, THE SIRENS CALL, SMASHED ALPHA / Crosstown Traffic / 8pm / Jericho Tavern. Walton Street; Tel: 311775

Fri 15th

JAZZ AT THE WATERMAN'S / Free / JazzGene / alan@thebridgewaters.co.uk / The Waterman's Arms, South St, Osney

SCOOBY / Fantastic guitar playing male duo, great music, great fun. / 8.30pm / The White Hart, Wolvercote

ACOUSTIC - MATT SAGE & BAND / Catweazle founder & friends. / 8pm, £7/£5 (concs) / www.pegasustheatre.org.uk / Pegasus Theatre. Magdalen Rd / 722851

BRAINDOGS / Incredible interpretation of Tom Waits. Free and lovely. / The Flowing Well. Sunningwell, OX13 6RB; Tel: 01865 735846

MISHMASH PRESENTS !!! / Mixing All Styles - special guest DJs, groovy drapes + ambient projections. / 8-12.30. £2 entry. / East Oxford Community Social Club. 44b Princes Street (corner of Cowley Rd), OX4 1DD / 640059

SUGAR CREEK TRIO / 50s rockabilly at its best / 9 p.m. / Free / http://chesterarmsoxford.co.uk / Chester Arms. Chester St, off Iffley Road

JOHN CARRINGTON / Singers, musicians, and audience all welcome. / Oxford Folk Club / 8.30pm. £2 / www.oxfordfolkclub.com / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

JOE PARKER & THE MEGA HAIRY MEN, JOSH KNIGHT, LAMPLIGHT, MR FOGG / alt rock and acoustic pop / 8pm / Jericho Tavern. Walton Street; Tel: 311775

THEATRE
until Sat 16th June

Garsington Opera (361636)

LA DONNA DEL LAGO Thu 14th: 5.50pm
Rossini's romantic opera in its first full production in Britain since 1985. £80-£135

Burton Taylor Theatre (305305)

PRODUCT ✍ Tue 12th - Sat 16th: 9.30pm
A bitingly critical satire on the film industry. £5/£4.
THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR ✍ Tue 12th - Sat 16th: 7.30pm
One town's attempt to outwit a government inspector. £5/£4.

St John's College

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING ✍ Tue 12th - Sat 16th: 7.30pm
Performed in the gardens.

OFS Studio (297170)

THE BALCONY ✍ Tue 12th - Fri 15th: 7.30pm; Sat 16th: 2.30, 7.30pm
Genet's morally ambiguous, transgressive play. £8.50/£6.50.

New Theatre, Oxford (0870 6063500)

RIVERDANCE ✍ Thu 14th & Fri 15th: 8pm
Classic Irish dance. Wed 13th, Sat 16th: 2.30pm, 8pm

Pegasus Theatre (722851)

HEAD OVER HEELS ✍ Thu 14th: 7.30pm
A delicately crafted play, written by Sara Clifford, for older audiences. £6/£4

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

MOLORA ✍ Thu 14th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Fri 15th: 8pm, Sat 16th: 7.30pm
Reworking of Greek classic, set in South Africa. £10-£23

Oxford Castle (766266)

HAMLET ✍ Wed 13th - Fri 15th: 7.45pm Sat 16th: 2.30, 7.45pm
Creation Theatre: obsession, insanity & revenge. £13-£21

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Drama / Dance Teacher
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TUTORS: A LEVEL & GCSE in all subjects. 01865 248308 enquiries@greenes.org.uk

COMEDY REVIEW

Jim Jeffries

The Free Beer Show, Mon 11th June.

It's always a worry when comedians are marketed purely on their offensiveness. It shouldn't impress me that they've got some religious publication in uproar (it shouldn't, but it does). I don't care if they're (yawn) 'politically incorrect'. What I want to know is: are they going to engage the audience in a cathartic smashing of the barriers of modern discourse? Or are they just going to swear me into submission for an hour? Are they going to make a genuine stand against the hypocritical cant of the age? Or are they just going to apply a thin, ugly smear of self-righteousness to some of Bernard Manning's old routines? Are they going to be, you know, funny?

Jim Jeffries is very funny indeed. The weakest his act ever got was a desultory trashing of religion that felt almost like a duty – obeisance to his own hype. The trouble with blasphemy is that you have to be religious to get it, and thankfully for the rest of the time his filth was considerably more inclusive. His secret is that underneath a studiedly shabby persona he has the skills of a solid raconteur of the old school – the sort of unassuming intimacy and note perfect timing that keeps an audience listening regardless of the subject matter.

Many of his tales were harrowing and personal – a cancer diagnosis and an armed home invasion were two of the more prickly. His skill was to spin these out, jokelessly but compellingly, until we were gasping for something to break the tension. Please, you wanted to cry out, please make us laugh soon, otherwise we're going to have to cry. And then, at exactly the right time, he did. You laughed, remembered the situation you were laughing about, hated yourself for laughing and then laughed some more.

This is what differentiates Jim Jeffries from the genuinely offensive comedians, the Davidsons of this world. Not that he was rude in the service of an agenda, or that the joke was often on him. It was that he brought laughter out of dark places not by inviting us to join him there, but by reminding us why we need to laugh at them. Towards the end of the set he told us (during, of course, a bit about being molested by a scoutmaster as a child) that comedy was about taking risks. This was a risk worth taking.

