

# WHAT'S ON

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**GIGS & JAMS**  
**Thu 19th**  
**FLAMENCO: RAFAEL & FRIENDS** / An evening of passionate music & dance 19.30 - £12.50 / 7.30pm / Oxford Playhouse, 11-12 Beaumont Street, OX1 2LW; Tel: 01865 305205

**THE HORRORS** / Rescheduled from Oct 2011 - original tickets still valid / SOLD OUT / 7pm / O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road

**CATWAZLE CLUB** / Open mic performance space for music, poetry & story / 8-11pm, £6/£5 (performers free - sign up 7.30pm) / www.catwazleclub.org / East Oxford Community Centre, 44b Princes Street (corner of Cowley Rd)

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**LIVE LOUNGE CAPE** / Homegrown Oxfordshire acoustic goodness / 8.30pm, free / The Cape of Good Hope, 1 Ifley Road, OX4 1EA; Tel: 01865 262291

**HEAVY DEXTERS** / 6-piece jazz-funk ensemble / 8.30pm, free / Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, OX2 7DX; Tel: (01865) 554484

**DINO BAPTISTE** / blues/soul / 8.30pm, free / The Living Room, 1 Oxford Castle, New Road, OX1 2AH

**COMEDY CASE JANUARY** / Student comedy night / 7pm, £8 (£6 adv) / 5466events.dailyinfo.co.uk / www.facebook.com/events/253625080004048 / 01235 355588 / Abingdon & Witney College, Performing Arts Theatre, Wootton Road, Abingdon, OX14 3GA

**Fri 20th**  
**THE BIG TEN INCH** / The Severed limb live + rockabilly, vintage r&b, ska & soul DJs / Skylarkin' Soundsystem / 9pm-3am, £5 / www.bigtenten.co.uk / The Cellar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket

**JEZ LOWE** / English folk singer / Oxford Folk Club / 8.30pm, £6 / www.oxfordfolkclub.com / Folly Bridge Inn, 38 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4PX

**NOVANA, ALICE'S PEARL GARDEN** / Nirvana tribute band / 6.30pm, £8 / O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: Box Office: 0844 477 3000

**CERTAIN AMTS** / Chris Atton & Martin Hackett plus members of Oxford Improvisers / 8.30pm, £6-£8 / www.oxfordimprov.co.uk / Richard Hamilton Building, Headington Hill Campus, Oxford Brookes University

**THE TALC DAEMONS** / Devilishly own-pah reggae & punitiously ping-pong pop / 9pm, free / thetcatman@hotmail.com / The Half Moon, 18 St Clements

**ADINA & JOHNSON** / Rock & blues / 9.30pm, free / www.attemptentertainment.com / 07906 945339 / Cricketers Arms, 43 Ifley Road (corner of Circus Street)

**GAVIN & PETER** / Popular covers / 8.30pm, free / The Living Room, 1 Oxford Castle, New Road

**THE TMS + EMMA & ROD** / Soul/Latin/jazz feat. Emma Smith, Tim Laphorn, Rod Youngs & Tim Dawes / PureBlissMusic / 8.15pm, free. Pise boob / dining / http://pureblissmusic.com / 07970062729 / The Talk House, Wheatley Road, Stanton St John, OX33 1EX

**NEW REST LOUN OPEN MIC** / With Mark Atherton / 8.30pm, free / 07976 619939 / Red Lion (Eynsham), The Square, Eynsham OX29 4HW

**GINEMA to Fri 20 Jan**

**Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)**  
**BABY CLUB: ANOTHER EARTH [12A]** Thu: 12.30pm  
 On a twin Earth a scientist and a composer's lives might have gone very differently. Exclusive screening for parents with babies under 1.

**MONEYBALL [12A]** Thu: 4.15pm  
 Brad Pitt as a maverick baseball manager who uses computer analysis to pick his team.

**LAS ACACIAS [12A]** Thu: 7.00pm  
 Tender and thoughtful indie music from South America. Spanish with subtitles.

**ANOTHER EARTH [12A]** Thu: 9.00pm  
 On a twin Earth a scientist and a composer's lives might have gone very differently.

