

THE-REX

PROGRAMME



CAROL

JANUARY 2016

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

JANUARY 2016 • ISSUE 130
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 16-17

Rants and Pants 24-26

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)

Director: James Hannaway
01442 877999

Advertising: Lynn Hendry
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
01296 668739

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 JANUARY



Sunset Song

A visual feast of wilderness love and loss from the Britain's most passionate director: Terence Davies

Page 19

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Star Men

A different kind of visual feast... looking up at the stars. A stunning documentary of the heavens.

Page 13



Everything Is Illuminated

A heart lifting heartbreaking Rex perennial to welcome in a brave new year. Page 14



Hand Gestures

Artisan sculptors working with centuries old tools to produce today's Bronzes. No talk over, no music. Beautiful. Page 21



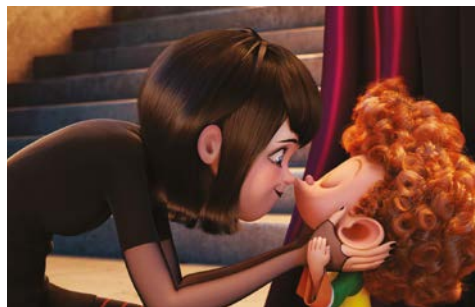
True Romance

The late Tony Scott animates Tarantino's screenplay in this 1993 classic road-thriller.

Page 21



JANUARY FILMS



Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
 Voices: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez,
 Nick Offerman
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: U
 Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

Hotel Transylvania 2

As vampire movies go, this is about as pleasing as they get. Expect a sugar rush of colours, slapstick silliness, and movie monster references that may or may not go over your head.

With Dracula's daughter Mavis (voiced by Selena Gomez) now a young mother with her human husband Johnny (Andy Samberg), she's worried about raising her child in Transylvania. Dracula (Adam Sandler) and his band of buddies (voiced by Steve Buscemi, Kevin James, David Spade and others) conspire in a series of elaborate tricks to convince her not to move to California. It ends in a messy chase and Mel Brooks doing his 2000-year-old-man voice as Dracula's father. (*Guardian*) I have a fondness for director Genndy Tartakovsky's earlier work: *Dexter's Lab*, *Samurai Jack* to name two, but this feels more like a contractual obligation than anything from his creative wellspring. *Hotel Transylvania 2* doesn't have much for adults to sink their teeth into, but for kids it's fun. Can we all take a minute to appreciate only having to put up with Adam Sandler's voice? Brings joy to my heart. (*Jack Whiting*) and ours too Jack, well said.

When...

Sat 2 2.00



The Lady In The Van

As with *The History Boys*, Nicholas Hytner has adapted a stage hit for the big screen from his time as the artistic director of the National Theatre.

The Lady in the Van sees Maggie Smith reprise the role she first played in the 1999 stage production of the Alan Bennett play. She is Miss Shepherd, who lived in a van on the driveway of Alan Bennett's north London home between 1974 and 1989. If the set looks authentic, that's because the film is shot on location in the real street in Bennett's real house. Bennett is simultaneously irritated, kindly and secretly delighted to have such a rich and pungent source of material on his doorstep. Miss Shepherd's mysterious past, her fear of policemen and the rumour that she was a pianist or a nun, all fascinate him. The excellent Alex Jennings plays two versions of Bennett the literary observer and the participant. "I live, you write, that's how it works," says Bennett to Bennett.

"This is a lavish gift of a role for Ms Smith. She makes this hardy troglodyte a tottering, staggering force of nature, determined to owe nothing to anybody." (*Telegraph*)



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

When...

Sat	2	7.00	Tue	5	2.00
Sun	3	6.00	Wed	6	2.00
Mon	4	7.30	Thu	7	2.00



A Walk In The Woods

A Walk in the Woods is based on a memoir by travel writer, **Bill Bryson**. Stubbornly resisting old age and obsolescence, Bryson (Robert Redford) determines to hike the entire Appalachian Trail, bringing along his estranged ex-travel buddy Stephen (Nick Nolte) when everyone else refuses the invitation.

