

THE-REX

P R O G R A M M E

LA LA LAND
FEBRUARY 2017

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

FEBRUARY 2017 • ISSUE 143
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01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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Rants & Pants 22-25

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.00

Concessions £7.50

Table £11.00

Concessions £9.50

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)

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

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The Rex

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

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

BEST IN FEBRUARY



Casablanca (Valentines)

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks in to mine..." See page 18

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Snowden

Gripping, with a sense of real danger. Unlikely to be up for two many Oscars. See page 12



The Eagle Huntress

Fabulous real story of a young girl's determination to fly higher than the boys. See page 15



La La Land

Pure joy, not even the outrageous hype can kill. The Hollywood musical has arrived revived. See page 19



Manchester By The Sea

Very sad tale from a wintry Massachusetts North Shore. They're all good, but Casey A. shines. See page 20



FEBRUARY FILMS



Sully

Adapting a story about a six-minute flight into an engaging 96 minute screenplay might be a daunting task. But this is cool Clint. So with screenwriter Todd Komarnicki, he pulls it off, of course.

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

An overnight sensation, the media portrayed pilot Chelsey "Sully" Sullenbuerger (reliable Tom) as a hero who saved everybody's life. The National Transportation Safety Board (Think Health & Safety with Costs) 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 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 Chis C)*

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

When...

Wed 1 2.00, 7.30



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 reluctantly nursing the cat back to health, the pair become inseparable. So this heart-warming tale ensues. Be it sleeping rough or busking in Covent Garden, the furry companion is right by Bowen's side or 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 is infectiously enjoyable. Besides, is there any combination more perfect the long locks of Luke Treadaway and a sidekick cat? *(research Grace Atkins)* Yes, a shared Affogato is a pretty perfect combination.

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

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

The story is real. Bob is real and this is the real Bob! Moreover, and surprisingly, it is not cloying or over sentimental. And Treadaway's improvisation with Bob doesn't grate, it is great. Don't miss.

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

When...

Thu 2 2.00
 Fri 10 7.30



Allied

Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard share stars in Robert Zemeckis' electrifying 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 high ranking 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 makes perfect music to Stephen Knight's punchy screenplay. (Dirty Pretty Things, Eastern Promises).

With Second World War action thrillers busying our screens right now (Though not as much as Space thrillers, and this being Brad's second in as many years) Allied very much needed to distinguish itself and, undeniably, it succeeds. (Research Chris Coetsee) Pity, we now know the whole story...? Who cares: the dangerously beautiful Marion Cotillard and the 40's handsome Brad Pitt it is Style personified. Come.

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

When...

Thu 2 7.30



Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

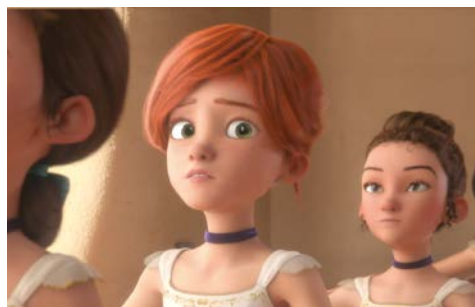
Felicity Jones strikes back in Gareth Edwards' thunderous foray into the Star Wars universe.

It is a period of civil war. Rebel spaceships, striking from a hidden base, have won their first victory against the evil Galactic Empire. During the battle, Rebel spies managed to steal secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the DEATH STAR, an armoured space station with enough power to destroy an entire planet. So began the iconic opening crawl of 1977's Star Wars. This is that story. Set just days prior to the fledgling adventures of Luke Skywalker, Rogue One introduces us to Jyn Erso (Jones) a former galactic criminal who is recruited by the Rebel Alliance to steal the schematics of the Empire's as-yet untested super-weapon. With a band of unlikely heroes, Jyn launches a direct assault against Vader and the Empire in a bid to bring hope back to the galaxy. Following the box-office shattering success of 2015's The Force Awakens (\$2 Billion+), anticipation for this year's spin-off instalment has similarly made the jump to light speed and with Episode VIII just beginning to appear on the horizon, it's an exciting time for Force fans. (Research Chris Coetsee) Luckily, for the rest of us, Baywatch is coming soon.

