

THE-REX

DECEMBER 2018

THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS

"velveteen glamour and brilliant programming..." (The Guardian)

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema.." (BBC)

DECEMBER 2018 • ISSUE 165
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 & Pants 28-30

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.50

Concessions/ABL £8.00

Back Row £8.00

Table £11.50

Concessions/ABL £10.00

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs £6.50, Royal Box £10

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

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01442 877999

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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)

CHRISTMAS FILMS OF THE MONTH

The Best The Oldies The Annuals
The Nuts and The Slush



The (15th) Essential Best Oldie:
It's a Wonderful Life

See page 22



The Annual: (albeit weird)
Polar Express

See page 15



The Nuts:
Elf

See page 15



The Oldie:
White Christmas

See page 20



The Slush:
Love Actually

See page 20



DECEMBER FILMS



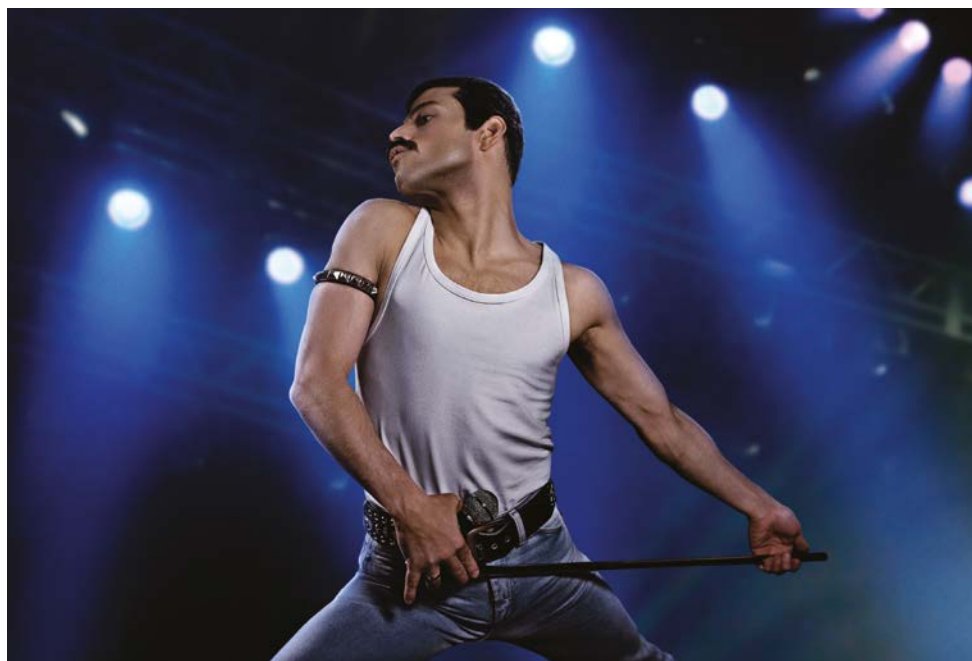
Johnny English Strikes Again

Britain's beloved bumbling idiot spy is back, as Rowan Atkinson's unrivalled talent for slapstick comedy guarantees laughter involuntarily out-loud. In this third instalment, moments of second-hand embarrassment strike us again as Johnny English wreaks havoc. When the country is hit by a devastating cyber attack, all of its agents' identities are exposed. Left with no other option, the PM (Emma Thompson) is forced to bring back ex-spy 00 Johnny to save the nation. Unaccustomed to a digital world powered by smartphones, social media and VR, he is determined to stick to his analogue ways, revving around the Riviera in a vintage Aston Martin. Joined by his long-suffering sidekick Bough/Boff (Ben Miller) the duo investigate the source of the attacks. With the addition of former Bond girl Olga Kurylenko, playing femme fatale Ophelia, and villainous tech billionaire Jason Volta (Jake Lacy) the film has all the ingredients for a 007 spoof. While lightheartedly exploring contemporary issues such as data security, GDPR anyone? the film still contains much of the original's charms, with all of Atkinson's timeless facial contortions and pratfalls. (*research Rachel Williams*) You know what's coming and as much as you try not to, you'll fall about. Well I did.

Director: David Kerr
 Cast: Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson,
 Olga Kurylenko, Michael Gambon,
 Charles Dance, Ben Miller
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: UK 2018
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Universal

When...

Sat 1 2.00



Bohemian Rhapsody

This is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary – Freddie Mercury.

The film traces the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs and revolutionary sound. They reach unparalleled success, but in an unexpected turn Freddie (Rami Malek), surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie reunites with the band in time for Live Aid. While bravely facing a recent AIDS diagnosis, he leads the band in one of the great showman performances of all time. Luckily, filmed live to millions world-wide.

Those hoping for a deep dive into Freddie's private life may be left feeling short changed; this is nothing more than a glorified Wiki entry – covering all the basics, yet with so much pizzazz, gorgeous set design and attention to the era, it's easy to get swept up in its kinda magic. Forget the behind-the-scenes faffing with directors etc, although Dexter Fletcher picks up the pieces nicely. This is Malek's film. (*research Jack Whiting*) Malek's film throughout, as it was always, with Freddie's gig. The title is taken from one of the most overrated, overplayed songs, and over-haired cringe-pop videos – ever. But that aside...



Directors: Bryan Singer, Dexter Fletcher
Cast: Rami Malek, Joseph Mazzello, Lucy Boynton, Mike Myers, Aiden Gillen, Tom Hollander
Duration: 134 mins
Origin: UK / USA
Certificate: 12A
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sat	1	7.00	Fri	7	7.30
Tue	4	2.00	Mon	17	2.00
Tue	4	7.30	Thu	20	7.30



A Star Is Born

Gaga and Cooper's raw vocals invite you into the soundscape of their characters' sweeping love story: luminous, thrilling, and achingly moving.

