

READING INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

13-31 OCTOBER 2006

friday 13 october

Hannah and Hanna

7.45pm Powerful, moving drama by John Retallack, laced with humour and music. Through two very different 16 year old girls – one from Margate, one from Kosovo – we are taken on a journey from prejudiced hatred to friendship and understanding. The Progress Theatre, The Mount (off Christchurch Rd) WA & induction loop £7 in advance/£6PTL/£6.50 extra £ 1 on door t: bookings 960 6060

saturday 14 october

A Global Extravaganza

7pm Cabaret featuring: Jean Binta Breeze – internationally renowned dub poet telling stories with a political edge; Mark Thomas – comedian and activist on arms trade, ‘John Pilger with laughs’ Guardian; DJ Ritu – highly respected BBC DJ pioneering growth of Asian music worldwide; Vivo Latino – an unforgettable journey through Latin American and Caribbean music. RISC 25th Anniversary Celebration and Black History Month. Concert Hall, Reading Town Hall, Blagrove St WA £15/£12.50concs t: bookings 960 6060 or World Shop 958 6692

Earth Alive! Healing our relationship with nature

4.30pm Stephan Harding, Oxford ecologist, co-ordinator of Schumacher College’s MSc in Holistic Science, talks about Gaia, climate change and a new understanding of our place in nature. Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC), 35-39 London St free WA RISC & Rising Tide t: Lucy Harding 966 7459

Hannah and Hanna

(as Friday 13) t: bookings 960 6060

sunday 15 october

The Great Turning: making a choice for a sustainable world

2-6pm Experiential workshop to renew our connection with the natural world, explore our feelings about climate change and other threats to the environment, and become more personally active in working towards and sustainable world. Lifestory Therapy Centre, 17 Eldon Square £6/concs tbc Rising Tide t: Jenny Nicholson 966 2633

Salsa & Merengue classes & dancing

7-9.30pm Classes include absolute beginners learning the basics; 9.30-12.30pm Latin Disco. Jongleurs, 110 Friar St £6/£5concs absolute beginners free with this brochure Red Hat Salsa www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

Singer Ed Rennie

8pm Traditional songs on the theme ‘Living on the Edge’. Clifton Arms, Gosbrook Rd, Caversham noWA £4/£3concs Readifolk Song Club t: Una 0118 948 3145

monday 16 october

Think Global Act Local: Tackling Climate Change in Reading

7.30pm Discussion of what individuals and groups are doing or would like to do to tackle climate change in Reading. RISC, 35-39 London St WA free Reading Green Party t: Rob 950 4062

tuesday 17 october

Sustainability Workshop

2-9.30pm Laurie Michaelis will facilitate a two-part workshop with emphasis on our role in our own lives, communities and planet; 2-6pm focus on sustainability concerns; 6pm bring food & share meal; 7-9.30pm focus

on how to achieve change. Come to one or both. Open to Quakers and non-Quakers. Friends Meeting House, 2 Church St WA free Reading Quakers t: Tony Goodchild 961 6631

Enron: the smartest guys in the room

8pm Examines the collapse of the Enron Corporation. More intelligent than Michael Moore's work, it covers financial details clearly even excitingly, feeling more like a thriller than a documentary. The shocking expose of the wider costs of corporate greed and the dark side of the American Dream has scary resonances for our own prosperity. Reading Film Theatre (RFT), Palmer Building, Reading University WA £5/£3.30concs t: 378 7151

Salsa and Merengue Dance workshop

7pm No sense of rhythm? No problem! Special call for absolute beginners; 7.30pm other levels; 9.45-11pm free salsa dance RISC, 35-39 London St WA £6/£5concs Red Hat Salsa www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

wednesday 18 october

International Quiz

8.30pm 5 rounds of 10 questions, winning team can donate winnings to a local charity of their choice. Maximum of 6 people to a team or just join in with others. Global Café 35 London St WA £1 per person to play RISC t: Leslee 958 6692

