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Next issue Fri 23rd March
Deadline 10am, Thur 22nd March

FRIDAY 16TH - THURSDAY 22ND MARCH 2001

COMING

THE LIBRA PROJECT - Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500
TOM POSTER, (BBC Young Pianist of the Year), Beethoven, 'Moonlight' Sonata, Chopin, 2 Nocturnes Op.27 also Ravel & Liszt. Wednesday 4th April, 8pm, £8/£5 on door or Rewley House or 01865-270360/280367

Stainer Festival
St. Cross Church Manor Road
A Victorian Evening's Entertainment Presented by Oxford Operatic Society
Friday 16th March 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (or 2 for £10) (some available on door) or Playhouse: 798600. http://members.tripod.co.uk/johnstainer

REVIEW: THEATRE

Autodestruct
Burton Taylor Theatre
until Saturday 17th

John Smith is a laboratory technician who, in 1972, is diagnosed with terminal cancer. He chooses to spend the last few months of his life culturing and studying his cancer cells so that, as the technology becomes available in the future, his DNA can be used to generate clones identical to himself. Unknown to themselves, these clones are to be used as experimental organisms to study and understand cancer till its eventual eradication. The play visits the original John, his first clone in 2050, and the last clone, born to be cured in cancer-free 2200.
This is not a play of modest ambition: the dialogue touches on the themes of life and death, confronting certain death, on religion, science and the ethics of experimentation, on personal achievement and reward. It poses some interesting questions and just manages to avoid overuse of cliché, though perhaps one mention of the phrase "playing God" would have sufficed. Clearly, it's the work of people who have enjoyed putting it together and have given a lot of thought to the production. Particularly effective are the choreographed sequences representing the growth of John's cells and selection of the clone. The actors make excellent use of the intimacy of the Burton Taylor, which allows even whispers to be heard by the audience. A special mention should go to Pierre Marcus Dubois, playing John's brother Tim, for his extremely credible performance.
In the final scenes of the play, John 8th is awarded the Nobel Prize as the last representative of the clone that cured cancer. At the same time, it's announced that his cell line will be destroyed, and one is also left expecting that this last, disease-free John will accidentally meet a different death, no less brisk than the cancer which threatened his clonal brothers. The play also seems to be suggesting something about the futility of striving to attain immortality - in the final analysis the last John is robbed of identity, even if he does escape death by cancer. Rewarded the Nobel prize for work that he did not do, he remains a mediocrity, derided by both his wife and his colleagues. The play ends with the original John reading the letter that decides the fate of his cell line; we leave feeling as if we have just escaped a futuristic nightmare.

Lina Christopoulou, 13 / 3 / 01

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CINEMA

Until Thursday 22nd March
The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526
CHOCOLAT (12) Daily 3.45, 6.15, 9.10
Juliette Binoche defeats the church with chocolate. See review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (12) Daily 2.15 (not Sat/Sun), 4.40, 9.00
Romantic crowd-pleasing swashbuckler.
LIAM (15) Daily 2.00 (not Sat/Sun), 7.00
Working-class politics in 30's Liverpool.
PAY IT FORWARD (12) Sat/Sun 2.15
Trying to change the world.
CLOSELY OBSERVED TRAINS (15) Sun 2.00
Czech classic set under German occupation.
THE LONG GOODBYE (15) Fri/Sat 11.30pm
Sun 12 noon
Robert Altman's adaptation of Chandler's classic.
KIDS CLUB: FLUBBER (PG) Sat 2.00
No unaccompanied adults!
VICTOR VICTORIA (15) Fri 11.30pm
Julie Andrews pretends to be a female impersonator.
UNBREAKABLE (12) Sat 11.30pm
Bruce Willis is typically indestructible.
ABC Magdalen Street 251998
Bookings 0870 3339063 / Enquiries 725305
ENEMY AT THE GATES (15) Daily 6.10, 8.50
A tale of two snipers.
ABC George Street 251998
Bookings 0870 3339064 / Enquiries 723911
HANNIBAL (18) Daily 6.10, 8.50
Hopkins is hungry...
LIMITED HOURS DUE TO EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM
Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
Jeune St
SPECIAL EVENT! Director Ken Loach
Introduces his gritty, insightful film.
MY NAME IS JOE (15) Fri 16th 7pm
MEMENTO (15)
An amnesiac hunts for his wife's killer.
Fri 11.30pm; Sat 9.00, 11.30pm;
Sun-Mon 9.00; Tue-Thur 8.45
QUILLS (18) Sat-Mon 6.30
Michael Caine vs the Marquis de Sade.
BILLY ELLIOT (15) Tue-Thur 6.30
Baller secret of miner's son.