Director: Gareth Edwards
 Cast: Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Ben Mendelsohn
 Duration: 134 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Fri 3 7.30 Sat 4 7.00 Thu 16 2.00



Directors: Eric Summer, Éric Warin
 Voices: Ellie Fanning, Dane DeHaan, Carly Rae Jepsen
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: France/Canada 2016
 Certificate: U
 Company: Entertainment One

Ballerina

It's 1879 in rural Brittany and one young girl can't get the big stage out of her mind. Félicie (Elle Fanning) leads a simple life as an orphan living in the country, but has dreamed of being a ballerina all her tiny orphaned life. Determined not to let her lack of anything hold her back, Félicie decides to flee everything she holds dear for the unfamiliar bright lights and city sights of Paris. She is alienated and frightened but passionate about 'la danse'. By assuming the identity of a pampered city girl, she becomes a ballet student at the Grand Opera House. The training is rigorous and the jeers of 'You will always be nothing' from the usual 'ballet bitches' prove even harder to conquer. With help from her friends Victor (Dane DeHaan) and Odette the caretaker (Carly Rae Jepsen) Driven now, Félicie shows she can do it, and dreams really do come true. It's a cheesy moral, but the stunning visuals and foolish charm of the central characters certainly compensate for what might be lacking in the plot. (*research Grace Atkins*) "A cheesy moral"? Never, this is Disney, where dreams always come true... and it's fabulous.

When...

Sat 4 2.00
Tue 14 2.00



A United Kingdom

With warmth, idealism, and irresistible storytelling, director Amma Asante (Belle 2013) gives us another romantic true story, which drags Britain's dark colonial past out into the light.

It is London of the late 1940s, with Ruth Williams (Rosamund Pike) taken to a missionary dance by her sister). There, she meets Seretse Khama (David Oyelowo) a law student and future leader of Bechuanaland, modern-day Botswana. They dance together, fall for each other and daringly begin to court ('date' to the under 30s). His return to Africa imminent, he proposes. The couple marry in 1948 and leave England for the homeland, making Ruth the Queen of Bechuanaland-in-waiting. However this triggers immediate and severe diplomatic fallout. 1948 was the year South Africa introduced Apartheid. So affronted as it was by the racial impurity of the match, British diplomats feared the worst as South Africa threatened to abandon the Commonwealth altogether. Performances by Pike and Oyelowo are devoted and stoic. Essential as the focus shifts from love story to a geopolitical scrap. "A rousing true love story bringing African history to life" (*Hollywood Reporter*) "A beautifully shot, crowd-pleasing gem" (*Guardian*) (research Emma Filippides) Speechy, preachy and worthy. Bound to win something.



Director: Amma Asante
Cast: David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Tom Felton
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK/US 2016
Certificate: 12A
Company: Pathé

When...	Wed 8	7.30
Sun 5	6.00	Thu 9
Wed 8	2.00	Thu 16
		7.30



Snowden

Oliver Stone is the man when you want your political drama blunt and upfront; he's done enough of them for sure. Yet Snowden feels like it needed to be more considered, and less pushy.

Not as blood-thirsty as Stone's previous attacks: JFK, Wall Street, and Nixon, Snowden is better for it. Edward Snowden is the CIA agent who, in 2013 leaked classified NSA information surveillance programmes on to the www.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Snowden as a concerned patriot, first beguiled then an abruptly horrified freedom warrior, sickened by the perversions of his government's power. His life is cushy, he is dutiful, patriotic, and enjoys his splash of 007 adventure as a CIA field officer. Levitt has met and studied Snowden in some detail. He looks and sounds like him. Most impressive in his portrayal is that (for once) mimicry doesn't feel like mimicry. Levitt seems to exude natural charm without ego?

