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

Thu 27th - Fri 28th October 2005 (3rd Week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

The Fourth Oxford Lieder Festival Thu 27: Christopher Maltman with Graham Johnson Mahler, Debussy, Schumann 8pm, Holywell Mus. Roc

Fri 28: Susan Young, Maciek O'Shea & Iain Farrington Schumann Myrthen 80m. Jacqueline du Pré Buildin Sarah Connolly, Stephan Loges & Eugene Asti Brahms, Hahn, Schumann 8pm, Jacqueline du Pré Bid

Details: www.oxfordlieder.co.uk 07790 201941 Tickets: www.ticketsoxford.com / 01865 305305

MODERN ART OXFORD

Discussion Forum: Arts Lithuania Fri. 28 October, 5pm, £4(£3), FREE to Friends
Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX1 1BP, 01865 722733
www.modernartoxford.org.uk

THE REAL DA VINCI CODE" – a seminar by Dr Celia Green, author of 'The Human Evasion', Tuesday, 5th week, 8th November, at 2.30pm. The King's Arms, Holywell Street. Free. All welcome.

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RINEMA Until Fri 27th Oct

Phoenix Picture House (512526)

OLIVER TWIST [PG] Thu: 12.45, 3.20, 6.00, 8.45pm Fri: 1.00, 6.15pm BROKEN FLOWERS [15] Thu-Fri: 1.45, 4.15, 6.45, 9.00 PERFORMANCE [18] Fri: 11.30a Future Shorts Screening

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

OLIVER TWIST [PG] Thu: 2.50 Thu: 12.10s

BROKEN FLOWERS [15] Thu: 2.40. 5.15. 8.10 Thu: 5.25, 8.20p Fri: 2.30. 5.25. 8.20e

3.50, 6.15p Thu-Fri: 1.10. 3.35. 6.00. 8. Fri: 3.45, 6.05, 8.50 Fri: 2.15, 5.10, 8.10

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE [U] & MYSTERIOUS SKIN [18] Thu: 6,00s

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE [U] & Thu: 8.15pm, Fri: 7.00p Similine Jane Austen with Keira Knightley & Brenda Blethyn. ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW [15] Fri: 9.30p THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOVE [15] Fri: 11.30p
Italian drama about a mystery man who runs into trouble when he falls in love.

Ozone Multiplex (0870 444 3030)

WALLACE & GROMIT in THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT [U]
Gracking! Thu-fri: 11.30am, 12.30, 1.45, 2.45, 4.00, 5.00, 6.15, 7.15, 8.30pm
THE LORD OF WAR [15]

Thu: 2.00, 6.45pm
Wildeds (non-mark) Thu: 2.00, 6.45pm Fri: 7.00, 9.30pm INTO THE BLUE [15] Thu: 4.30, 9.30pm Fri: 9.20pm CORPSE BRIDE [PG] Thu: 11.45am, 1.30, 3.30, 5.15, 7.00, 8.45pm Marital animation from Tim Burton. Fri: 11.15am, 2.00, 4.45, 6.30, 8.15pm NANNY McPHEE [U] Thu: 12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7.45pm Emma Thompson tarnes 7 urruly brats. Fri: 11.00am, 1.15, 3.30, 5.45, 8.00pm SKY HIGH [PG] Life is incredibly tough fo Thu: 11.00am, 1.00, 3.15, 5.30pm Fri: 12.15, 2.15, 4.30pm PRIDE AND PREJUDICE [U] & Thu: 12.00, 3.00, 6.00pm
Similine Austen with Keira Knightley and Judy Dench. Fri: 11.45am. 2.30. 5.30pm KINKY BOOTS [12A]

OLIVER TWIST [PG] Thu: 11.15am, 2.15, 5.45, 8.15pm You gotto pick a pocket or two boys, but don't sing this time. Fri: 1.30pm, 4.15pm SERENITY [15]

Serenity [15] Fri: 12.45, 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.40

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO [PG] Thu: 12.45, 3.45, 6.30, 9.15pm
Antonio and Catherine swashbuckle once again. Fri: 12.00, 3.15, 6.00, 9.00om

Oxford Philomusica

Walton Violin Concerto Elgar Enigma Variations Tickets 01865 305305



SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL. NEW INN HALL ST.