NICOLAS HODGES PIANO RECITAL
Schumann and Finnsy
Hollywell Music Room Saturday March 17th 7.30pm
Tickets £10 (65) from 01865-798600 or
mgrove@ntlworld.com or 01865-455516

Shrink Resistant
A new Comedy by Kristina Dowling-Orr
Old Fire Station, 15-17 March, 7.30pm
Tickets: £5, £7, 01 865 79490

Hollywell Music Room
Sunday 18th March
11.15 am

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REVIEW: DANCE

Richard Alston Dance Company
Playhouse, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th

The Richard Alston Dance Company is currently touring with a repertoire of 8 works. The Oxford Playhouse performances featured a colourful pick & mix of three: *Fever*, *A Sudden Exit* and *Roughcut*. The titles give an idea of Richard Alston's relative style of measurement: *Fever* is calm and beautiful, and *Roughcut* is highly polished. The show is an enjoyable way to relax after a busy week/term and refresh the soul. The Stage is bare, and the lighting minimal.
First cab off the rank is *Fever*, which is more of a slow burning inner desire than a high octave towering inferno. Fluid movements are displayed by four men and three women. The costumes are flowing satins - trousers for the men, tunics/petticoats for the women. Groups continually form, dance in unison, then separate.

THEATRE

Apollo 0870 606 3500
MASTERS OF THE MUSICALS Sun 18th 7.30
Peter Gorry performs the classics.
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart) Tue 20th & Fri 23rd, 7.15
LA TRAVIATA (Verdi) Wed 21st & Sat 24th, 7.15
BEATRICE AND BENEDICT (Berlioz) Thur 22nd, 7.15
Old Fire Station 794490
SHRINK-RESISTANT Newsquest trying to punch the advertiser's soul. Fast-moving comedy set in a US mental clinic.
SONGS FOR ALL TIME Thur 22nd 7.30
John Fletcher (voice) and Stephen Higgins (piano) present favourite pop and classical songs.
Playhouse 798600
MILL ON THE FLOSS Fri 16th 8pm; Sat 17th 2.30, 7.30
Helen Edmundson's adaptation of George Eliot's classic.
THE CANTERBURY TALES Tue 20th-Thur 22nd 7.30; Fri 16th 8pm; Sat 24th 2.30, 7.30
Chaucer in racy modern musical form.
Burton Taylor Theatre 798600
AUTODESTRUCT Fri 16th-Sat 17th 7.30
The ethical dilemmas of cancer treatment. All proceeds to cancer research.
Pegasus Theatre 722851
WOYZECK Fri 16th-Sat 17th 8pm
Part gritty realism, part surrealist dream.

BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM
STRAUSS: FOUR LAST SONGS
Oxford Harmonic Society with the Orchestra of Stowe Opera, conducted by Richard Secret
Saturday 24th March, 8pm, Sheldonian Theatre
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Welsh National Opera
The Marriage of Figaro
Sung in Italian with English surtitles Mozart
Tuesday 20 & Friday 23 March at 7.15pm
La traviata
Sung in Italian with English surtitles Verdi
Wednesday 21 & Saturday 24 March at 7.15pm
Beatrice & Benedict
Sponsored by Courts & Co Sing in English Berlioz
Thursday 22 March at 7.15pm
For further information, please contact The Marketing Department, John Street, Cardiff CF10 5SP, telephone 0800 328 2357 or find us at www.wno.org.uk
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JOBS

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ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT required for office in central Oxford. Must show knowledge of entering transactions onto accounting system, processing payroll and producing financial and management accounts. May suit accountancy student; book-keeping experience a distinct advantage. Maternity cover, approximately three days a week required. Start date mid-March. £7 p/h. Contact Office manager on 01865-201131
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REVIEW: DANCE

