


THURSDAY 24TH MAY 2001 (5TH WEEK)

COMING

OU Gilbert and Sullivan Society Presents
The MIKADO
by W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan
Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th May
8pm
Holywell Music Room



GREENPEACE SUMMER FAIR. 10am-4pm, Saturday 2nd June, Wesley Memorial Hall. Vegetarian Buffet - Green Products.
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY Sports Department are holding First Aid and sports coaching courses. Sports courses available are Football, Hockey, Badminton, Fencing, Weight lifting, Netball. Enquiries to matt.queat@sport.ox.ac.uk (01865) 240476

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PREVIEW

Russian Star Violinist Grigory Zhislin returns to Oxford this Saturday, 26th May, to give a concert at the Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College. Accompanied by Oxford graduate Julian Gallant, he takes his 1752 Guadagnini violin through a varied programme, including Schnittke's *Suite in the Old Style*, Schubert's *Fantasy in C Major* and *Missa in Thomas and Variations*.

As a special treat, Russian delicacies will be available in the interval, courtesy of Oxford's own Russian delicatessen: Russian Fairytale, which can be found at 88 Cowley Road.

The concert begins at 8pm. Tickets, priced £10 (£5 concessions) are available on the door, or from the Playhouse Box Office on 798600.

Russian delights available during the interval, courtesy of **Russian Fairytale,** 88 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 Tel 01865 250819



EXHIBITIONS

UNSEEN TREASURES / Previously undiscovered old master drawings. Ends 22nd July. / Christ Church Picture Gallery, Christ Church (entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oriel Square) Opening times: Mon-Sat 10.30-1.00, 2.00-4.30. Sun 2.00-4.30 (Easter-end Sept closes 5.30). Tel: 276172, Fax: 202429

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Amid the post-finals celebrations Malcolm realised with a chill of horror that he was only in the second year.

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CINEMA

Until Thursday 24th May

Odeon Magdalen Street 725305

THE MUMMY RETURNS (12) Daily: 2.00, 5.10, 8.20
More special effects terror in the desert.

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (15) Daily: 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.45
The famous singleton on screen.

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CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (15)
Daily: 4.00, 6.00, 11.15pm
The famous singleton on screen.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST (15) Daily: 8.00
Gunmen out to slaughter a widow.

Phoenix Picture House 512526
CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN (15) Daily 2.00, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15
Famous mediterranean wartime romance.

A HARD DAY'S NIGHT (U) Daily: 1.45, 5.15, 9.10
The Beatles teetering on the brink of superstardom.

BEST IN SHOW (12) Daily: 3.30, 7.00
Canine pageantry. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

CULT CINEMA: FORBIDDEN PLANET (U) Thur 24th 11.30pm
50s Classic boasting an array of special effects.

REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (18) Thur 24th 11.30pm
Powerful drug story.

THEATRE

Worcester College Gardens

THE COUNTRY WIFE Tue 22nd-Sat 26th 7pm; Sun 27th 2pm
William Wycherley's bawdy satire of love and jealousy. See review.

Apollo Theatre 794490
60'S GOLD Thur 24th 7.30
Gerry and the Pacemakers, Mersey Beats, and more.

Old Fire Station 794490
BLITHE SPIRIT Tue 22nd-Sat 26th 7.30; Sat mat 2.30
Noel Coward's most popular comedy. See review.

Playhouse 798600
THE WOMAN IN BLACK Thur 24th 2.30, 7.30; Fri 25th 8pm; Sat 26th 2.30, 7.30
Susan Hill's spine-chiller about a cursed lawyer. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Burton Taylor Theatre 793797
MADAME DE SADE Tue 22nd - Sat 26th 7.30
The long-suffering wife of the 'Divine Marquis'

LATIN! OR TOBACCO AND BOYS Tue 22nd - Sat 26th 9.30
Stephen Fry's tasteless boarding-school comedy. See review.

Pegasus Theatre 722851
OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD Wed 23rd - Sat 26th 8pm
Penal colonists in Australia put on a play.

Holywell Music Room
THE MIKADO Sat 26th - Sun 27th 8pm
Gilbert & Sullivan's Japanese comic masterpiece.

University College Gardens
ARABIAN NIGHTS Tue 22nd-Sat 26th 7.30
An eastern treat to match the weather.

