

THE-REX

PROGRAMME

FOCUS

APRIL 2015

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema.." (BBC)
Britain's Best Cinema – Guardian Film Awards 2014

APRIL 2015 • ISSUE 121
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759

Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 16-17

Rants and Pants 27

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.00

Concessions £7.50

Table £11.00

Concessions £9.50

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)

Disabled and flat access: through the gate on High Street (right of apartments)

Director: James Hannaway
01442 877999

Advertising: Lynn Hendry
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
01296 668739

The Rex
High Street (Three Close Lane)
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2FG
www.therexberkhamsted.com

“Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever..” (STimes Culture)

Bye Bye Babies...



BABIES MATINEES at the Rex are over. From April babies are banned for, among other things, being under age. Not an easy decision.

Here's why.

Matinees included babies from the outset in 2005. The experiment proved difficult, too many complaints. so late in 2007 we had to restrict babies to Tuesdays only.

It was included in the programme for young mums & dads to enjoy their first six months of bewilderment with a popular grown-up film at the Rex.

Here, for a few short hours, they could be reminded that the world they had left was still here. It became, a meeting place, an escape into the latest films everybody (else) was talking about.

Now, due to a combination of whingeing, bitching, snitching and the law, it is over.

Whingeing: some without babies, upstairs would rarely miss the chance to complain, even though Tuesdays matinees declare "might contain babies" and DO, DOES, DID!

Bitching: as above but with the

added missionary misery of Rex staff, who have enjoyed collecting still-warm nappies from under tables, and who put up with difficult first time mothers with armoured tanks (prams) and a not always helpful attitude as they spread everything from the tank, everywhere.

Snitching: Those who threatened us with the Authorities if little-faces turn up in prams for a 15 certificate. Clearly babies 0to6 months are under 15. Thank you for such moral vigilance. There's only so much whingeing bitching and snitching from all sides, one can take. Eight years of it is enough.

Finally, the Law, with little to resemble intelligence, decrees: only 12A, PG, U Certs with little or no adult bite, can be screened when babies are present.

Sorry babies and parents your time is up. However, Saturday kids matinees are always under Certificate 15. So providing you can resist all of the headings above, take your warm nappies etc home, and leave the tanks outside, you're welcome. All matinees will start at 2pm.



APRIL FILMS



Paddington

From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and with an all star cast including Jim Broadbent, Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins, **Paddington** tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear (Ben Wishaw) whom, after crossing oceans ends up in London in search of a new home. Lost and alone, until he encounters the kindly Brown family, it looks like his luck has changed until this rarest of bears catches the eye of the museum's taxidermist (Nicole Kidman as the fab Panto villain).

"A charming and sweet-natured family film, full of wit and fun, skewed towards young children but cheekily speckled with sly gags pitched at the older audience." (*Guardian*)

"Paddington is enchanting." (*Standard*)

"Endearing, hilarious, and for humans of a certain vintage, tearfully nostalgic." (*Times*)

"Through it all runs the touching story of an outsider making a new home for himself, and discovering that in the end, whatever our differences, anyone in London can fit in." (*Independent*)

"Please look after this bear says the tag around Paddington's neck. Rest assured, they have." (*Observer*)

Don't miss the opening b&w sequence. It is priceless. so come early.

Director: Paul King
Cast: Ben Wishaw, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Bonneville
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2014
Certificate: PG

When...

Wed 1 2.00



The Imitation Game

Based on Andrew Hodges' biography and marking the English-language debut of Norwegian director, Morten Tyldum (**Headhunters**) **The Imitation Game** begins with Turing's (Benedict Cumberbatch) arrest in 1951. Little did officials know the law would change 15 years on, and they were incriminating the pioneer of modern-day computing. Famously leading a motley group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers, Turing was credited with cracking the codes of Germany's World War II Enigma machine.

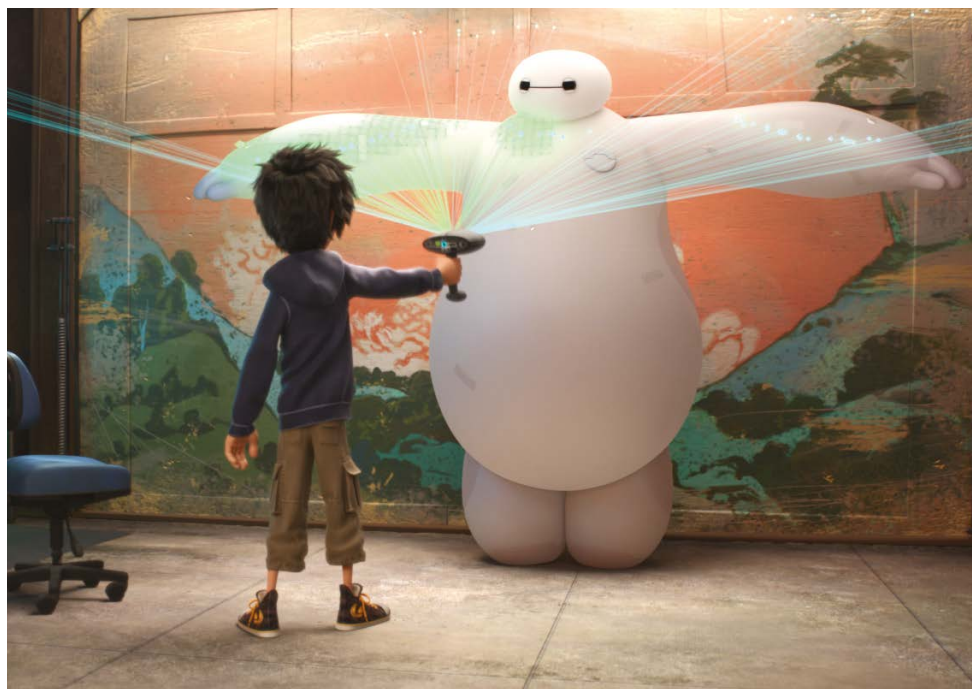
Flashbacks to his schooldays and his years at Bletchley Park paint a touching picture of a man with few intellectual equals, even fewer social graces and no friends. Turing alienates his colleagues, exasperates his military masters and seems blithely unaware of the impact his blunt candour has on those around him. His rational mind also makes him blind to the sexism of his era as he becomes a fond champion of Joan Clarke (a brilliant and non-irritating Keira Knightley) an equally formidable intellect with the disadvantage of being a mere 'gel'.