It's the fourth remake of the 1937 original and an impressive directorial debut by Bradley Cooper. His own leading performance as Jackson Maine, a legendary Country singer-songwriter, is authentic. We join him after a gig, trawling town for another drink. He finds the only bar open: a drag bar. The spotlight is on Ally (Lady Gaga) the only non-drag performer, giving a mesmerising rendition of 'La Vie en Rose'. Lady G, known as a shapeshifter, here presents a new side to herself, one refreshingly natural. Afterwards they 'connect' over an injury and a song in a car park, leading Jackson to invite Ally on stage before an arena of his adoring fans, where they perform her electrifying original song 'Shallow'. Their natural and immediate chemistry takes you with them. This *Star Is Born* is born to be seen. *(research Rachel Williams)* Bonding over the music they make, one beautiful two-part harmony leads to another. So rare on any screen, it is impossible, watching these two so naturally falling in love, not to fall with them. A breathtaking love story. Don't dare miss.

Director: Bradley Cooper
 Cast: Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle
 Duration: 136 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Warner Bros Entertainment UK Ltd.

When...

Sun 2	6.00	Wed 5	2.00
Mon 3	2.00	Wed 12	2.00
Mon 3	7.30	Wed 12	7.30



14th ANNIVERSARY NIGHT



Welcome home...

Who in 2004 would have thought then in "possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema" (BBC 2005) we would be here now, 15 years later and still the most successful independent cinema in Britain?

I did, alongside the four friends who brought it to life with me. The attention to detail then as now, has sustained. It's unique repertory programming was declared "Brilliant" by the Guardian this year as too its easy, non-fussy, beautiful sense of detail and "velveteen glamour".

What we did right was to ignore all experts and ginsayers who said cinema was dying and none of it would work. One huge screen back in its original proscenium, legroom, tables, drinks and candles, at a fair price? How could such a thing ever make any money? What we missed was failing to copyright. From the start, in one watered down version or another, the copies grew. But they choke on the fool's concept of a fair price – and, with no popcorn to hike!! Enough. We are here all year round and you're welcome always. We will continue to find films from across the world to stand alongside the rest. Thanks for loving the place too.



First Man

Ryan Gosling soars in Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelle's subtle, poetic, nerve-racking retelling of the most dangerous, audacious mission in manned-flight While still holding the grief of losing their young daughter, test pilot Neil Armstrong and wife Janet prepare for the upcoming Gemini space project's rigorous training programme. Submersing himself deeper into it, Armstrong channels his ability to close off the lingering pain of loss to serve his unnerving capacity to focus. As Gemini moves into Apollo, Armstrong's headstrong approach singles him out as the candidate to lead NASA and 'mankind' into that vast uncertainty. Perfectly cast, Gosling and Foy carry the emotional weight of the film as a loving couple whose family tragedy has driven a wedge between them. He buries himself, finding refuge in his work, but she has no outlet for her growing anxiety in his increasing isolation. Their feelings both individually and as parents are beautifully expressed through outstanding, understated performances. Chazelle, whose work on Whiplash and La La Land gave no indication of his ambition to make a space-race drama, has succeeded in thinking this big. It's a thunderous, unmissable piece of filmmaking. *(Research Chris Coetsee)* You wouldn't want to be squeezed upside down into their tin can and hurtled, rattling, into Space.

Director:	Damien Chazelle
Cast:	Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy, Jason Clarke, Christopher Abbott, Corey Stoll
Duration:	141 mins
Origin:	USA 2018
Certificate:	12A
Company:	Universal

When...

Wed 5 7.30

Thu 6 2.00, 7.30



The Nutcracker And The Four Realms

Disney continues the trend of transforming classic literary pieces, or in this case Tchaikovsky's ballet, into a dark and edgy fantasy fable for all the family.

A whimsical visual treat with its enchantingly festive CGI locations and a star-studded cast, including Morgan Freeman and Helen Mirren, the film begins on Christmas Eve in Victorian London. Clara (Mackenzie Foy) our young heroine with a love for science and invention, is introduced as she is mourning the loss of her mother. Her inventor godfather Drosselmeyer (Morgan Freeman) gives her an egg-shaped music box, a final gift from her mother, with a note stating "Everything you need is inside." Yet the key to unlock the egg is missing and so begins her quest to find it. Following a mouse-chase into a frosty fantasy world, Clara meets the nutcracker Captain Phillip (Jayden Fowora-Knight) and the regents of the three realms: Snow (Richard E. Grant), Flowers (Eugenio Derbez) and Sweets (Keira Knightley – a wonderful Sugar Plum Fairy). Clara and the nutcracker must retrieve the key from the fourth realm, led by Mother Ginger (Helen Mirren) to restore harmony. A glittering fairy-tale with some emotional depth. *(Rachel Williams)* Fantastical fantasy in delicious rainbow colours. Come.

Directors: Lasse Hallström, Joe Johnston
Cast: Mackenzie Foy, Keira Knightley, Morgan Freeman, Meera Syal, Helen Mirren

Duration: 99mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney

When...		Sun	9	1.00
Sat	8	11.00	Fri	21
Sat	8	2.30	Thu	27
				2.00



Widows

Steve McQueen hasn't been seen since he struck Oscar glory with 12 Years a Slave; now he returns with his most un-McQueen like release, Widows.

