

**COMING**

**19TH ANNUAL JAMES Joyce Evening.** Bloomsday Celebration. Irish music, songs, and readings with Tom Paulin, Gerald Garcia, Mick Henry, John Pithica and others. Port Mahon, St Clements, Saturday 17th June 8pm. Info 245613 £5(£3)

AT 8PM ON Saturday, June 17 the chapel choir of the Catholic Community at Stanford University will perform a free concert of spiritual music at Blackfriars' Hall, Oxford University. The program ranges from the classics to contemporary.

**Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre**  
the All Formats computer fair  
Saturday 17th June 10am - 3pm  
Free ticket in Oxford Mail Thursday and Friday (also 15th July)

**EXHIBITIONS**

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**AUDITIONS, 7TH WEEK** Michaelmas student OES show. Contact Jean 0773516863

**CINEMA**

Until Thursday 15th June

**Ultimate Picture Palace** 245288  
Jeune St

**THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY (15)** Tues-Thurs  
Mingella's remake of *Plein Soleil*. 6.40pm

**MAGNOLIA (18)** Tues - Thurs 9.15pm  
Ambitious weaving of Valley lives.

**The Phoenix, Walton Street** 512526

**SWEET AND LOWDOWN (PG)** Daily 2.00, 4.15  
6.45, 9.00  
Fictional biopic of 30's jazz legend, Emmet Ray.

**NORA (15)** Daily 4.30, 9.15pm  
James Joyce and his muse, Nora Barnacle.

**CLAIRE DOLAN (18)** Daily 2.15pm, 7pm  
Call girl trying to escape her situation.

**ENTER THE DRAGON (15)** Thurs 11.30pm  
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**ABC Magdalen Street** 251998  
Bookings 0541 550509 / Enquiries 725305

**GLADIATOR (15)** Daily 1.15, 4.20, 7.45  
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**ABC George Street** 251998  
Bookings 0541 550501 / Enquiries 723911

**MAYBE BABY (15)** Tues-Thur 1.10, 3.25,  
5.50, 8.25  
Ben Elton comedy, with Hugh Laurie and Rowan Atkinson.

**SAVING GRACE (15)** Daily 1.30, 6.10  
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**EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (18)**  
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**UMBRELLA FOUND** ON Friday, Holywell Music Room, phone 07940 582276

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATORS** required for overseas study organisation. Full-time posts; one will also include some simple book-keeping. Salary up to £25,000, depending on experience. Please send CV to Dr Richardson at 8 Tennyson Lodge, Paradise Square, Oxford. OX1 1UD

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**THEATRE REVIEW**

**The Lover by Harold Pinter**  
at the Burton-Taylor until Saturday



*The Lover* was an excellent choice of play for a student production in 7th week. Rather than an over ambitious production of a well-known piece, Jill Crawford's and Edward Barlow's rendition of Pinter's play is impressive in its competent performance, and will be a welcome introduction to this play for many of the audience. It is well suited to the venue as well; the intimacy of the Burton Taylor theatre lends itself excellently to the intensity of this domestic drama.

Sarah and Richard, the couple in *The Lover* have reached a strange point in their relationship at the beginning of the play. Sarah has become accustomed to talking about her lover - who supposedly visits her in the afternoon - to Richard, who does not object to this arrangement. We soon realise that these afternoon visits are part of a quickly-extending fantasy world which has become the fabric of the relationship between Richard and Sarah. Their conversations are improvised role-plays in which they test out their feelings for and fantasies about each other. When Sarah introduces the idea that Richard may have a mistress to their game she finds herself put out, yet unable to control the direction their role-play is taking. Richard's imaginary whore offends Sarah, her regular, civilised adultery offends him, and the tension this causes is magnified by their inability to step outside of this fantasy world they have created.

As you would expect from Pinter, the dialogue in *The Lover* does not always make clear what is happening in this play; much of the script is mundane conversation, and seemingly inane. Words which are emphasised, repeated, or which trail off into meaningful silences often suggest a sub textural meaning, but it is left to the audience to decide finally whether or not Pinter's characters do say anything meaningful. There is more coherent communication through gesture, pauses and silence than through verbal communication, and Jill Crawford and Edward Barlow handle this difficult material both competently and confidently. They see and convey the comedy which lurks in the absurd corners of the play, while sustaining the sense of disturbance which pervades its world. Their performance is very entertaining, yet also thought-provoking, and is highly recommended viewing this week.

