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# Oxford's WEEKEND INFORMATION

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Next issue: Weds 4th December  
Deadline: 10am, Tues 3rd December

Sat 30th NOV - Tues 3rd DEC 2002 (7-8th Week)

## COMING

**PAPAL INDULT MASS** (Bridentine Mass with permission). Every Sunday 10am at West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road (opposite St Frideswide's, near rail station).

**OXBOW BOOKS**  
**CHRISTMAS SALE**  
Tuesday 3rd - Monday 9th December  
Hundred of bargains in Archaeology, classics and medieval studies  
Park End Place, Oxford (behind the Park End Club)

**Holywell Music Room**  
Sunday Dec 1st  
11.15 am

**ADDERBURY ENSEMBLE**  
Schubert String Quintet in C Major  
Tickets on the door or from Playhouse Box Office: 305305

**The Yoga of Self-Knowledge**  
Talk followed by meditation practice  
30 November, 2.30-4.00pm  
Asian Cultural Centre,  
Manzil Way, off Cowley Road, Oxford  
ALL WELCOME ADMISSION FREE  
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**EXHIBITIONS**  
**Christ Church Picture Gallery**  
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Sir Peter Lely (1618-80)  
Thirty-five Old master drawings collected by Lely.  
Until 28th April 2003  
Entrance via Canterbury Gate / Oriol Square.  
Open: Mon-Sat 10.30-1.00, 2.00-4.30, Sun 2.00-4.30 Tel: 276172

**CINEMA**  
Until Thurs 5th December

**Ultimate Picture Palace 245288**  
IL POSTINO(PG) Sat: 7.00 Sun & Mon: 6.00  
Heartwarming Italian classic.  
FRAILTY (15) Sat: 11.30pm Sun & Mon: 10.30pm  
Father becomes serial killer.  
ROAD TO PERDITION(15) Sat: 4.30, 9.15 Sun: 3.30, 8.15 Mon: 8.15 Tue-Thu: 7.00, 9.15  
Sam Mendes directs Tom Hanks  
**Odeon George Street 0870 5050007**  
THE QUIET AMERICAN(15) Daily: 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00  
Michael Caine in potentially Oscar-winning performance  
ANITA AND ME (12A) Daily: 2.00, 4.15, 6.45, 9.00  
A young Asian girl and her dubious role model.  
LILO & STITCH (U) Sat & Sun: 11.30am  
Alien authorities capture the most dangerous of criminals.  
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)  
Daily: 12.00, 1.30, 3.45, 5.00, 7.30, 8.30 plus Sat & Sun: 10.00am  
Part two of seven....  
DIE ANOTHER DAY (12A) Daily: 11.45, 2.15, 2.45, 5.15, 5.45, 8.15, 8.45, plus Sat & Sun 11.15am.  
The New James Bond. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
**ODEON SENIOR SCREEN: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (PG)** Wed: 10.45. Over 55s only!  
First instalment from Middle-Earth.

**Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007**  
MR DEEDS (12A) Daily: 1.00, 6.00, 8.30  
Winona Ryder & Adam Sandler in romantic comedy  
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)  
Daily: 12.30, 4.15, 6.45, 9.00  
Part two of seven.... will she write them all?  
28 DAYS LATER (18) Daily: 3.30, 8.30  
Zombie future horror plague. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
**Phoenix Picture House 512526**

**BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE (15)** Daily: 2.00 (not sat), 6.40(not mon), plus Thu: 11.30pm  
Award-winning documentary on violence in US culture.  
**8 WOMEN (15)** Daily: 2.30, 5.00, 7.10, 9.15  
plus Sun: 12.00 noon  
French whodunnit fun. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
**MORVERN CALLAR(15)** Daily: 4.40, 9.10, plus Sat & Thu: 11.30 pm  
Publishing the dead boyfriend's book....  
**TWO STATES OF MIND (12A) & UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES (12A)** Sun: 12 noon  
Brighton Jewish Festival on tour  
**HINDI CINEMA: DEWANGEE (PG)** Sun 2.00  
Modern mystery thriller: loosely based on "Primal Fear"  
**KIDS CLUB STUART LITTLE 2 (U)** Sat: 1.15, Film 2.00  
More rodent fun. No unaccompanied adults.

