

Professor Andrzej Wirth world famous Brecht expert will lecture on "From Brechtian learning-play to language-play" Wednesday 24 May 5.00pm Taylorian Building, St Giles. All welcome

New Fax number for Daily Information:
0870 734 5695

COMING

STALLHOLDERS WANTED FOR Jericho Street Fair. Saturday 10th June from 10am. £12 (£10 for charity). Contact 557902 or Jericho Community Centre, 33A Canal Street

LOST AND FOUND

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NOSE BAG hanging sign which was removed from our premises, probably on Wednesday evening? If so, please encourage the miscreant to return it since it's part of our heritage. Just return it to our passage-way, no questions asked! Thank you.

PERSONAL ORGANISER FOUND. Phone Thomas: 5127278

WANTED

TABLE TENNIS TABLE WANTED. 861762, PH@talk21.com
SINGLE BED, FUTON SOFA Bed. (01865) 271376 or email michellemcauliffe@hotmail.com (see FOR SALE, tenth item down)

computer science graduates apply now
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EXHIBITIONS

VISUALISING INSULIN SECRETION. The work of the scientist Frances Ashcroft on insulin secretion interpreted by the painter Benedict Rubra. 6 May - 31 July 2000. 12-5pm daily. Free admission. Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford.

COLLECTOMANIA! Free exhibition exploring individuals' emotional attachments to their collections. Monday - Saturday, 1pm-4.30pm, until Autumn 2000. Balfour Galleries, Pitt Rivers Museum Annex, 60 Banbury Road, Oxford. 01865 270927. www.prm.ox.ac.uk

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES MONTH MAY 2000 - GALLERY TALKS. Informal introductions to the Pitt Rivers Museum and its collections. Saturdays and Sundays in May, 2.30pm. Pitt Rivers Museum, Parks Road, Oxford. Free admission.

MASTER DRAWINGS BY JOHN RUSKIN. A loan exhibition of his drawings and watercolours from a private collection; this is the only showing of this exhibition in the UK. Christ Church Picture Gallery, 7 April - 21 May Mon-Sat 10.30 - 1 and 2.00 - 4.30, Sunday 11.00 - 4.30

FILM REVIEW

Gladiator (15)

at ABC, Magdalen St
Ridley Scott's *Gladiator* brings ancient Rome back to modern cinema; epic films, it seems, are not only a thing of the past. Scott's vision of Rome is well researched and spectacularly realised, and his story - a great general who is enslaved, becomes a gladiator, and then defies the emperor himself - is fittingly heroic and legendary for a classical epic.

General Maximus leads the Roman army to their final victory over the Germanic hordes, and wishes only to return to his family, but the intrigue and ambition of Commodus, the Emperor's son forces him to flee the army and so become an outsider. The film then charts his life. Captured by a slave dealer, sold as a gladiator, and forced to fight in a mock Colosseum in the far reaches of the Empire, he proves himself a great gladiator. When the games are reintroduced into Rome he is sent to fight, and is brought uncannily close again to the Emperor. For Rome, and to revenge his family, he plots to bring down Commodus and restore the city to the democratic power of the Senate.

Gladiator is a gripping and exhilarating film to watch. The bloodthirstiness, both of the army's battles and of the gladiatorial combat is most effectively reproduced, so the film is not recommended for the faint-hearted. Don't let this put you off however. The dimensions of such an epic film may feel uncomfortable at first to those more used to art house films, but this is great entertainment, and not one to be missed.

Emily Hardiment 22.5.00

CINEMA

Until Thursday 25th May

UPP, Jeune Street 245288
FINAL DESTINATION (15)
Tue-Thu 7.30, 9.40
Original horror: teenagers discover they can't cheat death.

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526
AMERICAN PSYCHO (18)
Tues-Thur 2.10, 4.30, 7.00
Adaptation of Brett Easton Ellis's gory black comedy.

VIRGIN SUICIDES (18)
Mon-Thur 2pm, 6.50, 9pm
Sardonic, enigmatic tale of suburban angst.

L'ENNUI (18) Daily 4.15, 9.10
French tale of sexual obsession.

CULT CINEMA: KING OF COMEDY (PG)
Thur 11.30pm
Chilling black comedy from Martin Scorsese.

GIRL, INTERRUPTED (15) Thur 11.30pm
Winona Ryder in a mental home.