Bill is looking for something to occupy his time after a recent book's publication and to shake off a feeling of fatalism after a friend's death. The notion does not appeal to his wife Catherine (*Emma Thompson*). But the trek begins, with running gags immediately and pleasingly about the pair's age, Bill's commitment to experiencing the Trail properly contrasts with Stephen's commitment to cut corners and chase women. There are marauding bears and difficulties with bathroom activities in the great outdoors. "Blessed by Bryson himself (who has turned down several attempts to film his books) this is a rambling and episodic Road-Movie. The fine underplaying of Redford contrasts with the naturally broader Nolte (who sounds like he's been gargling razor blades)." (*LA Times*) It's great to see Redford back on wisecracking Sundance form. You might gradually warm to Nick Nolte, but where's Paul Newman when you need him?

Director: Ken Kwapis
 Cast: Robert Redford, Emma Thompson, Nick Nolte
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment One UK

When...

Mon 4 2.00



Brooklyn

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

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

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

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

When...

Tue 5 7.30
Wed 6 7.30



Bridge Of Spies

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

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

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



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

When...

Thu	7	7.30	Mon	11	2.00
Fri	8	7.30	Tue	12	2.00
Sat	9	7.00	Sat	16	7.00



Director: Steve Martino
 Voices: Noah Schnapp, Bill Melendez
 Duration: 93 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: U
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

Snoopy & Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie

Charles M. Schulz's comic strips spring to life once more in this utterly charming outing for Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus and the gang.

Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the comic strip and 50th anniversary of the classic TV special *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, this is their first time in 35 years on the big screen.

More a string of sub-plots rather than one over-arching story, this has the feel of a greatest hits album, something of a love letter, capturing all the classic moments that have helped shaped Schulz's beloved 'Peanuts'.

And for all the CGI gloss, *The Peanuts Movie* remains completely true to its original values providing a perfect blend of humour and tenderness certain to strike a chord with young and old hippies.

"A meticulously faithful and clearly loving tribute to America's favourite blockhead" (*Times*)

"From the opening, familiar Vince Guaraldi piano chords it's clear that director Steve Martino is taking a "don't fix what ain't broke" approach with all this." (*Guardian*)

"The Peanuts Movie is deeply rooted in the look and tone of Schulz's soulful comic strip." (*TIME*)
(research Chris Coetsee) It's back to late 60's tank tops bad beards and the worst hair for those who loved Charlie Brown. Even better now bald. Bring the street.

When...

Sat 9 2.00
 Sat 23 2.00



The Dressmaker

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

An adaptation of the novel by Rosalie Ham, glamorous dressmaker Tilly Dunnage (Winslet) returns to her dusty backwater hometown after twenty years. "I'm back, you bastards", she mutters to herself upon arrival. Tilly's dark history is gradually revealed as she confronts indelible historic accusations of having committed murder in childhood. Wiggling around in figure-hugging couture, Tilly proceeds to cause a stir amongst the townsfolk who still despise her. Scores are settled and dresses are made.

Liam Hemsworth appears using deep method-acting techniques to get into the roll of buff torsoed local boy, bronzed, waxed and oiled.

A whirlwind in both plot and tone, lurching between noir and rom-com, creeping over the bathtub of soapy melodrama and back again. As vibrant as it is schizophrenic, the delicious costumes and coiffures alone are reason enough to endure this batty tale. "The film-maker's adaptation of author Rosalie Ham's much-loved debut novel of the same name embraces its dark humour and runs with it all the way to the morgue." (*Guardian*)

Back by request, see if you would.

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

When...

