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Deadline 10am, Thurs 29th Nov.

THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2001

COMING

**Oxford Bach Choir**  
Beethoven's Symphony No 9 "Choral"  
Martin Butler's Two Rivers  
(Special Commission and World Premiere)  
With the Britten Sinfonia  
Conductor: Nicholas Cleobury  
Saturday 1st December at 7.30pm  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford  
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**DAILY INFORMATION**

Future publication dates:

30/11, 1/12

then:

7/12, 14/12, 21/12

then daily from 11/1/02

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TO  
**305305**

REVIEW : THEATRE

**Abducting Diana , Old Fire Station Theatre to Sat 1st Decmber**

It's no wonder that Dario Fo has the term "controversial" juxtaposed with his productions. "Abducting Diana," is a performance that dances on the fine line that separates satire and offense. This fine line is the target for Fo, creating a revolutionary piece of work that makes people reflect on their perception of society. Along with this reflective thinking comes the supplement of humor, thus, Fo's interpretation of meaningful satire.

The production opens with a scene of seduction between two individuals, who later reveal themselves as Diana Forbes-McKaye and a young man called "Kevin." Diana is a media icon, owning an empire of publications as well as the hearts of her readers. During her somewhat masochistic luring of "Kevin," three kidnappers invade the scene and abduct her, posing as firemen.

Once the smoke clears, Diana is forced to prove her identity, for she claimed earlier to "Kevin" that she was a phony, an actress posing as Diana Forbes-McKaye. Threatening murder to obtain the information, the kidnappers force her to reveal her true identity.

While holding Diana captive, the kidnappers reveal their true intention for the kidnapping, which is used as a catalyst for a dissection of the intentions of the media. The kidnappers serve as grounding humor, showing true signs of folly and a misunderstanding of the normal purposes of abduction.

Ironically, Diana aids their misinterpretation and helps them plan a series of events that could possibly create a positive conclusion for both parties.

Rachel Fishwick, who has appeared in twenty shows during her Oxford career, plays the role of Diana Forbes-McKaye. Her performance exemplifies the archetypal media junkie, obsessed with the public opinion and manipulation. Her character personifies selfishness, and Fishwick delivers the performance needed in order to make it believable. She turns her sexual charm on one minute, and then explodes with callous deceit the next. She represents the media obsession well; her confidence in her character is well reflected in her actions onstage.

The kidnappers, Harry Smith, Selina Bullock, Giles Major and Tom Crowther, support Dario Fo's vision of media exploitation equally well. Their desire to obtain "the breakthrough story" is brought to stage in a very convincing manner. Their combined ignorance of the art of kidnapping helps create a breath of fresh comedy. All four of the actors remain splendidly in character for the entire time they grace the stage, even when left to focus of the dialogue at a particular moment. Audience members can look from actor to actor and feel a sense of constant performance.

Although the "media exploitation" theme is a bit redundant in most satirical productions, "Abducting Diana" includes multiple elements that reinforce and reinvigorate the idea. Sexual references, feminist issues and the capitalist agenda are other themes that are referenced throughout the script. The onstage antics appear racy, but this is all done with a purpose. The audience are pushed to their limits by the exposure of taboo occurrences in everyday life. These are used to portray Dario Fo's understanding of the end, we are left to decide whether this portrayal is purely satirical or a means to create some media mischief of his own.

Rachael Liberman 27/11/01

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GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Thursday 29th November

ACOUSTIC OPEN SESSION / Admission free. Bring an instrument and join in. / 8.30pm - midnight. / Cricketers Arms, 43, Ifley Rd. Tel: 726264

JOHN ETHERIDGE / Guitar hero (£6, £3 conc) / doors 8.15pm, start time 9pm / The Spin@The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street. Tel: 243276

HUMPHREY LITTLETON / Tbc / Doors open 7.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road. Tel: 420042

PLAYGROUND! / UK Garage Anthems club night with djs Nathan Gould and Jack Vullins. £3 / 10.00pm-2.00am / Backroom @ The Bullly, 162 Cowley Road. Tel: 244516, Fax: 202457, Email: info@thebullly9.co.uk

KARL DEMATA / Blues guitar / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton Street. Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

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CINEMA

To Thursday 29th November

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HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHERS STONE(PG)

Daily: 1.15, 4.30, 8.30

Booking strongly advised

AMERICAN PIE 2(15)

