

Oxford's DAILY INFO
Issue No. 7770
Tue 23rd - Wed 24th January 2007 (2nd week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

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MEETINGS & LECTURES

Tue 23rd
ARRIVALS-HUNGARY Janos Sugar and Ester Lazar in conversation / Modern Art Oxford / 6pm, free / B13800
MRS BETON: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A NOBODY / Kathryn Hughes lectures on life-writing / Lecture Theatre 2, St Cross Building, Manor Rd / 4pm / All welcome.
IMAGES OF NATURE: Talk by Peter Prece. Ashmolean Natural History Society / 8pm, £2 Non-members / Earth Sciences Dept, Parks Road
OXFORD SPEAKERS' CLUB / Learn Leadership and Public Speaking! / 7:15pm / guests warmly welcome / www.oxfordspeakers.co.uk / Court Room, Oxford Town Hall
MECO QURAN SEMINAR CLASS / traditional and contemporary analysis / All welcome 7:40 pm, £20 pm / mfomco.org.uk / Wolfson College, Linton Rd / Tel: 274100
ROTARY CLUB OF OXFORD SPIRES / Newest and youngest Rotary Club in Oxford. Members aged 30+ / www.oxfordrotary.org.uk / Red Lion, 411p
POLISH DRAWINGS & WATERCOLOURS EXHIBITION / Introductory talk; meet in the Randolph Gallery (room 1) / 1.15 - 2pm, £2 / www.ashmolean.org / Ashmolean Museum
SPIRITUAL HEALING / Meditation 6.30, Healing 7.30pm / Free / 43 St Giles
CONVERSATION CLUB / Speak French, Spanish, Italian or English in a relaxed environment / 7.30pm - free / www.languagesatlunch.eventbrite.com / Sugar Brown, 30 Walton Street, Jericho, OX2 6AA
TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP / Meditation, deeksha giving, relaxation / £8 (E6) / www.oxnesuniversity.org / Thiranga House, 42 Magdalen Rd

Wed 24th
SCIENCE BOOK CLUB / Scientists and science communicators discuss favourite science books / 7.30pm / Free / www.oxfordscienceclub.org / Science Oxford, 5 Clements, Tel: 278953
MEDIEVAL CRAFTSMAN: A WINDOW ON THEIR LIVES / Tim Parter / Part II: Ingenious Creations / 2.30-4.30pm, £5 / Headley Lecture Theatre, Ashmolean Museum
KEEPING BODY & SOUL TOGETHER / Sam Stayte's lecture examines the relationship between body & soul / 1.15pm, free / The Theatre at Headington, Headington School
THE IMPRESSIONISTS I / Introductory talk; meet in Randolph Gallery (room 1) / Lunchtime Gallery Talks / 1.15 - 2pm, £2 / www.ashmolean.org / Ashmolean Museum