Based on the 1983 ITV series by Lynda La Plante, Veronica (Viola Davis) is the widow of Harry Rawlings (Liam Neeson) a criminal whose team went up in flames in the film's opening (and beautifully edited) heist-gone-wrong. Judging from an intimate flashback, it's clear these two had a good thing going, and McQueen and Gillian Flynn's (Gone Girl) screenplay lays on the backstory of a shared tragedy. Harry's past misdeeds have landed Veronica in hot water with the powerful men he stole from. Now she owes them millions. It occurs there is one way to get it. Complete the next job he been planning when he died. To do this, she will need to recruit the fellow widows of Harry's men. The screen damn near explodes as this genre caper suddenly encompasses a whole social strata: race, class, politics, gender; McQueen takes his time carefully placing all the pieces of the puzzle before blasting them all off the table in a terrifying climactic heist. This is a thriller with real guts. (*research Jack Whiting*) Yeah right-on man...

Director: Steve McQueen
Cast: Viola Davis, Liam Neeson, Michelle Rodriguez, Elizabeth Debicki
Duration: 129mins
Origin: UK/USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sat 8 7.00 Thu 13 7.30
Thu 13 2.00 Fri 14 7.30



Peterloo

Mike Leigh's historical epic furiously lashes out at both past and present-day political order in this sprawling portrayal of warring classes.

Detailing the events that led to Manchester's devastating 1819 Peterloo Massacre, which saw the government of the day ordering a brutal military charge into a crowd of pro-democracy protesters, Leigh's narrative of jubilation and hope gradually gives way to one of fear and chaos, culminating in a simply stunning final sequence unlike anything he's done before. (he'll be directing Bond next) A terrific cast includes Rory Kinnear as popular, egocentric, political speaker Henry Hunt yet it's Maxine Peake who steals it among a sea of brilliance, playing mother to a war-torn son while struggling to maintain hope that words, good and true, will bring about change and reform. Few filmmakers have had such an impressive career as Mike Leigh, continuously showcasing his uncanny ability to immerse his audience in the authentic, textured lives of people both ordinary and extraordinary. A sombre invitation to contemplate how little attitudes have changed, Peterloo is no different, speaking with thunderous passion for the need for reform of parliamentary representation towards a shift in general social equality. It's an ode to the people. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Hmmm... don't expect too many laughs.

Director: Mike Leigh
Cast: Rory Kinnear, Maxine Peake, Rachel Finnegan, Simona Bitmate
Duration: 154mins
Origin: UK 2018
Certificate: 12A
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Mon 10 2.00
Sun 9 6.00 Mon 10 7.30



Wildlife

In a nuanced portrait of a fractured family in 60s Montana, Carey Mulligan stuns in career-best performance. Paul Dano, the next in a line of actor-turned-directors, creates a beautiful adaptation of Richard Ford's novel along with co-writer and partner Zoe Kazan. When Jerry Brinson (Jake Gyllenhaal) loses his job at a golf course, his unemployment ignites a personal crisis, as he refuses to return even when they offer to take him back. Much to the bewilderment of his family, he goes off to fight wildfires for a dollar an hour instead!! Through the disoriented eyes of his son Joe (Ed Oxenbould) we see the difficulty a child faces as his homelife unravels; Ed's performance is emotionally attuned to taking on the role of an adult – too early. While he and Gyllenhaal are both superb, it is Mulligan who shines through in her depiction of mother Jeanne. Her own fire raging in despair lit by Jerry's decision, she does what she can to survive, abandoning the perfect persona of a mid-century housewife. Poignant and powerful in its detailed focus on the ways people process devastation. (*research Rachel Williams*) Feels like Dano has been around D-Day Lewis too long. Oscar-baiting too.

Director: Paul Dano
 Cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Carey Mulligan, Bill Camp, Ed Oxenbould, Cate Jones
 Duration: 105mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: icon

When...

Tue 11 2.00, 7.30



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 but weird realistic detail of the animation, and other spooky stuff.

In a dream, a doubting boy boards an extraordinary train on his doorstep, to find Father Christmas. Is it a journey of self-discovery, is it a dream...? Polar Express, with its eye-popping animated photo-realism (one of those spooky bits) tells a story, based on Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks is the voice (and unfortunate straight face and chief 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 crazy adventures, gets them into deep trouble, then gets them out of it again to... happily ever after. Take a deep breath and come again for a fabulous heart leaping ride.

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

When...

Sat 15 11.00



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.

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, somehow his antics get funnier every year.

Don't dare miss this fabulously silly Christmas treat this year on our big screen.

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

When...

Sat 15 2.30 Fri 21 2.00



The Greatest Showman

Hugh Jackman steps into the spotlight as 19thC impresario P.T. Barnum in this all-singing-all-doin'g rags to riches extravaganza.

2012's *Lez Miz* was supposed to be the movie that showcased Jackman's triple-treat talents as a singer, dancer and serious actor. It didn't. Here debut director Michael Gracey deservedly hands him a better chance and this time around he smashes it out of the park. Born the son of a poor cobbler, Phineas Taylor Barnum longs to rise and dazzle the world. Having conned his way to start a 'museum', he assembles the unfortunates and the bizarre of marginalised society, creating a showcase of oddities: a 'Freak Show' to break the ground for circus, sleight-of-hand and live derring-do. But despite his flourishing success, he yearns to debunk arty critics. To get their attention and loosen the purse strings of high-art snob culture, Barnum risks it all, and his family...

Questions are raised over this sanitised telling of a rags to riches tale, but showbiz is showbiz and historical haziness aside, this is nothing short of spectacle and splendour. (research *Chris Coetsee*) Glorious big screen cinema trickery-pokery. You keep coming, so come here once more to lead into Christmas 2018.

