

THE R

P R O G R A M

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

DECEMBER 2016

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

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

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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Rants & Pants 26-27

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30
Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

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Concessions	£7.50
Table	£11.00
Concessions	£9.50
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Whole Royal Box	£73.00
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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)

BEST IN DECEMBER



It's A Wonderful Life

It's not Christmas without George Bailey and Clarence (Angel 2nd class)
See page 22

FILMS OF THE MONTH



The Light Between Oceans

An unashamed heartstring tugging weepie. Come prepared.
See page 12



Paterson

Driver drives the Paterson bus in Paterson. A poetic beauty.
See page 15



Starfish

More Christmas heartstrings to tug on. This one really hurts.
See page 18



Love Actually

Possibly the worst film ever. It doesn't have to wait for Christmas.
See page 21



DECEMBER FILMS



Bridget Jones's Baby

Another in a long line of turn of the century comebacks, Bridget Jones's third and probably final outing is surprisingly, okay.

We encounter Bridget this time alone, single, and being woken up on her 43rd birthday. Twelve years hasn't dulled Rene Zellweger's lovely beaming face. Bridget is working on a television news show now being overtaken by cock sure, mouthy, ambitious Northern young-woman culture, with 'ironic-bearded' hipster entourage. She's back to square one still scribbling in her diary a decade on, and once more she's stuck. Déjà vu? Yep, that's the point. Bridget and Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) have been apart for five years, (Hugh Grant is absent) but just as the title suggests, this is about Bridget and her rather unexpected baby, conceived after either a one-nighter with the American entrepreneur she meets at a festival or a 'last' one-off with Mr Darcy at a christening.

Emma Thompson as Bridget's doctor shamelessly steals every scene, but she does have the best one-liners, most memorably as she turfs them from the delivery room, telling of her husband's description at her own birthing moment: "like watching his favourite pub burn down" (*research Jack Whiting*) Come expecting... it to be fun. It is.

Directors: Sharon Maguire
Cast: Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, Patrick Dempsey
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: UK/Ireland/France/USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal

When...

Thu 1 2.00, 7.30



Jack Reacher: Never Go Back

Never give in, never give up, never go back. Tom Cruise returns as Jack Reacher in this action thriller sequel, adapted from Lee Child's bestselling novel Never Go Back.

It is four years since Cruise first suited up as vigilante military officer Jack Reacher. This is the second incarnation of the spy v spy action franchise, written and directed by Edward Zwick (Blood Diamond).

"Two things are going to happen in the next 90 seconds," Cruise informs two the sheriffs in front of him. "First, that phone over there is going to ring. Second ... you're going to be wearing those cuffs on your way out." (Guess what happens?)

Jack springs into action as he returns to Virginia to meet army major Susan Turner (Cobie Smulders of Marvel's Avengers), who has vanished inexplicably from her post and thrown in prison. Suspecting foul play in her arrest, Jack embarks on a mission to prove her innocence. After dodging the dodgy the law, Reacher must now go on the lam to uncover the 'truth' behind this (pre-Trumpian) government conspiracy.

"Reacher has re-started his revenge rampage without skipping a beat" (*Rolling Stone*) It's Big Tom, what can go wrong...?

Director: Edward Zwick
Cast: Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Danika Yarosh, Aldis Hodge
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 12A
Company: Paramount Pictures

When...

Fri 2 7.30



Swallows and Amazons

Arthur Ransome's beloved tales recounting childhood adventures are told anew on the big screen. The twelve books were named after the title of the first one in the series and set between the two World Wars. Despite some deviations from the original plot, including the addition of heavily overcoated spies, the children, all non-actors, are perfectly cast. The Lake District is perfect in all its casual beauty, serving to remind us of us of our love for 'trees and hills and streams'.

As for simple penknife and string adventures, this is a delicious idyll set in what we imagine as a time of genuine innocence.

"A good-natured, if self-conscious period adaptation that grafts on a new grownup plotline with dastardly spies" (*Guardian*)

"There's a period-appropriate honesty to it, easily mistaken at first for earnestness or nostalgia. It stands apart from any other family film you'll see this year" (*Telegraph*)

Much of it was filmed on the breathtakingly beautiful Derwent Water at Keswick, where the personally very special 'Cat Bells' ridge can be clearly seen in many background shots (and on Sept's Rex cover). I will cherish it forever. The film will show again and again. So come again and again.

Director: Philippa Lowthorpe
Cast: Rafe Spall, Kelly Macdonald, Andrew Scott
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2016
Certificate: PG
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Sat 3 2.00



The Girl On The Train

Adapted from Paula Hawkins' bestselling (ridiculous) British phenomenon.

The 'Girl' is Rachel (the mesmerizing, tearful throughout, Emily Blunt) a miserable, alcoholic divorcee who gazes at the same house twice a day commuting along the picturesque New York State Metro-North line into Manhattan.

