

HAAS

Heythrop Association of Alumni and Staff

Edition Fourteen

February 2015

THIS EDITION OF THE HEYTHROP ALUMNI MAGAZINE gives you a flavour of the events that we're planning to host over the coming year. Please do have a look through what's on offer and reply to the email (simon@nottinghamcatholic.com) if you wish to book for any of them. It's always good to have chance to meet up as former students of Heythrop College, to renew old friendships and make new ones, and to learn a little more about where the College is moving as it continues to educate generation after generation in the disciplines of theology and philosophy.

I'm always inspired when I meet current students to share a little of their enthusiasm, and to be reminded of the sheer joy of learning and studying that the pursuit of a degree can bring. Exams might not seem like joyful occasions, but their result — the awarding of the degrees and the celebration of Graduation Day — is a real testament to the dedication of students and staff alike. This year's Graduation, on 10th December at Kensington Town Hall, was another opportunity to celebrate with our new graduates whilst also welcoming them into the folds of HAAS. It's a joy to know that the Association's membership continues to be enriched by our newest graduates, and to each one of you, a very warm welcome.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to any or all of the events this year, and to hearing from others of our alumni who live too far away to travel to events. It's good to know that Heythrop continues to hold a place of affection in the lives of so many who have passed through its portals, and that the friendships and associations forged over late-night revision sessions, or through the shared understanding of long-dead philosophers' thoughts, continue to thrive as students become graduates and their lives take them far from Kensington. HAAS offers in some small way a means of keeping in touch, both with each other and with the College, and I'm delighted to think of this magazine being read by so many alumni in so many parts of the world. May it remind you of happy and heady days of study in London, and inspire you to keep thinking.

Simon Gillespie

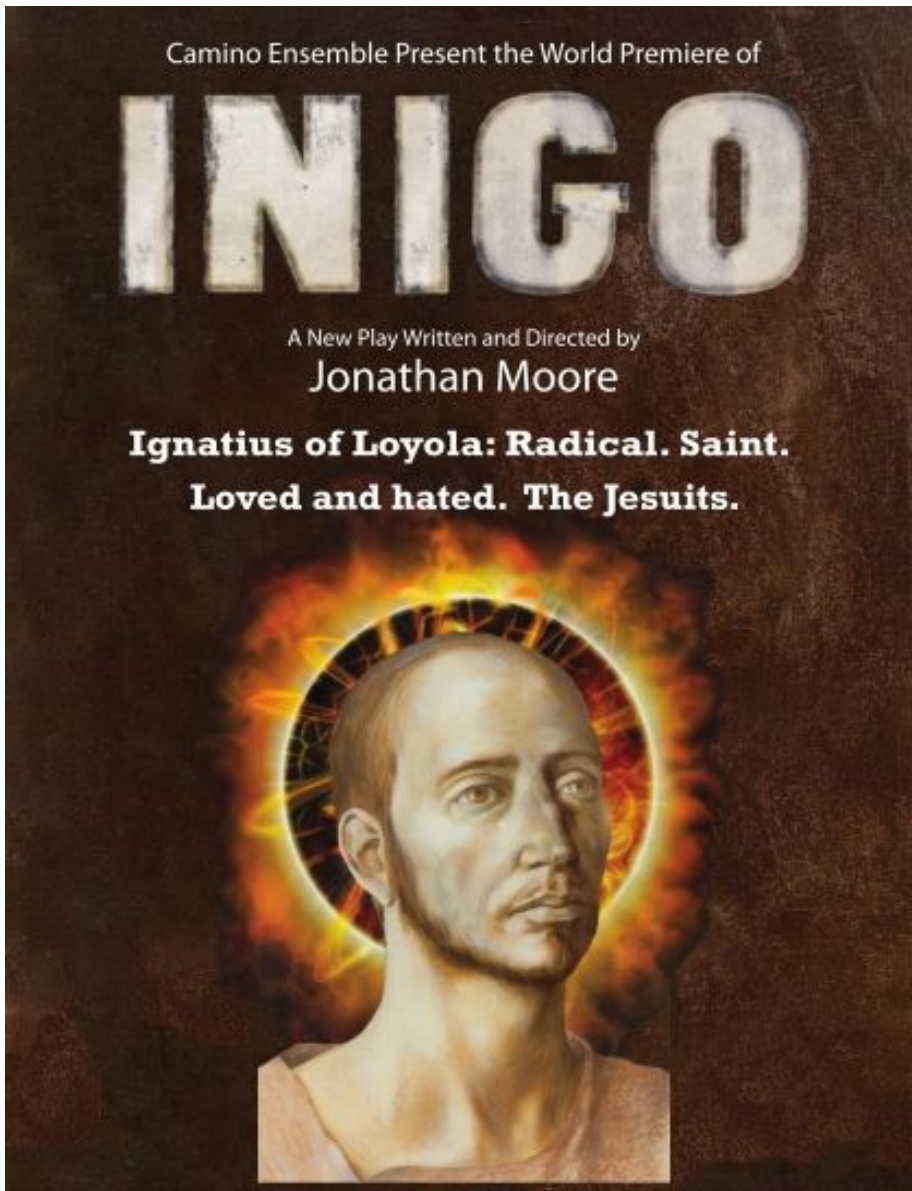
HAAS President; BD (2005); MA Canon Law (2008)