Director: Michael Gracey
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, Zac Efron
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sat 15 7.00



Miracle On 34th Street

This is the film 25 to 30 somethings, long to see 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.

Here at the Rex 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 onesies 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 this Christmas nonsense. That is until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all Santas. My daughters, remain convinced if there is a Father Christmas, he IS Richard Attenborough!) This film does have enough spirit of its own to suggest there might well be an Santa-borough afterall... x

Director: Les Mayfield
Cast: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 1994
Certificate: U
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sun 16 6.00



Juliet, Naked

Rose Byrne and Ethan Hawke's colourful chemistry brings life to this charming romantic comedy.

Superfan Duncan (Chris O'Dowd) and his crazed obsession with once-famous rocker Tucker Crowe has driven girlfriend Annie to distraction. Leader of a select online community of devoted Crowe losers, he is blissfully unaware of the couple's growing estrangement. Out of the blue, Duncan receives a package in the mail with a hashed-up demo of unheard studio recordings entitled "Juliet, Naked." These new songs become a pathos for Duncan, but they're quite the opposite for Annie, for whom Crowe and his music is torture. After she writes a harsh critique on her boyfriend's fan site, Annie receives a private message from Crowe himself and, unbeknownst to Duncan, they strike up an instantaneous, if unlikely, cross-Atlantic email relationship. Bingo!

Hawke has been a tough actor to pin down throughout. This is a pure movie star turn, and he's never been more magnetic (or just less irritating). Byrne is wonderful as the kind-hearted, but melancholy Annie, and O'Dowd is fab as always. It's an unashamedly feel-good flick, but it's just imperfect enough not to feel like a cheat. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) All this time, then two movie stars-cum-singer-songwriters, turn up at once!

Director: Jesse Peretz
Cast: Rose Byrne, Chris O'Dowd, Ethan Hawke, Lily Newmark
Duration: 98mins
Origin: UK / USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal

When...

Mon 17 7.30



Arthur Christmas

Welcome back to Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation teamwork on 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 is not left out on Christmas morning...

Masterfully written by Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith, and fantastically rendered, Arthur Christmas has much to delight the tiniest and 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 note Steve Christmas's 'ridic' festive goatee.

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

When...

Tue 18 2.00

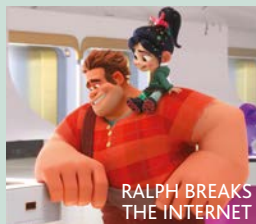
COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

A STAR IS BORN
FANTASTIC BEASTS 2
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
THE NUTCRACKER AND THE
FOUR REALMS

NEW RELEASES

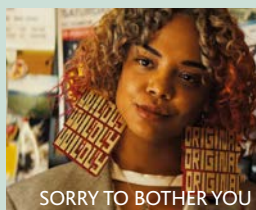
ANNA & THE APOCALYPSE
FREE SOLO
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
MARY POPPINS RETURNS
RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET
THE GIRL IN THE
SPIDER'S WEB



RALPH BREAKS
THE INTERNET



MARY POPPINS RETURNS



SORRY TO BOTHER YOU



FREE SOLO



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

DECEMBER	FILM	TIME
1	SAT THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	2.00
1	SAT A STAR IS BORN	7.30
2	SUN A STAR IS BORN	12.30
2	SUN JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	5.00
3	MON FIRST MAN	2.00, 7.30
4	TUE A STAR IS BORN	12.00, 7.30
5	WED BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	1.00, 7.30
6	THU BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	2.00
6	THU THE HATE U GIVE	7.30
7	FRI WIDOWS	7.30
8	SAT JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	11.00
8	SAT THE HATE U GIVE	3.00
8	SAT WIDOWS	7.30
9	SUN MIRAI	11.00
9	SUN PETERLOO	3.00
9	SUN PETERLOO (+i)	7.30
10	MON WIDOWS	2.00
10	MON SUSPIRIA (2018) (+i)	7.30
11	TUE PETERLOO	12.00, 7.30
12	WED PETERLOO	1.00
12	WED JULIET, NAKED	7.30
13	THU WILDLIFE	2.00, 7.30
14	FRI BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30
15	SAT THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	2.00
15	SAT BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.00
16	SUN THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	1.00
16	SUN BELL, BOOK & CANDLE (+i)	6.00
17	MON WIDOWS	2.00
17	MON C'EST LA VIE (S)	7.30
18	TUE A STAR IS BORN	12.00
18	TUE WIDOWS	7.30
19	WED LOVE, ACTUALLY	3.00, 7.30
20	THU IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00
20	THU WHITE CHRISTMAS	7.30
21	FRI HOME ALONE	5.00
21	FRI DIE HARD	8.30
22	SAT THE GRINCH	11.15
22	SUN ELF	3.30
22	SAT IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.00
23	SUN THE GRINCH	12.00
23	SUN ELF	3.30
23	SUN MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS	7.00
24	MON THE GRINCH	1.00
24	MON IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25	TUE CLOSED – HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS!	
26	WED CLOSED – BOXING DAY	
27	THU THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (J)	2.00
27	THU SOME LIKE IT HOT	7.30
28	FRI FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	2.00, 7.30
29	SAT FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	11.00, 3.30
29	SAT ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK	8.30
30	SUN FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	1.00
30	SUN ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST (1968) (+i)	6.00
31	MON FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	1.00
31	MON BLUES BROTHERS (1980)	5.30