Sun 10 6.00
Mon 18 2.00
Tue 19 2.00, 7.30



Star*Men

"I'm 76 and I'm aware that I shall not live forever," he states calmly. "I'd like to follow my stars a little while longer". You may be forgiven for thinking this is a philosophical sigh, but the primary meaning is beautifully literal.

Donald Lynden-Bell, Roger Griffin, Neville "Nick" Woolf and Wallace Sargent are four eminently likable and distinguished academics who appear like gentlemen explorers as they retrace their young student steps to hike in the burning sun to reach the remarkable Rainbow Bridge in Utah. On the way, they chat about astronomy, the unimaginably vast reaches of the universe, about life on other planets and on our own.

An emotional and well-constructed documentary, *Star Men* does well not to patronise or be patronised, and there is enough scientific content to explore the biographies of these great men without making it inaccessible to those unacquainted with science.

Star Men could be likened to the would-be 50-year reunion of the beloved Big Bang Theory nerds – full of comedic anecdotes and scientific achievements, whilst humanising some of the most brilliant minds in the world. (*research Jack Whiting*). It is fabulous and quite extraordinary. Don't miss.

Director: Alison E. Rose
Duration: 88 mins
Origin: UK/Canada/US 2015
Certificate: PG
Company: Verve Pictures Ltd

When...

Mon 11 7.30



Everything Is Illuminated

Back because everybody must see it... From nowhere in 2005, A-list actor and here screenwriter and director, Liev Schreiber, put this film together.

Come for Eugene Hutz's perplexed Alex, our 'guide' and his gorgeous narration. Much of the haunting filmscore is from him, and his band (at the station) 'Gogol Bordello'.

This extraordinary film was a lovely surprise on its first outing here in February 2006. It is based on a true story adapted from Jonathan Safran Foer's best-seller.

'Jonfen' (Elijah Wood) is an obsessive collector, who travels from America in search of the woman he believes saved his grandfather when a small Ukrainian town was wiped-out by the Nazis. Armed with a yellowing photograph, he begins his search with the unlikely Alex, Alex's grandad (Boris Leskin) and their "seeing-eye" bitch. While Eugene's butchery of the English language and passion for all things American gets on Jonfen's nerves, it wins the audience from the beginning. You will be glad to be in the presence of every word and gesture from each of them. It is as surprising as it is beautiful. It will touch you. It will fill your heart long after you leave and for years to come...

Director: Liev Schreiber
 Cast: Eugene Hutz, Elijah Wood, Jonathan Safran Foer
 Duration: 90 mins
 Origin: USA 2005
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Brothers Ents

When...

Tue 12 7.30
Wed 13 2.00



Carol

Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara star in this exquisite, melancholic period piece. Directed by Todd Haynes, an adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's 1952 novel *The Price of Salt*, *Carol* charts a secret lesbian love affair in Fifties New York.

Carol (Blanchett) is a glittering, glamorous housewife. She meets shop assistant Therese (Mara) in the lead up to Christmas 1952, at the Manhattan department store. What begins magnetically builds into a bittersweet forbidden love, tainted by the turmoil of its taboo. Their relationship is amplified within the quintessential 1950s framing, juxtaposing the two women's wildly transgressive love affair with deep poignancy. Then there are the details. The impeccable costume and production design are richly meticulous, and the grainy 16mm film cinematography makes for delicious viewing: think moody, jewel-toned cafe scenes à la Edward Hopper.

Carol is a beautiful, potent triumph. Unquestionably the new benchmark for period pieces to come.

"It's jazz and poetry and just wonderful... More than hugely accomplished cinema, it's an exquisite work of American art" (*Telegraph*)

"Blanchett manages to give a 1950s housewife the pathos and grandeur of a tragic heroine" (*Independent*)

"An exquisite brush of a coral-polished fingernail, a pulse of expensive scent and if looks could... thrill." (*Times*) Oscar Cate again.



Director: Todd Haynes
 Cast: Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara
 Duration: 119 mins
 Origin: UK/USA/France 2015
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Studiocanal

When...