Decentralising UK Energy

7pm Cleaner, cheaper, more secure energy for the 21st century. Short film on decentralised energy, case studies and discussion on local action that could change the way Reading meets its power requirements in order to reduce carbon emissions. RISC, 35-39 London St WA free Greenpeace t: Trish 07974 916954

thursday 19 october

Israel/Palestine: The Wall & Human Rights

7.30pm Screening of controversial documentary The Iron Wall. Do Israeli settlements and the wall jeopardise Middle East peace? Introduced by Gemma Abbs, film narrator followed by discussion and refreshments. RISC, 35-39 London St WA donations Amnesty International and Berks & Bucks Palestine Solidarity Campaign t: 07818 423789

friday 20 october

Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony

2pm A unique experience. Coffee originated in Ethiopia's Kaffa province, and is highly regarded. You are welcomed into the house with this ceremony. You smell the beans before drinking the coffee. A low table is decorated with grass and flowers symbolising freshness. Global Café, 35 London St WA free Tutu's EthiopianTable t: Tutu 07863 551097

Felix Dexter is on the Edge

8pm Join the star of The Real McCoy and the Lenny Henry Show for a brilliant observational comedy, social and political satire, sexual politics using 6 characters each with an absurdist take on life in 2006. Part of Black History Month. 21 South St WA £12.50 t: bookings 960 6060

Coffee – take it fairly

7.30pm Stories of Nicaraguan women producing fair-traded coffee. Video followed by talk and discussion in Spanish. Caversham Centre, School Lane Caversham (opposite Waitrose car park) WA £2 Reading Spanish Circle t: Dave 956 8453

saturday 21 october

War on Law?

6pm Public interest lawyer Alice Handy talks about the foundations of international law; 7.45pm director Julia Guest introduces the screening of A letter to the Prime Minister, documenting war crimes and charts Jo Wilding's remarkable journey through the war and the setting up of Circus to Iraq. Friends Meeting House, 2 Church St WA donations t: Manuella 9671362

Be Happy With Your Planet

11am-3pm Drop in any time for free expert advice on how to make what you do more people and planet friendly actions without compromising on your quality of life. Learn more about sustainable local alternatives ranging

from finance to gardening, clothes shopping, food, and energy saving tricks for the home. RISC, 35-39 London St WA free Trade Justice Group t: Mark 07870 120504

The ring on your finger, but the finger on the trigger?

7.30pm Did your treasured jewellery cause misery in Africa? Presentation and discussion of how the lure of gold and diamonds brought conflict to the Congo and Sierra Leone. Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall WA £2 Caversham One World Week Group t: Martyn Allies 0118 947 2007

Salsa Party-Nite

8-9pm Classes for absolute beginners to intermediate. Atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Two left feet and no sense of rhythm? No problem! 9pm-12.30pm Latin Disco. RISC, 35-39 London St £7/£6concs/half-price with this brochure Red Hat Salsa www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

Diwali Festival of Lights

7pm Cultural programme with music, song and dance. Reading Hindu Centre, 112 Whitley St WA donations t: Sheila Surdhar 07879 814967

sunday 22 october

One World Week Morning Service

10.30am Worship on the One World Week theme: Mind the Gap – between winners and losers; friends and enemies; words and actions. United Reformed Church, Palmer Park Ave WA t: Rob Weston 926 5003

Divali Festival of Lights

(as Saturday 21) t: Sheila Surdhar 07879 814967

Cabaret Folklorico

8pm World music cabaret in a relaxed setting, featuring African and Afro-Cuban folkloric music and dance, plus guest artists showcasing traditional music from around the world. Hosted by Cuban dancer, Yanisel Zapata, and Abdoul Davis, Gambian drummer. Rising Sun Arts Centre (RSAC), 30 Silver St WA £10/£9concs t: Larry Watson 986 6788

Salsa & Merengue classes & dancing

(as Friday 15) www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

A new beginning

12-4pm Home-cooked Asian hot food/snacks to eat in or take away. Come and listen to our stories. Find out what difference our services make to women's and children's lives. Gate House Oxford Rd Community Centre WA Sahara Asian Women's Project t: Goru 950 8378/07734 599341