Emily Hardiment 13.6.00

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**THEATRE**

**The Oxford Playhouse** 798600  
**THE MYSTERY OF CHARLES DICKENS**  
Mon 12th - Sat 17th 7.30  
Fri 8.00, Thurs/Sat 2.30pm  
Simon Callow in a one-man show.

**The Apollo Theatre** 0870 6063500  
**BLOOD BROTHERS** Mon 12th - Sat 17th  
See review.

**Old Fire Station** 794490  
**BLACK COMEDY** Tues 13th - Sat 17th 8.00  
Peter Shaffer's one-act farce.

**Burton Taylor Theatre** 798600  
**FACTOR 15** Thurs 13th - Sat 17th 7.30  
New writing. Girls on the slag in Ibiza.  
**THE LOVER** Tues 13th - Sat 17th 9.30  
See ReviewS.

**Pegasus Theatre** 722851  
**BLOOD WEDDING** Thurs 15th - Fri 16th 8pm  
Young Oxfordshire students' production of Lorca's classic.

**Michael Pilch Theatre, Jowett Walk**  
**GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS**  
Thurs 15th - Sat 17th 7.30pm  
Mamet's fascinating study of salesmen.

**Wolfson College Bar**  
**THE LESSON** Wed 14th - Sat 17th 8.15pm  
Ionesco's absurdist piece.

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**GIGS + NIGHTLIFE**

**Thursday 15th June**  
**DAVE JONES' AFFINITY** / 9pm / £6.50 (E4) / The Spin @ The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street / 243276 / www.the-spin.net

**IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND** / Entry £1.01 - E1 returned to performers, 1ip returned to non-performers / Brewery Gate, St. Thomas / 8.30 / 7243692

**KOOLER with DJ Mark Fisher** / Indie Dance Grooves / E5/E4 / 8pm-2am / The Butly, 162 Cowley Road / 244516 / www.thebutly.f9.co.uk

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**MEETINGS**

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**Thursday 15th June**  
OXFORD REFORM CLUB / TGM and elections / 8pm / Venue TBA  
RELIGION AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN EASTERN EUROPE / Dr Ina Merdjanova (British Academy Visiting Fellow) / 1pm / Keston Institute, 4 Park Town / www.keston.org  
OXFORD UNION DEBATE Political Correctness/ Judge Pickles and Boris Johnson/ 8.30pm/ The Chamber/ Free Pimms in the garden beforehand  
OU LECTURE. GLOBAL NETWORKS AND LOCAL SOCIETIES Prof M Castells/ Clay Room, Nuffield College/ 2pm-3.30  
OED FORUM - PLANT NAMES OF ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND Carole Biggam/Rewley House/5pm  
MEET THE CURATOR Dr Michael Vickers/The Ancient Greeks, Art and Archaeology/rm 33 Ashmolean Museum/ 6pm and 7pm  
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Children's storytelling with Michael Rosen/Ages 5-12/6.30pm  
ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Guided Tour/The Grand Tour - 18th Century European Painting./6.30pm  
ARTHURIAN SOCIETY Dr Ralph Hanna/Sir Gawain and the Green Knight/Lecture Room C/Queen's College/ 8pm

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**THEATRE REVIEW**

**Black Comedy**  
by Peter Shaffer  
Old Fire Station until Saturday

Perhaps the most ironic thing about *Black Comedy* is its title. From the pen which produced *Equus* and *Amadeus*, one might expect something deep, something funny, but fundamentally moving and thought-provoking. But no - this is farce, pure and simple. A struggling artist, Brindsley Miller, invites his fiancée's father to his home on the same evening that a rich collector is coming to view his work. Anxious to impress both, he replaces the shabby furniture in his room with that of a rather more affluent neighbour, who happens to be away for the weekend. When the electricity fails, it seems like a disaster. But it soon becomes apparent that the fact that no-one can see a thing is the only hope Brindsley has of emerging from the evening unscathed, as first the GAS COOKER AS new first £100 863879

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Lit in reverse, the play opens with the stage in darkness. Then, when the power fails, the lights come up, allowing the audience to watch and laugh as the actors grope their way around in the dark. The potential for comedy in even the simplest tasks when performed in pitch blackness is great, and this production exploits it to the full. Imaginative, slickly-rehearsed blocking keeps the interest up throughout, and provides some nerve-wracking moments as

Matthew Rogers 13.6.00

