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Next issue Fri 16th November
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MEETINGS

Thursday 15th November

CREATIVE VIGIL FOR PEACE / 6-7pm / Cornmarket
TIM SMIT / Co-founder of Eden project will sign copies of new book, 'Eden' / £1 / 7pm / Waterstone's Bookshop, Broad St / Tel: 790212

BRITISH AND FRENCH RESPONSES TO THE NEW US DEFENSE POLICY / François Gere & Ian Davidson / Free / 5pm / Maison Francaise, Norham Rd / Tel: 274220

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GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Thursday 15th November

ACOUSTIC OPEN SESSION / Free / Bring an instrument and join in / 8.30pm - midnight / Cricketers Arms, 43, Iffley Rd; Tel: 726264

ROGER BEAUJOLAIS / £4 (£2.50) / 9pm / The Spin@The Wheatshaf, Wheatshaf Alley, 129 High Street / Tel: 243276

SECTION 3 / X-Hall / Doors 7.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

LOS HOMBRES / Latin guitars / 11pm-2am / Freud, Walton Street; Tel: 311171

HIT&RUN: DJ PANIK (MOVEMENT) / Drum&Bass, Hip Hop / £3 all night / Genesis, 27 Park End Street / 8pm - late

EXHIBITIONS

Thursday 15th November

VENETIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS / Important drawings from Christ Church's old master collection / Christ Church Picture Gallery

MALCOLM SPARKES / Drawings and paintings inspired by the architecture of Oxford / Christ Church Picture Gallery

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THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2001

NEWS FROM www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Did you know:

1. The general 'For Sale' column currently carries 63 items, all under a week old. They are unusually varied & worth a look. Example: all 4 Harry Potters for £9.
2. Over 200 visits a day are made to the general 'For Sale' column.
3. Additionally, there are specialist 'For Sale' columns:
Bikes - currently 16 on offer - over 60 enquiries a day
Cars - 17 on offer - over 70 enquiries a day
Computers - 37 on offer - over 100 enquiries a day

THEATRICAL NEEDS

PRINCESS IDA (GILBERT and Sullivan) - OFS HT5 - auditions Corpus NMR Thursday 6-7.30pm. Contact: Simon 08770 918188 www.princessida.co.uk

CINEMA

To Thursday 15th November

Odeon Magdalen St 0870 5050007

THE OTHERS(15) Thur: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
Nicole Kidman gets spooked...

MOULIN ROUGE(12) Thur: 11.30, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Sumptuous musical hedonism

Odeon George St 0870 5050007

AMERICAN PIE 2(15) Thur: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45
The teenage search for sex continues

ENIGMA (15) Daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Against-the-clock code-breaking drama.

AMELIE (15) Daily: 2.30, 8.30
From the director of 'Delicatessen'

MOULIN ROUGE (12) Thur: 5.30, 8.30
Sumptuous musical hedonism.

LEGALLY BLONDE(12) Thur: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00
Reese Witherspoon becomes unlikely law student

AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS (12) Thur: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45
Romantic comedy.

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE(15) Thurs : 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30
Boy dreams of becoming angel

JEEPERS CREEPERS(15) Thur: 1.15, 3.30, 6.00, 9.00
College students unleash evil eating monster

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

THE PAROLE OFFICER(12) Thur: 6.00
Steve Coogan comedy

KOLYA(15) Thur: 8.00pm
Drama about a Czech concert cellist

RESERVOIR DOGS(18) Thur: 10.20pm
Tarrantino's gangster thriller

Phoenix Picture House 512526

THE CIRCLE(15) Thur: 2.30, 9.00
From the director of 'Delicatessen'

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE(15) Thur: 4.00, 6.30, 9.10
Coen brothers' latest

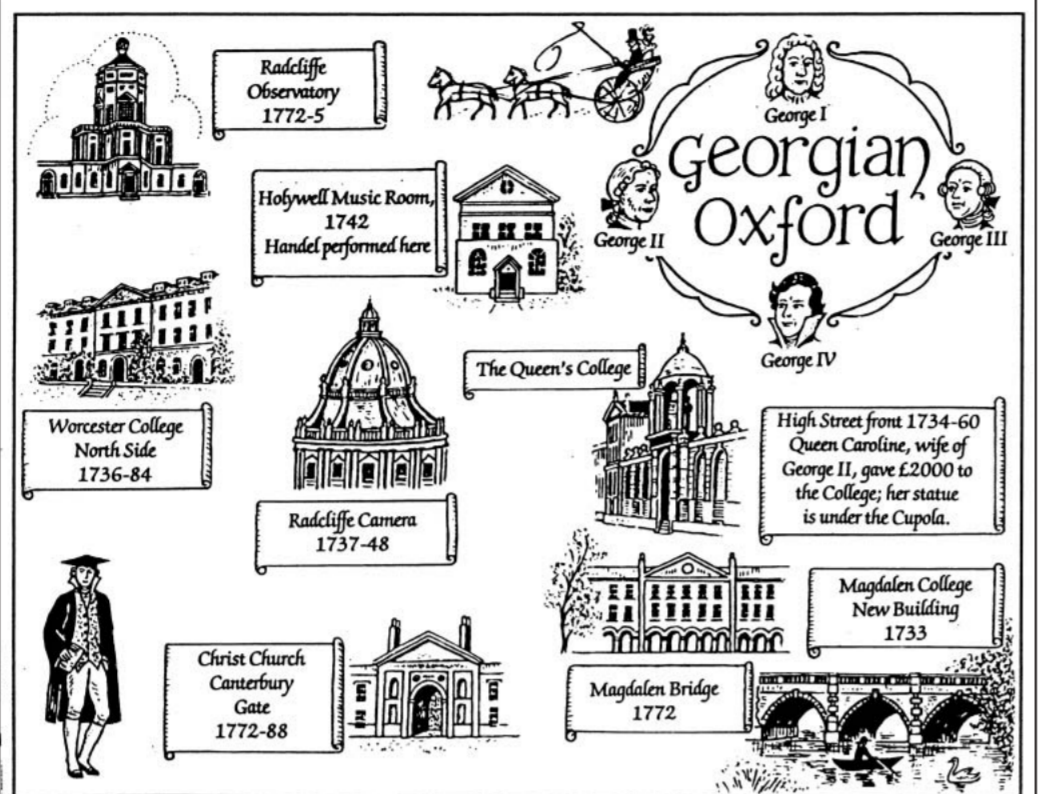
PANDAEMONIUM(12) Thur: 4.20
Friendship & Betrayal in the French Revolution

