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Oxford's DAILY INFORMATION
www.dailyinfo.co.uk
Issue No. 7345

Queries 553377 (Mon-Fri 9-5) /423433
Adverts 554444 or via our website:
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Words@30p (min 10), display@£8/cm (min 3),
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Next issue: Friday 24th January
Deadline: 10am, Thursday 23rd January

Thursday 23rd JANUARY 2003 (1st Week)

COMING

AMERICANISATION & ANTI-AMERICANISM: GLOBAL VIEWS OF THE U.S.A.

The Rothermere American Institute is pleased to announce a series of seminars addressing global perceptions of the United States of America. America's global presence in the twentieth century has elicited a variety of reactions - from sympathetic emulation to caustic denunciation. Around the world, peoples of various nations have admired America for its democracy, egalitarianism and social dynamism while others have loathed its lack of refinement and its "cultural imperialism". This seminar series approaches the topic of American image(s) abroad from within a number of disciplines and with a variety of perspectives.

All seminars will take place at the Rothermere American Institute, 1A South Parks Road, Oxford. All are welcome. For a list of speakers and more information please see the RAI's website at www.rai.ox.ac.uk, or contact Cheryl Hudson at cheryl.hudson@rai.ox.ac.uk or (01865) 282711

a musical event for world peace
PEACE TONIGHT!
Thursday 23rd January
7:30pm At Oxford Town Hall
FREE ADMISSION
www.globalretreatcentre.com/peace

THE OXFORD SINFONIA. Saturday 25th January 8pm.
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THEATRE REVIEW

Faith Healer

Burton Taylor Theatre until Sat. 25th

Brian Friel's later play 'Translations', that darling of the A-level syllabus, examines the political circumstances under which Celtic place names might mutate and become anglicised. His 1979 'Faith Healer' riffs on a mantra, a sort of self-calming device for each of the three characters, composed of the names of "dying Welsh villages." This mutation of place-names - "Welsh - Scottish - over the years they become indistinguishable" - affirms the individual's power to fictionalise the world it lives in, an impulse at the heart of the colonial acts that 'Translations' examines. And in this world in which place names and personal names mutate according to circumstances, what exactly is it that we can have faith in? Brian Friel's moving and gloriously intelligent play is an examination of the nature of personal faith, centred around three characters' recollections of events in the life of "the fantastic Francis Hardy, Faith Healer." And to a great extent, this is also an examination of theatrical faith, the audience's simultaneous trust and disbelief in what they're watching. Which character do we place our trust in, when their monologues offer differing interpretations of single events, sometimes subtly inconsistent, sometimes radically discordant? Is it possible to believe in what's on stage at all, when, to some extent, it is unapologetically charlatan? Of course it's possible, 'Faith Healer' affirms - this is what love is all about; but just don't expect it to be healing.

This is quite simply one of the best productions I've seen in Oxford over the past four years. The acting is uniformly superb, with Polly Findlay distinguishing herself as Frank's nervy wife Grace, a posh patrician judge's daughter slumming it with her mountebank. Ian Goodman's rendition of the cockney Teddy provides a wonderfully comedic foil to Grace's emotionally fraught monologue, before offering an utterly moving account of unconditional love and personal faith. And Richard Darbourne, too, is suitably dishevelled and elusive; evading the spotlight as much as he evades being pinned down under a fixed description by Grace and Teddy. The staging was sparse but beautiful, a fantastical flickering reminder of the candlelit 1950s church halls in which Frank Hardy would have offered his own theatrical performances. I really can't praise Faith Healer enough: impeccable acting, impeccable direction, and one of the most beautiful and painful plays of the past 30 years. Have faith, and go and see.

