

THE-REX

PROGRAMME



BRIDGE OF SPIES
DECEMBER 2015

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

DECEMBER 2015 • ISSUE 129
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 18-19

Rants and Pants 28-29

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)

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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)

11th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND



Lady In The Van

A sad funny and fabulous Rex Anniversary film.

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FILMS OF THE MONTH



Ladies In Lavender

A beautiful film and our first best seller Dec 2004.

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He Named Me Malala

A heart-lifting story of courage grace and stubbornness.

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Mississippi Grind

A surprisingly good pairing dodging the bad guys and bad luck. Page 19



The Dressmaker

Titivation torsos and twists. Surprisingly good yarn, with delicious characters. Page 21



DECEMBER FILMS



Suffragette

After a dramatic opening to the London Film Festival where feminist protesters set off smoke bombs, Suffragette is a film directed by a woman, written by a woman, produced by women and with a cast fronted by women.

Director Sarah Gavron and screenwriter Abi Morgan reunite after 2007's *Brick Lane* for a film set during the height of the uprising. It begins in London in 1912 when the leaders of the women's suffrage movement, including Emmeline Pankhurst (cue: Meryl Streep) call for a national campaign of civil disobedience after decades of peaceful protest have born no fruit. We follow foot soldier Maud Watts (the mesmerising Carey Mulligan) a wrung-out laundress drawn into the struggle by her feisty colleague Violet (Anne-Marie Duff).

"Suffragette is a tart reminder to those who are casual about democratic gender equality that votes for women were not something that naturally evolved due to the ruling class's innate decency; they had to be fought for." (*Guardian*)

"Mulligan is on seriously good form here, showing Maud's gradual transformation from bystander to activist with riveting emotional precision." (*Telegraph*)

"Without an ounce of flounce or make-up, Mulligan gives everything to the part." (*Times*) Here's to a good film not a sermon.

Director: Sarah Gavron
 Cast: Carey Mulligan, Meryl Streep
 Duration: 106 mins
 Origin: UK 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Tue 1	2.00, 7.30
Wed 2	2.00, 7.30
Thu 3	7.30



Spectre

We've been expecting you Mr. Bond... At least, we've been anticipating SPECTRE. The legalities are settled, and the nefarious organisation makes a welcome return to our screen.

All the ingredients are in place to make this a Bond classic, for better or worse. We've got a new M (Ralph Fiennes) with a returning Q (Ben Wishaw) and Money Penny (Naomie Harris). There are gadgets, chases and quips. Skyfall showed, with its insane box office haul, that there's no slowing down for 007 and it helps that a lean Daniel Craig doesn't look remotely middle-aged, even though you'll have to grit your teeth whenever he delivers a double entendre (leave that to the experts Dan: Connery and Moore).

Christoph Waltz's Hanz Oberhauser is almost too good a choice for Bond's foil, yet their dark, tangled past forms the yin and yang of the story, and by keeping the stakes personal it ups the action. Spectre never buckles under its own weight.

Casino Royale may still be the ace in the hole for Craig's era (and one of the best in the entire series) but Spectre hits the target. *(research Jack Whiting)*

You will have to be the judge of that. Next Bond: Alan Bennett.

Director: Sam Mendes
 Cast: Daniel Craig, Monica Bellucci
 Duration: 150 mins
 Origin: USA/UK 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Thu 3 2.00
Fri 4 7.30
Tue 29 2.00



Paper Planes

When we were young, we all dreamt of building the perfect paper plane which would soar into the air, not just plummet towards the ground.

This is the dream of 12-year-old Dylan (Ed Oxenbould) whose passion for flight leads him to want to compete in the World Paper Plane Championships in Tokyo, but with a father grieving the loss of his wife, and a school bully tormenting him and his dream, he is surrounded by distractions trying to hold him back.

But with the help of his best friend and his granddad, he masters the art of flight and his epic journey begins.

Winning the title of the most feel good, uplifting film ever made, this Australian children's film is one for the kids and the parents alike, one to see for plenty of harmless fun and some fantastic paper plane designs.

'Kudos to this bright and breezy Aussie kid's flick for realising that competitive paper plane flying can unleash young imaginations.' *(Time Out)*

'Parents are likely to find it a welcome reprieve from dancing penguins, cuddly safari animals and merchandise tie-ins.' *(Guardian) (research Matt Snowden)*

It sounds fantastic. Don't miss.

Director: Robert Connolly
 Cast: Sam Worthington, Ed Oxenbould
 Duration: 97 mins
 Origin: Australia 2015
 Certificate: U
 Company: Lionsgate UK Ltd

When...

Sat 5 2.00



Illustration Mary Casserley



Director: Nicholas Hytner
 Cast: Maggie Smith, Alex Jennings
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: UK 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd

When...

Sat 5 7.00
 Mon 7 7.00

One screening will include a Q&A and introduction.
In aid of the actor's retirement home, Denville Hall

ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Lady In The Van

As with *The History Boys*, Nicholas Hytner has adapted a stage hit for the big screen from his time as the artistic director of the National Theatre. The *Lady in the Van* sees Maggie Smith reprise the role she first played in the 1999 stage production of the Alan Bennett play. She is Miss Shepherd, who lived in a van on the driveway of Alan Bennett's north London home between 1974 and 1989. If the set looks authentic, that's because the movie was shot on location in the real street and Bennett's real house. Bennett is simultaneously irritated, kindly and secretly delighted to have such a rich and pungent source of material on his doorstep. Miss Shepherd's mysterious past, her fear of policemen and the rumour that she was a pianist or a nun, all fascinate him. The excellent Alex Jennings plays two versions of Bennett the literary observer and the participant. "I live, you write, that's how it works," says Bennett to Bennett. "This is a lavish gift of a role for Ms Smith, a layered gâteau handed to her on a plate. She makes this hardy totglodyte a tottering, staggering force of nature, determined to owe nothing to anybody." (*Telegraph*) Oh shut up *Telegraph*.