OXFORD FLAMENCO ACADEMY presents FLAMENCO FIESTA with guest artists. 7:30pm, Saturday 12th November 2005. The Theatre at Headington. Tickets: £12 (£10). Box Office (01865) 759138. Reservations: www.headington.org Details: 07904 260636

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OXFORD MURDERS Death in the Bodleian Librar

THEATRE

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

New Theatre (0870 6063500)

r: THE MERRY WIDOW Thu 27th: 7.15p National Opera (with Lesley Garrett). Romance, high society and amoro

Sat: 29th: 7.30n AFTER CHECKOV Brize Norton Theatre (01993 843535) RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Thu 27th - Sat 29t

Amey Hall, Abingdon (01235 834383)
THE MIKADO
Gilbert and Salisan. from the Abinadon Operatic Society. 58-111.50

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Deadline: applications should be recei no later than: 12th November 2005

For an application pack please contact Sian Walters on 01865 305352 or email <u>sian.walters@oxfordplayhouse.com</u>

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appy person required for immediate start Live in position, some travel and overnight care required for two children.

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Thu 27th

BACKYARD ACOUSTIC NIGHT / Three L Local Acts / FREE 9nm

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

The Turf Tavern

THE CATWEAZLE CLUB / Oxford's performa

music, poetry, story and song / 8pm. £4/£3 (per

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Fri 28th

THE MULES + 3 BLIND MICE + MARK ABIS + BRIGHTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY / Gappy Tooth Industries / 19.00 - 22.30 £4.50

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Rachael (01865) 223601 rachael.ayres@psychiatry.corford.ac.u Dr Ursula O'Sullivan (01865) 226395 ursula.osullivan@psychiatry.corford.ac.u OFAE # 04-0X-026 Participants will be reimbursed for their time and expen-

LINIVERSITY OF OXFORD Department of Psychiatry

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MEETINGS AND LECTURES

Thu 27th

telip

CUIMATECHANGEPUBLICMEETING/Homesforthe gree
- sustainable houses / Climate Outreach info Network
- Price 22/61 / Indep Counter org. Mrt http://cointed-org.uk/sy
/ The Vaults, rear of University Church, Oxford High Stree
- THURSDAY LUNCHTIME TALK / Barbara Trapicio: Writin
life story - Frankie and Stankie / 12.30pm. Free. / secreglies-church org. / owwast-glies-church.org / St Gilles Ch



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CRICKET PLAYERS AND UMPIRES wanted for Hanney CC 2006 www.hanneycc.org.uk

Franz Lehár: The Merry Widow

WNO, The New Theatre, 25 & 27 Oct 2005

Franz Lehár's ever-popular The Merry Widow is a Franz Lehár's ever-popular The Merry Widow is a sparkling Viennese operetta: a germanic Gibert & Sullivan, if you will, with turn-of-the-century decadence supplanting Victorian absurdism. The casual amorality and hypocrisy that permeate every side-plot are genuinely shocking to modern tastes, but ultimately they simply place the central story – a couple finally admitting mutual love – in sharper relief.



Welsh National Opera have adopted a bold, brassy approach. The costumes are extravagant and the choreography busy; the last act in particular (set in a Parisian cabaret) feels like a 'show'. At times the continual activity of peripheral characters - from a dipsonaniae servant as the curtain rises to randy revellers as it falls — can become a little relentless, but it fits the frenetic superficiality of the dramatic context. There are sufficient paths on and off stage in every set for the innumerable pairings to be carried off smoothly, but not so many that it feels like a railway terminus.

So far, 'so-so': a competent staging that bristles with energy but doesn't grab our hearts. What spoke to the audience tonight was the charisma and fun coming from the two leads: Jeffrey Black as the black sheep Count Danilo Danilowitsch, and a barnstorming Lesley Garrett as the very Merry Widow. WNO have created this production as a star-vehicle for Garrett and it works brilliantly. Aided by a series of dazzling white costumes, Garrett shines in each of the many personalities the

Widow adopts, taking centre-stage or ceding the limelight with equal grace and panache. The operetta is performed in English using a fantastic new translation that crackles with wit, and even allows scope for unexpected topical humour (safe in the knowledge, surely, that the target John Prescott is unlikely to be in the audience). The spoken sections of this Singspiel were a linguistic joy, and it is therefore doubly a pity that the balance between singers and orchestra was so poor. In themselves both were excellent, but together the orchestra was overwhelmingly was so poor. In themselves both were excellent, but together the orchestra was overwhelmingly dominant with only Lesley Garrett consistently coming across clearly. It must, of course, be a nightmare for touring companies to adjust to different venues' acoustics, but there are solutions. One by one the great opera houses of the world have admitted to using selective amplification for their singers; if WNO cannot achieve a satisfactory musical balance at the New Theatre through more conventional means, I hope they are considering amplification for future seasons. Their productions are of a such high standard and the musicality so fine that they should be offered every logistical support available.

