

THE-REX

FEBRUARY 2019

MARY POPPINS
RETURNS

"velveteen glamour and brilliant programming..." (The Guardian)
"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema.." (BBC)

FEBRUARY 2019 • ISSUE 167
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01442 877759

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

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 16-17

Rants & Pants 24-27

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.50

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

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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



Un amour impossible (An Impossible Love) (Fr)

Angot's searingly honest emotionally fuelled first-person hot confessions, saved for Valentines Day...!!

See page 13

FILMS OF THE MONTH



La Villa (The House By the Sea) (Fr)

Melancholy and real elegance set in Marseilles. Period flashbacks tell us why they are here... See page 9



Holmes & Watson

One double act too far... It's been universally panned, so here it is. This time they're probably right.

See page 10



Cold War (Pol)

A bitter sweet and perishing cold love story, heated by a red hot single flame: Joanna Kulig.

See page 13



The Fronrunner

Had enough of flawed American presidents? We'll here's another yarn, with Jackman in Trump's wig.

See page 18

PLUS awards contenders (see p26-27)



FEBRUARY FILMS



Mary Poppins Returns

An enchanting sequel to the 1964 Disney classic, *Mary Poppins'* charm is as infectious as ever.

Julie Andrews is a tough act to follow, Emily Blunt's take on the iconic magical nanny is distinct from her predecessor, adding a spoonful of glamour and dry wit. Set a couple of decades after the original, the Banks children, Michael and Jane, are now grown ups at the height of Britain's Great Depression. Suffering a crisis of his own, Michael (Ben Wishaw) has recently lost his wife and has only five days to find money before his family home is repossessed. When one of his three children, Georgie (Joel Dawson) uses his father's old unwanted kite, he is almost pulled into the air and saved by lamplighter Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda).

Miraculously Mary Poppins descends with the kite, returning to help the Banks family with their grief, conjuring up whimsical underwater worlds and nonsensical trips in a china bowl.

Devoted to the original, with its kites, umbrellas and a Dick Van Dyke cameo, *Mary Poppins Returns* immerses adults and children alike in the magic of limitless imagination.

A simple plot but still supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. (research Rachel Williams)

Brilliant!! You will want to see it again and again.

Director: Rob Marshall
 Cast: Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda,
 Ben Wishaw
 Duration: 130 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: U
 Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...			Mon 4	2.00
Fri	1	2.00	Wed 6	2.00
Sat	2	2.00	Wed 6	7.30
Sat	2	7.00	Sat 9	2.00
Sun	3	1.00	Wed 20	2.00
Sun	3	6.00	Sat 23	2.00



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 shifts into a new shape all to herself, and one refreshingly natural. They 'connect' over a song in a car park, leading 'Jack' 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 a star. (*research Rachel Williams*) Drawn spontaneously to each other, the music they make forms one beautiful two-part harmony. So rare on any screen, it is impossible to watch these two so naturally fall in love, not to fall with them, ups and downs and all. Breathtaking.

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...

Fri 1 7.30 Fri 15 2.00
Thu 7 2.00 Fri 22 7.30



La Villa (The House By The Sea)

You might know what to expect from writer-director Robert Guédiguian: a faithful team of repertory regulars, robust old-school left-wing rhetoric, and dramas set in the Marseilles area. The cautious Ariane Ascaride takes centre stage, delivering a tragic, albeit one-note performance. Her sense of vacancy, however, is countered by Jean-Pierre Darroussin's layered turn as her brother, fluctuating from cynic, to pervert, to utterly sympathetic victim of paternal influence. Periodic flashbacks show how their characters arrived at this point. Hence, we are taken to the director's 1986 film *Ki Lo Sa?* featuring the same cast. It's a striking contrast. There's a breezy fizz to that first film, understandably absent in this muted account of a sadder time. But this melancholy is occasionally used with real elegance particularly in a wrenchingly poignant scene that unites the small community following an unexpected double tragedy. The way the film subtly charts family dynamics and sociopolitical upheaval in the region is no mean feat, even if it does buckle under the weight of its own modest ambitions. A mournful story beautifully told. (*Jack Whiting*) Confused? Don't be, it's French. You'll be alright. So come and decide for yourselves...

Director: Robert Guediguian
Cast: Ariane Ascaride, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Gérard Meylan
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: France 2017 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 12A
Company: New Wave Films Ltd

When...

