

# THE-REX

PROGRAMME

MAD MAX:  
FURY ROAD

JUNE 2015

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

JUNE 2015 • ISSUE 123  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

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

# THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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**Films At A Glance** 16-17

**The Story So Far...** 25

**BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759**

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

## SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.00

Concessions £7.50

Table £11.00

Concessions £9.50

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)

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

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**The Rex**  
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Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2FG  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

**“Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever..” (STimes Culture)**

## BEST IN JUNE



### MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

It'll take a long time for something to top this passionate blockbuster.

Page 23

## FILMS OF THE MONTH



### TOP FIVE

A 150 mph talkie that will suck you in and hold you there to the end. Page 10



### THE SALVATION

A thrilling unforgiving ride with Mads, a heroic best. Even Cantona stays on-side. Page 11



### A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH...

Unique, epic, refreshing, original, absurd, hilarious, alarming, tragic, sublime... Page 12



### PHOENIX

A complex emotional thriller – gripping study of treachery, identity and survival. Page 13





## JUNE FILMS



## Woman In Gold

**This is the remarkable true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice for what happened to her family.** Sixty years after she fled Vienna during World War II, an elderly Jewish woman, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), starts her journey to retrieve family possessions seized by the Nazis, among them Klimt's famous painting 'Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I'. Together with her inexperienced but plucky young lawyer Randy Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds) she embarks upon a major battle which takes them all the way to the heart of the Austrian establishment and the U.S. Supreme Court, and forces her to confront difficult truths about the past.

"Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds – a partnership the world wasn't waiting for." (*Guardian*)

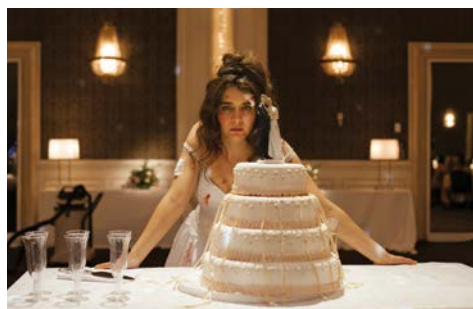
"The film seems to think the mere presence of Mirren as a wisecracking widow will be enough for us to forgive its multitude of sins, especially making the gallery owners and their lawyers out to be heel-clicking Nazis in all but name and uniform." (*Telegraph*)

"Mirren is wonderful as the frank, spirited, adorable Maria, a shimmering bright spot in a not so dazzling film." (*LA Times*) As always disregard them. The *Telegraph's* in particular, petty and humourless.

Director: Simon Curtis  
 Cast: Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Daniel Brühl  
 Duration: 109 mins  
 Origin: USA 2015  
 Certificate: 12A

### When...

**Mon 1 2.00**



## Wild Tales

**Wild Tales, put simply, is an ingenious collection of nightmarish stories.** Damián Szifron's dark mind is on full display in a black-comedy masterclass quite unlike anything we've seen before.

A satire of survival in a corrupt and cynical Argentina, each of the short accounts on display here chronicle all walks of life; an enraged demolitions expert, a furious bride on her wedding day, a bout of in-flight paranoia. This is just a teaser in what to expect from a rabbit-hole of confusion and hilarity. Frantic from the off, the pre-credits short sets the bench-mark so high that it takes almost an entire film to match it. The visuals are stunning, a real pleasure, and the bizarrely perfect soundtrack screams Spaghetti Western classic.

Barmy, brilliant and never banal, this twisted comedy is an absolute treat for the mind.

"Ideally structured and often wickedly dark"

(*Empire*)

"If everyone behaved the way the characters in *Wild Tales* behave, civilisation would crumble. But the real take-away lesson here is how easy it might be for any of us, swept up in a moment of bloodlust, to consider pure raging hostility a fair trade." (*Chicago Sun Times*) Back by huge demand, it is too good to miss, so don't.

Director: Damián Szifron  
 Cast: Ricardo Darín, Oscar Martínez, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Érica Rivas, Rita Cortese  
 Duration: 122 mins  
 Origin: Argentina/Spain 2015  
 Certificate: 15

### When...

**Mon 1 7.30**  
**Thu 11 2.00, 7.30**



## Far From The Madding Crowd

Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd* is the story of independent, beautiful and headstrong Bathsheba Everdene (Carey Mulligan) who attracts three very different suitors: Gabriel Oak (Matthias Schoenaerts [pronounced Shownarts]) sheep farmer whose name describes him; Frank Troy (Tom Sturridge), a handsome and feckless, reckless redcoat monkey: Sergeant and William Boldwood (Michael Sheen) a prosperous and mature bachelor.

It is a country tale of a wilful girl having fun with her power over three men, in a time when women weren't supposed to have fun even with one, let alone power, and over all three? Disgraceful!

"Thomas Vinterberg and screenwriter David Nicholls take a fair stab at John Schlesinger's 1967 [over-applauded postcard] in this eccentrically cast film." (*Guardian*)

"This new take, an unexpectedly conventional, prettified offering from [dangerous] Danish director Thomas Vinterberg [What? more prettified than Nicholas Roeg's 1967 photography?] has one great strength: an outstanding performance, in this difficult fundamentally incoherent role, from Carey Mulligan. Far more intense, compelling and modern than Julie Christie." (*Standard*) 40 years on - what standard do you expect from intense prettified modern?



