Oxford's DAILY INFO

Issue No. 7698

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Next issue: Sat 29th April
Deadline: 10am, Fri 28th April

Thu 27th & Fri 28th April 2006 (First Week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

MODERN ART OXFORD

LATE AT MODERN ART OXFORD
In association with the Catweazle Club
Art, Music, Food, Bar
Friday 28 April 7 - 10.30pm, FREE ENTRY
30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX1 1BP, 01865 722733
www.modernartoxford.org.uk

QIGONG WORKSHOP in Oxford
Learn how to be healthy and happy with the delightful Master Yap.
Master Yap Soon-Yeong is an internationally renowned healer, qigong master, and meditation teacher, and is the founder of the CFQ system.
May 20th & 21st, 2006, CFQ level one:
The 7 step "hexagram dance" and three complementary techniques.
Workshop includes group healing.
Also including CFQ standing meditation.
For more details visit : **www.cfq.org.uk**
or contact **01865 423247 / 07879 054217**

2006 a noughtie message
A free day of music, art, performance and words commemorating 60yearssinceHiroshima&Nagasaki.
Never Again!
12pm to 7pm
Saturday 29th April 2006
South Parks, Oxford.
www.thenoughties.org

SCHOLA Cantorum of Oxford
James Burton - conductor
Israel in Egypt
G. F. Handel
Saturday 29th April 2006, 7.30pm
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford
Tickets £24 / £18 / £14 / £6
01865 305305 / www.oxfordplayhouse.com

ARE YOU OPEN FOR MAY MORNING?
Are you serving a five course breakfast, bacon sarnies, or simply beer?
Tell us & we'll tell your punters!
info@dailyinfo.co.uk
01865 241133

GUIDED BIKE TOURS OF OXFORD and its backwaters. Every Sunday at 10am. www.capital-sport.co.uk

THE DA VINCI CODE AND THE RESURRECTION - Gnosticism, the Cathars and esoteric Christianity. A seminar by Dr Celia Green, author of The Human Evasion. Tuesday 2nd May at 3pm, Kings Arms, Holywell Street. Entrance Free. www.celiagreen.com

THE STORYTELLING CIRCLE OF OXTALES will meet on Friday 28th April, 26th May and 30th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Library at the Friends' Meeting House, St. Giles. Everybody is welcome. Come and enjoy listening to stories or tell one yourself and have a lovely evening.

For those who appreciate good food
AL SHAMI
LEBANESE RESTAURANT
25 Walton Crescent, Oxford Telephone: 310066
OPEN MIDDAY TO MIDNIGHT

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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., Summertown 01865 514655 - www.mbesummertown.co.uk, Headington 01865 741729 - www.mbeheadington.co.uk

GRADUATE (MA) SEEKS EMPLOYMENT to keep wolf from the door. Proof-reading, thesis / dissertation / revision assistance. Great references, reasonable rates. 07834 324035 tomcunliffe@warpmail.net

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER - weddings, portraits, events & fine art. 07960462502 www.johncairnsphotography.co.uk

The
STANDARD TANDOORI
INDIAN RESTAURANT & TAKEAWAY (FULLY LICENSED)
-- Opposite the Phoenix Cinema --
For bookings, tel. 553557
117 Walton St, Oxford, OX2 6AJ.
Open 7 days – 12 – 2.30pm, 6 – 11.30pm

DACHSHUNDS NEVER FORGET

CINEMA
Until Fri 28th April

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

THE SQUID AND THE WHALE [15] Thu: 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45pm
Two boys adjust to parents' divorce in comedy. Fri: 3.10, 4.50, 6.45, 8.45pm
PIERREPOINT [15] Thu: 2.00, 7.00pm
Timothy Spall as Britain's last hangman.
THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA [15]
Tommy Lee Jones's directorial debut Thu: 4.15, 9.00pm, Fri: 12.45pm
FRENCH CINEMA: STRAYED [15] Thu: 12.45pm
The uneasy relationship of a mother and young man in WW2.
THE WHITE COUNTESS [15] Fri: 1.00, 6.20pm
Ralph Fiennes as American ambassador in love in 30s Shanghai.
SHOOTING DOGS [15] Fri: 4.00, 9.00pm
John Hurt as priest caught up in the Rwandan genocide.
FUTURE SHORTS FILM SCREENING [18] Fri: 11.30pm
International animations, music videos, documentaries and comic dramas.
07769 902231 future-shorts@hotmail.co.uk £5 approx
KIDULTHOOD [15] Fri: 11.30pm
A day in the life of a group of troubled 15-year-olds growing up in west London.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