Mon 4 7.30



The Wife

Standing in the shadows of her husband's acclaimed literary career, Glenn Close's performance of a wife's late-life crisis is exquisitely multi-layered. As its title suggests, Joan Castleman (Close) is defined by her role as an esteemed novelist's wife: her own talent as a writer masked through decades of self-sacrifice. Based on Meg Wolitzer's novel, *The Wife* is set in Clinton-era 1992, when Joan's husband Joe (a creepy Jonathan Pryce) is informed that he has won the Nobel Prize in Literature. As such, a magazine cover will replace Bill Clinton with Joe, setting up parallels between the successful man and supportive wife behind him. Leading up to the ceremony in Stockholm, Joan's desire for recognition begins to emerge. Through flashbacks to her younger self, played by Close's daughter (Annie Starke – surprised?) we see how she bonds with Joe (her professor, married at the time) over their determination to write. After a lifetime of supporting his success, she warns a fan seeking to be his biographer (Christian Slater) that she is too interesting to be 'painted as a victim'. This tense, damp comedy explores Joan's need to reclaim her identity after years of compromise.

(research Rachel Williams)

More awards await? Hope not. (Gaga rules - ok...!!!)

Director: Bjorn Runge
 Cast: Glenn Close, Jonathan Pryce, Christian Slater, Elizabeth McGovern
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Picturehouse Entertainment



Holmes & Watson

Yet another take on the super sleuth and his sidekick, this time a broad comedy (as broad as comedy can be). It sees Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly team up (third time) with mixed results. Holmes (Ferrell) and Watson (Reilly) are said to have met as schoolboys after a young Holmes used his powers of deduction to get their bullying classmates expelled. The relationship has grown so close that Holmes can predict Watson's moves at rock, paper, scissors and Battleship without a game being played. They bond over the dubious wisdom of sending drunk-telegrams and the nonsense of finding Holmes the proper hat. When Holmes deduces that the man he captured is a decoy, and that the real Moriarty (Ralph Fiennes) is still on the loose, he's forced to reconcile his snotty interlect with his own idiocy if he hopes to stop his arch-nemesis killing the Queen.

One of the year's most critically shellacked movies, *Holmes & Watson* begins as inept as any low-brow comedy, then settles into an agreeably silly groove that will have the common hordes yukking it up. (research Jack Whiting) Think this means Ferrell fans will swallow whatever he does? Come and see.

Director: Etan Cohen
 Cast: Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Ralph Fiennes, Kelly Macdonald, Rebecca Hall, Pam Ferris
 Duration: 90 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd.

When... Tue 5 7.30
 Tue 5 2.00 Mon 11 2.00

When... Thu 7 7.30



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 overblown self-belief. They will reach unparalleled success, but in an unexpected turn Freddie/Rami surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of a solo career. Having suffered greatly without their natural collaboration, 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 will be (rightly) left feeling short changed! Good. 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 Freddie's gig. The title is taken from one of the most overrated, overplayed and over-haired cringepop videos, ever. But that aside... it will win a mask/statuette.

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

When...

Fri 8 2.00 Sat 16 7.00
Fri 8 7.30 Sun 24 1.00



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) 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 conjured. (*Jack Whiting*) Fear not Jack. JK fans will know how to undo plot-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...

Sat 9 7.00 Sun 17 1.00



The Favourite

Yorgos Lanthimos is not like many other filmmakers. His projects have an off-kilter quality like no other; existing in their own little absurdist worlds. Terrifying and wondrous in equal parts, Lanthimos (*Dogtooth*, *The Lobster*) infuses his oddball characters with deliberately stilted line delivery and a flat, emotionless demeanor. *The Favourite* – his first film not written by him and his partner – is his most accessible and yet surprisingly, most absurd one yet. An outrageous satire (think *Death of Stalin* with frocks) has Olivia Colman as Queen Anne, a maudlin, largely bed-ridden monarch barely able to bathe and get dressed. Rachel Weisz plays her confidante and very, very close friend Sarah Churchill, who has her hand in more than just the queen's political affairs. Their partnership is disrupted by the arrival of Abigail (Emma Stone), an opportunistic Lady fallen on hard times, who arrives at Anne's palace in the hope of winning the queen over and restoring her own stature. From the overt, modern sexuality to the fisheye camera shots; *The Favourite* is hardly typical period proceedings, and is all the more fabulous for it. (*Jack Whiting*) It looks very like very heavy furniture. Hope for a lightness of touch here and there.