(S) SUBTITLED (+i) INTRO (J) SING-A-LONG

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

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DECEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 SAT	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00	8
1 SAT	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.00	9
2 SUN	A STAR IS BORN	6.00	10
3 MON	A STAR IS BORN	2.00, 7.30	10
4 TUE	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	2.00, 7.30	9
5 WED	A STAR IS BORN	2.00	10
5 WED	14TH ANNIVERSARY SURPRISE SCREENING	7.30	11
6 THU	FIRST MAN	2.00, 7.30	11
7 FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30	9
8 SAT	THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS	11.00, 2.30	12
8 SAT	WIDOWS	7.00	13
9 SUN	THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS	1.00	12
9 SUN	PETERLOO	6.00	13
10 MON	PETERLOO	2.00, 7.30	13
11 TUE	WILDLIFE	2.00, 7.30	14
12 WED	A STAR IS BORN	2.00, 7.30	10
13 THU	WIDOWS	2.00, 7.30	13
14 FRI	WIDOWS	7.30	13
15 SAT	THE POLAR EXPRESS	11.00	15
15 SAT	ELF	2.30	15
15 SAT	THE GREATEST SHOWMAN	7.00	16
16 SUN	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	6.00	16
17 MON	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	2.00	9
17 MON	JULIET, NAKED	7.30	17
18 TUE	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	17
18 TUE	WHITE CHRISTMAS	7.30	20
19 WED	WHITE CHRISTMAS	2.00	20
19 WED	LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30	20
20 THU	HOME ALONE	2.00	21
20 THU	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30	9
21 FRI	ELF	2.00	15
21 FRI	THE NUTCRACKER & THE FOUR REALMS	7.30	12
22 SAT	THE GRINCH	2.00	21
22 SAT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.00	22
23 SUN	THE GRINCH	1.00	21
23 SUN	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	6.00	22
24 MON	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	22
25 TUE	CLOSED - HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS!		
26 WED	CLOSED - BOXING DAY		
27 THU	THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	2.00	12
27 THU	UNTOUCHABLE (S)	7.30	23
28 FRI	FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	2.00	24
28 FRI	ROBIN HOOD	7.30	25
29 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	2.00	24
29 SAT	THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB	7.00	26
30 SUN	BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID	6.00	26
31 MON	MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN	6.00	27

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

FIRST MAN

BLACK '47

WILDLIFE

WIDOWS

ROBIN HOOD

NEW RELEASES

COLETTE

STAN & OLLIE

RAFIKI

LIFE ITSELF



RAFIKI



STAN & OLLIE



LIFE ITSELF



COLETTE



White Christmas

The BFI's meticulously restored White Christmas is a treasure trove of Irving Berlin classics: 'Sisters', 'Blue Skies', and of course...

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-biz. One winter, after joining forces with a sister act (Gorgeous George's aunt, Rosemary Clooney and stunning Vera Ellen) they hit the road. The real 'adventure' starts at a gig in Vermont. The run-down Inn belongs to their old army General. The result is unabashed sentimental slush, an immortal, perennial Christmas favourite unlikely to fade. 1950s: America's boom decade. Was it a fabulous time there? Bogart, Brando and Doris Day; the cars, the romance, the Technicolor, with Ella and Sinatra in their prime. At the Pictures every home had a piano and a fridge while we were still rationing carrots and living in forty shades of grey (without a trace of smut) enjoying scrubbed necks, goose grease, darned everything, nits and the unforgiving one-pair of shoes worn too long for growing toes. But somehow Christmas always brought the annuals: Beano and Dandy and that single precious Mars bar. No television! There- there now... 'The Past is another Country'. White Christmas remains a borderless fantasy passport.

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



Love Actually

This very silly tale is requested every year. So here it is; one more needle in the Christmas tree.

Don't call the Samaritans yet. If this film doesn't tip you over the edge, you'll be safe for another year. Richard Curtis has talked his old pals, plus a few new faces, into this award winning farce?

Hugh Grant would never have been Prime Minister in Harold Wilson's day. Here, Hugh is in love with No10's 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 gets my button! 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 a hint woe to inject hope, we bring you 'Love Actually'. But no hope, it remains flaccid without a hint of depth. Apologies. You can escape the family after Christmas, only to be caught in a different bind or bring them with you. At least then you'll be in the dark together for an hour or so, wishing you were home.

Director: Richard Curtis
Cast: Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Bill Nighy
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: UK 2003
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Tue 18 7.30 Wed 19 2.00

When...

Wed 19 7.30



Home Alone

This Chris Columbus exploratory slapstick classic comes to Christmas again, and what better way to fall into it than witnessing the antics of a 10-year-old defending his home from a couple of hapless burglars?

Playing out like a live action Tom & Jerry skit for kids, Home Alone finds young Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) accidentally left behind at home as the family jet off to Paris for Christmas.

Generally perceived by his family as a helpless, hopeless little geek, Kevin is at first delighted to be rid of them, gorging on forbidden junk food and violent videos, but when a couple of bandits (Pesci & Stern) begin circling his house, he realises he's on his own.

Home Alone rapidly transforms in to what could be described as Straw Dogs for kids with nail guns, falling irons and swinging paint tins standing between Kevin and his assailants. Not many films draw such sympathy for the bad guys.

One could argue, writer the late, great John Hughes, doesn't conjure the same magical script qualities found in Breakfast Club or Ferris Bueller's Day Off, but Home Alone is too busy setting alight to poor Joe Pesci to bother with tales of morality. (*Jack Whiting*) Come alone.

Director: Chris Columbus
Cast: Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, John Heard
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1990
Certificate: PG
Company: Park Circus

When...