Benedict Cumberbatch was nominated for Bafta and Oscar but sadly no. "It's the performance of his career in what is also possibly the best least lauded British film of the year." (*Independent*)

Director: Morten Tyldum
Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK/USA
Certificate: 12A

When...

Wed 1 7.30



Big Hero 6

If you found Frozen lacking in robots and the explosions depts, then Disney's follow up a visually dazzling animation based on Marvel comics, should satisfy.

Set in the colourful San Fransokyo, an east meets west mega city, Big Hero 6 centres on tech whiz-kid Hiro (Ryan Potter) but he's not the star, that honour belongs the lovable Baymax, who's created by Hiro's older brother. He's an inflatable medical droid; sort of a cross between the Michelin X Man and the robot from Lost in Space.

Hiro's own invention, on the other hand, is an impressive army of nano machines that can do whatever their user desires, which of course are bound to fall into the wrong hands... In true superhero fashion, Hiro and Baymax suit up with a group of energetic inventors to take down the mysterious villain and save the city.

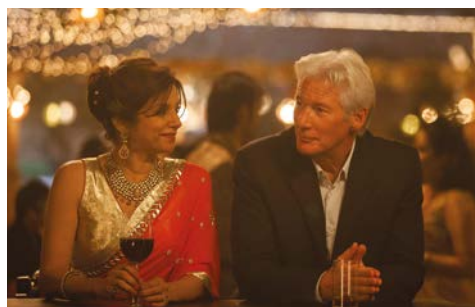
The dynamic between this odd bunch trips up on clichés (so what?) and underwritten characters (so what?) but Baymax emanates limitless charm. (*research Jack Whiting*). It is Disney-fabulous, with a heart as big as the big fat blobby Baymax 6. Not to mention the fun, humour and fabulous big screen action. Don't think twice. Bring the street.



Directors: Don Hall, Chris Williams.
Voices: Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit, Jamie Chung
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2014
Certificate: PG

When...

Thu	2	2.00, 7.30
Thu	9	2.00
Sat	11	2.00



Director: John Madden
 Cast: Judi Dench, Maggie Smith,
 Richard Gere, Bill Nighy
 Duration: 122 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2015
 Certificate: PG

Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Upon its 2012 release, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* became a sleeper hit at the UK box office making it the fourth highest grossing film of that year (and caused mayhem at The Rex).

So, unsurprisingly, we now have *The SECOND Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* which sees Sonny (Dev Patel) finding business tough in preparation of his imminent marriage to the love of his life, Sunaina (Tina Desai). He has his eye on a promising property now that his first venture has only a single remaining vacancy, posing a rooming predicament for fresh arrivals Guy (Richard Gere) and Lavinia (Tamsin Greig). Evelyn and Douglas (Judi Dench and Bill Nighy) have now joined the Jaipur workforce, while Norman and Carol (Ronald Pickup and Diana Hardcastle) are negotiating the tricky waters of an exclusive relationship, while Madge (Celia Imrie) juggles two eligible and wealthy suitors. Perhaps the only one knowing all the answers is newly installed co-manager of the hotel, Muriel (Maggie Smith) the keeper of everyone's secrets. As the demands of a traditional Indian wedding threaten to engulf them all, an unexpected way forward presents itself.

Delicious stuff, pure unbridled entertainment. Come and escape with us on the big screen.

When...

Fri	3	7.30		
Sat	4	7.00	Mon 20	2.00
Sun	5	6.00	Mon 27	2.00
Sun	12	6.00	Tue 28	2.00



Shaun The Sheep

Mossy Bottom Farm's mischief-maker bounds effortlessly onto the big screen in this fun-packed yarn from Aardman. Daily life on the farm has become a bit of a grind for Shaun, so he and the rest of the flock devise a cunning "counting sheep" ruse to make the Farmer fall asleep on the job. However, while he snoozes, his caravan ends up rolling over the hills and far away, bound for the 'Big City'. Bitzer the dog, Shaun and friends mount a daring search-and-rescue mission, prompting plenty of japes and scrapes: Bitzer finds himself impersonating a hospital surgeon, only to be distracted by a tasty-looking bone while Shaun and his four-legged friends are forced to dress up as a two-legged human family to evade a well observed goateed jobsworthy animal catcher.

"Aardman's latest stop-motion animated feature is aimed at kids but will delight adults more."

(Independent)

"Innocence in movies can all too often turn to saccharine sweetness. Three cheers then, for the good folk at Aardman who have once again toiled long and hard to override it and put delightfully childish smiles on all our (sideways mouth) faces." *(Observer)* Bring everybody.

Directors: Mark Burton, Richard Starzack
 Voices: Justin Fletcher, John Sparkes.
 Duration: 85 mins
 Origin: UK/France 2015
 Certificate: U

When...

Sat 4 2.00
Tue 7 2.00
Mon 13 2.00



Northern Soul

Feisty and frequently amusing chronicle of one young man's journey through the dancehalls of Lancashire, which perfectly nails its time and place. There is something of the authentic period charm of 2012's *Good Vibrations*, in photographer turned director Elaine Constantine's evocation of 1970s Lancashire, where retro American records and Dexedrine-driven dancing offer a much-needed escape from the humdrum realities of northern teenage life.

