

Renowned Catalan chefs promote international cuisine in cookbook

Ferran Adrià and Carme Ruscalleda present "141 Masterpieces of International Cuisine"

ROBERT KIMPLETON

Renowned Catalan chefs Ferran Adrià and Carme Ruscalleda presented their book *141 Masterpieces of International Cuisine* at the Forum yesterday. The book aims to present recipes for traditional dishes from most of the cultures of the world.

Some of the dishes include Spanish paella, crab soup from Vietnam, shrimp kofta from Egypt, Hungarian goulash and chicken tandoori from India.

The fact that the recipes are traditional means that they are not necessarily what people in these countries eat every day. "They used to be popular dishes, but nowadays they are served almost exclusively in restaurants because in homes fast food is king", says Adrià.

"Cuisine is culture" according to Ruscalleda, who added that her book "shows the ingenuity that past generations had to make the best use of the ingredients that they had in their countries". Because the dishes in the book are ones that used to be commonly prepared in homes, they are not particularly difficult and readers should not shy away from attempting them.

Through this book, Adrià said, the authors would like to help make Barcelona in to a world cuisine cap-



Ferran Adrià (above) and Carme Ruscalleda presented their cookbook of international dishes at the Forum yesterday

ital and help make Catalonia and Spain into "leading gastronomic points of reference".

Adrià came out in favour of young people having more culinary literacy. "It's unbelievable that in 2004 there is no type of education about food in schools", he lamented. He suggested that children be

taught the geographic origins of foodstuffs and what nutrients they provide as well as how they can be combined in a healthy way as well as the many ways just one ingredient can be used. "Barcelona and Spain should be at the forefront of this process", he said.

Ferran Adrià said that he would

be willing to collaborate with non-profit organisations to help promote products which are socially responsible and might contribute to the improvement of the situation of food producers in developing countries. He added that chefs could serve the function of acting as intermediaries towards this end.

Percy Adlon brings his musical version of cult film *Bagdad Café* to Barcelona Forum

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If you haven't seen *Bagdad Café*, the cult classic by director Percy Adlon about a German and American woman who confront their cultural differences at a motel in the American desert, you will get a chance to see a musical version in Barcelona, which will open July 6 at the Forum.

According to Percy Adlon, director of the film version as well as the musical version, a stage musical version of the film is more than feasible because the music is central to the plot. "The music has not been put above the story, but rather the story has come out of the music".

One of the attractions of the story is the cultural contrast between the characters of Jasmin, a strict, disciplined Bavarian woman and Brenda, an Afro-American single parent with a direct style and free spirit. The characters are in part a com-



Actresses Melanie Vaughan and Moeisha McGi from the musical *Bagdad Café*

bination of influences Adlon has had as the son of German parents and a love for African-American music.

The film, which premiered in 1988, was one of the biggest box office successes ever in Europe. The producers of the musical have

vowed "not to dissappoint those who loved the film".

Melanie Vaughan plays the part of Jasmin, while Jevetta Steele plays the part of Brenda. Other cast members include John Margolis, Moeisha McGill, Royce Brival, Juan Vázquez, Carles Torregrossa, Jeff Young, and Alexander Held, Javier Gamazo, Itiziar Castro and JD Steele.

The musical will be in English with subtitles in Spanish and Catalan. The musical director is Bob Telson and the sceneographer is Amadeus Capra. The production will play at the Barcelona Musical Theatre from Tuesdays to Fridays at 9:30 p.m., on Saturdays at 6.30 and 10:00 p.m. and Sundays at 6:30 p.m. It is scheduled to run until July 27. Ticket prices range from 15 to 50 euros and can be purchased at the box office.

CINEMA

Moore film tops charts

Michael Moore's controversial film has topped the US box office charts in its opening weekend. *Fahrenheit 9/11*, which attacks the Bush administration's policy on Iraq — including footage eerily demonstrating a close relationship between the Bush and Bin Laden families — took in 21 million dollars in its first three days, becoming the country's first documentary to be number one. The film will be released in the UK on 9 July.

Bollywood producer dies

Veteran Indian film-maker Yash Johar has died in hospital in the city of Bombay after a prolonged illness. The 75-year-old producer began in the film industry as a photographer and over the years mastered every aspect of film-making. Johar's Dharma Productions made some of the most successful Bollywood films of recent years, such as *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* and *Kal Ho Na Ho*.

MODERN OPERA

UK band tackle life of Gaddafi

Asian Dub Foundation have been commissioned to compose an opera about Libyan leader colonel Gaddafi. The band normally play a mix of rock, dance and Asian rhythms. But guitarist Chandrasonic is now working with the English National Opera. The work is expected to be ready for performance in 2006.

MEDIA

BBC archives go online

Historical footage from the BBC and CBS news archives has been placed on the internet for the first time, *BBC News* reported yesterday. The BBC Motion Gallery will provide online access to more than 10,000 clips, including footage of the wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.

MUSEUM

Wine on exhibit

El Museo de la Cultura del Vino or the Museum of Wine Culture opens today in Briones, la Rioja. The exhibition is the culmination of more than 30 years of gathering archaeological remains, tools, artwork and any other material related to wine. The museum aims to demonstrate the importance that the fruit of the vine has had around the world at different times in history, from Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome to dynastic China.


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