

**TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2001 (3RD WEEK)**

**TODAY**

OU G & S Society presents

# The Pirates of Penzance

by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

St John's College Auditorium  
Tuesday 30th Jan - Saturday 3rd Feb  
8pm (Sat mat. 2.30)

Tickets from 798600 or on door.

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**DAILY INFORMATION OXFORD MAPS**

CENTRAL (To Station, Wolfson, Magdalen Bridge & Folly Bridge) & GREATER (To Ring Road).

Should your organisation appear on the next edition of these maps? Does its current status need alteration?

View under "Maps" on www.dailyinfo.co.uk or e-mail us (dailyinfo@dailyinfo.co.uk) for a free postal copy of the central map. Alternatively phone 553377

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**DOUBLE HAMMOCK VGC.** £10 07879446256. claire@dialoguedirect.net

**COLOUR WORD PROCESSOR,** VGC. Hardly used. £150. 07879446256. claire@dialoguedirect.net

**WASHING MACHINE VGC,** hardly used. £200. 07879446256. claire@dialoguedirect.net

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The News International Visiting Professorship of Broadcast Media

**Professor Kristin Thompson**

A series of lectures providing a fresh look at both film and television and the use of narrative in both media.

"Go with the Flow? ANALYSING TELEVISION"  
Exeter College, Tuesday 30th January 6pm

"WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING?" THEORY AND PRACTICE IN SCREENWRITING  
Exeter College, Wednesday 31st January 6pm

**JOBS OFFERED**

**LANGUAGE SCHOOL** in Summertown requires help for computer data inputting. Part time, £6 per hour. Contact Kelvin Fowler 01865 557555

**BUSY OXFORD LANGUAGE** school requires administrator to support reservations team with student enquiries and bookings. Temporary position with permanent option. Contact Angela on Oxford 258316

**PEOPLE & PLANET:** Office Administrator. £15.5k. For job/person specification & application form visit www.peopleandplanet.org/jobs/ or call Rich Lott on 01865 245678.

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR** for a US overseas study programme. Recent graduate or similar preferred, in smoking office (non-smoking room available), centre of Oxford. About £18,000 depending on experience. 30-40 hours a week, flexible. Please send CV to Dr Richardson, Flat 8, Tennyson Lodge, Paradise Square, OX1 1UD.

**STAFF NEEDED: ADMIN** in our reception office and restaurant work in our newly opened cafe (daytime). Part-time or full-time. Call 01865-516162, or call into Oxford English Centre, 66 Banbury Road, Oxford.

**JOBS WANTED**

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**WEB DEVELOPMENT AND** Design...ASP, XML, HTML, Flash, stefanos1@yahoo.com or 07880636174.

**ACADEMIC SECRETARY, BILINGUAL** French/English, seeks freelance work. Oxford 717125

**FEMALE STUDENT** seeks any work for a month. jblatus@yahoo.com

**TUITION WANTED**

**GRADUATE A LEVEL** tutors required for Easter revision courses: all subjects of interest but we are actively seeking new tutors for Computer Studies, Maths, Music, German and History, including American History. Please contact Oxford Agency, Tel: (01865) 311503 or email oac@dial.pipex.com

**BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE TUITION** required, beginner level. email: johnaa@mailexite.com phone 428613

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY. A LEVEL CHEMISTRY** tutor. Ring Oxford 245208

**BIKES FOR SALE**

**SECOND HAND CYCLES** on sale at the Oxford Union Society Courtyard, St. Michael's Street, off Cornmarket. Every Wednesday in term-time, 9am - 5pm. Tel: 01973-229420.

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**REVIEW: CINEMA**

# Traffic

Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* provides a compelling and comprehensive insight into drug trafficking and the fight against it, interlacing sub-plots which present disparate individuals whose destinies all nonetheless depend upon the narcotics industry. Chief amongst these are Michael Douglas's newly appointed US drugs tsar, who takes up his post unaware of his own daughter's escalating habit, and the drugs baron's wife, played by Catherine Zeta Jones, pregnant on screen as off it, who, despite her pregnancy and sudden discovery of her husband's illegitimate businesses, steps into the breach when he is arrested to save him from jail and his business from failure.