Director: Thomas Vinterberg  
 Cast: Carey Mulligan, Michael Sheen  
 Duration: 119 mins  
 Origin: UK/USA 2015  
 Certificate: 12A

### When...

<b>Tue 2</b>	2.00, 7.30
<b>Wed 3</b>	2.00, 7.30
<b>Thur 4</b>	2.00, 7.30
<b>Mon 8</b>	2.00





## Top Five

**Chris Rock injects his brand of crass, yet sharp energy into his own directorial feature that, indulgences aside, works well and is actually funny.**

He stars as Andre Allen, an Eddie Murphy/Chris Rock-like standup comedian, with millions in the bank thanks to some dumb franchises, and a hunger to haul himself out of the low-brow. We see clips of his 'work' as Hammy and its sequels where his catchphrase is 'It's Hammy time!

We follow him flogging his latest, more serious movie about a slave rebellion, on the press-junket circuit, but all they want is the freebies and the goss on his upcoming marriage to a reality TV star. This means Andre is not only tagged by camera crews, but by a reporter from the New York Times (the unreasonably gorgeous Rosario Dawson) with whom he's agreed to do a profile, despite its critics consistently trashing his back catalogue...

"The film's trump card is its rigorous honesty. Rock is scathing in his depiction of celebrity-obsessed culture but he is equally frank about his own shortcomings." (*Independent*). A last minute addition to the programme, and luckily a lot better than this reads. It's a perfect comic Friday nighter, you'll be glad you came.

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Director: Chris Rock  
 Cast: Chris Rock, Rosario Dawson, Gabrielle Union  
 Duration: 102 mins  
 Origin: USA 2014  
 Certificate: 15

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**When...**

**Fri 5 7.30**



## Two By Two

**This chirpy little retelling of the Noah's Ark story is like a budget Finding Nemo or Ice Age.**

The main characters are a pair of 'Nestrians'. Better described as brightly coloured gonks with snout noses, whom at first are refused admission to the big boat.

The 10-year-old Finny and his dad Dave smuggle themselves on board by pretending to be 'Grymps', dingo-like animals already on the list to be saved. Their plan works... but after meeting with a young Grymp girl on dry land, Finny manages to miss the boat when the floods come.

"Co-produced by Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and Ireland, this bland animated Euro-pudding has little to offend and even less to excite as it follows its formulaic journey toward a communal group-hug." (*Guardian*)

I'm not sure who was in charge of the dialogue. Judging by the quality of the gags, I'm guessing it was the Germans, but if Darren Aronofsky's take on the biblical Russell Crowe tale was a little too morose, then you couldn't ask for a more colourful alternative. Parents be warned, this is for the very young, so not too many laughs for you. (*research Jack Whiting*)

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Directors: Toby Genkel, Sean McCormack  
 Voices: Dermot Magennis, Ava Connolly  
 Duration: 87 mins  
 Origin: Germany/Belgium/Luxembourg/Ireland 2015  
 Certificate: U

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**When...**

**Sat 6 2.00**



## The Salvation

**Gripping Danish western starring Mads Mikkelsen as a Scandinavian settler in America's bloody and brutal wild west.**

After seven years of toughing it out as a rural farmer, Jon anxiously awaits the arrival of his wife and son as they travel to the town of Black Creek, a lawless and violent settlement. The happy reunion is short-lived and what follows is a body-piling tale of revenge and retribution.

Mikkelsen makes for a fantastic western hero while Eva Green's presence as mute widow Madelaine captivates and entices throughout.

A terrific homage to the likes of Sergio Leone, *The Salvation* is rich in character, as director Kristian Levring shows no remorse in filling the tale with nods to 60's classics, all the while weaving a harsh and harrowing tale, whetting the appetite for gunslinging commotion.

"Mikkelsen makes a great western hero. In an earlier age, this might have been his entire career." (*Guardian*) It is *Unforgiven* with Mads, a presence as strong as Clint's.

"It's the detail; the fly on the dead man's face and all those close-ups of characters' stirrured boots clanking on wooden floors." (*Independent*) (research Chris Coetsee)

Not sure about stirrured boots, but the faces are perfectly cast in this unforgiving place, even Eric Cantona doesn't look out of position.



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Director:	Kristian Levring
Cast:	Mads Mikkelsen, Eva Green, Jeffrey Dean Morgan
Duration:	92 mins
Origin:	Denmark/UK/South Africa/Sweden/ Belgium 2014
Certificate:	15

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**When...**

**Sat 6 7.00**



## Force Majeure

**A critical favourite and word-of-mouth sensation at last year's Cannes Festival, where it took the Jury Prize in Un Certain Regard, this wickedly funny and precisely observed psychodrama tells the story of a model Swedish family – handsome businessman Tomas, his willowy wife Ebba and their pre-teen children, on a skiing holiday in the French Alps.**

The sun is shining and the slopes are spectacular but, during lunch at a mountainside restaurant, an avalanche turns everything upside down. With panicked diners fleeing in all directions, Ebba calls out for her husband as she tries to protect their children. Tomas, however, makes a decision that will shake the family's world to its core.