Taken as a political thriller, Snowden succeeds in enticing with cinematic charisma, not to feel like a lecture. *(research JW)*

The story won't surprise you, given this irresponsible, over excited, talkative, gossipy, social media, satellite driven, lemming-like idiocy. So too, it is unlikely to be nominated for many Oscars, so much for 'Diversity'.

Director: Oliver Stone
Cast: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley, Rhys Ifans
Duration: 134 mins
Origin: France/Germany/USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Mon 6

2.00, 7.30



Arrival

A methodical antithesis to Independence Day's flag-waving, fisty bravado, 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 enormous black, pebble-like spacecraft. Hanging in the sky, they begin to descend on locations around the globe. The first one we see is hanging over a beautiful morning, clouded escarpment in a vast green landscape. The military enlists (Dr) Amy Adams an expert linguist, to travel to rural Montana, to 'ask' why 'They' are here, and translate to understand the answer. She 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 chill, but the way our own disparate and suspicious World nations handle each arrival. In the light (or darkness) of United States 45th President, 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. It is certainly not too soon to call it a modern masterpiece. Blade Runner 2049 is in safe hands. *(research Jack Whiting)* A cerebral sci-fi tale, left open for debate. Come again.

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

When...

Tue 7

2.00, 7.30



Assassin's Creed

If you thought The Da Vinci Code needed more rooftop parkour? then strap in for a history lesson, Assassin's Creed style.

Stony faced Michael Fassbender plays Callum Lynch, a man facing the death penalty when he is kidnapped by a modern-day Knights Templar: a secret society of religious extremists led by Jeremy Irons. They're after an ancient artefact with the power to suppress free will. World domination is, of course, their ultimate goal. To do this they need; now stay with me here, to hook Cal up to a machine that allows him to experience his ancestor's memories. A bit like time travel by way of the Matrix. This particular ancestor is Aguilar de Nerha (Fassbender also) a member of a secret brotherhood of assassins fighting the Templars way back in 15th-century Spain.

So one half of the film is filled with spectacular stunt-work; a hooded Fassbender leaping from horses and flailing baddies, and the other has him sitting in chair looking perplexed as Marion Cotillard does her best to explain the plot. You can guess which half is fun. (*research Jack Whiting*). It is adapted from an interactive adventure vid-game. It's a real first. Dismiss the monkeys in the machine. Come and see.

Director: Justin Kurzel
 Cast: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Jeremy Irons
 Duration: 115 mins
 Origin: USA/France 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Thu 9 7.30



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 Duckd for short) casts his (J. Edgar) 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*) We're going to need a few more of them now...

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

When...

Sat 11 2.00 **Wed 15 7.30**
Sat 25 2.00



A Monster Calls

A Monster Calls ponders out loud how teenagers are able to cope with death when they could never be expected to understand its true gravity.

Bullied, depressed, waiting desperately for life to land him a trump card, bedraggled loner Conor (Lewis MacDougall) finds some consolation in drawing pictures. He lives with his dying mother (Felicity Jones) who smothers him in her love, perhaps in the knowledge that their time together is limited. One night a gigantic, fantastical monster from one of Conor's drawings (with the gravely tones of Liam Neeson) walks up to his bedroom window, and provides him with a cryptic challenge: the creature will tell Conor three fables, and then Conor will have to tell the monster his own story.

Director JA Bayona is a gifted visualist, and, just like his mentor Guillermo del Toro did with much of his early work, respectfully merges dark fantasy with real, complex emotions in a way that allows the serious subject matter to be fully understood through its stunning artistry. That pictures may be worth a thousand words is found and tested here. And what beautiful pictures. (*research Jack Whiting*) Indeed Jack. Don't miss this marvel of storytelling. Bring hankies.

