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TELESCOPES NOW / Prof Alan Watson talks about establishing

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**DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH** / Speak German, play

games and organise activities. / 8:30pm, Free, All welcome / deutscherstam mtisch@yahoo.co.uk / Anchor Inn Pub (corner Kingston Rd/Polstead Rd)

GLOBE CAFE / Conversation for international students and visitors in

Oxford / 8-10pm, Free refreshments / www.globecafeoxford.org.uk / 07925 394122 / St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford; Tel: 01865 311212

**DIVERSITY OF MOSSES, AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF** 

WARBURG TO BRITISH BRYOLOGY / Warburg Lecture. Speaker:

Dr Mark Hill / Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire / 8pm, non-

IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP / Informal group for those who would

like to meet up to speak Irish. / 8pm to 10pm free / Half Moon Public House,

PEGASUS PUBLIC OPEN DAY / Presentations, plans and

Plus screenings, what will happen while the theatre's closed, and

pancakes. / 6.30pm, free / Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road; Tel: 722851 boxoffice@pegasustheatre.org.uk

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TALK BY HILARY MANTEL / Hilary Mantel talks about her memoir

The Clean Slate: Childhood and Fiction' / Oxfordshire Mind / 5.30-6.30pm, £5

CLIMATE CHANGE & NUCLEAR POWER / Speakers & drinks

reception for latest issue of St Antony's International Review / Launch of

STAIR Journal / 6.30pm, free / www.sant.ox.ac.uk/ext/stair / info@stair

ASTRONOMY / Observing Evening - first clear evening only - phone in

advance for details / Abingdon Astronomical Society / 8pm. 1st visit free /

PEACE STUDIES LECTURE: WHAT FUTURE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS? / Dr Farhang Jahanpour (Kellogg College) / Oxford Peace Research Trust / 7.45pm Free / antonyives@onetel.com / www.

Wed 25th

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION / Meditating in the Christian tradition

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Resistance (Speaker- Pete Dwyer and local TU rep) / Socialist Workers Party

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FORENSIC SCIENCE LECTURE / Dr Angela Gallop gives an insight

759138 / The Theatre At Headington, Headington School, Headington Road

DAVID PATTERSON SEMINAR / Dr D Ariel: Objectivity and

Engagement - the changing agenda of Jewish Studies / enquiries@ochj:

ac.uk / 8pm Free / www.ochjs.ac.uk / Yarnton Manor, Yarnton, OX5 1PY; Tel

SEMINAR: MESSING WITH THE MARKET / Safavid Trade

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School of Geography, Mansfield Rd

nformation about the refurbishment and future of Pegasus Theatre.

members £2 / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd, Oxford

Deadline: 10am, Wed 25th February

Tue 24th - Wed 25th February 2009 (6th week)

**WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON** 

### Celia Green - Seminar 'Existential Psychology and Early Christianity'

Tue 3 March, Infinite Ideas, 36 St Giles 2.30pm, entry free + www.celiagreen.com

### GIGS

### Tue 24th

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info@evolutionmcl.co.uk / 01865 792696 / Baby Simple, Cowley Road **LIZZIE NEWBERY JAZZTET** / Vocal led Jazz. Jazz-swing-blues-fun / 9pm to 11pm, Free admission / 01865 243203 / Chester Street, Oxford THE HUGH TURNER BAND / Free live jazz plus DJs playing r'n'b, Arms, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Tel: 244516

SPECTRUM, FROM LIGHT TO SOUND, SPIRAL 25 / Electro Club night / Vacuous Pop / 8pm / The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street, 0X1 4DF, Tel: 01865 721156

#### Wed 25th

**LIVE LOUNGE: OPEN MIC** / With Lee Davies / 8.30-11pm free entry / 07900 224988 / The Cape of Good Hope, The Plain TRISH ELPHINSTONE QUINTET / Jazz: Trish Elphinstone

(saxophones), Chris Brown (guitar), Alexander Hawkins (keys), Frank Hockney (drums) and special guest Bob Nichol (tenor sax). / 8.30pm, free / The Half Moon, 17 St Clements, Oxford PONT MUSIC - PRIZE OPEN MIKE / Compete for a £50 gig or

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### CINEMA to Thu

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007) VALKYRIE [12A] 🔏

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A] daily: 12.30, 4.15, 8.00pr HOTEL FOR DOGS [U] Tue: 12.15, 3.00pm BURN AFTER READING [15] 🗷

GRAN TORINO [15] 🗷 Wed & Thu: 12.15, 3.00, 6.00, 8.45pm

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

Tue & Thu: 12.15, 3.00, 5.40, 8.15pi unernowered humans are stalked by the govern HOTEL FOR DOGS [U]

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15] 
Tue: 9.15pm; Wed: 12.00ar

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA [12A] Wed: 9.35pm, 12.00am Mon - Tue, Thu: 9.35pm THE PINK PANTHER 2 [PG] Tue - Thu: 2.00, 4.20pm