Singers Night

8pm Theme: Living on the Edge. Clifton Arms, Gosbrook Rd, Caversham noWA £1 Reading t: Una 948 3145

tuesday 24 october

United Nations Day

Raising of the UN flag at the top of the Civic Centre morning to sunset. United Nations Association Reading t: N Sidamparappillai 942 9467

Salsa and Merengue Dance workshop

(as Tuesday 17) www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

wednesday 25 october

Heat: how to stop the planet burning

6pm Book launch and signing by George Monbiot. Radical, pragmatic and totally surprising, this book reveals how we can reconcile our demands for comfort, prosperity and peace with the increasingly urgent need to prevent us destroying our future. World Shop, 35-39 London St WA donations Rising Tide & RISC t: John Hogget 941 5144/World Shop 958 6692

Transport 2000

7.30pm Join their regular meeting. RISC, 35-39 London St t: Nigel Rose 969 3195

Fateless

7.45pm It is difficult to explain how a film about the Holocaust can be both beautiful and uplifting, but this is. Fourteen year old Gyuura sees his father sent to a labour camp and is himself sent to Auschwitz. There he learns about himself, his religion and true friendship. RFT, Palmer Building, Reading University WA £5/£3.30concs t: 378 7151

thursday 26 october

Water a commodity or basic human right?

7.30pm Over a billion people around the world lack access to clean water. Most live in poor countries, but the UK is experiencing water restrictions. Thames Water (tbc) will give a UK perspective on these issues. Tamsyn East, World Development Movement, will look at the problem of commodification in the developing world. Followed by Q&A, and a sketch by the local Make Poverty History group. Part of Blue October – worldwide actions on water struggles. RISC, 35-39 London St WA free t: Bente 958 6692

RISC bookclub

7.30pm Brand new, award-winning and classic books from around the world. Select a book to read and discuss with like-minded people in a relaxed atmosphere. The book is available in the World Shop the previous month. Global Café, 35 London St WA t: Liz 958 6692

The Magician (15)

8pm Tour de force Australian film from writer/director/actor Scott Ryan. He plays a hitman who has agreed to be the subject of a documentary film, which is only to be shown after his death. Compelling, charming with much humour. RFT, Palmer Building Reading University WA £5/£3.30concs t: 378 7151

friday 27 october

Tony Kofi Trio

8pm Multi-award-winning saxophonist and composer Tony Kofi with a trio of the UK's finest musicians. Containing elements of blues, gospel, jazz, funk Latin and African rhythms, the group will take you on a journey through Kofi's own life experience, Future Passed (his recent album). Part of Black History Month. 21 South St WA £12/£5 student standby on door only t: bookings 960 6060

saturday 28 october

Sonreal

8pm free salsa class; 9pm 6 piece Colombian salsa band playing strong, rhythmic salsa which picks you up and propels you onto the dance floor. Sonreal have been on the scene for 10 years appearing at festivals such as Carnival Del Puebl. RSAC, 30 Silver St £10/£9concs t: Larry 986 6788(day) or 931 4622(eve)

Greenspirit Weekend

28-29 October Greenspirit for group information t: Manuella 967 1362

sunday 29 october

Shakey Ground

8pm Singing group with relevant repertoire. Clifton Arms, Gosbrook Rd, Caversham noWA £4/£3concs Readifolk t: Una 0118 9483145

Lambchop + special guests Hands Off Cuba

7.30pm 'Arguably the most consistently brilliant and unique American group to emerge during the 90s'. Their imminent new album Damaged, sees them develop their alt-country sound, finding the poetic in the mundane with lush and beguiling arrangements. 21 South St WA £16 t: bookings 960 6060

Do we need religion?

