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Next issue Sat 10th February  
Deadline 10am, Fri 9th February

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2001 (4TH WEEK)

**TODAY**

**OXFORD AMNESTY LECTURES**  
Sheldonian Theatre Friday 9th February 5.30pm

**Peter Singer**  
Moral Philosopher  
Introduced by Prof. John Broome

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**ROOM NICE HOUSE** Morrell Avenue apr-july £287 468184 yokushka@hotmail.com

**Valentine Poetry Prizes**  
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**COMING**

**MARK MILHOFER**  
**BEL CANTO SONGS AND ARIAS**  
WITH PAUL PLUMMER, PIANO  
One of Italy's rising opera stars, best known in Oxford for his Taming in last years *Magic Flute*. Mark Milhofer performs a selection of popular songs from Italy's greatest composers. Magdalen College Auditorium, Saturday 10th February 8.15pm Admission £8 (with CD and complimentary drink) and £2

**Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre**  
the All Formats computer fair  
SUNDAY 11th February 10am - 3pm  
£4 - see local papers for half price admission  
www.asm96.co.uk Also Sat 24th March

**CONTACTS**

To reduce the possibility of hoaxes but still permit speedy communication, we omit, in this column, adverts with phone numbers or postal addresses, other than Daily Information box numbers. Details from 553377.  
17 FEMALE LOOKING for another girl all emails with photo answered lauradavies17@hotmail.com  
IN THE MOOD for love. 39. m. seeks similar. Neiljohn@sherbome303.freemove.co.uk Box 7/2/CN/3  
HIGH CULTURE WORKSHIPPERS all-male couple seeks similar country weekends gsp@dmu.ac.uk  
ORIENTAL LADY SOUGHT by charming English guy dawes50@hotmail.com  
TRISTAN SEEKS ISOLDE for Wagner nights / concerts Kurwnal@btinternet.com

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**FREVD**  
FRI 9 JAZZ BYTES DANCE JAZZ  
SAT 10 AMERICAN VANDAL DANCE JAZZ  
SUN 11 THE BYTES (PIANO) 2-4  
then VIVA SALSAL! FROM 6.30PM  
MON 12 DOROTHY SHAW PIANO  
TUE 13 ELEMENT (MUSIC/PERF. ART) 9.30  
WED 14 PETE & SANDRO LATIN GUITARS  
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**REVIEW: THEATRE**

**HAMLET**

**Creation Theatre Company**  
**BMW Group, Plant Oxford**  
**Horspath Road**  
Until Saturday 10th March

The Creation Theatre Company certainly have a knack when it comes to choosing venues for their Shakespeare. True, genius is hardly required to spot that the beautiful grounds of Magdalen College School make an idyllic setting for summer productions. But to visit BMW's plant on Horspath Road and recognise it as the perfect setting for the Bard's most famous and cerebral tragedy requires truly extraordinary vision.

The result is spell-binding. Creation's Elsinore Castle is a nightmarish oasis of light and hard metal in one corner of the vast factory space; a place where the actors can storm over girders, climb up poles and grapple in cages; where they can screech into view in purring new cars, or loom menacingly in the middle distance; where Shakespeare's famous lines can be focussed before echoing away under the girders into the blackness. As

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**MEETINGS**

Organisation / Subject / Speaker / Place / Time / Contact  
Friday 9th February  
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLK-DANCE GROUP / All welcome. Contact 310216 / 815-10pm / St. Giles Church Hall, 10, Woodstock Rd.  
BLIND DATE / Prepare For Valentine's Day, win prizes, embarrass yourself... / 7.00pm / Borders bookshop, 9, Magdalen St., Oxford OX1 3AD. Tel: 203901  
BUILDINGS IN THE POST-FOSSIL-FUELS AGE. / With Prof. Susan Roaf. Society of graduates meeting. Visitors £1.50 (membership £5/term) / 8pm / Halifax House, 6, South Parks Rd  
PETER SINGER- OXFORD AMNESTY LECTURE / Moral philosopher / Season E.25(E16) / Single E.5(E3) from OxfordPlayhouse 798600/5.30pm / Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street. Tel: 277299, Fax: 277295, Email: custodian@sheldon.ox.ac.uk  
COSTUME IN ART / Lunchtime Gallery Talk / £1.50/Booking 278015 / 1.15-2.00pm / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Tel: 278000, Fax: 278018  
OED FORUM / Stemma and Lemna, speaker, Katie Lowe / 5pm / Rewley House, 1, Wellington Square. Tel: 270380  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY SPECIAL LECTURE - 'AUTHORSHIP IN FILM' / Prof. J. Naremore, a discussion in room 11 / 3.00pm / St Cross Building  
CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT / One of the series of Ford's Lectures in British History by Prof. C. Dyer. / 5.00pm / Examination Schools, High St