Graduation 2014



Congratulations to all our Graduates — Class of 2014!



A new play about the founder of the Society of Jesus to be staged in London this month is more than simply a historical portrayal of St Ignatius Loyola. It is a contemporary reflection on the influence the Jesuits have had in countless areas of life over the past 400 years, continuing today in the witness of Pope Francis – the first Jesuit pope.

“The play is not only for those who are interested in Loyola and the Jesuits,” says Jonathan Moore, the author of *Inigo*. “It also can be viewed as an allegorical story of anyone who wants change and meets with savage opposition from an Establishment.”

Inigo is the name Ignatius was christened with. He was born in 1491 to a noble Basque family and became an ambitious, hot-headed street-fighting hedonist with a lust for sensual pleasure and earthly glory.

While fighting at the Battle of Pamplona, he was seriously wounded and almost died. During his convalescence he had a powerful, life changing spiritual experience and decided to dedicate his life to the service and love of others.

Jonathan Moore’s play follows Ignatius’ life from his days as a reckless young sensualist, through his conversion to the spiritual quest which leads him to democratically founding,

with a group of young outsiders, the reforming religious order: the Companions of Jesus (later known as the Jesuits).

“Loyola went to Rome as a radical reformer,” says Moore. “His ideas have influenced playwrights and film-makers, psychotherapists and astronomers, educationalists and politicians. From the beginning to today, the Jesuits have been the focus of much controversy, suspicion and conspiracy theories. They are known for their work in education, spirituality and with the poor and marginalised around the world. In South America, for instance, they work with local people for agrarian reform, trades union rights, literacy programmes and women’s rights. Some of them were tortured and murdered by military death squads for being a threat to the status quo. Their championing of the poor has brought them into conflict with authority, sometimes from within the Church itself.”

Jonathan Moore is an award winning actor, writer and director. As an actor he has played leading roles at the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Court, Donmar, Royal Exchange and on TV. He has directed theatre and opera world premieres at the Almeida, Shakespeare’s Globe, English National Opera, Covent Garden and La Fenice in Venice. www.Jonathanmooreuk.com He has assembled a company for *Inigo* with equally impressive credentials. The cast includes Paul Thomas Lyons who, after training as an actor and working professionally in modern and classical theatre, entered a Benedictine monastery where he remained for seven years. He recently left the order, but will play a Benedictine monk in Moore’s play. The leading role of legendary and charismatic Catholic Ignatius of Loyola will be played by an actor of Yemeni Arab parentage who was raised a Muslim, Fayez Bakhsh.