Director: J. A. Bayona
 Cast: Liam Neeson, Sigourney Weaver, Felicity Jones, Lewis MacDougall
 Duration: 108 mins
 Origin: Spain/USA/UK/Canada 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One

When...

Sat 11 7.00
Sun 12 6.00



Moana

Amidst the lush green rainforest and bubbling volcanoes, Disney crafts a heartfelt tale of adventure that doesn't feel recycled from Frozen!

16 year old Moana (Auli'i Cravalhohojnk) sets out to save her home island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean from the curse laid upon it by the demi-God Maui (a critically acclaimed Dwayne Johnson! Imagine that). Moana is soon to take over from her Father as Island chief, yet despite repeated warnings to stay out of mischief, she can't ignore the beckoning of the sea. The young princess sets out on a quest to restore the island to its former glory and her people to peace once more. Whilst the musical numbers are a classic family-friendly Disney, the film doesn't lack stylistic attention to detail, including Maui's tattoos taking on a hand-drawn narrative of their own (odd, but a surprisingly nice touch). The fiery personality of the young princess, combined with the absence of a love interest, fuels a moral behind the excitement. It is currently taking Box Offices by storm.

"Eye-watering visuals, earworm songs and heart-swelling messages about respect for the past and hopes for the future." (*Guardian*) (*research Grace Atkins*) Sounds Fab. Bring the street.

Directors: Ron Clements, John Musker
Voices: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Mon 13 2.00
Wed 15 2.00



The Eagle Huntress

Set in the stark and imposing landscapes of Western Mongolia, The Eagle Huntress traces its heroine's quest to break through traditional gender barriers and become the first female to compete in the community's annual Golden Eagle competition.

Aisholpan Nurgaiv is a 13-year-old nomad Kasakh girl, whom has long been fascinated by her father and grandfather's age-old hunting practice. Dating back beyond the time of Genghis Khan this method trains wild eagles to hunt game in tandem with their keepers. Although her own family are behind her 100% there are certain things the conservative elders will not allow. Girls cannot hunt for Eagle, they're too weak and inept (of course, they would say that). Nevertheless, the exuberant, and seemingly fearless, Aisholpan believes fervently that girls can do anything boys can do. She goes on to complete her training with ease and is granted entrance into the competition. Against some 70 much more experienced men, she shines, her natural gift would not be denied.

"Combining superb National Geographic-style photography with a storyline that plays out like a thrilling real-life folktale." (*Independent*) (*research Heather...*) Otto Bell's first feature is a soaring documentary of a child's journey into determination. Don't miss.

Director: Otto Bell
Cast: Daisy Ridley
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA/UK/Mongolia 2016
Certificate: U
Company: Altitude Film Distribution

When...

