

**COMING**

**STALLHOLDERS WANTED FOR** Jericho Street Fair, Friday 10th June from 10am, £12 (£10 for charity). Contact 557902 or Jericho Community Centre, 33A Canal Street

WEEK 4  
Three Public Lectures by  
PROFESSOR ARMAND M. NICHOLI  
*Harvard Medical School*  
Editor, *Harvard Guide to Psychiatry*  
on  
THE CONFLICTING WORLDVIEWS OF  
SIGMUND FREUD AND C. S. LEWIS  
University Church, 8.15 p.m., May 23-25

TUESDAY MAY 23: *The Scientific Method and the Moral Law: Is there an Intelligence beyond the Universe?*

WEDNESDAY MAY 24: *Sex, Love and Joy: Contrasting Perspectives. Is the purpose of life the pursuit of pleasure?*

THURSDAY MAY 25: *The Problem of Pain and the Riddle of Death: Is suffering and death our only destiny?*

All welcome: admission free

Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre  
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20th May  
10am - 3pm  
computer  
fair  
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Until Thursday 18th May

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Based on true events in 30's America.

GHOST DOG (15) Daily 4pm, 9.15  
Gangsters, Samurais and Eastern philosophy.  
OF FREAKS AND MEN (18)  
Daily 1.45, 6.40  
Pornography in turn of last century Russia.

THE NEW EVE (18)  
Tues - Thur 4.30, 9pm  
French exploration of personal independence.

LAKE PLACID (18) Thur 11.30pm  
Something's lurking in an American lake.  
CULT CINEMA:  
CITY OF LOST CHILDREN (15)  
Thur 11.30pm  
Noir-toned fairytale of children kidnapping.

UPP, Jeune Street 245288  
AMERICAN PSYCHO (18)  
Tue - Thur 7.30pm, 9.40pm  
See review.

ABC Magdalen Street 251998  
Bookings 0541 550509 / Enquiries 725305

GLADIATOR (15) Daily 1pm, 4.25, 7.50  
Gory new tale of blood and honour in the arena.

ABC George Street 251998  
Bookings 0541 550501 / Enquiries 723911

ERIN BROCKOVICH (15) Daily 8pm  
Julia Roberts stars.

GALAXY QUEST (PG) Daily 2.55, 5.20  
Sci-fi drama.

KEVIN AND PERRY GO LARGE (15)  
Tues-Thur 1.45, 4.10, 6.25, 8.45  
Harry Enfield and Kathy Burke.

SCREAM 3 (18) Daily 2.15, 5.35, 8.20.  
Last in the horror/comedy trilogy

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Next issue Thur 18th May  
Deadline 10am, Wed 17th May

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**FILM REVIEW**

**AMERICAN PSYCHO** (18)  
Dir: Mary Hannon

At the Ultimate Picture Palace, Jeune St until Thursday

The film of Brett Easton Ellis's infamous novel finally hit the silver screen in Oxford last Friday. The Ultimate Picture Palace, usually has to play second fiddle to The Phoenix when it comes to independent and art films, but this time pulled off quite a coup by gazumping its rival. Healthy competition between movie theatres can only be good for film fans if it leads to a greater diversity of films on offer each week.

Perhaps a little uncanny, then, that the film in question attempts to satirise the worst excesses of consumer capitalism through its 'protagonist', Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale). As readers of Ellis's novel will remember, Bateman is a thoroughly nasty piece of work, a Wall Street financier who entertains sadistic fantasies of physical and sexual violence, whilst wearing designer labels, working out and socialising with his frat-pack buddies.

The novel, despite its sustained imaginative recounting of the inner life of an archetypal '80s uber-yuppie, never quite got enough grip on its milieu to effectively function as satire. The director, Mary Hannon (*I Shot Andy Warhol*), and co-writer, Guinevere Turner (*Go Fish*), have astutely cherry-picked from the novel and in the process have downplayed Ellis's obsession with gore whilst foregrounding the black comedy inherent in their narcissistic lead. Christian Bale's blank performance oscillates perfectly between the psychotic and pathetic poles of the character. In a similar way, the writer/director retains the intimacy of a first person narrative whilst dropping the novel's obsession with fashion labels and graphic violence.

Hannon adopts a commendably restrained approach, refusing the novel's suspect voyeurism, without leaving us in any doubt as to the casual sadism and rampant misogyny of our narrator. American Psycho is certainly not for the squeamish but, rather like the infamous Driller Killer, its appeal cannot be reduced to the dubious charms of the 'nasty' sub-genre. The supporting performances are excellent, including Chloe Sevigny (*Kids*) as Bateman's innocent secretary who somehow escapes his clutches and Willem Dafoe as the detective on his tail. The set design effectively recreates 1980s interiors, whilst the sound track romps through some dire classics of the decade (*Lady in Red*, *Hip to be Square* and *Sussudio* deserve a mention). Most importantly, *American Psycho*, like most of Bateman's victims, is very well cut. If you live in East Oxford, catch it at the Ultimate Picture Palace this week to lessen the disquieting walk home.

Mark Schofield, 14.5.00

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**Hilal-based Egyptian Dance**  
**RAQS SHARQI**  
Weds 3 May for 9 weeks  
Beginners 1: 7.45 - 8.45pm, £27/£3.50  
Level II: 6.15 - 7.45pm, £36/£4.50  
Jericho Centre, 33a Canal Street  
Book: Katrina Robinson, Oxford 777462



*Christian Bale contemplates using his axe.*

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**THEATRICAL NEEDS**

**AUDITIONS - 'THE PASSION OF Jerome'**, Mansfield Old Bar, Wednesday 5-9, Friday 2-6. Tel. Michelle on 249554 for further information.  
**AUDITIONS FOR MICHAELMAS** Playhouse production of Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd". Wednesday 3-6, Thursday 3.30-6 in the Burton-Taylor. Please prepare a song. Queries Liz 07773 602532

**THEATRE**

The Oxford Playhouse 798600  
LEE HURST Thur 18th, 7.30pm  
Stand-up from star of "They Think it's all over."

