

Oxford's DAILY INFO
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 Tue 27th & Wed 28th January 2009 (2nd week)

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 Next issue: Thu 29th January
 Deadline: 10am, Wed 28th January

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BAD NEWS: The story we are not being told
 Public meeting with Nick Davies, Guardian journalist and author of **FLAT EARTH NEWS**
 6.30pm, Oxford Town Hall, Thursday 29

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 Highly competitive remuneration for a 21 hour week. Lunch is provided.
 Completed application form (available on the Revision Course link of the website) accompanied by full CV if desired, should be emailed to the Course Director, Mrs Maria-Jose Gago, on the email address below.

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 01865 647 572

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Milk [15]

Showing at the Odeon George Street to at least 19.29th. See cinema listings below.

Harvey Milk was the first openly gay publicly elected official in the US. In 1978, he became a San Francisco City Supervisor, a role which would lead to his assassination just 11 months later. He was 48.

Gus Van Sant's biopic of an icon of the gay rights movement is a timely reminder of the ideological clashes which underpin the American political landscape at a time when - symbolically at least - a new era has dawned on US politics. The forces that Harvey Milk struggled against, most notably from Christian fundamentalists who sought to demonise homosexuality and a police force which violently persecuted the gay community, were powerful indeed. *Milk* is a tribute to his perseverance and his courage.

Whether Van Sant really makes the most of the story is another matter. Somehow the film lacks a sense of theatre. Adding dramatic tension but staying honest to historical events is hard to do, and one feels that Van Sant chooses to play safe here. It is confident that the story of the life of Harvey Milk and the gay rights movement is strong enough, and in many ways it is. Sean Penn plays the lead role with wit and energy, a great performance, and the film is superbly stylised in depicting 1970s San Francisco, aided by the faultless integration of documentary footage of new reports and campaign speeches. In fact, some of the strongest scenes in *Milk* are those of advocates of Proposition 6 - a bill which sought to ban gay people from working in public schools - spouting hateful homophobia with the fervour that only the religious right can truly muster.

But though the film is structured around Milk's own memoirs, recorded in anticipation of the bullets that would kill him, somehow the device doesn't add the dramatic depth it should. It doesn't mythologize Milk, but the film also refuses to look at any darker aspects of his political career or his life. The changing terms of his relationship with long-time lover Scott Smith (James Franco), for example, are glossed over, whilst his relationship with political rival Dan White is never fully explored. There is also no sense of impending tragedy, no feeling that Milk is playing with forces beyond his control. Something is missing here, a willingness to get in touch with the conflicts and contradictions which characterise ordinary and important lives alike. The bigger picture takes prominence over a human story which would have been even more gripping.

I enjoyed *Milk*, and would certainly recommend it. In another director's hands, this starting story could have been even greater paths.

Russell George

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Good rates of pay, negotiable depending on experience.

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BROADWAY: TWO ROOMS in nice, clean shared house, 4/600 double, 4/390 single, inclusive bills, central hall, car and broadband. 07515 743096, 07516 873098.

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LARGE BRIGHT ROOM professional houseshare, w/ parking, council tax included, 4/400. roomonly@thotmail.co.uk

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GLANVILLE ROAD - This property benefits from 5 large double bedrooms, situated off the Cowley Road in a quiet residential area close to all local shops and excellent public transport links into the town centre. This property has off street parking available and is being let on an individual room basis at £300/pcm excluding bills. 1 room remains! 01865 311745, debbie@topox.co.uk

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BIODIESEL - 80P/LITRE. High quality, ethical, green fuel from Oxford's used cooking oil by Goldenfields Co-op, est 2003. www.goldenfields.co.uk richard.goldenfields@gmail.com

MARY POTTER'S OXFORD: THE CANAL

The canal was used mainly to transport cheap coal and timber from the Midlands, barges being ideal to convey bulky resources over long distances, whereas perishable goods were prey to bad weather conditions. However, in 1795 a severe winter brought home the problem of too great a reliance on the canal, as traffic stopped due to the ice. For ten weeks Oxford suffered distress and poverty without coal, until a fresh supply finally managed to get through on 14th March.

The arrival of the railways rapidly affected the amount of commercial traffic on the canal, but it was only after the Second World War that the waterway fell virtually into disuse - between 1942 and 1956 the number of boats using the canal to Oxford fell from 223 to 16. Now the canal is mainly used for pleasure and residential craft, particularly during the summer months.

