

2/25 → Melanne & Martha



From: Mizzsy The Royal Shakespeare
 This came from Bless returns!
 Phil Wadsworth's office
 Mizzsy

FACSIMILE

FACSIMILE TO
Missy Kinsell

FACSIMILE FROM
Antonella Pianalto Senior Advisor to the Ambassador American Embassy 24 Grosvenor Square London W1A 1AE

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44-171-493-3425

DATE	TIME	NUMBER OF PAGES
2/25/99		2 (Including Cover Sheet)

FYI

The White House big nights in

WHEN Bill Clinton requested a private screening of Paul Schrader's new movie *Affliction* recently, media speculation was rife. Was the story of a feckless alcoholic father resonant with Clinton's own troubled childhood? Could *Affliction* have been a kind of therapy? Pretty soon, the story just fizzled out. The truth, it seemed, was more prosaic: yet another PR company had exploited a quite common practice of screening movies in the private White House cinema, a presidential perk actually dating back to the Second World War.

On the other hand, it's odd to think that a White House institution set up in 1942 to cater for a crippled president in a wheelchair — President Roosevelt — has latterly become a subtle instrument of presidential power. Last year it was wielded more than ever. In 1998, the Clintons organised well-publicised lunch and screening parties for both *Good Will Hunting* and *The Apostle*. Taking their cue from Tony Blair, they took to hobnobbing with the hottest names of the big screen, including Gus Van Sant and Matt Damon. Perhaps *Good Will Hunting*'s themes of redemption and education struck a chord with Hillary? The screening of *The Apostle*, too, had more than one ostensible role. It was a public affirmation of the status of veteran actor Robert Duvall, but it was also an attempt to show business as usual, even if it was only show business.

In fact, the Clintons have always been sparing with their endorsements of films, plays and books. As politicians, they cannot afford to endorse anything that isn't horribly worthy. It's certain the Clintons read and admired Allen Ginsberg, for example, but there was no way they could ever admit to owning any of the great libertarian's risqué tracts. Even if they didn't inhale.

Genuine expressions of the Clintons' cultural tastes have to be carefully sifted from the stream of high-octane public endorsements. It's quite disarming to discover that when Bill and Hillary were young they used to have cosy chats about the political merits of the cerebral novels of Robert Musil. How much things have changed. Access the White House website now and you'll find that all the books the President lists as favourites are safe, soft classics like *Last of the Mohicans*, while *High Noon*, apparently, is his favourite movie.

Do we really buy their public expressions of taste? Although Bill has been extremely vocal about his liking for Walter Moseley's novels — noirish thrillers by a stylish black writer — we know he'd far rather eat peanut butter and jello sandwiches in front of a baseball game on TV. Another of his

Bill Clinton has a secret life — another secret life. He holds private screenings of movies in the White House.
ROGER CLARKE
probes the President's artistic leanings

well-known favourite books is Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, the book he gave to Hillary on their second date. Yet the Whitman is conspicuous by its absence on the White House website. Why? Well, it turns out that he repeated the gift-giving gesture more recently. During the Starr investigation, it came to light that among Monica's private possessions was a copy of *Leaves of Grass* given to her by the President. He probably hadn't read Whitman in years: it was the empty gesture of a lacklustre Casanova.

Hillary used to devour novels in five-hour sittings and she's far more naturally highbrow than Bill. But even her taste is massaged for public view. We

know Hillary "likes" Shakespeare after her visit to the Globe Theatre in London, her request for a blue silk dress used in an RSC production, and her recent breach of White House etiquette by staying to the end of a public screening of Shakespeare in *Love* when she was only supposed to introduce it. Yet we also know that she sneaked out to see *The Vagina Monologues* last year when she thought no one was looking. It

was a return to that stringy-haired, bespectacled feminist of yore.