Wed 13	7.30
Thur 14	2.00, 7.30
Wed 20	2.00, 7.30
Thur 21	2.00, 7.30

THE ODYSSEY

LONDON ROAD, ST ALBANS

JANUARY FILMS: 01727 453088

DATE	FILM	TIME
1 FRI	CINEMA CLOSED – NEW YEARS DAY	
2 SAT	BUGSY MALONE	2.00
2 SAT	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.00
3 SUN	THE DRESSMAKER	1.30
3 SUN	SPECTRE	6.00
4 MON	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00
4 MON	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30
5 TUE	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00, 7.30
6 WED	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00, 7.30
7 THU	THE LADY IN THE VAN	7.30
8 FRI	HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	7.30
9 SAT	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	2.00
9 SAT	VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN	7.00
10 SUN	CAROL	1.30, 6.00
11 MON	CAROL	2.00, 7.30
12 TUE	CAROL	2.00, 7.30
13 WED	BRIDGE OF SPIES	2.00, 7.30
14 THU	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30
15 FRI	SURPRISE 1ST ANNIVERSARY FILM	7.30
16 SAT	SNOOPY & CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE	2.00, 7.00
17 SUN	DR ZHIVAGO	4.30
18 MON	SUFFRAGETTE	7.30
19 TUE	SUNSET SONG	2.00, 7.30
20 WED	A WALK IN THE WOODS	2.00
20 WED	TRUE ROMANCE	7.30
21 THU	THE LADY IN THE VAN	7.30
22 FRI	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.30
23 SAT	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	2.00
23 SAT	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.00
24 SUN	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	1.30
24 SUN	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	6.00
25 MON	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2.00
25 MON	BROOKLYN	7.30
26 TUE	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2.00
26 TUE	BROOKLYN	7.30
27 WED	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2.00, 7.30
28 THU	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.30
29 FRI	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	7.30
30 SAT	SNOOPY & CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE	2.00
30 SAT	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	7.00
31 SUN	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	1.30, 6.00

COMING SOON REX

BACK BY DEMAND

STAR WARS
LADY IN THE VAN
CAROL
BROOKLYN

NEW RELEASES

THE HATEFUL EIGHT
THE REVENENT
THE DANISH GIRL
YOUTH
BY THE SEA
JOY



Youth



Joy



By The Sea



The Hateful Eight

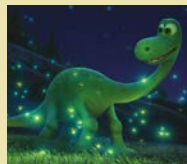
THE-REX

JANUARY
FILMS:

01442 877759



DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 FRI	CINEMA CLOSED – NEW YEARS DAY		
2 SAT	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	2.00	8
2 SAT	THE LADY IN THE VAN	7.00	9
3 SUN	THE LADY IN THE VAN	6.00	9
4 MON	A WALK IN THE WOODS	2.00	10
4 MON	THE LADY IN THE VAN	7.30	9
5 TUES	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00	9
5 TUES	BROOKLYN	7.30	10
6 WED	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00	9
6 WED	BROOKLYN	7.30	10
7 THU	THE LADY IN THE VAN	2.00	9
7 THU	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30	11
8 FRI	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.30	11
9 SAT	SNOOPY & CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE	2.00	12
9 SAT	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.00	11
10 SUN	THE DRESSMAKER	6.00	13
11 MON	BRIDGE OF SPIES	2.00	11
11 MON	STAR MEN	7.30	13
12 TUES	BRIDGE OF SPIES	2.00	11
12 TUES	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	7.30	14
13 WED	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	2.00	14
13 WED	CAROL	7.30	15
14 THU	CAROL	2.00, 7.30	15
15 FRI	SICARIO	7.30	18
16 SAT	HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	2.00	18
16 SAT	BRIDGE OF SPIES	7.00	11
17 SUN	SPECIAL EVENT: SUNSET SONG		
	Q&A WITH DIRECTOR TERENCE DAVIES	6.00	19
18 MON	THE DRESSMAKER	2.00	13
18 MON	SUNSET SONG	7.30	19
19 TUES	THE DRESSMAKER	2.00, 7.30	13
20 WED	CAROL	2.00, 7.30	15
21 THU	CAROL	2.00, 7.30	15
22 FRI	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	7.30	20
23 SAT	SNOOPY & CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE	2.00	12
23 SAT	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	7.00	20
24 SUN	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	6.00	20
25 MON	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	2.00	20
25 MON	HAND GESTURES	7.30	21
26 TUES	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	2.00	20
26 TUES	TRUE ROMANCE	7.30	21
27 WED	SUNSET SONG	2.00	19
27 WED	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.30	22
28 THU	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2.00, 7.30	22
29 FRI	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.30	22
30 SAT	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	2.00	23
30 SAT	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7.00	22
31 SUN	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	6.00	22





