

Cover picture

The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon sets out to capture the spirit of Jacobean theatre rather than attempt a historic reconstruction. The aim being to recreate a relationship between audience and players that is close to the original. The opening production of "Two Noble Kinsmen" reflects the RSC's policy of rediscovering drama of the period 1570 - 1750. Photo. Nicholas Sargeant.

CUE

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(IN) SIGNIFICANT CHANGE?

To reflect an important change of emphasis, the Council has agreed to disband its Finance & Policy Committee and replace it, for a six month trial period, by a Policy & Finance Committee.

The Arts Council's Bulletin number 78 names this as one of their *Significant Changes Following Institutional Review*. Surely this is just the sort of thing that gives bureaucracy a bad name?

The Arts Council of Great Britain has been, and has the potential to continue to be, a magnificent catalytic device for developing the quality and accessibility of the Arts. But is its credibility not being severely eroded by two factors, one internal and one external?

Why do the officers have to indulge in such Institutional Pomp as exemplified by this concern over a committee title?

And why, if we may paraphrase Handel, do the clients so furiously rage together? A cake is a cake and its slicing can only be determined by rational debate. The Arts are supposed to be a humanising influence, yet the artists are at each other's throats for the available funds. For the philistines, this is the ultimate triumph of divide and rule.

In such circumstances, it is perhaps understandable that the Arts Council should resort to cynical word play.

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