"A minor-key appraisal of modern marriage that manages to be funny, sad and, sadly, true. Just don't watch it on your anniversary." (*Total Film*)

"A brittle black comedy that has plenty to say about modern manhood and the human survival instinct." (*Empire*)

"Östlund (the director) invites us to look at ourselves honestly. He points out our inconsistencies, attempts to hold us to account for our worst hypocrisies.

Force Majeure is a frightening film.

It brushes off our surface layer to reach the icy truth beneath." (*Guardian*)

It is also slower than you might expect.

Director: Ruben Östlund  
Cast: Johannes Kuhnke, Lisa Loven Kongsli  
Duration: 119 mins  
Origin: Sweden/France/Norway 2014  
Certificate: 15

## When...

**Sun 7 6.00**  
**Mon 15 2.00**



## A Pigeon Sat On A Branch

**Roy Andersson's award-winning comedy-drama is the third instalment in a loose trilogy exploring the banality of human behavior.**

Consisting of a series of stylised and darkly comic episodes, *A Pigeon Sat...* invites you to explore the drab and dreary lives of a dishevelled and zombie-like assortment of characters inhabiting the Swedish city of Gothenberg.

Three 'meetings with death' to the chronicles of a pair of novelty salesmen (Nils Wesblom and Holger Andersson) and while drinking in the mournful atmosphere which dances drunkenly with the still existence of these individuals, it soon becomes a joyfully comic experience.

Littered with deadpan humour and a whispering sense of dread, this is a film that is refreshing in its originality, artful mischief and its own artistry. Absurd, hilarious, alarming, tragic, sublime.

Andersson's genius is on full show here.

"If Chris Morris had grown up in Sweden watching Jacques Tati and Ingmar Bergman, he might be making films like this." (*Empire*)

"What an incredible film-maker Andersson is. He has created an entirely unique epic movie-cycle that has to be seen to be believed." (*Guardian*)

(research Chris Coetsee)

It is a further cinematic spasm of imagination and observation from a cold climate. Odd, reassuring and uplifting. Don't miss.

Director: Roy Andersson  
Cast: Holger Andersson, Nils Westblom  
Duration: 100 mins  
Origin: Germany/France 2014  
Certificate: 12A

## When...

**Mon 8 7.30**  
**Mon 22 2.00**





## Phoenix

**Christian Petzold's noir-infused melodrama is clever smoke and mirrors.**

Auschwitz survivor Nelly (played brilliantly by Nina Hoss) returns to Berlin having had reconstructive face surgery following a severe gunshot wound. She endeavours to rekindle her relationship with former lover Johnny (Ronald Zehrfeld) but as the bandages come off and they come face to face, he fails to recognise her.

Yet something of Nelly lingers as he observes that the stranger in front of him bears a passing resemblance to his wife. With his eyes set on a substantial inheritance, Johnny offers her a deal; promising a \$20,000 reward if she can successfully pass herself off as herself.

"Phoenix is full of ambiguity and intelligence." (*Times*)

"A noir-ish and complex emotional thriller."

(*Time Out*)

"A gripping study of treachery, identity and survival." (*Empire*)

Full of the twists and contortions of a classic Hitchcock, Phoenix emerges as a complex and enticing tale. (*research Chris Coetsee*) Totally far-fetched from beginning to end, but with enough twists and turn to keep you busy - and dizzy. Nina Hoss is extraordinary. You wouldn't tire watching her play bingo in a village hall.

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Director: Christian Petzold  
 Cast: Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld,  
 Nina Kunzendorf  
 Duration: 98 mins  
 Origin: Germany/Poland 2014  
 Certificate: 12A

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**When...**

**Tue 9**

**2.00, 7.30**



## Suite Française

**Michelle Williams portrays Lucille Angellier, a proud but self-confessed Frenchwoman who falls in love with a Nazi officer during the German occupation of World War II France.**

Based upon Irène Némirovsky unfinished novel of the same name, Suite Française has a lot to live up to. A bestseller in 2004, fans of the book might be surprised to find that much has been shed to focus on the central melodrama.

With her husband lost to a German prison camp, Lucille's days are haunted by her fearsome mother-in-law Madame Angellier, played expertly by Kristin Scott-Thomas. Her dangerous affair with Bruno (Matthias Schoenaerts pronounced Shownarts) offers her a form of escapism and a chance to rediscover herself.

There are few twists and turns but a steady pace is what is needed here to tell this passionate tale.

"Suite Française ticks all the right boxes as a classy literary adaptation, favouring a heightened sense of romance over gritty drama." (*Screen International*)

"Suite Française is handsomely made and boasts two exceptional central performances but its tone is strangely discordant." (*Independent*) It is a strong story set in a dangerous time, come for that.

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Director: Saul Dibb  
 Cast: Kristin Scott Thomas, Michelle  
 Williams, Matthias Schoenaerts  
 Duration: 107 mins  
 Origin: UK/France/Canada 2014  
 Certificate: 15

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**When...**

**Wed 10**

**2.00, 7.30**



Director: Joss Whedon  
 Cast: Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth  
 Duration: 141 mins  
 Origin: USA 2015  
 Certificate: 12A

## Avengers: Age Of Ultron

**The second wave of stand-alone adventures has passed. Now the super-doooper-group is again reassembled, primed to take down whatever new nemesis threatens the world.**

This particular threat is in the form an Artificial Intelligence (an AI robot) newly invented by Tony Stark aka Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr) to take care of business when the super-dooopers are too busy to avenge stuff. But the dubious creation becomes self aware, dubs himself Ultron (voiced by the soothing, sinister tones of James Spader) and pledges to wipe out humanity in order to bring 'peace' to the planet. Uh oh.

