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Tue 23rd - Wed 24th February 2010 (6th week)

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THEATRE to Sat 27th

New Theatre (0844 8471585)
THE RAT PACK - LIVE FROM LAS VEGAS!
 Mon 22nd - Thu 25th: 7.30pm, 8.30pm; Sat 27th: 8pm, 9pm
 Take a trip back in time to the days of Sinatra, Davis, & Martin. £19.50-£25.50

Oxford Playhouse (01865 305305)
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Mon 22nd, Tue 23rd, Wed 24th: 7.30pm
 7.30pm; Thu 25th, Sat 27th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Fri 26th: 8pm
 Simon Rado's adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. Post-show talk. £15-£25.50

OFS Studio (0844 847 2360)
YAWN Tue 23rd - Fri 26th: 7.30pm; Sat 27th: 2.30 & 7.30pm
 Edward Fish is a great teacher; tonight he has to entertain Rachel. Ages 12+. £9/£7

Burton Taylor Studio (01865 305305)
IMPERIUM Tue 23rd - Sat 27th: 7.30pm
 The Oxford Imps improvise an entirely new world each night. £5/£4

THE OXFORD REVUE Tue 23rd - Sat 27th: 9.30pm
 Head off to Brighton for a 1920s romp at the seaside. £5/£4

College Theatres/Auditoria
PLATFORM - Kebab Tue 23rd - Fri 26th: 7.30pm; Sat 27th: 2.30pm, 8pm
 Contemporary collaborations, classical-inspired choreographies, hip-hop. £7.50/£5.50

THREE SISTERS - Hertford Tue 23rd - Sat 27th: 7.30pm
 Chekhov drama in promenade, set in 1950s America. £7/£5.50 (Fri & Sat: £10/£5)

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS - Pembroke
 Wed 24th - Fri 26th: 7.30pm; Sat 27th: 2.30pm, 7.30pm
 In a dark little street, in a dark little alley, a mouse is born... £9 (£7 student)

IN THE FLOEST - MURDER MYSTERY Tue 23rd & Wed 24th:
 An actor drops dead during a farce. Can you help expose the killer? 7.30pm, £7 (£5)

Chinchor Village Hall (07983 666314)
AMELIE'S BOUTIQUE Tue 23rd - Sat 27th: 7.3
 A story woven between the lives of customers and a rural boutique's owners. £7/£5

CINEMA to Thu 25th

Odeon George Street (0871 2244 007)
AVATAR 3D [12A] Tue - Thu: 4.00, 7.45pm
 James Cameron's latest and greatest blockbuster.

INVICITUS [12A] daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
 The story behind the Springboks' 1995 Rugby World Cup bid.

PERCY JACKSON & THE LIGHTNING THIEF [PG] Tue - Thu: 3.30, 6.30pm
 Teenager discovers he's the son of Poseidon. Subtitled: Thu 3.30pm

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG [U] Tue - Thu: 1.30, 3.45pm
 Curious prince mistakes debutante for royalty.

SENIOR SCREEN: THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS [15] Tue - Thu: 9.00pm
 If George Clooney looks could kill... £9 (£7 student)

A SINGLE MAN [12A] daily: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
 Gay professor contemplates life in 60s California without his long-term partner.

UP IN THE AIR [15] Tue - Thu: 9.00pm
 High-flying frequent flyer is brought back to earth. Subtitled: Tue 9.00pm

VALENTINE'S DAY [12A] Tue - Thu: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
 Expect Love Actually in Los Angeles.

THE WOLFMAN [15] Tue - Thu: 6.00, 8.45pm
 Remake of 1941 horror, with Benicio del Toro.

Odeon Magdalen Street (0871 2244 007)
DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: AN EDUCATION [12A] Tue: 8.30pm
 Girl in Saties London sidelines studies for suitors.

THE LOVELY BONES [12A] daily: 2.00, 5.15, 8.15pm
 Murdered girl watches over her family and killer from heaven.

THE WOLFMAN [15] Tue - Thu: 3.45pm
 Remake of 1941 horror, with Benicio del Toro.

