

TUESDAY 29TH MAY 2001 ( 6TH WEEK)

COMING

THE OXFORD ENGLISH Dictionary Forum, Tuesday 5th June: 'Is the 18th century under-represented in the OED?'  
Speaker: Andrew Ball, OED. 5pm at Rewley House, Welington Square.  
GREENPEACE SUMMER FAIR. 10am-4pm, Saturday 2nd June, Wesley Memorial Hall. Vegetarian Buffet - Green Pro-ducts.

LOST ...

FILOFAX LOST  
St Clements  
17/5/01 11pm  
reward, jeremy  
07818218938

...& FOUND

FOUND JACK  
STRAW'S Lane electric cable reels.  
Contact Oxford police

WANTED

STALL HOLDERS  
WANTED FOR Jericho Street Fair. Saturday 9th June from 10am. £15 (£12 for charity). Contact 557902 or Jericho Community Centre, 33A Canal Street



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CINEMA

Until Thursday 31st May

Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007

THE MUMMY RETURNS (12)

Daily: 11.30am, 2.30, 5.30, 8.30

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (15)

Tues & Wed: 4.30, 7.00, 9.20

The famous singleton on screen.

RUGRATS IN PARIS (U)

The TV hits hit the continent.

O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU? (12)

Wed 30th 10.30am

A Musical odyssey. Complimentary refreshments.

PEARL HARBOR (12)

From Thur 31st

Booking soon.

Odeon George Street

CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT

Ultimate Picture Palace

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CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (12)

Daily: 6.30, 8.50

Award-winning action romance.

Phoenix Picture House

512526

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN (15)

Daily: 1.15, 3.40, 6.20, 9.00

Famous mediterranean wartime romance.

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (15)

Daily : 5.00, 9.10;

The famous singleton on screen.

THE DISH (12)

Comedy: a remote Australian antenna assists the first moon landing.

SPY KIDS (U)

Daily: 1.10;

Children join in to save their spy parents.

CULT CINEMA: THE TENTH CONFIGURATION (15)

Thur 31st 11.30pm

A cross between Shock Corridor and The Twilight Zone.

PROOF OF LIFE(15)

Thur 31st 11.30pm

High octane suspense drama.

THEATRE

St John's College Auditorium

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Wed 30th May-Sat 2nd June 7.30;

Thur and Sat mats. 2.30

Rodgers and Hammerstein. Thursday matinee to be a sing-a-long performance.

Apollo Theatre 0870 606 3500

WEST SIDE STORY

Tue 29th May - Sat 9th June 7.30;

Mats. Wed 30th, Sat 2nd, Wed 6th and Sat 9th 2.30;

No Perf Suns.

Bernstein's American Romeo and Juliet.

Old Fire Station

794490

ROMEO AND JULIET

Tue 29th May - Sat 2nd June 7.30;

Thur and Sat mats. 2.30

Shakespeare's classic love story.

Playhouse

798600

THE MISER

Wed 30th 7.30;

Thur 31st May and Sat 2nd June 7.30;

Fri 1st June 8pm

Ranjit Bolt's adaptation of Moliere's comedy.

Burton Taylor Theatre

793797

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Tue 29th May - Sat 2nd June 7.30

A dark comedy of manufactured news.

THE ZOO STORY

Tue 29th May - Sat 2nd June 9.30

Two strangers meet in a park, with fatal consequences.

Pegasus Theatre

722851

BLOOD WEDDING

Tue 29th & Wed 30th 8pm

Lorca's tale of peasant strife, love and revenge.

YERMA

Thur 31st May - Sat 2nd June 8pm

A childless woman drawn into a twilight world of ritual.

Christ Church Cathedral Gardens

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Tue 29th May - Fri 1st June 7.15;

Sat 2nd June 3.15, 7.45

CS Lewis in the open air.

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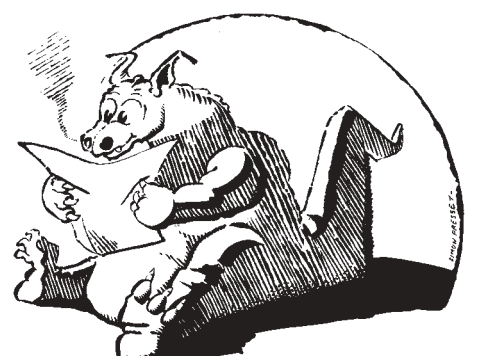
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REVIEW - CINEMA

Series 7 - The Contenders

Phoenix Picture House, coming in June

This is an ambitious film, which has to tread a fine line between realism and satire, and, I think, pretty much succeeds. The premise is simple. "The Contenders" is a TV game show in which six people are picked randomly by government lottery and each is required to kill the others, with only one survivor to pass to the next series, and ultimately, with luck, to freedom from the show's clutches.