AMELIE(15) Daily: 1.40, 6.40
A young French girl has the power to change other people's lives

AKIRA(12) Thur: 11.30pm
Animated feature

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT(PG) Thur: 11.30pm
Stars Bogart & Bacall

OXFORD HISTORY



1. Eighteenth Century Oxford saw the coming and going of many great men, with or without their degrees: Dr. Johnson, William Pitt the elder, John Wesley, Jeremy Bentham....During this period, however, the University had a reputation for **idle hedonism**, and one Whig critic wrote of 'debauches professing Moral Philosophy, and teachers of Astronomy who never looked soberly on the stars.' Student numbers fell. In 1765, only 170 matriculated (compared with about 4,000 a year today); of the 170, only 98 received their degrees.

2. The **Holywell Music Room** claims to be the oldest concert hall in Europe. One of the strangest moments in its history occurred in the 1920's, when Thomas Drieberg recited his poems through a megaphone to an accompaniment of typewriters. The climax was the loud flushing of the lavatory, which in those days was just behind the platform.

3. **Worcester College** was founded in 1714 by a Worcestershire baronet; it was known as 'Worcester College, near Oxford' and sometimes as 'Botany Bay' because of its remoteness. Beaumont Street was not a thoroughfare until the 1820's, so the nearest approach was across Gloucester Green.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

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THEATRE

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THE THEFT OF SITA
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Apollo 0870 6063500

BOTTOM 4 Thur 15th: 7.30pm
'An Arse Oddity'

Old Fire Station 794490

SALOME Tue 13th - Sat 17th: 7.30; Sat Mat: 2.30
Wilde's least Wilde-like play. Some images may disturb.

Burton Taylor 793797

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Tue 13th - Sat 17th: 7.30
Wilde's story of corruption, love and loyalty.

St. John's College Auditorium

LESBIAN LAUNDERETTE Thur 15th - Sat 17th: 7.30
Finished 2nd in the Cuppers Drama Festival

REVIEW: THEATRE

Salomé

by Oscar Wilde

Old Fire Station, to Saturday 17th

Wilde's popular reputation lies with his comedies, the perfect vehicle for his remarkable wit. His *oeuvre* extends, of course, to poetry and prose - *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* and *De Profundis* being the prime examples - but it is through his plays that Wilde lives now. However, at least ten productions of *Earnest* will pass through Oxford for every one *Salomé*. We are lucky, then, to have the chance this week to see this rather atypical Wilde play performed.

Based upon the Christian myth, *Salomé* is the daughter of Herodias and stepdaughter of Herod. John the Baptist (Jokanaan in Wilde's version) has condemned the marriage of Herodias and Herod. The king has imprisoned John, but fears to have the well-known prophet killed. According to the myth, Herodias was not mollified by John's incarceration and uses *Salomé* to seduce her stepfather Herod with the dance of the seven veils, on the condition that he give her whatever she wishes. *Salomé* requests the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod acquiesces and *Salomé* and her mother get their man.

In Wilde's play, *Salomé* is no longer simply the pawn of her mother, but is transmuted into a *femme fatale*, flexing her seductive powers in order to control the men around her. Amy Hayes' performance as *Salomé* borders on the hysterical, but her dance of the seven veils reveals the extent of her talents. Her final monologue is also suitably unhinged as she gazes on the bloody result of her wiles. It was a shame that the budget wouldn't stretch to a life-like head of Chris Richardson (Jokanaan), who fails to fully exploit his

prophetic role. Half-mad, half-camp, he tries to bring humanity to a role which is structurally moribund: as Jokanaan, he has no agency as such behind his words and the attentions of *Salomé*. Will Kwong is convincingly eccentric as Herod, trapped by his own decadent desire. Emma Hill-French's Herodias is wonderfully cynical, but not quite arch enough for his taste.

There aren't many laughs in *Salomé*; it is, after all, at heart a tragedy. It's also only one act, (although for some reason this production has introduced a 15 minute interval). In short, there's little room for error and Jon Morton's direction isn't taut enough to convincingly bring this play to life. The paucity of the set, costumes and props, and the rather sterile lighting design, leaves the cast extremely exposed. I hope that once first night nerves have subsided, this production will begin to do justice to Wilde's fascinating play.

Mark Schofield
14.11.01



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