HAAS will watch a performance of Inigo on Sunday 22 February at 4pm. The production is being staged at the White Bear Theatre, Kennington, London SE11 4DJ. Tickets are priced at £10 per person, which includes a glass of wine after the show, during which there will be chance to meet Inigo’s director, Jonathan Moore.

HAAS Events 2015

John Gray : An Enquiry into Human Freedom



On Friday 27th March we'll visit the Brith Library to listen to John Gray as he looks at the idea of free will, set against the forces that constrain our actions.

In his compelling new book *The Soul of the Marionette*, **John Gray** draws together the philosophical, religious and fantastical traditions that question the very idea of human freedom. We flatter ourselves about the nature of free will and yet the

most enormous forces - biological, physical and metaphysical - constrain our every action. Many writers and intellectuals have always understood this, but instead of embracing our condition we battle against it, with everyone from world conquerors to modern scientists dreaming of a 'human dominion' almost comically at odds with our true state. His talk is a stimulating meditation on everything from cybernetics to the fairground marionettes of the title.

John Gray, our leading political philosopher, is the author of a number of highly regarded and controversial books, including *False Dawn*, *Straw Dogs* and, most recently, *The Silence of Animals* - which was described by John Banville as a 'marvellous statement of what it is both to be an animal and human in the strange, terrifying and exquisite world in which we straw dogs find ourselves'.

Tickets are £5 each, and after the Talk we'll enjoy a drink together to further discuss the evening.

Campion Hall, Oxford : A visit to our sister institution

After the success of our visit to 'Old' Heythrop in Oxfordshire last year, we're intending to visit the Jesuit Campion Hall on the bank holiday, Monday 25th May.

Steeped in history, and in the heart of Oxford, Campion Hall is part of the University of Oxford, one of six 'Permanent Private Halls' which, together with the 37 Colleges, comprise one of the finest universities in the world. Each of these Halls and Colleges provides a social and academic community with its own particular style and traditions for members of the wider University. The Hall is also the Jesuit Community in Oxford.



We will have a tour of the Hall and hear a little of its history, before enjoying a lunch together, and then some free time to explore Oxford itself. Transport will be arranged from Kensington, alternatively Alumni are very welcome to travel directly to Oxford.

Further details will be available nearer the time, but please put this date in your diary now!

Wine and Wisdom : Our annual Quiz Night with Supper

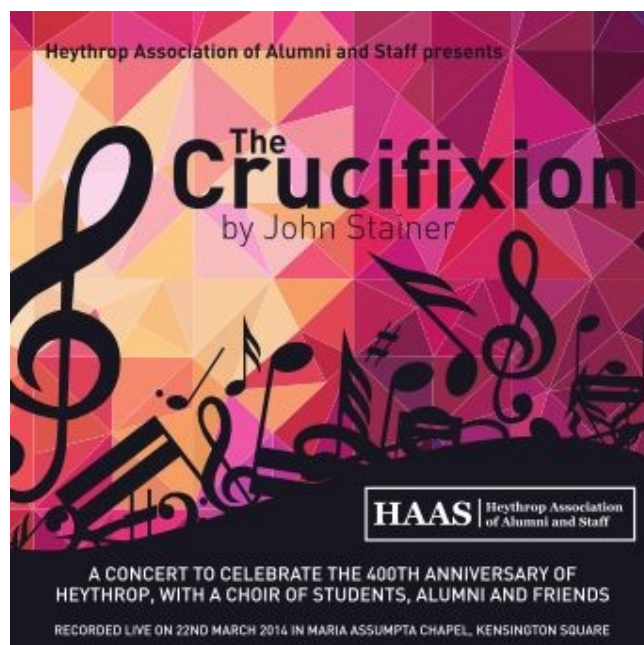
Do you enjoy a good challenge? Are you a connoisseur of obscure knowledge and fun facts? How about an evening in the tranquil gardens of Heythrop College surrounded by some friends?