JOBS

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JOBS

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ELECTIONS 2001
THURSDAY 7TH JUNE
The people you elect are going to interfere with you. Click on "Election 2001" at www.dailyinfo.co.uk to see what they propose to do - and vote accordingly.



REVIEW: THEATRE
Blithe Spirit, by Noel Coward
Old Fire Station until Saturday 26th
Noel Coward wrote *Blithe Spirit* in 1941 just after his house had been the recipient of a Luftwaffe bomb. His macabre response was to write a comedy on a medium who brings back the v people from the dead. The play deals with the subject of head on, for as a ghost tells us, "I always believed in cutting my losses, that's why I died." The black humour of *Blithe Spirit* amused wartime Britain, and was immediately popular. The plot begins with Charles C. Arcati, a middle aged novelist, invited Madame Arcati, an eccentric medium, to house so he can research his mystery novel while she performs a séance. Inadvertently Charles's first wife Elvira is called back from the dead. Charles is accused of being an astral bigamist, and second wife Ruth threatens to call the Archbishop of Canterbury as a last resort to get rid of Elvira. The plot has more twists than a roller coaster and a hilarious three-way repartee as only Charles can see the sparkling spectre of Elvira, elegantly played by Meryl Elvin.
Séances, cucumber sandwiches and martinis that are as "dry as a bone" are served up in the Condomine's lounge alongside
Lita Doolan, 22 / 05 / 01

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REVIEW: THEATRE
Latin!, or Tobacco and Boys, by Stephen Fry
Burton-Taylor Theatre until Saturday 26th
"Pleasure", sighs our hero Dominic Clarke, "lies between the thighs of a young boy", and what a pleasure this is. Audience members are put in delirium for lateness, exercise books are hurled and classroom innuendoes abound from the moment *Latin!* begins. Such lines as "Boys who rub me up the wrong way come to a sticky end," seem unpromising on paper, yet Nick Gill (as Clarke) plays the role of pederastic Latin master with superb timing and style. Somewhat reminiscent of a Joyce Grenfell monologue, a class full of invisible boys is made believable by Gill. Figgis with his contact lenses, Smethwick with his well 'ooze', and Cartwright. Ah, yes, Cartwright, with his "large, curiously blue" eyes, and his fully violated 13-year-old boy.
For this is, ostensibly at least, a play about a man who loves boys. For Stephen Fry fans this is hardly a new tale, although this is perhaps the comedian's earliest rendition of it. As in *The Liar*, and the autobiographical *Moab* is my Washpot, Fry takes as his muse a boy he fell in love with
whilst at Uppingham. Clarke is clearly Fry. Cartwright, once again, the name he gives his young love.
The relationship between the two is discovered by Herbert Brookshaw, one of the long-



est serving members of staff at Chartham Park School, where the play is set. Leander Deeny impressively portrays this aged, peculiar character - his explanation of the 'merit system' at Chartham Park reducing much of the audience to helpless laughter. In return for not revealing the trust he asks Clarke to perform a couple of "odd jobs", most memorable of which is the request that Brookshaw be beaten, every Tuesday and Thursday, "for about half an hour". With it goes on, a coat hanger or a wet towel. "And don't forget the peanut butter!"
Yet there is more to this than mere paedophilia and buggery for Clarke describes himself as "a sensitive in a land of literary rugby players". A man unsatisfied with his lot, who never wanted to stop being a boy. "You are gross and deformed" he tells Brookshaw; "I just misbehave occasionally". Clarke is Oscar Wilde to Cartwright's Bosie, and whatever the comedic use, this illegal relationship is never condemned. Fry, it seems, will not apologise for love.
Latin! won awards at its first performance, and this production, by Josie Long and Sam Freedman, does it full credit. A triumph of comedy genre, this is Stephen Fry at his very best.
Rebecca Smith, 22 / 05 / 01

THEATRICAL NEEDS
Channel 4 Comedy programme needs
Talented Extras
Auditions 6.30-8.30pm on Friday 25th May, New Seminar Room, Wadham. Email cast@thepooters.com

