

# THE-REX

PROGRAMME

CHI-RAQ

JANUARY 2017

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

JANUARY 2017 • ISSUE 142  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://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 & Pants 26-27

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  
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**Advertising:** Chloe Butler  
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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



### The Innocents

1945 post-war Poland. A powerful story of faith, love, honour and redemption. See page 18

## FILMS OF THE MONTH



### The Man Who Fell To Earth

To celebrate David Bowie near his birthday and deathday a long year ago. See page 13



### Snowden

Oliver Stone's take on the guy who blew the US surveillance whistle. Gripping, but no Bourne. See page 19



### Moana

Eyewatering visuals, memorable songs and heart-swelling messages about respect. See page 20



### Passengers

Jennifer L and Chris Pratt fight off peril, danger and romance, like Titanic in Space. See page 24





## JANUARY FILMS



## Singin' In The Rain

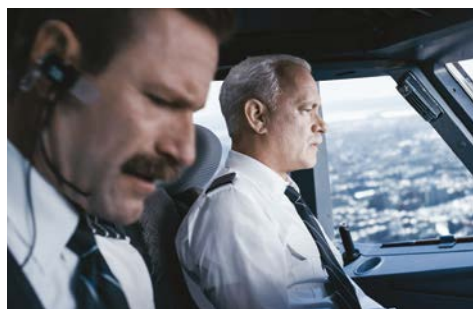
**This is one film we cannot resist. Whistle the tune in the street and we'll show it!**

It all begins in 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent screen. Off screen, Don, aided by Cosmo Brown (the sensational Donald O'Connor) has to dodge Lina's romantic overtures especially when he falls for chorus girl Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds). With the advent of the 'Talkies', Don and Lina's new film will be all singing, dancing and... talking! Unfortunately, Lina's voice would make your gums bleed (think: Kate Bush murdering Leonard Cohen). Kathy is hired to secretly dub Lina's voice off screen, while Gene K goes off splashing in the street, to make B-Movie Musical history. But when Lina finds out, run for cover. For Gene's famous splash dance, milk was added to the rain so cameras would capture the downpour, and Gene had the flu! One take with at least three rehearsals. Ouch! Most of all you'll witness the fabulous Donald O'Connor's unparalleled screen masterpiece "Make 'em Laugh" (one take - two, with the couch?). What greater celebration of family cinema. An irresistible 1952 B-Movie classic to herald the New Year. Here's to a very brave 2017.

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

**When...**

**Mon 2 2.00**



## Sully

**Adapting a story about a six-minute flight into an engaging film script is no doubt a daunting task yet Eastwood and screenwriter Todd Komarnicki pull it off with aplomb.** Based on one of 2009's biggest and phenomenal news stories, Sully depicts the events surrounding US Airways Flight 1549's emergency crash landing in New York's Hudson river following twin engine failure. An overnight sensation, the media portrayed pilot Chelsey "Sully" Sullenburger (reliable Tom) as a hero who saved everybody's life. ("aviation's answer to Susan Boyle.." *ST Culture*) The National Transportation Safety Board (Think Health & Safety & money) covertly runs computer simulations of the flight to find that two potential airport landings would have posed less danger to the passengers. Crippled with self-doubt and suffering terribly from post traumatic stress, Sully attempts to defend his actions to the NTSB and bring about some much-needed reassurance to his now unstable and turbulent life. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

"Mr. Eastwood is very good at his job, a talent that gives the movie its tension along with an autobiographical sheen." (*Times*) "Hanks, a master of subtle brilliance. He shows all we need to know about his character." (*Rolling Stone*) Gripping, but two moustaches too many.

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

**When...**

**Mon 2 7.30 Tue 3 7.30**  
**Tue 3 2.00 Sat 14 7.00**



## 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, including Devon (which we never see: too many green and pleasant panoramic scapes?)

The military enlists Dr. Louise Banks (Amy Adams) an expert linguist, to travel to rural Montana. Where they need someone who can 'ask' the aliens why they're here, and 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 November's US election debacle, it makes for hauntingly immediate and relevant viewing. I don't want to toot its horn, but *Arrival* might well belong in the same sci-fi pantheon as 2001, *Close Encounters*, and *Solaris*. It is certainly not too soon to call it a modern masterpiece. *Blade Runner 2049* is in safe hands. (research Jack Whiting) Don't miss, non sci-fi fans too.