**THE LADY [12A]** Thu: 9.00pm  
 Biopic of Burmese national heroine Aung San Suu Kyi.

**DREAMS OF A LIFE [12A]** Fri: 7.00pm  
 Film about Joyce Kilmer, who was found dead in her bed in 2003.

**Phoenix Picturehouse (0871 9025736)**  
**THE IRON LADY [12A]** Thu: 1.20, 3.30, 6.20, 8.30pm  
 Meryl Streep plays Margaret Thatcher.

**THE ARTIST [PG]** Thu: 1.00, 3.45, 6.00, 8.45pm  
 Silent, black and white film - made in 2011.

**WAR HORSE [12A]** Fri: 12.00pm, 2.45, 5.45, 8.30pm  
 Controversial Spielberg treatment of Michael Morpurgo's heartwrenching story.

**Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)**  
**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED [U]**  
 Loveable rodents in island adventure. Thu: 10.00am, 12.00, 2.00, 5.20pm

**HAYWIRE [15]** Thu: 7.40pm; Fri: 11.20am, 1.30, 4.10, 6.20, 8.30, 10.40pm  
 Black ops soldier has to use all her skills to survive after she's double crossed.

**PUSS IN BOOTS [U] (2D)** Thu: 11.00am, 1.10, 3.30pm  
 Feline meets femme fatale Kitty Softpaws and Humpty Dumpty.

**THE ARTIST [PG]** Thu: 10.20am, 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 7.40pm  
 Extraordinary black and white silent film, set in Hollywood in the era of the talkies.

**THE IRON LADY [12A]** Thu: 10.20am, 12.20, 3.20, 5.50, 8.20pm  
 Meryl Streep plays Margaret Thatcher. Fri: 12.10, 6.10, 8.10, 10.30pm

**THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO [18]** Thu: 5.40, 9.00pm; Fri: 9.20pm  
 Rooney Mara stars as anti-social psychopath.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS [12A]** Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.45pm  
 Holmes and Watson join forces once again to defeat Professor Moriarty.

**THE DARKEST HOUR [12A] (3D)** Thu: 1.20, 2.20, 4.20, 6.30, 8.40pm  
 Russian youths defend Earth from aliens who've got into the power supply.

**WAR HORSE [PG]** Thu: 10.30am, 1.40, 2.10, 4.50, 7.30, 8.00pm  
 Fri: 10.30, 11.30am, 1.40, 3.00, 4.50, 7.30, 8.00pm  
 Controversial Spielberg treatment of Michael Morpurgo's heartwrenching story.

**SHAME [18]** Thu: 10.40am, 1.20, 3.50, 6.20, 8.50pm; Fri: 6.20, 9.50pm  
 Michael Fassbender is a Manhattan sex addict whose life spirals out of control.

**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: GHOST PROTOCOL [12A]** Thu: 12.10, 3.05, 5.55, 8.50pm; Fri: 3.10, 8.40pm  
 Tom Cruise returns to do another impossible thing.

**UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING [18] (3D)** Fri: 11.00am, 1.10, 3.20, 5.30, 7.40, 10.00pm  
 Kate Beckinsale returns as vampire warrior Selene.

**THE SITTER [15]** Fri: 12.20, 2.10, 4.20, 8.40pm  
 Comedy in which suspended college student finds babysitting a challenge.

**W. E. [15]** Fri: 11.10am, 1.50, 4.30, 7.10pm  
 Film about Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, and a love affair in the present day.

**Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)**  
**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: GHOST PROTOCOL [12A]**  
 Ethan Hunt must work even deeper undercover than usual to clear the name of the IMF.  
 Thu: 2.45, 5.45, 8.45pm

**SHAME [18]** Thu: 3.45, 6.30, 9.00pm; Fri: 2.30pm  
 Michael Fassbender is a Manhattan sex addict whose life spirals out of control.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS [12A]** Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm  
 Holmes and Watson join forces once again to defeat Professor Moriarty.

**THE ARTIST [PG]** Thu: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.20pm  
 Silent, black and white film - made in 2011.

**THE DARKEST HOUR [12A] (3D)** Thu: 2.30, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm  
 Russian youths defend Earth from aliens who've got into the power supply.

**THE IRON LADY [12A]** Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm  
 Meryl Streep plays Margaret Thatcher.

**CORALIANUS [15]** Fri: 3.00, 5.45, 8.00pm  
 Grity new Shakespeare with Ralph Fiennes.

**HAYWIRE [15]** Fri: 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm  
 Black ops soldier has to use all her skills to survive after she's double crossed.