TAKE THE LEAD [12A] Thu: 6.15, 9.00pm
Teaching dance in the New York public school system.
ICE AGE 2 [U] Thu: 12.30, 1.30, 3.00, 4.00, 6.00, 7.00, 9.15pm
Another mammoth undertaking. Fri: 12.30, 1.30, 3.00, 4.00, 5.15, 7.00, 9.15pm
EIGHT BELOW [PG] Thu: 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30pm
Men and dogs battle to survive the antarctic winter. Fri: 4.45pm
SCARY MOVIE 4 [15] Thu: 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30pm
Another horror parody. Fri: 2.30, 7.15, 9.30pm
SHE'S THE MAN [12A] Thu: 1.15, 3.45pm
Another teen America remake of Twelfth Night.
THE INSIDE MAN [15] Thu: 8.15pm, Fri: 8.00pm
Spike Lee directs New York police drama
SILENT HILL [15] Thu & Fri: 2.15, 5.30, 8.45pm
A mother goes to a strange place in search of a cure for her child...
AMERICAN DREAMZ [12A] Fri: 12.00, 2.45, 5.45, 8.30pm
The President judges a talent show. (wheelchair access)
16 BLOCKS [12A] Fri: 12.45, 3.30, 6.00, 9.00pm
A policeman has to escort a very unpopular witness over a very short distance...
SLITHER [15] Fri: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45pm
They hang by a thread of their own mucus and fire arrows into each other.
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III [12A] Fri: 11.00am, 1.00, 2.00, 4.00, 5.00, 7.00, 8.00pm
Tom Cruise. Returns. To do another impossible thing.

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

SHE'S THE MAN [12A] Thu: 4.15pm
Another teen America remake of Twelfth Night. Fri: 2.00, 4.10pm
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING [15] Thu: 8.30pm
Based on a "true story" of possession in Tennessee. Fri: 6.10, 8.15, 10.30pm
TAKE THE LEAD [12A] Thu: 6.30, 9.15pm
Teaching dance in the New York public school system.
ICE AGE 2 [U] Thu: 1.30, 2.00, 2.50, 4.00, 5.00, 6.15, 7.15, 9.30pm
Another mammoth undertaking. Fri: 2.50, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30, 11.40pm
THE INSIDE MAN [15] Thu: 2.15, 5.10, 8.00pm
Spike Lee directs New York police drama. Fri: 2.15, 5.15, 8.00, 10.45pm
AMERICAN DREAMZ [12A] Thu: 2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30pm
The President judges a talent show. Fri: 1.15, 3.45, 6.20, 8.45, 11.00pm
EIGHT BELOW [PG] Thu: 2.40, 5.20, 8.15pm
Men and dogs battle to survive the antarctic winter. Fri: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00pm
SCARY MOVIE 4 [15] Thu: 1.00, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 9.45pm
Another horror parody. Fri: 3.15, 5.30, 7.30, 9.40, 11.50pm
TRISTAN & ISOLDE [12A] Thu: 3.00, 6.00, 9.00pm
Doomed lovers. Doomed, I tell you... Fri: 9.00pm
SILENT HILL [15] Thu: 2.30, 5.45, 8.45pm
Horror involving mother, child & zombie town. Fri: 2.40, 5.45, 8.30, 11.20pm
16 BLOCKS [12A] Fri: 1.45, 4.00, 6.30, 9.10, 11.35pm
A policeman has to escort a very unpopular witness over a very short distance...
SLITHER [15] Fri: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.20, 11.30pm
They hang by a thread of their own mucus and fire arrows into each other.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

TRISTAN & ISOLDE [12A] Thu: 2.00, 5.15, 8.30pm
Doomed lovers. Doomed, I tell you... Fri: 5.15, 8.15pm
AMERICAN DREAMZ [12A] Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.15, 9.00pm
The President judges a talent show. (wheelchair access)
SLITHER [15] Fri: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45pm
They hang by a thread of their own mucus and fire arrows into each other.
SHE'S THE MAN [12A] Fri: 2.30pm
Another teen America remake of Twelfth Night.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

DOUBLE INDEMNITY (PG) Thu: 7.30, 9.40pm
Classic 1944 noir communicating the very depths of depravity, greed, lust & betrayal.