Her train passes through the leafy, upmarket suburb where Anna (Rebecca Ferguson) is now raising a child with Rachel's ex-husband. Averting her gaze from her former home, she fixates on a neighbouring house whose glamorous inhabitants (Megan & Scott) seem to be staging theatrical thrills for her passing pleasure. Rachel imagines the couple existing in perpetual filth, until she glimpses something to cut her fantasy dead. When the alluring Megan (Haley Bennett) goes missing, Rachel, though plagued by blackouts, believes she knows something about it. But what of Rachel's own lapses of memory? Another dirty little secret? (*research Emma Filippides*)

"It is polite when it should be wicked. It's a melodrama that thinks it's saving lives on too much chardonnay and convinced itself since Gone Girl almost got an Oscar, maybe it can too" (*MTV*)
 Oh dear. Already knickers in a twist...
 Contrived, fabulous or all over the place? You decide.

Director: Tate Taylor
Cast: Emily Blunt, Haley Bennett.
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Sat 3 7.00



Inferno

And it's off again with (the savior of any bad script) Tom Hanks, for a third time, as he traipses around yet more glitzy European cities with yet another unfathomably gorgeous creature (Is Tom the real 1970's Dr Who?)

Dr. Langdon (Hanks) wakes up in a Florentine hospital with a head injury and amnesia. Not only will he have to piece together the coming puzzle in his usual way but his own role in it from the shattered remains of his memory. Billionaire Bertrand Zobrist (a ridiculously miscast Ben Foster) believes that the thinning-out process caused by the Black Death gave humanity the breathing space to create the Renaissance. So, decides in true Trumpian fashion to cull half the known population. But does he just detonate? Lord no. He hides the 'nasty' before exiting, leaving a trail of clues embedded in Botticelli's Dante's Inferno.

The success of Dan Brown's fun-Catholic (is that contradictory?) novels is a mystery to decipher in itself, yet director Ron Howard has, from some Catechism-like duty, returned a third time to complete this wobbly Da Vinci trilogy. Felicity Jones doesn't get much to do other than hold Tom's hand. Dr Trump Who indeed...

Director: Ron Howard
 Cast: Tom Hanks, Felicity Jones, Ben Foster
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: USA/Japan/Turkey/Hungary 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Sony Pictures

When...

Sun 4 6.00
Mon 5 2.00



Illustration Mary Casserley

ANNIVERSARY EVENT

It may well be Oscar material, but won't be a freaky new-clothes contender, like a string of A-listers pretending to be Bob Dylan.

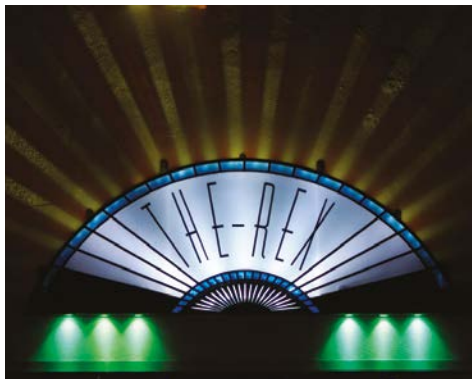
It will always be hard to beat *The King's Speech* and *Slumdog Millionaire* (with personal congratulations from Danny Boyle and his Oscar winning Sound Designer, Glen Freemantle at the Rex) Then there was *The History Boys* in 2006. It wasn't quite a preview, but Alan Bennett came instead, as he did for *The Lady In The Van* last year!

Our first sensational preview in 2004 was George Clooney's directorial debut and multi Oscar winner: *Goodnight and Goodluck*, which, in the light (or dark) of Trump, we should show again. Come all the same, and take that chance. The Rex is here and you're welcome, no matter what.

STOP PRESS: just in on deadline. *SULLY* has been confirmed as our (not quite) preview. So if you want to be here tonight, don't book it on 30th!

When...

Mon 5 7.30





The Light Between Oceans

Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander shine through this cloudy period piece.

In 1919, embittered WWI survivor Tom (Fassbender) takes a job manning a lighthouse on the isolated, wind-battered Australian island of Janus. A harrowed and drawn figure, he yearns to escape from the clutches of war-torn civilisation and finds comfort in the arms of local beauty Isabel (Vikander).

Following two devastating miscarriages, the couple are stunned when a small boat washes ashore, with a baby on board. They decide to secretly raise the child as their own and tell no-one. But when, a few years later, a sorrowful Rachel Weisz appears to mourn at the grave of her husband and baby who disappeared at sea, a guilt-stricken Tom must decide between what he feels is right and the family he loves and has always wanted. If you're in just the right mood for a good old-fashioned weepy, this is the December melodrama for you. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

"It almost has a Mills & Boon quality, but it's very nice to look at and Fassbender and Vikander are most convincing as the doomed lovers." (*Independent*) Well if that doesn't damn it with the full kibosh, little else will.

Director: Derek Cianfrance
 Cast: Alicia Vikander, Michael Fassbender, Rachel Weisz
 Duration: 133 mins
 Origin: UK/New Zealand/USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One UK

When...