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**THEATRE**  
Until Thurs 5th December

**Oxford Playhouse 305305**  
CANDIDE Fri 29th: 7.30 Sat 30th: 2.30, 7.30  
Oxford Operatic Society do Bernstein doing Voltaire. £9.50-£15  
See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
**The Apollo Oxford 0870 6063500**  
THE HOBBIT Fri 29th: 7.30 Sat 30th: 2.30, 7.30  
The prelude to Lord of the Rings. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
FREDDIE STARR Sun 1st: Doors: 7.30pm  
Zany legend's all-new show. £12/£14/£15.50  
CARMEN Tue 3rd & Fri 6th: 7.15pm  
Glyndebourne's touring version. £16-£49.50  
EUGENE ONEGIN Wed 4th & Sat 7th: 7.15pm  
Glyndebourne's touring version. £16-£49.50  
ALBERT HERRING Thu 5th: 7.15pm  
Glyndebourne's touring version. £16-£49.50

**Old Fire Station Theatre 297170**  
LOOK BACK IN ANGER Fri 29th: 7.30 Sat 30th: 2.30, 7.30  
Revolutionary kitchen-sink drama. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
**Burton Taylor Theatre 305350**  
CROSSED WIRE Fri 29th & Sat 30th: 7.30pm  
New writing: Fresh political theatre / £5 / £4 See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY Fri 29th & Sat 30th: 9.30pm  
One of fiction's greatest anti-heroes / £5 / £4 See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk  
THE LION IN WINTER BY JAMES GOLDMAN Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm  
France, 1183: A family gathers to exchange, celebrate and destroy each other / £5 / £4  
PROMETHEUS BOUND Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 9.30pm  
Greek tragedy / £5 / £4

**Pegasus Theatre 722851**  
TRIPLETIC 2 Fri 29th: 8pm  
Oxford Youth Dance Co. present 3 special commissions created with professional choreographers.  
ANNUAL SHOWCASE Sat 30th: 8pm  
Oxford Contemporary Dance School presents contemporary & street pieces. £5.50/£3.50  
**Holywell Music Room**  
THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY: IOLANTHE Thu 28th & Fri 29th: 8pm  
G&S's operetta of lords and fairies. £4 (students)  
**Moser Theatre, Wadham**  
BLACK COMEDY Fri 29th & Sat 30th: 7.30pm  
How people act when they can't be seen. See review at www.dailyinfo.co.uk

**FOOD**  
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**GIGS**  
Sat 30th  
SKITTLE ALLEY PROMOTIONS / Live music & DJ /  
£4 B4 10.00, £5 after / 8.30-2.00am / The Jam Factory,  
27 Park End St  
ATHENA / Latin jazz / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton St; Tel:  
311171  
BURNING BRIDES / TEN BENSON / WINNEBAGO  
DEAL / New V2 signings from USA / 7-10.30pm / The  
Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road; Tel: 420042  
DAVID DEWANT & HIS SPIRIT WIFE / plus support.  
£5/£4 with IMOSC card / Doors 8pm - Bands start  
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Soul Samba. £3/£2.50 / 21.30-02.00 / St Catherine's  
College, Woodstock Road