The Clintons' public taste will always carefully reflect their populist instincts. After all, who wouldn't want their own private cinema? Who wouldn't want to be invited to the White House to watch a movie (popcorn is, apparently, provided in the cinema situated in the East Colonnade)? Who wouldn't have wanted to be there as Bill watched *Primary Colors*? Or to see whether — as the rest of America is reported to have done — at the moment the spaceship vaporises the White House with a column of fire in Independence Day, he jumped up and cheered?

If Clinton really is considering a Hollywood career in preference to the exile of presidential lecture circuit, as a persistent rumour indicates, the old Roosevelt cinema will have played a curious role in that trajectory. And who knows, maybe he'll be back there in 10 years' time. Except Hillary will chose a few less cornball thrillers and black and white gunslinger classics.

missy
Is this the same
issue you were dealing
with in Birmingham?
AD

Text of Letter

F/Gunny Carter

- Con-set's office

Missy -

Do you want
to keep in your
files.

Em.]

DRAFT

Adrian Noble
Director
Royal Shakespeare Company
[Insert Address]

Dear Ms. Noble:

Thank you for the beautiful costume from your 1996 production of *As You Like It*. I am delighted you have chosen to donate it to the Kennedy Center in my honor to commemorate the Company's first "residency" in the United States. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company during our recent visit to the United Kingdom and I look forward to the Company's upcoming performances at the Kennedy Center this month.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1800 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC
20500
United States of America

18 May 1998

Dear Mrs Clinton,

The Royal Shakespeare Company was delighted to entertain you as part of your visit to Birmingham over the weekend. I do hope you enjoyed the brief glimpse of our work and I hope you might be able to attend a full performance when our repertoire plays at the Kennedy Centre in Washington next month.

During the company's visit to the United States, I would be honoured to donate, on your behalf, a costume from our 1998 production of *As You Like It* to the Kennedy Centre. This beautiful gown, made from American silk, would be a fitting commemoration of our first 'residency' in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Noble
Artistic Director

COPY

PATRON
Her Majesty The Queen

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His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales

CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNCIL

Sir Geoffrey Cuth

VICE CHAIRMEN
Charles T Flower
Professor Stanley Wells

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Adrian Noble

PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR

Michael Ambrose

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Lynda Farnham

GENERAL MANAGER
William Weston

ADVISORY DIRECTION

John Barton
David Brierley
Peter Brook
Derek Hand
Edward Norton

Royal Shakespeare Theatre
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire CV37 6BB
Telephone: 01789 290655
Box Office: 01789 295623
Fax: 01789 294810

7 May 1998

Mrs Hillary Clinton
 First Lady of the United States of America

Dear Mrs Clinton

Welcome to the West Midlands, the heart of Shakespeare Country. The Royal Shakespeare Company has great pleasure in presenting you with this costume as a memento of your visit, both to Britain, and to our region.

This costume was featured in our recent production of *As You Like It* and whilst the main body of the gown was made by a London theatrical costumer, the Tudor period detail, the wig and the headdress were all added by hand in our Stratford workshops. We hope that you derive the same pleasure from it as the thousands of people who have seen in on stage in RSC performances in Stratford, London and throughout the United Kingdom.

This costume may give you a taste of the finery which will be featured in our forthcoming production of *Henry VIII* which will open at the John F Kennedy Center in Washington on 9 June until the 5 July. I hope that, despite your busy schedule, you and your family will be able to join us during our residency in the United States of America where we will be performing five productions in both New York between 21 May and 7 June and subsequently in Washington.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a successful summit and an enjoyable stay in our country.