Sicario

It's true that strong performances and ballsy filmmaking can elevate a familiar narrative, and this violent narco thriller from Denis Villeneuve is such a film.

Similar to Jessica Chastain in *Zero Dark Thirty*, Emily Blunt stands out from her machismo surroundings by carving out a tough role in FBI agent Kate Mercer. Kate is drafted into a mysterious, agency-merging task force established to bait and bring down a key cartel leader. While her requests for information are blocked at nearly every turn: she's not even sure if her rule-bending team leader (Josh Brolin) belongs to the CIA or not. Still, he's a positive chatterbox compared to Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro) a quietly lethal ex-prosecutor with a personal stake in the hunt. Good guys and bad guys largely wear the same hats in this ethical minefield.

Villeneuve (*Indencies*, *Prisoners*) once again recruiting legendary director of photography Roger Deakins, turns Mexico into a visceral, utterly gripping and terrifying warzone; the suspense will leave you breathless. It is his tantalising *Blade Runner* sequel that we are holding our breath for next. (*research Jack Whiting*) Edgy edge of the seat, tough guy stuff. With Del Toro a menacing Oscar contender. Don't miss.

Director: Denis Villeneuve
 Cast: Emily Blunt, Josh Brolin, Benicio Del Toro
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Lionsgate Films UK

When...

Fri 15 7.30



Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2

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

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

It's all doom and gloom, with little in the way of the kitsch elements that made the first two films so endearing (no games here, just war). Still, Lawrence is just as captivating and Philip Seymour Hoffman too, gives a touching final screen performance. Sadly, he died in February last year. Reminding us how long it takes to milk a final episode release date.

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

When...

Sat 16 2.00



Sunset Song

Lewis Grassic Gibbon's classic 1932 novel, lovingly adapted by director Terence Davies.

Set in rural Scotland on the eve of the Great War, the story centres around passionate and strong-willed Chris Guthrie (Agneyss Deyn). We follow her as she transitions from girlhood to womanhood, moving through exquisite highs as a new bride, to the grim lows of a war that shatters her reality. Mostly, *Sunset Song* is an indulgently picturesque trip but don't get too snug. A fundamental hard edge keeps the film well out of the trappings of soppy, sentimental period drama. The real power here lies in the raw and intense portrayals of the film's darker themes, which translate to sobering effect. Parallels are repeatedly drawn between Chris's life and the less-than-forgiving landscape that she so adores, all portrayed by stunning cinematography that translates masterfully.

An emotionally intelligent, muted drama with a pure and painterly beauty. This isn't one for those who seek frills and flounce from their period pieces. *Sunset Song* offers something altogether richer, deeper, more brutal. The kind of sombre drama that leaves one's memory sublimely stained.

"A lyrical triumph" (*Observer*)

"Magical" (*FT*)

Not to be missed.



Director: Terence Davies
Cast: Agneyss Deyn, Peter Mullan, Kevin Guthrie
Duration: 135 mins
Origin: UK/Luxembourg 2015
Certificate: 15
Company: Metrodome

When...