**Sun 1st**  
DAVE DUNBAR / Piano / 2-4pm, followed by Viva  
Salsa latin dance at 6pm / Freud's, Walton St; Tel:  
311171  
VACANT STARE / THISGIRL, / 5IVE'S CONTINUUM  
PROJECT / JOHNNY TRIUMF / Rock Sound Revolution  
Tour Package £7 adv/£6 door / 7-11pm / The  
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**Mon 2nd**  
THE COMEDY CELLAR / Sister club to the Jericho.  
Old favourites & newcomers - £5. Booking: 203705 /  
Doors: 8pm. Show: 9pm / Downstairs @ The Cook &  
Camel, George Street  
MONDAY BLUES / Paul Lamb and the Kingsnakes,  
UK / Backroom @ The Bulby, 162 Cowley Road; Tel:  
244516, Fax: 202457  
VILLANOVA JUNCTION / Jazz Duo / 10pm-midnight /  
Freud's, Walton St; Tel: 311171

**Tue 3rd**  
PLAYBABY / R&B and hip hop. / £1b4 9.30 with flyer.  
£3 thereafter. / Baby, 213 Cowley Rd  
JERICHO COMEDY CLUB / the human by/crumb  
Stanley Mchale; Shazia Mirza (tbc); guest MC Darrell  
Martin. £5/£4 / Doors: 8pm. Show: 9pm / The Jericho,  
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After a desperate criminal...

1. Conditions for early members of the force were stringent. They began on 17/- (85p) a week with the possibility of rising to £1 a week for a first class constable. Hours were long and discipline was strict. Sergeants and inspectors were on their own beat making sure the Constables weren't slipping into the

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**Sat 30th**  
**STOP THE WAR COALITION** / March: Don't Attack Iraq, Justice for Palestine / 12.30pm / Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way  
**MICHAEL CORRIS, ARTIST AND WRITER** / Gallery talk / free, no booking required. This tour is British Sign Language Interpreted. / Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke Street. 3pm; Tel: 722733  
**YOGA OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE** / Talk and meditation practice / 2.30-4.00pm / Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil way, off Cowley rd, Oxford. All welcome. Organised by Shanti sadan. Tel 0207727 7846

**Sun 1st**  
**DECEMBER POETRY PARTY** / Local & student poets, musicians and guest readers Michael Horowitz & Carmen Bugan host a celebration of the arts. Free entry/drinks! / 7.30-11pm / New Music Room, Corpus Christi College, Merton St  
**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WORKSHOP** / Skilled artist shows how to make high-class decks from natural materials. £5 day / £2.50 half-day. Tel. J Web: 01865 243486 / 377487 / 10.30am-3.30pm / Milham Ford School, Harberton Mead, Map Ref. SP530 073  
**CHARITY CHRISTMAS STALLS** / Fair Trade Advent Calendars, Christmas cards, cakes, jams & more / University Church of St. Mary, High Street / 12.15 pm

**Mon 2nd**  
**PAUL LANGFORD** / England Their England - Historical Perspectives / The Arts Room, Trinity / OUHS, £2.50 (free for members), 8.30 pm / Web: www.ouhs.co.uk / Email: histsoo@herald.ox.ac.uk

**Tue 3rd**  
**EMOTIONAL HEALTH ANONYMOUS** / For details phone John (243553), or Mary (863340) / 8pm / St Margaret's Institute, St Margaret's Institute, Poole Road  
**TIBETAN BUDDHIST SITTING MEDITATION** / Instruction available. Details 241555 / 7.00 - 8.15 / Thrangu House, 42 Magdalen Rd  
**SPIRITUAL HEALING** / No charge (donation) / 6.30 - 8pm / Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles  
**C S LEWIS SOCIETY** / Trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon for The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. / 8.15pm / Frederic Hood Room, Pusey House, St Giles  
**"THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE"** / With Bernie Prior/ £5 Details 01866 853051 / 7.30pm / Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles  
**SIR RANULPH FIENNES** / The world's greatest literary explorer" / 8.30pm / Oxford Union, Frewin Court  
**KABBALAH - MYSTICAL TEXTS** / With Biblical scholar Mordechai (Marc) Gafni. Graduate seminar open to all / 5pm / Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane

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## REVIEW: RESERVOIR BOOKS

Reservoir Books is not just a bookshop. Its trendy black-and-red, Tarantino-referencing shopfront and décor belie its true identity as an extremely ambitious cultural and intellectual project.