Thu 20 2.00



The Grinch

Benedict Cumberbatch is the last person I'd expect to voice this classic character, but he does an impressive job embodying the surly, sour, but ultimately wounded soul.

The Grinch lives on a mountain high above the town of Whoville, where festive goodwill is spreading like an epidemic. Like Scrooge, there's an explanation for his shrivelled heart that's rooted in the Grinch's backstory: he grew up unloved in an orphanage where Christmas came not even once a year.

To destroy the fun for everyone else, the Grinch is impersonating Santa to steal the town's presents. At the same time, cute-as-a-button poppet Cindy Lou cracks a plan to trap Santa as he comes down the chimney to be doubly sure her Christmas wishes come true.

While this is a much safer iteration of the Dr. Zeus creation; far more so than the admittedly terrifying, Jim Carrey horror show from nearly two decades ago, and though its ambition remains rather low, the visual gags and charm will warm over any cold critic. (*Jack Whiting*). It looks hilarious and sounds like great fun. Nobody here will be nit-picking. Bring the street.

Directors: Yarrow Cheney, Scott Mosier
Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Cameron Seely, Rashida Jones, Pharrell Williams
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: U
Company: Universal

When...

Sat 22 2.00 Sun 23 1.00



It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our 14th 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 bomb-sites, functional clothes, cold water, rations, war debts and the grey 1950's but with essential, fabulous and much missed old City trams in every corner of Britain. Accidentally, it became essential TV viewing in the UK during the mid 70s, hence a new part of Christmas itself. You couldn't see it at the cinema until independents got it re-released nineteen years ago. Now thanks to the BFI, this beautifully restored digital copy, is here again at the hand-restored Rex (and Odyssey) for Christmas 2018. Our cinemamatic 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 born. The simplest universal message: without that One in your life, your world is diminished.

Happy Christmas. Have fun, go easy and raise a glass to a world with a George Bailey-like future for all future children.

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

When...
Sun 23 6.00
Sat 22 7.00 Mon 24 5.00



A
VERY
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
FROM
ALL OF US
AT
THE-REX



Untouchable

What more to be said of this fabulous heartwarming gallic spark? A huge true-story hit around the world, no moreso than at here the Rex where it has/ will 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 (slum) dwelling French West African hired to be his reluctant carer. This routine 'odd-couple' story works on some other level, simultaneously wry, tender and hard-hitting. Perhaps inevitably, Philippe and Driss find their cosmic differences reveal more about... Philippe's reluctant romantic involvement with a pen-friend; Driss with his flirtatious, mischievous ways and his deep rooted immigrant poverty and consequent daily family earthquakes.

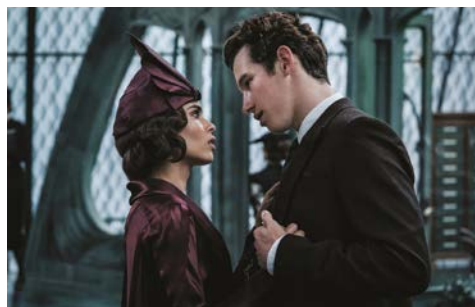
"Untouchable's moral is conservative optimism: give a man responsibility and he will act responsibly? Might charm, but wont change the world..." (*Oh yeah? Telegraph*) It will move yours.

From its opening ambiguity, it draws you in, teasing an uncertain tension, before you fall in love. Only the French seem to understand how to tell a fundamental human tale to touch us all across barriers of language and... borders. At the closing of a bad year, come: be uplifted by a different Country's art of screen story telling; perhaps France's greatest export gift...

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

When...

Thu 27 7.30



Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

The world created by JK Rowling has no problem carrying on without the boy wizard; and this – the second of five(!) – is where things start to get a little complicated. Newt Scamander, the awkward and timid magizoologist played by Eddie Redmayne, helped capture the shape-shifting wizard Grindelwald (Colin Farrell in the last one, Johnny Depp in this one) but he doesn't stay imprisoned for long. Grindelwald is up to his old tricks trying to ensure the dominance of pure-blood wizards over humans with racist rallies. Newt gets a surprise visit from a young Prof. Dumbledore; a canny, charismatic Jude Law who gives our hero an impossible mission, if he decides to accept it: go to Paris and end the Grindelwald menace. Remember how the Star Wars prequels suffered from contrived exposition and needlessly convoluted plotting? Well, Rowling doesn't have the same mastery of the screen as she does the page, and as a result this messy instalment mirrors George Lucas' attempts to tell a compelling narrative. However, when the dazzling set pieces kick in, there are pockets of magic to be found. (*Jack Whiting*) Well done Jack, not so the film? Fear not. JK fans will know how to undo plots-knots.

Director: David Yates
 Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Jude Law, Ezra Miller, Zoë Kravitz
 Duration: 134 mins
 Origin: UK / USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Bros

When...

Fri 28 2.00
Sat 29 2.00



Robin Hood

A war-hardened crusader and his commander mount an audacious revolt against the corrupt English crown. With machine gun crossbows.