Our annual Quiz Night, open to all our alumni and their guests, and especially to recent graduates, is a chance to pit your wits and knowledge against others in a pub quiz type environment. A complimentary supper will also be available, and prizes will be awarded for the winning team and to others who shine! **Join us on Friday 19th June at Heythrop College!**

Musical History

A professional CD recording of the Heythrop Alumni performance of Stainer's work, recorded in the Maria Assumpta Chapel, Kensington Square, on Saturday 22nd March 2014, as part of Heythrop's 400th anniversary celebrations.

To order a copy, price £2.50 each, please email simon@nottinghamcatholic.com



Heythrop's History 1614 — 2014

After our HAAS AGM on 23 October 2013, Michael Walsh, former librarian at Heythrop College, gave a short talk on the history of Heythrop from Louvain to London: Theology on the Hoof. Michael was writing a book to mark Heythrop's 400th anniversary and his lecture gave us an entertaining preview of it.

Heythrop College is named after the Oxfordshire village where the college resided from 1926 to 1970 before it moved to London, first to Cavendish Square and thence to its present home in Kensington Square but it claims direct descent from the house of studies founded in Louvain in Belgium in 1614 for the education of Jesuit priests, to which English novices were sent. Michael went into the question of its continuity and showed that the college of staff and students survived the various moves from Louvain to Liège to Stonyhurst and St Beuno's, to Heythrop and then London, and continued even during the papal suppression of the Jesuits for over 40 years.

From the beginning the education itself was fairly wide – not only were philosophy and theology taught and the Biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek, but also polemics, the art of refuting heretics, and various sciences especially mathematics, optics and astronomy so that Jesuits could hold their own with learned men. There was an observatory in the grounds in Liège and sundials designed by a Jesuit which impressed the future Charles II so that he asked for one for his palace gardens

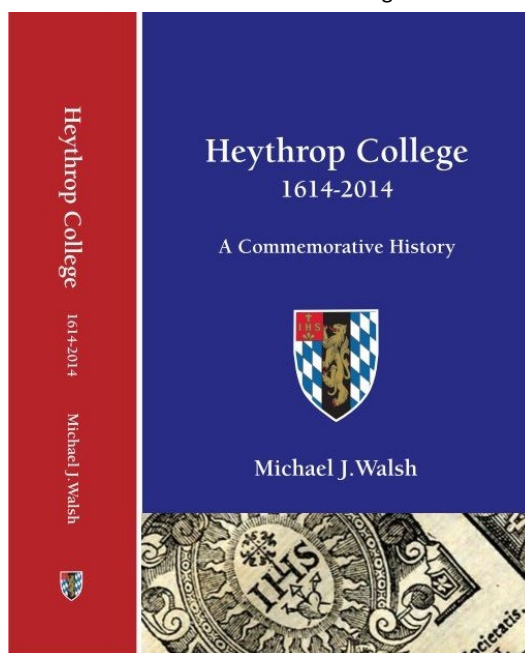
when he became King. Documents such as the 1632 "Customs Book" showed that the daily life of the students and their teaching and exam systems remained much the same for 300 years until the 1950s. It was at Heythrop during the 1960s that the facilities were opened to other religious orders and to diocesan priests but it was too remote and the decision was made to move to London and become one of the colleges of University of London. Now lay people outnumber the

Jesuits and other religious as students. By the end of the talk staff and alumni had a better appreciation of their college, the oldest Jesuit institution with a continuous history.

The book is on sale, and can be ordered from the College (contact Annabel Clarkson, a.clarkson@heythrop.ac.uk), price £10 (& £2.50 for p&p). To give you a taste:

"The College which is now Heythrop has a long and distinguished – if somewhat peripatetic – history. Founded by the Society of Jesus in Louvain in 1614, it managed to survive the Suppression of the Society, though after moving back to England in 1794 it nearly succumbed to the hostility of the English bishops. In this commemorative history, Michael Walsh talks about the College's various locations, and explains why it moved; he describes the

people who taught in it and the lives of the students who studied in it; and he discusses what was taught, not least the surprising amount of science that used to find a place in the Jesuit curriculum."



For further details about any of these events, or to book places, please email: simon@nottinghamcatholic.com