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

### When...

Wed 4	2.00, 7.30
Thu 12	2.00
Fri 13	7.30



## Nocturnal Animals

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

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

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

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

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

### When...

Thu 5 2.00, 7.30  
 Fri 6 7.30





## Swallows and Amazons

**Arthur Ransome's beloved tales recounting childhood adventures are told anew on the big screen.** The twelve books were named after the title of the first one in the series and set between the two World Wars. Despite some deviations from the original plot, including the addition of heavily overcoated spies, the children, all non-actors, are perfectly cast. The Lake District is perfect in all its casual spectacular beauty and dramatic 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 genuine innocence. "A good-natured, if self-conscious period adaptation that grafts on a new grownup plotline with dastardly spies" (*Guardian*) "There's a period-appropriate honesty to it, easily mistaken at first for earnestness or nostalgia. It stands apart from any other family film you'll see for a long time." (*Telegraph*) Much of it was filmed on the breathtaking Derwent Water at Keswick, where the personally 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 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 7 2.00**



## Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them

**Well we knew it wouldn't be long before we were whisked back to JK Rowling's world. What is surprising, however, is just how reinvigorated, yet familiar, it all feels.** We're very much in pre-Potter territory here; 1926 New York to be precise. This is one of its great pleasures. It is set in our non-magic or 'Muggle' world. Newt Scamander (a post-Oscar-glory, still humble Eddie Redmayne) arrives in the city nearing the end of a global excursion to research and rescue magical creatures, some of which are safeguarded in the hidden pocket-dimensions of his deceptively nondescript leather case. But potential disaster strikes when an unsuspecting No-Maj (the transatlantic world for Muggle. Keep up) lets some of Newt's beasts loose in a city already on edge. Events take an ominous turn when Percival Graves (Colin Farrell) the enigmatic Director of Magical Security at MACUSA (Magical Congress of the United States of America – Donald Duck for short) casts his (J. Edgar) 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*) However, Donald T. MACUSA wins...?

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

**When...**  
**Sat 7 7.00 Sun 8 6.00 Sat 14 2.00**



## The Accountant

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

Lumpy Ben plays Christian Wolf, a highly functioning mathematics genius, perhaps autistic? We know this because he wears glasses and writes his equations on windowpanes. Yet he can also give Bourne a run for his money in the double-entry fisticuffs, shoot-em-up depts. Once in a while he gets a call from a mysterious woman for his next assignment. Forensic auditing for drug lords, a Gambino family Hit, or just a wee cooking of books; it's all here. His tacit connection with Dana (Anna Kendrick) the lowly assistant who spotted something odd in the books of a big client, spills into a spurt of impenetrable data analysis (much like this last sentence, if it has been one). Yes, you got it. They're soon on the run from the inevitable gun toting meanies. Wolf was the victim of a military father unwilling to let his son be weak. So naturally, he trained the boy as a killing machine! (*research Jack Whiting*) But it is not the same old tedious see-it-coming yarn. It could be worse..?

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

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**When...**

**Mon 9** 2.00, 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 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 Outer 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: it's discreet Marion Cotillard and Brad (too public to last) Pitt and is Style personified. Come.

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

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**When...**

**Tue 10** 2.00  
**Wed 11** 2.00, 7.30





## The Man Who Fell To Earth

**There was always something otherworldly about David Bowie, and Nicolas Roeg's 'space oddity' brought it out in more ways than one.**

The late legend plays Thomas Jerome Newton, the man from another world whose mission of mercy: finding water to rescue his drought-stricken planet, is sidetracked by human interference, scientific backwardness, alcohol and ennui.

Taking only the bare bones of Walter Tevis's sci-fi novel, Roeg creates something far more slippery and elliptical, a film as much about the fading of the counterculture, wealth-induced apathy and the contagiousness of American culture as anything intergalactic. Bowie's performance is riveting, drawing on his history of mime to play a man who is almost, but not quite, one of us (or even him).

Is the film a metaphor for immigration and innovation and a corporate culture? Or is it perhaps a pop culture parable for the British music invasion of the 1970s? Or is it simply about Bowie himself? Who knows. Do yourself a favour, listen to Blackstar, Bowie's final and haunting album, in preparation. It might bring a whole new meaning to the word afterlife. (*research Jack Whiting*) Beautifully said Jack. Come for Bowie's 70th birthday, a mere year too late.