Old Fire Station 794490  
GUYS AND DOLLS Tue 16th - Sat 20th 7.30  
Sat mat. 2.30  
Frank Loesser's musical set on Broadway.

Burton Taylor Theatre  
PICNIC ON THE BATTLEFIELD  
Tue 16th-Sat 20th 7.30  
Fernando Arrabal's absurdist piece.  
NO EXIT Tue 16th-Sat 20th 9.30  
Sartre's examination of Hell.

Wadham Moser Theatre  
TWELFTH NIGHT Tues 16th-Sat 20th 7.30pm  
Shakespeare's comedy.

Pegasus Theatre 722851  
LEE MACK WITH TONY LAW Thur 18th 8pm  
Stand-up comedy.

**GIGS + NIGHTLIFE**

Wednesday 17th May  
Louis D'Agostino and Stevan Aleksic / Guitar Duo / 11pm - 2am / Freuds, Walton Street / 311171

**PREVIEW**

**KISS ME KATE** BY COLE PORTER  
**Magdalen College Garden Show**  
24th - 27th May (4th week)

Magdalen Players have taken on an ambitious project in transporting this award-winning Broadway musical to the horticultural sanctuary of the President's Garden. However, with an experienced technical team, they are importing state of the art sound and lighting equipment to create the American dream look whilst exporting the setting from the interior backstage to an open-air, Italian theatre. Thus the idyllic environs and glamorous image are reconciled.

'Kiss Me Kate' presents a group of players producing 'The Taming of The Shrew'. Director, Lisa Thiel, has taken an ironic slant on Shakespeare interpretation, setting the play within a play in Cole Porter's own time (1940s/50s), whilst the frame remains in contemporary time. The musical plays on the ironies inherent in acting actors, even giving the musical director a cheeky one-liner and intertwining the real relationships of the players with the relationships in their scripts. Cole realistically presents the incestuous complications frequently evident in theatrical groups, which was mirrored in his own reputed relationship with the director of the original performance.

The sensational, cheezy tunes of Porter, (It's too darn hot / 'Another Op'nin' / 'So in Love') are an unusual bedfellow for the Shakespeare, and the gangsters' (played hilariously by Jon Amberton and Kieron Quirke) 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare' seems to make this very point in a ridiculous satire: "If your blonde won't respond when you flatter'er, / Tell her what Tony told Cleopaterer." Sarah Tucker, (Lois Lane) plays an impressive flirt convincingly, balanced well by Des Fitzgerald (Bill Calhoun) with his strong, Buckley-esque voice. Daisy Press (Lilli) also sings with Haagen Dazs voluptuousness, matched by David Payne (Fred) with his deep Shakespearean tones.

Kiss Me Kate' promises to be an enjoyable piece of escapism in the Magdalen Gardens: memorable Broadway tunes mixed with light-hearted Shakespeare, both genres which we love to love.

Kate McCullagh

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

**PROFESSIONAL NONSMOKINGMALE** seeks house share / 2 others [michael.stevens@blackwellsbookshops.co.uk](mailto:michael.stevens@blackwellsbookshops.co.uk)  
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**MEETINGS**

Free Barebones entries for day of meeting only. Societies running regular, repetitive meetings will be listed separately once a week during term, under "Regular Meetings".  
Wednesday 17th May  
**POSTCARDS IN THE MORNING:** Palestinians writing in Hebrew / Dr Reuven Snir (University of Haifa) / Yarmton Manor (shuttle service from The Playhouse 7.45pm, departing Yarmton Manor 9.45pm / 8.15pm / Coffee from 8pm / All welcome  
**OU LECTURE. TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED:** Board games, ancient and modern. Dr Irving Finkel / Inorganic Chemistry Lecture Theatre, South Parks Road / 7pm. OU members + special permission only.

**FOOD AND DRINK**

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**EXHIBITIONS**

**VISUALISING INSULIN SECRETION.** The work of the scientist Frances Ashcroft on insulin secretion interpreted by the painter Benedict Rubbra. 6 May - 31 July 2000. 12-5pm daily. Free admission. Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford.  
**COLLECTOMANIA!** Free exhibition exploring individuals' emotional attachments to their collections. Monday - Saturday, 1pm - 4.30pm, until Autumn 2000. Balfour Galleries, Pitt Rivers Museum Annex, 60 Banbury Road, Oxford. 01865 270927. [www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)  
**MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES MONTH MAY 2000 - GALLERY TALKS.** Informal introductions to the Pitt Rivers Museum and its collections. Saturdays and Sundays in May, 2.30pm. Pitt Rivers Museum, Parks Road, Oxford. Free admission.  
**MASTER DRAWINGS BY JOHN RUSKIN.** A loan exhibition of his drawings and watercolours from a private collection; this is the only showing of this exhibition in the UK. Christ Church Picture Gallery, 7 April - 21 May Mon-Sat 10.30 - 1 and 2.00 - 4.30, Sunday 2 - 4.30 (till 5.30 after Easter). Tel. 276172.

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**CONTACTS**

**INTELLECTUAL CONVERSATION** over wine&coffee sought by fun, clever, lesbian girl. Box 14/5/CN/2  
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