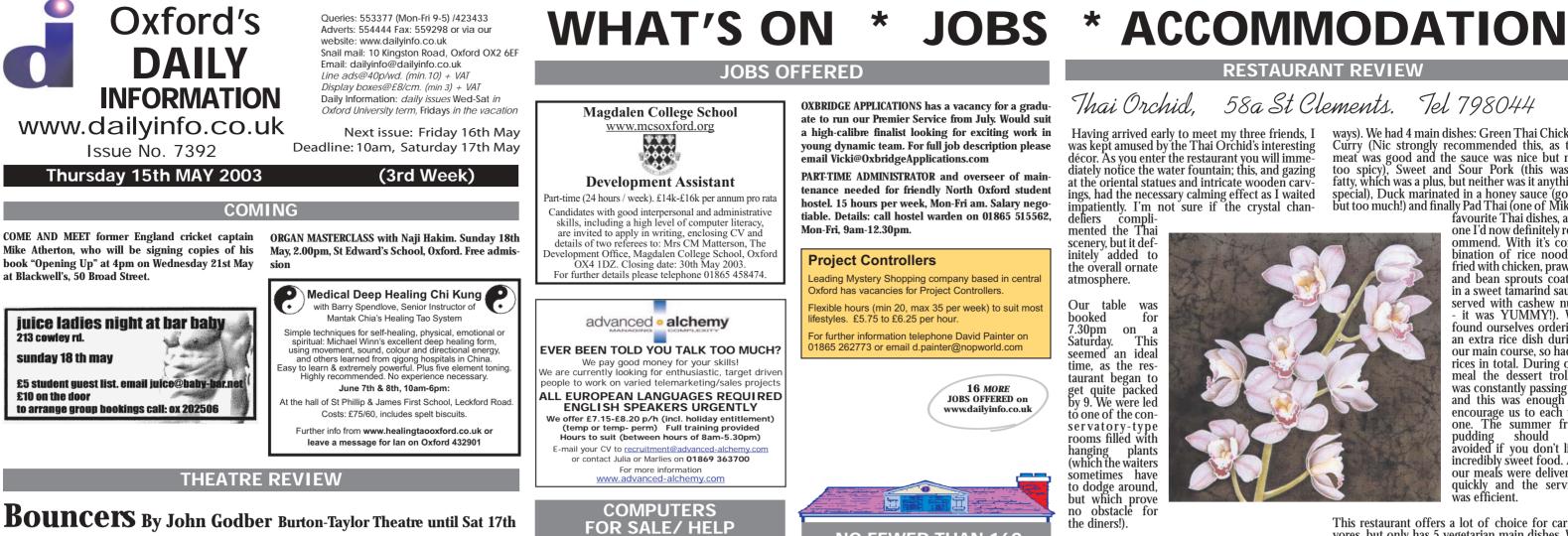
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In my life I have done a few things of which before reaching a climax, of sorts. For a play

I am embarrassed, I will not bore you with the details but suffice to say that most of these have been due to drinking, I am sure that many of you reading this will be able to sympathise. For those of you that do Bouncer

tells a story that will be familiar to you, a night out on the town. We follow three groups throughout the evening, the boys, the girls and the bouncers, all played by the same four actors on an almost bare stage. And if you are anything like me you will see echoes of your actions on the stage.

The evening starts in the hairdresser with the girls catching up on the gossip, we quickly move to the pub and count the drinks with the boys. We hear from the DJ at the club and hear some of the inner thoughts of "Lucky" Eric, one of the bouncers with a little more upstairs than the others. The night moves on through drinking and dancing, heartache and ruined mascara



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that was written nearly 20 years ago this is depressingly close to the reality of Saturday night now, the only aspect which makes it seem dated is the lack of mention or use of drugs. The actors are constantly on stage

and switching between the 12 main characters. With no costume changes to speak of they rely on caricaturing to distinguish between the roles. Thankfully they often re-introduce themselves as they slip into a new role, making it a lot easier to keep track of who's who. This obviously asks a lot of the actors and all of them play their range of characters well. In particular all of them portray very believ-able drunks; I am sure they

researched these roles thoroughly.

