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Next issue: Fri 22nd November
Deadline: 10am, Thurs 21st November

Thursday 21st NOVEMBER 2002 (Week 6)

COMING

TALK AND MEDITATION PRACTICE on the Yoga of Self-Knowledge. Saturday 30 November, 2.30-4pm at the Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way, off Cowley Road. All Welcome. Organised by Shanti Sadan. Tel: 020 7727 7846

THE ARCADIAN SINGERS will be performing Howells Requiem and Purcell's Te Deum and Jubilate in D. Saturday 23rd November, Merton College Chapel, 8pm. Tickets on the door £8/£5(concs)/£3(OUMS)

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CINEMA

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
THE GURU (15) Thu: 7.30
Comedy of mistaken identity.
BAISE MOI (18) Thu: 9.30
Revenge rampage shocker.
Odeon George Street 0870 5050007
28 DAYS LATER (18) Daily: 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 (W/A)
Clever British horror as rage-making virus escapes lab.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
SIGNS (12A) Thu: 1.00
Are aliens coming? See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
MR DEEDS (12A) Daily: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 9.15
Winona Ryder & Adam Sandler in romantic comedy
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)
Daily: 12.30, 1.30, 4.15, 5.00, 8.00, 8.30
Part two of seven....
DIE ANOTHER DAY (12A) Thu: 11.15, 11.45, 2.15, 2.45, 5.15, 5.45, 8.15, 8.45
The New James Bond. See review above right
Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007
XXX (12A) Thu: 1.45, 4.45, 8.00, 8.07
With adrenalin junkies. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG) Daily: 12.00, 3.45, 7.30
Part two of seven.... will she write them all?
Phoenix Picture House 512526
BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE (15) Thu: 11.30pm
Award-winning documentary on violence within US culture.
See review on this sheet
RABBIT-PROOF FENCE (PG) Daily: 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45
Three aborigine girls escape back to their people. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
MONTY PYTHON'S HOLY GRAIL (PG) Thu: 11.30
The Pythons romp through medieval England.
W/A = Wheelchair Access

Dyson Perrins Laboratory was built in 1915



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OPERA REVIEW



Dido and Aeneas

Trojan Productions
Burton Taylor Theatre until Sat 23rd

Another tiny show for a tiny venue. Purcell's mini-opera Dido and Aeneas is very simple, with a minimal cast and a gentle, lilting score, and although there's barely room for the actors once the harpsichord has been fitted in, the Burton Taylor is an ideal venue for such a small-scale work. The lack of elaborate scenery is compensated for by the concentrated plot and by Purcell's delightful music, and no gimmicks are needed to make the production enjoyable.

There is plenty of drama within the music, and the cast convey this very effectively through gesture and movement. Emily Johnston is initially a very demure Dido, but reveals great intensity of emotion in her rendition of 'When I am laid in earth', a true test for any performer. Cissie Fu creates a wonderfully scheming Sorceress, plotting the separation of the two lovers with great zest.

The players also work well in ensemble. A chorus of just four singers support the soloists as well as supplying Purcell's lovely dance-like chorus numbers. Despite some discrepancies in pitch the voices are well-matched and the performers animated, and are clearly enjoying the music.

If you somehow managed to walk into this production five minutes before the end, you might not find the sight of Dido, clad in black and wielding a syringe, a particularly approachable introduction to the world of opera, as the cast state they hope to present. However, these rather alarming final scenes shouldn't detract from the fact that this is a well-thought-out production that combines the best of the old and the new simply and sweetly.

O Rowland, 19.11.02

MEETINGS / LECTURES

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Put YOUR meetings or lectures up - immediately, any time and free - at
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DR TALI LOEWENTHAL / Post-Modern Aspects of Hassidism, Oxford Chabad Society / The Old Lodge, Herford College / 8.00pm / All welcome! / Web: www.chabadofoxford.org / Email: oxfordchabad@aol.com

PARABLE EXPOSITIONS, BASED ON THE TRINITY, THE INDIAN ROPE TRICK OF THEOLOGY / Oxford Gnostic Association Open Lecture / 7.30pm / Oxford Town Hall, 109-113 St Aldate's; Tel: 252195

MARK ELLIS LECTURE TOUR / Book launch: / University Church of St. Mary / 3.30 for 4.00 pm in the Chancel

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EL SALVADOR / Joaquin Villalobos, St Antony's College / 5pm in Hood Room / St Cross College, St Giles

THIS HOUSE APPROVES OF CURRENT LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION TO BRITAIN / Francis Cairncross, Simon Hughes MP, Prof David Coleman & Howard Flight MP speaking / Emergency debate: 7.45. Debate: 8.30pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court

THEATRE REVIEW



After the Dance

Oxford Playhouse until Sat. 23rd

Set in the rag-end of the 30s, Terence Rattigan's second play is a judgemental look at the not-so-bright, not-so-young things still trying to party as the next generation is busy stacking up the chairs. Originally the play opened in 1939, and only ran for a few weeks before the war changed everyone's concerns. Since then it has had something of the reputation of a lost masterpiece, but Rattigan himself described the play as "turgid" and certainly it is rather wordy and earnest, and occasionally overflows with the bitterness of recently lost innocence. Still, Oxford Stage Company's show is fine matinee fare, full of melodrama and cliché (though none the worse for that), and a great opportunity to see TV comedy regulars giving some outrageously fine performances. We open with a young woman falling for her boyfriend's much older, married guardian, deciding she knows what is best for him, and setting to sorting out his life, starting with the drink.