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CINEMA until Thu 25 Jan

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)
SMOKIN' ACES [18] Tue: 2.30, 5.30, 9.00pm
Competitive association comedy.
ROCKY BALBOA [12A] daily: 1.00, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15pm
Sylvester Stallone lurches into the ring once more as boxing champ Rocky.
HOLLYWOOD [15] Tue: 8.30pm
Drama about infamous real life mystery.
Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)
MISS POTTER [PG] Tue, Thu: 2.15, 6.45pm
A story of Beatrix.
Big Screen: BLACK BOOK [15] Wed: 11.30am
Hollywood singer joins Dutch resistance dance sequences.
BLACK BOOK [15] daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Beautiful Jewish singer is forced to join the Dutch Resistance during WWII.
MEDITATION Tue, Thu: 1.45pm, Wed: 1.45, 6.30pm
A unique cinematic meditation experience. £2 (E12)
A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION [PG] Tue, Thu: 4.15, 8.45pm
Based on Keilor's radio show.
Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)
SALAAM E ISHQ [12A] (A TRIBUTE TO LOVE) Tue: 7.45pm
Salman Khan in romantic comedy.
GURU [12A] Tue - Wed: 7.45pm
Hollywood tradition goes to riches story with Bollywood tradition dance sequences.
A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM [PG] daily: 1.40, 4.10, 6.45pm
The exhibits in a museum come to life.
CASINO ROYALE [12A] Tue - Thu: 4.45, 8.00pm
Small Hollywood movie man makes charismatic Bond.
PAN'S LABYRINTH [15] Tue: 4.45, 9.20pm
By turns grim and enchanting story of a girl's imaginary world. English subtitles.
PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER [15] daily: 9.10pm
When a beautiful girl goes wrong, he goes very, very wrong...
APOCALYPTO [18] daily: 1.15, 4.20pm
The end of Mayan civilisation. Over-farmed their land, apparently. Among other things.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH [12A] Tue - Thu: 2.15pm
Two unstoppable men. One gorgeous bimbo. One contrived comedy.
MISS POTTER [PG] Tue: 1.30, 4.00pm
The story of Beatrix.
SMOKIN' ACES [18] Tue - Thu: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30pm
Comedy with Jeremy Piven & Ben Affleck.
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS [12A] daily: 12.30, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15pm
Will Smith dreams the American dream - millionaireshood.
BABEL [15] daily: 1.50, 5.00, 8.15pm
Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchette in multi-story star park.
THE RETURN [15] daily: 12.45, 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.45pm
Small Hollywood movie man makes charismatic Bond.
ROCKY BALBOA [12A] daily: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Sylvester Stallone is Rocky.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)
THE QUEEN [12A] daily: 12 noon
A recent history of the monarchy.
A GOOD YEAR [12A] Wed: 10.45am
Will Smith dreams the American dream - millionaireshood.
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS [12A] Tue - Thu: 2.30, 5.45, 8.45pm
Will Smith & munchkins.
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND [15] daily: 1.15, 4.30, 8.30pm
A young Scottish doctor becomes professional to Idi Amin.
APOCALYPTO [18] daily: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
The end of Mayan civilisation.
MISS POTTER [PG] daily: 12.45, 3.00, 5.30pm
Renée Zellweger & Ewan McGregor in semi-animated biopic of Beatrix Potter.
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM [PG] daily: 12.30, 3.30, 6.00, 9.00pm
Monstrous happenings on the graveyard shift.
BABEL [15] daily: 1.45, 5.00, 8.30pm
Tragedy strikes a married couple on vacation in the Moroccan desert.
CASINO ROYALE [12A] daily: 7.45pm
Daniel Craig's first outing as Bond.
Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH [U] Tue - Thu: 9.15pm
Al Gore's disturbing expose of the state of our planet.
THE QUEEN [12A] daily: 7.00pm
A history of the recent monarchy.
= review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk

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Next issue: Thu 25th January
Deadline: 10am, Wed 24th January

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GIGS
Tue 23rd
SHUSH OPEN MIC / All welcome come sing / play / listen / 8pm / Free / Exeter Hall Pub, 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.); Tel: 01865 776431
NORMA JEAN / Christian Metal / Support from 'The 15 Legend', JTC Music / www.tjmusic.com / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420062
THE CARTER MANOEUVER + KING ALEXANDRA + CAUSE OF ACCIDENT / Swiss Cretaceous... / 8.30pm / Port Mahon, St. Clement's
CHANTELLE PIKE LAUNCH / Chantelle will be playing with full band, and EPs will be on sale / 8pm / www.chantellepike.com / Jericho Tavern, Walton St; Tel: 311775

Wed 24th
ROOTS LOUNGE / DJ Dan & friends play hi-grade roots reggae old and new / 8-12: E1 entry / East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street
FOLK SESSION / Play / sing / listen. All welcome. 8.30pm free / Exeter Hall Pub, 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.); Tel: 01865 776431
THE IDIOT RATE + BABY GRAY / Four piece rock band from Liverpool. / 7pm / 95 www.myspace.com/idiotrate / Downstairs @ Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road, Tel: 420042
BEN TAYLOR / The offspring of James Taylor and Carly Simon / 7pm / 99 www.bentaylormusic.com / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road, Tel: 420042

AMNESTY LECTURE REVIEW

Lawrence Gostin: "New" and "Old" Institutions for the Mentally Ill: Treatment, Punishment or Preventative Confinement?
Legal director of MIND before he was thirty, Lawrence Gostin is an internationally feted and consulted expert on law and public health. He is Professor of Law at Georgetown University (Washington D.C.) and Visiting Professor of Public Health at Oxford University. He speaks from a position of great knowledge and understanding of the difficulties facing the mentally ill. He also paints a pretty grim picture of institutional attitudes to these difficulties.

His first hand experience began as a law student at Duke University where, as part of a Department of Justice initiative he entered a secure mental institution in North Carolina as a supposed rape suspect to investigate the workings of that institution and its treatment of pre-trial suspected sufferers of mental illness. His experience there, and in subsequent professional investigations, has led him to the conclusion that a majority of institutional approaches to mental illness amount to 'benign and malignant neglect'.