The only flat note was in Eric's monologues, I felt that there should have been more emotion in these moments of contemplation and a little more time invested in them to give them the weight needed to balance the unthinking acts that make up the rest of the action. The play

**Antwone Fisher** 

moves along at a fast pace, lasting a little more than an hour. While this does help to give the sense of immediacy it also gives it a rushed feeling. We hardly have a moment to take in what has happened before we are swiftly moving on. Some of the humour defi-nitely suffers from this, I am sure that I missed

a few choice lines.

**CINEMA REVIEW** 

The Oscar which Denzel Washington won at 'Good Will Hunting' was ultimately uncon-

last year's Academy Awards was not just a vincing because its protagonist depended on

recognition of his achievements as an actor, an unforgivable deus ex machina - an intui-

but also an open passport for him to do prac- tive understanding of complex mathematical

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Overall I enjoyed the play, I laughed and went away happy, but it is not something that will stick in my mind for long.

Keith Ibsen 13-05-03



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# **RESTAURANT REVIEW**

ways). We had 4 main dishes: Green Thai Chicken Curry (Nic strongly recommended this, as the meat was good and the sauce was nice but not

too spicy), Sweet and Sour Pork (this wasn't fatty, which was a plus, but neither was it anything

special), Duck marinated in a honey sauce (good but too much!) and finally Pad Thai (one of Mike's

This restaurant offers a lot of choice for carni-vores, but only has 5 vegetarian main dishes. We

didn't opt for wine, but if you choose to do so

the cost is generally around £15 a bottle, £12 for house and £26 for the most expensive.

The Thai Orchid caters for all sorts, and eve-

ryone there seemed to be enjoying themselves whether they were on the hen night, having a

romantic dinner for two, fuelling up with a pre-ball dinner or enjoying their friends' company as I was. Overall I would recommend a trip to this restaurant - and failing that, they do takeaway.

favourite Thai dishes, and

one I'd now definitely rec-

ommend. With it's com-

bination of rice noodles

fried with chicken, prawns

and bean sprouts coated

in a sweet tamarind sauce

served with cashew nuts

it was YUMMY!). We

found ourselves ordering

an extra rice dish during

our main course, so had 3

rices in total. During our meal the dessert trolley

was constantly passing us

and this was enough to

encourage us to each try one. The summer fruit pudding should be avoided if you don't like

incredibly sweet food. All

our meals were delivered

quickly and the service was efficient.

C.Robinson, 10.05.03

Thai Orchid, 58a St Clements. Tel 798044

Having arrived early to meet my three friends, I was kept amused by the Thai Orchid's interesting décor. As you enter the restaurant you will immediately notice the water fountain; this, and gazing at the oriental statues and intricate wooden carvings, had the necessary calming effect as I waited impatiently. I'm not sure if the crystal chan-

deliers compli-mented the Thai scenery, but it definitely added to the overall ornate atmosphere.

Our table was booked for on a This 7.30pm Saturday. seemed an ideal time, as the restaurant began to get quite packed by 9. We were led to one of the conservatory-type rooms filled with hanging plants (which the waiters sometimes have to dodge around, but which prove no obstacle for the diners!).

these menus is that you need to order them to share between at least 2 people. We decided we'd concoct our own version, and picked sev-eral dishes to share amongst the four of us. We spent a total of £70 including a 10% tip.