The bridge at Cropredy figured in a battle between the Roundheads and Cavaliers in late June 1644. General Waller seized the bridge for Cromwell and crossed it, managing to create a gap in the King's forces and nearly compelling their surrender. However while he hesitated a counter-attack saw the royalist troops regain possession of the bridge. The Royalists' success, however, was overshadowed when, 3 days later, the apparently invincible Prince Rupert suffered a shattering defeat at Marston Moor.

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GARAGE TO LET

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WRITE VERSE, WIN FOOD

Pro- & Anti- Valentine's Day Poetry Competitions!
 Send us your smoothest sonnets or your most vitriolic verse for a chance to win

A table for two with bubbly at **FRATELLI'S - 248200** or a table for 4 with booze & poetry slam - at **THE BIG BANG - 511441**
 East Oxford's coolest Italian Restaurant Jericho's award-winning Sausage Restaurant

email valentine@dailinfo.co.uk or send us your poems via www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Pro- Samples so far: Anti

Love Feast
 B ellissimo husband, Mamma Mia! You're mine!
 E liehe o Fustill, you're just as divine
 L ike Sarcle Al Forno with a Tuscan wine
 O ur hearts so beautifully intertwine
 V eautiful and virtuous you smoothly combine
 E t come to Fratelli's and together we'll dine
 D arling mia amore, mia valentine

A dozen red roses, all present and correct.
 One for every month of the latter year's neglect.
 Thornton's Continental, pre-gift wrapped, naturally.
 And a card, with some sneaking, saccharine no-poetry

How do I love thee... let me count the ways:
 One for convenience... two for better days.
 Three for the memory of what we should have been.
 Four for understanding what 'For better or worse' means

Five for the children. 'Before you get too old.
 House, partner, citizenry': that's what everyone is told.
 Six, I promise, for gratitude: you could have let me go.
 Or called and cursed, or thrown me out, let everybody know.
 But you stayed, and sighed, and understood that it would ever be so.

What would it have taken to tread a different path?
 How hard would it have really been to try to make you laugh
 Or cry, or sing, or something! Just to see this antipathy.
 That I recognise, see in your eyes, when you try to look at me.

You say you like the flowers, and the card does make you smile.
 The chocolates, well, they're saved for guests, put in the cupboard with the rest:
 affection for the file.
 So, thank you for the dinner, and I did enjoy the wine.
 I suppose that all there's left to say is have a happy Valentine.

Josephine

Rich

CINEMA To Thu 29th

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)
 SEVEN POUNDS [12A] Mon-Thurs 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
 Will continue to be re-imagined by abstract cinema.
 THE READER [15] Mon-Thurs 1.30pm
 Completed love affair post WWII Germany.
 MICKY BASKIN [15] Mon-Thurs 1.00pm
 Micky Baskin a funny, The Reader, making a comeback.
 MILK [15] Sat Mon-Thurs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
 The story of the life of Harvey Milk and the gay rights movement.
 VALKYRIE [15] Mon-Thurs 12.40, 2.45, 5.45, 8.45pm
 The story of the German soldiers during the battle of WWII.

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS [18]
 Contains old feed between the associate vampires and their former slaves.

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA [U] daily 12.15pm
 Will continue to be re-imagined by abstract cinema.

ROD MODELS [15] Mon-Thurs 1.00, 3.00, 6.30, 9.00pm
 Comedy about the lives of the models of Beverly Hills.

PROST/NIXON [15] Mon-Thurs 12.15, 3.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
 Account of Nixon's interview with disgraced former president.

INDIANA JONES & THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL [12A]
 Indiana Jones finds one of his men.

Woe Cinema (08712 240 240)
 SEVEN POUNDS [12A] Mon-Thurs 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
 Will continue to be re-imagined by abstract cinema.
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BANDS, DISCOS, KARAOKE, Equipment hire from ODS. 018165 736660.

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Wed 27th
DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH - Speak German, play games, sing carols. 7.30pm. Free welcome. deutschsprachig@schiffbau.com / Anchor Pub (corner Kingston Road/Postcard Road)

ASTRONOMY / Observing Evening Call 0787 687827 (for details) / www.astro.org.uk / Society / 7pm, 7.30pm. www.abingdonastro.org.uk / www.barnwellastro.org.uk (free club night)

PRIVATE READING / Professor Peter Kemp / Housing Seminar / 7pm-2.30pm / www.oxfordcity.gov.uk / Northfields College, New Road

COLUM TUBING: THE ART OF LOSING / Richard Hillary Memorial Lecture / 5pm - All welcome - 18/485 / Galleani Lecture Theatre, St. Cross Building