Rachel Hewitt, 22.01.02

MEETINGS/LECTURES

PUBLICIZE YOUR SOCIETY HERE! Put YOUR meetings or lectures up - immediately, any time and free - at www.dailyinfo.co.uk. Queries to dailyinfo@dailyinfo.co.uk

BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY / Computing Laboratory, Wolfson Building, Parks Road, Oxford / 7pm Tea/Coffee for 7.30pm Talk / Web: www.bcs-oxon.org

DRUIDS & BARDS STUDY GROUP / Folk tales, myths and lore of druidcraft and bards. £3 / Port Mahon pub, St. Clements / 19:00-21:00 / Email: nabarz@hotmail.com

DESIGNING SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES: 'CLIMATE CHANGE ON A GLOBAL SCALE' / Dr R Pauchaur, Dir, Gen., TERI, India & Chair of the IPCC. / 5.30pm / Zoology/Psychology Building, Corner of South Parks & St Cross Rds

BOTANIC GARDEN WINTER LECTURE SERIES: 'A SENSE OF PLACE' / Arne Maynard. £9 lecture, £40 series (incl. wine). Tel: 286690 / 8pm / Said Business School, Park End Street

'LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOSEPH HANSON, THE 'WEAVERS' FRIEND': THE IMPLICATIONS OF VOLUNTEERING AND THE NAPOLÉONIC WAR FOR SOUTH LANCASHIRE POLITICS & SOCIETY' / With Katrina Navrickas (St John's, Oxford). Part of 'Britain & the war with Napoleon' seminar series / 2.15pm / Maison Française, Northam Rd, Oxford. Tel: 274220, Fax: 274225, Email: maison@herald.ox.ac.uk

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Inscription in the floor of Rhodes House - - -
"Let no Smoke-Bearing Person Enter"

Pelican sundial 1581
Corpus Christi College

"Lazarus" by Sir Jacob Epstein

New College chapel

Oxford Crown coin 1644

Oxford was the Royalist Capital of England 1642-46

Statues & Curiosities

Unicorn horn (?) given to New College in the 15th century (about 1 yard 20 ins. long)

The Shelley Memorial University College

(Shelley was expelled from the College in 1811)....

Stuffed owl, to scare away bats, in Binsey Church!

The "Brazen Nose," 12th century knocker Brasenose College

Merton College; 15th century carving; St. John the Baptist and the Founder Walter de Merton

Taken from Mary Potter's "Oxford Calendar", 1977
"The 'Brazen Nose' knocker hangs above the High Table in Brasenose College. It was taken away from Oxford in the 14th century and put on the door of a house in Lincolnshire. The College was reputed to have bought the house to get the knocker back."

CONTACTS

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CINEMA REVIEW

The Dancer Upstairs

Phoenix Picture House - LAST NIGHT TONIGHT!!

John Malkovich is best known for playing intense, slightly arrogant villains in all sorts of films, and, more recently, for portraying 'himself' in the oddball satire 'Being John Malkovich'. Now for the first time he has turned his hand to directing, and the result is 'The Dancer Upstairs', based on the novel by Nicholas Shakespeare.



It is an intriguing directorial debut. Where he might safely have chosen some bone-headed formulaic crowd-pleaser, Malkovich has instead gone for a subtle, probing film which eludes any easy generic description, and which, even more unusually, features an entirely non-American cast. Far from being the vanity project one might have expected, 'The Dancer Upstairs' is clearly a labour of love, with Malkovich's intelligent and unselfish direction reflecting a genuine affinity with his material.

The setting is an unspecified country in Latin America in 'the recent past'. When dead dogs with political banners tied round their necks appear all over town and various politicians are assassinated, newly promoted police captain Augustin Rejas is assigned to infiltrate the revolutionary group responsible and find their legendary leader, Ezequiel. As the investigation drags on, Rejas becomes torn between his commitment to serving justice and his fear of what the corrupt state may do to the revolutionaries once they are captured.

At the heart of this film is its protagonist, the half Latin, half native Indian Rejas, played brilliantly by Javier Bardem - a man who gave up a career as a lawyer because he wanted "to find a more honest way of practising the law", a policeman who shakes visibly in the one scene in which he holds a gun, a bourgeois who cannot pay his bills and has a peasant background. Thanks to his complexity, Rejas is able to cross normal cultural boundaries and to carry us along in his travels through every section of society.