Director: Yorgos Lanthimos
 Cast: Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz, Nicholas Hoult, Joe Alwyn
 Duration: 119 mins
 Origin: UK / Ireland / USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Sun 10	1.00	Tue 12	2.00
Sun 10	6.00	Tue 12	7.30
Mon 11	7.30	Wed 13	2.00



Cold War

An ode to exquisite jazz riffs and the bleak depths of post-war Europe, Cold War tracks an epic romance; passionate, dirty and destructive. Oscar-winning director for *Ida* 2013, Paweł Pawlikowski's latest monochrome masterpiece is a poignant study of love across the Iron Curtain. Beginning in late-1940s Poland, a handsome musician Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and his colleague (lover) Irena (Agata Kulesza) are scouting talent for a folk music troupe. A blonde bombshell Zula (Joanna Kulig) recently out of prison after attacking her stepfather, stands out among the ordinary folk singers. With a sensual performance, Zula's magnetic presence captures Wiktor's interest, granting her a place within the musical ensemble and initiating their turbulent love affair. As the folk group become a Stalinist propaganda machine, travelling to East Berlin to perform, Zula must decide whether to defect to the West with Wiktor. Her decision determines the course of their future, artfully revealed to the audience in episodes across 1950s and 60s Paris, Yugoslavia and Poland. *Cold War* demonstrates how life is not simply black and white like the film's cinematography, but brightly coloured by difficult, sometimes crazy, love in a cold hearted climate. (*research Rachel Williams*) Indeed. A searing erotic beauty... Don't miss on Valentines afternoon!!

Director: Paweł Pawlikowski
 Cast: Joanna Kulig, Tomasz Kot, Borys Szyc, Agata Kulesza, Cédric Kahn
 Duration: 88 mins
 Origin: Poland 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Artificial Eye Film Co. Ltd

When...

Wed 13 7.30 Thu 14 2.00



VALENTINE'S DAY

An Impossible Love

Virginie Efira and Niels Schneider astound in this accomplished exploration of gender politics.

In 1958, 25-year-old Rachel, an office clerk living in French provincial town Châteauroux, meets Philippe, a romantic young intellectual from a wealthy family. They share a passionate but short-lived romance from which Chantal is conceived (impressive new-comer Estelle Lescure). Over the years that follow, their lives are shaped by the unconditional love between a mother and her daughter as they are both overwhelmed by absence, rejection and abuse. Adapted from Christine Angot's best-selling autobiographical novel, it is a film filled with searingly honest accounts; those of relationships, sexual experiences and psychological states past and present. Angot's emotionally fuelled first-person confessions return time and again to the disturbing events of her youth, mirrored through the traumas of Rachel, a character played with such beauty by Belgian star Efira. Schneider beautiful also, as an elusive outsider who seems sincere in his love for Rachel, at least initially... Hard-hitting stuff from director Catherine Corsini. (*Research Chris Coetsee*). French, so of course perfect for a romantic Brit Valentines movie, on that peculiar day when hurrying men, eyes down, carry gaudy cellophane bouquets in the open street. Neither 'show' is to be missed.

Director: Catherine Corsini
 Cast: Virginie Efira, Niels Schneider, Jehnny Beth, Estelle Lescure, Coralie Russier
 Duration: 135 mins
 Origin: France 2018 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Artificial Eye Film Co. Ltd

When...

Thu 14 7.30



The Upside

They finally did it. Hollywood has remade beloved Rex fave, Untouchable, and you know what (apart from total lack of enlightenment) it could have been far worse?

Surfacing after two years of being on the shelf (one of the many casualties of the Weinstein scandal) The Upside has Bryan Cranston as Phillip, a paraplegic mega-rich business guru who suffered a catastrophic hang-gliding accident. Kevin Hart plays Dell, the fast-talking parolee who gets a job as his live-in "life auxiliary".

Yes it's derivative, yes it's irrelevant and unnecessary. But Cranston and Hart give engaging performances. A warm vibe between the two men goes a long way toward sweetening the sap and contrivances and there are enough differences to the original's story to make it feel fresh?? On the downside, having two familiar faces is distracting, and exposes the cracks in the story. The original's undying beauty lies in being original, charming, deep, open and French! "Casting charismatic 'unknowns'..." my arse. The US Interior, Midwest and Southland is foreigner-free. The Upside contains some genuinely funny moments and is blessedly short on crassness? (*Jack Whiting*) Sacré bleu. Even the title is wrong. A film wallowing in lack of imagination. The original is Untouchable.

Director: Neil Burger
 Cast: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, Nicole Kidman, Julianna Margulies
 Duration: 126 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: STX International

When...

Fri 15 7.30



Aquaman

From the endless wonders of computer wizardry the kingdom of Atlantis is fully realised in all its oceanic glory in this zany underwater adventure.

