

Source: **Sunday Telegraph**

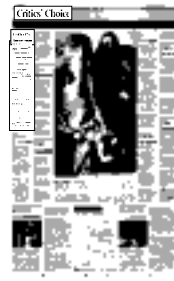
Edition: **Early**

Page: **22**

Date: **Sunday, February 9, 2003**

Client: **Royal Shakespeare Company**

Brief: **Royal Shakespeare Company**



XTRME
INFORMATION

Critics' Choice

Concerts

Malcolm Hayes

Wigmore Hall 020 7935 2141, Mon, 7.30pm: in the Hugo Wolf centenary series, **Ann Murray** and **Christopher Maltman** perform 27 of the *Mörke Lieder*, accompanied by **Malcolm Martineau**. Wed, Thur, Fri & Sat, 10.30am: one of the greatest baritones of all time, **Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau**, coaches young singers in a series of masterclasses. Thur, 7.30pm: the young British violinist **Matthew Trusler**'s recital includes Prokofiev's monumental First Sonata, accompanied by Japanese pianist **Noriko Ogawa**.

Barbican Hall 0845 120 7500, Tue, 7.30pm: **Richard Hickox** conducts the **City of London Sinfonia** in Prokofiev, Mozart, Berlioz (*Les nuits d'été*, sung by Monica Groop) and, to mark the composer's centenary year, Lennox Berkeley's *Antiphon*. Sat,

7.30pm: Hungarian composer **Peter Eötvös** conducts the **BBCSO** in his own *zeroPoints* and *Jet-Stream* (world premiere, with solo trumpeter Markus Stockhausen), with Debussy's *Jeux* and *La mer*.

Purcell Room, South Bank Centre 020 7960 4201, Thur, 7.30pm: Czech pianist **Radoslav Kvapil** plays works by Viktor Ullmann, Beethoven, Dvořák, Janáček and Smetana.

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall 0141 353 8000, Wed, 7.30pm: the RSC's semi-staging (by Jonathan Best) of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* features Mendelssohn's complete incidental music, played by the **COLS** under **Richard Hickox**. Repeated next day at **Symphony Hall, Birmingham**, 0121 780 3333, Thur, 7.15pm.

Theatre

John Gross

Midnight's Children Barbican 0845 120 7500, to Feb 23. Sharply realised vignettes, vivid snatches of Indian talk, swirls of colour, an imaginative use of film – there is a great deal to savour in this bold adaptation of Salman Rushdie's novel about the generation born just as India achieved independence. There are also vigorous and often humorous performances from a 20-strong British Asian cast. But the story has lost some of its momentum in the shift from book to stage, and the production ravishes the eye rather more than it touches the heart.

Iron Royal Court 020 7565 5000, to March 1. The setting is a Scottish women's prison. Fay is serving life for killing her husband; 15 years into her sentence, her daughter comes to visit her for the first time. Rona Munro's play made a strong impression at last year's Edinburgh Festival, and it looks even better second time round: subtle, involving, notably free from clichés. There is a superlative performance from Sandy McDade as Fay, and fine support from the rest of the cast.

A Passage to India Riverside Studios 020 8237 1111. E.M. Forster's story, pitting the prejudices of the British Raj against what he called the 'muddle and mystery' of India, provides Shared Experience with their latest adaptation of a classic novel. It isn't quite in the same class as their best work. Too much caricature creeps into the presentation of the British characters, while the spiritual aspects of the book are underplayed, but the evening is still an absorbing one, with fine performances and lively evocations of the Indian scene.

Opera

Michael Kennedy

Royal Opera 020 7304 4000. Revival of Graham Vick's production of Verdi's *Falstaff* (Tue, Thur, Sat) with Bryn Terfel returning in the title-role, Soile Isokoski as Alice Ford, Rebecca Evans as Nannetta and Marie McLaughlin as Meg Page. Antonio Pappano conducts. In *Die Zauberflöte*, David Syrus takes over as conductor (Wed, Fri) and Sally Matthews as Pamina (Fri).

ENO Coliseum 020 7632 8300. Last performances of *Khovanshchina* (Tue, Thur 6.30). The mafioso *Rigoletto* (tmw, Fri), and Berlioz's *The Capture of Troy* (Wed 8, Sat 7).

WNO New Theatre, Cardiff 029 2087 8889. Tukhan Sokhiev conducts *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* (Tue, Sat).

Opera North Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne 0870 905 5060. *Tosca* (Tue, Fri), *Idomeneo* (Wed, Sat), *The Secret Marriage* (Thur).

Scottish Opera Festival Theatre, Edinburgh 0131 529 6000. Jason Howard as Verdi's *Rigoletto* (Tue, Thur, Sat), Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Fri).

