

EXHIBITION REVIEW PROPAGANDA:
POWER AND PERSUASION ★★★☆☆

What do Morph and Goebbels have in common? Not much, but they're both here in this new exhibition exploring state propaganda from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Alongside obvious examples such as Mao's Little Red Book it also shows how propaganda infiltrates popular culture – from the use of a silk scarf decorated with a map of Blitz bomb sites to a 1900 board game inspired by, and raising money for, the Boer War. It also considers recent events – notably the 2002 'dodgy dossier' on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

A colloquial definition of propaganda usually implies a somewhat dangerously one-

sided intent. Here, though, it is more broadly applied to any information used to promote a particular cause or point of view. Yet the presence of a section on public health campaigns,



featuring the 1987 'Don't Die Of Ignorance' Aids campaign, feels questionable. Likewise, while it makes sense to address social networks, the finale is a digital artwork focusing on Twitter reactions to the Olympic opening ceremony and Obama's re-inauguration. This is thought-provoking but it is frustratingly slippery at defining what propaganda is. **Amy Dawson**

Until Sep 17, British Library.
www.bl.uk

CLUBS
HOSPITALITY +
BLOC + UNKNOWN
+ SECRETSUNDAZE

Before **Hospitality** put the finishing touches to plans for festival domination, head honchos Tony Colman and Chris Goss have programmed an epic show this Friday at Brixton Academy. Returning to the venue after its sell-out show in January, the label has recruited Belgian drum'n'bass superstar Netsky and Hospital Records stalwart Danny Byrd – who will showcase tracks from his Golden Ticket album – while High Contrast play classics and Spectrum-inspired tracks. With additional sets from London Elektric, Logistics and Nu:Tone's collaborative venture Nu:Logic, bass mutator Reso and Culprate (Inspected Records), this is the only way to start your weekend. For the super keen, head to Hospital Records' pop-up in Shoreditch Boxpark for an in-store hangout with Netsky today and a pre-Brixton set tomorrow with Danny Byrd.

For night owls looking for a dark stomping place with a great sound system and warm hospitality, look no further than Bloc's current home at Autumn Street Studio. On Saturday night the **Bloc** family welcome Anthony Childs, aka techno mastermind Surgeon, to headline a night of the best in experimental bpm. Berlin's DJ Pete and Rene Lowe, uniting under the Scion moniker, will also take the stage with ragga-tipped vocalist Tikiman, while support comes courtesy of London label Plex's



ANDREW AT DAH

Fighting fit: Danny Byrd will play a pre-show set before the main event

main guys Luke Handsfree and James Tec.

On Sunday, join the **Unknown** crew for another edition of their free party at Lightbox in Vauxhall. The impressive line-up caters for bass-hungry punters and those on the look out for something new.

Unknown has recruited underground pioneer and SWAMP81 owner Loeffah, Jessie Ware remixer and label buddy Two Inch Punch, Butterz affiliate Spooky who is gearing up to play an all vinyl garage set, the creative genius that is My Panda Shall Fly and Shox (Rinse FM). Sign up ASAP to secure a spot on the guest list via the Unknown Facebook page.

Fresh from the mighty outdoor Essex gathering We Are FSTVL, the **Secretsundaze** family make their way back to east London to take over Oval Space in Bethnal Green on Sunday. With 12 years in the game and a string of prestigious international takeovers on the cards, Secretsundaze has taken over summer. It welcomes a line up of the best in techno and house, starting early afternoon with Nick Höppner who is a regular at infamous Berlin haunt Berghain. Energetic musician KiNK will perform a live set of his signature Chicago inspired acid house tracks, while NJ producer Joey Anderson, signed to Levon Vincent's Deconstruct label, will make his British debut alongside Secretsundaze founding members James Priestley and Giles Smith. **Hayley Joyes**

Fri, Hospitality, Brixton Academy.
www.hospitalitydnb.com
Sat, Bloc, Autumn Street Studio.
www.bloc.london.com/surgeon
Sun, Unknown, Lightbox. tinyurl.com/unknownmetro
Sun, Secretsundaze, Oval Space.
www.secretsundaze.net

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THEATRE REVIEW BULLET CATCH

★★★★☆

Pitched between a Derren Brown stunt, a philosophy lecture and the restaging of a notorious killing, Rob Drummond's one-man show is tricky to nail down. Inspired by the mystery surrounding the fatal shooting of 19th-century magician William Henderson on stage, Drummond (below) fires off in all directions as he chases after the truth.

The human quest for knowledge, the secret of happiness and the need to connect with our fellow beings all come into play as Drummond builds towards the infamous 'bullet catch' – a potentially fatal stunt in which a magician catches a fired bullet between the teeth. Key to this is Drummond's interaction with an

audience volunteer plucked at random and, on Tuesday night, Drummond hit the bullseye with Jessica, the perfect foil to his slightly shambling comedy.

Drummond is no mean illusionist, playing neat mind-reading games with the audience and cleverly exposing magic 'secrets'. But it's the human story behind the bullet catch which is closest to his heart, the impact on the unwitting stooge who shot Henderson, one Charlie Garth, unfolding in heartbreaking detail.

What the show lacked was a big finish. But it takes a shot at posing questions, triggering much food for thought as you head for the exit. **Keith Watson**

Until Jun 1, The Shed.
www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

