

THE-REX

PROGRAM



SHAUN THE SHEEP

MARCH 2015

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

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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

St Albans 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)

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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 MARCH



50 SHADES OF GREY

Or, get allotment tips from '50 Sheds of Grey'. Out now.

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FILMS OF THE MONTH



EX MACHINA

Gorgeous, scary. Style personified with a thriller's edge.

Page 11



AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS

The farewell we must bid to our childhood, and our innocence.

Page 12



SHAUN THE SHEEP

Delicious woolly Aardman stop frame adventure for all kids and parents.

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DUCK SOUP

Marx Bros classic of classics at the Rex. Fresher and funnier today than in 1933.

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MARCH FILMS



Wild

Adapted by Nick Hornby from the best-selling true life story, **Wild** stars Reese Witherspoon as Cheryl, a young woman in the midst of a personal crisis and without hope. After years of destructive behaviour and the end of her marriage and the death of her mother, she makes a wild decision. With absolutely no experience, and driven only by something other than mere determination, she hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest alone.

Her journey is largely internal, "A primal grab for a cure, for the thread of my life that had been severed," she writes. "I could feel it unspooling behind me, the old thread I'd lost, the new one I was spinning, as I hiked." Director Jean-Marc Vallée (Dallas Buyers Club) intercuts this trip with visions of Cheryl's past in non-linear snippets as she's prompted by the present to think back to the moments that shaped her, both good and bad. "Reese Witherspoon is great in the part, whether conducting minor operations on herself, screaming aloud her frustration, or just rolling around trying to lift her unmanageable rucksack. You really hope she makes it." (*Standard*) Let's hope they're right. Come and see.

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
 Cast: Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern
 Duration: 115 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15

When...

Sun 1 6.00



The Imitation Game

Based on Andrew Hodges' biography and marking the English-language debut of Norwegian director, Morten Tyldum (Headhunters) **The Imitation Game** begins with Turing's (Benedict Cumberbatch) arrest in 1951.

Little did officials know the law would change and they were incriminating the pioneer of modern-day computing. Famously leading a motley group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers, Turing was credited with cracking the codes of Germany's World War II Enigma machine. Flashbacks to his schooldays and his years at Bletchley Park paint a touching account of a man with few intellectual equals, even fewer social graces and no friends. Turing alienates his colleagues, exasperates his military masters and seems blithely unaware of the impact his blunt candour has on those around him. His rational mind also makes him blind to the sexism of his era as he becomes a fond champion of Joan Clarke (a brilliant and non-irritating Keira Knightley) an equally formidable intellect with the disadvantage of being a mere 'gel'. Benedict Cumberbatch is nominated for an Oscar, but sadly up against Eddie Redmayne. "It's the performance of his career in what is also possibly the best British film of the year." (*Independent*)

Director: Morten Tyldum
 Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley
 Duration: 113 mins
 Origin: UK/USA
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 2 7.30
 Wed 4 2.00
 Mon 9 2.00



The Theory Of Everything

Stephen Hawking won a post graduate place at Cambridge after cleverly blagging a 1st class honours in Theoretical Physics from Oxford to eventually become the celebrated author of the colossal **A Brief History of Time**. Not to mention: the cleverest, most famous crippled man in his own brief history of all time.

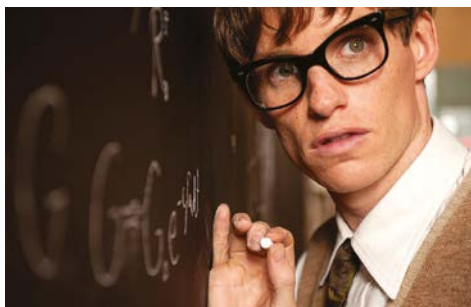
It is adapted from Jane Hawking's tender memoir. As the film progresses, alongside Stephen's illness, we hear of his relationships, the people he loved who loved him and those he lost along the way. While living in St Albans as a boy, it is worth the time and space to predict he may have come to the old Odeon from time to time...?

Eddie Redmayne excels as he grows more and more into Stephen, from healthy, all dancing young buck into a motor neurone lump at 21, encumbered still with a frustrating, extraordinary mind.

It will be back and back, and Eddie Redmayne looks like pipping Benedict Cumberbatch to the Oscar post (won the Bafta Sun 8th February). It's a shame both of these Brit films are out in the same year.