**Director:** Nicolas Roeg  
**Cast:** David Bowie, Candy Clark  
**Duration:** 139 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1976  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Company:** Studiocanal

**When...**

**Tue 10 7.30**



Director: Ken Loach  
 Cast: Dave Johns, Hayley Squires  
 Duration: 100 mins  
 Origin: UK 2016  
 Certificate: 15  
 Company: Entertainment One

## I, Daniel Blake

**Britain's benefit system is combed with intense scrutiny in Ken Loach's (last?) new drama.**

After suffering a near fatal heart attack, Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) is placed on sick leave by his cardiologist. The 59-year-old carpenter is told not to work. So, for the first time in his life, must apply for Benefit to get by.

Following a distressing appointment at the Job Centre, Daniel becomes a kindred helping hand to Katie, whose recent 300 mile relocation away from her family, stands as her only chance to progress her otherwise hopeless existence. The two develop a father daughter like bond, finding in each other the support they need as they face an exhausting battle against Britain's welfare system. A thoroughly deserving winner of this year's Palme d'Or, Loach's 19th contribution to British cinema delves deep into the murky world of poverty, leaving an embittering afterthought that this really is happening across our politically conflicted nation. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) "A movie with a fierce, simple dignity of its own." (Guardian)

"At 80, the director hasn't lost his knack for telling stories about marginalised characters with wit, anger and humanity." (*Independent*) Ken never misses the point. Nor will you. Come.

### When...

Thu 12	7.30	Tue 17	7.30
Tue 17	2.00	Wed 18	2.00



## The Light Between Oceans

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

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

Following two devastating miscarriages, the couple are stunned when a small boat washes ashore, with a baby on board. They decide to secretly raise the child as their own and tell no-one.

But when, a few years later, a sorrowful Rachel Weisz appears to mourn at the grave of her husband and baby who disappeared at sea, a guilt-stricken Tom must decide between what he feels is right and the family he loves and has always wanted.

If you're in just the right mood for a good old-fashioned weepy, this is the December melodrama for you. *(Research Chris Coetsee)*

"It almost has a Mills & Boon quality, but it's very nice to look at and Fassbender and Vikander are most convincing as the doomed lovers."

*(Independent)* Oh dear. Don't listen. Come.



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

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### When...

<b>Sun</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6.00</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2.00</b>



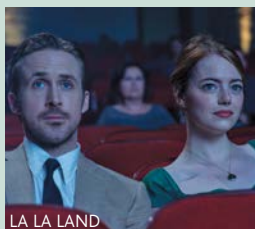
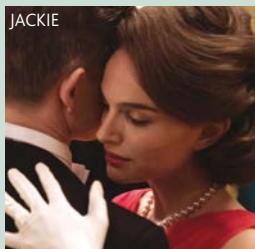
## COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

### BACK BY DEMAND

PASSENGERS  
ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS  
STORY  
UNITED KINGDOM

### NEW RELEASES

A MONSTER CALLS  
LA LA LAND  
MANCHESTER BY THE SEA  
JACKIE  
BALLERINA



# THE ODYSSEY

C I N E M A   S T   A L B A N S

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

JANUARY	FILM	TIME
1 SUN	CLOSED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	
2 MON	FANTASTIC BEASTS	5.00
3 TUE	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00, 7.30
4 WED	A STREETCAT NAMED BOB	2.00, 7.30
5 THU	THE ACCOUNTANT	2.00, 7.30
6 FRI	SULLY	7.30
7 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00
7 SAT	SULLY	7.00
8 SUN	FANTASTIC BEASTS	1.00
8 SUN	ALLIED	5.00
9 MON	SULLY	12.30
9 MON	THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH	7.30
10 TUE	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	12.30
10 TUE	I, DANIEL BLAKE	7.30
11 WED	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30
12 THU	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30
13 FRI	SURPRISE ANNIVERSARY FILM!	7.30
14 SAT	LABYRINTH	2.00
14 SAT	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.00
15 SUN	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	1.00, 5.00
16 MON	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	12.30, 7.30
17 TUE	ALLIED	12.30
17 TUE	TRAINSPOTTING	7.30
18 WED	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	2.00
18 WED	ARRIVAL	7.30
19 THU	ARRIVAL	2.00, 7.30
20 FRI	FANTASTIC BEASTS	7.30
21 SAT	MOANA	2.00
21 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	7.00
22 SUN	MOANA	1.00
22 SUN	IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT	5.00
23 MON	PATERSON	12.30, 7.30
24 TUE	THE BEATLES: EIGHT DAYS A WEEK	12.30
24 TUE	BIRTH OF A NATION	7.30
25 WED	I, DANIEL BLAKE	2.00
25 WED	CHI-RAQ	7.30
26 THU	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00
26 THU	DONNIE DARKO	7.30
27 FRI	PASSENGERS	7.30
28 SAT	MOANA	2.00
28 SAT	PASSENGERS	7.00
29 SUN	MOANA	1.00
29 SUN	PASSENGERS	5.00
30 MON	PASSENGERS	12.30
30 MON	SILENCE	7.30
31 TUE	SILENCE	12.30, 7.30



# THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

01442  
877759



JANUARY	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 SUN	CLOSED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!		
2 MON	SINGING IN THE RAIN	2.00	8
2 MON	SULLY	7.30	8
3 TUE	SULLY	2.00, 7.30	8
4 WED	ARRIVAL	2.00, 7.30	9
5 THU	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	2.00, 7.30	10
6 FRI	NOCTURNAL ANIMALS	7.30	10
7 SAT	SWALLOWS & AMAZONS	2.00	11
7 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	7.00	11
8 SUN	FANTASTIC BEASTS	6.00	11
9 MON	THE ACCOUNTANT	2.00, 7.30	12
10 TUE	ALLIED	2.00	12
10 TUE	THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH	7.30	13
11 WED	ALLIED	2.00, 7.30	12
12 THU	ARRIVAL	2.00	9
12 THU	I, DANIEL BLAKE	7.30	14
13 FRI	ARRIVAL	7.30	9
14 SAT	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	11
14 SAT	SULLY	7.00	8
15 SUN	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	6.00	15
16 MON	THE INNOCENTS	2.00, 7.30	18
17 TUE	I, DANIEL BLAKE	2.00, 7.30	14
18 WED	I, DANIEL BLAKE	2.00	14
18 WED	A STREET CAT NAMED BOB	7.30	19
19 THU	SNOWDEN	2.00, 7.30	19
20 FRI	THE BIRTH OF A NATION	7.30	20
21 SAT	MOANA	2.00	20
21 SAT	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.00	21
22 SUN	FANTASTIC BEASTS	6.00	22
23 MON	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00	22
23 MON	CHI-RAQ	7.30	22
24 TUE	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30	23
25 WED	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30	23
26 THU	THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS	2.00	15
26 THU	A UNITED KINGDOM	7.30	23
27 FRI	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.30	21
28 SAT	MOANA	2.00	20
28 SAT	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	7.00	21
29 SUN	PASSENGERS	6.00	24
30 MO	PASSENGERS	2.00, 7.30	24
31 TUES	PASSENGERS	2.00, 7.30	24

## COMING SOON TO THE REX

**BACK BY DEMAND**  
PASSENGERS  
ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS  
STORY  
UNITED KINGDOM

### NEW RELEASES

A MONSTER CALLS  
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SILENCE  
BALLERINA



SILENCE



JACKIE



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA



THE MONSTER CALLS



## The Innocents

**Writer and director Anne Fontaine helms this powerful story of redemption and rebirth.**

Set in 1945 post-war Poland, *The Innocents* follows Mathilde (Lou de Laâge) a young medic, as she treats the last survivors of the German concentration camps. In stark contrast to the horrors of war and brutal injury, a serene convent lies nearby. When a distressed nun appears at the clinic one night begging for help, Mathilde slips away from her Red Cross duties to discover a sister about to give birth and several more in advanced stages of pregnancy, raped by retreating soldiers. An atheist, Mathilde enters with caution into this intensely private world, strictly governed by ancient ritual. With the threat of a new anti-Catholic Communist government bearing down on them and fearing the shame of exposure, the nuns increasingly turn to Mathilde for solace. Based on the real testimony from a French Red Cross doctor, this striking tale of conflict provides a fascinating yet deeply disturbing look at the clashes between belief, tradition and harsh reality. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

"Heartbreaking and heart-warming, it examines faith, love, honour, shame and obedience versus free will." (*Independent*) Not to be missed. A must to be nominated.

