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Next issue Sat 16th February
Deadline 10am, Fri 15th February

FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2002 (4TH WEEK)

COMING

THE LITTLE BOOKSHOP Oxford's 2nd hand bookshop. Covered Market. Out of print Penguins a speciality.

CHOROS AT HOLYWELL Music Room, Saturday 7.30pm. French and English choral music - Britten, Holst, Rawsthorne, Debussy, Faure, Poulenc. Tickets £10(£8) on door from 7pm.

BLACKWELL'S IS PLEASED TO HOST Michael Frayn in conversation about his new novel 'SPIES' with John Carey. At the Holywell Music Room, Holywell St, Oxford on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Customer Services Desk, 2nd Floor, Blackwell's Bookshop, 50 Broad Street, Oxford. Tel: 01865 333623. For further information or to reserve a signed copy, contact Caroline Lee or Fiona Hurman, Fiction Dept. Tel: 01865 333602.

"If music be the food of love..."
REVELLI PRESENT:
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CINEMA

To Thursday 21st February

Odeon George St 0870 5050007
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (PG)
Daily: 11.20am
Bednors and broomsticks (or was that something else...?)
BLACK HAWK DOWN (18) Fri & Sat: 9.00, Sun-
Wed: 8.10
True story of an American military engagement in Somalia.

MONSTERS INC. (U) Fri - Sun: 10.30, 1.00, 3.30,
6.00, 8.30 Mon-Thurs: 1.00, 3.20, 5.40
Incapable furry fright-mongers.
IRIS (15) Fri - Weds: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
plus Fri-Sun: 11.15am
Judi Dench in biopic of authoress Iris Murdoch.

VANILLA SKY (15) Fri & Sat: 2.50, 6.10, 9.25
Sun-Thurs: 2.30, 5.30 (except Wed), 8.30
Womansising Tom Cruise gets his comeuppance.

SHALLOW HAL (12) Fri & Sat: 1.00, 3.50, 6.45, 9.45
Sun-Thur: 12.55, 3.30, 6.10, 8.50
Gwyneth Paltrow in a 400lb 'tatsuit'. Another triumph of sensitive characterization.

LORD OF THE RINGS (PG) Fri & Sat: 12.00, 4.15, 8.30
Sun - Thurs: 12.00, 3.45, 7.45
Epic fantasy adventure. (Possibly not suitable for under-8s)

OCEAN'S 11 (12) Fri & Sat: 12.20, 3.20, 6.25, 9.25
Sun-Thurs: 11.55, 2.50, 5.45, 8.40
Star-studded remake of 60s thriller

SENIOR SCREEN: THE DISH (12) Wed: Doors 10.15,
Film 10.45
Reviews included.

MOVIE MOB: HELP I'M A FISH! (U) Sat & Sun: 11am
Animated action film. All tickets £2

Odeon Magdalen St 0870 5050007
MONSTERS INC. (U) Daily: 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
Incapable furry fright-mongers.

GOSFORD PARK (15) Daily: 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15
English domestic via Robert Altman

Phoenix Picture House 512526
THE LADY AND THE DUKE (PG) Fri: 1.15, 3.45, 7.15, 9.35,
Sat & Sun: 3.45, 6.15, 9.00
Mon-Thurs: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15 (not Mon), 9.00
The French Revolution seen from the losing side.

GOSFORD PARK (15) Daily: 12.30 (except Sun),
3.15 (except Fri), 6.00, 8.45
English domestic via Robert Altman

AMADEUS: DIRECTOR'S CUT (15) Fri: 4.00
Presented by Milos Forman & Saul Zaentz. Phone for
cancellations!

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S (PG) Fri 11.30pm,
Sun 12.15
Don't make 'em like this any more...

STUDIO GHIBLI: GRAVE OF THE FIRELIES (12)
Fri: 11.50pm, Sat: 11.30pm, Sun 12 midday
A teenager and his sister struggle for survival.

FIGHT CLUB (18) Sat: 11.30pm
Soap and fist fights

KIDS CLUB : ATLANTIS, THE LOST EMPIRE (U)
Sat : 2.00
No unaccompanied adults!

FRENCH CINEMA: PRESQUE RIEN (18) Mon 6:30
Mathieu meets Cedric....

DR STRANGELOVE (PG) Thurs: 11.30pm
Kubrick's anti-bomb farce

LOST HIGHWAY (18) Thurs: 11.30pm
More David Lynch weirdness

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
LORD OF THE RINGS (PG) Fri : 8.15, Sat : 2.45, 8.15
Sun & Mon: 7.15 Tue - Thu : 9.00
Best film ever etc etc. (Possibly not suitable for under-8s)

LEGALLY BLONDE (12) Fri & Sat: 6.15 Sun & Mon:
5.30
Reese Witherspoon as unlikely law student.