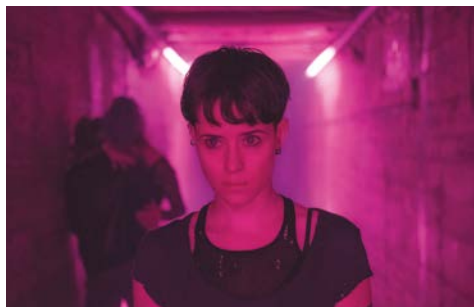
Described as a dark, revisionist prequel to the historical story, this is a hyper-stylised, hyper-explosive retelling of English folklore's best loved legend. Taron Egerton stars as Robin of Loxley, a highborn nobleman returning to Nottingham from fighting the Crusades for God and Country, only to find his lands seized by the Sheriff (the great face of very nasty baddies: Ben Mendelsohn). Disgusted, he vows revenge. Under the mentorship of mysterious ally John (Jamie Foxx) he secretly operates as The Hood, a master thief and vigilante who will stop at nothing in his effort to relieve Nottingham and it's people from the Sheriff's grip. Similar in tone to last year's King Arthur revamp, Robin Hood has dragged it's source material unapologetically into the 21st century. Complete with automatic weapons and fashionable battle armour, it's effectively a 14th century Kingsman. A barrage of high-octane chases, choreographed fight sequences and slow-motion arrow dodging will give even the most seasoned action fan something to shout about this Christmas. Ho ho ho. (Research Chris Coetsee) But Eggsy as Robin the Hood? I say! And you thought Errol Flynn in rather fetching tights was 'diversity'.



Director: Otto Bathurst
Cast: Taron Egerton, Ben Mendelsohn, Jamie Dornan, Paul Anderson, Jamie Foxx, Eve Hewson
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri 28 7.30



The Girl In The Spider's Web

The Lisbeth Salander mantle is passed, yet again, this time to Claire Foy, who gives badass a new name in this slick thriller. Spider's Web starts with a flashback in which the young Lisbeth escapes from the lair of her pervy father, leaving her sister Camilla to his deviant ways. It's the reappearance of the now-grown Camilla (Sylvia Hoeks) as a svelte blonde dressed in red – and ready to do her own damage – that sparks the action. As head of a group of brutal mercenaries called the Spiders, her sister wants to get her hands on software capable of hacking into the world's nuclear arsenals. If David Fincher's take on Stieg Larsson's Dragon Tattoo series was a meticulous blueprint that unraveled at the pace of a sloth (it ran close to three hours) then this version jettisons subtlety and texture in favour of adrenaline fuelled, gung-ho bravado; with Salander coming off more as a James Bond figure than the detached cyber-sleuth of the novels. It all makes for a silly, shallow, fab fun-fun ride. *(research Jack Whiting)* Wow... Clare Foy. Who'd have guessed it. From Her Majesty, to anxious American Moonman's wife to this 'badass' – all within the space of a netflixer's crotchset.

Director: Fede Alvarez
Cast: Claire Foy, Sverrir Gudnason, LaKeith Stanfield, Sylvia Hoeks, Stephen Merchant, Claes Bang, Vicky Krieps
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd.

When...

Sat 29 7.00



Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid

Early in 1970 at a small cinema off Oxford Circus (the Regent St Cinema?) just as the final frame caught them, there was a dead silence. Then the clapping began. By the time the screen had turned to sepia the audience was on its feet, applauding loudly through tears. It was the first time I had experienced such an outpouring at the end of a film, and the last, until the Rex reopened. Being part of that cinema audience has stayed with me as a huge and magical moment.

The film was, and remains, faultless and holds up as fresh today as it did fifty years ago. It is witty, original, and the camera doesn't miss a trick. A flawless piece of cinematic story-telling "I got vision while the rest of the world wears bifocals..." What ever happened to director, George Roy Hill?

Supposed to be based on the true story of two bandits who made outlaw history in the Wyoming of the late 19th Century. It emerges as a fabulous comedy of errors played beautifully to the last shot by the glorious pairing of Redford and Newman. Don't miss, no matter how many times... "Somebody say one two three go..."

Director: George Roy Hill
Cast: Paul Newman, Robert Redford
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 1969
Certificate: PG
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sun 30 6.00



Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

And there we were thinking the first one mined all of Abba's hits but uh oh... here we go again.

Five years later, on some Greek island, Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) is pregnant with Sky's (Dominic Cooper) child while running her mother Donna's (Meryl Streep) villa. Her relationship with Sky is as wobbly as expected, giving her cause to doubt (that's refreshingly new). Can she survive without her Meryl-Mum? Let's dive into Donna's mad past and see where the main yarn takes us. With Lily James flashing back as younger Donna, we learn how the three young 'overnight' stands came in to her life. The biggest draw for this unnecessary dollar rich prequel-sequel, fan or not, is Cher. Her fleeting presence does the trick. Watching her lip-sync 'Fernando' to Andy Garcia is... ridic! This is – sweet contrivance-to-fit-the-tunes-number-two, with a creaky vice versa 'old flames for new' attached. What more could you want? ABBA assisted suicide feasts in Switzerland? Come, we'll gladly put you out of your misery. But for now, sweethearts, last time this year... Here we go again indeed. Like tinnitus, the Dancing Queen will ring in 2019. Here's to one more Brave New Birthday – children... JH x

Director: Ol Parker
Cast: Lily James, Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep, Dominic Cooper, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Stellan Skarsgård, Cher
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: Universal Pictures Int (UK)

When...

Mon 31 6.00



Bobby's....



The Adodra family have been here at Bobby's since May 2004 with the Rex in its last summer dash towards opening in December. They had a very useful post office there too until... In 1979 they opened Jennifer's News corner shop at the other end of town. I think it's Purple now, the only independent men's tailors and clothes shop in town. Bobby's is still thriving as the invaluable independent corner shop. It is the last of its kind and most valued at this end of town. In continuation of last month's rant about the council's lack of care when granting change-of-use to vacant shops and the invasion of the barber-snatchers, I forgot to pick out the two vast double fronted betting shops. How did they happen? Not me forgetting, but we've got so used to them being there: a complete waste of town space and resources, we have almost forgotten they're there. Everybody walks past them, and apart from the Grand National they look empty day and night. How do they sustain, or is that an even bigger stupid question.