Both Douglas and Jones give able performances, but the strengths of this film lie far more in Soderbergh's cinematography than in the acting of his cast. Indeed, if it were not for the presence of this pair it would be easy to forget that this is a Hollywood movie. Soderbergh's camera work masterfully captures and amplifies the character of each location. Our view of Mexico is bathed in the light of a dust-filtered sunset, gritty and contrasty, and is set against the sharper focus and blue-grey coldness of the American settings. The triumph of this approach is that, rather than appearing as a mere stylised colour-coding, it distils the sense of truthfulness and immediacy that the opening of the film exudes, and, in combination with the jerkiness and disorientation of Soderbergh's hand held camera, which seems always to be stumbling across the action as it unfolds, gives real poignancy to our involvement with the characters without intrusion or judgement.

Dusty Mexico is home to drug traffickers and entrepreneurial policemen, and is pervaded by a sense of vitality and dynamism, whereas America's hapless law-enforcers struggle under a leadership laden with political baffle but bereft of ideas. Indeed, so relentless is the presentation of the ineptitudes of America's war on drugs

that *Traffic* stutters through a middle section which flirts with a low comedy which does not stand comparison with the dark observational humour of the film's opening. In particular, Don Cheadle and Luis Guzman as DEA agents struggle to shake off their *Boogie Nights* tragicomic personas. This malaise, however, is briskly shaken off as the narrative regains momentum, and *Traffic* appears to be careering towards a blackly inevitable conclusion in which all scores are settled as the motive forces of profit, survival and half-loyalty assert themselves.

This dénouement, though, does not materialise, for the protagonists seize their fates away from this destiny and bring about an ending which is both more and less satisfying than the one that might have been expected. It is less satisfying in that it undermines the strengths of the film as a whole by introducing a sense of didacticism and improbability which, to Soderbergh's great credit, are elsewhere absent. The didactic elements of the ending also undermine the social message of the film, if one is intended, by subjugating the sense that all involved are victims of an impersonal system to the need to manipulate our sympathies so that the film can succeed as a thriller. The credit side of this balance sheet is, though, substantial. The ending allows characters that might otherwise have been little more than place-holders to flourish, and we are treated to some memorable set-pieces along the way, most notably a scene in which two assassins stake out the same ground. If *Traffic* ultimately sacrifices honesty for entertainment then few will complain. It is a gripping and thought provoking study on a theme of importance that will live long in the memory as a thriller, as a documentary and as a piece of atmosphere, immediacy and stylistic excellence.

Jonathan Hays 29/01/01  
At the Phoenix: Daily 2.50, 5.50, 8.00  
At the ABC George St: Daily 1.30, 4.45, 8.00

**COMING**

The Faculty of English, University of Oxford  
PRESENTS  
the second in a new series of special lectures on Biography

## GRAHAM ROBB

Biographer of Victor Hugo, Balzac and Rimbaud

"BEING A BIOGRAPHER"  
Thursday 1 February at 5.15pm, Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building, Manor Road.

**THE OXFORD ENGLISH** Dictionary Forum, Friday 9th February: 'Stemma and lemma: variant texts of Old English charters. Speaker: Katie Lowe, University of Glasgow. 5pm at Rewley House, Wellington Square.

**OPERA VOCAL SCORES** £5 each - tel 433793 after 6pm

**THE OXFORD REVUE** (COMEDY SKETCHES): Check out www.oxfordrevue.com for details.

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**CONTACTS**

**MALE-COUPLE HIGH-CULTURE** seeks same share arts country weekends travel gsr@dnu.ac.uk Box 27/1/CN/2

**GOOD LOOKING, 28,** male with a pulse seeks caring lady 28 - david.mitchell@world.com Box 27/1/CN/1

**BY/GAY MALE, 31,** good looking, straight acting and discreet seeks similar mikebg141@hotmail.com, Box 26/1/CN/5

**BANDS, DISCOS, LIGHTS**

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**DISCOS, KARAOKES AND EQUIPMENT HIRE** - Dave Seamer Entertainments, (01865) 240054.