HOUSE BOAT

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE BOAT, lying in central oxford. fiberglass 26 x 10.5 foot, roof slides back for Summer cruising. £12,500 Cash offer may sail away a bargain. Call Tim on 07941751929 or email for photos write2timmo@gmail.com

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DISCO, PA, AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT – hire and sales. 118 Cowley Road, 01865 722027

DISCOS, LIGHTING, PA HIRE: Crossfade - soundtrack to your party. 01865 873970. www.crossfade.co.uk

PA HIRE - WEDDINGS, BANDS, PARTIES. Delivery, set up and collection. Sound engineer available - OXFORD PRO AUDIO 07881 917279 andynichol2112@aol.com

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THEATRE
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THAT'LL BE THE DAY Fri 28th: 7.30pm
Over 100 of your favourite hits from the 50's, 60's & 70's. £12.50-£18.50
THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW Sat 29th: 8pm
Another brick in the wallaby? £22.50

Oxford Playhouse (305305)
EDWARD ALBEE'S THREE TALL WOMEN To 13th May
Mon-Wed: 7.30pm, Thu, Sat: 2.30, 7.30pm, Fri: 8.00pm
How we live, how we love, what we settle for and how we die. £9.50-£22.50

Old Fire Station Theatre (297170)
BECKETT SHORTS Tue 25th- Sat 29th daily: 7.30pm
Rough for Theatre II, Catastrophe and Not I. Sat: 2.30, 7.30pm

JDP Music Building (305305)
MACBETH Mon 24th - Fri 28th: 7.30pm
New take on Shakespeare's tragedy by a groundbreaking new group. £8/£6/£5

✍ - See review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk

JOBS OFFERED

OISE
Office Administrator
OISE is recruiting a temporary Office Administrator for its busy Oxford school.
The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills and enjoy working under pressure. The position will involve dealing with students' accommodation, welfare and various office duties. Please contact the Principal, David Newton with your CV and covering letter.
13-15 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4EA
oxford@oise.com

3MONKEYS COMMUNICATIONS
TOP JOBS IN THE JUNGLE FOR BRIGHT GRADUATES
3 Monkeys Communications is a full service consultancy with offices in Oxford and London. Winners of the PR Week New Consultancy of the Year Award 2005, we're pitching for and winning some major accounts. We're not a run of the mill outfit. We're tree shakers, who want to innovate, challenge and contribute to our clients' businesses and the industry. Check out our website www.3-monkeys.co.uk to see if you get and like us.
We're looking for bright, ambitious monkeys to join our team. Based out of the Oxford office you will support the team on a number of corporate, consumer and environmental clients. Previous PR experience is not critical, but would be advantageous. Strong writing skills and a good phone manner are essential.
A great opportunity for a bright graduate to begin their career in PR.
If you want to join the jungle contact Spunky Monkey (Gemma Coxedge) on 0870 350 0303 or email your CV to gemma@3-monkeys.co.uk.

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Oxford's Five Star Serviced Apartments.
Good Salary, Incentive Program, Training and Development Program, Concessions, Healthcare, Car park space, Uniform, A shifts rota including weekends and a full induction training including Micros/Fidelio Reservation System.
The applicant must be a good communicator, enthusiastic and well presented. Welcoming nature, positive and determined attitude. Committed and able to work in isolation if necessary. Self motivated and self initiated who can work in a methodical system. Previous experience useful, but not essential. Computer literacy a necessity.
Please contact Mrs. Watts on:
Tel: 01865 254000 Fax: 01865 254099
Email: based@oxstay.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MALARIA VACCINE STUDIES. Two to three million people in tropical areas (including travellers to these) die each year of malaria and there is currently no vaccine available. New vaccines against this disease have recently been developed in Oxford and elsewhere. Would you be willing to assist with studies of these vaccines that are currently in progress at the Churchill and John Radcliffe hospitals? We are seeking healthy volunteers, aged 18-50 years, who have not had malaria previously. If you might be able to help by volunteering please contact the Malaria Vaccine Trial Group: Telephone:01865 857 401(answer phone) E-mail:malaria@well.ox.ac.uk. We will provide reimbursement to you for your participation, including allowances for time spent on the study and travelling expenses.