Antonia Thomas is the smart soul-girl who fires young John's imagination and sends him twirling through space and time. Steve Coogan and Ricky Tomlinson add sly cameo support.

"Constantine catches the energy of the dancehall with aplomb, transporting her audience from the empty floors of dour neighbourhood youth clubs to the throng of the Wigan Casino with urgent ease." *(Guardian)*

"Photographer Elaine Constantine is a long-time fan of the Northern Soul scene, and it shows in every frame of her directorial debut, a buzzing love letter to the enduring, exclusive underground movement." *(Times)*

A must see on the big screen, wear your dancing shoes for later! *(research Anna Shepherd)*
 A phenomenal 'indie' success. People have been asking about it for months. So here it is.

Director: Elaine Constantine
 Cast: Steve Coogan
 Duration: 102 mins
 Origin: UK 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Mon 6 7.30



Directors: Richard Glatzer, Wash Westmoreland
 Cast: Julianne Moore, Kristen Stewart, Alec Baldwin, Kate Bosworth
 Duration: 101 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Tue 7	7.30
Wed 8	2.00, 7.30
Tue 14	7.30
Sun 19	6.00

Still Alice

Still Alice is based on the successful 2007 novel by American neuroscientist, Lisa Genova. The film opens at an intimate 50th birthday celebration for Alice Howland (Julianne Moore) a professor of linguistics at Columbia University in New York. It's just family: her medical researcher husband John (Alex Baldwin), lawyer daughter Anna (Kate Bosworth) and trainee doctor son Tom (Hunter Parish). Another daughter Lydia (Kirsten Stewart) is absent. She's the unconventional one, struggling to make it LA.

But lecturing one day on the West Coast, Alice spaces out and misremembers words. She chalks it up to jet lag and exhaustion. Back home, she finds herself getting lost on her daily run on a very familiar route. A visit to her doctor is not too good. Not only does she have early-onset Alzheimer's disease, but it's the sort that moves quickly, shattering memory, reliance on the familiar; everything.

"It's heart-breaking to watch, made all the more poignant by Julianne Moore's largely subdued, deeply moving performance." (*New York Times*) "Moore's heart-wrenching and Oscar winning performance makes this a must-see." (*Variety*) Personal tragedy with a heavyweight to play it is the stuff of Oscars?

What happened to comedy, bad timing...?



Whiplash

You really know heavyweight drama season is here when even the smallest of independents come out of nowhere and completely floor you.

Andrew (Miles Teller) is a talented, dedicated 19-year-old drummer at the fictional Schaffer Conservatory of Music in New York City. He's cherry-picked for a place in the school's studio jazz band by Terence Fletcher (an astonishing JK Simmons) a conductor who wanders the halls at night, his footsteps a metronomic clack-clack-clack, listening out for prospective young Gene Krupers he can hammer into brilliance.

"Trying to make a thriller about jazz is like trying to make a horror movie about Cliff (although...) You are starting with a subject that inspires, in fans, the exact opposite of what feels like an emotion to the rest of us. Damien Chazelle has done just that." (*Empire*)

Writer director, the young Chazelle, responsible for last year's wonderfully bonkers *Grand Piano*, infuses his own experiences as a jazz drummer. (uh oh)

Whiplash fizzles with energy. Simmons nabbed the BAFTA for best supporting actor, JK takes on the roll of Fletcher with such scary power, he scored the Oscar. Well deserved too. Spot him in 100 films, great as sarcastic cops/baddies/dads.

Director: Damien Chazelle
 Cast: Miles Teller, J. K. Simmons, Melissa Benoist
 Duration: 106 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 9 7.30



Focus

When the disastrous *After Earth* threatened to bury the *Fresh Prince*'s il-lustrious career under space debris, it was clear a shift was in order.

Will Smith is perennial hustler Nicky Spurgeon who spies on the glamorous Jess Barrett (Margot Robbie) a kindred criminal spirit. He teaches her the ropes, and together they go lifting wallets and credit cards in New Orleans. A few years later the star-crossed couple meet again in Buenos Aires where one (or perhaps both?) is planning their next sly move into a world of Formula One and ritzy ho-tels. Can they trust each other? Of course not. Do we care?

"As every incidental encounter is revealed to be a carefully planned double-cross, we're left with some splashy travelogue footage and an awful lot of Will Smith's chest." (*Mark Kermode*)

Focus is disposable fare that plays out like a sexy version of *The Sting*, but comes across as a glossy version of BBC's *Hustle*. However, nothing Smith does in *Focus* compares to the greatest trick he ever pulled; convincing the world it needs his son, Jaden, as a star. Now therein lies the real con. (*Jack Whiting*) Come for Will's electric charm and Ms Robbie's well, everything...

Directors: John Requa, Glen Ficarra
 Starring: Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Rodrigo Santoro
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Fri 10 7.30
Sat 11 7.00



Duke Of Burgundy

Peter Strickland, recognisable for his Berberian Sound Studio, returns with his third feature. Not one to notice a boundary, this might be his most ambitious work to date.

Hot on the heels of the grey Fifty Shades of Grey comes an S&M narrative with a stark difference. Cynthia (Knudsen), a butterfly expert, and her maid Evelyn (D'Anna) share a particularly unique relationship. As events play out, there lingers an undeniable sense that this isn't quite the set up it seems.

Ambiguity and isolation are key themes here along with an undertone of loneliness that Strickland seems to scatter with ease throughout his three films. As a winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Philadelphia film festival, this is film has slowly attracted attention and is now gathering considerable momentum.