Sun 17	6.00
Mon 18	7.30
Wed 27	2.00



Director: Ron Howard
 Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Cillian Murphy, Ben Whishaw
 Duration: 122 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Brothers Ents

When...

Fri	22	7.30		
Sat	23	7.00	Mon 25	2.00
Sun	24	6.00	Tue 26	2.00

In The Heart Of The Sea

Director Ron Howard is at the helm of this gargantuan high sea affair. In *The Heart of the Sea* tells the true story of whaling ship *Essex* that became stranded at sea for 90 days, a story that originally inspired Herman Melville to conjure his 1851 masterpiece *Moby Dick*.

Owen Chase (Hemsworth) along with Capt Pollard (Benjamin Walker) and his modest crew are attacked mid-voyage by a huge seemingly enraged sperm whale, splitting the ship in two and leaving the survivors shipwrecked more than 1000 miles from land. His shrewd filmmaking, Howard successfully produces a blend of drama and horror, showing us the grisly images that are bound to make today's audience recoil yet managing to convey the excitement of a job so dangerous. A true example of a film made-for-big-cinema.

"Howard puts heart, soul and every computerised whale trick in the book into crafting a seafaring adventure to rock your boat." (*Rolling Stone*)

"It's a harrowing tale that still packs an entertaining wallop." (*Observer*)

"Hemsworth's botched New England accent [shout me an old England accent] and all, this is movie star material." (*Guardian*) Oh dear: 'rock your boat' 'wallop' and 'botched' (estate agents to Seamen everywhere) (*research Chis Coetsee*) Blubber them all. Fabulous. Don't miss.



Hand Gestures

Francesco Clerici's debut feature is one of traditional artisan craft. We observe brass sculpture artisans at the 100-year-old Fonderia Artistica Battaglia in Milan as they manufacture a single sculpture for contemporary Italian artist Velasco Vitali. The 'lost-wax' techniques employed at the foundry have been passed down unwritten through aural traditions, detailing processes that have changed little since the Bronze Age. What Hand Gestures lacks in dramatic arc it more than compensates with enchanting, immersive effect. Free of any spoken script or soundtrack- bar the orchestral hums of machinery and sloppy slaps of wax on wax, this is a meditative observational experience of traditional artisans at work. By the measured pace of its progress, and the delightful specificity of its subject matter, audiences will be transfixed by the seemingly instinctive, fastidious processes of these artisans.

"The assiduous process will not hold much appeal for those waiting impatiently for an X-wing fighter chase, but as with the goop, there are layers of craft in evidence". (*Irish Times*) uh?

"Austere, meditative, inscrutable, fascinating – Hand Gestures is the kind of documentary that is made all too rarely in this age of spoonfed soundbites and burbling talking heads". (*Guardian*) (research Emma Filippides) Meditative, beautiful and real.

Director: Francesco Clerici
 Cast: Velasco Vitali, Nicolae Ciortan
 Duration: 77 mins
 Origin: Italy 2015
 Certificate: U
 Company: Hand Gestures Films

When...

Mon 25 7.30



True Romance

Tony Scott directs and Quentin Tarantino smears his stamp all over the screenplay for this 1993 modern classic (slid snugly between Reservoir Dogs in 92 and Pulp Fiction 1994). Enter our young couple: Clarence, (Christian Slater) a comic-book-geek turned con man, and Alabama (Patricia Arquette), a bombshell call girl, innocent enough. The couple set off on a cross-country getaway, but not without five million dollars of stolen cocaine in the trunk. Christopher Walken plays a mob boss who hasn't "killed anyone since 1984" until he flippantly pulls the trigger. Brad Pitt features horizontally, as a cheery stoner. The nonlinear narrative sees scenes lurching, as violent as the plot itself, but this only adds to the brash, manic absurdity of it all. True Romance is a self-referential overture to all the good-bad action flicks. The lurid stereotypes, sleaze, filth, and overblown gore you will expect are present and correct.