Best wishes -

Yours sincerely



ADRIAN NOBLE

PATRON Her Majesty The Queen	CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL Sir Geoffrey Cass	ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Adrian Noble	PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Michael Attenborough	ADVISORY DIRECTION John Barton David Brierley Peter Brook Terry Hands Trevor Nunn	Barbican Theatre Barbican Centre London EC2Y 8BQ Telephone: 0171 628 3351 Box Office: 0171 638 8891 Fax: 0171 374 0818
PRESIDENT His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales	VICE CHAIRMEN Charles T Flower Professor Stanley Wells		EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Lynda Farran		
			GENERAL MANAGER William Weston		

**The costume of *Symen* from the 1996 production of
'As You Like It'
fashioned from *American Blue* pure silk in traditional
tudor style.**

Directed by Steven Pimlott

Gown designed by Ashley Martin Davies

**Made in London
Sand detailed and wig made in the RSC workshops in
Stratford Upon Avon.**

PATRON	CHAIRMAN OF THE	ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE	ADVISORY DIRECTION	Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 6BB Telephone: 01789 296655 Box Office: 01789 295623 Fax: 01789 294810
Her Majesty The Queen	COUNCIL	Adrian Noble	DIRECTOR	John Barton	
	Sir Geoffrey Cass		Michael Attenborough	David Brierley	
PRESIDENT	VICE CHAIRMEN		EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Peter Brook	
His Royal Highness	Charles T Flower		Lynda Farran	Terry Hands	
The Prince of Wales	Professor Stanley Wells		GENERAL MANAGER	Trevor Nunn	
			William Weston		

Founded in 1875, the Royal Shakespeare Company is incorporated under Royal Charter as The Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon Registered Charity No: 212481
In Stratford-upon-Avon at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the Swan Theatre and The Other Place and in London at the Barbican Theatre and The Pit

Allied Domecq is the principal sponsor of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

5/1

Tracy Lancaster

0121. 733. 3699 m.b. houn

789 2906 85 - instructed

called Steph. Monday

Delivered Wed.

sounded as if made
for HRE - Birm.
city had asked
if RSC had a dress
for HRE

was Tracy ordered

① understand she
was surprised (had not
requested)
but so ~~flattered~~ flattered

② concern b/c
of govt rules
she personally cannot
accept -

③ refuse to ~~accept~~
accept

clarify
who requested the c

③ did city of Birmingham

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



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GENERAL MANAGER
William Weston



Mrs Hillary Clinton

...st Muslim "nuclear"
Pakistan's reputation would
...oubtedly be enhanced in the
Middle East.

The only possible benefit if the Pakistani government does choose to detonate is that Pakistan and India might at last decide to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (as France did after its 1995 test).

VICTORIA SCHOFIELD
London W2

My title

SIR — Your leading article "How they might vote", (May 14) includes the following sentence: "Yesterday the Government changed gear, using the language of the First World War, which has such deep resonance for Ulstermen, to present the Bloomfield report on the victims of terror-

rea... on "Liberal Studies" (May 11) reminds me of the class of "wannabe" brackies who were fed a diet of John Keats's poetry by an over-enthusiastic tutor.

On complaining to the head of biology that every lesson was on Keats, they were told: "Well lads, by the end of the course you should know what a keat is!"

A. E. SKELTON
Loughborough, Leics

Southern fla

SIR — Mr Hemplemanter, (May 11) was clearly a Union flag designed for South Pole.

ADAM DARROCH
Dagv

Letter writers are requested to give both their work and home telephone numbers

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Orange and lemons

THE joyous carnival of ill-will that is the Orange Prize for fiction — open to women writers published in English, and worth £30,000 — is almost upon us. And the potential for pulse-racing rows is even greater than before.

Last year, the chairman of the judges, Professor Lisa Jardine, accused English writers of not being up to scratch, and generally slapped contemporary English literature around a bit. This year, just one British author — Pauline Melville — has made the short-list, which is dominated by North

American authors. And there are wails that, despite being strongly tipped, she will not be attending the prizegiving on May 19; this means, once again, a morale-sapping night for the Brits.

"Things are rather gloomy," one insider tells me. "There is a lot of angst in Bloomsbury about why American women can write groovy new fiction and why Brit women cannot. And the fact that Pauline Melville won't be there is rather awful. There will be no Union flags on the night."