YOUTH IN REVOLT [15] Tue: 6.15pm; Wed & Thu: 6.15, 8.45pm
 Angry adolescent adopts alias.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL [U] Tue - Thu: 12.20, 3.00pm
 Little furry singers contend with school, stardom and lady chipmunk.

AVATAR 3D [12A] Wed: 12.30, 4.00, 7.30, 11.00pm
 The highest-grossing film of all time. Tue, Thu: 12.30, 4.00, 7.30pm

INVICITUS [12A] daily: 3.10, 6.20, 9.15pm
 The story behind the Springboks' 1995 Rugby World Cup bid.

IT'S COMPLICATED [15] Tue - Thu: 12.10pm
 Divorcee has an affair with her ex-husband.

THE LOVELY BONES [12A] daily: 12.40, 3.40, 6.45, 9.45pm
 Murdered girl watches her family and killer from heaven. Over 10s: 3.45pm

MY NAME IS KHAN [12A] daily: 9.00pm
 Following a Muslim/Hindu family after 9/11. Subtitled: Tue 9.00pm

PERCY JACKSON & THE LIGHTNING THIEF [PG] daily: 11.40am, 2.30, 5.15, 8.00pm
 Teenager discovers he's the son of Poseidon.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG [U] Tue - Thu: 1.00, 1.50, 4.20, 7.30pm
 Curious prince mistakes debutante for royalty. 6.40pm

SHERLOCK HOLMES [12A] Wed: 5.20, 11.20pm
 Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law star in latest adaptation.

SOLOMON KANE [15] Wed: 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.10pm
 Swordsman suspends retirement to fight evil. Tue, Thu: 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm

VALENTINE'S DAY [12A] Tue - Thu: 11.50am, 2.40, 5.40, 8.45pm
 Expect Love Actually in Los Angeles.

THE WOLFMAN [15] Tue - Thu: 11.30am, 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 8.15, 9.30pm
 Remake of 1941 horror.

YOUTH IN REVOLT [15] Wed: 10.50pm
 Angry adolescent adopts alias.

Phoenix Picturehouse (0871 704 2062)
BIG SCREAM: THE LAST STATION [15] Wed: 11.30am
 Conflict over Tolstoy's copyrights. Exclusive screening for parents with babies under one.

THE LAST STATION [15] daily: 2.00, 4.20, 6.30, 8.50pm
 The battle for control over the works of Tolstoy.

A SINGLE MAN [12A] Tue - Thu: 2.00, 4.15, 6.30, 9.00pm
 Gay professor contemplates life in 60s California without his long-term partner.

Ultimate Picture Palace (01865 245288)
THE ROAD [15] Tue, Wed: 9.15pm
 Father and son cross post-apocalyptic America.

A SERIOUS MAN [15] Wed: 2.30pm; Thu: 9.00pm
 Coen brothers. Morality doesn't pay off for professor.

UP IN THE AIR [15] Tue & Wed: 7.00pm
 High-flying frequent flyer is brought back down to earth.

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GIGS & COMEDY

Tue 23rd

THE JAZZSOC JAM / Players and listeners welcome / 8.30pm, £1/fee / <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~jazzsoc/> / Copa, 9-13 George Street, Oxford
OPEN MIC COMEDY NIGHT / Oxford's only purely comedy open mic night / 8pm, £5.50/£4.50 / 07515 954098 / Baby Simple, 213 Cowley Rd, Oxford
THE HUGH TURNER BAND / Live jazz plus DJs playing 70s, funk and soul / 9.30pm-1am, free / The Bullington Arms, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford
THE DRUMS / New York post-punks / 7pm, £7.50 / O2 Academy, Cowley Rd
ACOUSTIC TUESDAYS / Fantastic local and touring acts / 9pm, free / Cafe Co (Royal Oxford Hotel), Park End Street, Oxford
RORY MCINROY TRIO / Jazz pianist with Paul Jefferies (bass) and Frank Hough (drums) / 8pm, £15 (includes main meal) / The Big Ban, Walton St
CREATIVE TUESDAY / Acoustic sets from Bethany Weimers, Aidan Canaday, Felix & Fox / 9pm, free / Cafe Tarifa, 56-60 Cowley Road, Oxford

