

THE ORACLE

A Year 10 English Publication



THE ARTS AT LIVERPOOL COLLEGE

MELISSA JONES, CULTURE VULTURE

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For the musicians and thespians among us, the music and drama season is central to our Liverpool College experience. Things so far have gone really well. As soon as school started plans were made for the College Players' production. The college players are a team of budding young actors and actresses from Year 7 to 13 who show a keen interest in drama.

In October 2010, the players put on an abridged version of "The Taming of The Shrew" by William Shakespeare. For those who are confused by the title and are under the illusion this is a play about taming small rodents, the play, The Taming of The Shrew is a comedy (trust me, it's really funny) by Shake-

peare based on male and female conflict and how men and women differ. It has been the basis and stimulus for many other works of theatre, including the Cole Porter musical Kiss me Kate, The Taming of The Shrew by Shakespeare Retold, and the film '10 Things I Hate About You'.

Our production was not like how most people will stereotypically believe Shakespeare to be. We based the play on occasions and events that happen in the 21st century; the only difference is that we used Shakespearean language.

Characters include Baptista Minola, (Mother of Katharina, the shrew of the play and her younger sister Bi-

anca) played by Hope Lappin, Katherina Minola (The difficult and strong women colloquially known as the shrew) played by Sophie Davies, Petruchio (Katherina's groom to be and the man who tames her) played by Elliot Powell, Lucentio (Bianca's teacher and also secret lover) played by Adam Titchmarsh, Bianca Minola (younger sweeter kinder sister of moody Katherine) played by myself. The play was directed by actor in residence Leo Lolis, and the head of drama, Mrs Hall.

For those not motivated by Shakespeare, rehearsals for the Liverpool (continues p.3)

SINGING SENSATION SEEKS SUPPORT!

The Christmas term is always one of the busiest for the music department. As Founder's Day, Speech Night, Palm House concerts and the annual Carol Service take place, our upmost is being done to make sure that performances are of high quality. We urge all pupils to support the music department and to come to our concerts when it is possible. Mr Donnelly's art department is continuing to provide us with inspiration and colour. Mr Donnelly will

be holding exhibitions and art critic events throughout the year for those interested.

Lastly, the 2011 school production of Oklahoma will run from 9th-11th February. Starring Rebecca Marston-Evans, Joe Burns and Peggy Howard, this promises to be a rootin'-tootin' good ole time.

I wish everyone all the best with their commitments to the culture of Liverpool College and we can only hope that those not involved will support us whole heartedly too.

SARAH SPEAKS!

It's the voice of thunder, Sarah Orr—and it's snow joke, this North-South divide!

Amid all the gaiety and laughter of Christmas this year, I will freely admit that I did not spare a thought for all those poor Londoners and their 'issues' with the snow. Not a second did I spend considering how those beleaguered lawyers, accountants and bankers must have spent all of two or three minutes brushing off the paltry dusting maybe, what, 4cm off their heated windscreens?

See, I was too busy trying to compete with the two feet of snow which stopped us from even opening our front door in an energy efficient manner. Our little part of South West Lancashire was cut off for a week, and nobody noticed. We would have descended into savagery and cannibalism if it hadn't been for our natural warmth and charm. While extreme sledging and watching extremely excited chocolate Labradors jump for snowballs is great fun, eventually one wearies of the frostbite and brainfreeze.

I hope this doesn't make me seem like one of those grumpy old men who complain all the time, but I think there is a case for kicking off about the lack of consideration shown to the north west. Maybe I should be the expert forecaster with this experience under my belt. Except I don't wear a belt.

But I did see a funny squirrel with a cookie.



HILL'S THRILLS AND SPILLS



Dispatches from the world of digital, by **James Hill**.

This is the most hyped up film in recent times and on some levels it greatly impresses but on some it simply does not. The plot is mildly entertaining; an invader wants the land and the indigenous population fight back, except with overgrown Smurfs as the natives.

Little about this film is subtle, from the political allegory which will sledgehammer even the most bovine of viewers, to the fantasy world Cameron creates. Technically stunning, Avatar delivers visually, with fantastic jungle and verdant trees galore. Jake Sully (Sam Worthington, *Terminator Salvation*) is a clichéd character but with a twist but, while some of the others are somewhat humorous the rest of the characters fall into the role of hackneyed sidekicks.

With much reference to Star Wars this technically mesmerising film is like George Lucas with the prequel trilogy: instead of expanding on a great premise it becomes obsessed with the special effects and the CGI. Another negative point is character motivation: we have no idea why half the characters are there, or why a mineral called *Unobtainium* (duh), a mineral whose only importance seems to be that's it's £20 million a kilo.

This film is great visually and in 3D will make you feel like you're on the world of Pandora, but the script lets it down slightly as such a film deserves riveting characters. As with some of Cameron's other works we are disappointed. It succeeds as a piece of sci-fi nonsense, and the dialogue, although wooden in many areas, won't mortify you. Overall, though, something a little bit more subtle might be a better idea.

Rating - 3/5

CONTINUED...



Eliot, acting.

College school production extravaganza which is always one of the school's most memorable events are ongoing. Last year's "The Sound of Music" proved to be a great success and was enjoyed

by all.