Daily: 12.15, 3.30, 6.30, 9.15

The teenage search for sex continues

Odeon George St 0870 5050007

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHERS STONE(PG)

Daily: 11.00, 12.00, 2.30, 3.30, 5.45, 7.30, 9.00

Booking strongly advised

THE OTHERS(12)

Daily: 1.15, 4.00, 7.00, 9.45

Nicole Kidman gets spooked

LEGALLY BLONDE(12)

Daily: 11.45, 2.00, 4.30, 6.45, 9.30

Reese Witherspoon becomes unlikely law student

ME WITHOUT YOU(15)

Daily: 1.30, 4.15, 7.00, 9.45

Friends group up in 70's/80's London

SPY GAME(15)

Daily: 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.30

Redford, Pitt star in espionage thriller

Ultimate Picture Palace 245288

AMELIE(15)

Thur: 8.10

A young French girl has the power to change other people's lives

CONDUCT UNBECOMING(PG)

Thur: 6.00pm

Tarantino's gangster thriller

THE BREAKFAST CLUB(15)

Thur: 10.30pm

'Brat - Pack' 80's classic

Phoenix Picture House 512526

GHOST WORLD(15)

Daily: 4.20, 6.40, 9.10

Coming-of-age comedy/drama

THE PLEDGE(15)

Thur: 1.50, 6.30

Police thriller starring Jack Nicholson

MOULIN ROUGE(12)

Thur: 4.10, 9.00

Sumptuous musical hedonism

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL (15)

Thur: 11.30pm

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GREMLINS (15)

Thur: 11.30pm

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THEATRE

Playhouse 798600

TRIAL BY JURY AND HMS PINAFORE

Mon 26th - Sat 1st : 7.30, Sat Mat: 2.30

Beautiful bride stolen by wicked demon

Apollo 0870 6063500

FIDELIO Tue 27th & Fri 30th: 7.15

Glyndebourne Touring Opera, see review

MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Wed 28th & Sat 1st: 7.15

Glyndebourne Touring Opera

RODELINDA Thur 29th: 7.15

Glyndebourne Touring Opera

Old Fire Station 794490

ABDUCTING DIANA

Tue 27th - Sat 1st: 7.30; Sat Mat: 2.30

Kidnapping, tabloid press, & global capitalism. See review...

Burton Taylor 793797

OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARD THE SOMME

Tue 27th - Sat 1st: 7.30

Account of the battle of 1st July 1916

STAND-O-RAMA! Tue 27th - Sat 1st: 9.30

Stand-ups from London join student talent

Pegasus Theatre 722851

SHORTS Thur 29th: 8.00

'Opera reinvented'

Moser Theatre 277900

NATIVITE Thur 29th: 8.00

New translation of the medieval mystery plays

REVIEW : OPERA

**Fidelio,**  
*Glyndebourne Touring Opera,*  
*Apollo Theatre.*  
Showing again Friday 30th November

Beethoven's opera Fidelio is set in a prison where an innocent man, Florestan, has been secretly jailed for two years. His wife, disguised as a man named Fidelio, gains employment there to rescue her husband, and eventually finds him chained up in the vaults of the prison almost starved to death, on the orders of his arch enemy, Don Pizarro. Her faithful love conquers the evils of tyranny and oppression, and is celebrated in the 'hymn to liberty' which famously ends the opera.

This production by the Glyndebourne touring opera set the piece in a modern, but unspecified context. Given the many number of possible repressive regimes and prison cultures in our modern world which unfortunately lend themselves so readily to a staging of this opera, one could not help feeling that this potential for resonance which Beethoven's work still has was not explored.