The film is presented in the form of several successive episodes of Series 7, exactly as the television viewer would see them. First we meet Dawn, the reigning champion, as it were, as she polishes off the last of her previ-

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SOME HALF-TERM POSSIBILITIES

Tue 29th May

HAIR WE ARE ! / Build a balloon head, write a word wig, and make a person from a poem. Ages 4 and up. £5 / 10.30-12.30, 2.00-4.00 / Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Tel: 798600, Fax: 793748

Wed 30th May & Thu 31st May

PHYSICAL THEATRE & MASK WORKSHOP / Two days of movement, masques, mime and comedy. Ages 8-12. £24 / Wed 10.30am-4.30pm, Thurs 10.30am-5.00pm / Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street; Tel: 798600, Fax: 793748

COMMOTION IN THE OCEAN / All sorts of activities for 5-11 yr olds. Free. Details 282451 / 2-4pm / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd, Oxford

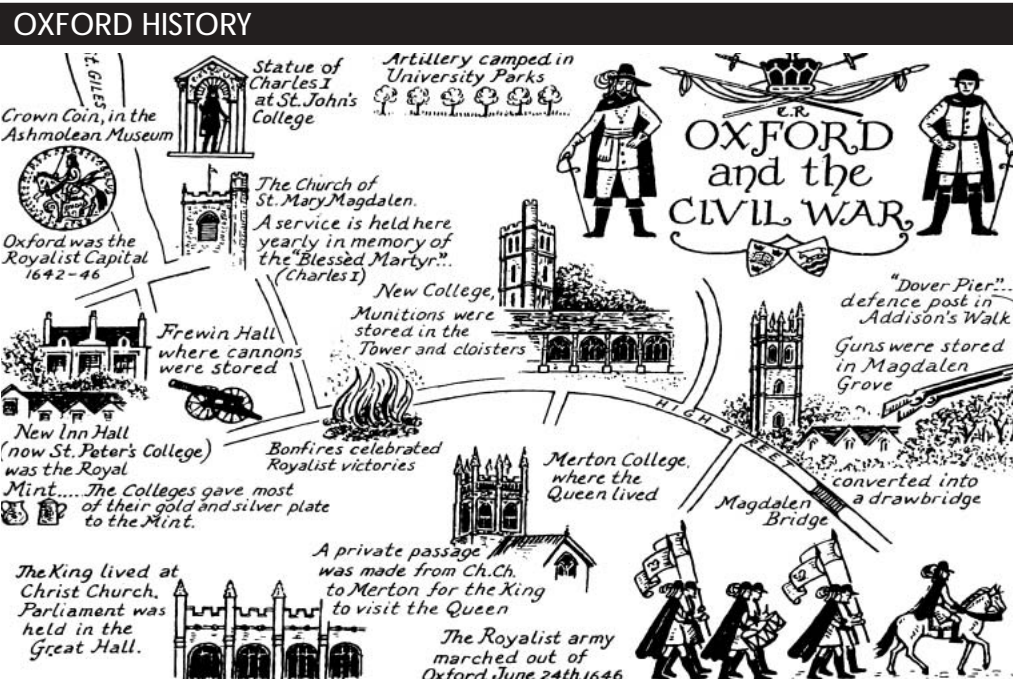
DRAGONS / Find the museum's dragons or make your own. Ages 5 and up. Admission free. Details: 270944. / 1.00- 4.30, with dragon-hunting talks at 1.30 and 3.00 / Pitt Rivers Museum, Parks Road. Open Mon-Sat 1pm-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-4.30pm. ; Tel: 270927 (info 270949), Fax: 270943, Email: prm@prpm.ox.ac.uk

Fri 1st June

SHOUT! / One day workshop on the power of words. Ages 12-16. £8 / 10.30am-5pm / Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street; Tel: 798600, Fax: 793748

Sat 2nd June

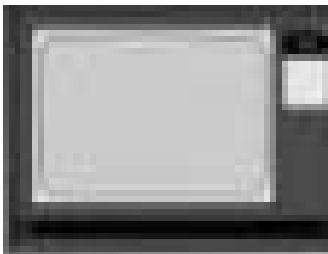
DRAGONS / AS ABOVE



Charles II arrived in London after 8 years of exile to claim his father's throne on his 30th birthday, May 29th, 1660. As usual 1066 and All That provides the best historical guide: "Charles II was always very merry and was therefore not so much a king as a Monarch. During the civil war, he had rendered valuable assistance to his father's side by hiding in all the oak-trees he could find. He was thus very romantic and popular and was able after the death of Cromwell to descend to the throne." Hence, we celebrate Oak Apple Day this Tuesday, when oak apples or oak leaves have been worn in memory of Charles hiding from his pursuers in an oak tree after his dismal defeat by Cromwell's forces at Worcester in 1651.

ous rivals, then we see the horrified reactions of the new contestants, as the news of their participation is broken to them.