**JEDGAR [15]** Fri: 2.00, 5.15, 8.30pm  
 Biopic of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

**W. E.** Fri: 2.45, 5.30, 8.15pm  
 Film about Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, and a love affair in the present day. Subtitled Fri 5.30pm

**Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)**  
**THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO [18]**  
 English language remake of Larsson's first novel about computers, crime and corruption.  
 Thu: 1.15, 4.30, 8.00pm

**WAR HORSE [12A]** Fri: 2.00, 5.15, 8.30pm; Fri: 2.00, 5.15, 8.30pm  
 Controversial Spielberg treatment of Michael Morpurgo's heartwrenching story.

**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: GHOST PROTOCOL [12A]** Fri: 6.00pm  
 Ethan Hunt must work even deeper undercover than usual to clear the name of the IMF.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS [12A]** Fri: 3.30, 9.00pm  
 Holmes and Watson join forces against Professor Moriarty.

**CHINESE STATE CIRCUS** at the New Theatre  
**Thu 19 - Fri 20 Jan**  
 Tickets £14 - £25  
 Family Ticket for four: £64 - £74 (top two prices)

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**THEATRE to Sat 21 Jan**

**New Theatre (0844 8471585)**  
**CHINESE STATE CIRCUS** Thu 19th: 8pm; Fri 20th: 5pm & 8pm  
 The highly awaited return of China's greatest circus. £14 - £25, Family of 4 £64 - £74

**THE CLASSIC ROCK SHOW** Sat 21st: 8pm  
 A mix of selected tracks from the ten best selling rock albums of all time. £25 - £35

**Oxford Playhouse (305305)**  
**FLAMENCO: RAFAEL AND FRIENDS** Thu 19th: 7.30pm  
 An evening of passionate music and dance. £19.50 - £12.50

**SUGGS** Fri: 8pm; Sat: 8pm  
 Suggests attempts to unravel the mysteries of his own life. £19.50 (inc concs).

**FAIRPORT CONVENTION** Sat 21st: 7.30pm  
 Folk rock originators kick start new tour in Oxford. £20

**Kennington Village Centre**  
**CINDERELLA** Fri 20th: 7.30pm; Sat 21st: 2pm & 7.30pm  
 By Joe Graham. Includes toe tapping tunes and lots of fun for all the family. £8.50 (£6)

**JdP Building, St Hilda's (286660)**  
**NOW UNTIL THE HOUR** Thu 17th - Fri 20th: 8pm; Sat 21st: 8pm  
 A woman telling stories. A woman telling lies. A woman speaking the truth. A new play by David K. O'Hara. £8. Q&As follows the Saturday performance.

**MEETINGS & LECTURES**  
**Thu 19th**  
**PRACTICE PUBLIC SPEAKING** / Oxford Isis Toastmasters meet the 1st & 3rd Thu of each month / 7.15pm, guests free / www.oxford-issispk.co.uk / 07973 837575 / Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, OX1 1DP

**GEOLOGY LECTURE** / James Parkinson - an eventful life by Dr Cheryl Lewis / Oxford Geology Group / 7.10pm, £2 non-members fee. www.oxgog.org.uk / 01865 513066 / Earth Sciences Dept., South Parks Road, OX1 3AN

**EMERGING HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES** / Directly targeting cancerous cells; using mobile phones to diagnose & treat; sharing data; we're wary of such advances or welcome them as the way forward? / 7.30pm, free / www.ox.ac.uk/go/mid=22714 / 01865 287437 / Oxford Martin School, Old Indian Institute, 34 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BD

**STRATEGIC CURRICULA** / A Global Analysis of Organisational Change. Dr Camille Kandiko, King's College London / 4-5.30pm / www.ox.ac.uk/go/mid=22681 / 01865 286811 / Oxford Learning Institute, Suite X, Littlegrave House, 16/17 St Ebbes, Oxford, OX1 1PT

**RE-FASHION EVENT** / Bring unwanted clothes for selling, swapping, adapting or recycling / 7-7pm / Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1DP

**WRITING WORKSHOP** / Author Nicola Morgan discusses all aspects of how to 'write to be published' / 7-9pm, £20 / events.oxford@blackwell.co.uk / 01865 333623 / Blackwells Bookshop, 48-51 Broad St

**ILLUMINATING SCIENCE: DIAMOND LIGHT SOURCE** / Talk on the role Diamond plays in all aspects of science in the region / Scibar / 6.30pm, free / http://oxfordscibar.com / The Port Mahon, 82 St Clements