ABC Magdalen Street 251998
Bookings 0541 550509 / Enquiries 725305

GLADIATOR (15) Daily 1pm, 4.25, 7.50
Gory new tale of blood and honour in the arena (see Review)

ABC George Street 251998
Bookings 0541 550501 / Enquiries 723911

SAVING GRACE (15)
Daily 1.40, 4.00, 6.05, 8.45
Hilarious British comedy with Martin Clunes.

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (15)
Daily 1.15, 3.40, 6.05, 8.30
New American gangster comedy.

KEVIN AND PERRY GO LARGE (15)
Daily 1.25, 3.25, 5.50
Harry Enfield and Kathy Burke.

SCREAM 3 (18) Daily 8.20
Last in the horror/comedy trilogy

SUMMER BALLS

Please note that balls are generally open only to University members and their bona fide guests

FRI 30TH JUNE (9th Week) MAGDALEN COMMEMORATION BALL
8pm-6am.
The Honeyz, Judge Jules, The Bootleg Beatles, James Taylor Quartet.
Non-dining tickets only left £95.
ball.magd.ox.ac.uk

ORIEL BALL
8pm-6am.
Doves, DJ Andy Smith, Merengada (Salsa and Merengue)
Tickets: £75 non-dining.
www.orielball.co.uk

SAT 1ST JULY (9th Week) WADHAM BALL
8pm-6am.
Supergass, DJ to be confirmed, Gospel Choir
Tickets: £90 dining, £70 non-dining.
For details contact Brendan O'Grady 07968 446827

ST ANNE'S / ST JOHN'S BALL
No further details available at present

COMING

24TH NOVEMBER MANSFIELD BALL Michaelmas Term
Tickets: £55-80
In aid of Homes for a Future (student-run charity for Romanian Orphanages)
Details to come later...

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22, Park End Street (opposite Oxford Rail Station)
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THEATRE

Magdalen College Gardens

KISS ME KATE Wed 23rd-Sat 27th 8pm.
Thurs mat. 2.30pm; Sat mat 12pm.
Cole Porter's musical based on The Taming of the Shrew.

Apollo Theatre 0870 6063500
MEN O MEN Wed 24th 7.45
Girls' night out.

The Oxford Playhouse 798600

GASPING
Tues 23rd - Thur 25th 7.30 (Thur mat. 2.30);
Fri 26th 8pm; Sat 27th 5pm, 8pm

Ben Elton's satire on corporate culture (see Review)

Old Fire Station 794490
THE REVENGER'S TRAGEDY
Tue 23rd - Sat 27th 7.30; Sat mat. 2.30
Sordid, sardonic play by Cyril Tourneur.

Burton Taylor Theatre
YERMA Tue 23rd - Sat 27th 7.30
Lorca's exploration of a woman's search for flight.

SMILE FOR ME Tue 23rd - Sat 27th 7.30
New writing from Tom Bowtell

TUITION OFFERED

TEFL TEACHER, START June to August. Good rate. email: nia@nasej.com.sa

COMPUTERS WANTED

WANTED PENTIUM LAPTOP cd Win95 Office 97. dvicars@lineone.net

OPERA REVIEW

The Four Note Opera by Tom Johnson
Magdalen College Auditorium, 22nd-23rd May

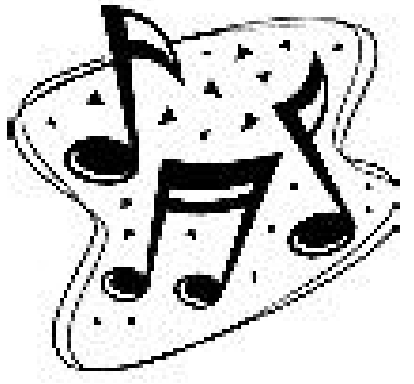
Anyone who has ever been put off by the term "post-modern" would have benefited from this splendid production of a highly amusing and original work. For Tom Johnson's *Four Note Opera* is post-modern. It is also a minimalist "meta-opera", something which would be expected to scare off all but the most ardent 20th century music enthusiasts. Johnson is a pioneering minimalist composer - the now more famous Steve Reich and Philip Glass owe a lot to his work. But the humour and lack of pretension which are its main characteristics make it fun, accessible, and also highly informative about several traditionally difficult concepts in modern art.