Richard Alston Dance Company
Playhouse, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th

Young innocent sensual relationships are portrayed in pairs. Where words fail, dance speaks as Monteverdi's madrigals engulf the audience like a warm blanket. The dancers spin around the stage noiselessly. This is Alston's latest piece, and heralds a healthy future for British contemporary dance.
A quick trip to the bar, then we are ready for *A Sudden Exit*. Although no one does leave the central figure on stage (danced by the charismatic Martin Lawrence) suddenly, they wash away from him in waves (the costumes are blue). The piece is set to Brahms Op 118 & 119 played live on stage by the gifted pianist Jason Ridgway. The male central figure begins by feeling rather chipper but concludes the piece by lying in a heap on the floor, distressed. We are a lot worse off emotionally for all the 'goodbyes' in our life, it seems. Last but not least, *Roughcut* comes as it like a rocket. The eclectic sounds of Steve Reich's New York Counterpoint & the Electric Counterpoint (with echoes of jazz, blues and African music) fire up a Friday feeling in the soul. The energetic throw-away movements of the dancers seem effortless - then you see the sweat fall off their brow and appreciate the work they are putting in. The dancers wear mainly white for this piece - the colour of new beginnings. Next stop on the troupe's whirlwind tour is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank, where they perform from the 20th to the 23rd.
Lita Doolan, 9 / 3 / 01

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MEETINGS

Friday 16th March
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK-DANCE GROUP / 310216 / 8.15-10pm / St. Giles Church Hall, 10, Woodstock Rd.
OXFORD VEGETARIANS DINING-OUT CLUB / 377563 (booking essential) / 7pm / Al Shami, 25, Wood Green Crescent
LUNCHTIME GALLERY TALK - THE ARTS OF MEIJI JAPAN / £1.50 / 278015 / 1.15-2.00pm / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street.
Saturday 17th March
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / Followed by tea / 3.15pm / St Aldate's Parish Centre, 40, Pembroke St
CHILDREN'S STORYTIME / 'Titch' / 11am / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St / Tel: 203901
ST. PATRICK'S DAY / Special A La Carte Menu / £19.95 / Open 6pm, Food Available 7.00-9.30pm / The Hand & Shears, Church Hanborough, Nr Witney. / Tel: 01993 883337.
HORRIBLE SCIENCE / With author Nick Arnold / 2pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St / 203901
TREASURES OF THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM / Guided tour of selected objects. / £1.50 / 278015 / 11am-12noon / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street.
Sunday 18th March
PROMISE AUCTION IN AID OF THE LISTENING CENTRE / 721678 / 2pm (buffet lunch, £5) / Studio Barn, Oxford Rd, Clifton Hampden
Monday 19th March
THE LIBRA PROJECT / Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500 / tba
Tuesday 20th March
FILM DISCUSSION GROUP / In association with the Phoenix Picture House / 6.30pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St
LUNCHTIME GALLERY TALK - GREEK SCULPTURE: THE CLASSICAL PERIOD / £1.50 / 278015 / 1.15-2.00pm / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street.
Wednesday 21st March
TRAILING THE TRANSPORTERS - LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT EXPOSED / With Gemunu de Silva/E5 Members / Children (includes buffet supper) / 7pm / Friends' Meeting House, 43 St Giles
BOOKS@8 / 8pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford / 203901
CELEBRATE BLACK WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS / Sharing books, information & food. 50p entrance. Contact 741317 / 7pm-9.30pm / East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street
HISTORY OF ST CROSS CHURCH AND AREA / Nigel Hall / 7.30pm / St Cross Church, St Cross Rd
DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILISATIONS THROUGH POETRY / Poetry reading in association with the United Nations Preceded by poetry reading, Borders Bookshop, 3.30pm / 7.30pm / Maison Francaise, Northam Rd, Oxford, OX2 6SE. Tel: 274220
Thursday 22nd March
PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION GROUP / 6.30pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 5AD; Tel: 203901

BIKES FOR SALE

BIKE MEN U-lock and lights £40 pierrestx@aol.net
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ONE BED FLAT wanted from APRIL under 500 pcm. jrp33@hotmail.com
ITALIAN PRM MALE, 29, seeks a room from mid May. gthet2000@yahoo.it

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

ROOM WANTED FOR 2/3 weeks asap. jp.lane@ntlworld.com / 0773761722
LOOKING FOR 4 bedroom house. For year 2001/2002. Alex, spet1007@herald.ox.ac.uk
ONE BED FLAT wanted from APRIL under 500 pcm. jrp33@hotmail.com
ITALIAN PRM MALE, 29, seeks a room from mid May. gthet2000@yahoo.it

TO LET

Paid entries head the column, and appear in larger type. Free entries appear space permitting.