REX CLASSIC

Ladies In Lavender

This ran and ran when we first opened and introduced us to the most feared of audiences. Charles Dance was one of our first Q&A guests, who later and unforgettably, brought Judi Dench to our stage. He came across this short story while on filming on location in a library. The interminable waiting on-set allowed him to read and absorb it.

After a thousand set-backs and the usual ups and downs, it stubbornly emerged as this small, beautifully shot, independent film. It cleverly transcends the sentimental through its warm sketches of genuine people. In exquisitely judged performances, Dame Judy tries to suppress carnal desires and Dame Maggie tuts in sisterly disdain. Their world is simple and uncomplicated. Their words are measured, manners perfect and repression absolute. The sun shines and waves pound. It is about a time long lost, where smokey pubs were the domain of ruddy faced men and policemen doffed their caps and clipped cheeky twerps around the ear. Once more we look forward (with a little trepidation) to the patter of sensible shoes. It is perfect for our Rex eleventh anniversary Sunday. See how many faces you recognise and lose yourself in the young unknown - Daniel Bruhl's violin.

Director: Charles Dance
 Cast: Maggie Smith, Judi Dench
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: UK 2004
 Certificate: 12
 Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Sun 6 6.00



Burnt

For Adam Jones (Bradley Cooper) life outside the kitchen is much like life in it: a continuous, clattering storm of heat and meat. Jones, the lead character in *Burnt*, is a Michelin-starred chef with an impossible temper and a reputation that can no longer justify it.

A few years ago, things were very different: Jones was a member of a sainted circle of young cooks working in an haute Paris kitchen under Jean-Luc, their gastronomic mentor. But then came drugs, drink and dramatic self-combustion followed by a self-imposed penance preparing oysters in a Louisiana gumbo joint.

As the film begins, Adam is splitting his millionth mollusc: a spiritual milestone that means he's ready for a comeback. His stage will be London, and his enabler his old maître d' (Daniel Brühl) now gliding serenely around the restaurant floor at the Langham hotel, in blissful ignorance of the firestorm to come. Adam's arrival means trouble, but it could also spell glory. "It stars a smouldering and bestubbled Bradley Cooper and with profound solemnity, buys into the concept that rudeness and temper tantrums are the signs of passion and flair as opposed to, say, being a complete tiresome prat." (*Guardian*) But Sienna Miller's pretty good.

Director: John Wells
 Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Emma Thompson
 Duration: 101 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Mon 7 2.00



Director: John Crowley
Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Domhnall Gleeson, Julie Walters
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: Ireland/UK 2015
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate Films UK

When...

Tue 8	2.00, 7.30
Wed 9	2.00, 7.30
Thu 10	2.00, 7.30
Wed 30	7.30

Brooklyn

Director John Crowley and writer Nick Hornby have empathetically adapted Colm Tóibín's 2009 bestselling novel in this graceful masterpiece starring the disturbing child/teen star (Atonement) now a magical grown up: Saoirse Ronan.

We begin in 1950s Ireland, as young Ellis Lacey (Ronan) is persuaded to up-sticks to America, leaving behind her small town to start anew in New York. She soon falls in love with an Italian plumber, Tony (Emory Cohen) and Brooklyn begins to feel like home. When Ellis is suddenly drawn back to Ireland, she pledges to return, but finds herself torn when she gets home. A classic love story, but don't for a second think it meek or mild. The acting is cool and easy, the writing intelligent and richly literary. Period details of 1950s New York are positively swoon-worthy. By sheer force of quality in every respect, Brooklyn makes for a robust, potent drama. An astonishingly good film, the kind 'they just don't make anymore'. How lucky for us. "Saoirse Ronan is a walking miracle, one of the most intelligent and compelling screen presences of her generation." (*Guardian*)

"Brooklyn has an old-fashioned perfection so incandescent, and so winning, that it's almost spooky." (*FT*) (research Emma Filippides). Might well win things, perhaps even your heart? Don't miss



Steve Jobs

Danny Boyle's taut biographical drama delves into the visionary mind of Apple's shrewd co-founder.

A classic three-act narrative, *Steve Jobs* focuses on both the personal and professional turbulence surrounding him during the lead up to three product launches, spread across a timespan of 14 years. Aaron Sorkin's sharp and somewhat savage script is brought to life with a particularly outstanding performance from Michael Fassbender, giving this real, hardly cold/late, character the depth and complexities that are so often lost in a biopic of this design.

Simply, a fascinating inner portrait of the man himself, careful to explain who he was in achievement whilst tactfully reserving judgement about how he was in spirit.

Comparisons with *The Social Network* are unavoidable and will no doubt be in full discussion throughout the run-in to next year's Oscars, a ceremonial half bitten apple itself, that will almost certainly see *Steve Jobs* competing in a number of categories.