Choosing our food was a challenge. We were tempted by the banquet menus, which offer a set range of food, typically: a starter, 3 or 4 main courses, rice and a sweet, and costing between  $\pounds 16-\pounds 20$  per person. One possible problem with

We chose 2 starters, some Vegetable spring rolls (tasty but small and you only get 3) and Chicken Satay (again we ended splitting 3 of these 4

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**CINEMA** Until Thurs 15th May

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dailvinfo.co.uk X-MEN 2 (12A) Daily: 1.15, 4.30, 7.45 They're, erm, back. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (12A) Daily: 12.00\*, 2.45\*, 5.30\*, 8.15\*

...it's trickier when he's got a bet on making you fall in love with him. JOHNNY ENGLISH (PG) Daily: 12.30, 3.00, 5.45, 8.00

Rowan Atkinson in spy spoof. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk

#### **Odeon Magdalen Street** 0870 5050007

THE JUNGLE BOOK 2 (U) Daily: 1.15.3.00 Mowgli's back for more adventures X-MEN 2 (12A) Daily: 1.45\*, 5.00\*, 8.15\* They're, erm, back. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk ANTWONE FISHER (15) Thu: 2.00, 5.30, 8.30 Denzel Washington's directorial debut. See review on this

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288 THE HOURS(12A) Thu: 7.00pm Streep, Moore & Kidman. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN (18) Thu: 9.30 Hugely successful Mexican coming-of-age road movie

**Phoenix Picture House 512526** IN THIS WORLD (15) Thu: 4.15. 9.15. 11.1 2 Afghan refugees try to flee to London with people traffickers THE PIANIST (15) Thu: 1.15. 6.1 Survival in the WWII Warsaw ghetto. See review at dailvinfo.co.uk I CAPTURE THE CASTLE (PG) Thu: 1.30, 4.0 6.30, 9.0 17 year old & her eccentric family endure1930s bohe-

mian lifestyle. See review at dailyinfo.co.uk AUTOFOCUS (18) Thu: 11.40pn Study of the sleaze-filled life of real sitcom actor Bob

\* = Wheelchair Access

directorial debut is the estimable 'Antwone Fisher'.

Its basic plot is a deadringer for Oscar- Born in a prison, tortured by his foster mother, friendly 'Good Will

Hunting': an angry young man is arrested for an unprovoked act of violence, and sent to a psychiatrist. Although at first uncooperative, he is soon encouraged to confront the demons from his past, to enjoy a successful relationship with a girlfriend for the first time, and to look forward to a more stable future; and the psychiatrist for his part begins facing up to his unresolved feelings about his wife. All in all, a heartwarming tale of a man's triumph over his own legacy.

Yet this is no 'Good Will Hunting'. For a start, newcomer Derek Luke in the title role is a far better actor than the vastly overrated Matt Damon; and whereas Robin Williams' psychiatrist was all in-your-face cardboard sentimentality, Denzel Washington gives a far more believable (and less annoying) peformance as Navy psychiatrist Davenport, making him conceal all his vulnerabilities beneath his devoted professionalism.

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13 - Sat 17: 9.30pm

Thu 15: 7.45

Sat: 2.30, 7.30

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DOMINIC KIRWAN

tically anything. The project he chose for his problems - to help him escape his workingclass origins and loser friends. Antwone Fisher, on the other hand, has no such magic wand, and his background is far more traumatic. sexually abused by her daughter, and

eyewitness to his best friend's violent death, Fisher has only Washington's promptings and his own determination, to help him start talking about, and then to rewrite, his own story,

Finally, where 'Good Will Hunting' was a piece of Matt

Fisher' is an autobiographical testimony, scripted by the real Antwone Fisher, and this authenticity makes it, for all its similarity to 'Good Will Hunting', an altogether more serious work. It is almost as though the film's very existence forms a significant part of its author's recuperative therapy, with the viewer

Unremittingly earnest, but an impressive debut for Washington, Luke, and Fisher himself.

Anton Bitel, 12.05.03

#### EXHIBITIONS

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UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INTER-NATIONAL TRIALS / Aung San Suu Kyi Lecture: HE Judge Richard May / 5pm / St Hugh's College, St Margaret's Rd

MANNERS & MURDER: WOMEN DETECTIVE WRIT-ERS AS SOCIAL HISTORIANS / Margaret Horward Lecture: PD James / 5.45pm / Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, St. Cross Building

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# adolescent wish fulfilment written by two young men (Ben Affleck and Damon) whose hype outweighs their talent, 'Antwone