Much of the film's effectiveness derives from just how ordinary and useless these people are. Connie the god-fearing nurse, Franklin the elderly paranoid, Tony the idiot, Lindsay the teenager and Jeff the cancer victim are all shown to be more or less dysfunctional in their first few scenes. As they argue with their families and with the cameramen who follow them everywhere, and as they demonstrate quite amazing hopelessness in the matter of their own survival, the viewer is forced to wonder what sort of society produces these people. The whole idea of the programme itself



soon seems much less outrageous and more vaguely inevitable. Where would the gumption to resist it be found? Not in this bunch.

But the fascination does not stem from seeing incompetents die horribly. It comes from watching the all too familiar voiceover as it tries to make heroes and villains out of them. One is aware of the facile moralising,

the falseness of the commentator's righteous attitude, and the blatant trickery of the editing and presentation. But just enough, in this viewer's case, to be uncomfortably reminded that this is essentially how most TV works, while remaining very much caught up in the action.

In short, I was made to notice, repeatedly, how much I am satisfied by dramatic images and sound-bites, however vacuous, and to notice some of the strings which are pulled to elicit my knee-jerk reactions. I really did want Dawn and Jeff to ride off into the sunset, however temporarily. I was quite revolted by how much I wanted Dawn to shoot the smug TV exec who was holding her baby to ransom.

The final scene was very cleverly done in other respects. From the moment the voice claims that the original film was destroyed, but that no expense was spared duplicating it, I was thinking: "What really happened, that they didn't want to show? Are these the real people, I mean actors, made up to look different, or stand-ins made up to look similar?" and similarly foolish thoughts, while simultaneously being gripped by the tension of it all.

And this is where the film succeeds. It doesn't preach, it doesn't moralise, and the presentation is entirely low-brow. And yet it manages to make you think about all sorts of things, and even laugh a few times. If you can cope with the subject matter, then I really do recommend it.

Ian Threadgill 25/05/01

JOBS

VACATION WORK AT OXFORD TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE DETAILS FROM CHRIS IVENS, RAMSAY HOUSE, 10 ST EBBS STREET OX1 1PT or by email ciyens@oxford.gov.uk Please quote job reference 3575.

EFL ADMINISTRATOR EXPERIENCED in British Council Recognition procedure and all areas of Language School business required for part time position in an established and expanding Oxford company (Summertown). Contact Kelvin Fowler at England Travel and Learning Ltd Tel 01865 557 555 kelvin@englandtravelandlearning.co.uk

£10 in HMV/Waterstones vouchers for 2hr experiment to hear voices. Contact jason.chan@psyox.ac.uk, tel 271307

ANALYST / PROGRAMMERS REQUIRED in Oxford for varied software development. Salary up to 28K. See http://www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/~jobs/ for further details. Deadline 4th June.

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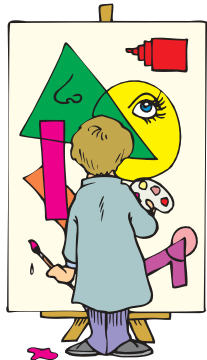
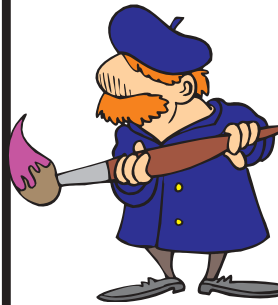
- The man who was left behind when theyd all gone down.
- What to do when its too late to revise.
- How to persuade a girl of your honourable intentions when suggesting an all night punting session.

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GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Tue 29th May

JAZZ CLUBWITH DENNY ILETT JNR QUARTET / Free entry / 9-mid / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road; Tel: 244516, Fax: 202457, Email: info@thebully.f9.co.uk

TONY LAW, JIMMY CARR, ADAM MONTGOMERY & MARTIN DANIELS. / Stand-up Comedy £4/£3 / Doors 8pm, show 9pm / Jericho Tavern, Walton Street

TRISTAN RUSSHER / Piano / 10pm-midnight / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

MEETINGS

Tue 29th May

A WALKING TOUR OF MEDIEVAL OXFORD / With Dr John Blair. Free to OUAS members. Guests£2. Meet at lodge. / 5pm-7pm approx / Christ Church College, St Aldate's

QUIZ NIGHT IN THE CAFE / 'Borders' the Weakest Link Quiz. Contact the Events team to register / 7.00pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901

GENERAL ELECTION: HUSTINGS AND QUESTIONS / The candidates for Oxford West and Abingdon / 8.30pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court

THINKING HISTORICALLY ABOUT CHAUCER'S 'GOLDEN AGE': A METHODOLOGICAL DISCUSSION. / D Wallace & P Strohm / 5.15pm / St. Anne's

A PROPOS DE L'ETABLISSEMENT DE L'EDITION DES LETTRES DE LA BEAUMEILLE / With Claude Lauriol / 5.15pm / Maison Francaise, Norham Rd, Oxford, OX2 6SE; Tel: 274220, Fax: 274225, Email: maison@sable.ox.ac.uk

METAPHYSICS ABANDONED: REALISM EVADED / Prof. B. van Fraassen / 5:00 / St Cross Building

LUNCHTIME