It will draw you in before tying you in knots. Certainly not your typical woodland romp.

"Peter Strickland's wryly subversive S&M fantasy is everything that Fifty Shades of Grey isn't." (*Independent*)

"Of course, this is a film you have to meet halfway. If you're willing to enter its world, it's an immensely rewarding, amusing, wise, melancholy and involving experience." (*Empire*) Perhaps? Come and see?

Director: Peter Strickland
 Cast: Sidse Babbett Knudsen, Chiara D'Anna, Monica Swinn
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: UK 2015
 Certificate: 18

When...

Mon 13 7.30



Into The Woods

Hollywood's defilement of folklore continues as Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Broadway hit gets the Disney treatment.

(Don't listen) Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Rapunzel (Mackenzie Mauzy) and a pre-beanstalk Jack (Daniel Huttlestone) hardly need explaining. (Johnny Depp plays the big bad wolf, but you probably already guessed that.) The baker (James Corden) and his wife (Emily Blunt), though, are Sondheim and Lapine's creations: they're the local bakers, a loving couple whose marriage has been cursed by childlessness, and who must find a red cape, a golden slipper, a lock of yellow hair and a white cow, and present them to the not-too wicked old crone next door (Meryl Streep) to lift the spell. The stage musical was laced with existential darkness, which is all but absent from the screen. Still, it's easy to overlook such a fault (if overlooking 'existential darkness' is a fault) when the existential darkness of Sondheim's songs shine through (if you can stand the exit-potential of Sondheim's songs). It's a glossy, disjointed affair getting by on the strength of its performers. (*research JW*) Nevertheless, it is fabulous on the big screen, and nearly lives happily ever after. Don't miss.

Director: Rob Marshall
 Cast: Meryl Streep, James Corden, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick, Johnny Depp
 Duration: 125 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: PG

When...

Tue 14 2.00



Selma

With the southern states of the USA in the 1960s still deliberately obstructing black citizens who tried to register for the vote, and with jury membership and other forms of public office open only to registered voters, a **de facto white supremacist and brutal confederacy was in operation.** Martin Luther King (magnificent performance from David Oyelowo) realised that the only tactic they had was to force a peaceful confrontation. Hence a march from Selma to Montgomery to demand the right to vote. The epic brutalised march culminated in President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Director Ava DuVernay has created a King who is agonised by the guilt of his infidelities, and indeed at how their consequences caused him to neglect a crucial first stage of the march. "It thrillingly contrasts the moral triumph of King's crusade for civil rights with the agony of his marital infidelities..." (*Guardian*) "Its near complete absence from this year's Oscar nominations is baffling." (*Independent*) Did I dream that his 'I have a dream' speech is 'owned' so not available under copyright to be in the film...? 'What a wonderful world'.

Director: Ava DuVernay
 Cast: David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tom Wilkinson
 Duration: 128 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Wed 15 2.00, 7.30



The Tale Of Princess Kaguya

Isao Takahata (Grave of the Fireflies, My Neighbours the Yamadas) and Studio Ghibli have hand crafted yet another enchanting tale, this time based on the 10th century Japanese legend.

A poor woodcutter finds, in the forest one morning, a tiny, doll-like girl sprouting from a bamboo shoot. He brings her home, clasped in his hands, and suddenly she transforms into a human baby.

The woodcutter and his wife raise the child as best they can, but when a cache of gold and fine fabrics is discovered in the same bamboo grove, the woodcutter and his wife decide the gods must want their girl to be raised as a noblewoman, so they start a new life in the city.

Various princes try their best to woo Kaguya, but courtly life soon loses its appeal, and Kaguya pines for her once simple life.

The fact that this and Song of the Sea were shunned in favour of Big Hero 6 nabbing Oscar for best animation furthers my belief the judges have no idea when it comes to the majority of categories.

Its beauty and elegance flourish and shine on the big screen. (*Jack Whiting*)

ps. Big Hero 6 is still fab 'btw'.

Director: Isao Takahata
 Duration: 137 mins
 Origin: Japan 2015
 Certificate: PG

When...

Thu 16 2.00
Sat 18 2.00

THE ODYSSEY

APRIL FILMS: 01727 453088

DATE	FILM	TIME
1 WED	THEORY OF EVERYTHING	2.00, 7.30
2 THU	THE IMITATION GAME	7.30
3 FRI	FOCUS	7.30
4 SAT	PADDINGTON	2.00
4 SAT	FOCUS	7.00
5 SUN	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	6.00
6 MON	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30
7 TUE	BIG HERO 6	2.00
7 TUE	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30
8 WED	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00, 7.30
9 THU	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
9 THU	KINGSMAN	7.30
10 FRI	KINGSMAN	7.30
11 SAT	BIG HERO 6	2.00
11 SAT	WHIPLASH	7.00
12 SUN	THE IMITATION GAME	1.30
12 SUN	SHAUN THE SHEEP	6.00
13 MON	INTO THE WOODS	2.00
13 MON	THEORY OF EVERYTHING	7.30
14 TUE	THE LION KING	2.00
14 TUE	GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.30
15 WED	INTO THE WOODS	2.00
15 WED	KILL THE MESSENGER	7.30
16 THU	THE LEGO MOVIE	2.00
16 THU	WHIPLASH	7.30
17 FRI	BLADE RUNNER	7.30
18 SAT	HOME	2.00
18 SAT	CATCH ME DADDY	7.00
19 SUN	THE TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA	1.30
19 SUN	STILL ALICE	6.00
20 MON	HOME	2.00
20 MON	STILL ALICE	7.30
21 TUE	STILL ALICE	7.30
22 WED	STILL ALICE	2.00
22 WED	SUITE FRANÇAIS	7.30
23 THU	X + Y	7.30
24 FRI	IT FOLLOWS	7.30
25 SAT	INSURGENT	2.00, 7.00
26 SUN	SUITE FRANÇAIS	1.30, 6.00
27 MON	STILL ALICE	7.30
28 TUE	WILD TALES	7.30
29 WED	STILL ALICE	2.00
29 WED	SELMA	7.30
30 THU	THE GUNMAN	7.30