Tue 6 2.00, 7.30
Wed 7 2.00, 7.30
Thur 8 2.00



The Accountant

Can you tell me what the square root of A Beautiful Mind is; or Jason Bourne? This is an inconsistent sexy spy double entry logarithm tax-dodge action thriller.

Ben Affleck plays Christian Wolf, a high functioning mathematics genius with supposed Autism; we know this because he wears glasses and writes his equations on windowpanes. Yet he can also give Bourne a run for his money in the fisticuffs, gun-toting, aside the double-entry depts. Once in a while he gets a call from a mysterious woman for his next assignment, forensic auditing for drug lords, a hit for the Gambino family, or just plain cooking the books. His tacit longing to connect with Dana (Anna Kendrick) the lowly assistant who spotted something odd in the books of his latest client, spills out in a brief spurt of impenetrable data analysis (much like this last sentence, if it has been one). Yes, you got it. They're soon on the run from the inevitable gun toting meanies. Wolf was the victim of a military father unwilling to let his son be a 'freak'. So naturally, he trained the boy as a killing machine. (*Jack Whiting*) It is not the same old tedious see-it-coming story at all...

Director: Gavin O'Connor
 Cast: Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick, J. K. Simmons
 Duration: 128 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Warner Brothers

When... Fri 9 7.30
Thu 8 7.30 Thu 15 2.00



Miracle on 34th Street

This is the film twenty-somethings, now 30-ish, long for at Christmas.

Perhaps as little kids they watched it on telly and were lucky enough to be wrapped in warm snugly jimmi-jams and tucked into each other.

Today you are transported back to that one moment when the whole world stopped for a tiny euphoric hour or so. Enough to catch your breath in that precious joy of a child's Christmas. You might not come in your jimmi-jams but you are welcome to snuggle up together.

Very loyal to the original the 1947 classic with few changes, it is transplanted to 1990s 34th Street. Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) is chief executive of New York's world famous Macy's. Neither her nor her petulant daughter Susan (Mara Wilson) believe Christmas nonsense. That is until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all Santas. My daughters, even now, believe he IS Father Christmas!) He does such a convincing job... watch out.

Those who remember the original may prefer Edmund Gwenn's 1947 b&w Kris Kringle (perhaps next year, at 70?). This has enough spirit of its own to suggest there might well be a Father Christmas afterall... xxx

Director: Les Mayfield
 Cast: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott
 Duration: 114 mins
 Origin: USA 1994
 Certificate: U
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When... Sat 10 2.00



Director: Scott Derrickson
 Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton, Chiwetel Ejiofor
 Duration: 115 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Walt Disney Int'l

When...

Sat 10	7.00
Sun 11	6.00
Mon 12	2.00, 7.30

Doctor Strange

Usually I'd sniff at the overuse of visual effects but in Doctor Strange, the latest and mind-altering outing in the ever-expanding Marvel universe, it's okay. Our very own Benedict Cumberbatch is Stephen Strange, a brilliant neurosurgeon (they're all brilliant, aren't they?) whose delicate hands are irreparably broken when his car careens off the road. Understandably miffed (not even the lovely Rachel McAdams can make him see reason) he learns about an 'experimental' treatment that could save his fingers. So, to Nepal, where he meets the Ancient One (Tilda the-ancient-magnificent Swinton), who, instead of curing, teaches him how to use mystical arts (basic fairy tale spells) in the hope of defending us from a baddie, modelling all Boots' heavy eye shadow dept at once: a mad Mads Mikkelsen. The trippy, kaleidoscopic visuals allow Cumberbatch to throttle through alternate realms, escape his own body, and even reverse time through an amulet around his neck. It's a groovy way to introduce another superhero to the stable, and for all the scary, real-life events going on right now, it's just what the strange doctor ordered. (*research Jack Whiting*) "It's like travelling 900 trillion miles, to find you forgot the tin opener..." (*CLST Culture*)



Ethel & Ernest

Those waiting thirty years for the next adaptation of one of Raymond Briggs (Father Christmas, The Snowman) gorgeous books need not fear. Ethel & Ernest has arrived.

This is Briggs' own story and storytelling of his parents. His beautiful, timeless illustrations and warmth capture it all, and will, you. Charming, nostalgic, never cloying, *Ethel & Ernest* is a loving tribute to their lives and 41-year marriage. The film's unapologetically retro 2D animation style fits well, within a modest budget, by today's rushed standards. It's the 2nd World War and we meet milkman Ernest (Jim Broadbent) and housemaid Ethel (Brenda Blethyn) who waves her duster at him every day as he goes past. He's a chipper, respectable working-class lad with a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step, a worker's supporter who takes a moderate interest in politics. She's a house-proud would-be mother with a warm heart and modest aspirations.

This proves to be a quietly moving tribute to a once real-life couple who are as extraordinary as everybody was in that forever lost, slow, ordinary time. (*research Jack Whiting*) Come and see, before divorce was ordinary and this stinking, all-controlling icloud, relentlessly divorcing us from the last 30 seconds, wasn't even a twinkle.