**GIGS + NIGHTLIFE**

Tuesday 30th January

**JERICHO COMEDY CLUB / E4** (£3 with yellow card) / 8pm / Jericho Tavern, Walton Street

**LIVE JAZZ WITH DENNY ILETT JR & GUESTS** / 9-midnight / Backroom @ The Bully, 162 Cowley Road. Tel: 244516, Fax: 202457, Email: info@thebully.f9.co.uk

**ZODIAC ROCK /** Downstairs. Drinks promotions £3 / 10pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**EUPHORIA /** House. £2 before 10.30, with flyer / £4 after, without. Dress: white / 9.00pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042

**WILL SMITH : POSH BOY, SUPPORT FROM ROBIN INCE** / 'Kill for a seat' comedy evening E4 / E3 Booking: 07939 078865 / Doors 8pm, show 9pm / Jericho Tavern, Walton Street

**APE SPECIAL: BONOBO /** DJ set / 9pm-2am / Po Na Na, Magdalen Street; Tel: 249171, Fax: 790422, Email: dave@ponanaox.fsnet.co.uk

**RICHARD MOLLER /** piano / 10pm-midnight / Freud's, Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171

**LAPTOPS FOR HIRE**

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64 Mb RAM  
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**WANTED**

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**RUNNING MARATHON AS** African wilddog. Head/mask wanted 07977 220704

**WANTED: MUSICIANS FOR** sophisticated jazz and blues band. 07855 182368

**WANTED: SMALL CHEAP** dishwasher d.roberts1@physics.ox.ac.uk

**CENTRAL LONDON BEDSIT** studio occasional use for paying Oxford researcher gss@dnu.ac.uk

**1/2 SIZE VIOLIN** WANTED with case and bow. whudson@syntax.com

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**TO LET**

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**LARGE SINGLE ROOM** £220pcm, ex bills, in friendly professional house, cowley area. n/s pref.07970 962481

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Are you needing a home with your friends for the academic year 2001-2002?

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**THEATRICAL NEEDS**

**LOOKING FOR PRODUCTION** Manager, Set and Costume Designers and Fight Director for Michaelmas 2001 university production at Playhouse. Email chare.yeo@magdalen.ox.ac.uk

**THE REAL INSPECTOR** Hound 6th week BT. Auditions St. Peter's Latner Room Friday 7-9pm

**DRAMA AND ENVIRONMENTAL** workshop leaders required for Blue Planet Day Tel 01865 552463

**THEATRE**

**St John's College Auditorium 798600**

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**  
Tue 30th Jan-Sat 3rd Feb 8pm.  
Sat mat. 2.30

Gilbert & Sullivans' swashbuckling musical comedy.

**Apollo Theatre 0870 606 3500**

**FRENCH AND SAUNDERS**  
Tue 30th-Wed 31st 8pm

Well-known comedy pair.

**Old Fire Station 794490**

**CABARET** Tue 30th - Sat 3rd 7.30;  
OU Student Drama Season Sat mat. 2.30

**Playhouse 798600**

**WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?**  
Wed 31st Jan - Sat 3rd Feb 7.30pm;  
(Friday 8.00pm) Thu, Sat Matinee 2.30pm

A rare production by special permission of the playwright.

**Burton Taylor Theatre 798600**

**THREE DAYS OF RAIN** Tue 30th-Sat 3rd 7.30

A pensive modern drama about sex, truth and architecture.

**RUFFIAN ON THE STAIR** Tue 30th-Sat 3rd 9.30

Joe Orton's tale of lies, grime and deviant sex.

**MEETINGS**

Organisation / Subject / Speaker / Place / Time / Contact

Tuesday 30th January

**CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIAL POLICY** / 5.00pm / Dept of Social Studies, Wellington Square

**MERTON COLLEGE AND THE MAPPING OF ITS ESTATES 1601-1836** / with Sarah Bendall / 5.30pm / Rewley House, 1, Wellington Square / 270380

**LITURGICAL COMMON GROUND** / With Fr. Andrew Burnham SSC / 8pm / Oxford Jewish Centre

**TABLES AND CHAIRS!** / Lunchtime Gallery Talk / £1.50/Booking 278015 / 1.15-2.00pm / Ashmolean

**GOVERNANCE, REGIMES & LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MAKING** / With Prof David Gibbs. 270886 / 5pm / Mansfield College

**HOLY TERRORS AND TELEOLOGIES (HISTORY OF ART)** / Prof. Donald Preziosi / 5.00pm / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd

**RUSKIN, ART AND SOCIETY** / Robert Hewison / Coinciding with the Praeterita exhibition at the Ruskin School / 4.30pm / Examination Schools

**'GO WITH THE FLOW? ANALYSING TELEVISION'** / Prof Kristin Thompson / Story-telling in film and television / 6pm / Exeter College

**LEGAL HISTORY** / Prof. D. Ibbetson / 5.30pm / St Cross Building

**MONSTERS AND THE MOB : THE GROTESQUE IN PARI SIAN LYRIC DRAMA, 1826-36** / S. Hibberd / 5.15pm / Music Faculty, St. Aldates

**PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS, 2001** / Social science lecture by Prof. C. O. Jones / 5pm / Nuffield College

**ELECTICINEERING THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT** / With Mikhail Margelov, 'Spin Doctor' for Yeltsin & Putin / 8.30pm / Keble College / 272727

**'LA FORMATION DES SCIENCES DE GOVERNEMENT EN FRANCE, XIX-XXE SIECLES'** / With Olivier Ihi, Institut d'Etudes Politiques / 5pm / Maison Française / 274220

**MELVIN BURGESS - 'WRITING FICTION FOR TEENAGERS'** / Also reading from his new novel, 'Bloodtide' / 1.30-2.30pm / Waterstones' / 790212

**C.S. LEWIS AND MOORE** / Lewis's early life. With Peter Cousin £1 / 8.15pm / Pusey House, St Giles

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

**MARRIED COUPLE SEEK ROOM,** clean house, 'til end June. christopher.henry@earth.ox.ac.uk

**WANTED GARAGE SPACE** for motorcycle in cowley ££ 07788710391 drew.howard@btinternet.com

**PROF MALE, N/s,** seeks room / bedsit, mid-feb, 0113-246-170: hurnbabyburn@voltairechousses.co.uk

**YOUNGGAYPROFF. SEEKS LARGE** room oxford. n/s, considerate, friendly. ben.c@freuk.com

**NEAR PEMBROKE COLLEGE,** furnished, quiet room for 1-2 wanted. hanjin.lew@pmb.ox.ac.uk

**GRADUATE FROM MID-APRIL/May** seeks reasonable-size room under 300pcm central-location-preferred. amcewan@ieee.org

**ACADEMICS SEEKING FLAT** late June-July, rent/swap LosAngeles. Email dvrochowl@yahoo.com

**CINEMA**

Until Thursday 1st February

The Phoenix, Walton Street 512526

**CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (12)**  
Daily 2.30, 9.10

Ancient Chinese feud. Swashbuckler with subtitles.

**REQUIEM FOR A DREAM (18)**  
Daily 4.50, 7.00

Darren Aronofsky's bleak look at addiction.

**TRAFFIC (18)**  
Daily 2.50, 5.50, 8.50

The frustrations of drug enforcement.

**PITCH BLACK (15)**  
Thur 1st 11.30pm

Don't be afraid of the dark...

**CRY BABY (12)**  
Thur 1st 11.30pm

Johnny Depp's rebel with a cause.

**ABC Magdalen Street 251998**  
Bookings 0870 3339063 / Enquiries 725305

**CASTAWAY (12)**  
Daily: 1.30, 4.45, 8.00

A skeletal Tom Hanks braves the elements.

**ABC George Street 251998**  
Bookings 0870 3339064 / Enquiries 723911

**TRAFFIC (18)**  
Daily: 1.30, 4.45, 8.00

The frustrations of drug enforcement.

**VERTICAL LIMIT (12)**  
Daily: 1.50, 5.20, 8.15

Tense mountaineering drama.

**MEET THE PARENTS (12)**  
Daily 5.45

Robert de Niro braves his in-laws.

**UNBREAKABLE (12)**  
Daily 2.15, 8.30

Bruce Willis as the Indestructible Man.

**A PERFECT MURDER (15)**  
Wed 31 10.45am

Senior screen: complimentary refreshments for over-65's.

**Ultimate Picture Palace 245288**

**Jeune St**

**PITCH BLACK (15)**  
Tue-Thur 9.30

Struggle for survival in space.

**MENTEMO (15)**  
Tue-Thur 7.00

An amnesiac hunts for his wife's killer.