COMING SOON REX & ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

Wild Tales
Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
Still Alice
The Sound Of Music

NEW RELEASES

Far From The Madding Crowd (original)
Face Of An Angel
Cinderella
Woman In Gold



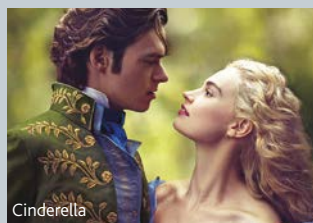
Woman In Gold



Face Of An Angel



Far From The Madding Crowd



Cinderella

THE-REX

APRIL FILMS:
01442 877759



DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 WED	PADDINGTON	2.00	8
1 WED	THE IMITATION GAME	7.30	8
2 THU	BIG HERO 6	2.00, 7.30	9
3 FRI	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30	10
4 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	2.00	11
4 SAT	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.00	10
5 SUN	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	6.00	10
6 MON	NORTHERN SOUL	7.30	11
7 TUE	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	2.00	11
7 TUE	STILL ALICE	7.30	12
8 WED	STILL ALICE	2.00, 7.30	12
9 THU	BIG HERO 6	2.00	9
9 THU	WHIPLASH	7.30	13
10 FRI	FOCUS	7.30	13
11 SAT	BIG HERO 6	2.00	9
11 SAT	FOCUS	7.00	13
12 SUN	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	6.00	10
13 MON	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	2.00	11
13 MON	DUKE OF BURGUNDY	7.30	14
14 TUE	INTO THE WOODS	2.00	14
14 TUE	STILL ALICE	7.30	12
15 WED	SELMA	2.00, 7.30	15
16 THU	THE TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA	2.00	15
16 THU	X + Y	7.30	18
17 FRI	IT FOLLOWS	7.30	18
18 SAT	THE TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA	2.00	15
18 SAT	APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR	7.00	19
19 SUN	STILL ALICE	6.00	12
20 MON	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00	10
20 MON	DIOR AND I	7.30	19
21 TUE	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	2.00, 7.30	20
22 WED	IDA	2.00	20
22 WED	WILD TALES	7.30	21
23 THU	WILD TALES	2.00, 7.30	21
24 FRI	EX MACHINA	7.30	22
25 SAT	HOME	2.00	22
25 SAT	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.00	23
26 SUN	TALES OF HOFFMAN	6.00	23
27 MON	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00	10
27 MON	SUITE FRANÇAIS	7.30	24
28 TUE	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00	10
28 TUE	SUITE FRANÇAIS	7.30	24
29 WED	SUITE FRANÇAIS	2.00, 7.30	24
30 THU	SUITE FRANÇAIS	2.00	24
30 THU	A MOST VIOLENT YEAR	7.30	25





X+Y

Nathan (Asa Butterfield) is a socially awkward young man who finds mundane scenarios emotionally challenging due to his mild autism.

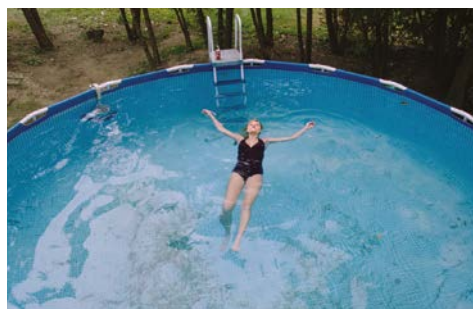
Despite struggling with these pressures, he is an impeccable mathematician who attends privately tutored lessons from Mr. Humphreys (Rafe Spall) in secondary school despite beginning his venture at the tender age of 9.

Now a growing teen, he is put forward for a spot on the British National team at the IMO (International Mathematics Olympiad) which will showcase his genius to the world and those who doubt his abilities around him. However, the event will not only test his mind and knowledge, but also his disorder as human interaction cannot be bypassed, but perhaps this is exactly what Nathan really needs to truly realise his potential.

"The ever reliable Sally Hawkins provides excellent support as the mother facing all the usual difficulties in letting her son go, along with the added anxiety his difference causes." (*Variety*)

"This British tale of the difficulties of adolescence and adulthood is a sweet rather than saccharine tale, quietly told and lent emotional heft by a fabulous cast." (*The List*) A little sentimental, but worse, Eddie Marsan plays normal and nice...!

Director: Morgan Matthews
 Cast: Asa Butterfield, Rafe Spall, Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan
 Duration: 111 mins
 Origin: UK 2015
 Certificate: 15



It Follows

"It could look like someone you know, or a stranger in a crowd; whatever helps to get close to you. It could look like anyone, but there's only one of it..." (uh oh)

These chilling words describe the 'it' in this spine tingling lo-fi horror that borrows liberally from Ringu and Halloween to great effect. In fact, the whole film feels like something John Carpenter would have whipped up in his heyday.

Maiko Munro, fresh from *The Guest*, dons the scream queen crown as Jay who, after getting intimate with Hugh in the backseat of his car, has contracted a curse that begins to pursue her.

No one else can see it, and the only way she can be rid of it is if she has fun sex with someone else, passing on the curse. Doesn't sound very scary on paper but the relentless nature of the creature means that there's never a moment to breathe.

It Follows trades cheap shocks for mounting dread by taking its time to screw the tension. Spotting the creature in the corner of the frame like a scary cinematic *Where's Wally*, is part of the fear, and the fun. (*Jack Whiting*) Doesn't sound too much like fun Jack.