"Breath taking... Heart breaking"

(*Entertainment Weekly*)



Director: James Marsh
 Cast: Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, David Thewlis, Emily Watson
 Duration: 123 mins
 Origin: USA 2013
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 2	2.00
Tue 3	12.30, 7.30
Wed 4	7.30
Mon 23	2.00



Boyhood

Back because it has won something, Richard Linklater's groundbreaking story of growing up, filmed over 12 years with the same cast.

The focus of this epic and affecting story is centred on one Texas family. Divorced parents Olivia (Patricia Arquette – Golden Globe) and Mason (Ethan Hawke) and their children Samantha (Lorelei Linklater, who had to beg her father to play the part?) and Mason Jr (Ellar Coltrane).

The film charts the rocky terrain of childhood like no other film has before. It has the same relaxed life-as-it-happens naturalism as many of Linklater's other films. Like a novel in its richness and scope. From the age of 5 to 18, we follow Mason on a journey and into adulthood.

As in Linklater's "Before" trilogy, the actors age in concert with the characters. It becomes a joy to see them develop as they age.

"Both a conceptual *tour de force* and a fragile, unassuming slice of movie life." (*Artforum*)

"Boyhood shimmers with unforced reality.

It shows how an ordinary life can be reflected in an extraordinary movie." (*TIME*)

Some found the 165 minutes a pleasure to watch, others didn't. It is winning things. Come and see why...?

Director: Richard Linklater
 Cast: Ellar Coltrane, Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette
 Duration: 166 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 5 2.00



American Sniper

An imposing Bradley Cooper plays real life Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, a sharpshooter who's 160 confirmed kills – throughout four tours in Iraq – earned him the title Devil of Ramadi.

Apparently his father told him there are three kinds of people: sheep, wolves and sheepdogs, and that Chris would be the third ensuring the predators didn't devour the innocent.

That's how Chris, who has an almost evangelical view of patriotism, sees his function. Soldiers are searching for clues to the whereabouts of a top al Qaeda operative known as the Butcher, while Chris perches on rooftops looking for suspicious characters. Among these may be a boy concealing a pipe bomb, and a woman ready to toss it.

"This is a melodrama that demonstrates rather than examines the psychological burden of having to decide who lives and who dies." (*Digital Spy*) American Sniper sees Clint Eastwood back on track as director after a spate of off trackers: J. Edgar and Jersey Boys. Here, he is confident, in focus with real dramatic weight (and guns) to the telling of this true-life story. At 84, and making what amounts to a Western, Clint couldn't be more comfortable. Come and see.

Director: Clint Eastwood
 Cast: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller
 Duration: 133 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 5 7.30
Sat 21 7.00

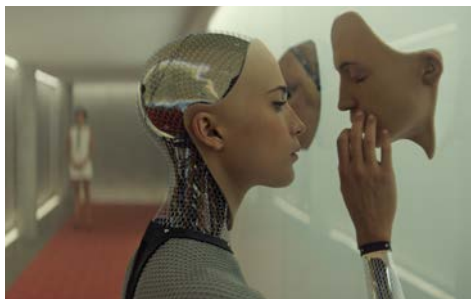


Ex Machina

After years as a screenwriter – with the wonderfully bleak *28 Days Later*, *Sunshine*, and *Never Let Me Go* to his name, Alex Garland steps into the director's chair with assured confidence.

Caleb (Domhnall Gleeson) is a programmer who wins an invitation to spend a week with Nathan (Oscar Isaac) the enigmatic company founder and inventor, in his secluded and architecturally astounding home. The reason for Caleb's visit is so that he can be introduced to Nathan's creation Ava, "a robot whose glowing LEDs and whirring servos combine with a lithe feminine form and the angelic features of actress Alicia Vikander. Caleb isn't just convinced, he's smitten, but the more he learns about the relationship between Ava and her volatile, hard-drinking creator, the more concerned he becomes for her future." (*Time Out*)

Ex Machina succumbs to its B-movie traits towards the end, venturing further into almost exploitative thriller territory, but it does little to detract from the overall experience of watching a writer successfully bring some cerebral stimulation back to science fiction. It would make a wonderful companion piece to *Blade Runner*? (*Jack Whiting*) Perhaps Jack? *Ex-Machina* is so beautifully clean and uncluttered. Don't miss.



