Philosophy Now ISSUE 94 Jan/Feb 2013

Philosophy Now, 43a Jerningham Road, Telegraph Hill, London SE14 5NQ United Kingdom Tel. 020 7639 7314 editors@philosophynow.org philosophynow.org

Editor-in-Chief Rick Lewis Editors Anja Steinbauer, Grant Bartley Digital Editor Bora Dogan Graphic Design Grant Bartley, Anja Steinbauer, Rick Lewis Film Editor Thomas Wartenberg Book Reviews Charles Echelbarger, Heidi Pintschovius Marketing Manager Sue Roberts Administration Ewa Stacey, Heidi

Pintschovius Advertising Team

Jay Sanders, Ellen Stevens jay.sanders@philosophynow.org UK Editorial Board Rick Lewis, Anja Steinbauer, Bora Dogan, Grant Bartley US Editorial Board

Dr Timothy J. Madigan (St John Fisher College), Prof. Charles Echelbarger (SUNY), Prof. Raymond Pfeiffer (Delta College), Prof. Jonathan Adler (CUNY) **Contributing Editors**

Alexander Razin (Moscow State Univ.) UK Editorial Advisors

Piers Benn, Chris Bloor, Gordon Giles, Paul Gregory, John Heawood, Kate Leech US Editorial Advisors

Prof. Raymond Angelo Belliotti, Toni Vogel Carey, Prof. Rosalind Ekman Ladd, Prof. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Prof. Harvey Siegel **Cover Portrait** Jane Austen (1873, based on earlier portrait by her sister c.1810)

Cover Design Anja Śteinbauer Printed by Graspo CZ, a.s.,

Printed by Graspo CZ, a.s., Pod Sternberkem 324, 76302 Zlin, Czech Republic

UK newstrade distribution through: Comag Specialist Division, Tavistock Works, Tavistock Rd, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7QX Tel. 01895 433800

U.S. & Canadian bookstores through: Disticor Magazine Distribution Services 695 Westney Road S., Unit 14, Ajax, Ontario L1S 6M9 Tel. (905) 619 6565

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or editorial board of *Philosophy Now.*

Philosophy Now is published by Anja Publications Ltd ISSN 0961-5970

Back Issues p.48 Subscriptions p.49



CULTURED THINKING

Pages 6-17, and throughout!



The Lion King Existentialist fable? Page 46



A Brief Life, page 30

EDITORIAL & NEWS

- 4 Reading, Writing, Thinking Tibor Fischer
- **5** News in Brief
- **41** Obituary: J.J.C. Smart, 1920-2012 Graham Nerlich remembers a friendly and versatile thinker

READING, WRITING, THINKING

- **6** Reading Jane Austen as a Moral Philosopher *Thomas Rodham reads Jane Austen as a virtue ethicist*
- **9** Democracy and Tragedy Mark Chou on our debt to dead Greek playwrights
- 12 "Nobody Said Anything" Meghan Bidwell on words and silence in Hemingway & Carver
- **14** The Twin Souls of Oscar Wilde & Friedrich Nietzsche *Yahia Lababidi detects many surprising resonances*
- **17** I Re-Read, Therefore I Understand *Kimberly Blessing reads Descartes' advice on reading philosophy*

OTHER ARTICLES

18 Equality

Helen McCabe asks just what are egalitarians talking about?22 A Matter of Consent

- Simon Smith on abortion and the strange case of the violinist
- 26 Interview: William Irwin on Black Sabbath & Philosophy Grant Bartley talks to the 'philosophy & pop culture' books editor
- Instabilities in Nature and Art Malcolm E. Brown & Steve Hubbard oppose the laws of nature
- **30** Brief Lives: Martin Heidegger Alistair MacFarlane on a genius and an idiot

REVIEWS

- **42** Book: *The Laws of Belief* by Wolfgang Spohn *reviewed analytically by Richard Baron*
- **43** Book: A User's Guide to Thought & Meaning by Ray Jackendoff, reviewed scathingly by Nikki Dekker
- **44** Book: *Donald Davidson* by Kathrin Glüer *reviewed linguistically by David R. T. Fraser*
- **46** Film & Theatre: *The Lion King Jonathan Barfield compares interpretations of this Disney epic*

REGULARS

- **32** Food For Thought: *"Wad Some Power The Giftie Gie Us" Tim Madigan on Schopenhauer's & Smith's gifts for compassion*
- **35** Question of the Month: *What are the most important things to know, and why?*
- **38** Letters to the Editor
- **45** Ethical Episodes: *Trade Secret foel Marks reveals how he does it*
- **50** Tallis in Wonderland: *Where Is My Itch? Raymond Tallis's philosophy is up to scratch*

FICTION

52 Vulgar Intrusions Daryn Green's heroes find life intersecting with philosophy