We live, he contends, in a society that perpetuates four stereotypes - what he terms the Myths of Mental Illness - labelling sufferers:
• Incompetent
• Irrational
• Unpredictable
• Dangerous

Such labels are used to justify locking people away; labels that could as easily be applied to the very old, very young, teenagers, drinkers or drug users. These stereotypes are also at the heart, he claims, of the reforms to the British Mental Health Law currently before parliament. Based on the snappy sound-bite: SOUND, SAFE, SECURE, the reforms are anything but. They seek to justify their introduction on the basis of a tiny minority of high visibility cases amongst the relatively large number of cases to which fewer sensational column inches can be devoted.

Professor Gostin quoted Dostoevsky's invitation to 'judge a society by the state of its prisons'; liberty and confinement being his main focus. The closure of 'old style' mental institutions with the promise of care and understanding in the community failed to deliver. This makes prisons and detention centres the front line in dealing with many mentally ill people; while those on the street become ignored as compassion fatigue blinds us to their needs. His comparison of Japan and India and their treatment of the mentally ill showed how treatment within society, as practised in India, resulted in a far superior quality of life for patients than the institutionalised approach of Japan. In Japan, the mentally ill are shaming to society. In India, society is shamed if it does not protect and care for the vulnerable.

His conclusion offered us to consider four ideas to counter the four stereotypes:
• Liberty
• Dignity
• Equality
• Entitlement

The greatest successes of the 20th Century, he stated, were the success of the Human Rights and Disability Rights movements. How splendid if we could make the 21st Century a time for championing the rights of the mentally ill.

I would urge readers to attend any of these lectures they are able to. Intelligent arguments for civil liberties and human rights need to reach all the ears they can, especially when presented in such an accessible way.
Simon Berry, 19/01/07

FUTURE AMNESTY LECTURES

25th Jan LOIC WACQUANT: The Uses and Misuses of the Penal State in the 21st Century
31st Jan ANNE OWERS: Prisons Inspection and the Protection of Human Rights
16th Feb SHAMI CHAKRABARTI: Asylum and Incarceration
22nd Feb JACK LAMPANJE: Creative Incarceration. Strategies for Survival
19th March LINDA COLLEY: From the Black Hole to Guantanamo Bay: Incarceration, Suffering and Power
Season Tickets £35 (£25 Conc) from the Box Office on 01865 305305 or www.oxford-amnesty-lectures.org/ / Sheldonian Theatre / 5.30pm, £6 (E4 Conc)

JOBS OFFERED

EDUCATION DATA SURVEYS
Analyst Required
A small education research company based near the station requires an additional person to cope with extra work resulting from new contracts. Experience of data packages and willingness to help with report writing are necessary. Work currently available until end of April. Part time opportunity may be available.
Salary depending upon capabilities, but not less than £25k per rata.
Email a c.v. to educationdatasurveys@gmail.com for a full job description.

Business Studies (Part-time)
Required as soon as possible (until May/June 2007) to teach a number of periods per week of Business Studies to boys in the Upper Sixth Form preparing for their A2 examination. Salary includes MCS 10% allowance.
Letter of application, cv and details of two referees should be sent by email, to Mr N. J. Fraser, the Academic Deputy, by the closing date of midday Friday 26th January 2007. Further details are available at www.mcsoxford.org.
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'Fed up with Valentine's Day, But want a night out? There's a way! A meal will ensue for 5 friends and you - And a poem is all that you'll pay'
Win a meal for six at The Big Bang and six tickets to King of Hearts at The Playhouse! Submit your anti-Valentine poetry on www.dailyinfo.co.uk/auctions or email: bang@dailyinfo.co.uk
Competition ends Thurs 8th Feb.

Valentines Day?
Singles Awareness day, That's what I like to call it.
A reminder is always useful, As if it frequently slips my mind.
HH, 22/01/07
Valentine, don't be mine
Go jump into the depths of the brain
When I think of you there's something porcine
In your eyes, your nose, your ears and jawline
Valentine, don't be mine
Why have you called me? Get off the line
Don't say you love me, don't talk of your agility
It's anti-Valentine - and you're a liability
Valentine, don't be mine
What...? You want to take me to dine?
Increase my hips and slender waistline?
Buy me a bottle of quality wine?
But I can't... this is anti-Valentine's Day
I can't be civil to you - no way
But hey! If I win, if I win - let me win
I'll slip you a sausage in the dustbin
pinkswan, 19/01/07

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CINEMA REVIEW

A Prairie Home Companion [PG]