One of the reasons Reservoir Books is where it is that it is preserving the crumbling 16th century building (until recently a hairdresser's and restaurant) that hosts it. With the roof still half consisting of plastic sheeting (the interior was left exposed to the elements by the previous owner), the building is a vast, extremely dilapidated four-storey labyrinth of oak-paneled rooms and winding staircases. What the customer currently gets to see is on the lower floor alone, and is a pleasingly white-painted café, its walls lined with books, films and - because it could not be removed - a hairdresser's long mirror. You would never guess that this place was bought for £10,000, its roof open and its lower floor littered with dead animals and syringes, and then restored by the two owners themselves. On one table sits an enchanting wooden cage inhabited by two tiny feathered birds which twitter magically at the flick of a switch. "For the children," I am informed by Jonathan Ungar, one of the proprietors of the establishment.

When I visit to hear about the project, Jonathan's wife Eleanor (a philosopher and educational studies graduate) is busy running the gently buzzing café and shop single-handed. Jonathan breaks off from talking to me to lend a hand, and as the couple move swiftly between tables, food counter/sales desk and video club membership desk/information point, it is evident that the enterprise is not just a business venture, but also a labour of love. The food served in the café also has this air of thoughtfulness about it; the delicious cakes are regularly brought back by Eleanor from her homeland, France; the French hot chocolate is the best I have tasted in an Oxford café and the carefully-chosen European menu is varied, interesting and cheap.

Whilst I wait, I scan the shelves of films and books and find (amongst others) impressive Philosophy, History and Fiction sections, all featuring seminal texts (including many set texts - take note Oxford PPE-ists!) at very low prices. Surprised that they have not been snaffled from the shelves already, I later learn that new books arrive all the time through donation, either from individuals or from publishers to whom Jonathan has made enquiries. The film section is also impressive, featuring unusual foreign and cult films. Membership of the video

club is on a returnable deposit basis, and overnight rental is a mere £1.50.

Film is, in fact, to be the direction of the next arm of Reservoir Books' endeavours. Taking over what was once Convocation Coffee House, in a superbly central location on Radcliffe Square under the University Church, Jonathan and Eleanor will be showing foreign and classic films not generally available in cinemas (even of the more art-house variety). Showings will start next year, quite probably in the next Oxford University term. Membership details are still being finalized. Watch this space...

The ultimate aim here, after raising funds for and awareness of the project through the bookshop and film club, is to obtain the funding to restore the entire building over the next few years, finally opening it as - get this - a ground-breaking virtual exhibition space, with walls of electronic screens presenting materials (such as rare manuscripts) which are never normally accessible to members of the public. Themed exhibitions may also be held on contentious issues, such as the abuse of children or the elderly, drug abuse and eating disorders, and will be accompanied by open public debates and discussions. This gives a glimpse of insight into the far-reaching nature of the project: Jonathan and Eleanor want to create a cultural space which provides a kind of democratic centre of learning, an alternative to the other, more "establishment" educational facilities of the town. It will be accessible to all. Intellectuals from around the world will be invited to place a "family tree" of their cultural heritage within the project's archive, in the form of five carefully selected books which have influenced their thought; outreach projects will try to encourage minority communities in Oxford to use the facility as part of their own space. When all this is up and running, Reservoir Books per se will bow out gracefully, and cease to exist.

This is surely the kind of far-sighted and inclusive scheme that Oxford should embrace as it makes its bid for European City of Culture in 2008. Students love Reservoir Books, and I resolved to make a return visit soon - perhaps after I finish the Ken Kesey novel I had been looking for in libraries for weeks, and spotted on Reservoir Books' shelf for £2...  
Su Jordan, 21.11.02  
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