WANTED
STALLHOLDERS WANTED FOR Jericho Street Fair, Saturday 9th June from 10am. £15 (£12 for charity). Contact 557902 or Jericho Community Centre, 33A Canal Street
BASS GUITAR CASE WANTED, protective/suitable for airtravel. spaceadette@breathes.com; 01865 206241(days).
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REVIEW: THEATRE
The Country Wife, by William Wycherley
Worcester College Gardens until Sunday 27th
William Wycherley's bawdy restoration comedy is given the full wigs-and-frocks treatment by The Buskin's of Worcester College this week. It is being staged outdoors, and the setting is brilliant: next to the college's lake and with the sun setting in the background. This proximity to water does, however, result in an abundance of midgets, so you'd do well to pack your insect repellent.
Sex is the thrusting force behind all of *The Country Wife's* cleverly intertwined plot strands, which together explore the romantic entanglements of a group of wealthy characters in sordid post-Puritanism London. The key story concerns the wit Horner - a particularly "lewd fellow" who passes himself off as a eunuch in order to have his way with the duplicitous London women. Edmund Wiseman gives a strong performance in this role, although a bit more campiness in the Kenneth Williams mould would have made him an even more convincing saucy hero.
The eponymous country wife Margery, (sympathetically played by Esme Patey-Ford) is brought to town by her possessive and cruel husband Pinchwife - an amusing but not very threatening portrayal by David Wood - who is farcically desperate to prevent her from being won over by Horner. This scenario leads to some of the production's funniest and best played moments, as Pinchwife's attempts to "protect" his wife grow ever more ridiculous and cross-dressing inevitably beckons.
In a diverting side plot Harcourt (a likeable James Thomas) attempts to woo Alithea (Anne Dowland) away from her ridiculously foppish fiancée Sparkish, played with supremely irritating Rik Mayall-esque relish by Alexander Runchman in a big pink wig. Harcourt's love, at least, is sincere and provides a refreshing antidote to the moral infidelity of the other characters.
Of course, being a restoration comedy, it's all terribly mannered and affected and this will annoy some theatre goers who like their plays a little more naturalistic. Some of the social satire has, inevitably, dated; the point that women are just as keen on promiscuity as men, for example, bears little impact these days. But the types of characters targeted for mockery are broadly recognisable, and Wycherley's wit is still cutting. Some techniques reek of amateur dramatics (there is much brandishing of invisible money on stage) but there is much to recommend this lively production including live music.
Ultimately this is an enjoyable show by Laura Rowe, enthusiastically played throughout its lengthy duration by an impressive cast.
Ben Coran, 22 / 5 / 01

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CONCERTS
Thursday 24th May
THE ZIMMERMAN TRIO / Evening Concerts! £6/£3 / 8:15pm / The Queen's College

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE
Thursday 24th May
JOHN BURGESS / Jazz saxophones. £4/£2.50 concs. / Doors 8.15pm, Music 9pm. / The Spin@The Wheat-sheaf, Wheat-sheaf Alley, 129 High Street, Tel: 243276
LOS HOMBRES / Latin Guitars / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

HURTING, STRESSED, TIRED? Professional therapeutic massage / aromatherapy can help. 01865-316810.

MEETINGS
Thursday 24th May
PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION GROUP / Free thinking and free coffee / 6.30pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901
PICNIC IN PARKS / Oxford Arthurian Society. Bring food, drink, cushions etc and reading matter. / 6pm, at Keble entrance. / University Parks
WELL SELF / Controversial author promotes his latest, 'How the dead live' / 6.30pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901
THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THE MONARCHY IS AN EMBARRASSMENT / Pro: Jonathan Freedland, Nicholas Davies. Con: Peter Hitchens, Sir John Coles, Lord Tristan Garel-Jones. / 8.30pm, emergency debate 7.45pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court
AMNESTY'S 'SECRET POLICEMAN'S BOY' / A mix of music from the last 4 decades! £4 / 7.30pm / Pauling Human Sciences Building, 58, Banbury Rd (rear)
ENGLAND AND THE TWELFTH-CENTURY RENAISSANCE / Prof R Thomson / 5pm / St Cross Building
TRANSYLVANIA IMAGINED: AN APOLITICAL ROMANIAN PERSPECTIVE / With Marius Turda. Oxford Hungarian Society. Contributions suggested, i.e. £5 per term. / 8pm / Oriel College, Oriel Square; Tel: 276555
L'IMAGINAIRE DANS LES PENSÉES / Christian Belin / 5.15 / St John's College, St Giles