"Boyle's film makes technology warm-blooded, and reminds us that every machine has its ghost." (*Telegraph*)

"A hyper-charismatic performance from Michael Fassbender combines with whip-cracking dialogue from Aaron Sorkin" (*Times*)

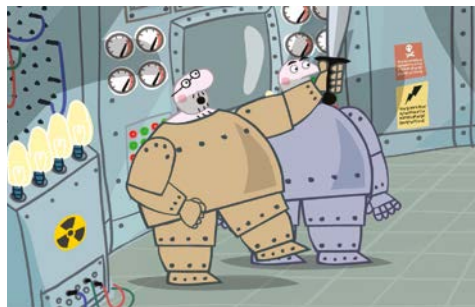
"There's undeniable craftsmanship here, especially in Fassbender's confident and transformative performance" (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee)
Even Bill Gates, pc world Apple rip-off, fans will appreciate this non-charity genius.



Director: Danny Boyle
Cast: Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures Ltd

When...

Fri	11	7.30	Mon	14	2.00
Sat	12	7.00	Tue	15	2.00
Sun	13	6.00	Wed	16	7.30



The Big Knights

Big Knights is going to struggle to for attention against bigger, louder animated fare, but this beauty should not go unnoticed.

The Big Knights is the rambunctiously funny tale of two oversized brothers, Sir Boris (David Rintoul) and Sir Morris (Brian Blessed). Blundering and blusterous, but endearingly well-meaning, the Knights crash though a world of yore, accompanied by their armour-clad pets, Sir Horace the dog and Sir Doris the hamster. It's a slyly parent-friendly world, constantly threatened by 'unexpected cataclysmic events', populated by vampires, witches, brilliant but dangerously insane scientists and a cat called Merkin. "Set in a Pythonesque world where hydroelectric dams, mobile phones, witches, mad scientists and East European peasantry coexist in relative harmony, it's the kind of show where logic plays second fiddle to wild invention. Any programme that can get back-to-back laughs out of theoretical physics and dinosaur slapstick is okay with us." (*Time Out*) The Big Knights is in fact a cobbled together set of episodes that aired on the BBC some time ago. And it shows in its cheap looking animation, but under the badly drawn shapes is real, untamed imagination. (*Jack Whiting*)

Directors: Neville Astley, Mark Baker
Voices: Brian Blessed, David Rintoul
Duration: 70 mins
Origin: UK 2015
Certificate: U
Company: Independent Cinema Office



Black Souls

43 Years after The Godfather, pioneered the image of modern mobster films, you may have thought that the genre would have run out of things to say.

But Black Souls proves that classy is still the way. A band of brothers, living between a goat farm in the Mountains of Calabria, and Milan where the family business lies, have to deal with the youngest, disenchanted son Leo (Giuseppe Fumo) who wants to be inducted into the 'real' family business. But when his temper awakens a feud with a rival crime family, all generations have to stand together against an onslaught from their rivals. With a great sense of realism, and over an hour running time without any gunshots, this film escalates in intensity and violence quickly and does not give in until the end. Not one to miss for fans of Coppola and Scorsese.

"In Black Souls the Italian mafia is leached of all glamour in a tale of three Calabrian brothers that grows stranger and more compelling by the minute." (*Times*)

"Black Souls is an elegant, unsettling addition to the gangster-movie canon. Get on its unique wavelength, and you may find it transfixing." (*New York Magazine*) (research Matt Snowden) An extraordinary film, not to be missed.

Director: Francesco Munzi
Cast: Marco Leonardi, Peppino Mazzotta
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: Italy/France 2014
Certificate: 15
Company: Vertigo Releasing Ltd

When...

Sat 12 2.00

When...

Mon 14 7.30



He Named Me Malala

Davis Guggenheim's thoughtful documentary celebrates determination, courage and spirit.

He Named Me Malala provides an intimate portrait of Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani female activist who was targeted and left wounded when Taliban gunmen opened fire on her school bus when she was just 15 years old. As an educational activist in Pakistan, Yousafzai has since emerged as a chief campaigner for children's rights worldwide and became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in history when she was bestowed with the honour in October 2014.

Disturbing archive footage is intertwined neatly with a series of interviews that highlight the intelligence and bravery of a woman whose not quite ready to leave her childhood behind. Simply told perhaps, but altogether a stirring and competent chronicle of a teenager, clearly with so much more to give to her cause.

"Moral courage and moral heroism are rare enough, but Malala Yousafzai's story is especially moving." (*Guardian*)

"A fittingly poignant treatment of an inspiring subject." (*Empire*)

"The validity of her vital crusade – and by extension, the film's practically short-circuit appeal to your heart and gut – is tough to argue with." (*Telegraph*) (research *Chris Coetsee*)

Fear has no place in those who will not be suppressed. Don't miss before Christmas.

Director: Davis Guggenheim
Cast: Malala Yousafzai
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: PG
Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Tue 15 7.30



The Martian

Ridley Scott's adaptation of Andy Weir's lone-wolf drama witnesses Matt Damon's plight upon the fourth planet from the Sun.

After an unforeseen mega storm on Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Damon) is presumed dead and left behind. However, he has miraculously survived. Alone on an unfamiliar planet, Matt must gather his wits (and some wit) to muster enough strength to survive whilst finding a way to signal Earth.