Mon 13 7.30

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

LA LA LAND
MANCHESTER BY THE SEA
JACKIE
A MONSTER CALLS

NEW RELEASES

LION
CHRISTINE
LOVING
SPLIT
TONI ERDMANN



TONI ERDMANN



LOVING



SPLIT



LION



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

FEBRUARY	FILM	TIME
1 WED	SULLY	2.00, 7.30
2 THU	SULLY	2.00
2 THU	FANTASTIC BEASTS	7.30
3 FRI	STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE	7.30
4 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00
4 SAT	STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE	7.00
5 SUN	STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE	1.00
5 SUN	SULLY	5.00
6 MON	A UNITED KINGDOM	12.30, 7.30
7 TUE	ALLIED	12.30
7 TUE	THE EAGLE HUNTRESS	7.30
8 WED	A STREETCAT NAMED BOB	2.00, 7.30
9 THU	THE EAGLE HUNTRESS	2.00
9 THU	A MONSTER CALLS	7.30
10 FRI	GOODFELLAS	7.30
11 SAT	BALLERINA	2.00
11 SAT	LA LA LAND	7.00
12 SUN	LA LA LAND	1.00, 5.00
13 MON	STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE	12.30
13 MON	LA LA LAND	7.30
14 TUE	BALLERINA	11.00
14 TUE	LA LA LAND	3.00
14 TUE	BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S	7.30
15 WED	A MONSTER CALLS	11.00
15 WED	BALLERINA	3.00
15 WED	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	7.30
16 THU	MOANA	11.00
16 THU	STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE	3.00
16 THU	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	7.30
17 FRI	HACKSAW RIDGE	7.30
18 SAT	LA LA LAND	2.00
18 SAT	HACKSAW RIDGE	7.00
19 SUN	LA LA LAND	1.00, 5.00
20 MON	LA LA LAND	12.30, 7.30
21 TUE	HACKSAW RIDGE	12.30
21 TUE	ASSASSIN'S CREED	7.30
22 WED	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	2.00, 7.30
23 THU	THE UNKNOWN GIRL	2.00, 7.30
24 FRI	JACKIE	7.30
25 SAT	A MONSTER CALLS	2.00
25 SAT	JACKIE	7.00
26 SUN	JACKIE	1.00
26 SUN	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	5.00
27 MON	JACKIE	12.30
27 MON	DENIAL	7.30
28 TUE	DENIAL	12.30, 7.30

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

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FEBRUARY	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 WED	SULLY	2.00, 7.30	8
2 THU	A STREET CAT NAMED BOB	2.00	8
2 THU	ALLIED	7.30	9
3 FRI	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.30	9
4 SAT	BALLERINA	2.00	10
4 SAT	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.00	9
5 SUN	A UNITED KINGDOM	6.00	11
6 MON	SNOWDEN	2.00, 7.30	12
7 TUE	ARRIVAL	2.00, 7.30	12
8 WED	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30	11
9 THU	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00	11
9 THU	ASSASSIN'S CREED	7.30	13
10 FRI	A STREET CAT NAMED BOB	7.30	8
11 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	13
11 SAT	A MONSTER CALLS	7.00	14
12 SUN	A MONSTER CALLS	6.00	14
13 MON	MOANA	2.00	15
13 MON	THE EAGLE HUNTRESS	7.30	13
14 TUE	BALLERINA	2.00	10
14 TUE	CASABLANCA	7.30	18
15 WED	MOANA	2.00	15
15 WED	FANTASTIC BEASTS	7.30	13
16 THU	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	2.00	9
16 THU	A UNITED KINGDOM	7.30	11
17 FRI	LA LA LAND	7.30	19
18 SAT	SWALLOWS & AMAZONS	2.00	20
18 SAT	LA LA LAND	7.00	19
19 SUN	LA LA LAND	6.00	19
20 MON	LA LA LAND	2.00	19
20 MON	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	7.30	20
21 TUE	LA LA LAND	2.00	19
21 TUE	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	7.30	20
22 WED	LA LA LAND	2.00	19
22 WED	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	7.30	20
23 THU	JACKIE	2.00, 7.30	21
24 FRI	JACKIE	7.30	21
25 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	13
25 SAT	JACKIE	7.00	21
26 SUN	LA LA LAND	6.00	19
27 MON	JACKIE	2.00	21
27 MON	LA LA LAND	7.30	19
28 TUE	LA LA LAND	2.00, 7.30	19

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

LA LA LAND

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

JACKIE

A MONSTER CALLS

NEW RELEASES

HACKSAW RIDGE

DENIAL

TONI ERDMANN

PLUS...



LION



LOVING



CHRISTINE



THE YOUNG OFFENDERS



Director: Michael Curtiz
 Cast: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman
 Duration: 102 mins
 Origin: USA 1942
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Tue 14 7.30

VALENTINE'S DAY

Casablanca

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world she walks into... The Rex on Valentines day.

On a shortlist of all-time classic Hollywood love stories, Casablanca must be close to the top. Come and enjoy every second of every line you've heard a million times.