Director: Roger Mainwood.
Cast: Jim Broadbent, Brenda Blethyn, Luke Treadaway
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2016
Certificate: PG
Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Tue 13

2.00, 7.30



Paterson

Paterson (Adam Driver) is a bus driver in the city of Paterson, New Jersey. Every day, he sticks to a simple routine: he drives his daily route, observing the city as it passes across his windscreen, overhearing fragments swirling behind him. He writes in a notebook; walks his dog; stops in a bar and drinks exactly one beer before he goes home to his wife, Laura (Golshifteh Farahani). By contrast, Laura's world is ever changing. New dreams come to her almost daily. He supports her various newfound ambitions while she champions his gift for poetry. The film quietly observes the triumphs and defeats of daily life, while Paterson's poetry articulates its minute details.

Jim Jarmusch's (I met him at Cannes when he was leaving the late night beach party I was crashing. He was with some beauty. In no hurry, we talked for a while. Instead of offering her, he gave me his pass. 2005 was pre-wrist bands) latest narrative is a poetic play on nostalgic American suburbia, Paterson makes the quiet, contained life of its hero wistfully appealing.

"A lovely fable about the fragile, fruitful and occasionally fraught relationship between creativity and everyday life." (*Time Out*) (*research Emma Filippides*) Don't miss.

Director: Jim Jarmusch
Voices: Adam Driver, Golshifteh Farahani
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: France/Germany/USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Soda Pictures

When...

Wed 14

2.00, 7.30

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB
NOCTURNAL ANIMALS
FANTASTIC BEASTS
HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE
THE FENCER

NEW RELEASES

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA
A UNITED KINGDOM
STARS WARS ROGUE 1
LA LA LAND



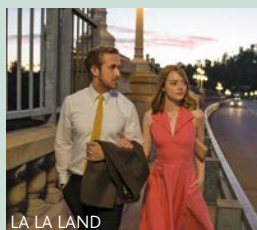
MANCHESTER BY THE SEA



A UNITED KINGDOM



STAR WARS ROGUE ONE



LA LA LAND



THE ODYSSEY

C I N E M A S T A L B A N S

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

DECEMBER	FILM	TIME
1 THU	BRIDGET JONES'S BABY	2.00, 7.30
2 FRI	BRIDGET JONES'S BABY	7.30
3 SAT	TROLLS	2.00
3 SAT	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	7.00
4 SUN	BRIDGET JONES'S BABY	1.00
4 SUN	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	5.00
5 MON	THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN	12.30, 7.30
6 TUE	I, DANIEL BLAKE	12.30, 7.30
7 WED	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	2.00
7 WED	HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE	7.30
8 THU	DOCTOR STRANGE	2.00, 7.30
9 FRI	DOCTOR STRANGE	7.30
10 SAT	PADDINGTON	2.00
10 SAT	DOCTOR STRANGE	7.00
11 SUN	DOCTOR STRANGE	1.00
11 SUN	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	5.00
12 MON	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12.30, 7.30
13 TUE	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12.30, 7.30
14 WED	THE ACCOUNTANT	2.00, 7.30
15 THU	THE ACCOUNTANT	2.00, 7.30
16 FRI	DIE HARD	7.30
17 SAT	GREMLINS	2.00
17 SAT	ARRIVAL	7.00
18 SUN	ETHEL & ERNEST	1.00
18 SUN	LOVE ACTUALLY	5.00
19 MON	LOVE ACTUALLY	2.00
19 MON	ETHEL & ERNEST	7.30
20 TUE	A STREETCAT NAMED BOB	2.00, 7.30
21 WED	THE POLAR EXPRESS	11.00
21 WED	A STREETCAT NAMED BOB	3.00
21 WED	HOME ALONE	7.30
22 THU	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	11.00
22 THU	ELF	3.00
22 THU	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30
23 FRI	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30
24 SAT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25 SUN	CLOSED – MERRY CHRISTMAS!	
26 MON	CLOSED – BOXING DAY	
27 TUE	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00
27 TUE	MUM'S LIST	7.30
28 WED	FROZEN SINGALONG	11.00
28 WED	FANTASTIC BEASTS	3.00, 7.30
29 THU	DOCTOR STRANGE	11.00
29 THU	OLIVER!	3.00
29 THU	ALLIED	7.30
30 FRI	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00, 7.30
31 SAT	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	5.00