PART-TIME SHOP ASSISTANT required. 2 or 3 days/ week. Jericho. Experience not necessary. 07788 560268.

PART-TIME CASUAL WAITING STAFF urgently required for evenings during term time and split shifts during summer conference season. Good rates of pay. Please contact Dawn Grimshaw 01865 279147.

MUSIC TEACHER required by Oxford Montessori Schools, Elsfield to create lively music curriculum for children aged 6 - 12 years. Duties to include curriculum preparation, teaching, advice to management team and improvement of the School's music department and facilities. A great challenge for a teacher who is passionate about teaching their subject in a nurturing and beautiful environment. email: oms.schools@btconnect.com

Bellerbys College
(International, city centre school)
seeks full and part time teachers of Maths and Physics for September.
Please send CVs to Kyra Smith (ksmith@studygroup.com) or phone 01865 320250.
CVs of teachers of other disciplines also welcome.

North Oxford family seek
native-speaking French student
to live in until end July.
Help with three children aged 15, 13 and 11 in exchange for lovely room / sitting room. Help with children / dog walking / light cleaning. Weekends free.
Please apply with references to:
angelaoxford@msn.com

Change your life, love what you do and help a new generation of children to reach their full potential!
The Oxford Montessori Diploma in Pre-School Practice starts in September 2006. This is your chance to sign up for the 18-month, part-time course, one evening per week. Teaching practice arranged in own nurseries. Diploma eligible for a Sure Start Training Grant (up to £450 per course); recognised by NVQ Assessors at Level 3.
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Call Louise on 01865 358210 or email oms.schools@btconnect.com
Don't let the chance to make a difference pass you by!

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL OXFORD
670 boys, aged 7-18

SPANISH
(40% timetable)
Required from 1st September 2006 to teach from Year 9 to A level. The minimum timetable of 40% could be higher if the successful applicant is able to teach some French from Year 7.
Closing date: Friday 5th May 2006.

BUSINESS STUDIES
(7 periods per week)
Required from 1st September 2006, for one academic year only, to teach A2. More periods may be available for candidates able to offer other subject areas, sports or activities.
Closing date: Friday 5th May 2006.

CHEMISTRY
(50% timetable)
Required from 1st September 2006, a chemist to teach from Year 7 to A level. More periods may be available for candidates able to offer other subject areas, sports or activities.
Closing date: Friday 12th May 2006

Salary for the above posts includes MCS 10% allowance.
Details of all the above vacancies can be obtained from the Master's PA on 01865 242191 or email master@mcsoxford.org
MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD, OX4 1DZ.
Further details of these positions are also available on our website
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WORK FROM HOME OPPORTUNITY Call 0208 6266042 (24 hrs) for a free information pack.

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UP TO £30 PER HOUR? It only works if you follow the instructions exactly. www.fundmydegree.com

PROGRAMMER WANTED. ASP & .NET based in Worminghall (just outside of Oxford). Interesting, permanent role, £18k - £23k. Tim.Ellert@SimplyAutomate.co.uk

NORTH OXFORD FAMILY seeks reliable graduate student, preferably with own car, to pick up child after school in Headington at 3.30pm, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and help with homework etc til 5pm. £50 per week. Babysitting extra. Applicant should be flexible, easy-going with sense of humour. Please reply with references: angelaoxford@msn.com

PART-TIME COMPUTER WORK in Beaumont Street. Visit www.easyread-literacy.com/position.htm for info

CARS & MOTORBIKES

KAWASAKI : Ninja ZX 6R 2005 BEST OFFER contact via email: walt_1144@yahoo.com

FIAT PUNTO SX 1997 / R reg, 1242 cc, 5 door, midnight blue, 46,000 miles, good condition, tax and MoT Aug 06, sunroof, stereo, E. windows, drives well. £975. Oxford. 07835 291347.