Stunning big screen Ridley Scott visuals, a terrific central performance and a ridiculous (Kermode says marvelous) disco soundtrack are ultimately stood up by Drew Goddard's superb screenplay. Sci-fi Carry On aside, it is the humour Damon extracts from his against-all-odds character that makes living on Mars relatable and believable.

"We are so used to sci-fi movies where the heroes shoot Martians with ray guns (are we?) that Scott's botanical approach can't help but seem offbeat and refreshing." (*Independent*)

"A gripping Robinson Crusoe-style survival story." (*Times*)

"It's a film about micromanaging, fixing things on the fly, and a lot of Ridley's gruff, technocrat personality shines through." (*Telegraph*) (research *Chris Coetsee*) Trust the Telegraph to find micro management, while the other crits simply rub each other's over excited cheeks. Mars: no, you wouldn't want to live there - house prices.

Director: Ridley Scott
Cast: Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain
Duration: 141 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 12A
Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Wed 16 2.00



Everest

Brace yourselves, Christmas is coming. As bleak and unrelenting as the mountain it's set on, Everest does a great job of making you feel insignificant in the presence of mother nature at her worst.

Based on an actual trip to the summit in 1996 that ended in tragedy, an air of doom hangs over Everest, forcing you to wonder which of its endearing ensemble cast will make it down alive. The inevitability of death makes it all the more tough to watch. Who, as mountaineering jargon has it, will finish up 'gone'? Maybe Josh Brolin's millionaire family man from Texas Or John Hawkes's gentle, unassuming postman, whose trip is part-funded by school kids Or Jason Clarke's affable team leader Or Jake Gyllenhaal's extreme-sports dude?

Like Gravity and Birdman before it, Everest was this year's opener at the Venice Film Festival. Whereas they both went on to receive awards, Everest doesn't look a likely contender, yet it plays out much in the same way as a horror, with each poor soul succumbing to the mountain. The fact it really did happened makes it all the more chilling.

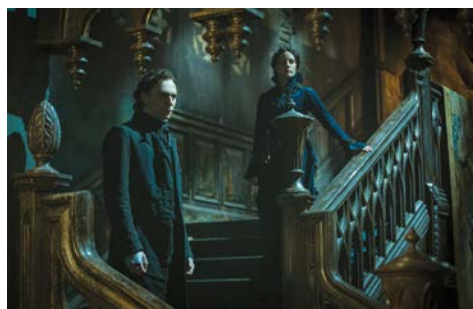
(Jack Whiting)

Wrap up warm and snuggle deep into your chair.

Director: Baltasar Kormákur
Cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Keira Knightley, Robin Wright
Duration: 121 mins
Origin: UK/USA/Iceland
Certificate: 12A
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Thu 17 2.00



Crimson Peak

A deliciously exquisite nightmare; Crimson Peak is Guillermo del Toro returning to his creepy roots.

Mia Wasikowska plays Edith Cushing, a young writer in the turn-of-the-century New England, who allows herself to be wooed by dashing aristocrat Thomas Sharpe (the glorious [and clearly the only next James Bond] Tom Hiddleston). Returning with him to his crumbling Lakeland pile, Edith must face, not only Sharpe's grasping, possibly incestuous sister (the porcelain screen-stealing Jessica Chastain) but also a lurking supernatural presence.

Crimson Peak, del Toro's first English language mystery, borrows its DNA from his Spanish masterpiece: Pan's Labyrinth, although it doesn't work quite as well. Perhaps horror may be the wrong category, and certainly the wrong description, at least in the known sense. Crimson Peak is in keeping with the classic gothic romances of the Brontë sisters, whilst throwing in a good helping of Bram Stoker and Edgar Allan Poe.

However, its aesthetic is the main attraction.

Whereupon, inhaling the fumes of its gorgeous set design, it will cling to your skin. It is enough of a smokescreen to mask the lack of genuine scares predictability cloistered in the narrative. *(research Jack Whiting)* Wow Jack! Come for this and impeccable gothic acting set against del Toro's wild imaginings.

Director: Guillermo del Toro
Cast: Mia Wasikowska, Tom Hiddleston
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures Ltd

When...

Thu 17 7.30



Mississippi Grind

Ryan Reynolds and Ben Mendelsohn shine as they muddle their way through a world of cheap booze and high stakes.

A road-trip roller coaster ride ensues as agonising poker player Gerry (Mendelsohn) and young wanderer Curtis (Reynolds) rumble down south towards New Orleans with hopes of clawing back Gerry's dangerous losses. Tensely played out scenes at the tables provide a certain never-jangling intensity but it is the burgeoning friendship between these two deadbeats that holds all the cards.

Lovers of George Roy Hall's *The Sting* will appreciate subtle nods to the 70s, a period that writer and director Ryan Fleck (*Half Nelson*, *Sugar*) is clearly fond, evident in his loose and unrestrained storytelling, very much a staple of the era. It works surprisingly well in this day and age and provides the platform for a classic A-grade American semi independent motion picture.

"Eschewing familiar vistas, Fleck and Boden take us on a tour of boarded facades and crumbling casinos light-years away from the glamour of Vegas or Atlantic City." (*Guardian*)

"A sweet, shambling, supremely enjoyable road movie about two compulsive gamblers of very different stripes" (*Time Out*) (research Chris Coesee)

It is much more than a 'muddle'. Brilliantly played by real opposites. Come for these two knowing misfits.