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

01442
877759



DECEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 THU	BRIDGET JONES'S BABY	2.00, 7.30	8
2 FRI	JACK REACHER-NEVER GO BACK	7.30	8
3 SAT	SWALLOWS & AMAZONS	2.00	9
3 SAT	THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN	7.00	9
4 SUN	INFERNO	6.00	10
5 MON	INFERNO	2.00	10
5 MON	THE REX 12TH ANNIVERSARY! SURPRISE SCREENING	7.30	11
6 TUE	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	2.00, 7.30	12
7 WED	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	2.00, 7.30	12
8 THU	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	2.00	12
8 THU	THE ACCOUNTANT	7.30	13
9 FRI	THE ACCOUNTANT	7.30	13
10 SAT	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	2.00	13
10 SAT	DOCTOR STRANGE	7.00	14
11 SUN	DOCTOR STRANGE	6.00	14
12 MON	DOCTOR STRANGE	2.00, 7.30	14
13 TUE	ETHEL AND ERNEST	2.00, 7.30	15
14 WED	PATERSON	2.00, 7.30	15
15 THU	THE ACCOUNTANT	2.00	13
15 THU	STARFISH	7.30	18
16 FRI	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	7.30	18
17 SAT	ELF	2.00	19
17 SAT	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	7.00	18
18 SUN	WHITE CHRISTMAS	6.00	19
19 MON	WHITE CHRISTMAS	2.00	19
19 MON	A STREET CAT NAMED BOB	7.30	20
20 TUE	A STREET CAT NAMED BOB	2.00	20
20 TUE	ARRIVAL	7.30	20
21 WED	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	21
21 WED	LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30	21
22 THU	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00, 7.30	22
23 FRI	THE POLAR EXPRESS	2.00	22
23 FRI	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30	22
24 SAT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	22
25 SUN	CLOSED (MERRY CHRISTMAS!)		
26 MON	CLOSED		
27 TUE	FANTASTIC BEASTS	5.00	23
28 WED	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	23
28 WED	ALLIED	7.30	24
29 THU	SOME LIKE IT HOT	2.00	24
29 THU	ALLIED	7.30	24
30 FRI	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	23
30 FRI	SULLY	7.30	25
31 SAT	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	6.00	25

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

THE FENCER

A STREET CAT NAMED BOB

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

HUNT FOR THE

WILDERPEOPLE

FANTASTIC BEASTS

NEW RELEASES

A UNITED KINGDOM

STARS WARS ROGUE ONE

LA LA LAND

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

A UNITED KINGDOM



STAR WARS ROGUE ONE



LA LA LAND



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA



Starfish

This heart-wrenching drama follows the lives of a married couple as their comfortable life is overturned. Tom Ray, a young father from Rutland, was unsuspecting as he contracted a rare form of septicaemia, that days later would result in facial disfigurement and amputation of both his arms and legs. Although the drama follows the 9 months Tom spent in hospital, it is as much of a love-story as it is a medical drama. In 1999 when disaster first struck, Tom's loving wife Nicola was days from giving birth to their second child, and going through it while her husband was in a coma next door!

This marital endurance is played and nicely understated by Tom Riley and Joanne Froggatt. Now aged 54, Tom is revisiting the darkness of past experiences through *Starfish* to raise awareness of septicaemia, and the devastating affect it has on over 150,000 people a year.

"A more sophisticated and complex film might well have failed to approach the painful realness of this story" (*Guardian*)

"Because I've been able to preserve this relationship, I still feel like the luckiest guy in the world" (*Tom Ray, speaking about Nicola in 2016*). (*research Grace Atkins*) How can you live as just a torso...?

Director: Bill Clark
 Cast: Joanne Froggatt, Tom Riley, Michele Dotrice
 Duration: 95 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Genesius Pictures

When...

Thu 15 7.30



Nocturnal Animals

Designer-turned-director Tom Ford's second cinematic outing is a devilishly dark thriller as shocking as it is sublime. Successful yet lonely art gallery owner Susan (Amy Adams) sees her failing marriage and mundane home life thrown into further dismay when she unexpectedly receives a personally dedicated manuscript from former flame Edward (Jake Gyllenhaal). Initially intrigued, she sets about reading the book but as she delves deeper into its pages, she soon becomes paranoid that the shockingly violent story is actually a veiled and vengeful threat. A winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2016 Venice International Film Festival, *Nocturnal Animals* boldly pushes the boundaries of story-telling, vividly depicting events in such a way that this format deserves and yet so rarely sees. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

"A skilful synthesis of the mood of Hitchcock, the skewed reality of Lynch and Kubrick's obsessive attention to detail" (*Observer*)

"One of the most brutal and intelligent nerve-jangling thrillers of 2016." (*Radio Times*)

"This is a superb movie, one which is bound to pick up awards and to confirm Ford's position as every bit an important figure in cinema as in fashion." (*Independent*) Style over all else? Come and see.

Director: Tom Ford
 Cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Amy Adams
 Duration: 117 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Fri 16 7.30
Sat 17 7.00



Elf

One Christmas Eve a small baby at an orphanage crawls into Santa's bag of toys, only to be accidentally carried back to Santa's workshop at the North Pole. Although he is raised to be an elf, as he grows to be ten times bigger than everyone else it becomes clear that Buddy (Ferrell) will never truly fit into the elf world. One Christmas, Buddy finally decides to find his real family, and sets off for New York City to track down his roots, but soon finds himself as much an outsider there as back at the North Pole. In fact, everyone in New York seems to have forgotten the true spirit of Christmas time. So Buddy takes it upon himself to win over his family, realise his destiny, and save Christmas. Another family delight with Will Ferrell gangling in every direction to make the whole film into fabulous chaos. Very silly and very funny, and somehow the things he does are funnier every 20th time you watch it. Don't dare miss this fabulously silly Christmas treat, this year, at both the Rex and Odyssey.