In a sense it is like taking a step back from an opera. There does seem to be some sort of plot, but it never becomes clear what it is, and the performers never sing about it. Instead, they sing about themselves as musicians, about the music they are singing, and about the difficulties they experience in its performance. But far from making the work eclectic, this meta-operatic device allows Johnson to explain his thinking behind his piece, through his characters, who he names simply after their voice categorisation.

For example, *The Four Note Opera* is almost a crash course in minimalism: in a long aria, the Baritone explains subtly altering repetition; a trio shows how diminished forms of the same figure can be worked together; and the quasi-religious ceremony which heralds the wood-block's only entry shows how very effective can be the sparse use of an instrumental effect. Furthermore, the fact that only four notes are used throughout is, surprisingly, not at all tedious, and allows musical points to be illustrated with greater clarity by removing one layer of harmonic complexity.

Johnson's choice of format also allows him to explore the personalities and motivations of singers, and the inevitable clashes between them, something which he does with hilarious perspicacity. We see here the prima donna Soprano (Sari Savunen); the carping contralto (Daphne Harvey) eager to take her down a peg or two; and the arrogant tenor (Nick Ashley), disgruntled at having less music than the baritone. Anyone who has been involved in singing could not fail to be amused by the author's insights, and for others he provides a fascinating glimpse of life behind the stage of an operatic production.

All four turned in fine, characterful performances - Miss Savunen particularly exhibited considerable vocal prowess in a demanding role. The men were, perhaps, less vocally strong than the ladies, but in the intimate setting of Magdalen's Auditorium this mattered little. The venue also helped to produce a pleasant sense of audience involvement. Neil Fisher directed with flair and imagination, and his cast was clearly well-drilled. All in all, an extremely enjoyable production of a thoroughly rewarding work.



Matthew Rogers 22.5.00

JOBS WANTED

WEB DESIGN AND Development. HTML, ColdFusion, ASP, Graphics Design: stefanos@cunning.fsnet.co.uk
ITALIAN GIRL SEEKS au pair accommodation. Help in house anna.li@flashnet.it

SERVICES OFFERED

EGYPTIAN / CLASSICAL ARABIC taught, 10-15 pounds/hour samia@clara.net
ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE LESSONS. Central Oxford. Student rates. Tel: 765511 c@binternet.co.uk
PROOF-READING, EDITING. help with English. Call Julie on 775344, julie@highmore.freereserve.co.uk
BIG OR SMALL WE SHIP IT ALL. 50% DISCOUNT ON PACKAGING MATERIALS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO SHIP WITH US. FREE PICK UP IN OXFORD. MAIL BOXES ETC. Summer term 01865 514655.
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THEATRE PREVIEW

Six Degrees of Separation by John Guare
Old Fire Station, 30.5-36, 7.30pm
(Sat Mat 2.30)

This New York comedy, from the production team that made *Broken Glass* in February, revolves around the intersection between a middle-class white couple and a young black man who enters their lives uninvited, bleeding and claiming to be the son of Sidney Poitier. The central theme of the text is artificiality, alongside a sharp social commentary that is equally applicable in its presented New York context as in our own. The production focuses upon the former and, in contrast to their previous plays, takes a heavily stylised form and accentuates the witty, rhythmic text with physical symmetry. Large, vibrant characters are portrayed amidst a minimalist set by a tight cast that responds well to the director's vision. It may seem ambitious to combine a text revolving around artificiality with ethereal physical imagery, but don't be scared of facing an abstract, confused mess. The actors are focused and moments of humour are emphasised to offset the intensity of the performance. In combination this all makes for a truly absorbing performance, that betrays a thorough understanding of the text and a willingness to innovate.

Jonathan Rushforth 23.5.00

BANDS, DISCOS, LIGHTS

DISCO, PA & LIGHTING equipment - hire and sales. 118 Cowley Road, 722027.

BANDS, DISCO, KARAOKE. Equipment hire from ODS, (01865) 736660.

DISCOS, KARAOKES AND EQUIPMENT HIRE - Dave Seaman Entertainments, (01865) 240054.