The rest of the team (Capt America, Thor, Hulk, Black Widow, and Hawkeye) aren't too happy about Stark's mistake, yet they must put aside their squabbles to defeat Ultron and his robot army. Recent Marvel outings have moulded themselves around other sub genres - last year's *Winter Soldier* was a conspiracy thriller, *Guardians* was a space opera-cum-comedy caper. *Age of Ultron* is unadulterated comic-book entertainment. Writer and director Joss Whedon just about manages to keep all the plates spinning and never forgets to throw in a punch line or two amid the punching. Bravo. (*Jack Whiting*) Why bother? A big fat techno \$millions BlockB on our huge sound screen. That's why.

### When...

Fri	12	7.30
Sat	13	7.00
Sun	14	6.00



## Big Hero 6

**If you found Frozen lacking in robots and explosions, then Disney's follow up a visually dazzling animation based on Marvel comics, should satisfy.**

Set in the colourful San Fransokyo, an east meets west mega city, Big Hero 6 centres on tech whiz-kid Hiro (Ryan Potter) but he's not the star, that honour belongs the lovable Baymax, who's created by Hiro's older brother. He's an inflatable medical droid; sort of a cross between the Michelin X Man and the robot from Lost in Space.

Hiro's own invention, on the other hand, is an impressive army of nano gadgets that can do whatever their user desires, which of course are bound to fall into the wrong hands... In true superhero fashion, Hiro and Baymax suit up with a group of energetic inventors to take down the mysterious villain and save the city.

The dynamic between this odd bunch trips up on clichés (so what?) and underwritten characters (so what?) but Baymax emanates limitless charm. (*research Jack Whiting*). It is Disney-fabulous, with a heart as big as the big fat blobby Baymax 6. Not to mention the fun, humour and fabulous big screen action. Don't think twice. Bring the street.

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Directors: Don Hall, Chris Williams.  
 Voices: Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit, Jamie Chung  
 Duration: 108 mins  
 Origin: USA 2014  
 Certificate: PG

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## Girlhood

**Fed up with her abusive family situation, lack of school prospects and the "boys' law" in the neighbourhood, Marieme starts a new life after meeting a group of three free-spirited girls.**

She changes her name, her style, drops out of school and starts stealing to be accepted into the gang. When her home situation becomes unbearable, Marieme seeks solace in an older man who promises her money and protection. Realising this sort of lifestyle will never result in freedom nor independence, she takes matters into her own hands.

"(Céline Sciamma's) third film Girlhood (Water Lilies 2007/Tomboy 2011) confirms her as quite simply one of the best writer directors [of and for adolescent girls] of her generation." (Times)

"I was somehow watching my own teenage struggles and triumphs play out on the screen. The fact I'm not French, female or black didn't seem to come into it." (Telegraph)

"Devotees of Céline Sciamma's previous work will of course see the connection between this and her Water Lilies, though a much less 'hood/street dangerous all-girl drama. Girlhood has a raw emotional urgency and energy." (Guardian)

"Honest, empowering and electrifying. Bravo!" (Observer) Don't miss.

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Director: Céline Sciamma  
 Cast: Karidja Touré, Assa Sylla, Lindsay Karamoh  
 Duration: 113 mins  
 Origin: France 2014  
 Certificate: 15

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**When...**

**Sat 13 2.00**

**When...**

**Mon 15 7.30**



# THE ODYSSEY

**JUNE FILMS: 01727 453088**

DATE	FILM	TIME
1 MON	SUITE FRANCAISE	7.30
2 TUE	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	7.30
3 WED	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	2.00
3 WED	ROSEWATER	7.30
4 THU	X + Y	7.30
5 FRI	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	7.30
6 SAT	MOOMINS ON THE RIVIERA	2.00
6 SAT	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	7.00
7 SUN	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	1.30, 6.00
8 MON	FORCE MAJEURE	7.30
9 TUE	KINGSMAN	7.30
10 WED	FORCE MAJEURE	2.00
10 WED	PHOENIX	7.30
11 THU	TOP FIVE	7.30
12 FRI	SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD	7.30
13 SAT	TWO BY TWO	2.00
13 SAT	SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD	7.00
14 SUN	BIG GAME	1.30
14 SUN	CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA	6.00
15 MON	ROYAL NIGHT OUT	7.30
16 TUE	ROYAL NIGHT OUT	7.30
17 WED	ROYAL NIGHT OUT	2.00
17 WED	DARK HORSE: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF DREAM ALLIANCE	7.30
18 THU	WILD TALES	7.30
19 FRI	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	7.30
20 SAT	FINDING NEMO	2.00
20 SAT	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	7.00
21 SUN	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	1.30, 6.00
22 MON	ROYAL NIGHT OUT	7.30
23 TUE	THE CONNECTION	7.30
24 WED	ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS	2.00, 7.30
25 THU	AGE OF ADALINE	7.30
26 FRI	PITCH PERFECT 2	7.30
27 SAT	PITCH PERFECT 2	2.00
27 SAT	MAN UP	7.00
28 SUN	PITCH PERFECT 2	1.30
28 SUN	MAN UP	6.00
29 MON	THE SALVATION	7.30
30 TUE	GIRLHOOD	7.30