Director: Jon Favreau
 Cast: Will Ferrell, James Caan
 Duration: 97 mins
 Origin: USA 2003
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Entertainment Film Distributors

When...

Sat 17 2.00



White Christmas

This stunning restoration is a reminder that the BFI is committed to a restoration programme to continue you to transform old endangered 35mm film stock into brand new digital movies.

White Christmas is a treasure trove of Irving Berlin classics: 'Sisters', 'Blue Skies', and 'White Christmas'. Two song-and-dance men (Crosby and Kaye, actually only one, Bing can't dance) team up after the war to become one of the hottest acts in show business. One winter, after joining forces with a sister act (Gorgeous George's aunt, Rosemary Clooney and the stunning Vera Ellen) they travel to Vermont for Christmas. The real 'adventure' starts when the 'boys' discover the run-down Inn belongs to their old army general. The result is shmaltzy, and unashamedly sentimental, a perennial Christmas favourite with a longevity unlikely to fade. The 1950s was America's boom decade. It must have been a fabulous time to be there: Bogart, Brando, Dean and Doris Day; the cars, the romance, the Technicolor, with Ella and Sinatra in their prime... and every home (in the movies) had a piano and a fridge while we were still rationing carrots and living in forty shades of grey (without the smut and fun) enjoying scrubbed necks goose grease! Happy Christmas.

Director: Michael Curtiz
 Cast: Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Ellen
 Duration: 120 mins
 Origin: USA 1954
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Sun 18 6.00
Mon 19 2.00



A Street Cat Named Bob

Based on a life-altering story, and best selling novel *A Street Cat Named Bob* tells the true story of a homeless busker and his feline friend. James Bowen is a recovering drug addict living in sheltered accommodation when an injured cat hobbles into his life. After nursing the cat, he inventively names Bob, back to health, the pair become inseparable, and this heart-warming tale ensues. Be it sleeping rough or busking in Covent Garden, the furry companion is right by Bowen's side (perched on his shoulder). The rags-to-riches tale of second chances is one often told, but the unlikely hero of Bob saves this film from being a clichéd catastrophe. It might not be the most sophisticated choice, but it's family-friendly, festive, and infectiously enjoyable. Besides, is there any combination more perfect the long locks of Luke Treadaway and a sidekick cat? (research *Grace Atkins*) Affogato, Grace?

"Bob powers the film's cuteness quotient and extracts laughs with whisker-fine precision" (*Telegraph*)

"Their bond is the story's heartbeat" (*Hollywood Reporter*)

Bob is real and this is the real Bob! (Odyssey Anna used to run into him in Camden from time to time).

Director: Roger Spottiswoode
 Cast: Luke Treadaway, Joanne Froggatt
 Duration: 103 mins
 Origin: UK 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Mon 19 7.30
Tue 20 2.00



Arrival

A methodical antithesis to *Independence Day's* flag-waving, fist-pumping bravado, Denis Villeneuve's slick sci-fi opus is a true thinking man's alien invasion.

As Jóhann Jóhannsson's ethereal score swells, we're introduced to our mysterious visitors via black, pebble-like spacecraft that begin to descend upon various locations around the globe. Including Devon (which we never see: they couldn't afford the glorious panoramic shots) The US military enlists Dr. Louise Banks (Amy Adams) an expert linguist, to travel to one: rural Montana. Where they need someone who can work out how to ask the aliens why they're here, and understand the answer. Dr. Banks flickers between fear and intellectual curiosity. Her half-swallowed question sets the tone precisely and thrillingly for what's ahead. It's not the otherworldly beings that give us the chills, but the way in which our own nations handle each arrival differently. In the light (or darkness) of November's debacle, it makes for hauntingly immediate and relevant viewing.

I don't want to toot its horn, but *Arrival* might well belong in the same sci-fi pantheon as *2001*, *Close Encounters*, and *Solaris*; as far as ambition goes at least, it's certainly not too soon to call it a modern masterpiece. *Blade Runner 2049* is in safe hands. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Denis Villeneuve
 Cast: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker
 Duration: 116 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One UK

When...

Tue 20 7.30



Arthur Christmas

Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation team up to present this whimsical, and fabulous festive tale of 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 will not 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*)

Watch the elves spring into Mission Impossible stuntmen as a child begins to wake, and make note of Steve Christmas's 'Bake Off' goatee.

Director: Sarah Smith
Voices: James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2011
Certificate: U
Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Wed 21 2.00



Love Actually

This very silly tale has been requested by our own very silly youngsters. So here it is; one more nail in the Christmas coffin. Don't call the Samaritans.

If this doesn't tip you over the edge, you're safe for another year.

Richard Curtis has dragged all his old mates plus a few new faces into this award winning farce.

Hugh Grant would never have got the job as Prime Minister in Harold Wilson's day. Here, Hugh is in love with his tea lady, while Harold allegedly preferred the designer of his mac. I'm with Mr Wilson.