This rather slight story of sexual attraction and disapproval across the generations blooms into a proper three-hanky tragedy as poor David (an endearing Michael Siberry), bumbling and easily led, is prised from his wife, played with brittle sophistication and poignant desolation by Catherine Russell, by Helen (an ambitious performance from Anna Hope), nicely unlikeable with her beauty and youth and monopoly on truth. Jamie Parker gives a superbly sensitive performance as jilted boyfriend and wronged son Peter from his priggish first appearance to his tarnished reprise in the final act. Star turns come from Bob Barrett, unrepentantly parasitic as the couple's ambiguous flatmate, the deliciously drunk and disgraceful Joanna Scanlan, a splendidly acidic Joanne Howarth as Miss Potter, and an amusingly monosyllabic Ed Grant. This is splendid technicolor fare, full of stiff upper lips and hard romantic choices, and highly recommended.

Jeremy Dennis, 19.11.02

it...be it" is what this show urges you to do. Uninhibited desires and mould-breaking characterises this show, and the spark it produces still sends the audience wild.

All the characters are larger than life cardboard cut outs, and seem to represent types of sexual behaviour. For example the shy and sensible Janet, through to the untamed sexual energy of Frank, who is free of morals or constriction. The show is full of opposites; like the good and the bad, the tame and the wild, being faithful, and being tempted. The Rocky Horror show celebrates difference in people, and provides an accommodating atmosphere for anyone to be themselves. Don't expect great meaning or depth to this show, but do expect full-on fun and entertainment. Enter at your own risk!

Sarah Vanstone 18.11.02

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THEATRE REVIEW



ROCKY HORROR SHOW 30th anniversary tour APOLLO THEATRE UNTIL SATURDAY 23RD

Anyone who wants to let their hair down, dress up or dare to bare, and generally have a wild time: The Rocky Horror Show is for you. Loud and proud, the audience were as much as part of the show as the actors were. Plenty of calling out and dancing along with the songs is required, and the sexual experimentalism in the atmosphere is enough to get anyone turned on.

For those of you that are not familiar with the musical, the general story line is of a conventional, wholesome young all-American couple who get lost on a drive, and stumble across a large manor house, home to transsexual transvestite Frank N Furter, and his varied sex-slave company. The couple get drawn into the action, taste the forbidden fruit of temptation, and question their marriage engagement.

The grand host Frank N Furter (played by Jonathan Wilkes) is occupied by his quest for a perfect lover with the ideal body. He creates his vision Frankenstein-style, creating Rocky, his hot young buck in leopardskin pants. He is eventually killed, and the remaining company leave for their home planet of Transsexual in the galaxy of Transylvania, leaving fifties couple Brad and Janet alone and bewildered.

Christine Hamilton appears as an effective narrator, while Neil makes an appearance in suspenders and drag! The general statement about sexual assertion and the mixed pleasure in tasting the forbidden fruit is what stands out. The chanted line "Don't dream

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OXFORD INFO

SOME SCIENCE BLOCKS

Metallurgy
Nuclear Physics, and Engineering - whose windows are said to have been so made that they fell out when it rained
Dyson Perrins: Organic Chemistry - after Perrins as in Worcester Sauce
Zoology and Experimental Psychology
Desmond Morris took his D.Phil here
Sir Christopher Wren was Savilian Professor of Astronomy
Halley predicted the return of his comet in Oxford
Astrophysics
Mary Potter

Oxford has seen many spectacular scientific advances, including Boyle's law of gas expansion, and Robert Hooke's identification of the human cell, both in the 1660s. Today, the extreme specialisation of scientists makes "Eureka" style discoveries such as these rarer; by the time a new principle becomes generally accepted, a great many people have contributed to it.

The buildings in the science area are often just as remarkable as the work going on inside them - some, like the engineering building, for rather the wrong reasons. The story goes that the engineers decided to dispense with architects and build themselves a proper department. They made their window frames out of two different metals, which in damp conditions formed a battery, with a current flowing between them. Fairly swiftly, if no action had been taken, the frames would have corroded away leaving the window panes to fall out.

The Dyson Perrins Laboratory bears an inscription whose meaning is not immediately obvious, but affords some pleasure to the anagrammatic mind. It gives the architect's name and college, and a comment: "BALLIOLENSIS FECI HYDATOEUCUS O SI MELIUS" - "Waterhouse (Hydatococcus via Greek to Latin) of Balliol made it - O that it was better!". If you extract all the Latin numerals (LLIICID-CVIMLIV) and put them in the correct order (largest to smallest, left to right) you find out when it was built. Find the answer on the left-hand corner of this sheet!



GIGS

DRUM N BASS DANCE NIGHT / £3 B4 10.00, £4 after / 9.00pm-2.00am / The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street
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