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON [12A] Wed: 1.00, 4.30, 8.00, 11.25pm, Mon, Tue, Thu: 1.00, 4.30, 8.00pn Brad Pitt is born old and gets younger. Subtitled Sun 1.00 & Tue 8.00

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU [12A] 🗷 Mon. Tue. Thu: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm; Wed: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30, 11.30pi

NOTORIOUS [15] daily: 6.45, 9.45pm SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15] 🕊 Mon: 6.20, 9.00pi Tue, Thu: 12.50, 3.30, 6.20, 9.00pm; Wed: 12.50, 3.30, 6.20, 9.00, 11.50pm

FRIDAY THE 13TH [18] 🔏 Wed: 7.00, 9.25, 11.55pm Mon, Tue, Thu: 7.00, 9.25pn CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC [12A] Wed: 12.25, 3.10, 6.00, 8.45, 11.40pm A girl wants to work for a fashion magazine... Mon, Tue, Thu: 12.25, 3.10, 6.00, 8.45pm

SENIORS CLUB: QUANTUM OF SOLACE [12A] 
Tue: 12.00pm GRAN TORINO [15] 🔏 Wed & Thu: 9.15pm

**Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)** 

PUSH [12A] daily: 1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.15pm DOUBT [15] daily: 12.00pr priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC [12A] daily: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45pm
A girl wants to work for a fashion magazine...Subtitled Mon 6.00, Tue 3.15, Thu 12.30. HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU [12A] 🔏 daily: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00p FRIDAY THE 13TH [18] 🔏

BOLT [U] 🗷 Mon, Wed & Thu: 1.00, 3.30, 6.30pm e real. Tue: 1.00, 3.30pn daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15] 🔏

THE PINK PANTHER 2 [PG] daily: 12.45, 3.00, 5.45pm REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15] & SENIOR SCREEN: QUANTUM OF SOLACE [12A] 
Senial Color scale rounne Wed: 10.45ar

**Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)** THE READER [15] 🛎 WALTZ WITH BASHIR [18] 🗷

Wed: 6.15pm **BLINDNESS** [18] Tue, Thu: 6.00pr Mon: 6.15pm

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Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218) THE READER [15] 🔏 mplicated love affair in post WW2 German

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Mon: 1.00, 6.15pm; Wed & Thu: 3.20pi

THE MAN FROM LONDON [12A] BIG SCREAM: GRAN TORINO [15] 🚿 Wed: 11.30am Walt. Just for parents with babies GRAN TORINO [15] 🚿 Wed: 6.00, 8.40pm; Thu: 12.45, 6.00, 8.40pm

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### **CINEMA REVIEW**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

## He's Just Not That Into You [12A]

Showing at the Vue and the Odeon George Street until at least Thursday 26th. See Cinema Listings, left.

cheery rom-

This is a romantic comedy in the sense that its subject matter is romance and it has a happy ending, but don't expect to be rolling in the aisles.

For a movie based on a hip self-help best-seller it has a sharp, intelligent script. The rather disturbing precepts of the book have been successfully turned into stories with real, sympathetic characters. It examines the nature of romantic expectations and how those impact on real relationships - how

often), how to interpret modern mating behaviour i "This is not (men apparently aren't all i "This is not (men apparently aren't all that into women), and at I decide not to exhaust yourself flogging a dead horse any more (almost immediately).

You can see that this is not confident and robust before you commit a couple of hours to watching it. I never thought I would be watching a movie in 2009 that proposed as serious contemporary advice, as my mother did in 1974, that a girl should never EVER phone a guy, or indeed engage in any behaviour that might hint that she is attracted to him or likes him. No, a girl must only ever be pursued, never the pursuer; she must never appear to have the least hint of crazy

stalker about her, and in fact the most successful strategy she can adopt is to dump her man before he dumps her, thus leading to a love-life consisting entirely of one-night stands (the book was written

Nevertheless, the film does deliver powerful rewards. It follows the fortunes of five young women, exquisitely portrayed by Jennifers Aniston, Connelly and Goodwin, Scarlett Johansson and people let one another down (deliberately and Drew Barrymore, and the guys they date, or are in

relationships with, and sometimes unwittingly share. It does manage I to successfully turn the message ■ of the rather nasty book entirely what point you should **YOUR AVERAGE** on its head and reject the theory • of competitive consumerism as a model for personal relationships.

> I've just found that it's impossible to say anything about the storylines without giving away

your average cheery rom-com fare. It's actually crucial surprises, so all I will say is that it is well quite terrifying and you need to be feeling fairly worth a look. All the principle actors are excellent; Jennifer Aniston in particular has a kind of tightness about the mouth suggestive of anticipated disappointment... I can't even say more about this! Ginnifer Goodwin was absolutely splendid as the potential crazy stalker - no, can't say more about that either. I will have to see it again. Strongly recommended.