Director:
 Cast:
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: 2015
 Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 16 7.30

When...

Fri 17 7.30



Appropriate Behaviour

Debuting as both writer and director, Desiree Akhavan also stars in this New York-based Indie flick.

Following a series of stuttering relationships and dead-end trysts, Shirin (Akhavan) discovers that life as a twenty-something hipster in plucky Bohemian Brooklyn isn't quite living up to her lofty expectations. That is, until, an encounter one New Year's Eve with Maxine (Henderson), the perfect foil for her perennial awkwardness and sharp wit. There are plenty of laughs in this pleasingly witty script but the true heart of the tale finds itself in Shirin's relationship with her conservative Iranian family and her struggle to convey her runaway sexuality.

Fans of Annie Hall will almost certainly recognise some subtle nods but there is enough here to establish itself as a refreshing shake-up of the well-worn comedy clichés of past and present.

"Unconventional but rewarding." (*Times*)

"It's Akhavan's presence that elevates it above a crowded field. Her film's a little bit different from the norm, and that, for now, is promising enough."

(*Telegraph*)

"Despite its navel-gazing tendencies, this retains a spicily frank comedic edge, laced with the kind of bitingly quotable epithets you'll wish you'd thought up." (*Observer*)

Director: Desiree Akhavan
 Cast: Desiree Akhavan, Rebecca Henderson, Halley Feiffer
 Duration: 90 mins
 Origin: UK 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Sat 18 7.00



Dior and I

Frederic Tcheng's fashion documentary, Dior and I, is an intimate portrayal of the high-strung fashion climate in one of the biggest fashion houses in the world.

In 2012, the company were looking for a new creative director. They found one in Belgian Raf Simons, who stepped out of the more minimalist and masculine fashion label Jil Sander. No one knew much about Raf, except that he was tremendously humbled by the prospect of working in legendary surroundings. He didn't speak French very well and this was the first time he would be doing haute couture, having just come from the ready-to-wear street. If that wasn't daunting enough, he had eight weeks to prepare and present his first Christian Dior Haute Couture collection. A task that would normally be given 4-5 months.

Dior and I records the build-up to this extraordinary debut and brings to life the story of the people behind the frocks.

"It succeeds in bringing this exclusive world down to earth, knitting the viewer with its needles and threads (ha doh ha) and making a highly relatable story, no matter where you come from or how you feel about fashion." (*Variety*) Worth seeing if only for a glimpse.

Director: Frédéric Tcheng
 Starring: Raf Simons, Marion Cotillard, Anna Wintour
 Duration: 90 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 20 7.30



Theory Of Everything

Stephen Hawking won a post graduate place at Cambridge after cleverly blagging a 1st class honours in Theoretical Physics from Oxford to eventually become the celebrated author of the colossal **A Brief History of Time**. Not to mention: the cleverest, most famous crippled man in his own brief history – of all time.

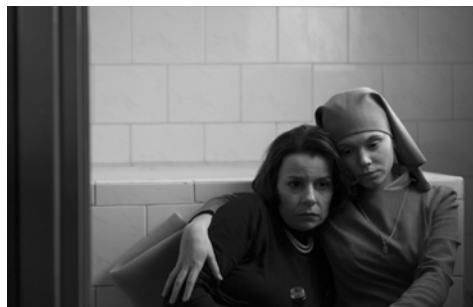
It is adapted from Jane Hawking's tender memoir. As the film progresses, alongside Stephen's illness, we hear of his relationships, the people he loved who loved him and those he lost along the way. Forging close friendships here at school in St Albans, it is a calculated hypothesis, Stephen surely have come to the movies at the old Odeon...? Eddie Redmayne excels as he grows more and more into Stephen, from healthy, all dancing young buck into a motor neurone lump at 21, encumbered still with a frustrating, extraordinary mind. Eddie Redmayne pipped Benedict Cumberbatch to the Oscar and Bafta in February. It's a shame both of these top Brit films are out in the same year. It is at the end of its run at the Rex and Odyssey, but will be back a little in the Summer. So come now.

"Breath taking... Heart breaking"
(*Entertainment Weekly*)

Director: James Marsh
 Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, David Thewlis, Emily Watson
 Duration: 123 mins
 Origin: USA 2013
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Tue 21 2.00, 7.30



Ida

Predicted by the Rex, Ida's Oscar success returns here and at the Odyssey. A poignant and powerfully told drama about a young nun in 1960s Poland, on the cusp of taking her vows.

Stunning newcomer Agata Trzebuchowska plays 18-year-old Anna, a sheltered orphan raised in a convent. Before she takes her vows, the Mother Superior insists she first visits her sole living relative.

Anna soon finds herself in the presence of her aunt Wanda (Agata Kulesza), a worldly and cynical Communist Party insider, who shocks her with the declaration that her real name is Ida and...

This revelation triggers a heart-wrenching journey into the countryside, to the family house and into the secrets of the repressed past, evoking the haunting legacy of...?

"Emphatically written, splendidly acted, and beautifully photographed, Ida finds director Pawlikowski revisiting his roots to powerful effect" (*RottenTomatoes*)

Shot in academy ratio (a square-ish image set in mid-screen - old silent movie size) in smoky monochrome, it is massive on the big screen. (*research Anna Shepherd*)

It won this year's Bafta and Oscar. But please, come for the film not the prize. The prize is the story.

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski
 Cast: Agata Trzebuchowska, Agata Ogrodnik
 Duration: 82 mins
 Origin: Denmark/Poland 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Wed 22 2.00



Wild Tales

Wild Tales, put simply, is an ingenious collection of nightmarish stories. **Damián Szifron's** dark mind is on full display in a black-comedy masterclass quite unlike anything we've seen before.