"The other short-listees are all flying in from Canada, America and Ireland," an Orange Prize luminary tells me. "But, unfortunately, Pauline's in Grenada speaking at a conference." Oh dear, oh dear. Perhaps things may calm down next year.

Peterborough



Will she like it?

STAFF at the Royal Shakespeare Company are wondering if they have done the right thing. For, thanks to them, Hillary Clinton is to receive a very easily misinterpreted gift when she attends the G8 summit in Birmingham, starting today. She will be given the costume of

Hymen, the god of marriage. The costume is a copy of a Tudor dress and is made of American blue silk. It was last worn in 1996 in *As You Like It*.

"Hillary had requested a gift from the RSC," a spokesman tells me, "but the joke wasn't intentional. It's just ironic. We hope," she adds with a gulp, "the costume will be displayed in the White House."

THE battle between smokers and non-smokers has been joined by the distinguished actress and member of the former group, Jane Lapotaire. She was in Fowey, Cornwall the other day, to address the Du Maurier Festival. To her profound and obvious amazement, the large and airy tent in which the event was held was designated "non-smoking."



Ill-treated: La

In bad bo

MOST people instinctively causing Lady Antonia Fraser's formidable history wife of Harold Fraser-Nelson the staff of the Institut National de Pa

She has been months working about Marie Antoinette it appears that she made the hideous treating her in a hand fashion. "I write a *Bad Librarian* and put them in declared the other rallying fellow C including Carducci and John Gurney cash for the Cat Library in London. "It's a very good Lady A confided turning indigo a Paris, I was treated cross between a terrorist and a schoolgirl." Sill

Talking dirt

FROM the *Hastings Observer*: "Pock Translator brand unwashed gift £

Edited by
Simon D

THERE are few so easily put out as Radio 4 listeners. And fans of *The Archers* are particularly swift to fly into ecstasies of rage when unwarranted changes are made. Such a rage is building again. For, following news that the number of characters in each *Archers* episode is diminishing, presumably due to Birtist frugality, I am now told that the number of minutes in each episode is also dwindling.

"It's this new episode on Sunday evening," I am told by *Archers* expert Linda Tame. "It's a con. You only get 12 minutes now instead of the original 15 because there is a new three-minute news broadcast at 2pm. If you subtract three minutes from each weekday episode," she adds darkly, "then you end up with enough for an extra instalment on Sunday — without having to spend any more money." Indeed.

Scruffy luvvies

HOWEVER glamorous and swanky they may appear over the next few days in Cannes, a host of luminous British showbusiness types were in distinctly slovenly mode as they flew off to the festival yesterday. Rubbing slouched shoulders on the same flight from Heathrow were Liz Hurley (fresh from the "those knickers" episode at Henry Dent-Brocklehurst's wedding), Michael and Shakira Caine and Dave Stewart.

Michael was making no kind of effort at all in an old baseball cap, and Hurley herself was in rare non-attention-seeking mode, in white T-shirt and blue trousers.

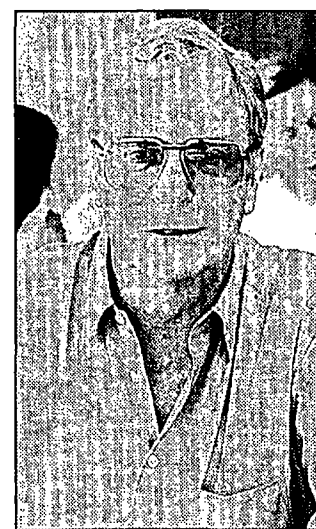
But, as was noted by passengers, she made one cunning nod to the weekend's shenanigans. Her



Easy does it: Liz Hurley and Michael Caine

shoes had a spangled leopard skin-style pattern — exactly the same pattern, in fact, as "those knickers".

Hurley was travelling not with Hugh Grant, but Oscar-winning screenwriter



William Goldman. As is only proper, the plane was soon echoing to the sound of busy tongues a-wagging with speculation about future joint projects. Isn't Cannes grand?

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