**GIGS + NIGHTLIFE**

Friday 9th February  
BACKROOM BOOGIE / Soul/funk/disco E5 / 10pm / Backroom @ The Bullly, 162 Cowley Road. Tel: 244516, Fax: 202457, Email: info@thebullly.f9.co.uk  
BOOGIE BASEMENT / Soul, funk, jazz & psychedelia. Downstairs E.4 / 10.30pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road. Tel: 420042  
WEEKEND VIBES / Diverse range of musical styles E.4 / 9pm-2am / Po Na Na, Magdalen Street. Tel: 249171, Fax: 790422, Email: dave@poanax.fsnet.co.uk  
ADDIS ABABA DUB SYSTEM / Jamaican food by Fay / 9pm-12am / Cricketers Arms, 43, 11ffley Rd. Tel: 726264  
OXFORD FOLK CLUB / Peta Webb & Ken Hall (Unaccompanied Songs & Harmonies) E.3.50 or thereabouts / 8.30 / Port Mahon, St. Clement's  
JAZZ BYTES / dance jazz / 11pm-2am / Freuds, Walton Street. Tel: 311171, Fax: 311171  
SLIDE / Deep/progressive DJ's E.6adv upstairs / 9pm / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road. Tel: 420042

**CONCERTS**

Friday 9th February  
VAMOSI / Performing works by McGuire, Wright, Patterson and Stravinsky. / 7.30pm / Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St. Hilda's College

usual with Creation productions, the staging is thoroughly interactive: by omitting (although, perhaps, regrettably) the ghost's first appearance on the battlements, the audience is drawn into the drama from the very moment they arrive. Greeted by the cast outside the theatre, one is led to the stage via a sumptuous court in which the marriage of Denmark's new King and Queen is being celebrated. Audience members thus become



Hamlet (Damian Davis, left) grapples with Laertes (Jamie Bower)

actors, filling the court with the bustle of bodies it needs, and gaining an uncomfortable feeling of complicity with the dark deeds which lurk beneath the jollity.

The set, too, functions in many ways as an extra member of the cast: the clanks and flashes which emerge from the impenetrable darkness portray the ghost of Hamlet's father far more terrifyingly than any human actor could have. Indeed, it is fortunate that the

surroundings and audience can be called upon to play parts, for this *Hamlet* is certainly performed with a skeleton cast. But while the unavoidable absence of some of the smaller parts is sometimes disappointing, what the cast lacks in quantity it more than makes up for in quality; even if the staging were not spectacular, it would still be worth travelling a long way to see acting of this calibre. The actors blaze their way through the script with an engaging energy, and yet with thoughtful care. At their centre, Damian Davis is captivating as Hamlet: a brooding yet noble figure, he negotiates the many sides of the Prince's character with consummate skill, uniting them all in a young, philosophical, almost jocular figure, whose veneer occasionally cracks to allow touching glimpses of the bewildered child from a broken home which is within.

This *Hamlet* is another testament to director Zoe Seaton's skill. Shakespeare's text is delivered with a crystal clarity characteristic of her productions; not a word is neglected or misinterpreted. The electrifying pace and drama is also typical of her work: the never-flagging excitement builds inexorably towards a thrilling finale, and a choreographed fight of breath-taking skill and athleticism. Make every effort to see this spectacular production. For those who haven't had the benefit of seeing one of Creation's fliers, directions to BMW's Plant Oxford are provided below.

Matthew Rogers, 5/2/01

The public entrance to BMW's plant is on Horspath Road. From central Oxford, follow the Cowley Road until it becomes Oxford Road, then keep going along this as far as the large roundabout, which has Oxford Retail Park and Tesco on the right. Take the exit on the left, up onto the ring road. Horspath Road is the first major road on the right; the entrance is only a very short way down, on the right.

**JOBS**

Take part in a computer-based experiment, 8-17th February  
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...own in 1876, ...ved his M.A.  
...evidence strongly suggests St John's  
...of University College, ...y at the Perch, Binsey, ... certain 'Holmes' ...se of some merriment

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Original Irish music.  
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9th-Sat 10th, 7.30  
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iginal German.  
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xual marketplace.  
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Sat mat. 3pm

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Sun & Mon 4.15  
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JUDY BERLIN (15)  
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Thu 15th 11.45pm  
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VERTICAL LIMIT (12)  
Daily: 2.05 (not Sat/Sun), 5.20, 8.20 (not Wed)  
Tense mountaineering drama.  
CASTAWAY (12)  
Daily: 1.15, 4.25, 7.40  
A skeletal Tom Hanks braves the elements.  
THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE (U)  
Sat/Sun: 1.20, 3.20  
Preview. Disney animation.  
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)  
Perennial heart warmer, Wed 14th 10.45am  
HANNIBAL (18)  
Wed 14th 8.20  
Preview. Hopkins is hungry....

**THEATRE**

Creation Theatre Company  
BMW Group