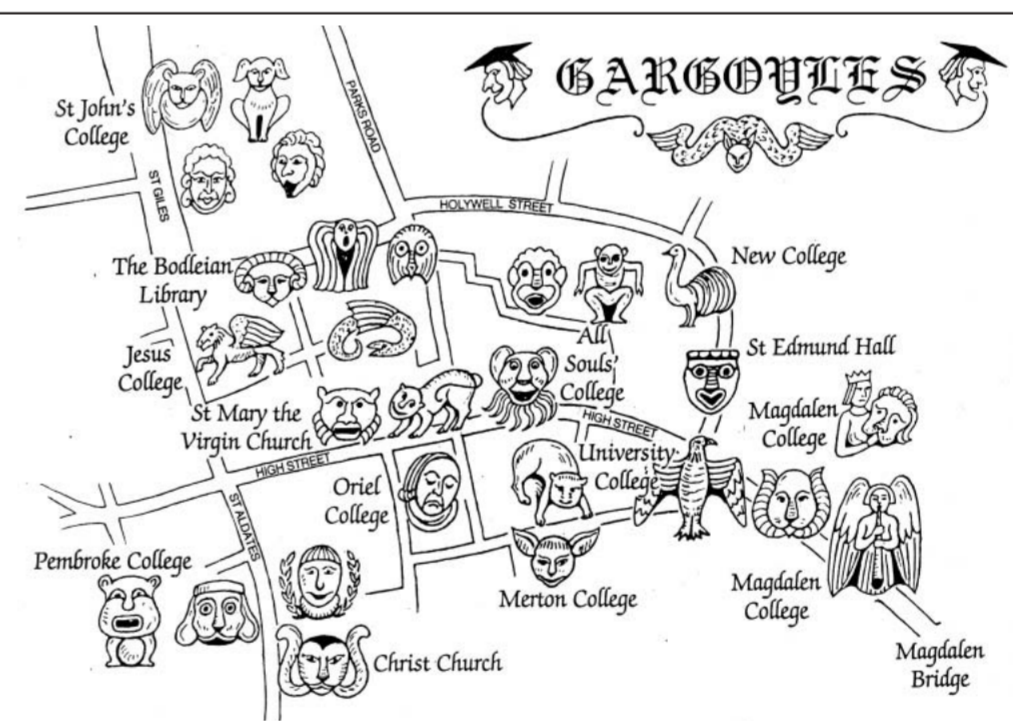
Apart from a couple of unfortunate slips in the brass section, and Fidelio/Leonore's (Gunilla Stephen-Kallin) occasional waverings on the higher notes, musically the production was lively and exciting. Both Marzelline (Sarah Fox) and Rocco (Clive Bayley) sang beautifully and movingly, and were, for me, the highlights.

The finale of the opera in this production was staged as the reunion of not only Leonore and Florestan, but also of all the other prisoners with their wives or loved ones. With the stage fully lit, as though the vault which had been the prisoner's cell had been opened up to the light of the world outside, blossom, or maybe confetti, fell onto the rejoicing crowd.

Strangely, the scene failed to provoke strong emotions, perhaps because the audience had only a vague notion of the repressive power which had been overthrown, or because the stylised and obscure imagery was difficult to relate to. This Fidelio was dwarfed by the power of Beethoven's music throughout, and my overriding impression of the performance was that it lacked a 'big idea' that was suggested over and over again by the wonderful music, but not yet fully delivered by this production.

Emily Hardiment 27/11/01

OXFORD ARCHITECTURE



Daily Information wishes to make quite clear that the images above are representative only of architectural features of the city. Any resemblance to anyone's tutor is entirely coincidental. Applications for our proprietor's "Gargoyle Tour of Oxford" should be made in writing, several months in advance.

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MEETINGS  
Thursday 29th November  
CREATIVE VIGIL FOR PEACE / 6-7pm / Cornmarket  
PHILOSOPHY DISCUSSION GROUP / 6.30pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901

OXFORDSHIRE CRAFT GUILD CHRISTMAS SALE. / Hand-made gifts at reasonable prices. / 10.00am-4.45pm / Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, Woodstock; Tel: 01993 814115

JOHN GRIBBIN / Talk and book signing of new book "Space" (free tickets available in store) / 7pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St, Oxford OX1 3AD; Tel: 203901

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A CHOICE (DEBATE) / PRO- Dr. Jonathan Newell, Nick Thomas OPPOSITION- Boy George, Paul Gambaccini, Nicola Lamb (\* for Union members) / 8.30pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court

QUEL AVENIR POUR LES ETATS-NATIONS AU SEIN DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE? / Patrick Le Galès - (free) / 5.15pm / Maison Francaise, Norham Rd, Oxford, OX2 6SE; Tel: 274220, Fax: 274225, Email: maison@sable.ox.ac.uk

ROB FLINT / Artist and Writer / 6.15pm / Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street. Opening times: Tues-Sun 11am-6pm, Thurs 11am-9pm; Tel: 722733, Fax: 722573, Email: generalenquiry@moma.demon.co.uk