Director: Alex Garland
Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, Oscar Isaac, Alicia Vikander
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA/UK 2015
Certificate: 15

When...

Fri	6	7.30
Sat	7	7.00
Sun	8	6.00



Paddington

From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and with an all star cast including Jim Broadbent, Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins, **Paddington** tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear (Ben Wishaw) whom, after crossing oceans ends up in London in search of a new home. Lost and alone, until he encounters the kindly Brown family, it looks like his luck has changed until this rarest of bears catches the eye of the museum taxidermist (Nicole Kidman as the fab Panto villain).

"A charming and sweet-natured family film, full of wit and fun, skewed towards young children but cheekily speckled with sly gags pitched at the older audience." (*Guardian*)

"Paddington is enchanting." (*Standard*)

"Endearing, hilarious, and for humans of a certain vintage, tearfully nostalgic." (*Times*)

"Through it all runs the touching story of an outsider making a new home for himself, and discovering that in the end, whatever our differences, anyone in London can fit in." (*Independent*)

"Please look after this bear says the tag around Paddington's neck. Rest assured, they have." (*Observer*)

We all know the story, come and see if they get it half-right. Bring the street.

Director: Paul King
 Cast: Ben Whishaw, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Bonneville
 Duration: 95 mins
 Origin: UK 2014
 Certificate: PG

When...

Sat 7 2.00



Au Revoir Les Enfants

Louis Malle's quasi-autobiographical masterpiece, **Au Revoir Les Enfants** from 1987 has been re-released in cinemas in the same week as Holocaust Memorial Day. His straightforward story tells of the evolving friendship between two twelve-year old boys, Julien Quentin and Jean Bonnet at a priest-run school for the upper middle-classes outside Paris during the bleak mid-winter of 1943/1944 in Nazi-occupied France.

It becomes obvious to everyone that Bonnet isn't like other kids. He has curly hair and doesn't eat pork. Soon enough the fact that he's Jewish is an open secret among the kids. The Catholic priests have taken him in as an act of mercy, along with a few other Jewish boys living under pseudonyms now that their parents have vanished. Will Julien keep his new classmate's secret, even as the Nazis step up their relentless, terrifying search?

"There is a miraculous, unforced ease and naturalness in the acting and direction: it is classic movie storytelling in the service of important themes, including the farewell we must bid to our childhood, and to our innocence." (*Guardian*)

"The film's quiet integrity avoids heroic cliché." (*Time Out*)

This tense, stunning, film, beautifully made, has not dated 28 years on. Don't miss.

Director: Louis Malle
 Cast: Gaspard Manesse, Raphael Fejto, Francine Racette, Francois Negret
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: France 1987
 Certificate: PG

When...

Mon 9 7.30



Selma

With the southern states of the USA in the 1960s still deliberately obstructing black citizens who tried to register for the vote, and with jury membership and other forms of public office open only to registered voters, a **de facto white supremacist confederacy was in operation**. Martin Luther King (magnificent performance from David Oyelowo) and fellow campaigners realised that the only tactic they had was to force a public confrontation. This took the form of a march from Selma to demand the right to vote. The epic march culminated in President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement.

Director Ava DuVernay has also created a King who is agonised by the guilt of his infidelities, and indeed at how their consequences caused him to neglect a crucial first stage of the march.

"Ava DuVernay's film thrillingly contrasts the moral triumph of King's crusade for civil rights with the agony of his marital infidelities..." (*Guardian*)

"Its near complete absence from this year's Oscar nominations is baffling." (*Independent*)

Did I dream that his 'I have a dream' speech is 'owned' so not available to be part of the film...? What a sweet world.



Director: Ava DuVernay
 Cast: David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tom Wilkinson
 Duration: 128 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Tue 10	12.30, 7.30
Wed 11	2.00, 7.30
Thur 12	2.00, 7.30



Director: Matthew Vaughn
 Cast: Colin Firth, Taron Egerton,
 Michael Caine, Samuel L. Jackson
 Duration: 129 mins
 Origin: USA/UK 2015
 Certificate: 15

Kingsman: The Secret Service

James Bond spoofs tend to skew towards younger audiences (Johnny English, Austin Powers, Spy Kids - fun for all ages), but Kingsman is fun for adults only.