## COMING SOON REX

### BACK BY DEMAND

Woman In Gold  
Mad Max: Fury Road  
Perfect Pitch 2  
A Royal Night Out

### NEW RELEASES

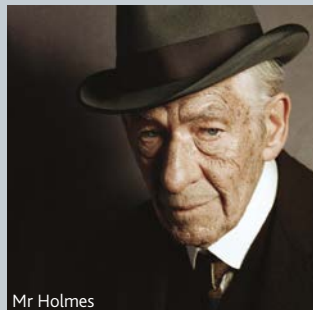
Tomorrowland  
Man Up  
Mr Holmes  
The Man Who Saved The World



Tomorrowland



Man Up

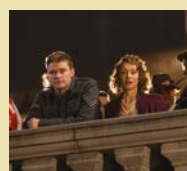


Mr Holmes



The Man Who Saved The World

## THE-REX

JUNE FILMS:  
01442 877759

DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 MON	WOMAN IN GOLD	2.00	8
1 MON	WILD TALES	7.30	8
2 TUE	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	2.00, 7.30	9
3 WED	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	2.00, 7.30	9
4 THU	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	2.00, 7.30	9
5 FRI	TOP FIVE	7.30	10
6 SAT	TWO BY TWO	2.00	10
6 SAT	THE SALVATION	7.00	11
7 SUN	FORCE MAJEURE	6.00	12
8 MON	FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)	2.00	9
8 MON	A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH..	7.30	12
9 TUE	PHOENIX	2.00, 7.30	13
10 WED	SUITE FRANCAISE	2.00, 7.30	13
11 THU	WILD TALES	2.00, 7.30	8
12 FRI	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	7.30	14
13 SAT	BIG HERO 6	2.00	15
13 SAT	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	7.00	14
14 SUN	AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON	6.00	14
15 MON	FORCE MAJEURE	2.00	12
15 MON	GIRLHOOD	7.30	15
16 TUE	DARK HORSE: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF DREAM ALLIANCE	2.00, 7.30	18
17 WED	SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD	2.00	18
17 WED	ROSEWATER	7.30	19
18 THU	SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD	2.00, 7.30	18
19 FRI	SPOOKS: THE GREATER GOOD	7.30	18
20 SAT	PITCH PERFECT 2	2.00, 7.00	19
21 SUN	THE CONNECTION	6.00	20
22 MON	A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH	2.00	12
22 MON	TIMBUKTU	7.30	20
23 TUE	A ROYAL NIGHT OUT	2.00, 7.30	21
24 WED	A ROYAL NIGHT OUT	2.00, 7.30	21
25 THU	CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA	2.00, 7.30	22
26 FRI	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	7.30	23
27 SAT	MOOMINS OF THE RIVIERA	2.00	24
27 SAT	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	7.00	23
28 SUN	MAD MAX: FURY ROAD	6.00	23
29 MON	A ROYAL NIGHT OUT	2.00	21
29 MON	THE NEW GIRLFRIEND	7.30	24
30 TUE	A ROYAL NIGHT OUT	2.00, 7.30	21



## Dark Horse: The Incredible True Story of Dream Alliance

**The Sundance-winning documentary *Dark Horse* tells the extraordinary story of *Dream Alliance*, born and bred by a syndicate in a depressed South Wales mining village, who against the odds conquered the world of racing.** It's a rags to riches tale the director Louise Osmond describes as "Rocky Horse". (Robert Redford, a sucker for horses, a racing certainty at Sundance) Jan Vokes, the barmaid whose idea it was to breed a racehorse, had always loved animals, keeping show whippets and racing pigeons. But it was a chance conversation, as barmaid, at a typical miners working men's club that set the story in motion. One that might even end at the Grand National... Vokes, along with her husband Brian, convinced 23 of their friends in the mining town of Cefn Fforest to put in £10 a week to pay for the horse's food and training. The pair brought up *Dream Alliance* on a slagheap allotment. What are the chances of that Queenie...?

"The whole saga is relentlessly uplifting, not only for the participants, and horse, but for the otherwise benighted village, which, bathed in the glow *Dream Alliance*, is reinvigorated." (*Guardian*) "relentlessly uplifting" that's worrying.

Director: Louise Osmond  
Duration: 86 mins  
Origin: UK 2014  
Certificate: PG



## Spooks: The Greater Good

**After ten series on the BBC, Peter Firth's MI5 crew get their own big-screen adventure...**

When charismatic terrorist Adam Qasim escapes from MI5 custody during a routine handover, the legendary Harry Pearce (Firth) Head of Counter-terrorism is blamed. Disgraced and forced to resign, no-one is surprised when Harry disappears one night off a bridge into the Thames.

