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Next issue Sat 17th November Deadline 10am, Fri 16th Nov.

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2001

COMING

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford Philomusica. Beethoven Triple Concerto, Symphony No.4. Marios Papadopoulos, conductor. Concert introduced by John Suchet. Box Office 01865 798600 (and at the door).

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FREVD Fri 16 ZABADOO Latin Jazz SAT 17 HOT SPRING HEALERS Blues SUN 18 DAVE DUNBAR (2-4PM) Piano then VIVA SALSA! from 6PM

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THEATRE

Playhouse 798600 THE THEFT OF SITA Wed 14th - Sat 17th: 7.30(Fri 8.00); Sat Mat: 2.30 Beautiful bride stolen by wicked demon

REVIEW: THEATRE

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde

Burton-Taylor Theatre, to Sat 17th

'Continuous eloquence is tedious' was Pascal's verdict a century or two before Oscar Wilde was even born, and Ideal Husband's have a mournful habit of vindicating him.

Ben Levine's production rarely works up enough speed to carry the script's inbred stodginess comfortably; instruction manuals should be written to instruct any actor who strays within a mile of Oscar Wilde dialogue.

Those quibbles aside, this came as close to a raging comic triumph as competence allowed, provided the moral rhetoric is allowed to fall by the wayside, as it should.

frocks, requisitely hideous bonnets, and resident Honourable Gentleman Robert Chiltern (David Stevens) delivering a rather wonderful Douglas Hurd impression, a cornucob stuck firmly up his thoroughly English arse.

The net result is that the physical comedy, such as it is, drives and dominates the verbal swordfighting - and deprives Lord Goring, enticingly languorous though he may be, of the starring role.

Jasper Milvain 14/11/01

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to 'Daily Information' or our website are welcome. Phone 553377 or email dailyinfo@dailyinfo.co.uk Minor ones that we take up are appreciated with a box of chocolates & major ones with something more substantial. Have a go - today

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GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

Friday 16th November SPACEHOPPER / £3.50 / Doors 8pm / Wheatsheaf, 129, High St. KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN / Oxford Folk Club / £3.50/£2.50 / 8.30pm / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

MEETINGS

Friday 16th November YOUR CHANCE TO ASK THE GARDENING EXPERTS. / £5.00 proceeds to Alzheimer Society & Summertown 2000 / Tel: 511326 / 7.00pm / St. Edward's School, Woodstock Road

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REVIEW: THEATRE

The Theft of Sita

The Oxford Playhouse to Sat 17th

The Theft of Sita is an adaptation of part of the ancient epic 'Ramayana', enacted by Australian and Indonesian puppeteers and musicians.

The story of a demon kidnapping a princess who must then be rescued by her prince and his helpers will be seen at least by family tale to anyone who has ever enjoyed a fairy tale, but the staging is unique. The vast majority of the story is told in a style owing more to ballet than traditional drama, in shadows cast by paper puppets on to a vast sheet hung across the front of the stage.

The action is accompanied by relatively sparse dialogue, and music from a striking variety of instruments and styles, both Indonesian and western. This accompaniment shifts seamlessly from traditional Indonesian to jazz, rock and even electronica to suit the mood and style. The background too, while mostly in the form of shadows, occasionally features photos, paintings or even film, these sudden bursts of colour and motion all the more effective for their unexpectedness.

Ironically, given the skill with which eastern and western styles and traditions are fused to produce such a spectacular production, the moral of the tale is all too blunt. In a few rather clumsy and wordy pieces of expositional dialogue, the enemies of the piece are explicitly identified with western influences such as tourism and the International Monetary Fund. Destructive though these forces may be to the lives of Indonesians, it seems heavy handed if not actually propagandistic to equate such complex political, social and economic factors with the unmitigated evil of a fairy tale villain.

However, if you can look beyond a moral stance as black and white and two-dimensional as the puppets, I strongly recommend this production. You will never have seen anything quite like it.

Alex Williams 14/11/01



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OXFORD HISTORY



1. Queen Elizabeth's accession brought stability to the University after the dangers and difficulties of Mary's Catholic regime, during which many academics felt it wise simply to lie low. As Chancellor, the Earl of Leicester restored discipline and demanded loyalty to the church and monarch of England - which, once established, has never again seriously wavered. 2. Queen Elizabeth's visits to Oxford were the occasion of much speechifying, by herself and others, in Latin and Greek. She attended debates, and a play was performed for her at Christ Church. Her final farewell, at Shotover, was an emotional occasion. 3. Her title as founder of Jesus college is somewhat an honorary one, though she was pleased to accept it, and the college possesses no less than three portraits of her. Jesus college has always been associated closely with Wales, and Elizabeth herself always regarded her Welsh ancestry as important.

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