Director: Anne Fontaine  
 Cast: Lou de Laâge, Agata Buzek, Agata Kulesza  
 Duration: 115 mins  
 Origin: France/Poland 2016  
 Certificate: 15  
 Company: Picturehouse Entertainment

**When...**

**Mon 16**

**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 nursing the cat, he inventively names Bob, back to health, the pair become inseparable, and this heart-warming tale ensues. Be it sleeping rough or busking in Covent Garden, the furry companion is right by Bowen's side (perched on his shoulder). The rags-to-riches tale of second chances is one often told, but the unlikely hero of Bob saves this film from being a clichéd catastrophe. It might not be the most sophisticated choice, but it's family-friendly, festive, and infectiously enjoyable. Besides, is there any combination more perfect the long locks of Luke Treadaway and a sidekick cat? (*research Grace Atkins*) Affogato is already perfect Grace. "Bob powers the film's cuteness quotient and extracts laughs with whisker-fine precision" (*Telegraph*)

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

Bob is real and this is the real Bob! (Odyssey Anna used to run into him in Camden before he played second (nee first) fiddle).

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



## Snowden

**Oliver Stone is the man to go to when you want your political drama blunt and upfront; he's done enough of them at least.** Yet Snowden feels like a director softening in his old age.

Lacking the fire of a blood-thirsty filmmaker who gave us JFK, Wall Street, and Nixon Stone's 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 who is sickened by the perversions of power his government has engineered. His life is cushy, he is dutiful, and yet he craves a splash of 007 adventure as a CIA field officer.

Levitt has met and studied Snowden in great detail. He looks and sounds like his subject. Most impressive in his portrayal is that (for once) mimicry doesn't feel like mimicry. Perhaps because Levitt himself exudes natural charm without the ego? Taken as a political thriller, Snowden succeeds in enticing with cinematic charisma, not to feel like a lecture. But it won't teach you anything new.

(*research Jack Whiting*)

Yes Jack, we are All well and truly bugg(er)ed.

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...**

**Wed 18 7.30**

**When...**

**Thu 19 2.00, 7.30**



## Birth Of A Nation

**Screenwriter and first-time director Nate Parker also stars in this fiery diatribe against the white slave owners of 1830's Virginia.** Parker portrays Nat Turner, a literate slave taught to read the Bible from an early age by his financially strapped owner Samuel (Armie Hammer). In a moment of desperation, Samuel accepts an offer to use Turner's preaching to subdue unrest, an action which allows Parker to witness the true extent of slavery and the horrors faced by its victims. Sickened by what he sees, Turner orchestrates a brutal uprising in the hopes of leading his people to freedom, ultimately spearheading the biggest slave revolt in US history.

A personal project of Parker's for seven years, the filmstrikingly captures the savagery of 19th century enslavement whilst also emphasising Turner's religious and morally divisive justification for such an assault on his oppressors. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) "It is a righteous, religious film that almost bludgeons audiences with its powerful message." (*Times*) "It's a cathartic blood-letting that recalls the huff and puff of *Braveheart*, but instead of Mel Gibson splattering the English, it's Parker hacking at the slave owners." (*Guardian*) The original 1915 epic, celebrated the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. 100 years later...

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**Director:** Nate Parker  
**Cast:** Nate Parker, Armie Hammer, Aja Naomi King  
**Duration:** 120 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2016  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Company:** Twentieth Century Fox

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### When...

**Fri 20 7.30**



## 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 Cravalho) 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 the US Box Office 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.

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**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

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### When...

**Sat 21 2.00**  
**Sat 28 2.00**





## 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)* As for the rest of us, Paddington 2 is out soon.



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

<b>Sat</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7.30</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7.00</b>



## Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them

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

We're very much in pre-Potter territory here; 1926 New York to be precise. This is one of its great pleasures. It is set in our non-magic or 'Muggle' world. Newt Scamander (a post-Oscar-glory, still humble Eddie Redmayne) arrives in the city nearing the end of a global excursion to research and rescue magical creatures, some of which are safeguarded in the hidden pocket-dimensions of his deceptively nondescript leather case. But potential disaster strikes when an unsuspecting No-Maj (the transatlantic world for Muggle. Keep up) lets some of Newt's beasts loose in a city already on edge. Events take an ominous turn when Percival Graves (Colin Farrell) the enigmatic Director of Magical Security at MACUSA (Magical Congress of the United States of America – Donald Duck for short) casts his (J. Edgar) 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*) However, Donald T. MACUSA wins...?

