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Cover:

Glyndebourne's first time *Traviata* is directed by Peter Hall and designed by John Gunter. Much careful attention to small detail has produced four entirely convincing and realistic sets which compel our belief in matters of scale, period and atmosphere.

Photo: Guy Gravett.

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# CUE

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## BECKMESSER, MA

The City University (the one in London City . . . the one where they invented arts administration) has announced a new degree – an *MA in Arts Criticism*.

Only time will reveal whether the Maxwell and Murdoch presses will make the degree a mandatory qualification for their showbiz reviewers.

Meanwhile those with a tendency to paranoia about art being removed from the control of the artists will find their worry beads activated if they pick over the advert soliciting students.

The students are to be recruited from “those with experience of criticism and evaluation in the arts”. How long before the graduates are recruited to arbitrate on who deserves subsidy and sponsorship?

And those of us who thought that education was a process of discovery will twitch over “Students will be *trained* (our italics) to improve their knowledge and appreciation of the arts, their analytical skills and modes of perception, and to write clearly and effectively about their chosen art form”.

In places where cue givers and cue takers meet for contemplation, there has been increasing concern that our theatre may be getting too introspective. Consequently we await with considerable interest the debut of the City's first masters and mistresses of arts criticism.

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