"True Romance' contains more crunchy punch-ups, genius casting choices and moments of real, honest emotion than Tarantino's entire post 'Pulp' output put together." (*Time Out*)

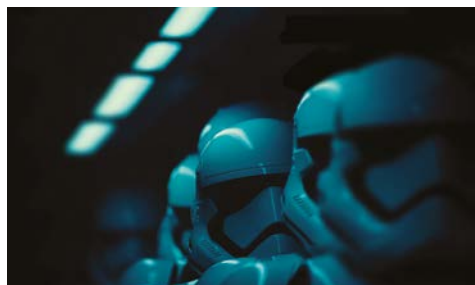
"The whole thing rattles along like that pink Cadillac they're driving." (*Guardian*) (research Emma Filippides)

Looking forward to this one I missed in 93.

Director: Tony Scott
 Cast: Christian Slater, Patricia Arquette, Dennis Hopper, Christopher Walken
 Duration: 119 mins
 Origin: France/USA 1993
 Certificate: 18
 Company: Park Circus

When...

Tue 26 7.30



Star Wars: The Force Awakens

'In JJ we trust' has become a well-known motto since Abrams, together with Disney, took on the responsibility of bringing back Star Wars from the burnt wreckage left by George Lucas.

The Empire may have fallen, but the from its ashes rises a new threat in the form of the First Order (think space Nazis), led by the mysterious Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) a man obsessed with continuing Darth Vader's legacy. Finn, a startrooper (John Boyega) abandons his post, hoping there's more to life than a white plastic suit and flees to a desert wasteland where he meets young scavenger Rey (Daisy Ridley). Together with a fabulously greyer Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Chewie they uncover a secret war that is brewing between this sinister order, and a band of resistance fighters, led by General (Princess) Leia (Carrie Fisher).

This JJ Abrams' The Force Awakens brings balance to Lucas's preposterous prequels. No one was expecting to see another Star Wars film, let alone one that reunites Luke, Han, and Leia. It is a good time to be alive. (*research Jack Whiting*) With the Rex's own Lisa Tomblin, JJ's own chosen on set Head of Hair throughout, you'll see Princess Leia's classic, edgy new look.

Director: J. J. Abrams
 Cast: Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, John Boyega, Andy Serkis, Max von Sydow
 Duration: 135 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Wed 27	7.30
Thur 28	2.00, 7.30
Fri 29	7.30
Sat 30	7.00
Sun 31	6.00



The Good Dinosaur

What if the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs missed Earth? Pixar gifts us with the second of their double helping this year with a 'what if' scenario that follows the adventures of a dinosaur and his human companion.

Beautifully rendered to almost prehistoric oops sorry photorealistic... perfection The Good Dinosaur sees Arno, youngest in a family of Apatosauruses, witness his father tragically falling. Blaming a feral human child, Arno flees his family and becomes lost in the prehistoric wilderness. So, as you might expect, this innocent child becomes the key to Arno finding his way home.

Perhaps it's our own fault for expecting so much from Pixar studios these days, spoilt by their near flawless consistency that even something as sumptuous as this could be deemed a misstep. Still, its playful nature will delight children.

It was never going to be easy following Inside Out, so The Good Dinosaur sits comfortably at the end of the kid-friendly scale. But even a B grade Pixar production still outshines the majority of its competitors. (*research Jack Whiting*) Very good Jack, but get off your Disney/Pixar donkey. We, the kids, don't care. Is it fun, funny, scary, happy, sad with great drawings? Yes? Then it's fab.



Director: Peter Sohn
Voices: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright, Frances McDormand
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Sat 30 2.00

'Court and Spark...'