PIANO JAZZ TRIO for parties etc. Reasonable rates. Tel: 01865 516004

THEATRICAL NEEDS

AUCTIONS MON/TUES MEN IN WHITE COATS. Three male roles. Contact Seb Barwell 0403 658724

AUCTIONS 'THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST.' Three Week Michaelmas, Oxford Playhouse. Upper Oscar Wilde Room, Magdalen, Thurs, Fri, Sat 4th week (25-27 May) 2-6pm, Contact Simon Woods on 0780 3728118 or Kate.McCullagh@magd.ox.ac.uk

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

JAZZ AND POETRY SESSION. Jazz orchestra I Kicks off this night in the bar, where funk will meet mellow. Another chance for anyone to get up on the night and have a go. St Hilda's Arts Festival. Evening.

KARL DEMATA on blues guitar 11pm-2am Freuds, Walton Street.

Wednesday 24 May

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

FAMILIES SOUGHT FOR 2 Spanish girls of 14 wishing to spend 3-4 weeks in/near Oxford between mid-June and end of July, either as an exchange, or as paying guests. Details please contact Jo MacDougall, Oxford Aunts, tel: 01865 791017.

SEEKING SINGLE ROOM in south Oxford on 1st SEP. roylove_1312@yahoo.com

ITALIAN STUDENT (F) seeks cheap room near Bodleian Library. anna.li@flashnet.it

WOLVERCOTE LOOKING TO buy 3 bedroom house up to £175,000. shrovn@bigfoot.com

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5-BEDROOM, STUDENT house, Kingston rd, Jericho, ring 556294 evenings

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FEMALE WANTED HOUSEHARE Florence Park double bedroom loved garden 665 bills Jenny 775997 Available now

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4 ROOMS JULY-SEPTEMBER £45-55pw. Shred 01865 203189 shoelstaden@queens.ox.ac.uk

GERMAN WOMAN SEEKS professional flatmate, two bedroom flat, very good standard, new development, in Headington, look for somebody reliable, who would like to live here for at least till March 2001 and is good company to explore Oxford, must be gay friendly, internet, garden, parking. 01865 749055

JAMES STREET LARGE room in shared house, furnished, central heating, two bathrooms, £75pw. Call Adam 864015 or 0411 849348

QUIET FURNISHED ROOM with view of woods in family house, bathroom with shower, parking. £75 a week, suit postgrad or prof., n/s. Female preferred. 20 mins city centre, available June 1st. Phone Carl 274023 (day) or 739622 (evenings) immediately.

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LECKFORD ROAD. STUDENT rooms available from 15 July. Tel: 5144007

JOBS OFFERED

BATH PLACE HOTEL. Oxford City Centre. Cleaner required for housekeeping and laundry duties, full time 35/40 hour week 9am-4pm, includes weekends £4.50 per hour. Contact Yolanda or Kathleen for details 01865 791812

GILLMAN AND SOAME'S framing department is looking for enthusiastic, hardworking people for immediate start. No previous experience required but an eye for detail needed. Full training given. One full-time permanent position and two part-time temporary positions. Phone Sue Mulligan 01865-263697

ENTHUSIASTIC NURSE NEEDED to join the team in our busy office. Sense of humour, up to date skills, and computer literacy essential. Full time position. Salary £15 033 - £16 077 plus use of car. Contact Oxford Aunts, 3 Cornmarket St. Oxford. Tel: 01865 791017

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF needed for busy language school. Immediate start until August. For more information and an application form please contact OSE Youth Language Schools on 01865 258321 or 258325

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AUSTRALIAN AND LIVING in Oxford? Oxford based language training company seeks marketing support for new school in Sydney. Tel. Angela on Ox 258316

CONTACTS

30 M (GOOD LOOKING), looking for an affair with female/female couple before getting married. Box 23/5/CN/1

RECENT MUM SEEKS others similar for READING CLUB/DISCUSSION GROUP to stop baby food brain. E-mail samia@clara.net Box 22/5/CN/2

SULKING INDIVIDUAL FEARS world may be dark and wear-ome some aesthetic wasteland with no prospect of meaningful happiness. Leave me alone. Box 22/5/CN/1

WEALTHY WIFE SOUGHT by workshy graduate. I am a good cook, competent with an iron and not ugly. Box 21/5/CN/1

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LADIES BIKE, 5 speed, Good cond. £15. Tel: 01865 516853

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE in Good condition, lock £4500 Oxford 513432

SECOND HAND CYCLES on sale at The Oxford Union Society Courtyard, St Michael's Street, off Cornmarket. Every Wednesday in term-time 9am-5pm. Tel: 07973 229420

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