Directors: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck
Cast: Ben Mendelsohn, Ryan Reynolds
Duration: 09 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment One UK Ltd

When...

Fri 18 7.30



Polar Express

At its best, Polar Express is a heart-in-the-mouth, fantastical adventure from start to finish; spectacular on the big screen, with a happy ending.

It too has become an essential part of our Christmas programme.

At its worst, little ones (under 7s) will be thrilled but a little frightened by the clever (if weird) realistic detail of the animation.

When a doubting boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole to find Father Christmas, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Polar Express, with its eye-popping, animated photo-realism, tells a touching family story, based upon Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks is the voice (and unfortunate face) of The Conductor who stays in charge, keeps it safe but lets the children make up their own minds about each other. It is an odd, quasi-educational tale of tolerance, discovery and redemption. At times it might be spooky for little ones. But hold them tight and they'll be alright. You might need somebody to hold you too! Remember: every story takes the heroes on adventures, gets them into deep trouble, then gets them out of it again for that happily-ever-after ending.

"The wonder of life never fades for those who believe" Never mind all that, come for the heart stopping ride.

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Voices: Tom Hanks, Andrew Ableson
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2004
Certificate: U
Company: Warner Brothers

When...

Sat 19 2.00

THE ODYSSEY

LONDON ROAD, ST ALBANS

DECEMBER FILMS: 01727 453088

DATE	FILM	TIME
1 TUE	SPECTRE	7.30
2 WED	SUFFRAGETTE	2.00
2 WED	SPECTRE	7.30
3 THU	LEGEND	7.30
4 FRI	THE MARTIAN	7.30
5 SAT	SPECTRE	2.00
5 SAT	BROOKLYN	7.00
6 SUN	THE MARTIAN	1.30
6 SUN	BROOKLYN	6.00
7 MON	BROOKLYN	7.30
8 TUE	CRIMSON PEAK	7.30
9 WED	BROOKLYN	2.00
9 WED	MACBETH	7.30
10 THU	BURNT	7.30
11 FRI	STEVE JOBS	7.30
12 SAT	ELF	2.00
12 SAT	STEVE JOBS	7.00
13 SUN	STEVE JOBS	1.30
13 SUN	THE DRESSMAKER	6.00
14 MON	THE DRESSMAKER	7.30
15 TUE	DIE HARD	7.30
16 WED	STEVE JOBS	2.00, 7.30
17 THU	MISSISSIPPI GRIND	7.30
18 FRI	BLACK MASS	7.30
19 SAT	HOME ALONE	2.00
19 SAT	BLACK MASS	7.00
20 SUN	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	1.30
20 SUN	SPECTRE	6.00
21 MON	A CHRISTMAS CAROL	2.00
21 MON	SPECTRE	7.30
22 TUE	POLAR EXPRESS	2.00
22 TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30
23 WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00, 7.30
24 THU	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25 FRI	CLOSED	
26 SAT	CLOSED	
27 SUN	BRIDGE OF SPIES	6.00
28 MON	SPECTRE	2.00
28 MON	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30
29 TUE	HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2	2.00
29 TUE	WHEN HARRY MET SALLY	7.30
30 WED	HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2	2.00
30 WED	UNTOUCHABLE	7.30
31 THU	THE APARTMENT	5.00

COMING SOON REX

BACK BY DEMAND

BROOKLYN
STEVE JOBS
SUFFRAGETTE
BRIDGE OF SPIES

NEW RELEASES

THE LADY IN THE VAN
CAROL
STAR WARS
THE DANISH GIRL
THE REVENANT



Carol



The Revenant



The Danish Girl



Star Wars: Episode VII

THE-REX

DECEMBER
FILMS:

01442 877759



DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 TUE	SUFFRAGETTE	2.00, 7.30	8
2 WED	SUFFRAGETTE	2.00, 7.30	8
3 THU	SPECTRE	2.00	9
3 THU	SUFFRAGETTE	7.30	8
4 FRI	SPECTRE	7.30	9
5 SAT	PAPER PLANES	2.00	9
5 SAT	REX ANNIVERSARY: LADY IN THE VAN	7.00	10
6 SUN	LADIES IN LAVENDER	6.00	11
7 MON	BURNT	2.00	11
7 MON	LADY IN THE VAN	7.00	10
8 TUE	BROOKLYN	2.00, 7.30	12
9 WED	BROOKLYN	2.00, 7.30	12
10 THU	BROOKLYN	2.00, 7.30	12
11 FRI	STEVE JOBS	7.30	13
12 SAT	THE BIG KNIGHTS	2.00	14
12 SAT	STEVE JOBS	7.00	13
13 SUN	STEVE JOBS	6.00	13
14 MON	STEVE JOBS	2.00	13
14 MON	BLACK SOULS	7.30	14
15 TUE	STEVE JOBS	2.00	13
15 TUE	HE NAMED ME MALALA	7.30	15
16 WED	THE MARTIAN	2.00	15
16 WED	STEVE JOBS	7.30	13
17 THU	EVEREST	2.00	18
17 THU	CRIMSON PEAK	7.30	18
18 FRI	MISSISSIPPI GRIND	7.30	19
19 SAT	POLAR EXPRESS	2.00	19
19 SAT	BLACK MASS	7.00	20
20 SUN	UNDER MILK WOOD	6.00	20
21 MON	SANTA CLAUSE: THE MOVIE	2.00	21
21 MON	THE DRESSMAKER	7.30	21
22 TUE	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	22
22 TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30	23
23 WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00, 7.30	23
24 THU	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	23
25 FRI	CHRISTMAS DAY - CLOSED		
26 SAT	BOXING DAY - CLOSED		
27 SUN	BRIDGE OF SPIES	6.00	24
28 MON	HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2	2.00	25
28 MON	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30	24
29 TUE	SPECTRE	2.00	9
29 TUE	THE DRESSMAKER	7.30	21
30 WED	SINGING IN THE RAIN	2.00	25
30 WED	BROOKLYN	7.30	12
31 THU	UNTOUCHABLE	6.00	26





