

NEWS

South Bank Splash For those in London at the beginning of the month, the National Theatre's summer festival will be taking place on the river terraces until the 11th. A full programme of events includes free lunchtime workshops, shows for children and early evening music. Contact Nicki Frei (01-928 2033ext616).

Theatr Labordy Caerdydd The opening of the Centre for Performance Research is a new development for the arts in Wales. It has a library and resource centre with books, magazines, videos and tapes on the world of the performing arts, especially theatre and dance. Contact Steve Fletcher at Cardiff Laboratory Theatre, The Gym, Market Rd, Canton, Cardiff CP5 148(022245174).

CAMPAIGNS

Scrapping the Home Help Service NUPE want to draw attention to government plans to privatise services to the elderly provided by Home Helps in Northern Ireland. NUPE argues that these plans would place the burden of employing Home Helps on the elderly, make it impossible to ensure the supervision of standards of service and make the pay of Home Helps even lower. A detailed report is available from them and they are urging the community to join with them in calling for a real enquiry into the Home Help service. Contact Inez McCormack, NUPE, 523 Antrim Rd, Belfast, BT153BS (776971, 770813 or 777684,777210).

Immigration Widows Campaign Following the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights, the government may seek to avoid the charge of sex discrimination simply by reducing the rights of men to the level of women. To counter this a group, comprised mainly of women who have faced separation from their husbands because of the existing immigration rules, has formulated its own demands for changes to the law. These are that men marrying women living in Britain should be treated in the same way as a wife is at present; all the restrictions on husbands/fiancés joining their wives/fiancés in Britain should be abolished and the discriminatory and offensive system of questioning couples by immigration officers should end.



Action for Benefits Campaign For the first time pressure groups, trades unions and welfare rights organisations have united in a wide ranging campaign to defend the welfare state and press for a decent social security system. Contact Linda Lennard (01 240 0806 or 01348)orwritetoAFB, 124-130 Southwark St, London SE1 OTU.

Campaign for Real People Launched by the NUJ's Equality Council and backed by a range of organisations including the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality. This campaign aims to break down discrimination against women, black people, lesbians and gay men, older people and those with disabilities, by removing stereotypes from the media. Instead they want to encourage journalists to present people as they really are rather than slotting them into the usual pigeon holes. Information from Wendy Moore (01 431 2005) Suejohnstone(01 3284751)and Margaret Michie (01 828 7022 ext 270).

PUBLICATIONS

On the Dole Each year over £900 million of benefits go unclaimed. To help claimants get the money they are entitled to and to guide them through the very complex benefit system the Claimants' Union have produced a handbook for the unemployed £2 (£1 claimants). Available from bookshops or the FCU, 296 Bethnal Green Rd, London E2 OAC (01-7394173).

Life on the Margins - the Politics of Mass Poverty This pamphlet looks at what it means to be poor in Britain in the 1980s when 15 million people - one in four - are forced to survive on the breadline. It unravels the sexist and racist dimensions of poverty. The pamphlet advances a

popular anti-poverty strategy based on socialist principles. Price 85p (30p P&P) from Publicity Dept, Communist Party, 16 St John St, London EC 1.

Burns, The Democrat A booklet written in 1945 is being republished for the Bi-centenary of the Kilmarnock edition of Burns' poems. A concise and very readable account of important aspects of the poet's life and work. Published by the Scottish committee of the Communist Party. Available from: Clyde Books, 15-19 ParnieSt, GlasgowGIP, Price£1.20.

Social Security Reviews Two pamphlets published by different organisations give a detailed response to the government's recent green paper on reform of social security - the biggest review of social security since Beveridge. 'Farewell to Welfare' is available from Labour Research Dept, 78 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1. 'What Future for Social Security?' is available from the Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Macklin St, London WC2 5NH. Price£2.00 (75p unwaged).

Out of Town, Out of mind Examines the impact of rural unemployment in Leicester and takes a close look at issues of transport and access to services and employment, advice and information provision and poverty. Sponsored by the Leicester Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility. Available from: 278 East Pk Rd, Leicester 5AY (0533 730535).

EVENTS

German Italian Cultural Festival Aug 16-Sept 22. This festival celebrates Antonio Gramsci and Rosa Luxemburg, two theorists and politicians closely linked to the history and culture of their

countries and whose influence goes beyond the Left. Discussion will include an exchange between Italian and German artists, socialists, lecturers and politicians; also cultural events, exhibitions, theatre, music and cinema. Information from Kultur festival (Ulrich Schreiber/Peter Sudhoff) Klosterallee 49, 2000 Hamburg B. Tel 040/420 2781.

MEETINGS

Is there A Crisis in the Arts? 18 Aug. *Marxism Today* meeting at the Edinburgh Festival with Salman Rushdie, John McGrath, Gillian Hanna, Melvyn Bragg and Joan Bakewell. For further information contact Sally Townsend (01 608 0265).

CONFERENCES

Socialist Society Summer School Empowering the powerless: what kind of left do we need? Sept 6-8. Weekend of plenaries, workshops and exercise in the Peak District. Discussions on the approach socialists should adopt towards a new labour government; workers' co-ops; miners' support; local government; trade unions; the role of intellectuals and socialist feminism at Northern College, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. For more information contact: Socialist Society, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG (01 734 8501).

FILMS, VIDEO

Irish News: British Stories This video deals with the terms in which the war in Ireland is understood in Britain. It looks at certain themes running through the media portrayal of the Irish in general and the Republican cause in particular using excerpts from television drama and current affairs, newspapers and cartoons. Available from: The Other Cinema, £10 to hire, £45 to buy (01 734 8508).

Entries for the September Update should be sent as soon as possible (latest date August 9) to Maria Loftus, Marxism Today 16 St John Street London EC1M 4AY or tel 01-608 0265 or 01-249 9509 (evenings). Space is limited, so if you want to guarantee that your entry is published we suggest that you book it into our classified columns under the appropriate heading. Ring Martin Pople on 01-608 0265 for more details.