This year's Oklahoma features of a cast of veteran thespians of college productions and talented new comers to the drama productions taking the principle roles. Drama lessons with our wonderful visiting drama teacher Mrs Parsons are continuing and preparations are being made for those festival classes (!) Special mention should be made to Year 11's Abby Middleton performed in a professional production of "Our Day Out" which was on at the Royal Court Theatre. We are very pleased for Abby and hoped that her performances went well. Having visited the theatre numerous times this year, her production was definitely my favourite.

For those musically minded, music and instrumental studies are continuing to flourish. The first concert of the season was on the 8th October. It saw some of the college's talented singers and musicians perform a selection of popular and classical music under the glass canopy of the Palm House to accompany the falling leaves of autumn. Performers included Bethan Roberts. Concerts at the Palm House, like this one will continue throughout the year.

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Choir is once again rehearsing with great exuberance. Our Founder's Day performance was appreciated by all, as so was our Speech Night recital. The jazz band under the direction of Mr Harvey is a fundamental part of Liverpool College, making important appearances at various events. These have included Speech Night and The Headmaster's Conference. This year's speech night performance was, as always, fantastic, and featured a wonderful solo from Tim Cunningham. Laura Davidson of the jazz band performed wonderfully in a solo on the philharmonic stage much to the delight of her friends, teachers and family.

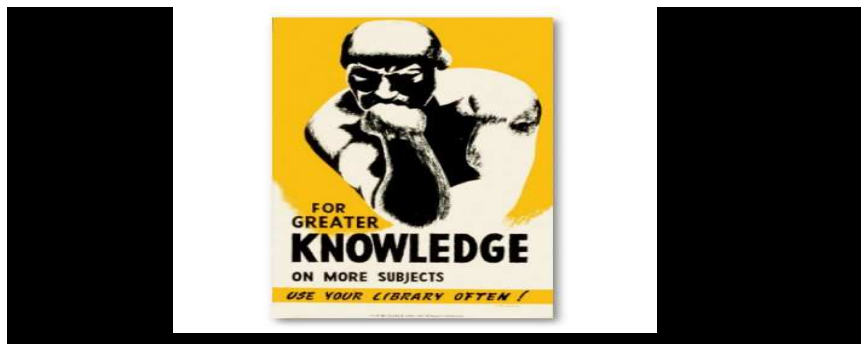
"For those musically minded, music and instrumental studies are continuing to flourish."



Laura, tootling.

'Opposing Murdoch one term at a time'

All submissions considered—email to gwilson@liverpoolcollege.org.uk



CLASSIFIEDS

Lonely Hearts

Sporty Yr 10 (m) seeks adequate tapdancer (f); must have interest in finance. PO Box 18

Shy Yr 8 lad seeks lass with class (and patience). PO Box 12

Tall, dark, handsome? Nah...but if you like teddy bears then I'm your boy. PO Box 456

Services

All foodscraps wanted to feed to chickens—contact Jonsey PO Box 19

Silent Elimination Service—removing the enemy in your life. Moulton PO Box 189

Lost/found

LOST—one side door. Please return to Year 13.

BOARD TO TEARS?

ANNA AND AMY MEET LUNA

The evenings are darker still, the temperature is hostile and the only things to be heard are the fading notes of Mr Donnelly's attempt at Christmas number one.

December 2010 marked not only the end of another calendar year but the first full term in Liverpool for most of our new college boarders. We pressed LUNA for some inside information on first impressions, new experiences and the elusive 'McTurbutt'....

What do you think of Liverpool and what made you want to live here?

Well it was my family's idea. They thought it would be a good opportunity for me to learn more from a different culture's perspective. I really like Liverpool - especially the shopping!

Do you ever get homesick? What do you miss the most from Hong Kong?

Not really, I'm too busy! Of course I miss my friends but the thing I miss the most is the food. I find it a bit bland here and why must you eat potatoes with everything?! (laughs) I

don't understand it.

What do you do in your free time?

Sleep! No I spend a lot of time with the other boarders so it means we are quite close now. We sometimes go out together to see something and I really enjoyed going down to see London for the first time in half term.

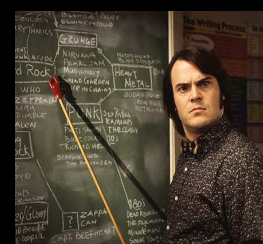
Do you know what you want to do as a career and would you consider staying in the UK?

I haven't decided yet, at the moment I take business studies, economics, art and maths for A level but I don't know which one to take further. (pause) I think I will probably go back to Hong Kong to work but we'll see.

Finally, do you think Mr Turbutt and Miss McCaughey make a good team as hall tutors?

(erupts in giggles) Yes they are both... very nice. Very nice and funny!

Editor's Note



Please enjoy the inaugural Year 10 newsletter. Any resemblance to a reputable publication is purely coincidental and greatly regretted.

Many thanks to the intrepid scribes who contributed enthusiastically, foregoing extended luncheons in order to concoct and create so rewardingly. Not for them the sentiment expressed by the frustrated Year 11 who couldn't make notes because 'I've got Blu-Tac in me pen.'

GW, C17

The Team

Levin, Parry, Lowey, Hill (freelance), 'Spike' Jones, Sanan.