**MARY RUSSELL: MY HOME IS YOUR HOME** / Cycloz member discusses her book on cycling in Syria / Cycloz / 7.30pm, free / www.cycloz.org / Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles

**INFORMAL WOMEN'S NETWORKING** / Friendly event for women considering a career change/new venture / More to Life Than Shoes / 7pm, free / zefestahion@gmail.com / 07967 636218 / The Oxford Retreat, 1-2 Hyde Bridge Street

**NEEDLES & MATTER** / Bring your sewing, knitting, mending etc. / 9-10.30am, £3 / liz.king@rossiesterne.co.uk / 01235 533281 / Rosie's Tea Room, West St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5BL

**Fri 20th**  
**THE MATCH OF THE CENTURY** / Film of the famous 1953 England-Hungary match, with drinks / Oxford Hungarian Society / 8pm / http://hungsoc.org.uk / 01865 736973 / McGregor Room, Oriel College

**COMMUNITY & JUSTICE** / Jonathan Aitken talks about a spiritual journey 'from Power to Prison to Peace'. All welcome / 7.30pm, free / gain.knight@stnicholas-summertown.org.uk / St Michael & All Angels (Summertown), Lonsdale Road, Summertown, OX2 7ES

**THE NEUROSCIENCE OF CREATIVITY** / 3 steps in the creative process can be expressed in terms of neuronal connections: deconstruction, new associations & significance / Creativity Lecture Series 2012 / 5pm / www.ox.ac.uk/go/mid=22766 / 01865 272727 / O'Reilly Theatre (Kebble College), entrance at Blackhall Road

**OXFORD HUMANISTS MEETING** / Oxford University students publicise 'Think Week' 2012 / Oxford Humanists / Non-mem: £3.00m. / oxfordhumanists.org.uk / 01865 891876 / Restore, Manzil Way, off Cowley Rd

**RAJASTHAN ON HORSEBACK & 2011 CAMEL FAIR** / Anita Segar - President, Society for Graduates / 8pm, £3 (non-members) / Linacre College, St Cross Road

**PHD MEETING** / Students social meeting, all majors welcome / 6pm / yaz2eed@hotmail.com / 07795 030600 / Coffee Republic, 35 New Inn Hall St

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 The successful candidate will have a variety of administrative responsibilities which will contribute to the smooth running of the school.  
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 Closing Date: Friday 3rd February, 1pm

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**OXFORD PLAYHOUSE** is looking to appoint an Assistant Front of House Manager. £17,608 pa. Only completed application forms accepted. Application packs can be downloaded from [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com) or email the link below. Closing date Friday 3 February 2012. 38u75@users.dailyinfo.co.uk

## INTERVIEW: STEVEN SPIELBERG

Steven Spielberg, arguably the most famous film director in the world, gives Daily Info's Glenn Watson a few words about his latest film, *War Horse*. And takes us on a quick canter through the highs, lows and influences of his forty year career.

*In making War Horse, what research did you do about the First World War?*  
 I feel deeply responsible making a movie that touches on historical fact. So we did a lot of research beyond what you may perceive. One of the things I learned was the vast number of casualties among horses. This was the death knell of the horse, the end of the horse as an instrument of warfare. This was the era of the machine, the tank, the aeroplane, chemical warfare. It all converged on the First World War; a kind of experimental war.

*Did you draw your inspiration more from the book or the stage play?*  
 This is Michael Morpurgo's baby but I drew more from Richard Curtis' script. He was my principal writer throughout. I was very drawn to the way Richard saw the story. He didn't want Albert to come back into the movie until very late. So we have a hiatus from our central character. We don't see him again until the third act. That was something Richard brought to the equation.

*It's a very British film in both location and cast. What was it like shooting in Devon?*  
 The Devon location has some of the most natural wonders in all of England - the tors are so beautiful. I've only seen something like that once and that was in New Zealand. We couldn't believe it. The original script didn't have the budget to allow us to go there - but we stretched it so that we could. It was worth every penny.

*So were the beautiful skies in the film real or digital?*  
 The skies and sunsets you see in the movie are the ones we experienced on set. But it took three days to shoot the sunset at the end of the film. I had this idea based on a spectacular sunset but I only got about five shots - the sun goes down awful fast in Devon. So we had to come back again and again to get matching skies.