With MI5 on its knees in the wake of the Qasim debacle and facing controversial reform, former agent Will Holloway (Kit Harington) is brought back to uncover the truth they feared... Harry's still alive! He's gone rogue and needs Will's help. As Qasim prepares his devastating attack on the heart of MI5 in London, Will must decide whether to turn Harry in or risk everything by trusting the damaged, dangerous master spy who has already betrayed him once before...

"A decent, mid-list spy thriller, suspended somewhere between *le Carré* and *Bond* but with a budgetary austerity in keeping with government spending cuts..." (*Empire*)

"But even if the film can't match Hollywood for spectacle, there's a sobering sense of the painful sacrifices and compromises facing those who toil in secret to keep us safe from harm." (*Time Out*) It's unexploded television on the big screen.

Director: Bharat Nalluri  
Cast: Peter Firth, Kit Harington  
Duration: 104 mins  
Origin: UK 2015  
Certificate: 15

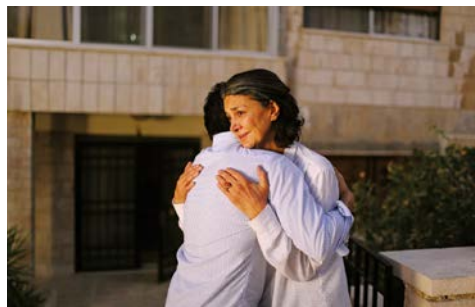
## When...

Wed 17	2.00
Thu 18	2.00, 7.30
Fri 19	7.30

## When...

Tue 16	2.00, 7.30
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## Rosewater

**Based on a true story, Rosewater marks the directorial debut of Jon Stewart, host of the US subversive political comedy satire: The Daily Show.** It stars Gael García Bernal as the Tehran-born Bahari, a broadcast journalist with Canadian citizenship. In June 2009, Bahari returned to Iran to interview Mir-Hossein Mousavi, who was the prime challenger to president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Mousavi's supporters rose up to protest Ahmadinejad's victory declaration hours before the polls closed!! Bahari endured personal risk by sending footage of the street riots to the BBC. Hence he was arrested on the orders of a police chief known only as 'Rosewater'. This high ranking nazi would interrogate him over the next 118 days. With Bahari's wife leading an international campaign to free him, and Western media outlets keeping the story alive, the Iranian authorities released Bahari on \$300,000 bail on the promise he would act as a spy for the government...

"This remarkable film is a tribute to the bravery of foreign correspondents and a love letter to democracy." (*Telegraph*)

"Gripping, humane and lighter than it sounds, Stewart's first foray into directing suggests that he was right to quit the day job. We can't wait to see what he does next." (*Empire*) So come and see what he's done now.

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Director: Jon Stewart  
 Cast: Gael García Bernal, Kim Bodnia, Dimitri Leonidas  
 Duration: 103 mins  
 Origin: USA 2014  
 Certificate: 15

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**When...**

**Wed 17 7.30**



## Pitch Perfect

**The sequel to the surprise hit falls into the routine sequel trap of being bigger (or in this case louder) but not quite as much fun.**

It begins in much the same way as its predecessor with the Barden Bellas (led by Anna Kendrick) embarrassing themselves onstage. Now in their final year and current national champions, this time around the humiliation is far greater. As if this weren't enough, they then find themselves suspended from domestic competition by the two tyrants of America's college a cappella league, Gail (Elizabeth Banks) and John (John Michael Higgins). But all is not lost. The Bellas can redeem their reputation if they become the first ever American group to win a major global competition held in Copenhagen. Up against them are the mighty Das Sound Machine, a techno-inflicted Teutonic troupe who provide the majority of laughs.

Pitch Perfect 2 is like a joke you have to hear twice because someone nearby wasn't paying attention. Great the first time round but the inevitable repetition and predictability have now flattened the froth, but enough to spoil the fun and gleeful entertainment (*research Jack Whiting*) Luckily, actors well out of their teens play the teenies. So over 30s welcome. Don't miss.

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Director: Elizabeth Banks  
 Cast: Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow  
 Duration: 115 mins  
 Origin: USA 2015  
 Certificate: 12A

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**When...**

**Sat 20 2.00, 7.00**



## The Connection

A stylish, 70's-period crime thriller inspired by true events, **The Connection** tells the story of real-life Marseilles magistrate, Pierre Michel (Jean Dujardin) and his relentless crusade to dismantle the most notorious drug smuggling operation in history: the French Connection. One of those under investigation is the charismatic and wealthy kingpin, Gatean "Tany" Zampa (Gilles Lellouche) who runs the largest underground heroin trade into the States.

Though the fearless and tenacious Michel, aided by a task force of elite cops will stop at nothing, including boldly orchestrated drug raids, devastating arrests and exacting interrogations to ensure the crime ring's demise, Zampa's "La French" always seems one step ahead. As La French mounts its retaliation, Michel will be forced to make the most difficult decision of his life. To continue waging his war or ensure his family's safety before it's too late. "A stirring performance against type by Jean Dujardin (*The Artist* 2011) as a nails-tough magistrate helps make this a riveting police drama." (*Variety*)

"A procedural epic whose complicated narrative is propelled by visceral action sequences and an unusually thrilling soundtrack" (*LA Times*) "For all the charisma of its hero and villain, it falls down in its failure to resist cliché." (*Empire*) Resist critics cliché it's fabulous. Come.