The elliptical style of 'The Dancer Upstairs' offers no easily digestible message, but rather leaves it to the viewer to decide what is the best way to act in a world ruled by injustice. A serious film which raises serious questions.

Anton Bitel, 22.01.03

EXHIBITIONS

Christ Church Picture Gallery
Dürer and his contemporaries
Small display of Northern Renaissance prints (to Feb 16)
Country life
Landscape drawings from the permanent collection.
Campagnola, Carracci & more... (to April 27)
Entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oriol Square.
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7 more on www.dailyinfo.co.uk!

CINEMA

Until Thurs 23rd January

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
DONNIE DARKO (15) Daily: 9.15 Sat: 5.00, 9.15
Angsty teen America...with a giant malevolent rabbit.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
THE BLUE ANGEL (PG) Tue - Thu: 7.00
Marlene Dietrich as the nightclub singer
Odeon George Street
0870 5050007
GANGS OF NEW YORK (18) Daily: 12.30*, 4.15*, 8.00*
Or Capriccio, Day-Lewis, Diaz & Broadbent in Scorsese's
19th century NY. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
8 MILE (15) Daily: 12.15, 3.00, 6.00, 8.45
Eminem stars in biographical tale
SWEET HOME ALABAMA (12A) Daily: 11.45
You can take a girl out of the South...
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: Daily: 11.15, 12.00*,
THE TWO TOWERS (12A) 3.15, 3.45*, 7.30, 7.45*
'Contains intense combat and fantasy horror'. See
review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
DIE ANOTHER DAY (12A) Daily: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15
Bond needs no introduction... See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk
STAR TREK: NEMESIS (12A)
Mon-Thu: 11.30, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30
Captain Picard guides a Generation on its final journey
Odeon Magdalen Street
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CHICAGO (12A) Daily: 12.00*, 2.45*, 5.30*, 8.30*
Zellweger, Zeta-Jones & Gere do sex & violence,
1920s-style
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)
Daily: 12.30, 4.00, 7.45
Contains intense combat & fantasy horror. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk
Phoenix Picture House 512526
SPIDER (15) Daily: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15
Ralph Fiennes in Cronenberg's latest psychodrama.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
THE DANCER UPSTAIRS (15) Thu: 1.30, 6.30
John Malkovich's directorial debut: threat of revolution in
Latin America
CITY OF GOD (18) Thu: 4.00, 9.00
Fact-based story of life in the slums of Rio de Janeiro.
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk
VERTIGO (PG) Thu: 11.15pm
James Stewart & Kim Novak in Hitchcock's bleakest film
NINE QUEENS (15) Thu: 11.30pm
Seductive Argentinian heist thriller in which nothing is
what it seems

ACTORS NEEDED

AUDITIONS: Stylish actors for OFS production: 'The Rivals' (Sheridan), early May Thu 23rd: 7.30pm, St Hugh's (directions at lodge). 01865 241271

THEATRE

Until Thurs 23rd January

Oxford Playhouse 305305
THE BOY WHO FELL INTO A BOOK Wed 22 - Sat 25
Wed: 7pm Thu: 10am, 1.30pm Fri: 10am, 7pm
Sat: 2pm, 5.30pm
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£5.50/£3.50/£2.50
Burton Taylor Theatre 305350
SOME VOICES Tue 21 - Sat 25: 7.30pm
Mental illness can happen to anyone... £5/£4
FAITH HEALER Tue 21 - Sat 25: 9.30pm
Conflicting monologues culminate in a horrific homecoming. £5/£4
Didcot Civic Hall
LITTLE MISS MUFFET Thu 23 - Sat 25
Thu & Fri: 7.30pm Sat: 11am, 2.30pm, 7.30pm
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