Anyone can make tea, but a woman who knows her Ganex from her Burberry, well... With a cast of near Spartacus proportions, this flimsy tale boasts intrigue, 'embroiled in various overlapping tales of love and woe'. With the emphasis on the lurve, not the actually and with just enough woe to inject a spark of conflict, but no depth, we bring you 'Love Actually'. You can escape the family, or bring them with you to sit in the dark for an hour or so. It will be good practice for having nothing to say to each other for four days... Happy Christmas.

Director: Richard Curtis
Cast: Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant
Duration: 135 mins
Origin: UK 2003
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Wed 21 7.30



It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our 12th anniversary Christmas, 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 2016. Our cinema Christmas would not now be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how terrible life would be in Bedford Falls, had he not been there. 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 George Bailey future for our grandchildren.

Director: Frank Capra
Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Ward Bond and Clarence (angel 2nd class).
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
Certificate: U
Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Thu 22 2.00 Fri 23 7.30
Thu 22 7.30 Sat 24 5.00



The Polar Express

At its best, Polar Express is a heart-in-the-mouth, fantastical spooky adventure (as Christmas ghostly tales often tell). Spectacular on the big screen, with a happy ending.

At its worst, little ones (under 8s) will be thrilled here and there, but a little frightened by the clever (if spooky) realistic detail of the animation, and other strange stuff.

When a doubting boy boards an extraordinary train, on his doorstep, to find Father Christmas, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Polar Express, with its eye-popping animated photo-realism (this is one of those spooky bits) tells a story, based on Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks is the voice (and unfortunate face and 'spook') 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-religious tale of tolerance, discovery and redemption. Hold little ones tight and they'll be alright. You might need somebody to hold you too!

Remember: every fairy tale takes its beloved heroes on stupid adventures, gets them into deep trouble, then gets them out of it again to... happily ever after. Never mind all that. Take a deep breath and come for the fabulous heart leaping ride.

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

When...

Fri 23 2.00

❄️ ❄️ ❄️

A
VERY
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
FROM
US ALL
AT
THE-REX

❄️ ❄️ ❄️



Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them

Well we knew it wouldn't be long before we were whisked back to JK Rowling's world. What is surprising, however, is just how reinvigorated, yet familiar, it all feels.

We're very much in pre-Potter territory here; 1926 New York to be precise. This is one of its great pleasures. It is set in our non-magic or 'Muggle' world. Newt Scamander (a post-Oscar-glory, still humble Eddie Redmayne) arrives in the city nearing the end of a global excursion to research and rescue magical creatures, some of which are safeguarded in the hidden pocket-dimensions of his deceptively nondescript leather case. But potential disaster strikes when an unsuspecting No-Maj (the transatlantic world for Muggle. Keep up) lets some of Newt's beasts loose in a city already on edge. Events take an ominous turn when Percival Graves (Colin Farrell) the enigmatic Director of Magical Security at MACUSA (Magical Congress of the United States of America – Donald Duck for short) casts his (J. Edgar H: same story) suspicions on Newt. Warner Bros. want this to be the start of a FIVE-part franchise; I hope it pays off. Can never have too many wizards? (*research Jack Whiting*) Get out of bed Jack. Donald MACUSA wins.

Director: David Yates
 Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Colin Farrell, Katherine Waterston
 Duration: 133 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Brothers

When... **Wed 28 2.00**
Tue 27 5.00 Fri 30 2.00



Allied

Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard share star billing in Robert Zemeckis' electrifying romantic thriller.

Allied depicts the reportedly true story of Canadian officer Max Vatan (Pitt) who, in 1942, teams up with French Resistance fighter Marianne Beausejour (Cotillard) on a deadly mission in North Africa, behind enemy lines, to assassinate a German official. Reunited in London, the couple marry and Marianne gives birth to their first child.

Vatan's life is shattered however when military intelligence presents him with the possibility that Marianne is a sleeper agent working for the Nazis. Under orders to execute his new wife or face death himself for failing to obey, Vatan ventures out to clear her name and put his own demons to rest.

Composer and frequent Zemeckis collaborator Alan Silvestri provides the perfect musical accompaniment to Stephen Knight's punchy screenplay, who builds here on an assured body of previous work including Dirty Pretty Things and Eastern Promises.

With Second World War action thrillers busying our screens right now, (this being Pitt's second in as many years) Allied very much needed to distinguish itself and, undeniably, it succeeds. *(Research Chris Coetsee)* Pity, we've now told you the whole story, or have we...?

Director: Robert Zemeckis
 Cast: Brad Pitt, Marion Cotillard
 Duration: 124 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Paramount International Pictures

When...

Wed 28 7.30
Thu 29 7.30



Some Like It Hot

Inspired casting by Billy Wilder. In this great spoof, Curtis and Lemmon play jazz musicians on the run from Spats Columbo (George Raft) after witnessing the St Valentine's Day massacre.