You know the story but just in case: Bogart plays to his greatest-type, the seen-it-all, battered, laconic, tired, wisecracking nightclub owner Rick Blane. The ethereal Bergman who left him waiting at that rainy Parisienne railway station years before, walks into his bar and back into his life. Cue: "Moonlight and love songs never out of date... that no one can deny..."

Casablanca here in Berkhamsted or wherever we show it, is dedicated to Peter Clark who played Capt Renault (Claude Reins) in Boxmoor Arts Centre's live theatrical production set in glorious grey (March) and on the Edinburgh Fringe in (August) 1983. When he replaced his vast collection of vinyl with CDs, he gave me his precious turn-table and amp on permanent-loan. It's still here, now permanently. Peter died for no good reason in August 2002 aged 55. Here's looking at you kid...



La La Land

Just this once, believe the hype. The stars align and these two starry adorables reunite in Damien Chazelle's fabulous storytelling musical ditty.

He has you in the palm of his hand from the opening one-take shot, when the two leads, jobbing jazz musician Ryan Gosling and aspiring actress Emma Stone, pass in their cars after all an singing/dancing traffic snarl-up on a soaring freeway LA overpass. La La Land gets a lot of flavour from its fabulous screen heritage.

It's an indie do-over of a French New Wave-take on classic American musicals, part Top Hat, part Umbrellas Of Cherbourg, but mostly Singin' In The Rain. Yet Chazelle deftly handles the combination, and in doing so avoids the cheese. It is equal parts corny and cool. If Emma is the heart, Ryan is its soul. This is the America we dream about. For two genuinely magical hours, you can forget about the real one. (*research Jack Whiting*) It is Hollywood's unabashed celebration of itself. It is why 'they' built 1100 seater 'escape' palaces, like Rex's and Odysseys everywhere throughout the Thirties.

An Oscar for fun, without one preachy po-face, in this early Dr Strangelove 2017, will be worth its wait in smiles of small joy...



Director: Damien Chazelle
Cast: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri	17	7.30	Wed	22	2.00
Sat	18	7.00	Sun	26	6.00
Sun	19	6.00	Mon	27	7.30
Mon	20	2.00	Tue	28	2.00
Tue	21	2.00	Tue	28	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, non-actors, are perfectly cast. The Lake District is perfect in all its careless, spectacular beauty and tranquility, serving peace in our love for 'trees and hills and streams'. As for simple penknife and string adventures, this is a delicious tale set in what we imagine as a time of 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 for a long time." (*Telegraph*)

Much of it was filmed on the breathtaking Derwent Water at Keswick, where the very special 'Cat Bells' ridge can be clearly seen in many background shots (and on last Sept's Rex cover). I will never forget. The film will show here 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 18 2.00



Manchester By The Sea

Casey Affleck's burgeoning career continues to go from strength to strength as he shines in Kenneth Lonergan's searing emotional drama.

Set against Massachusetts' gloomy North Shore, this tragic tale follows Lee Chandler (Affleck) a young man hopelessly lost in life, as he returns to his hometown after the death of his brother Joe (another brilliant turn by Kyle Chandler) to care for Joe's only son, 16-year-old, Patrick. His brother's death has left Lee an unexpected, and most under-qualified, legal guardian. With painful flashbacks to the past intermingled with turbulent scenes of the present, the source of Lee's sorrow is slowly revealed, underpinning the complexity of his relationships with Patrick and ex-wife Randi (the reliably odd, Michelle Williams) who has remarried and has a baby on the way. Considered front runners for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress Oscars, Affleck and Williams may have to play second string to Lonergan on the night with many predicting a Best Picture nomination. Whether or not, *Manchester-by-the-Sea* remains a career highlight, not only for its director but, for virtually all involved. "His heartbreaking third feature finally confirms Lonergan as an auteur of genuine merit" (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee). It will wring you ragged, but don't miss.

Director: Kenneth Lonergan
Cast: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Mon 20 7.30

Tue 21 7.30

Wed 22 7.30



Jackie

This raw portrait of America's, most tragic and history's only immortalised First Lady, captures in exquisite detail Jackie Kennedy's resolve to maintain a figure of poise and grace in the wake of Dallas, November 22nd 1963.

