

express listings

WEST END THEATRES

THE BEST MUSICAL IN LONDON! BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

CATS

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Matilda THE MUSICAL

JERSEY BOYS

LES MISÉRABLES

MADE IN DAGENHAM

made in Dagenham THE MUSICAL

THE MUSICAL WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE COMMITMENTS

MAMMA MIA!

MATILDA THE MUSICAL

MISS SAIGON

Once

MEMPHIS

ONCE UPON A MUSICAL

TAKEN AT MIDNIGHT

SEE IT NOW! Mamma Mia!

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE COMMITMENTS

LYCEUM

Disney's THE LION KING

ST MARTINS

THE MOUSETRAP

HER MAJESTY'S

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE PLAY THAT GOES GROWN

LYRIC THEATRE

THRILLER - LIVE!

MAMMA MIA!

ST MARTIN'S THEATRE 63RD YEAR THE AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MOUSETRAP

Weekend Books & Music

Edited by Charlotte Heathcote www.express.co.uk/books

A taste of honey is so bittersweet

HONEYDEW ★★★★★ By Edith Pearlman

First, an admission. I generally prefer novels to short stories...



PRIZE WINNER: Edith Pearlman

playing her trade is watched from across the road by a recently separated man...

Honeydew, the title story, appears initially to be about a dangerously anorexic young girl...

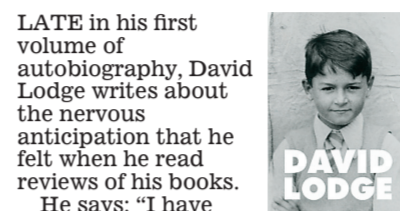
THREE of the stories are set in Godolphin's antique shop Forget Me Not owned by middle-aged Renata...

An understanding of people is a prerequisite as she needs to identify the needs of her individual customers...

Pearlman's prose is subtle, ironic and mostly unadorned so the odd metaphor has all the more effect...

VANESSA BERRIDGE

QUITE A GOOD TIME TO BE BORN: A Memoir 1935 - 1975 ★★ By David Lodge

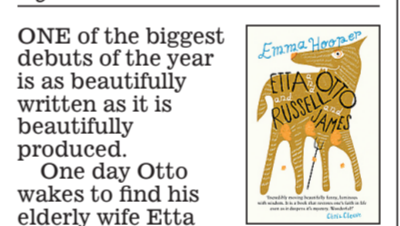


LATE in his first volume of autobiography, David Lodge writes about the nervous anticipation that he felt when he read reviews of his books...

It starts with 100 or so pages guaranteed to put off all but the most committed fan...

Lodge describes the first 40 years of his life, beginning with his birth shortly before the outbreak of war...

ETTA AND OTTO AND RUSSELL AND JAMES ★★★★★ By Emma Hooper



ONE of the biggest debuts of the year is as beautifully written as it is beautifully produced...

Although her reasons are unexplained, it probably has something to do with the beloved sister who died near the

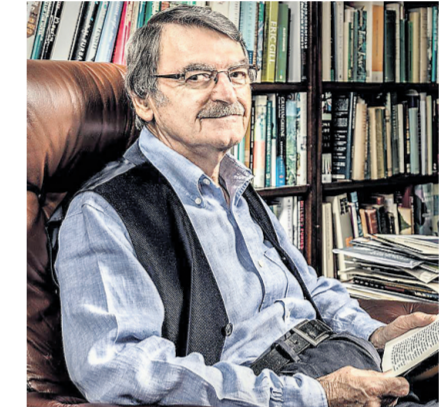
Great writer, boring memoir

ending with the triumphant publication of what many believe to be his masterpiece, the glorious Changing Places.

Frank Kermode was extremely pleased that he had driven from Manchester to Cambridge very fast in his new Mini.

While you would never know that Lodge was a great comic writer on the basis of this book...

When Etta's cross-country pilgrimage makes her a local celebrity and her photograph appears in the local newspaper...



NO LAUGHING MATTER: David Lodge

Some of the best writing comes late in the book as Lodge discusses his son Christopher's Down's syndrome, writing tersely and movingly about struggling to give him as normal a life as he could...

Even the (extensive) material on his Catholicism and the effects that

it had on his family life seems dictated not by passion but an adherence to the status quo.

But it won't do much to enhance it either. It ends with a hint that a second volume is planned.

ALEXANDER LARMAN

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ALBUM REVIEWS

THE GO-BETWEENS: G Stands For Go-Betweens Vol 1 ★★★★★ (Domino)

With the cost of this fascinating box-set stretching to over £110, it is unlikely anyone other than obsessive fans of the Aussie indie darlings is likely to invest...

THE PHANTOM BAND: Fears Trending ★★★★★ (Chemikal Underground)

These seven tracks arrive just six months after the release of the Glasgow band's last album - unsurprising, considering they were recorded at the same sessions as Strange Friend...

ambition when he made this album of timeless favourites from the bluegrass songbook of Americana founding fathers Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs...

who include his wife Ellie, have been creating music for 10 years now, and Medicine is the perfect prescription to perk up your life...

DAVID BRONSON: Questions ★★★★★ (Big Arc) A few years back now, Josh Rouse wished he was Carole King and released the stunning 1972, full of vintage singer-songwriter fare...

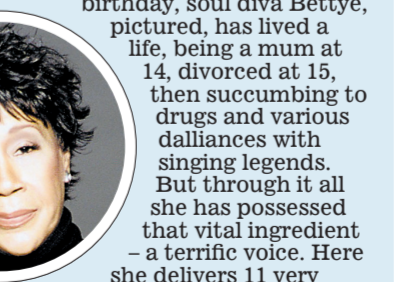
CHIP TAYLOR: Little Prayers Trilogy ★★★★★ (Train Wreck)

There's a playful nature to a 74-year-old responsible for penning huge hits like Wild Thing and Angel Of The Morning delivering a song about writer's block called Nothing Comin' Out Of Me That I Like...

DAVID BRONSON: Questions ★★★★★ (Big Arc) A few years back now, Josh Rouse wished he was Carole King and released the stunning 1972, full of vintage singer-songwriter fare...

BETTYE LAVETTE: Worthy ★★★★★ (Cherry Red) Now approaching her 69th birthday, soul diva Bettye, pictured, has lived a life, being a mum at 14, divorced at 15, then succumbing to drugs and various dalliances with singing legends...

the sound of David Bowie's Young Americans, and backing vocalist Robin Clark, who helped Simple Minds on their Once Upon A Time album.



BETTYE LAVETTE