Black Mass

Johnny Depp loses the hair and dons the shades in this slice of 1970s criminal history. Set in the murky neighbourhood of South Boston, Scott Cooper's crime thriller follows infamous Irish-American gangster James 'Whitey' Bulger (Depp) and his collaboration with the FBI in an attempt to eliminate the threat of the Italian mob. Joel Edgerton plays 'by-any-means-possible' Agent John Connolly whose performance (along with Depp's) supports Cooper's confident direction and is the glue that holds this film firmly together. It's not quite *The Departed*, it's not quite *The Iceman* and it's not quite *American Hustle*. Somewhere in the middle of this macabre triangle is where *Black Mass* finds its home.

A compelling mix-up of a well-trodden formula.

"A big, brash, horribly watchable gangster picture taken from an extraordinary true story and conceived on familiar generic lines." (*Guardian*)

"Johnny Depp is more engaging than he's been in years." (*Time Out*)

"Black Mass is a triumph of sorts for Depp. It shows him tapping a malevolence and cruelty that many fans would never have guessed was in him." (*Independent*) (research Chris Coetsee)

From Edward Scissorhands Johnny D has hardly used his own lovely face. Finding Neverland (2004) plus three others? You guess. Hidden once more to play a bald evil. Don't miss.

Director: Scott Cooper
 Cast: Johnny Depp, Benedict Cumberbatch
 Duration: 123 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Warner Brothers Ents UK Ltd

When...

Sat 19 7.00



Under Milk Wood

Concluding the 100th anniversary celebrations of Dylan Thomas's birth, director Kevin Allen has produced a visually stunning film adaptation of Under Milk Wood – utterly different from the 1972 cult version with Elizabeth Taylor and Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton narrating.

Rhys Ifans has a glorious delivery as the lead narrator, and he also voices blind Captain Cat, a retired old seadog who sees into the inner lives of the sleeping residents of Llareggub "bugger all" backwards. Including Polly Garter, played by the singer Charlotte Church. With pink cheeks, wicked ways and buxom floral blouses, Polly brings the village to a gossiping, gawping standstill, and not just by singing on her doorstep.

"The rollicking, raunchy film of *Under Milk Wood* will not be to everyone's taste, with its focus on the earthier elements of Dylan Thomas's 'play for voices'. Yet the concoction is so entertaining and peculiar that one feels the need to congratulate the director Kevin Allen and say: 'Good on yer, boyo.' How rarely does the cinema reverberate with meaty poetry like this?" (*Times*)

"...this is a film you can watch with your eyes closed and still enjoy." (*Independent*)
 Isn't that how Thomas meant it to be heard...?

Director: Kevin Allen
 Cast: Rhys Ifans, Charlotte Church, Gareth Edwards
 Duration: 87 mins
 Origin: UK 2014
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Metrodome

When...

Sun 20 6.00



Santa Claus: The Movie

A 1985 British/American kids movie starring David Huddleston, Dudley Moore and John Lithgow. It is the last major fantasy film produced by the Paris-based father-and-son production team of Alexander and Ilya Salkind. The film was directed by Jeannot Szwarc and released in North America on November 27, 1985, by TriStar Pictures.

Santa Claus: The Movie is a straight forward attempt to explore the mysteries of Santa Claus with the key objective being to answer some of the basic questions many children have about the Santa Claus myth, such as how Santa's reindeer fly, how he and his wife made it to the North Pole, how Santa ascends chimneys, among other things.

The film chronicles the origins of Santa Claus (David Huddleston) who, along with his wife Anya (Judy Cornwell), goes from being a simple working man to becoming an international icon of Christmas. At the same time, the film also tells a contemporary story in which one of Santa's elves (alternately referred to as the "Vendequum" on screen) a visionary named Patch (Dudley Moore) sets out to employ Santa's toy-making methods on his own, unaware that he might be ruining the magic of Christmas in the process. Sounds fab, come as an elf.

Director: Jeannot Szwarc
 Cast: Dudley Moore, John Lithgow, David Huddleston
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: USA 1985
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus

When...

Mon 21 2.00



The Dressmaker

Kate Winslet stars as a 1950s fashionista out for revenge in Jocelyn Moorhouse's Australian set film.

An adaptation of the novel by Rosalie Ham, glamorous dressmaker Tilly Dunnage (Winslet) returns to her dusty backwater hometown after twenty years. "I'm back, you bastards", she mutters to herself upon arrival. Tilly's dark history is gradually revealed as she confronts indelible historic accusations of having committed murder in childhood. Wiggling around in figure-hugging couture, Tilly proceeds to cause a stir amongst the townsfolk who still despise her. Scores are settled and dresses are made. Liam Hemsworth appears using deep method-acting techniques to get into the roll of buff torsoed, bronzed, waxed and oiled. A whirlwind in both plot and tone, lurching between noir and rom-com, creeping over the bathtub of soapy melodrama and back again. As vibrant as it is schizophrenic, the delicious costumes and coiffures alone are reason enough to endure this batty tale.