Gargantuan lobsters and crabs hailing from the "Kingdom of Brine" of course, rumble against weaponized sharks and an armada of creatures swimming by in a blur of bubbles. Pec-greasing above the din with his trident standing by, is mega-tattooed Arthur (a mostly shirtless Jason Momoa) or to keep it snappy: Aquaman! The crisis of his adult life arrives when Aquaman's half-brother King Orm (Patrick Wilson) wishes to unite the various kings of the seas under his own unscrupulous rule and lead a pre-emptive attack on all those air-breathers walking around above sea level, poisoning both land and sea. Aquaman is the only person who can stop this. His own mixed ancestry will bring a spiritually amphibious peace to humans and water-dwellers. Yes, we're firmly back in comic book territory (again), yet at least you can't scorn this one for playing it safe. This superhero fable leans closer to the camp classics of the eighties - such as Excalibur and Flash Gordon - but make no mistake, it's all over the place. (*Jack Whiting*) Half man half fish-cake... great fun, don't miss.

Director: James Wan
 Cast: Jason Momoa, Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Nicole Kidman
 Duration: 143 mins
 Origin: Australia / USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Bros

When...

Sat 16 2.00 Sat 23 7.00



Colette

Dominic West and Keira Knightley dazzle in this lavish biopic of the French author Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette. As Colette, Knightley rapidly evolves from sheltered country girl to fearless denizen of the boudoirs and stages of Paris. As her husband Henri "Willy" Gauthier-Villars, West bursts with bombastic exuberance as the entrepreneurial author and critic who shamelessly co-opted (ie stole) the work of other writers under his own byline. Including making a fortune from Colette's Claudine novels, promptly squandering the earnings while perpetually womanizing and doubly flirting with bankruptcy. Lush costume designs and vivid colours bring passion to the visuals as alluring as the leads' vivacious performances. Knightley delivers reliable work as Colette, most effectively portraying her character's maturation from manipulated maiden to uncompromising feminist icon. As Colette explores her own sense of gender identity, Knightley carries off her character's coolness with real and delicious ease. As it dutifully unfolds, Richard Glatzer's sturdy, structured screenplay brings Colette's life into shining relief as a champion for women who are no longer willing to quietly allow men steal credit for their achievements. A refreshing take on a well-worn tale. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) And... Keira is ultra fab. Come and see, and stop being irritated.



Director: Wash Westmoreland
Cast: Keira Knightley, Fiona Shaw, Dominic West, Robert Pugh
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: UK/ USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Sun 17 6.00

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

BEAUTIFUL BOY
THE FAVOURITE
COLETTE

THE FRONT RUNNER
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

NEW RELEASES

VICE
THE MULE
DESTROYER
BURNING

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME
GREEN BOOK



THE MULE



DESTROYER



BURNING



CAN YOU EVER
FORGIVE ME



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

FEBRUARY	FILM	TIME
1 FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30
2 SAT	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00
2 SAT	A STAR IS BORN	7.00
3 SUN	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	1.00, 6.00
4 MON	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	2.00, 7.30
5 TUE	A STAR IS BORN	12.00
5 TUE	TULIP FEVER	7.30
6 WED	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	1.00, 7.30
7 THU	TULIP FEVER	2.00
7 THU	A STAR IS BORN	7.30
8 FRI	THE FAVOURITE	7.30
9 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	2.00
9 SAT	THE FAVOURITE	7.00
10 SUN	THE FAVOURITE	1.00
10 SUN	COLETTE	6.00
11 MON	COLETTE	2.00
11 MON	AN IMPOSSIBLE LOVE (S)	7.30
12 TUE	THE FRONT RUNNER	12.00, 7.30
13 WED	COLETTE	1.00, 7.30
14 THU	CASABLANCA (1942)	5.00
14 THU	BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S (1961)	8.45
15 FRI	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	5.00
15 FRI	TRUE ROMANCE (1993)	9.00
16 SAT	THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (J)	2.00
16 SAT	THE FRONT RUNNER	7.00
17 SUN	STAN & OLLIE	1.00
17 SUN	HAROLD AND MAUDE (1971) (+i)	6.00
18 MON	STAN & OLLIE	2.00
18 MON	SHOPLIFTERS (S)	7.30
19 TUE	BUMBLEBEE	12.00
19 TUE	FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD	7.30
20 WED	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	1.00
20 WED	STAN & OLLIE	7.30
21 THU	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	1.00
21 THU	BUMBLEBEE	5.00
21 THU	GROUNDHOG DAY (1993)	9.00
22 FRI	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	5.00, 9.00
23 SAT	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	1.00
23 SAT	CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (1968)	5.00
23 SAT	GLASS	9.30
24 SUN	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	1.00
24 SUN	THE FAVOURITE	6.00
25 MON	STAN & OLLIE	2.00
25 MON	STAN & OLLIE	7.30
26 TUE	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	12.00, 7.30
27 WED	BEAUTIFUL BOY	1.00, 7.30
28 THU	THE FAVOURITE	2.00
28 THU	STAN & OLLIE	7.30