The best thing about a local newspaper is it should have no news. It is today's extension of the medieval stocks, delighting in rumour, gossip and tittle tattle. It should report found purses, lost cats, scout badges, fund raising back-slappings and local births marriages and deaths. It's public notices should be bigger than its court reports and posted boldly on the front pages to remind us of who is planning to demolish this to build that, or squeeze four blocks on to a 60 years old patch of grass.

The worst thing about a local newspaper is it thinks it needs to print news. In this it aspires to the heights of Sun and the Daily Mail but not being clever enough, drops to a fourth division of the Daily Express, which nobody reads (less than half a million a day compared to approaching 2m for each of the other two ugly mongers).

I was in court on 26th November. The Herts Ad sent a boy to listen in. I can't believe, after listening carefully to all that was said for and against, he would agree to the following as an opening editorial line: "...He (Hannaway) knowingly exposed his family, his friends and members of the public to large amounts

of asbestos waste." Especially after hearing the following from both HSE prosecution and (part of) the Judge's summary...

"This was negligent rather than deliberate, rather than reckless, rather even than careless and there is no suggestion at all that you were prompted by financial motivation."

I accept my plea and the Court's decision as fair and just.

To put your minds at rest and redress the Hert's Ad's reckless opening line. My conviction is solely based on neglect by not inviting a second asbestos report before beginning work on the building. Our first report handed over with the deeds of the building identified two main areas of asbestos. With advice, we cordoned these areas off out of harm's way from the beginning and throughout.

A second report commissioned two years later by our new project management team in 2011/12 showed there was a further presence of asbestos in the building - whilst still agreeing with our first report identifying the same two areas we had already cordoned off. The builders too left one cordoned off while they worked on the restoration.





Aside 1: I have not trusted this second report. The company commissioned to make it also tendered for the work to remove it.

Aside 2: In the last three months a third company's research has found, there might NOT be asbestos in areas identified as positive, by that second report. I repeat, there is no dissent with the fair and just decision of the Court. This is simply about how it is reported locally. Yes, I wish we had sought further independent advice in 2010. The things we are discovering now will no doubt continue.

By demand, you came in hundreds to look inside, ignoring my own very real safety instructions about sensible footwear and torches. Nobody brought a torch and most wore silly shoes. Luckily we lit the place like the Albert Hall (including emergency lighting) got the toilets working with towels and paper, had 20+ ushers running, the exit doors all greased and opening, bottled water on hand and St Johns Ambulance in place. I would not deliberately put you in harms way or in any danger, except

tripping, which gracefully, none of you did. The sweetest irony; one the hapless local press didn't notice. On the evening of the same day (13th Oct) of my first court appearance, the St Albans Civic Society invited me to their annual celebrations to award the Odyssey a prize for outstanding contribution to St Albans. Timing...

In the meantime, local press is off our welcome list. Not just because it is inconsequential with no sense of purpose, but because it had a chance to report evenly, but chose to open with a sly weasel twist of words... "He knowingly exposed his family, his friends and members of the public to...." To forgive is... But as I'm here in the unforgiven dept, I am reminded of a line exquisitely delivered by, a run out of patience, Alan Arkin. It became the driving will behind the rest of the film: *Argo* (Oscar for Best Film 2013 and ran at the Rex for months). For plain unequivocal non-weasel, non-twist of words: and at the risk of upsetting those for whom I care, you the local press can "argofuckyourself"... Happy New Year.

Man in a van...



Maggie Smith is The Lady in The Van



Mr Bennett leaving the Rex in a luxury chauffeured 'van' of his own.

Alan Bennett: at 81 looking younger, taller and with the best hair in the room, here at the Rex with Adrian Scarborough on 7th December for our 11th anniversary.

Before our special screening of his latest: *The Lady in The Van*, he and Adrian talked on stage in Q&A. It felt like an unhurried, easy, conversation between old friends. The audience loved it, especially the surprise. Very few knew beforehand, so a very special anniversary surprise indeed.