"The film-maker's adaptation of author Rosalie Ham's much-loved debut novel of the same name embraces its dark humour and runs with it all the way to the morgue." (*Guardian*)

"Much of it qualifies as a glossy, goofy guilty pleasure." (*Hollywood Reporter*) (research *Emma Filippides*) Even if you've had enough of Kate Winslet, this is fun. So come for fun.

Director: Jocelyn Moorhouse
 Cast: Kate Winslet, Liam Hemsworth
 Duration: 118 mins
 Origin: Australia 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Mon 21 7.30
Tue 29 7.30



Arthur Christmas

Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation team up to present this whimsical, and fabulous festive tale the 'Family Christmas'.

It's the night before Christmas, and the logistical complexity of Father Christmas' (Jim Broadbent) annual trek is laid bare. How DOES he get all those presents to all those children all over the world? Ah ha... His eldest son, technocrat Steve (Hugh Lawrie), runs the entire operation with military precision and a covert army of elves equipped with much high-tech gadgetry. When one present goes astray, youngest son Arthur (James McAvoy) takes it upon himself to ensure that one little girl won't be left out on Christmas morning...

Masterfully written by Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith, and fantastically rendered, Arthur Christmas has much to delight the tiniest to the eldest. "It's playful, observant, sentimental without being slushy, and boasts the kind of jokes that will still sound funny when your children quote them in April." (*Telegraph*)

"Aardman films' yuletide offering is both a heartwarmer and a sly dig at the gospel of family togetherness, a witty wonder of invention." (*Independent*) (*SM*). Watch the elves spring into Mission Impossible stuntmen as a child begins to wake, and make note of Steve Christmas's pompous 'Bake Off' goatee. Don't miss.

Director: Sarah Smith
Voices: James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent,
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2011
Certificate: U
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Tue 22 2.00



A
 VERY
 HAPPY
 CHRISTMAS
 FROM
 US ALL
 AT
 THE-REX





It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our Eleventh Anniversary Christmas, ten + one, with the same old irresistible film we've been showing since the Rex re-opened in December 2004.

It was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946. After the war, the USA celebrated the brave new world with fashion, cars and fridges. We had bombed sites, functional clothes, cold water, rations, war debts and the grey 1950's but with essential, fabulous and much missed city trams.

It became essential TV viewing in the UK during the mid 70s, so a new part of Christmas itself. You couldn't see it at the pictures until independents got it re-released eighteen years ago. Now thanks to the BFI, this beautifully restored digital copy, is here again at the beautiful mechanically restored Rex and Odyssey for Christmas 2015.

Our cinema Christmas now would not be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how terrible life would be in Bedford Falls if he had not been born. The simplest and best of all messages... Without each other... etc.

We wish you a warm Christmas from all of us at the Rex and Odyssey. Have fun, go easy and here's to a Clarence... for our grandchildren.



Director: Frank Capra
Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Ward Bond and Clarence
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
Certificate: U
Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Tue 22	7.30
Wed 23	2.00, 7.30
Thur 24	5.00





Director: Steven Spielberg
 Cast: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance
 Duration: 141 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

Bridge Of Spies

In 1957, the US and Soviet Union were in the height of the Cold War. But this was not a war filled with bloodshed and trenches; this was a war of spies. Both sides employed spies to report on the nuclear capabilities of the other, and this is where the film begins.

We meet James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks) a lawyer who is recruited by the CIA to defend a Soviet spy, Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance) much to the dismay of his family and his country. But as the court case is coming along, it becomes compromised by an international exchange deal. The Soviet Abel for a US spy-plane pilot, Gary Powers, recently shot down by the Russians. This is the latest in a run of collaborations between Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, beginning with *Saving Private Ryan* in 1998. This new film does not disappoint, with some saying it is their best partnership yet.

"Bridge of Spies connects Cold War paranoia to today's terror. A bridge worth building." (*LA Weekly*) 'Who doesn't like to cozy up to an old-school spy thriller that knows how to build tension and tighten it?' (*Rolling Stone*) (research Matt Snowden) Tom Hanks has become Mr Christmas!

When...

Sun 27 6.00
Mon 28 7.30



Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2

Bleak and unrelenting in its tone and visuals; the final (final) part of this consistently brilliant series is heavy going, but utterly satisfying.

This new last film starts with a traumatised Katniss Everdeen with her neck in a brace and barely able to speak. To compound her misery, her beloved Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) has been tortured and brainwashed by President Snow (Donald Sutherland on fine Machiavellian form) into believing she is a monster. She is not sure that he is far wrong. Together with Gale (Liam Hemsworth), and others, Katniss ventures to the Capitol. She is supposed to be part of the propaganda drive by the rebels as they seek to liberate the citizens of Panem, but her real intention is to make Snow pay in person for all the suffering she has endured.

It's all doom and gloom, with little in the way of the kitsch elements that made the first two films so endearing (no games here, just war). Still, Lawrence is just as captivating and Philip Seymour Hoffman too, gives a touching final screen performance.