Colin Firth plays Harry Hart, one of an elite band of impeccably dressed crimefighters (including Mark Strong and Michael Caine) aimed at no specific government but steeped in old money and aristocratic privilege. When one of their number pops his clogs unexpectedly, Harry tries to fulfil an old promise by bringing young latchkey tearaway Eggsy (newcomer Taron Egerton) into the Kingsman fold, with explosive results.

Just as they did with Kick-Ass, writer Jane Goldman and Director Matthew Vaughn (Layer Cake) adapt Miller's comic with giddy verve. Kingsman is a kid's film for adults; a hyperkinetic romp with plenty of guns, blood and bad language (so shocking, it had to be edited in places to escape an 18 - damn it) and despite a rather it's tasteless jokey misogyny, it's a lot of fun. Watching an immaculate badass Colin Firth in a Savile Row suit taking down a pub load of hooligans with only an umbrella, is a sight to relish and remember with great and lasting satisfaction. (*research Jack Whiting*). Don't miss.

When...

Fri	13	7.30
Sat	14	7.00
Mon	16	2.00



Big Hero 6

If you found Frozen lacking in robots and the explosions depts, 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 machines that can do whatever their user desires, which of course are bound to fall into the wrong hands...

In true super-hero 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 and underwritten characters, and the Saturday morning sugar rush of a final act grows tiresome, but Baymax emanates limitless levels of charm. I can see shops stocking the dolls as we speak. (*Jack Whiting*). It looks fab, come.

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

When...

Sat 14 2.00
Tue 17 12.30



The Grand Budapest Hotel

Back to begin the year on an absurd high. Ralph Fiennes expertly plays eccentric hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave H accompanied by Zero (fascinating newcomer Tony Revolori) the new lobby boy at the Grand Budapest.

Perched on top of a mountain, in the fictional Republic of Zubrowka, and reached only by an old acute funicular railway. The story begins when a young writer (Jude Law) meets an impressive old man: Mr Zero Moustafa (F.Murray Abraham).

The young writer hears the tales of legendary concierge M.Gustave H, who in the pre-war period ran the hotel with impeccable precision and style. Gustave's attentiveness to the rich, old, insecure, vain and needy patrons of the hotel extends to rather more personal services. As he bids farewell to the 84-year-old fright Madame D (Tilda Swinton) her shocking murder sets in motion Wes Anderson's crazy clockwork plot.

"Even on second viewing, you hardly have time enough to take in all its intricate detailing and sumptuous furnishing." (*Standard*)

An epic adventure: crystal clear, bewilderingly star-studded, non-stop fabulous, ridiculous, riotous and quick-witted.

Winner of eight or nine Baftas (Oscars?) It's back in celebration at both our sumptuous picture palaces. Don't miss.

Director: Wes Anderson
Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan, Jude Law
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 2013
Certificate: 15

When...

Sun 15 6.00

THE ODYSSEY

MARCH FILMS: 01727 453088

DATE	FILM	TIME
1 SUN	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00
2 MON	SELMA	7.30
3 TUE	SELMA	7.30
4 WED	SELMA	2.00, 7.30
5 THU	EX MACHINA	7.30
6 FRI	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.30
7 SAT	PADDINGTON	2.00
7 SAT	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.00
8 SUN	THEORY OF EVERYTHING	1.30
8 SUN	WILD	6.00
9 MON	THEORY OF EVERYTHING	7.30
10 TUE	THEORY OF EVERYTHING	7.30
11 WED	MORTDECAI	2.00
11 WED	BIRDMAN	7.30
12 THU	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.30
13 FRI	EX MACHINA	7.30
14 SAT	BIG HERO 6	2.00
14 SAT	MORTDECAI	7.00
15 SUN	BIG HERO 6	1.30
15 SUN	MAMMA MIA	6.00
16 MON	IDA	7.30
17 TUE	WHIPLASH	7.30
18 WED	BOYHOOD	2.00
18 WED	GONE GIRL	7.30
19 THU	THE INTERVIEW	7.30
20 FRI	50 SHADES OF GREY	7.30
21 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP	2.00
21 SAT	50 SHADES OF GREY	7.00
22 SUN	SHAUN THE SHEEP	1.30
22 SUN	50 SHADES OF GREY	6.00
23 MON	BOYHOOD	7.30
24 TUE	GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.30
25 WED	TESTAMENT OF YOUTH	2.00
25 WED	50 SHADES OF GREY	7.30
26 THU	INHERENT VICE	7.30
27 FRI	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30
28 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP	2.00
28 SAT	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.00
29 SUN	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	1.30, 6.00
30 MON	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30
31 TUE	SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	7.30