THE PIANO TEACHER (18) Tue - Thu : 6.30
An intense and unusual relationship.

CHASING AMY (18) Fri & Sat: 11.45pm
Sun & Mon: 10.45pm
Kevin Smith's comedy of sexuality and comic books.

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FREVD

FRI 15 DJ MANFREE MUSIC & DANCING
SAT 16 N'GOMA KEMBO AFRICAN DRUMS
SUN 17 BEN MAY (2-4) PIANO
then VIVA SALSA! from 6PM
MON 18 RICHARD MOLLER (10PM-12) PIANO
TUE 19 RICHARD MOLLER (10PM-12) PIANO
WED 20 THE CHRIS HENLEY TRIO JAZZ
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THEATRE

Apollo Theatre 0870 6063500
VERDI'S NABUCCO Sat 16th : 7.30pm
Revenge, destruction and jealousy.

TOSCA Fri 15th : 7.30pm
True love, torture and treachery

DANIEL O'DONNELL Sun 17th : 7.30pm
SOLD OUT!
JETHRO! Mon 18th : 7.30pm
Comedy. Warning: Not for the Vicar!

LOUIS HOOVER'S SALUTE TO SINATRA Wed 20th: 7.30pm
Big band Sinatra magic.

Old Fire Station 297170
PRINCESS IDA Fri 15th : 7.30pm,
Sat 16th : 2.30pm, 7.30pm
Gilbert and Sullivan's satiric gem See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE Tue 19th - Sat 23rd: 7.30pm
Sun mat: 2.30
Contains 'ultra violence' apparently - so book early!

Pegasus Theatre 722851
SOUNDING OFF Fri 15th : 8pm
Bands competition. £4/£2 (Young hopefuls call 07711
529529)

THE TRACTOR GIRLS Thu 21st & Fri 22nd: 8pm
Caz and Mo go from Ipswich to Europe in comedy
thriller.

St. John's Auditorium 277307
THUNDERSTORM Tue 19th - Sat 23rd : 7.30pm
Chinese Shakespeare Tickets 305305

Playhouse 305305
MONKEY! Fri 15th & Sat 16th : 7.30, Sat mat : 2.30
Pilgrimage with a monkey, religion, history, magic and
poetry

SPRING AWAKENING Wed 20th - Sat 23rd Daily: 7.30
Sexual and emotional awakening of schoolchildren set in
1890s Germany

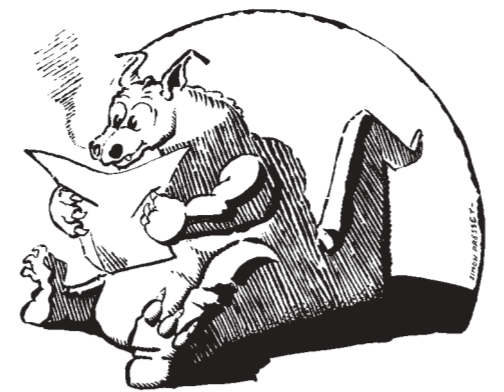
Burton Taylor Theatre 305350
ITS A HUNTINGDON LIFE IFri 15th & Sat 16th : 7.30pm
Satire, farce and science. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk

SIX LEFT FEET Fri 15th & Sat 16th : 9.30pm
High heels & performing brooms See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk

SPEED THE PLOW Tue 19th - Sat 23rd : 7.30pm
Dissection of Hollywood

THE LESSON Tue 19th - Sat 23rd : 7.30pm
Inosenco's educational tale

BMW Group Plant, Oxford 245 745
MACBETH by Creation Theatre Company
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Shakespeare among the Minis



TODAY

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5.30 P.M. SHELDONIAN THEATRE

OPEN

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Open Tuesday & Thursday 12.30pm, Wednesdays
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FRIDAY'S MEETINGS

OXFORD HUNGARIAN SOCIETY / Closing a sale and
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law / 8pm in MacGregor Room / Oriol College, Oriol
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GIGS

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cians & audience equally welcome. £1. / 8.30 / Port
Mahon, St. Clement's

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Some More / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel:
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ON THIS DAY...

...in 1564: Galileo Galilei, Italian astron-
omer ad physicist, was born in Pisa
(where he demonstrated his theorem
of velocity from the famous "leaning
tower").

...in 1748: Jeremy Bentham, English utili-
tarian philosopher and social reformer
who introduced the registration of
births, deaths and marriages, and
whose "Auto-Icon" (skeleton with wax
head, wearing his own clothes) remains
to this day in University College,
London.