Sadly, he died in February last year. (*research Jack Whiting*) Reminding us how long it takes to milk a release date.

Director: Francis Lawrence
Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate UK Ltd



Singing In The Rain

This is one film we cannot resist. Whistle it in the street and we'll screen it!

The tale begins in 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent silver screen. Off screen, Don, aided by Cosmo Brown (the brilliant Donald O'Connor) has to dodge Lina's romantic overtures especially when he falls for chorus girl Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds).

With the advent of the 'Talkies', Don and Lina's new film will be all singing, dancing and... talking! Unfortunately, Lina's voice would scrape a blackboard and give Kate Bush a run for her money. Kathy is hired in secret to dub-voice for Lina off screen. Don goes off splashing in the street, so making B-Movie Musical history. But when Lina finds out, run for cover. Come for show-stealer, Lina and Gene's big splash dance, where milk was added to the rain so cameras could pick up the downpour in detail, and Gene had the flu! One take with at least three rehearsals, Ouch! Most of all you'll be here for the fabulous Donald O'Connor's unequalled screen masterpiece "Make 'em Laugh" (one-take). What greater celebration of family cinema at Christmas. An irresistible 1952 classic in colour, and firm Rex favourite.

Director: Gene Kelly
Cast: Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1952
Certificate: U
Company: British Film Institute

When...

Mon 28 2.00

When...

Wed 30 2.00



Untouchable

Here to send you into the New year uplifted, this fabulous heartwarming treat of a film. A huge hit in France, now around the world, and at the Rex where it has run and run.

The film chronicles the unlikely burgeoning friendship between Philippe (Cluzet) a wealthy and cultured quadriplegic, and Driss (Omar Sy) a young banlieue ('Projects') dwelling French West African hired to be his live-in carer.

It is routine 'odd-couple shtick' but it works gloriously, simultaneously wry and tender hearted. Perhaps inevitably, Philippe and Driss quickly disregard the cosmic differences between them to reveal more about themselves in the process. Philippe's reluctant romantic involvement with his pen-friend; Driss with his flirtatious, mischievous ways and his deep rooted family concerns.

"A charming, uplifting French drama, an irreverent, humorous take on disability, closely drawn from real-life." (*Guardian*)

"Untouchable's moral is conservative optimism: give a man responsibility and he will act responsibly? Not a film to change the world, but will charm it." (*Telegraph*).

From its opening ambiguity, it draws you in, teasing an uncertain tension, before you fall in love with them. Only the French seem to be able to make these films, certainly we can't. The perfect film to end the year with a little hope in our hearts.

Directors: Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache
Cast: François Cluzet, Omar Sy
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: France 2011
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Thu 31 6.00



A
 VERY
 HAPPY
 NEW YEAR
 FROM
 US ALL
 AT
 THE-REX

2015 and all this and that. The Rex is 11...

Depending on your idea of fun, this has certainly been a fun year. Personally, there have been things we could have done without. But then, we've all had the same ups and downs. I hope your ups at the Rex and at home for that matter, have been more up than down. But as we know, the balance is always with the other end of the seesaw.

The Rex has had great 11th year, even with the Odyssey's opening, little has daunted you from the door. Well done and thank you. The programme has remained easy to fill with increasingly Hollywood challenging films from across the world. Although a fair few noisy, blockbustery things got through this year. But some real treasures you have picked through and found hidden on Monday evenings plus other days of the week. World/independent films

have proven to be and remain our best evenings. The applause is all yours.

The Odyssey too thrives. Despite a first year with work still going on all around them, audiences are coming in their thousands a week, without complaint, to be part an independent cinema programme started at the Rex eleven years ago.

Alternatively, I am accused of a disputed trace in an on-going asbestos debacle. I'll keep you up with this in a few weeks when I'm allowed to speak. Added to which, we're still in serious talks with all parties involved in the restoration of the old Odeon. All will be resolved one way or another. You will hear it here and there. I tempt you to trust any other source but here. Do by all means, but it wont be as straight as you will hear it here.

The Rex picture celebrating our 11th anniversary (p10) and this one of the Rising Sun on the Grand Union canal are taken from Mary Casserley's latest collection of wonderful local images. She revisits a classic era of Railway poster design, recreated in the vibrant tones of 1930's travel art. All pics and cards are available from Berkhamsted Imaging on the High St. See her website www.marycasserley.com



Speaking of which, we are still here. But here are some fabulous starry old buggers who left early.

'He's gone Jack' in 2015...

Maureen O'Hara made it to 95

Wes Craven made 76

Alex Rocco (Moe Green in *The Godfather* "I made my bones when you were going out with cheerleaders") made 79

Omar Sharif of the gorgeous *Sherif Ali* (Lawrence 1962) made 83

Christopher Lee made 93

BB King played his last riff in his sleep made 89

Ben E King saved his last dance till he made 76

Leonard Nimoy made 83 with a great head of hair

Brian Sewell eternally posh and beautiful made 84
His most enduring, not so endearing line (still hanging above my desk) was bestowed on an 'artist' he credited... "Predatory, Syphilitic and Inconsequential"



Brian Sewell

For now, we wish you all you wish yourselves for Christmas alongside the brave and challenging New Year ahead. Keep up and stay close.

With love from your dream-makers here at the Rex.
James Hannaway



The Humphrey Lyttelton Band, back at The Rex Saturday 31st October, hosted by Andy Hamilton (above.)