We must look after what we have left, and a corner shop like Bobby's is not only a valuable asset to the town but to the Rex also. We get many supplies from there. It has the greatest selection of wines and fine spirits alongside everything else on their shelves, and of course there's nowhere else on increasingly hot summers days to get an ice cream. There is nothing else like it. Of course it hasn't got the buying power of the fat supermarkets, so it's not a weekly family shopping destination but it's a haven for those smaller and last minute things from early morning to late at night, that we all need and take for granted.

Most importantly it is friendly, not over the top creepy, but lovely and easy going, and with the last busy morning paper round in this or any area locally, it is unique. We know our fickle nature lusts after the new like it's a gift, when in fact it is a prison. When this pox'd brexit finally kicks in, it will kick us all hard. And without the likes of Bobby's we will be bugged indeed. So listen and take notice, your twat-twitter wont provide your milk. Try Bobby's if you never have. We are currently weighing up to ask them to supply the Rex with its cheese and wholesome biscuits. Don't support it – USE it. Better still, you can get a haircut from either side (short back and other side too).

NB We're not planning a numbers-racket right now to compete with the gambling houses. That's "Luca Brasi sleeps with the fishes" territory. So best to save it for another day.

Kids can run (walk and ride) rings round us...

You may have seen Nick Goss in his motor-wheel chair. His son Ben, nearly 4 and not so tiny now, rides pillion on the side arm like a daredevil in a TT sidecar.

The boy was missing when we met the other day. I asked Nick where in the road he had left him. This prompted the tale of a recent chat between them. Now that his little brother Ezra, would need carrying on the wheelchair more, it would be Ben's turn to walk "a bit more..." Whereupon he looked at Nick sternly and said. "Daddy, walking – is a lot harder than what you think." Priceless.

This beautiful tranquil Mòor will be a car park. It is written in Hemel children, whatever language that is.



Dacorum BC: A pox on your bad Berkhamsted Town 'planning'

I owe the woman sitting behind me, a huge apology. She spoke out at the Council town planning meeting in November concerning the temporary car park on Berkhamsted Moor. I was seething but lost both mind and tongue. She stood to protest about the whole parking nonsense, after the allotted 3 MINUTES was up, so she was ordered out by the chairman/woman who, having lost control of the meeting, called for the council bouncers to remove her. The 'public gallery' (ie: stacking chairs) was packed but we all sat there silent as this slowmotion farce unfolded. She was speaking up for us all in that gallery and nobody spoke to defend her.

It was abysmal cowardice in the face of intimidating official silence.

I got up and walked out muttering something about it not being right, instead of standing up for her – and standing up to – that damned smug council meeting, which at one point, decided to tell us we were at the wrong meeting. The decision to build a 'temporary' car park was made in September. This was a meeting to amend the felling of trees. We had been ill informed, but that their orange, small-print notices, pinned to a tree by a passing boy scout would be enough for the whole community to know the main decision was made two months

earlier, was an outrageous official insult. It was a foregone afterthought already. I don't know if she was turfed out, the bouncers looked as embarrassed as everyone else. A violent riot of greys was an unlikely threat. So, brave woman, whoever you are, I apologise for not staying to stick up for you. A wretched evening in the presence of a very ugly room (in the 'Forum'). Coincidentally, a useless waste of space and council tax millions, and more echoey than the 1970s New Town built Civic Centre, which only needed a lick of paint. That aside, there will be a car park constructed on the Moor, while they build the new toilet block for more £millions for people who don't need or want it.

A hug pox on you Dacorum Council Town Planning. Yes medieval language to go with your backward easy option, unimaginative 'thinking' sorry - 'planning'. No. Neither word is true here. Neither 'unimaginative', in case they might believe bad planning is merely a temporary blip in their neanderthal lobes (like their monkeys-dick car park-s).

It would be a mistake to allow the removal of the prefix 'un' to let them 'think' they had a glimmer of imagination in the first place. Apart from monkeys-dick decisions on what is good for small towns, it is growing harder to imagine any of them were born with one between them. Work it out in your own time.

Always beautiful sunsets in late autumn over any open carpark, reflecting the trees perhaps, it sets in mid-afternoon. Try to catch the open sky if only once a day.



THE-REX

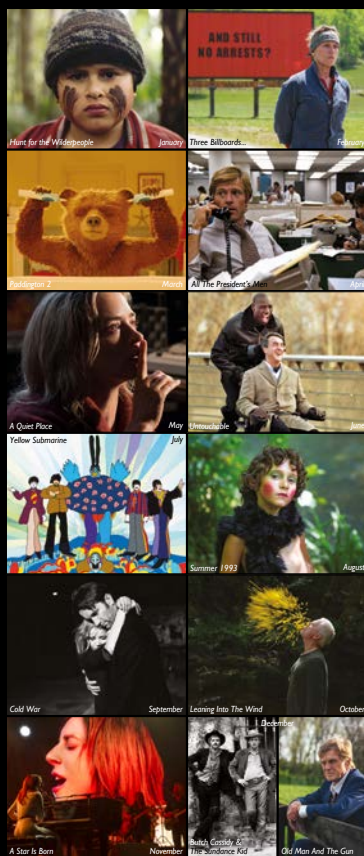
CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema..." (BBC)

INSIDE

2019

LAST YEARS FRONT COVER PICTURES
MONTH BY MONTH STRIPPED AND UNCLUTTERED



(ABOVE) SNAPSHOTS FROM SELECTED FAVOURITES 2018

2019 Calendar on time for once
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