As Others See Us

"I have never enjoyed any place so much... Erasmus, the Dutch scholar, on leaving Oxford in 1499"

"Nobody here will ever admit ignorance" -? A Professor from Padua, 1850

A Frenchman at Somerville College

The Transatlantic View

"The English train a scholar as they train an engineer, -Oxford is a Greek factory!" - Emerson, 1856

"The effect of this decay is most picturesque" Hawthorne, 1856

"I was charmed and dumfounded!" Jacques Baroux 1839

An Indian View

"What an immense range of activity-- how impossible to generalize" D.F. Karaka 1933

A Polish Prince, Albertus de Alasco, visited Oxford in 1583... The University did him proud. "Such an entertainment it was that the like before was never seen!"

"Je voulais te chanter..." P. de Mascarenne 1845

A German View

C.P. Moritz, a German pastor, came to Oxford in 1782, and thought it a "dull and gloomy town."

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THEATRE REVIEWS

MONKEY!
Oxford Playhouse until Sat 16th Feb

Very appropriately, the opening night of Monkey! this Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) was the first day of Chi-
nese New Year. Billed as "A tale from China", many people are more likely to know of the tale by way of the
Japanese version of Monkey ("Monkey Magic"), the cult T.V. classic of the late seventies.



The history of the kind of stick-fighting simian hero represented in
Monkey! is long and involved, and as a result this production has much
more to it than first meets the eye and ear. When flying about on
clouds, cheeking Yama Queen of Death herself or effortlessly defeating
gangs of evil demons in beautifully choreographed martial arts stand-
offs (greeted by the gleeful shout "It's time to PLAY!"), Monkey delights
as a cartoon figure. He farts like a foghorn, he looks forward to going
back to his own Flower Fruit Mountain for some "rumpus", he leaves
his signature in liquid form ("What! Monkeys can't write!") - small chil-
dren love him. They also get the chance to interact, as the production
contains important pantomime elements. Older minds can enjoy the
slapstick whilst thinking on the significance of Monkey's epic journey to
the Western Heaven with Tripitaka (the holiest monk in China), Pigsy
and Sandy (humans transformed into monsters for their karmic mis-
takes) to collect sacred scriptures from Buddha. Tripitaka was a real
historical figure who journeyed to India in the 7th century AD to fetch
the Sutra, and the Monkey of the Mind appears in Buddhist teachings
as a symbol of the restless mental energy that must be tamed before
Enlightenment can be reached.

This production is obviously born of very thoughtful roots, and the excellent programme accompanying it
provides just enough detailed info on the Monkey tradition to leave you with a need to know more. Elliot
Levey is a truly "irrepressible" Very Handsome Monkey King; if his accent is more Stavros than Sun Wu-
K'ung, it matters not, as he blows you away with the sheer physicality of his monkeying about. Jan Knight-
ley is an astounding Pigsy for similar reasons, and Jason Thorpe (spotted recently at the Phoenix Cinema
as a policeman in the bizarre film "The Nine Lives of Tomas Katz") is also an excellently deadpan Sandy.
Aicha Kossoko is a compelling presence as the scarily sexy Yama, Queen of Death, and the serene Father
Buddha. The show must be very tiring for all the actors involved, many of whom perform amazing gymnastics.
The costumes and set are ingenious, and the pounding folkie drum & bass soundtrack by the excellent
Irish outfit Kila will have you wiggling in your seat.

Fans of martial arts, panto, circus, good music, visual and physical humour, Buddhism, acting, animals,
life... get your tickets now.

Su Jordan, 12.02.02

Verdi's Nabucco
Ellen Kent & Opera International
Apollo Theatre until Sat 16th Feb

Nabucco, despite being the work which persuaded Verdi to continue
composition, is far from the composer's best music, yet this production
- which sometimes seems closer to pantomime than high drama -
approaches the Opera with such energy and vivacity that it is hard
not to be captivated. Grandiose sets with vivid lighting provide the
backdrop for the stirring tale of King Nabucco's tyranny against the
Hebrews and his subsequent betrayal by a power-hungry daughter,
a loose dramatisation of the murderous career of King Nebuchadnezzar
and his repeated sacking of Babylon.

Whilst the setting is impressive, the music is somewhat less so. Whilst Verdi seems to gain a little momen-
tum over the course of the four acts, the overture and many of the arias are distinctly unbalanced. The
intrinsic flaws in the music were not helped by an orchestra that occasionally struggled with ensemble,
though when the volume of the playing increased, so did the cohesion of the sound. Conducted with
admirable stamina by Nicolae Dohotaru, the players from Chisinau showed a clear understanding of the
music, but sometimes a greater variety of tone could have eased the effect on the ear. The same is true
of the singers, each producing a distinctively Eastern European sound. The rather Brain-Blessedecque title
character was played with a vocal authority that was only slightly undermined by his bizarre entrance, but
Ismail (