**Andrea Hopkins** 

### **PANCAKE DAY: TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY**

# How to make Pancakes

### **Ingredients** (makes 10):

- 4oz (125g) plain white flour
- pinch of salt
- ½ pint (300ml) milk (you can use half milk, half water if you're that way inclined)
- 20z (60g) melted butter OR a couple of tablespoons of oil (optional but nice)
- 1 tablespoon of rum, brandy, beer or gin (ditto)

Everything should be as close to room temperature as possible.

- 1. Put the flour and salt in a bowl and crack in the eggs. Mix together till smooth. If you're not using butter or oil go straight to step 3.
- 2. Mix in the butter (if you like, you can heat it in your pancake pan first until it foams and goes light brown – this will make the pancakes taste pleasantly nutty). Or add the oil, if you're using that, but in that case don't do the foaming thing.
- 3. Mix in the milk (gradually at first) and finally the alcohol.

You can leave it to stand for an hour at this point, but if it's not convenient, don't bother.

4. Lightly grease a frying pan (preferably non-stick) and heat it. It needs to be at about 4 or 5 on a 6-setting hob dial. When hot, add about 2 tablespoons of batter per pancake, or as much as it takes to cover the pan. Cook for just under a minute on one side and very briefly on the other.

Keep your cooked pancakes warm while you make the rest (they can be kept overnight wrapped in foil if you like and reheated the next day).

Fill them with cheese, ham, spring onions, pasta sauce, feta and tomatoes, baked beans, houmous, bacon and eggs, cream cheese and chives and pepper, blueberries, bananas, yoghurt, honey and lemon juice, cinnamon and brown sugar, maple syrup, chocolate sauce, whipped cream with liqueur in it, ice cream or whatever else is around. But not all at once.



## Vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free pancakes

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# **Vicky Cristina Barcelona [12A]**

Showing at the Phoenix and the Vue until at least Thursday 26th. See Cinema Listings, left.

way more glam than those usually pilloried) in a beautifully captured Barcelona. They are propositioned simultaneously - by Javier Bardem's charismatic

# i" a remarkable and long awaited return

■ Vicky, engaged to a preppy, square and wellto-do New Yorker, is essentially the offspring

Vicky to wonder what she is missing out on by marrying fiance Doug (a very funny Chris Messina, whose character surely defines the word 'chump'). Is it true, as Maria Elena argues, that 'only unfulfilled love can

susceptible than I'd like to think, but I was charmed by Bardem's sexy artist. However, perhaps like Cristina, I was even more taken with Penelope Cruz: she managed to combine Sofia Loren and a psychopath - no mean feat. Johansson plays the same character she pretty much always plays, but she looks absolutely beautiful and it's indisputable that the camera adores her. Hall is more typical Allen material and seems to have more range. All three women do justice to the script and craft strong female characters which are up there with some of Allen's finest.

Yes, there are areas which seem clumsy. Juan Antonio's works of art, for starters. The notion of Spanish artists

I didn't like it. This is a film made out of stereotypes. Anglo-Saxons = cold and boring, Latins = passionatemadhorses. Barcelona is an overrated city. Yes it's hot, nice, interesting buildings and good food, fantastic for a weekend, and...? The other thing was the use of voice off... why? It's a film, images are its form of

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Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and Cristina (Scarlett Johansson) are that well worn joke, American tourists (although

to form for Allen."

of Annie Hall and Alvy Singer; totally neurotic and mouthpiece for some of Allen's best lines. Cristina is dreamier and more impulsive, searching for a means of self-expression ■ and constantly flirting with various artistic ■ ■ ■ ✓ mediums. Obviously, she jumps at the chance to tag along with the hunky Spaniard. Enter his emotionally unbalanced ex-wife Maria Elena (Penelope Cruz), who also happens to be an artist. The unconventional, apparently contented threesome prompts

No one is left unmoved by the tempestuous Spanish pair, least of all the audience. Maybe I am more

hanging around Park Guell sketching is about as credible as thinking that all Londoners walk past Big Ben on their way to work (see Match Point). The dichotomy between the passionate Catalans and uptight New Yorkers could also be seen as reductive, but then EM Forster's Room with a View sets up a similar contrast between impetuous Italians and repressed English people on holiday in Florence. Allen seems aware of such literary lineage and the narratorial construct he employs works very well, often adding an extra layer of humour. He also manages to captivate us with Barcelona's seductive beauty and do so in a way true to the lived experience of the tourist. Barcelona exists as another character and is a pleasure to feast your eyes upon. I'm not sure that this movie has made my mind up about whether unfulfilled love can be romantic or not, but I can say with confidence that the critics are right - VCB represents a remarkable and long awaited return to form for Allen. Highly recommended. **Lindsey Davis** 

Alex !"Boring, boring! language. Boring, boring! I want my money back.

I want my money back."

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