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CONCERTS

Friday 16th March
ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC / Paul Goodwin, Vivaldi, Handel, Bedford, CPE Bach, Telemann / 8pm / Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street. Tel: 798600 .
A VICTORIAN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT / Oxford Operatic Society. £15/£12 Concs £12 & £2 / £12.50 790610 / 7.30pm / St Cross Church, St Cross Rd
Saturday 17th March
NICHOLAS HODGES, PIANO RECITAL / Schuman and Finnsy / Holywell Music Room, 7.30pm
SHAMROCK BAROQUE / Roland Roberts violin, Lucy Wakeford harp. £8-£17. 744457 / 8.00pm / Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street. Tel: 798600 .
Sunday 18th March
KLEMPERER PIANO TRIO / Mendelssohn, Hailstork, Arensky. £11/£9 / 8pm / 220, Cowley Rd
MASTERS OF THE MUSICALS / A medley of musical tunes. / 7.30pm / Apollo Theatre, George Street. Tel: 0870 606 3500
GARY COOPER, HARPSICHORD / Selection from Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier / Holywell Music Room, 11.15am
MUSIC FOR ALL - ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S / All day workshops/activities, leading up to live performance. Booking essential £5. Family (2 & 2) £12.50 790610 / 10.30am-5.30pm / Oxford School, Glanville Rd
Monday 19th March
THE LIBRA PROJECT / Confidential support group for alcohol and drug users on Monday evenings in Central Oxford. Tel: 01865-723500 / tba
Thursday 22nd March
SONGS FOR ALL TIME / John Fletcher (voice) & Stephen Higgins (piano) present favourite pop and classical songs. / 7.30 / Old Fire Station Theatre, George Street. Tel: 794494

EXHIBITIONS

DESIGN INTO ARCHITECTURE / An exhibition of drawings selected by the editor of The Burlington Magazine. Ends 12th April / Christ Church Picture Gallery, Christ Church (entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oriol Square) Opening times: Mon-Sat 10.30-1.00, 2.00-4.30, Sun 2.00-4.30 (Easter-end Sept closes 5.30). Tel: 276172, Fax: 202429
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OXFORD
Katarzyna Kozyra 28 January - 7 March
Mark Lewis 11 March - 22 April
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Andy Turnbull 28 January - 22 April
Charles Hill 28 January - 22 April
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FEATURE

The Real St Patrick

Be the most knowledgeable person in the pub on Saturday 17th with *Daily Information's* guide to the life of Ireland's patron Saint.
For the Irish, their Patron Saint's day is the occasion for an energetic celebration of their national identity, for everyone else in the English speaking world it is the day when they show their support for the Hibernian brewing industry. But St Patrick is a shining example of the Christian principle to love one's enemy, for he had good reason to hate the Irish: born into a high-ranking Romano-British family living in Wales, the future Saint was captured by Irish raiders aged 16, and forced to work as a slave for 6 years in Western Ireland.
After escaping to Gaul, he studied for the priesthood, adopting the name Patricius, or Patrick, upon being ordained (a reference to his noble birth, Patricius being Latin for patrician, or nobleman). The new priest seems to have had a soft spot for

Some legends about St Patrick:

- First to bring Christianity to Ireland.** It is known that Christians had reached Ireland before; the Irish traded extensively with Christian Europe, and made frequent slave-taking raids to mainland Britain (of one of which the young Patrick was a victim).
- Drove the snakes from Ireland.** There never were any snakes in Ireland. Serpents, snakes and dragons were commonly used by the early Church to symbolise paganism and demons; compare St George's slaying of the dragon in England.
- Used the shamrock to teach the doctrine of the trinity.** No evidence for this: the Shamrock (an Anglicisation of the gaelic