Matt Bright

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Thu 14th

IS CREATIONISM A DELUSION? / Prof P Atkins, Oxford & Prof W Watson, Colorado Christian University / Oxford Brookes Harcourt Hill / 7.30 pm free - ticket only / wco@brookes.ac.uk / Westminster Institute Theatre

OXFORD STORYTELLING CIRCLE / Share spellbinding stories from around the world. Tell one if you like / OxTales / 7:30pm, £1 / castle.gate@ntlworld.com / Red Lion, Wolvercote

DESIGNING INTERACTIONS / Bill Moggridge, co-founder of IDEO, inventor of the laptop and author of Designing Interactions. Contact Clare Ruthven-Stuart via website if interested. / 12.15 pm for buffet lunch, talk starts 1 pm / www.martininstitute.ox.ac.uk / Saïd Business School. Park End Street

GENDER, CONFLICT AND MEMORY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN / Workshop. Convenors: Franziska Brantner (European Studies Centre), Anna Sheftel (Faculty of History). / franziska.brantner@sant.ox.ac.uk / St Antony's College. Woodstock Rd; Tel: 284700

ATTITUDINAL HEALING / Let your peace, joy & inspiration arise within. Non-judgemental circle. www.attitudinalhealing.org / Oxford Attitudinal Healing Group / 19.30 - 21.30 Don's appx £3.50 / 43 St. Giles

DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH / Spiele und Konversation auf Deutsch :o) / 20:00 / Free / hm9554@yahoo.com / The Anchor Inn, Hayfield Rd North Oxford (near Artistotle Bridge, corner Polstead Rd)

Fri 15th

SOCIAL EVENING / IVC Social Events Club / 8.30pm / www.oxfordshireivc.org.uk / Caddy Shack, Hinksey Heights Golf Club, Oxford

THE DEONTIC STRUCTURE OF MORALITY / Prof. R. J. Wallace, Berkeley. Seminar. / 2pm / Ryle Room, 10 Merton Street

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THE TRINITY SERIAL

Chapter 8, in which everything is sorted out and everyone lives happily ever after...

I walked up the excessively acoustic staircase to Keble Hall, pushed open the heavy doors, and entered its dim magnificence. The ceiling had been recently cleaned and I peered at the lumpy cherubs through my mask. There was a low buzz of conversation from the people gathering at the tables. No-one was sitting, perhaps because there was no seating plan; instead they milled looking slightly anxious.

I approached the tables, and the doors were thrown open behind me. All faces turned to see who was entering so dramatically, and I saw with a shock that everyone was masked. That explained why the dress looked so like ordinary black tie. Dexter limped briskly past me, scattering people and dropping bits of paper on the way past. It looked like notes for a speech. I followed in his wake.

The crowds parted and assigned themselves to seats, with lots of handwaving from Dexter. I approached him slowly. Would it be the leering Dexter who knew me? Or his doppelganger?

"There's a space over there, next to the guy in the Fez," he told me. Fez! I looked where he pointed. The leaf green fez looked strangely familiar, but the guy underneath was deep in conversation and didn't look up. I made my way round the end of the table. It felt like a mile. I swung my leg over the bench as decorously as possibly and my neighbour turned towards me.

"Kate," said Rob simply.

During grace and melon we conversed in whispers. Rob didn't want us to look as if we were talking, and wouldn't tell me why. He looked nervous, and extremely sheepish. The fez waggled as he talked. "How can you forgive me?" he asked. "I should have told you what was happening long ago." It was difficult to disagree.

The doors were thrown open behind us. All faces turned to see who was entering so dramatically. Dexter limped briskly past the tables, scattering people and dropping bits of paper on the way past. It looked like notes for a speech. I felt a distinct sense of deja vu.

"Fellow Keblites!" he exclaimed, hoarsely. He had probably been practising his speech in the mirror. "I'm sorry to interrupt this feast, but I need your attention, and your cooperation! There are some among us who do not belong! Some ... from Cambridge!" A hiss and a murmur of "infiltrators!" ran round the room. I felt like an extra in a cheap production of West Side Story.

Someone rose from the table. It was the other Dexter. Now I saw them together there were a few minor differences - an inch in height, a slight difference in hair colour - but the aura of power crackled equally from both of them.

"This man who's been impersonating me," said Dexter, turning to the crowd and gesturing to the figure stalking towards him, "is my brother, Sinister!" Someone suppressed a giggle. Sinister glared at Dexter. "Where's Eleanor?" he demanded. Dexter looked confused, and I tried to make myself invisible.

"Good question! Where is Eleanor, your accomplice?" asked Dexter, addressing his captive audience. I could see he was enjoying this. "My brother and I both went to Trinity: he to Cambridge, and I to Oxford. We both worked hard, got firsts, but he was never content. He studied Chemistry. He worked on a secret formula - a cure for writer's block." I gasped. That was Rob's research topic too!

"Sinister heard someone else was researching that same thing, and that his work was far in advance of Sinister's own. He couldn't bear to be beaten and he resolved to steal that work. He set to work on a blackmail scheme, even taking hostages." Suddenly Dexter seemed serious, and I thought of him living off egg sandwiches in a lonely cell. "And this is why I invited the Junior Dean to this dinner, and some constables for good measure!"

Sinister dashed for the door, but a petite girl stuck out a very pointy shoe, and Sinister went flying with a howl. Two hefty men stepped out of the shadows, and Sinister was taken away, shouting at his brother as he went.

Rob and I made room for Dexter, and handed him a drink. I felt almost well disposed towards him. His comment about blackmail was worrying - I would have to tackle Rob about that later, but for a moment the world seemed easier, and I was just contented to see him. Then I felt Dexter's hand creeping onto my thigh. Things were clearly back to normal again.

The Trinity Serial can be found online at www.dailyinfo.co.uk/whatson/stories.htm If you would like to contribute an alternative ending, send us an email to serial@dailyinfo.co.uk There may or may not be a prize.