GIGS

Thu 27th

CATWEAZLE CLUB / Oxford's legendary performance space for music, poetry, story and song (now in its 12th year). / 8pm. £4/£3/performers free (arrive before 8.30 to book in) / www.catweazleclub.org / East Oxford Community Centre. Princes St

SCRIPT @ THE PORT MAHON; / With support from Laima Bite + Andy Wright. Music starts at 8.30 p.m. / Entry £3.00. / pete@scriptmusic.co.uk / www.scriptmusic.co.uk / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

OPEN MIC / Acoustic tunes, warm fires, smiles. anyone welcome / 8pm free / iliketoskateboard@hotmail.com / www.theturftavern.co.uk / Turf Tavern 4 Bath Place, Holywell st

BIG BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME JAM / Major Bluegrass Jam and Old Time Blow out - free / Friends of Bluegrass and OT / 8.45 p.m. tune up/play / taube.marks@lang.ox.ac.uk / Fox and Hounds pub, Abingdon Road & Weirs Lane

DJ LEE + DOC SCOTT / Liquid drum and bass night. Warm up by Mike Hussla. / drum baby drum / 9pm till 2am ad £4/ door £5 / drumbabydrum@hotmail.co.uk / baby love bar. 3 King Edward Street, Oxford (off High St @Oddbins); Tel: 01865 200011

SPARKY'S FLYING CIRCUS / Performers of all kinds welcome! / 9pm, Free / The Half Moon. 17 St Clements, Oxford

ACOUSTIC SHOWCASE / tbc / 8.30pm / Free / Exeter Hall Pub. 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.); Tel: 01865 776431

THE SPIN JAZZ CLUB / BUTCH THOMAS [ex Jaco Pastorius, Sting] sax virtuoso / Doors 8pm/Band 8.45pm £8 £6 / www.spinjazz.com / The Spin@The Wheatsheaf. Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street; Tel: 243276

KING FURNACE + THE DELTA FREQUENCY + AMBERSTATE + DJ'S / 8.00pm £4 / Cellar Bar. Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 01865 244761

BLACK CAT OPEN MIKE NIGHT / Come along & sing, play, act, do stand-up, perform poetry, etc / 8pm / Free / info@blackcatonline.co.uk / www.cache.co.uk/openmike / The Jack Russell, 21 Salford Rd, Marston

SKYLARKIN' SOUNDSYSTEM / Reggae, Soul, Ska, Funk, Latin, Afrobeat, Jazz, Booze. / Skylarkin' Soundsystem / 8.30-11pm; free! / dalton@tommykneecaps.com / www.myspace.com/skylarkin_soundsystem / The Brickworks. 182 Cowley Rd; Tel: 245999

Fri 28th

JADA PEARL / Young, up and coming local R&B singer launches new album. With rapper Zuby, beatboxer Jools & professional dancers. / On stage 10.30pm / free before 10pm / www.studio45.org.uk / Bullingdon Arms. 162 Cowley Road, Oxford; Tel: 244516

DREW ATKINS / 60's infl. young singer-songwriter / 8pm / Victoria Arms, Walton St

SOLD OUT - PANIC AT THE DISCO! + MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

OXFORD FOLK CLUB / Maddie Southorn - haunting songs with piano and cello / 8.30 pm, £4 (unwaged £3) / pamcooper@hotmail.com / www.oxfordfolkclub.com / Port Mahon. St. Clement's

ECLECTIC DREAMS! / Vena Cava + Charlotte James + Foxes! + Voltaire / gappy tooth industries / 19.00 - 22.30 / £4.50 inc. club after / rcatherall@gappytooth.com / www.the-zodiac.co.uk/ / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

JOHN COGHLAN BAND / Original Status Quo drummer performing classic 70's Quo songs. / Doors 7.30pm / email@predatur.com / www.johncoghlan.com / Carterton Town FC, Kilkenny Lane, Carterton

MAY FEST - LIVE @ THE X / Mary's Garden, Age of Rockets (NYC), Transmission / 8.30pm / £3 / Exeter Hall Pub. 1 Oxford Rd (corner of Cowley & Marsh Rds.); Tel: 01865 776431

FRIENDS OF THE BLUES / classic Chicago and Delta blues / 9 p.m. - entry free / Chester Arms. Chester St, off Iffley Road

JON FLETCHER TRIO / + Where I'm Calling From + Bell Park. / 9.00 pm £4 / info@jonfletcher.co.uk / www.jonfletcher.co.uk / Jericho Tavern. Walton Street; Tel: 311775

PERSONALS

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Oxford OX2 7BY Tel: 01865 515955