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

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**When...**

**Sun 22 6.00 Mon 23 2.00**



## Chi-Raq

**Only Spike Lee could pull off a cinematic cocktail of Ancient Greece, gun-violence and both sexually and musically charged activism.**

Considering Chi-Raq is based on Aristophanes' Lysistrata, it seems unlikely that the title should be word play on the high rates of gang crime in the city of Chicago. Upon witnessing the accidental death of an innocent child, protagonist Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) decides to take action by banning her gang-ringleader boyfriend (Nick Cannon) from what he desires most. Soon enough, Lysistrata convinces her fellow women in the region to join in the sex strike until their partners agree to dissolve their gangs. "No Peace, No Piece!" they chant (although one can imagine the more explicit, less-printable version). The rhyming verse narration (Samuel L Jackson) and occasional dance numbers demonstrate an (albeit risky) attempt to venture into unusual territory with this socio-politically driven satire, but the passionate message fuelling the plot means that when Spike Lee shoots, he absolutely scores. "Chi-Raq is a bold, provocative and topical blast" (*NME*)

"Its messy moments fade behind the many mighty, funny, powerful scenes that sit with you long after" (*Empire*) (*research Grace Atkins*) Sounds okay and looks fabulous. Come and see.

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**Director:** Spike Lee  
**Cast:** Nick Cannon, Teyonah Parris, Angela Bassett, Samuel L. Jackson  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2015  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Company:** Vertigo Releasing

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**When...**

**Mon 23 7.30**



## 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: XX  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Pathé

### When...

<b>Tue 24</b>	<b>2.00, 7.30</b>
<b>Wed 25</b>	<b>2.00, 7.30</b>
<b>Thur 26</b>	<b>7.30</b>



Director: Morten Tyldum  
 Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Pratt,  
 Michael Sheen  
 Duration: 116 mins  
 Origin: USA 2016  
 Certificate: 12A  
 Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

## When...

Sun 29	6.00
Mon 30	2.00, 7.30
Tue 31	2.00, 7.30

## Passengers

**Waking up before the alarm goes off can be irritating, especially when there's still another 90 years to go before you have to get up...**

Flavours of the month Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt find themselves, literally, in unfamiliar territory when they wake up aboard a gigantic spaceship hurtling through the cosmos. Turns out they're just two of thousands of passengers on a 120 year journey to colonise a distant planet. A malfunction in their sleeping chambers rouses Lawrence and Pratt nearly a century too early.

With nothing but a robot bar tender for company (the ever fab Michael Sheen) and the endless reaches of space, the pair soon find comfort in each other... How sweet. But don't reach for tissues of soppy joy just yet. A series of challenges face our newly star-crossed astronauts, including Lawrence almost being sucked out into the ice cold of space, and Lawrence again, nearly drowning in a swimming pool when the gravity system shuts down, no less. Uh Oh!

But the strapping Pratt is there to save the day. Peril, danger and romance dovetail like the Titanic in Space. (*research Jack Whiting*). All the stuff of a real yarn you dare not miss.



# Moon Sun Rain Sky. The closing of 2016



**T**he once laughing stock is not only grinning as one, it is now in charge of this Whole Precious World. Who are these once laughed at half weights, no longer derided as half-wits? Donald, of course. Now Nigel (luckiest half-weight not to be drowned at birth) Farage. Who'd have put odds on either of them a year ago? Then there's Putin, lampooned for baring his torso on a dark horse, now war-mongering all over the shop. Throw in Jim un jim unbarry jimanilow and the Holy Ghost might as well go find himself a couple of Vegas Elvis hooker-like or put the kettle on. In a split second this fragile Earth is Medieval once more. Soon to be run by the "Predatory, Syphilitic and Inconsequential" (the late, missed Brian Sewell) Never mind. Those nice NSA and GCHQ chaps are looking out for us, and we've got our smart cards/ phones ('smart' once hateful, reserved for clever dick, smart-alecks not to be trusted with money or daughters, is now lauded. Funny? Hold tight, the new-new will out-smug you) They say Hitler would never have crushed the Weimar Republic in 1933 if "we'd had the internet". Who wants to laugh first? Duck's victory over his own Republican party is a mirror to Hitler's rise and dismembering of the Weimar 'Republican Party'. Not that simple, but it'll do. The Bond villain(s) wins. Fingers on Buttons teams...





*[Clockwise from the Odyssey above]*

- An Autumn half moon over half of The Odyssey. St Albans.
- A still lock on a still September afternoon. A glimpse of tortuous industrial hard graft gifting us this tranquility.
- Wet and deserted... a High street lamp enjoying its moment being taller than the moon.
- A sunset bigger than the sky burning over the castle dip. (Sunday 11th Dec).
- A late October road rushes past dappled unhurried Ashridge Beeches.
- A rare cloudless blue, bluer than that Mediterranean blue we crave. But when it comes to us here, it brightens our hills, rivers and trees, buildings too. It brightens our hearts so much, it lifts us clear...