Director: Cédric Jimenez  
Cast: Jean Dujardin, Gilles Lellouche, Céline Sallette, Mélanie Doutey  
Duration: 135 mins  
Origin: France 2014  
Certificate: 15

When...

Sun 21 6.00



## Timbuktu

Not far from the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu, now ruled by the religious fundamentalists, proud cattle herder Kidane (Ibrahim Ahmed aka Pino) lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima (Toulou Kiki) his daughter Toya (Layla Walet Mohamed) and Issan (Mehdi Ag Mohamed), their twelve year old shepherd boy. In town the people suffer, powerless to resist the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes even soccer, have been banned. The women have become shadows but resist with dignity. Every day the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences. Kidane and his family are spared the chaos that prevails merely a few miles away in Timbuktu. But their destiny changes abruptly in this stunningly rendered film from one of the masters of world cinema.

"Abderrahmane Sissako's passionate and visually beautiful film *Timbuktu* is a cry from the heart, carrying all the more moral authority for being expressed with such grace and such care." (*Guardian*)

"This is in no way the remorselessly grim film its subject matter might lead you to expect. It is full of life, irony, poetry and bitter unfairness. It demands respect that it earns." (*Telegraph*) Don't miss.

Director: Abderrahmane Sissako  
Cast: Ibrahim Ahmed, Abel Jafri, Toulou Kiki  
Duration: 96 mins  
Origin: France/Mauritania 2014  
Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 22 7.30



## A Royal Night Out

It is VE Day and the two young princesses Elizabeth (Sarah Gadon) and Margaret (Bel Powley) are completely 'cheesed off' at being locked away in a 'ghastly mausoleum' (that is to say, Buckingham Palace) when the rest of Britain is celebrating.

They somehow persuade Mummy and Daddy (a stuttering Rupert Everett as King George and Emily Watson as Ma'am) to allow them out to celebrate "incognito" with the rest of the London crowds.

Based partly on anecdote (apparently, the princesses really did join the VE Day celebrations) the film follows Elizabeth and Margaret as they quickly wriggle free from their chaperones and become separated from each other. Their travels take them from nightclubs to knocking shops, from the fountains of Trafalgar Square to Chelsea Barracks and a turbulent night begins to unfold.

"This is a poignant and entertaining affair, with enough of a satirical edge not just to seem like an exercise in cosy British nostalgia." (*Independent*)

"The whole thing is as fake and fragile as a cheap commemorative mug, but there's ripe fun to be had in its tikiy-boo trashiness." (*Observer*) (research Jane Clucas) It sounds just the ticket. Come and take a peek.

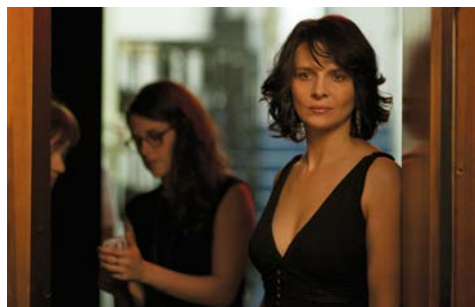


Director: Julian Jarrold  
 Cast: Emily Watson, Rupert Everett, Sarah Gadon  
 Duration: 97 mins  
 Origin: UK 2015  
 Certificate: 12A

### When...

<b>Tue 23</b>	2.00, 7.30
<b>Wed 24</b>	2.00, 7.30
<b>Mon 29</b>	2.00
<b>Tue 30</b>	2.00, 7.30





## Clouds Of Sils Maria

**César Award winner Kristen Stewart (come a long way teen vampires) shines in a role that carries Olivier Assayas' prickly psychological drama.**

Juliette Binoche plays well-respected actress Maria Enders who reluctantly agrees to star in a new production of *Maloja Snake*, the play that brought her acclaim 20 years prior. Having previously embodied the part of the young and heartless 'Sigrid' she now finds herself in the shoes of 'Helena' the tepid older role.

Working closely with her young personal assistant Valentine (Kristen Stewart) she prepares for the role in the remote alpine location of Sils Maria. As the two discuss and rehearse for the performance between regular hikes throughout the mountains, it is their relationship that becomes the true focus of exploration.

"If there was ever a reminder needed of Juliette Binoche's great and enduring presence, Assayas delivers it here." (*Screen International*)

"Olivier Assayas' real genius is casting Kristen Stewart as Binoche's harried and bespectacled personal assistant, Valentine." (*Times*)

"It gives artistic types an easy ride but it's a feast of rich writing and great acting." (*Empire*)  
(research *Chris Coetsee*) Then there's 'Hit-Girl' Chloë Grace Moretz growing up fast, as the dark one. Come and see if they're all in the same film.

Director: Olivier Assayas  
Voices: Juliette Binoche, Kristen Stewart,  
Chloë Grace Moretz  
Duration: 124 mins  
Origin: France/Switzerland/Germany/USA/  
Belgium 2014  
Certificate: 15

**When...**

**Tue 25 2.00, 7.30**



## Mad Max: Fury Road

**Once in a while a film will come along that sets the bar for action cinema so high, anything that comes out within a ten-year radius can only bow in unworthiness. Fury Road is such a film.**

Max Rockatansky (Tom Hardy, taking the mantle from Mel Gibson) unwittingly tags along with a rebellious motley crew, led by Imperator Furiosa (a wonderfully feminist Charlize Theron, the real star of Fury Road) in a sand ravaged, post apocalyptic ruin where scarce oil and water is the only currency. They must race across the desert in all manor of astonishing vehicles to outrun their enemies, and survive (astonishingly, the explosions and stunts are all real. There is little or no CGI). It has been a long, tiring journey to get Max back on the road for George Miller, now 70, the visionary who brought us Max in 1979 but the payoff couldn't be better.