MEETINGS & LECTURES

Thu 27th

PORTUGUESE CONVERSATION GROUP / All levels welcome / 7.30pm / portuguese@mintypoppet.com / www.mintypoppet.com/portuguese.html / G&D's, St Aldates

OXFORD FIN DE SIÈCLE SEMINAR / The post-emancipation Anglo-Jewish novel. Dr Naomi Hetherington. / University of Oxford / Free. 5.15pm. / anthony.cummins@ell.ox.ac.uk / St Cross Building

LUNCHTIME TALK / Dr Martin Henig: In search of the church in Roman Britain / St Giles Church, Oxford / 12.30 pm. Admission Free. / secretary@st-giles-church.org / www.st-giles-church.org / St Giles Church. St Giles

MEDITATION INSIGHTS / Guided meditations and simple exercises in an informal atmosphere. / Brahma Kumaris / 7:30pm / Free of Charge / info@globalretreatcentre.org / www.globalretreatcentre.org.uk/events_guide/courses/insights.htm / Global Retreat Centre, Nuneham Park, Nuneham Courtenay

THE LATE SHIFT / A group for adults age 16+ suffering mental health problems / Mind / Thursdays 5:30-8:30pm / Cowley Community Centre, Barns Road

Fri 28th

OXFORD RUNNER'S SOCIAL MEET / Meeting of Oxford runners. Come and meet some of your fellow plodders! / 7.30pm / All Bar One, High St, Oxford

GREAT SUMATRAN MEGATHRUST / Prof. Kerry Sieh (CALTECH): earthquakes - from science to human welfare / 4.30pm, all welcome / University Museum of Natural History. Parks Rd

STORYTELLING / Everybody is welcome. Come and enjoy listening to stories or tell one yourself and have a lovely evening. / The Storytelling Circle of OxTales / 7.30pm / The Library at the Friends' Meeting House, St. Giles.

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES / Lunchtime gallery talk. / 1.15 - 2pm £2 Booking recommended. / Ashmolean Museum. Beaumont Street.

HOUSES & FLATS TO LET

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CITY CENTRE FLAT. Gloucester Green. Large room in 2 bedroom flat. Available for July and August. Call 07876763200 or spd.hartley@gmail.com

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ROOM IN PROFESSIONAL HOUSESHARE. Available end May. Great location off St Clements. Garden. £370 inc bills and cleaner. caroline_smith76@yahoo.co.uk 07977 133584

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THEATRE REVIEWS

Macbeth

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, until Fri 28th April 2006

"Better than the RSC version!" was the verdict of my impressed companion for the evening. As a relative Macbeth novice I couldn't say one way or the other, but the newly-formed BMH productions certainly didn't disappoint – this play is the most entertaining I've seen in a long while.

The acting (especially considering the young age of the players) was excellent, to the point where it's hard to single individuals out. Edward Blagrove played the leading role with understated accomplishment throughout, while Eleanor Fanyika made a chilling and intense Lady Macbeth. Other acting highlights included a brutal climactic battle scene between Macbeth and Macduff, and the vampishly creepy weird sisters (the three witches), played more as sirens rather than hags in this version. Banquo's loyalty turning to distaste at the depths to which his friend has been willing to sink in pursuit of the throne is also done very well, as is the brief but eerie appearance of Hecate, queen of witches.

The poisonous chemistry between Macbeth and his wife is also very convincing. Macbeth's guilty torment is if anything underplayed, while Lady Macbeth's ruthless ambition is quickly overshadowed by her own doubts and fears, making her the more sympathetic character.

What really makes this performance stand out is the pleasing way in which the director, first-timer Emrys Matthews, has filled the play with surprises, symbols and little twists, while at the same time staying true to a relatively straight, no frills approach to the script. The black shirts, armbands and leather coats worn by Macbeth and others inevitably recall another well-known despot's bloody rise and fall without being overdone. A normally unremarkable scene in which Lennox discusses politics with another lord is unexpectedly transformed into comic relief, with Edward Caird performing an amusingly convincing drunken ramble. Most of the actors play two characters, and with one or two slight exceptions, it's pretty seamless.

The inventiveness doesn't stop during the interval either – look up from your wine and you'll see the weird sisters gazing down from a circular gallery, as if casting spells over a giant cauldron containing the audience. Simple, yet stylish and clever with some brilliant performances, this play is highly recommended.

**Rhys