Americans have been getting a bad press for some time now. A *Prairie Home Companion* will remind you why some of them are worth having.
Garrison Keilor's radio show - old style country-and-western vaudeville mixed with ridiculous live musical adverts - is about to be axed. We open backstage at the beginning of the last broadcast, as the people who have put their lives into the 30 years of the show suddenly begin to realise that this is the end. The film makes no bones about what side it's on. "Soon all there will be on the radio is people yelling" and computers playin' music". The stonkingly good upbeat country-rock style songs (a constant soundtrack as the film unfolds in real time) reminds you why, when the last vaudeville show really goes off the air, we will have lost something really important: the pinnacle of American folk culture.
Then an angel turns up. Of Death. What's surprising is that this doesn't cause a descent into farce or uneasy black comedy. Nothing, not even plot, and certainly not convention, is allowed to interfere with the show. There are all the elements of standard American drama - pregnancy, a private detective, ageing stars, live audience, evil corporations, simmering unrequited exes, backstage fornication - but once the elements have served their immediate purpose of coming alive to entertain us, they're allowed to meander off inconclusively. Making this kind of story not only interesting but satisfactory is the particular genius of Garrison Keilor (as *any Lake Wobegon* fan knows). There are some hilarious set pieces - for example where the sound effects man (Tom Keith) has to keep up with the storytellers deliberately throwing him more and more complicated challenges ("So then the orangutan hurls the peacock through a plate glass window..."). But it's the superb acting (well, and the music) that really makes the film work. Virginia Madsen as the ambiguous angel is surreal and convincing. If you're used to being responsible for people you will find Maya Rudolph's competent but subservient stage manager, driven to faking labour to get her star's attention as she yawns with friends backstage, particularly sympathetic. Woody Harelsson and John C. Reilly are hilarious as gently anarchic cowboy singers. Garrison Keilor extends his radio persona to film impeccably (you'd never think that this tall ponderous slow man had all these crazy characters in his head). But Meryl Streep rocks. Literally, figuratively, professionally. Having just seen her clipped and polished in *The Devil Wears Prada*, watching her as the vague scatty singer grabbing her beloved ex (Garrison Keilor) for a dance is a revelation.
Chaotic, bittersweet, inconclusive, laid back and surreal and very funny; rather like life. But better. Worth taking a couple of hours out of your own to see.
Miranda Rose, 11/01/07

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Media Studies (Part-time)
Required as soon as possible to teach approximately 15 periods per week of Media Studies in the Sixth Form until May/June. Salary includes MCS 10% allowance.
Letter of application, cv and details of two referees should be sent to the Master as soon as possible for immediate consideration. Further details are available on request.
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SHANGHAI 30's

Valentines Day Competition

Win a romantic dinner for two at Oxford's most romantic Chinese restaurant!
Whisk yourself back three-quarters of a century to the Paris of the Orient. In the softly-coloured lantern-lit surroundings of Shanghai 30's, treat yourself and another person of your choice to the classic and contemporary cuisine of Shanghai and its surrounding districts.
To enter, write us a poem telling us why the person you would take deserves all this. Perhaps you would like to write about why it's appropriate coming from you (given your behaviour all year)...or what you hope to gain from your poem-writing prowess...or perhaps a simple declaration of passion ("I love to watch her chew a noodle; it makes her look just like a noodle..." etc).
The dinner includes roses, cards, an optional photo-shoot (all free) and £25 to spend on wine. Find the menu, and make your entry, via the competition webpage:
www.dailyinfo.co.uk/auctions
Competition closes noon Thurs 8th Feb

Love, love, love, love, love?
It's only a word, no amount of chocolate, flowers or cards can ever replace the emotion, the feelings and the actions that are actually encompassed by that small 4 letter word.
I love you, I love you!
Its only words, no matter how much you say it, it only means something if you live it, show it and be it.
Valentines day.
It's only a day, and if it's the only day you show your love, then its a nothing day and the words 'I LOVE YOU' are empty.
Make every day valentines day, not only for your lover but for everyone you love, your cat, your friends, family, the world. Feeling loved, being loved and loving is not about saying, but doing 'I LOVE YOU'!
Anna, 19/01/07

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CENTRAL OXFORD: 2 furnished rooms, one with fridge, 10 minutes centre, quiet spot, broadband, £82/£90 including all bills except electricity. Reductions for help with IT/ sewing/cleaning. 01865 202027

THEATRE until Sat 27 Jan
Didcot Civic Hall (07769 674927)
KING HUMPTY DUMPTY Tue 25th & Fri 26th: 7.30pm
Pantomime for all the family, £6 (E4) Sat 27th: 10.30am, 2.30, 7.30pm
The Theatre at Headington (759138)
BELIEVE Thu 25th: 7.30pm
Fables of Old Testament women, given challenging new interpretations. £10 (E8.50)
Unicorn Theatre (559655)
TERRY PRATCHETT: FEET OF CLAY Tue 23rd & Fri 26th: 7.30pm
New dramatisation of best-selling Discworld novel. Sat 27th: 2.30, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse (305305)
OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD Wed 24th: 7.3