A satire of survival in a corrupt and cynical Argentina, each of the short accounts on display here chronicle all walks of life; an enraged demolitions expert, a furious bride on her wedding day, a bout of in-flight paranoia. This is just a teaser in what to expect from a rabbit-hole of confusion and hilarity.

Frantic from the off, the pre-credits short sets the bench-mark so high that it takes almost an entire film to match it. The visuals are stunning, a real pleasure, and the bizarrely perfect soundtrack screams Spaghetti Western classic.

Barmy, brilliant and never banal, this twisted comedy is an absolute treat for the mind.

"Ideally structured and often wickedly dark."

(*Empire*)

"If everyone behaved the way the characters in *Wild Tales* behave, civilization would crumble.

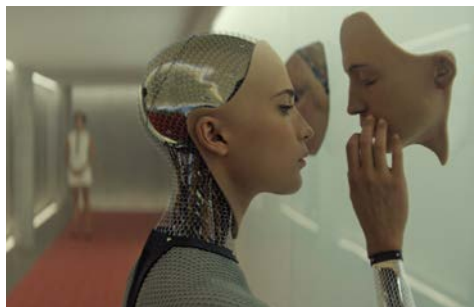
But the real take-away lesson here is how easy it might be for any of us, swept up in a moment of bloodlust, to consider pure raging hostility a fair trade." (*Chicago Sun Times*) It sounds too good to miss, so don't.



Director: Damián Szifron
 Cast: Ricardo Darín, Oscar Martínez, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Érica Rivas, Rita Cortese
 Duration: 122 mins
 Origin: Argentina/Spain 2015
 Certificate: 15

When...

Wed 22	7.30
Thu 23	2.00, 7.30



Ex Machina

After years as a screenwriter – with the wonderfully bleak 28 Days Later and Sunshine to his name (both with Danny Boyle) Alex Garland steps into the director's chair with assured confidence.

Caleb (Domhnall Gleeson) is a programmer who wins a company invitation to spend a week with its founder and inventor, the enigmatic Nathan (Oscar Isaac) at his secluded and (a real) architecturally astounding home. Here Caleb will be introduced to Nathan's creation Ava, a robot whose glowing LEDs and whirring servos combine a lithe feminine form with the angelic features of Alicia Vikander, with nothing wasted in her wiring. Caleb is convinced-cum-smitten but the more he learns about Ava and her volatile, unpredictable creator, the more concerned he becomes for her future.

Ex Machina succumbs to the B-Movie towards the end, venturing into almost exploitative thriller territory, but it does little to detract from the overall thrill of watching a writer successfully celebrating cerebral stimulation in science fiction on the silver screen. It would make a wonderful companion piece to Blade Runner. (*research Jack Whiting*) Ex-Machina is beautifully strange, clean and uncluttered, and you can catch every clear, non-mumbled word... Keep up. Don't miss.

Director: Alex Garland
 Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac, Alicia Vikander
 Duration: 108 mins
 Origin: USA/UK 2015
 Certificate: 15



Home

There's an otherworldly sensation of déjà vu when watching Home. That's probably because it is essentially a caffeinated, sherbet coated version of Lilo & Stitch.

Based on popular 2007 children's novel The True Meaning of Smekday, the story centres on Oh (voiced by Jim Parsons, from TV's The Big Bang Theory), a misfit alien whose friendly but pushy people, the Boov, led by the blustering Captain Smek (Steve Martin) plan to take over the Earth. (Lost already?)

Oh ends up on the run from his own kind and forms an unlikely friendship with young human Tip (Rihanna who, unsurprisingly, contributed to the majority of its soundtrack) who is trying to find the mother (Jennifer Lopez, also providing her lyrical 'talents') she lost touch with during the Boov invasion. (You are now)

This peculiar oddity sees DreamWorks animation at their lowest creatively, and when their last was the wonderful How to Train Your Dragon 2, this seems all the more puzzling. Perhaps it is simply providing a stopgap for when the next Kung Fu Panda or Madagascar comes along to Hoover up parents' matinee wallets. (*research Jack Whiting*) Mustn't get too clever with kids films, neither in the making nor in critique. Is it fun? Yes. Come for fun.

Director: Tim Johnson
 Voices: Rihanna, Jim Parsons, Steve Martin
 Duration: 94 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: U

When...

Fri 24 7.30

When...

Sat 25 2.00



Kingsman: The Secret Service

James Bond spoofs tend to skew towards younger audiences (Johnny English, Austin Powers, Spy Kids – fun for all ages), but **Kingsman** is fun for not-quite grown-ups.

Colin Firth plays Harry Hart, one of an elite band of impeccably dressed crimefighters (including Mark Strong and Michael Caine) aimed at no specific government but steeped in old money and aristocratic privilege. When one of their number pops unexpectedly, Colin/Harry has to fulfil an old promise by bringing young latchkey tearaway Eggsy (newcomer Taron Egerton) into the Kingsman fold, with explosive results.

Just as they did with Kick-Ass, writer Jane Goldman and Director Matthew Vaughn (Layer Cake) have adapted Miller's comic with giddy verve. Kingsman is a kid's film for adults; a hyperkinetic romp with plenty of guns, blood and bad language (so shocking, it had to be edited in places to escape an 18 – damn it. Now-now Jack) and despite its tasteless jokey misogyny, it's a lot of fun. Watching an immaculate badass Colin Firth in a Savile Row suit taking down a pub load of hooligans with just an umbrella, is a sight to relish with lasting satisfaction. (*research Jack Whiting*). Can't wait...

Director: Matthew Vaughn
 Cast: Colin Firth, Taron Egerton,
 Michael Caine, Samuel L. Jackson
 Duration: 129 mins
 Origin: USA/UK 2015
 Certificate: 15

When...