Wed 24th

TRISH ELPHINSTON QUINTET / Instrumental jazz / 8.30pm, free / 01865 765897 / www.trishelpinstonquintet.com/ / The Half Moon, 18 St Clements
OPEN MIC LIVE LOUNGE / Come play, sing or just sit back and enjoy the tunes. All welcome. / 9pm, free / daves, 77@hotmail.co.uk / 07900 224988 / The Cape of Good Hope, 11ffley Road, Oxford OX4 1EA; Tel: 01865 262291
MINOR COLES, MOUNTAIN PARADE / Local indie bands with acoustic sets / Cafe Tarifa, 56-60 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JB; Tel: 01865 256091
THE OXFORD JAM SESSION / Jam with house band. Bring your instruments / 10pm, £4/£3 students/£2 musicians / The Cellar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM / Live jazz / 8.30pm, free / moorwoods@waitrose.com / 01235 765648 / The Lamb Inn, Wantage
PRIZE OPEN MIKE / Compete for a £50 gift or vote for the act you'd like to hear again. / 8-11pm, free / 07769 608124 / Folly Bridge Inn, Abingdon Road
HOT CLUB DE PARIS, THIS TOWN NEEDS GUNS, FROM HERE WE RUN / Punk / YMD Presents / 8pm, £6 / The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street
DIFFERENT LIGHT / Sets from The Mountain Parade, Francis Pugh & The Whiskey Singers / 9pm, free / Cafe Tarifa, 56-60 Cowley Road, Oxford

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Tue 23rd

THINK WEEK OXFORD / "Science is King" - Professor Peter Atkins / Oxford A-H-Societies / 9pm, free / www.thinkweek.co.uk/ / Lincoln College, Turf St
TUESDAY NIGHT KNITTING / Friendly get-together in a great location / Jam Factory Knitters / 6pm, free / Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street
DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH / Speak German and meet new people / 8.30pm, free / The Anchor Inn, 2 Hayfield Road, Oxford
GLOBE CAFE / Coffee & conversation for international students and visitors. / 8pm / www.globecafeoxford.org.uk/ / St Andrew's Church, Linton Road
OXFORD UNIVERSITIES MOTORSPORT FOUNDATION (OUMF) / 8pm / www.oumf.org/ / 07761 823609 / The Britannia, 1 Lime Walk, Headington
LANGUAGE LOUNGE / Conversation practice group. / 8pm, free / <http://oxfordlanguage.brythost31.com/> / The Cape of Good Hope, 11ffley Road
PLAY GO / Watch, play, learn for free. Visitors welcome. / 7pm, free / www.britgo.org/clubs/oxford_c.html / 01865 248775 / Frewin, 119 Walton Street
LIFE, THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING / Stephen Law. Part of Think Week Oxford / Oxford A-H-Societies / 1pm, free / <http://thinkweek.co.uk/> / Lincoln College
MATERNITY EMPLOYMENT ISSUES / Know your rights / 7.30pm, £5 (free NCT membs) / www.oxfordnct.org.uk/ / Barbys Bookstore, New Inn Hall Street
VOLUNTEERING AND FUNDING FAIR / Find out about volunteering opportunities / 2-6pm, free / 01865 252791 / Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's
DRACULA / Auditions for May production. Over 18s only. Email to book an audition slot. / 4-7pm / miss_parker89@hotmail.com / New Theatre, George St
ANTONY & CLEOPATRA / Auditions and crew hire for summer show. / 7.30pm / oxfordtheatreguild.com/ / Drama Studio, Rye St Antony School, Headington
MEDITATION - THICH NHAT HANH / 6.30-8.30pm, donations / oxfordweeklysangha@gmail.com / Friends' Meeting House, 43 St Giles / 557373