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

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

01442
877759



FEBRUARY	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 FRI	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00	8
1 FRI	A STAR IS BORN	7.30	9
2 SAT	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00, 7.00	8
3 SUN	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	1.00, 6.00	8
4 MON	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00	8
4 MON	THE HOUSE BY THE SEA (S)	7.30	9
5 TUES	THE WIFE	2.00, 7.30	10
6 WED	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00, 7.30	8
7 THU	A STAR IS BORN	2.00	9
7 THU	HOLMES & WATSON	7.30	10
8 FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	2.00, 7.30	11
9 SAT	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00	8
9 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	7.00	11
10 SUN	THE FAVOURITE	1.00, 6.00	12
11 MON	THE WIFE	2.00	10
11 MON	THE FAVOURITE	7.30	12
12 TUES	THE FAVOURITE	2.00, 7.30	12
13 WED	THE FAVOURITE	2.00	12
13 WED	COLD WAR (S)	7.30	13
14 THU	COLD WAR (S)	2.00	13
14 THU	AN IMPOSSIBLE LOVE (S)	7.30	13
15 FRI	A STAR IS BORN	2.00	9
15 FRI	THE UPSIDE	7.30	14
16 SAT	AQUAMAN	2.00	14
16 SAT	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.00	11
17 SUN	FANTASTIC BEASTS 2	1.00	11
17 SUN	COLETTE	6.00	15
18 MON	RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET	2.00	18
18 MON	THE FRONT RUNNER	7.30	18
19 TUES	STAN & OLLIE	2.00, 7.30	19
20 WED	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00	8
20 WED	STAN & OLLIE	7.30	19
21 THU	THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	2.00	20
21 THU	FREE SOLO	7.30	20
22 FRI	FROZEN	2.00	21
22 FRI	A STAR IS BORN	7.30	9
23 SAT	MARY POPPINS RETURNS	2.00	8
23 SAT	AQUAMAN	7.00	14
24 SUN	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	1.00	11
24 SUN	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	6.00	22
25 MON	STAN & OLLIE	2.00	19
25 MON	C'EST LA VIE! (S)	7.30	23
26 TUES	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	2.00, 7.30	22
27 WED	MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS	2.00, 7.30	22
28 THU	BEAUTIFUL BOY	2.00, 7.30	23

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

STAN & OLLIE

COLETTE

SHOPLIFTERS

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
AN IMPOSSIBLE LOVE

NEW RELEASES

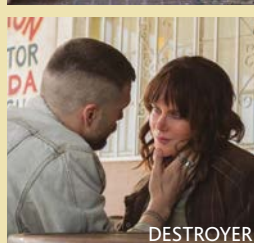
VICE

GREEN BOOK

CAPERNAUM (LEBANESE)

DESTROYER

THE MULE





Ralph Breaks The Internet

Ralph 'Wrecks' the Internet would've been a more suitable title but then the filmmakers would have missed out on a reference to a tabloid story from 2014, which is something this sequel just loves doing: making references.

Cynical cash-grab aside (c'mon, it's Disney), there's a lot to love in this world wide web-themed adventure. Our hero Ralph (John C Reilly) is pretty much how we left him, living out a peaceful – if not monotonous – life in the arcade with his best friend Vanellope (Sarah Silverman). They cause gentle havoc, they cameo in other games, and for Ralph that's quite enough excitement. But young Vanellope longs for something new. When the arcade's elderly proprietor finally installs wifi (or 'wee-fee', as they pronounce it), it opens the door to a whole new online world, one that sings with sound and fury, from viral videos to vicious comment sections. While Ralph is keen to return to their old life, Vanellope is transfixed by the possibilities the internet offers, and starts to consider what life might be like outside of the arcade. Cue a slew of internet in-jokes and online based calamities. (*Jack Whiting*)

Directors: Rich Moore, Phil Johnston
Voices: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Gal Gadot, Alan Tudyk, Kristen Bell, Mandy Moore
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: WDSMP UK

When...

Mon 18 2.00



The Front Runner

Jason Reitman directs a film about a sexually incontinent presidential hopeful who goes to war with the press. Who would hear of such a thing a US president...

Hugh Jackman dons a rather unflattering hairpiece (unnecessary and distracting) to play Democratic candidate Gary Hart, masking his usual winning charm with a curious sense of self-importance. 1988 was the moment that US politics mutated into a toothy, slickly packaged personality pageant. As Hart hits the campaign trail, his womanising comes under scrutiny from journalists at the Miami Herald, who uncover evidence that he is potentially having an affair with Donnie Rice (Sara Paxton) a pretty young pharmaceutical rep in the Florida, miles away from his long-suffering wife Lee (Vera Farmiga). Caught in the slipstream are the campaign staff and the press corps. From jaded veterans; JK Simmons is superb as manager Bill Dixon to idealistic rookies, all have bought into the idea of this upstanding man campaigning on a ticket of decency. At the heart of this kinetic ensemble is Jackman, dishing up one of his finest performances yet. The rightness or wrongness of his actions, and of his treatment by the press, is left for us to decide. (*research Jack Whiting*)
 Timely? Too late to care.