Larrain's anticipated biopic shifts the focus from JFK to the iconic wife who continued living in the sight and shadow of his slaying. Natalie Portman takes the newly-widowed First Lady elegance and makes it her own. In the four days following, she has to explain to her children why their father is never coming home. The narrative centres on the framing device of Jackie's famous 'non-interview' with Life magazine a mere week after Dallas. Interjecting flashbacks to the killing scene and its tense build up, and her married life in the White House, constantly reminds the audience of the shadows between them. The psychological trauma from her being right beside Kennedy as he is shot, is the crux. It is this cool, aloof, absolute presence of mind, which assures Jackie Kennedy's long place in history. Femininity, grace, style and presence personified.

"The never-better Portman simply shines, giving a performance of mesmeric complexity..." (*Telegraph*)
 "Jackie is not Oscar bait, it's great cinema."
 (*Guardian*) (review Grace Atkins) Stunning. Don't miss.



Director: Pablo Larrain
Cast: Natalie Portman, Billy Crudup, Peter Sarsgaard, John Hurt, Greta Gerwig
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA/Chile/France 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Thu	23	2.00, 7.30
Fri	24	7.30
Sat	25	7.00
Mon	27	2.00

Winners v Losers 2017

Silver and bronze are for second and third. They are pats on the back (almost-but-never-mind).

The fat shiny gold goes to the best, the fastest, the winner. Awards for films, acting and the rest, are trickier. More like guesswork. Instead of being able to trust what we see on the track, tennis court, or TT course, we have to trust informed guessing. Glitzy awards guessed by unseen experts: the Great and Good of the film industry. They pick out the winners and nominees (silver & bronze) from the also-rans.

Nobody is left in any doubt when Usain Bolt or Mo Farrah cross the line. They are simply better than anybody else in the race. The dilemma for Arts prizes in general, and film in particular, is how to answer the question: is it any good? A worthy subject matter shouldn't matter, nor either the extreme limits of an actors endurance. It is how well the film is made, with particular attention to the audience. Not pandering or patronising and certainly not asking preview audiences which ending they would like best!

But using everything in the camera lens to take an audience on that trip from inside that lens. Telling the story to enthrall and engage an audience is a story's only job.

Last year there was a fuss about 'Diversity' – a great weasel word.

In the 'is it, are they, any good?' depts, the only colour, words, sounds and movement to be taken into account, should be on the screen. The colour on the screen, not the colour of the film makers. Last year's unopposed furore and po-faced protests felt like the black and gay bus was out to win prizes for just being. Nobody was ignored, just considered as also-rans. That's the price of being judged. The subject matter doesn't matter. Is the story any good? Are they telling it well? Does it enthrall and engage us all by itself? There are no prizes for simply being. Being is what the rest of us do. Storytellers are there to take us, the audience, out of ourselves, enlighten, move, thrill or touch us.

That's all. And is it any good, is the only measure. Discuss.

OSCAR'S DIVERGENT FAVES AND GUESSES



FENCES



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC



LA LA LAND



THE EAGLE HUNTRESS



JACKIE



MOONLIGHT



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA



NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Missing names...



As promised, 18 years later, the earliest Rex seat sponsors names have been posted in the foyer. Alongside is a list of key players who worked a little or a lot to get us open. First ABL names to sign up will follow soon-ish...

Right:
a gratuitous snap of Berkhamsted station speeding and still, one winter afternoon.



Odyssey 2nd Anniversary 13th January 2017



pics: Rosemary Foster





La La Land at The Odyssey's second anniversary on 13th January saw a fabulous full house audience who thronged the foyer, not knowing they were about to see the UK's first screening after its London premiere. Here above, Matt, Mike and Holly prepare for the audience. Below Ross and Matt introduce La La Land.