Sat 25 7.00



The Tales Of Hoffmann

In 1951, three years after the success of their ballet tragedy 'The Red Shoes', filmmaking duo Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger had their chance at last to fulfil Powell's lifelong dream of creating an entirely 'composed' film.

Their goal was to blend music and movement, art, design, and every cinematic trick at their disposal. The basis would be French composer Jacques Offenbach's final, uncompleted 1870s opera.

It's a fantastical tale of jealousy and nostalgia as Hoffmann (Robert Rounseville), believing himself spurned by the object of his desire (Moira Shearer) recounts to the occupants of a theatre bar three tales of love and loss. The first in Paris, when he fancied himself in love with Olympia (Shearer) who turned out to be a life-size doll created by a magician. Second, set in Venice has Hoffman bewitched by a beautiful courtesan, Giulietta (Ludmilla Tcherina). The third act, set on a Grecian isle, has Hoffman in love with Antonia (Ann Ayars), daughter of a singer and conductor, who is in danger of dying from consumption.

'A digital restoration of Powell and Pressburger's gem confirms its status as an exquisite cinematic, melodramatic, operatic, fantasy experience of music, dance and colour.' (*Observer*)

Bring knitting and morphine.

Directors: Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
 Cast: Moira Shearer, Robert Rounseville,
 Ludmilla Tchérina
 Duration: 128 mins
 Origin: UK 1951
 Certificate: U

When...

Sun 26 6.00



Suite Française

Michelle Williams portrays Lucille Angellier, a proud but self-confessed Frenchwoman who falls in love with a Nazi officer during the German occupation of World War II France.

Based upon Irène Némirovsky unfinished novel of the same name, *Suite Française* has a lot to live up to. A bestseller in 2004, fans of the book might be surprised to find that much has been shed to focus on the central melodrama.

With her husband lost to a German prison camp, Lucille's days are haunted by her fearsome mother-in-law Madame Angellier, played expertly by Kristin Scott-Thomas. Her dangerous affair with Bruno (Matthias Schoenaerts) offers her a form of escapism and a chance to rediscover herself. There are few twists and turns but a steady pace is what is needed here to tell this passionate tale.

"*Suite Française* ticks all the right boxes as a classy literary adaptation, favouring a heightened sense of soap opera romance over gritty drama." (*Screen International*)

"*Suite Française* is handsomely made and boasts two exceptional central performances but its tone is strangely discordant." (*Independent*) It looks great though, come for that.

Director: Saul Dibb
 Cast: Kristin Scott Thomas, Michelle Williams, Matthias Schoenaerts
 Duration: 107 mins
 Origin: UK/France/Canada 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Mon 27	7.30
Tue 28	7.30
Wed 29	2.00, 7.30
Thu 30	2.00



A Most Violent Year

Talented storyteller J.C. Chandor (*All is Lost*, *Margin Call*) directs an excellent cast, with Oscar Isaac and Oscar nominated Jessica Chastain. Set during the Winter of 1981, statistically the deadliest 12 months in the history of New York City.

The story follows the lives of an immigrant family as they attempt to capitalise on the American Dream, while the rampant violence, decay, and corruption of the day drag them in and threaten to destroy all they have built.

Alongside his steely wife Anna (Jessica Chastain), Abel Morales (Oscar Isaac) wants to build his business legitimately, but he's up against powerful criminal rivals who are out to ruin his plans. Even District Attorney (David Oyelowo) might not be the one he needs...

"Chastain is killer good, and Isaac is an implosive powerhouse in a world where nothing is held sacred. You watch with nerves clenched, holding on tight." (*Rolling Stone*)

"It's an impressive, substantial piece of work, and a proper old-fashioned nail-biter too."

(*Film Comment*)

Worth seeing for Jessica Chastain's distinctive onscreen presence alone. (*research Anna Shepherd*)

A long awaited bad tale, beautifully told. A slow burning, agonisingly stylish thriller. Come and see.



Director: J. Chandor
Cast: Jessica Chastain, Oscar Isaac,
David Oyelowo
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 30 7.30

The Odyssey – sightlines...

Dear Sir or Madam,

I went to the screening of Kingsman last night, and although the cinema itself was very impressive, there is a slight design flaw. We were sitting in the upper seated area, in the front row of one of the banks of seats, where there's a bar mounted on the short wall in front of you. I'm not exactly a short man, at 5'10", but the bar actually obscures the bottom part of the screen- when subtitles were coming up, I actually had to lean forward or stretch up to see them. My friend who's a fair bit shorter than myself had no chance of reading them at all.

I just find it slightly disappointing that you've obviously spent a lot of money on the building, but somehow this rather critical issue has been missed. Will you be rectifying this issue at some point? I can't imagine I'm the only person who has reported this- the couple next to me commented on it as well.

Regards,
Simon Tennant

Thanks Simon,

We are very grateful to you for this. We knew, but the regulations, require a railing height, it doesn't matter what. It means you can't see the bottom of the screen. A £2.5m cinema restoration, where you can't see the whole screen? Our slow remedial work is rectifying this and other things, within the regulations. We opened a safe building in December to keep our promise, knowing there was still much to do to make it work on every other level. The big thing is you have put pen to paper to remind us we were not hallucinating after all. Please, anybody who has anything to say, please email one line to us, don't make it a chore. Telling the staff on the way out is no good. Send all real complaints about the cold, leg room, sightlines or bad service (Please, no whingeing). A stair lift has been approved. It is now on order and will be in place later in the summer (Yes, everything takes that long). Please send comments to Marie (chief administrator): contactus@odysseypictures.co.uk Stay up with us, The Odyssey is open and running on a full tank of decent films, and has made St Albans buzz already. By sometime when, it will be finished and you will all be able to see the screen.