Director: Jason Reitman
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Vera Farmiga, J.K. Simmons
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Sony Pictures

When...

Mon 18 7.30



Stan & Ollie

The world's most energetic, enigmatic comedy duo attempt to reignite their film careers as they embark on what becomes their swan song; a gruelling theatre tour of post-war Britain.

Last year brought us *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool*, a glorious real life story of Hollywood star Gloria Grahame's waning years spent in the U.K. Stan & Ollie, an ode to British-American comedy joyfully skips through the lens of time, chronicling their rocky but ultimately loving friendship beyond being a world-renowned double act performance.

As their career enters its twilight years, the former comedy power-duo reunite for a tour of Britain in a last ditch effort to raise funds for a big-screen comeback. As Hardy's health begins to falter, Laurel begins to accept their glory days may indeed be long gone. Coogan and Reilly not only excel at creating convincing impressions of one of the most famous comic double acts of the last century, but they do an uncanny job of recreating a handful of Stan and Ollie's famous routines, which today mostly play as mild yet expertly timed delights. Pretty much unmissable. (*Research Chris Coetsee*). Watch out for the comic fourway banter with their wives (scene-stealers Shirley Henderson & Nina Arianda)



Director: Jon S. Baird
Cast: John C. Reilly, Steve Coogan, Shirley Henderson, Nina Arianda, Stephanie Hyam, Danny Huston
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK / Canada / USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: Entertainment One UK Ltd

When...

Tue 19	2.00	Wed 20	7.30
Tue 19	7.30	Mon 25	2.00



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. It is... Fabulous. Come.

Directors: Lasse Hallström, Joe Johnston
Cast: Mackenzie Foy, Keira Knightley, Morgan Freeman, Meera Syal
Duration: 99mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Thu 21 2.00



Free Solo

This chronicle of reckless, outrageous human spirit is truly terrifying magic.

Co-directors Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi are both experienced climbers. Their skill gives Free Solo its intensity. The real credit lies in the sure palms of ambitious young climber Alex Honnold, boldly aiming to become the first to climb the 3,000ft sheer El Capitan Wall in Yosemite all by himself, with no equipment. As Alex commences his climb, he produces some of the most nail-biting cinema you will ever see. Chin and his crew put themselves in precarious positions to get their footage and wrestle with the moral question of whether they should be filming it at all. Do they want to film their friend drop and die? Will their ever-present lense spoil Honnold's concentration to rise or fall... Not to give away the end of this jaw-to-the-floor study in courageous, foolhardy, human endeavour, he dies...? This ridiculous adventure naturally lends itself to being supremely cinematic. *(Research Chris Coetsee)* Anchored by being edge of the seat throughout, Honnold is both sane and nuts. Yes, beautiful documentary filmmaking at its best. There's no sign of a boot, a rope, a flask of something warm or a stout stick. Do try this at home children.

Directors: Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi
Cast: Tommy Caldwell, Jimmy Chin, Alex Honnold
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: UK 2018
Certificate: 12A
Company: Dogwoof Pictures

When...

Thu 21 7.30



Frozen

Disney's Frozen, an animated fairy tale musical inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's Snow Queen takes place in the kingdom of Arendelle, where the young princess Elsa was born with the ability to magically create ice with her bare hands. Fearing Elsa might cause serious harm, the panicking king and queen decide to isolate both daughters from the outside world! Years later, following some tragic events, grown-up Elsa and Anna no longer share the close bond they once had. However, upon Elsa's coronation day, people from all over the kingdom flock to meet the new queen and Anna meets and falls for the handsomely goofy Prince Hans. Unfortunately, Elsa's mounting emotions start to break free, as she inadvertently ices over the kingdom.

"Cheesy critical metaphors are hard to avoid: with such warmth within its icy landscape, this is a celluloidbaked Alaska." (*Guardian*)

"Enjoyable; romantic, subversive, engaging, enthralling." (*Observer*)

"Frozen is the best Disney since Aladdin, a glittering, sparkling cartoon epic..." (*ST Culture*).

Stay cool if you miss it, it's set to freeze up here like a bad icicle, and after swearing it would never come back... it's back. For one and only 'last' half-term time?