Three years, thousands of storyboards, and nearly 500 hours of footage have been refined into a package that will rattle your skull and fry your senses. Fury Road is a real passionate blockbuster film: rust, oil, sand and all. It'll take an awfully long time for something top such visceral entertainment. (*research Jack Whiting*) Don't miss.



Director: George Miller  
Cast: Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult  
Duration: 120 mins  
Origin: Australia 2015  
Certificate: 15

### When...

Fri	26	7.30
Sat	27	7.00
Sun	28	6.00



## Moomins On The Riviera

**Scrapping the stop-motion felt puppets from 2010's *Moomins and the Comet Chase*, this new adventure falls back on the delightful hand drawn aesthetic of the TV show.**

Conceived by Tove and Lars Jansson seventy years ago, the lovable Moomins hit the big screen in a gorgeous animated feature film directed by Xavier Picard.

Culled from a series of different Jansson-scripted stories, the plot sees the Moomin family, along with friends Snorkmaiden and Little My, leave Moominvalley and head to the French Riviera in search of adventure. Booking into a plush five-star hotel without realising the cost, they begin to mix with aristocrats and film stars. Soon they're gambling in casinos, shopping in boutiques and lauding it on sun-loungers. Uh oh

"Subdued atmosphere cannot justify a lacklustre plot. *Moomins on the Riviera* sets to defy cultural stereotypes, but resorts to one-liner jokes and endless variations of the "money can't buy happiness theme." [Uh?]

However, if you're looking for a film perfect for the whole family, this is it. And its sense of style and odd humor will keep adults (almost) entertained right along with the youngest viewers. It's late in and this is Transatlantic-speak. So ignore it and come. You'll have seen worse...?

Directors: Xavier Picard, Hanna Hemilä  
Voices: Russell Tovey, Stephanie Winiecki, Tracy Ann Oberman  
Duration: 77 mins  
Origin: France/Finland 2014  
Certificate: U

**When...**

**Sat 27 2.00**



## The New Girlfriend

**Francois Ozon's adaptation of a Ruth Rendell short story, *The New Girlfriend* explores the tensely loyal friendship between Laura (Isild Le Besco) and Claire (Anna Demoustier).**

Beginning with an introductory sequence which catalogues their bond through life, the focus shifts abruptly as it becomes clear that Laura is being adorned in her bridal gown for her funeral.

A distraught Claire vows to keep a promise and take care of her best friend's husband and child.

When visiting grieving David (Romain Duris) unexpectedly she is shocked to find him dressed in Laura's clothes so, unwittingly discovering his alter-ego Virginia. It is through Virginia that the two begin to form a bond of their own.

"Ozon handles it all with his usual aplomb, in his hands all these characters seem practically normal, and if there is a touch of sarcasm in his look, no one will complain..." (*Screen International*)

"Anaïs Demoustier and Romain Duris give beautifully controlled performances in Francois Ozon's delectably entertaining new film." (*Variety*) Roman Duris is welcome on the Rex screen anytime. He's another continental actor you wouldn't tire of watching in a bingo hall shouting out 'Housey Housey'. Don't miss.

Director: François Ozon  
Cast: Romain Duris, Anaïs Demoustier  
Duration: 108 mins  
Origin: France 2014  
Certificate: 15

**When...**

**Mon 29 7.30**



## The Rex. The beginning...



Picture by: Kelly Cantlon

As the Rants and Pants page has all but dried up, though there will be odd gems to come, it seems like a good time to serialise the story of the Rex one page at a time month by month. Otherwise this whole wild tale will evaporate with me. This first page is from memory and found diary notes.

In a sunny garden at the Old Swan during the first summer of 2000 and free of all that was to come, a word and a handshake would change a huge part of my world, and as a consequence, the face of a small market town in Hertfordshire.

It was a sunny day six years earlier in April 1994, a full ten years before the re-opening of the Rex.

I was as free as a bird walking down Queensway back towards Hemel Old Town from Cupid Green breakers yard where I'd just taken twenty five quid for my now beaten old mini. Faithfully it got me to top of the hill for that £25

goodbye. It was that rush of a rare euphoria. You can never hope for a second, and a third would be out of the question? As things have turned out, I have known more than my fair share, only half remembered as I write. Apart from my children, my family and a few precious times not told here, there are these three.

The first, in late adolescence, where for prolonged minutes it felt like I was flying. I was about to embark on a bewildering adventure, which hasn't stopped. There were no drugs then, it was the air, the shore, the tide so far out you could walk to New York and back. It was that moment when you make your first lone promise to do something from nothing.

Little did I dream the second euphoria would wear off by the bottom of the Old Town especially after the first had lasted 27 years, skirmishes aside.

Just then, there was nothing left to lose and I had my bus fare home...