Wed 24th

ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM / Prof P. Loizos discusses Narrator Voices in Ethnographic Documentaries / 2pm, free / Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Rd
HUMANISM + CAMPAIGNING / Andrew Copson, CEO of the BHA / Think Week Oxford / 8-9pm, free / www.thinkweek.co.uk/ / Lincoln College, Turf St
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FAITH SCHOOLS? / BHA's Paul Pettinger & Allan Hayes / Think Week Oxford / 1-2pm, free / <http://thinkweek.co.uk/> / Lincoln College
DRACULA / Auditions for May production. Over 18s only. Email to book an audition slot. / 4-7pm / miss_parker89@hotmail.com / New Theatre, George St

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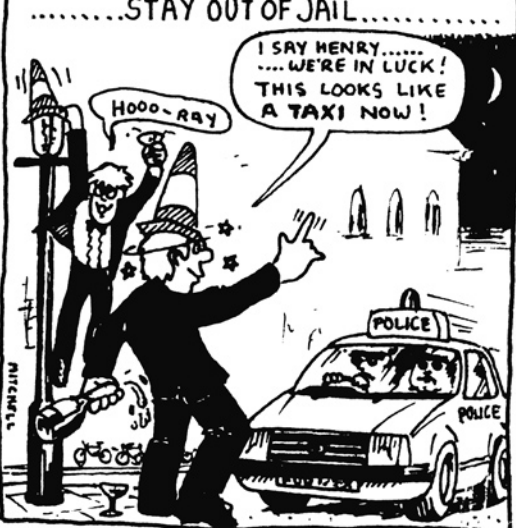
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FILM REVIEW

The Last Station [15]

Lots of War and not much Peace.



This biopic (based on a novel by Jay Parini) covers the last few days in the life of the Russian author Lev Tolstoy. As in all good novels there is a nice bit of conflict going on. Tolstoy (a beard-laden Christopher Plummer) is encouraged by one of his many sycophants, Chertkov (a wax-moustachioed Paul Giamatti), to give away the rights to his novels, for free, to the Russian people. In the opposite corner is Tolstoy's wife, Sofya (Helen Mirren), who is in seemingly constant conflict with her husband, she wants to inherit those rights so she can continue to live in the aristocratic style to which she has become accustomed, and to support Tolstoy's eight surviving children when he dies. It may help to know that he is 82, she is 66, and they have been bickering away for 48 years together.

Into the story comes Bulgakov (James McAvoy), the naive new secretary Chertkov has placed in Tolstoy's house, Yasnaya Polyana, just so he can spy on Sofya. However, Bulgakov becomes less naive and more sympathetic to the old couple as the movie progresses and he learns the truth about their relationship, and the power struggle between Sofya and Chertkov. This may be thanks in part to the love of a certain Masha (Kerry Condon) who shares a bed with him in the Tolstoyan commune set up by Chertkov (well, I suppose we weren't going to have a sex scene between Plummer and Mirren). Eventually, the atmosphere in the house becomes unbearable. The film then proceeds through the countryside and by the Russian railway system to a dramatic conclusion at Astapova Station.

The director, Michael Hoffman, has charted this interesting tale with skill and understanding, using the talented cast to great effect. Plummer plays the literary giant with accuracy, sensitivity, and an Oscar nomination to live up to, and Mirren, too, is worth her nomination for her clever portrayal of the slightly deranged and scheming Sofya. It's a joy to watch them going at each other hammer and sickle, alternating their loathing with their memories of the lust they once enjoyed together. McAvoy does equally well with his role, capturing the changes in the perceptions of his character brilliantly. It is a pleasure to observe his progress through the film. Whilst it is not actually Yasnaya Polyana, the location evokes the real rural Russia and the artefacts used add to the period feel. There are some poignant images of the real protagonists dotted around in the credit sequence, and the music is good, too.

This is an enjoyable film. You don't have to know much about Tolstoy or his work to appreciate the story and the exceptional acting by the very talented cast. Fans of Tolstoy might find some of the over-simplifications of character and story-line irritating.
Phil Bloomfield

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