Director: Chris Buck
 Duration: 108 mins
 Origin: USA 2013
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Fri 22 2.00



Mary Queen Of Scots

Pitted against each other in royal rivalry, Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie's powerful performances depict two of history's most misunderstood monarchs in a new light, albeit an historically inaccurate light. Director Jodie Rourke spins the infamous 16th-century conflict into a visually captivating retelling. Queen of France at 16 and a widow at 18, Mary (Ronan) returns to her native Scotland to attempt to overthrow Elizabeth (Robbie) and reclaim the throne. Known as 'The Virgin Queen' without an heir, Elizabeth is thrown into an inconvenient power struggle with her cousin. The feud is mostly at safe-distance with tension created through letters (and an embellished face off). Although the Queens are deeply divided by their religious beliefs, they are both plagued by paranoia and threatened by betrayal in their own courts. Often manipulated by controlling courtiers and politicians, both must question whether they can trust those men around them. Ronan states the cousins are 'turned into enemies by others whisperings' but are interestingly 'similar in many ways'. As Mary says of Elizabeth, "No one understands my situation except her". The film adds depth and colour, to an historically oversimplified rivalry. (research Rachel Williams) Not to mention employing some creative cinematic guesswork. Come.

Director: Josie Rourke
 Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Jack Lowden, Joe Alwyn, David Tennant
 Duration: 124 mins
 Origin: UK 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Universal

When...

Sun 24	6.00
Tue 26	2.00, 7.30
Wed 27	2.00, 7.30



C'est La Vie

The directing duo who graced us with the loveable Rex classic *Untouchable*, has returned with this riotous ensemble comedy about the preparations for a chateau-set wedding.

At the centre of the action is Max (Jean-Pierre Bacri), the head of a catering company with wedding planner duties, whose motto is 'We adapt'. That phrase is tested to its limit with the impending nuptials of groomzilla Pierre (Benjamin Lavernhe) and his bride-to-be Héléna (Judith Chemla). Max's problems begin when egotistical wedding singer Etienne, aka DJ James (Gilles Lellouche) turns up as a last-minute replacement and quickly picks a fight with Adèle (Eye Haidara) Max's foul-mouthed second-in-command. Other disasters soon follow, including a bout of food poisoning, an unexpected power outage and the fact that one of the waiters is in love with the bride. Like expert jugglers at a slapstick circus, the directors keep most of the characters and their faults and needs neatly in the air, with the rhythm hardly flagging and the tone buzzy and bustling throughout without becoming exhausting. *C'est la Vie!* relishes in its off-kilter characters, and has a sweet, sentimental heart, which builds to a good-natured, ludicrous high. (*Jack Whiting*) French and fabulous. Don't miss.

Directors: Olivier Nakache, Éric Toledano
 Cast: Jean-Pierre Bacri, Jean-Paul Rouve, Gilles Lellouche, Vincent Macaigne
 Duration: 115 mins
 Origin: France 2017 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Cinefile

When...

Mon 25 7.30



Beautiful Boy

Felix Van Groeningen's informative and important drama about a family coping with the effects of crystal meth addiction (not again...!)

Based on a true story, Groeningen's powerful film follows a teenage boy in the grip of substance abuse. Adapted from Nicolas and David Sheff's tell-all memoirs about a son's personal struggles with addiction and his father's battle to deal with it, *Beautiful Boy* adds texture to the already established conversation about the horrors of addiction and the tolls it takes on its victims and their families. David Sheff (Carell) has done everything he can to give his son Nic (Chalamet) a good life growing up, but he's heartbroken to learn that despite his best efforts Nic has become addicted to meth. David loves his son deeply and will do whatever it takes in order to get him clean. As he delves deeper into the warren of paternal strife, he quickly learns that there's only so much he can do. In the end it all comes down to Nic and how far he's willing to want to try. Beautifully crafted, there's an undeniable, underlying beauty to *Beautiful Boy* that simply can't be underestimated. (*Chris Coetsee*) Yeah yeah, but please, give these histrionic family-pain dramas a day off...

Director: Felix van Groeningen
 Cast: Steve Carell, Timothée Chalamet, Maura Tierney, Christian Convery
 Duration: 120 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Studiocanal

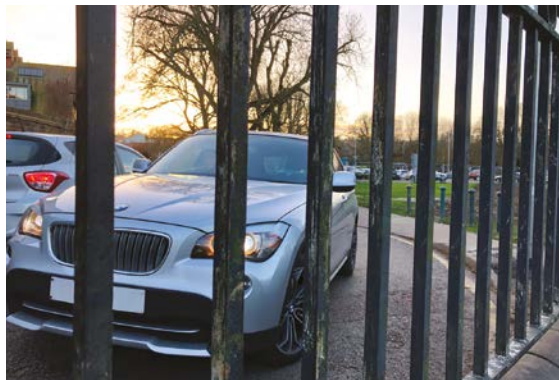
When...