Broke and desperate to escape Chicago, they become Daphne and Josephine to join Sweet Sue's band and escape to Florida... enter Sugar and the all-time dream train ride for 7am commuters, of all genders, denominations and trousers.

Interestingly, Wilder deliberately shot it in black and white to avoid the pitfalls of camp or transvestism? Highlights: the Gangland scenes; Pat O'Brian as the world-weary sarcastic cop, Nehemiah Persoff's manic and agitated Little Bonaparte, Tony Curtis' playboy parody of Cary Grant, Jack's Tango with Osgood and that rose, Marilyn in that dress! And what is surely one of the most celebrated closing banter of all time, concluding with Joe E Brown's famous deadpan line...?

His Osgood Fielding III is one of Hollywood's all time top ten best-loved characters. Don't miss. Bring the street, but remember never trust a saxophone player.

Director: Billy Wilder
 Cast: Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: USA 1959
 Certificate: U
 Company: British Film Institute (BFI)

When...

Thu 29 2.00



Sully

Adapting a story about a six-minute flight into an engaging film script is no doubt a daunting task yet Eastwood and screenwriter Todd Komarnicki pull it off with aplomb.

Based on one of 2009's biggest and phenomenal news stories, Sully depicts the events surrounding US Airways Flight 1549's emergency crash landing in New York's Hudson river following twin engine failure.

Whilst the media portrays pilot Chelsey "Sully" Sullenburger (the ever-reliable Hanks) as a hero who saved the life of everybody onboard, the National Transportation Safety Board covertly runs computer simulations of the flight to find that two potential airport landings would have posed less danger to the passengers.

Crippled with self-doubt and suffering terribly from post traumatic stress, Sully attempts to defend his actions to the NTSB and bring about some much-needed reassurance to his now unstable and turbulent life. *(Research Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Clint Eastwood
Cast: Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 12A
Company: Warner Brothers

When...

Fri 30 7.30



Singin' In The Rain

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

It all begins in 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent silver screen. Off screen, Don, aided by Cosmo Brown (the sensational 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 make your gums bleed (think: Kate Bush sings Leonard Cohen). Kathy is hired to secretly dub Lina's voice off screen. Don goes off splashing in the street, so making B-Movie Musical history. But when Lina finds out, run for cover. For Gene's famous splash dance, 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 - two at most?). What greater celebration of family cinema at Christmas. An irresistible 1952 B-Movie classic to herald the New Year. Here's to a very brave 2017.

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

When...

Sat 31 6.00

SAD ENDINGS...



JOHN FEARN

13 April 1945 – 21 Sept 2016

With Jill and his friends, John was a welcome weekly face at the Rex. He adopted the high stool in the foyer and could be seen regularly waiting for the very last minute to miss the trailers. Bad on his feet, and last to his seat, getting him there in the dark could be fun. Then one day in September he wasn't there anymore. He is sorely missed. We're very pleased, Jill and his old friends still come.



"DEMOCRACY COMES TO ITS LAST LAUGH. AND THE LUNATICS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ASYLUM."

Probably not the first to note that people can be led to vote against their own interests for the sake of bread and circuses and their right to carry a gun bigger than any mothafucka else. We're building for our children a world of hatred and fear. A world where thought, reason and compassion are seen as pathetic weak luxuries. Is this the beginning of the Endarkenment."

This compassionate note came first thing on the morning of Trump. It is spontaneous, raw, verbatim. A perfect summary with nothing to spare. To take it one son-of-a-bitch further. The picture is from Tarantino's Django Unchained, depicting the 'headbags' scene where the Klan complain about the wife's eyeholes. It is a funny skit on white stupidity masquerading as supremacy.



LEONARD COHEN

21 Sept 1934 – 10 Nov 2016

" Like a Bird on a wire
Like a drunk in a midnight choir
I have tried in my way to be
free..."

Lover Thinker Poet Writer
Philosopher Wit Musician Troubadour
Voice Friend

'Sincerely, L.Cohen'

Is there any other kind...?

We white-eyes are generally a mottled grey and pink of skin, with fake orange in winter and greasy brown sunburn in summer.

Anything to cover this pink/grey supremacy. Now for the first time in our ridiculous same-mistakes-again-history: largely fat, grey, pink, 'white supremacist' rednecks may have, through legitimate democracy, determined the fate of an otherwise wholly determined colourful World. Build your wall Donald. Make it a circle.

THE EMBASSY, CHESHAM

This latest Railway poster illustration from Mary Casserley, shows the Embassy, Chesham in its heyday. Located in Germain Street, it opened in January 1937 as a sister Picture House to the Rex, then under construction in Berkhamsted. Each was designed proudly, by architect David Nye.

It closed in 1982, six years before The Rex. Dark days indeed for small local independent cinemas. Unlisted, it was summarily demolished in 1983 by the usual short sighted visionaries.



The Regal Peking restaurant closed finally on Saturday 29th October. A sad day indeed. This picture was taken the night before. A bright window no more. To Jackie and Alan and all the Regal family-staff. Thanks for the memories.