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Next issue Sat 1st December
Deadline 10am, Fri 30th November.

FRIDAY 30TH 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
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TO
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CINEMA

To Thursday 6th December

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STONE(PG)
Daily: 10.00(Sat&Sun), 1.15, 4.30, 8.30
Booking strongly advised
LEGALLY BLONDE(12)
Daily: 11.15(Sat&Sun), 1.45, 7.00, 9.30
Reese Witherspoon becomes unlikely law student
ME WITHOUT YOU(15) Daily: 4.15
Friends grow up in 70's/80's London
Odeon George St 0870 5050007
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE(PG)
Daily: 10.30 (not Mon-Thur), 12.00, 2.00,
3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.00
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AMERICAN PIE 2(15) Daily: 1.30, 7.00
The teenage search for sex continues
THE OTHERS(12) Daily: 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45
Nicole Kidman gets spooked
JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK(12)
Daily: 4.15, 9.45
Kevin Smith's infamous creations take to the road.
BANDITS(12) Daily: 1.30, 4.15, 7.00, 9.45
Bank-robbing romantic farce
SPY GAME(15) Daily: 12.15, 3.15, 6.15, 9.15
Redford, Pitt star in espionage thriller
ATLANTIS (U) Sat&Sun: 10.45am
Search for the lost continent
DR. DOLITTLE(PG) Sat&Sun: 11.00am
Movie Mob. All tickets £2.00
BILLY ELLIOT(15)

Wed: Doors 10.15am, Film: 10.45
Senior screen, includes refreshments.
Ultimate Picture Palace 245288
AT THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER(PG)
Fri & Sat: 6.45, Sun & Mon: 6.00
Vietnamese drama
TOKYO DECADENCE(18) Fri & Sat: 9.15, Sun - Thur:
8.30
90's sexual culture in Japan
AMERICAN PIE 2(15)
Fri & Sat: 11.15pm, Sun - Thur: 10.30pm
The teenage search for sex continues
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French sex farce
Phoenix Picture House 512526
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(not Wed)
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RECESS, SCHOOL'S OUT(U) Sat: 2.00pm
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Future publication dates:
1/12
then:
7/12, 14/12, 21/12
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Lloyd-Webber musical
FIDELO Fri 30th: 7.15
Glyndebourne Touring Opera. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk
MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Sat 1st: 7.15
Glyndebourne Touring Opera
Old Fire Station 794490
ABDUCTING DIANA Fri 30th & Sat 1st: 7.30; Sat Mat: 2.30
Kidnapping, tabloid press, & global capitalism
THE CHIMES & THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH
Tues 4th - Sat 8th: 7.30; Sat Mat 2.30
Dickens with the Oxford City Theatre Guild
Burton Taylor 793797
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TOWARD THE SOMME Fri 30th & Sat 1st: 7.30
Account of the battle of 1st July 1916
STAND-O-RAMA! Fri 30th & Sat 1st: 9.30
Stand-ups from London join student talent. See review at
www.dailyinfo.co.uk
Pegasus Theatre 722851
ARTHUR: THE SWORD & THE LEGEND Fri 30th & Sat 1st: 7.30
Oxford Touring Theatre Company
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REVIEW : OPERA

The Marriage of Figaro ((
Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Apollo Theatre, Wed 28th and Sat 1st

That the subject matter of The Marriage of Figaro was very much to Mozart's taste is evident in the relish with which he set it. For Beaumarchais' tale of unbridled lust, frantic jealousy, intrigue, cross-dressing and counter-cross-dressing, the composer produced some of his most brilliant music - seething with melody, consecrating a witty, and above all imbued throughout with a real sense of fun. For though it was the piece's socially subversive undertones which attracted the censorship of King Louis XVI and delayed its first performance, to modern ears Figaro has only two real themes: sex and fun.
Graham Vick's production, currently making its way round the country with Glyndebourne touring opera, makes absolutely the most of these two qualities. The unceasing comic, theatrical bustle begins even before the curtain rises, transporting the audience at once into a world ruled by light-hearted passion, where page-boys can creep into their mistress's bedroom and make tender avowals, and where liveried footmen, all propriety one moment, are stealing kisses from the serving maids the next. Vick both capitalises on and accentuates the essential levity of the piece: the pristine white set, with its walls of gauze, not only increases the amusement when, one after the other, the characters hide behind walls or doors, but also generates a sense of the claustrophobia of a house so filled with eager eyes and ears that nothing can really be kept secret, no matter what care is taken.

The splendid costumes, for their part, together with some delightfully dainty stage-craft, evoke the light-hearted gentility of the age admirably. Perhaps most importantly, a scattering of highly original and frankly risqué touches keeps the sexual theme of the piece firmly to the fore.
Louis Langrée's brisk, brittle, precise reading of the score keeps the whole bubbling along suitably, and the singing is, of course, uniformly excellent, especially from the ladies, whose voices contrast and complement each other perfectly. Colette Delahunt's Susanna is clear and sweet, with a delightful touch of cheekiness; Sinead Mulhern's Countess is wonderfully rich and sympathetic; Anne Mason's strident Marcellina soars above both. Of the men, particularly entertaining was Philip Sheffield, who made a splendidly comic, sinister Don Basilio.
This is a stylish and expertly executed production of a perennially popular opera. But it also goes further, enhancing the natural bawdiness and hilarity of the piece so as to create an evening of consummate entertainment - one which offers something new to the most knowledgeable of opera goers, and which at the same time makes a perfect introduction for those new to the opera-house.
M.J.Rogers, 28 / 11 / 01

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REVIEW : COMEDY

Stand-O-Rama
Burton Taylor Theatre to Sat 1st
(please note: line-up varies each night)
After more unfocussed humour from Josie Long, and a brief and somewhat puzzling interlude involving 'Danny Lorusso' (star of 'Karate Kid' I, II and III, but not IV), the London comedian took the stage. James Dowdeswell gave a confident and likeable performance, mixing gentle banter with the audience, impersonation and quirky personal humour. The intimacy of the venue and the small audience seemed to suit him well, and the audience clearly enjoyed themselves.
Overall, like going to see a local band live, the friendly atmosphere and immediacy went some way to making up for a less slick and packaged product. These portfolio nights are always going to be something of a gamble, but if the prospect of catching comedy stars in the making seems worth the risk, why not catch a night of 'Stand-O-Rama'? After all, as they point out, it's cheaper than 'Jongleurs'...
Alex Williams 27/11/01

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MEETINGS

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Museum, Woodstock, Woodstock; Tel: 01993 814115
QUESTION YOUR MP / Andrew Smith MP, Evan Harris
MP and Caroline Lucas MEP / 7.30pm / Greyfriars
Church Hall, Ilffley Road
'BEAUTEOUS BEASTS' / £1.50 / 1.15 - 2.00 / Ash-
molean Museum, Beaumont Street. Tel: 278000, Fax:
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LA GENESE DE LA LEGENDE NAPOLEONNIENNE /
Alain Pougeloux - (free) / 5.15pm / Maison Francaise,
Norham Rd,Oxford. Tel: 274220,
Fri 30th November
KILLER BYTES / Jazz funk / 11pm-2am / Freud's,
Walton Street; Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171
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The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042
JUNO PIXIE / The Perfect (£3.50) / Doors open 8pm /
Wheatstaf, 129, High St
GRAHAM METCALFE / trad singer from Yorkshire,
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