4pm An "Any Questions" style event, with a panel representing different religious traditions in Reading. Bring and share vegetarian tea afterwards. Friends' Meeting House, Church St, WA free Reading Inter-faith Group t: Fr Henry Everett 957 2000

Luna Flamenca

8pm Authentic, traditional with dancers, professional guitarists and guest singers. High quality music and dance spectacle full of passion and vitality. RSAC, 30 Silver St. WA £9/£8 t: Larry 986 6788

Salsa & Merengue classes & dancing

(as Sunday 15) www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

monday 30 october

Global Schools Day

Training day for teachers at RISC's global primary schools – embedding the Global Dimension through literacy and oracy. Teachers only. RISC, 35-39 London St WA RISC Schools Project t: Louise 958 6692

Campaign for inclusive Foreign Aid in Africa

7.30pm In Africa, foreign aid is often used to empower certain groups and exclude others. Whereas relief work should be targeted at specific groups, long term development work needs to benefit all communities in the country. RISC, 35-39 London St WA donations Southern Ethiopian Peoples Action Group t: Achame Shana 966 8221

tuesday 31 october

Wah-Wah (15)

Set in Swaziland during the last days of British colonial rule. The drinking, adultery and general absurdities of the expatriate community are viewed through the eyes of Ralph, a teenager who is sent to boarding school when his parents get divorced. RFT, Palmer Building, Reading University WA £5/£3.30concs t: 378 7151

Salsa and Merengue Dance workshop

(as Tuesday 17) www.redhatsalsa.com t: Sharon 966 8292

Pre & Post events

sunday 8 october

Voices Raised For Peace

2.15 for 2.30pm start A chance to learn and sing songs from around the world with the theme of peace and resistance. Workshop led by talented local vocalist Liz Hodgson. All welcome – however poor you think your singing is! RISC, 35-39 London St WA £5/£3concs children under 16 free Reading Peace Group t: Peter 958 8281

thursday 2 november

Food for Thought

7.30pm with Flugencia Tumwesigye – vice president of Uganda small Farmers Association and trained by Kulika Trust in Berkshire. Fundraising speaker tour. Teaching organic food growing skills to primary pupils in rural Uganda. RISC, 35-39 London St WA Devon Global Centre donations t: Sue Errington 01392 833974/01392 438811

From San Diego to Ragtime

6.15-7pm Free pre-concert interview about Carol Williams career as a San Diego civic organist; 7.30pm Celebrity organ recital with Carol Williams including works by Copland, Purcell, Beethoven, Sousa. Town Hall Concert Hall, Blagrove St WA £10.50/£8.50concs t: bookings 960 6060

tuesday 7 november

Dussera Festival

2pm till late Celebrating the victory of good over evil, by burning the effigy of Rawan the evil king of Lanka. Funfair, food stalls. All welcome. Thames Promenade, Richfield Avenue WA free Reading Hindu Centre t: Sheila Surdhar 07879 814967

tuesday 14 november

Volver (to return)

8pm Hit at Cannes Film Festival. Spain's favourite cinematic son Pedro Almodovar at the peak of his powers. A generational story of three women; a good mother desperately in love with a man who is far from being a saint; a young mother carrying a hard life upon her shoulders; and an illegal hairdresser whose shop is the meeting point for all the neighbourhood gossip. Film Theatre, Town Hall, Blagrove St WA £5/£4concs t: bookings 960 6060

Exhibitions

The ring on your finger but the finger on the trigger

23 - 28 october

How your treasured jewellery may have caused misery in Africa. How the lure of gold and diamonds brought conflict to the Congo and Sierra Leone. View during normal opening hours excluding Wednesday. Caversham Library, Church St WA free Caversham One World Week Group t: Martyn Allies 947 2007

Of books, stones, friends & visions: history of RISC's buildings

24 - 31 october

Connecting communities of the past with communities of the present. Research has revealed that RISC's buildings have a long association with promoting peace, education and philanthropy. William Penn, radical and founder of utopian Pennsylvania, worshipped here, and in the 19th century it was home to Lovejoy's celebrated circulating library. Monday-Saturday, Café open times. Global Café, 35 London St WA free RISC t: 958 3555

Chinese Brush Painting

13 - 27 october

The history of Chinese Brush Painting goes back hundreds of years and is steeped in tradition. The Berkshire Branch use the traditional equipment of ink stone, ink stick, oriental brushes and paper/silk to produce atmospheric and beautiful images following the Chinese ethos of composition and philosophy. The subjects cover landscapes, bird, flower and animals. Hexagon opening times. Hexagon Theatre, main bar area. WA free Berkshire Branch of the Chinese Brush Painters t: Jean Turton 947 0447