Thu 28 2.00, 7.30

“Some things hurt more, much more than Cars and Girls” (1988 Prefab Sprout). No they don’t.

Always too late. Why didn’t they imagine trying it first? Close the carpark for a week or two before building the lump, but with no alternative, to see how we got on. Here’s how we would have got on. We would have adapted. Pictures show the ‘temporary’ cark defecating on the Moor at 3:30pm on an ordinary busy January work/school day. It’s empty-ish. As is this: once leafy, now hoarded up, car park, always bustling (but not bursting or in need of 3 or 4 storeys). So too across the busiest Christmas shopping weeks of any year. So now with both empty, where have all the usual cars gone? We adapted.





The Eyes (don't seem to) Have It...

This is real: a biscuit box spilling over with years of lost glasses found inside the Rex!!

That's at least two rows of blind people watching any given film.

But it's okay, we're sending them all back to Hemel's Town Planning dept, where they belong...



Guantanamo renditioned... (2nd January 2019)



and by Tuesday 8th...

It's always reassuring to see them move so fast to build the unnecessary things nobody wants.

Contenders, Pretenders and Should-be's...



Lady Ga Ga & Bradley Cooper

Each is a revelation. Individually and together, they are more surprising than the best unanticipated twist in any movie. Nobody thought either of them would produce performances of such passion and commitment. As for their fantastic voices – live on film and crystal clear, his direction and her stunning presence... speechless. A rare (english-speaking) love story completely absorbing and carrying from beginning to end, and accompanied by so many ridiculously fabulous (Gaga/Ronson/Cooper/Nelson) songs. They and their *Star Is Born* should win everything going, but won't.



Vice

Straight out of the D.Day-Lewis book of turning in a late winner to steal the prize and the show, comes Christian Bale. This time he's fat, bald and aged, two out three without the aide of make-up, surgical appliance or truss. What a look-at-me child. It's only pretend Christian, so leave yourself alone next time, and try it. If you can get over him, it's a pretty good film, but bet your sweet fanny he is nominated for something. Laurence Olivier's advice to Dustin Hoffman on the set of *Marathon Man*. Dustin insisted on running around the block so he'd be genuinely puffed before a take, upon which Sir Larry remarked: "Ever considered acting dear boy..?" ("Is it safe..." Christian)



Black Panther

This is bound to win something, not because it deserves to but because of what it is. And what it is, is just another po-faced super-hero movie, and as mediocre as the rest. Lots of straight faced acting, semi-clad muscle bound greased up extras standing dead-still, big set-piece fight scenes and very serious, so-what dialogue. But it will clean up in as many categories as are available to many less mediocre, equally worthy, contenders.



Shoplifters

Not expecting this to be nominated in any category, even though it is as diverse as 'diversity' itself. A sad tale from Japan, beautifully told, by faces we are unlikely to have seen before. A merit in itself. There is no grandstanding, no preaching, and nobody appears to have deliberately lost weight, and they certainly haven't put it on to show off their 'acting'. A totally absorbing tale of a poor family, a noble family, trapped into going about their honest dishonest living day to day with no future in sight. It is no lifestyle movie. Instead it shares its huge heart with us, the audience, every step of the way. Underplayed, not to be underrated. A beautiful piece of work, unlikely to be noticed at all, but we'll be playing it again and again as many times as we can, even perhaps until you've all seen it...?



Rami Malek

Rami Malek's turn as the mercurial Freddie is without doubt impersonation-perfect.

A young man who can turn his face and whole body into a living replica, is exceptional indeed.

As for the voice, Rami is American. Freddie was English of Indian birth. His distinct way of talking, meant there was not only an English accent to find, but one with odd inflections which turned his accent into a hybrid of its own, with virtually no etymological corners to hang on to, then had to repeat that flaccid script. Miraculously, he did it, he didn't miss a beat. Okay, it's an impersonation like Helen Mirren's other royal Queen, so in a category of its own. Nevertheless, he shone as Freddie, low-lighting the excruciating dullness of the rest of them.

Apart from the dialogue-free opening shot, the concerts and the Live Aid finale, the rest is easily forgotten.

Others: More contenders than prizes. Here are a few prizes to catch regardless of winning...



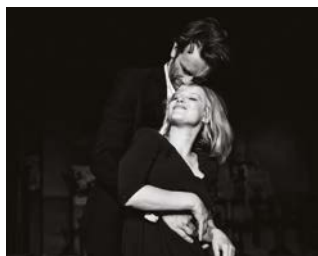
Green Book



If Beale Street Could Talk



The Favourite



Cold War



An Impossible Love



The Wife



The Old Man & The Gun



Marlina The Murderer