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT / Local & international buses / Oxford Transport Network / 5pm, 6pm / <http://transport.oxford.gov.uk> / 285533 / Oxford City of Geography, Mansfield Rd

PERFORMERS SOUGHT

PERFORMERS SOUGHT FOR short paid slots at regular Oxford based contemporary Cabaret, Variety Night. Do you have circus, dance, theatre, magic, comedy or music skills? Do you have circus, dance, or very good amateur level? Showcase your work in front of a friendly, receptive audience. Please send CV / professional / details, or for more info, email sussanaband@hotmail.com

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THEATRE To Sat 31st

Oxford Playhouse (303505)
 HARVEST Fri 30th: 8pm Sat 31st: 7.30pm
 Richard Bove's beautiful comedy, set against the backdrop of pig farming and the changing nature of the Oxford countryside.

New Theatre, Oxford (0844 8471585)
SOLO OUT - RUSSELL BRAND Wed 28th: 8pm
 A hilarious comedy performance, featuring the world's best stand-up comic.

THE CALCULATING MAN Tue 27th: 10am & 1pm
 Will continue to be re-imagined by abstract cinema.

THE MARCH BROTHERS & GRINGALD Sat 31st: 7.30pm
 Comedy about the lives of the models of Beverly Hills.

North Wall Arts Centre (319450)
THE THUGS DOING TIME Wed 28th: 1.30pm, Thu 29th: 10am, 1.30pm
 An adaptation of the Dickens tale for children aged 11+ and their families. 16+

PANDORA Fri 30th: 8pm Sat 31st: 7.30pm
 World class physical theatre and dance performance - in a 15m sq. box. 12+

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon
OUTSIDE EDGE by RICHARD HARRIS Wed 28th: 7.30pm
 A hilarious comedy performance, featuring the world's best stand-up comic.

Burton Taylor Studio (303505)
CORRECTNESS GONE MAD Tue 27th: 5.30pm Sat 31st: 7.30pm
 Comedy about the lives of the models of Beverly Hills.

East Oxford Community Centre
MEPHISTO - CROTTI CINEMA Wed 4.30pm-11pm
 Dante's Dante and Hellmouth. L2 1200

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)
ALICE IN WONDERLAND Mon-Thurs 12.30pm
 Will continue to be re-imagined by abstract cinema.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)
PROST/NIXON [15] Mon-Thurs 12.15, 3.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
 Account of Nixon's interview with disgraced former president.

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED [15] Mon-Thurs 1.30, 3.30, 6.30, 9.30pm
 In a mad, mad world where the sun is 19, cancer is 19, and the world is 19.

DOUBT [15] Mon-Thurs 12.15, 3.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
 In a mad, mad world where the sun is 19, cancer is 19, and the world is 19.

BIG SCAM: RACHEL GETTING MARRIED [15] Wed 11.30am
 In a mad, mad world where the sun is 19, cancer is 19, and the world is 19.

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 East Oxford's coolest Italian Restaurant Jericho's award-winning Sausage Restaurant

email valentine@dailinfo.co.uk or send us your poems via www.dailyinfo.co.uk

Pro- Samples so far: Anti

Love Feast
 B ellissimo husband, Mamma Mia! You're mine!
 E liehe o Fustill, you're just as divine
 L ike Sarcle Al Forno with a Tuscan wine
 O ur hearts so beautifully intertwine
 V eautiful and virtuous you smoothly combine
 E t come to Fratelli's and together we'll dine
 D arling mia amore, mia valentine

A dozen red roses, all present and correct.
 One for every month of the latter year's neglect.
 Thornton's Continental, pre-gift wrapped, naturally.
 And a card, with some sneaking, saccharine no-poetry

How do I love thee... let me count the ways:
 One for convenience... two for better days.
 Three for the memory of what we should have been.
 Four for understanding what 'For better or worse' means

Five for the children. 'Before you get too old.
 House, partner, citizenry': that's what everyone is told.
 Six, I promise, for gratitude: you could have let me go.
 Or called and cursed, or thrown me out, let everybody know.
 But you stayed, and sighed, and understood that it would ever be so.

What would it have taken to tread a different path?
 How hard would it have really been to try to make you laugh
 Or cry, or sing, or something! Just to see this antipathy.
 That I recognise, see in your eyes, when you try to look at me.

You say you like the flowers, and the card does make you smile.
 The chocolates, well, they're saved for guests, put in the cupboard with the rest:
 affection for the file.
 So, thank you for the dinner, and I did enjoy the wine.
 I suppose that all there's left to say is have a happy Valentine.

Josephine

Rich