*In War Horse you seem to be showing your appreciation of your director-heroes.*  
 Yes of course. John Ford, Howard Hawks, Raoul Walsh, Lewis Milestone, Victor Fleming, Michael Curtiz. Many more than that. The works of John Ford - *How Green Was My Valley*, *The Quiet Man* - are very evocative. He painted beautiful landscapes. That's what the old directors did. They shot the land they were standing on and included it as part of the storytelling. It's fun putting on a wide angle lens and not having to shoot close-ups.

*Do you consider War Horse to be a war film (since it feels much more than that)?*  
 I don't see it as a war story. It's not like *Saving Private Ryan* or *Band of Brothers*. There's hardly any blood in it; only about 15 minutes of combat. I wanted families to see this picture. In *Private Ryan* I was trying to acquit the actual testimonies of the young men that fought on D-Day. I took a different approach with *War Horse*.

*You seem to have a special interest in making historical films.*  
 Europeans are closer to history than we Americans are. Social media has taken over to such an extent in America that even to get my own kids to look back a week is a miracle - let alone a hundred years. History was the only thing I did well at school. I'm not ashamed to admit I wasn't a good student. But I was great at history.

*Many of your films are about 'the common man'. Is the horse symbolic of that here?*  
 You've asked a wonderful question. That's something I thought about a lot and is part of my thematic raison d'etre for getting involved in *War Horse*. Joey represents common sense. Good question.

*How did you keep the animals safe when shooting the film?*  
 Nothing was ever done to put the animals under stress. That was important to all of us. If I had a crazy idea, the trainer would say "I can do that safely" or "I can't do that safely". The Humane Society were there every day. I said to them, you've got the power over me. If you ever see an animal under any kind of duress you can say 'cut' and stop the take.

*Looking back on your career, where did it all start to go right for you?*  
 The turning point was *Jaws*. Before *Jaws* I was a director for hire. Afterward I could do any movie I wanted. Hollywood just wrote me a cheque. I wanted to make a movie about flying saucers but nobody wanted to make it before *Jaws*. Thought I was crazy and wouldn't give me the time of day. When *Jaws* was a hit, everyone said "What about that mothership movie?"

*You've also famously worked with very new and young actors, as you do here.*  
 I'm accustomed to working with actors with no experience. Drew Barrymore in *ET*, Christian Bale in *Empire of the Sun*. I trust their authenticity. My job is to get them to...

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**...INTERVIEW, CONTINUED**  
 ...be themselves. Often you get a newcomer in front of the camera and they freeze up. Or imitate other performances they've admired. My job as director is to return them to what I first saw in them. An uncensored human being.

*In a time of financial crisis, is Hollywood preoccupied with money and budgets?*  
 It might look that way if you read the papers. The media is obsessed with business, numbers and studios. But as filmmakers we don't feel that way. We just go off and tell our stories. And it's the same torture we endure as our forefathers endured making movies in the golden era.

*So how do you choose which films to direct?*  
 It sounds glib but they choose me. I don't go through a tortuous intellectual process. I know what I want to direct when it grabs me in a certain way. Then I spend the next six months trying to talk myself out of it. Kathleen my producer tries to trap me. She knows I want to make it so she starts spending money so I'll have to do it.

*Do you ever feel like stopping? Are there ever any 'downs' for Steven Spielberg?*  
 The perceived downs are about managing my time. Feeling I haven't enough time for my family and friends. I have seven children. When my career gets me in a chokehold so that I can't see my kids' soccer games or horse races that really depresses me. Everything else you take with a grain of salt. Your movie does well or it doesn't do well. You live through that.

*But your daughter had a hand in you taking on War Horse didn't she?*  
 My daughter Destry has been competitively riding for about eleven years. We love horses and have ten of them at home. My wife rides dressage. When Destry heard Kathy had found the book - and the play - of *War Horse*, and before I saw it, she said you have to make it...for me!

*Why do think John Williams' music suits your films so much?*  
 John and I have worked together for forty years this year, starting on *Sugarland Express* in 1972. In about three months, he'll score my next film, *Lincoln*. John's the most important collaborator I've ever had. Other collaborators don't get singled out for credit - even though my films wouldn't have the same impact without them. But John's music immediately goes straight to the heart.

**Glenn Watson, 15th Jan 2012**

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