COMING SOON REX & ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

50 Shades of Grey

Whiplash

Ex Machina

The Theory Of Everything

NEW RELEASES

Northern Soul

Second Best Marigold Hotel

Focus

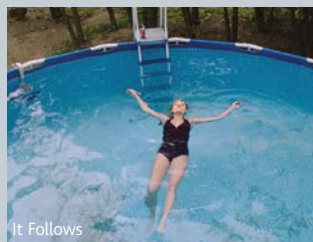
It Follows



Northern Soul



Focus



It Follows



Second Best Marigold Hotel

THE-REX

MARCH FILMS:
01442 877759



DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 SUN	WILD	6.00	8
2 MON	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	2.00	9
2 MON	THE IMITATION GAME	7.30	8
3 TUE	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	12.30, 7.30	9
4 WED	THE IMITATION GAME	2.00	8
4 WED	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	7.30	9
5 THUR	BOYHOOD	2.00	10
5 THUR	AMERICAN SNIPER	7.30	10
6 FRI	EX MACHINA	7.30	11
7 SAT	PADDINGTON	2.00	12
7 SAT	EX MACHINA	7.00	11
8 SUN	EX MACHINA	6.00	11
9 MON	THE IMITATION GAME	2.00	8
9 MON	AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS	7.30	12
10 TUE	SELMA	12.30, 7.30	13
11 WED	SELMA	2.00, 7.30	13
12 THUR	SELMA	2.00, 7.30	13
13 FRI	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.30	14
14 SAT	BIG HERO 6	2.00	15
14 SAT	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	7.00	14
15 SUN	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	6.00	15
16 MON	KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE	2.00	14
16 MON	THE GREEN RAY	7.30	18
17 TUE	BIG HERO 6	12.30	15
17 TUE	BIRDMAN	7.30	18
18 WED	MORTDECAI	2.00, 7.30	19
19 THUR	WHIPLASH	2.00, 7.30	20
20 FRI	THE INTERVIEW	7.30	20
21 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	2.00	21
21 SAT	AMERICAN SNIPER	7.00	10
22 SUN	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	6.00	21
23 MON	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING	2.00	9
23 MON	LOVE IS STRANGE	7.30	22
24 TUE	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	12.30	21
24 TUE	DUCK SOUP	7.30	22
25 WED	DUCK SOUP	2.00	22
25 WED	WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS	7.30	23
26 THUR	50 SHADES OF GREY	2.00, 7.30	24
27 FRI	50 SHADES OF GREY	7.30	24
28 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE	2.00	21
28 SAT	50 SHADES OF GREY	7.00	24
29 SUN	50 SHADES OF GREY	6.00	24
30 MON	50 SHADES OF GREY	2.00	24
30 MON	KAJAKI	7.30	25
31 TUE	MORTDECAI	12.30	19
31 TUE	IDA	7.30	25





The Green Ray

This 1986 film from the late director, Eric Rohmer, is the penultimate chapter of his six-part series *Comedies and Proverbs*. Written in collaboration with its lead, Marie Rivière, and shot on 16mm with a skeleton crew, the film centres on a young woman, Delphine, who finds herself unsure how to spend her summer holiday. She ends up drifting from friend to friend, increasingly disconsolate and at a loose end. Should she go to the beach, travel to Ireland, or stay in hot and humid Paris through August? The problem is, she just can't make up her mind.

Perhaps the playing cards she keeps discovering in the streets mean that fate may be about to step in and help her out. Or maybe, if she sees the legendary 'green ray' that sometimes appears as the sun sets, she'll find her own heart.

"...the payoff, at once simple and utterly miraculous, will send you out of the cinema floating, and a little puzzled about how Rohmer pulls off this modest but immensely potent emotional sleight of hand." (*Guardian*)

"What might easily feel loose and inconsequential will make magical mischief." (*Time Out*)

A cinematic heart strings pearl undiminished across its thirty years. Don't miss.

Director: Eric Rohmer
 Cast: Marie Rivière, Vincent Gauthier, Amira Chemakhi
 Duration: 99 mins
 Origin: France 1986
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 16 7.30



Birdman

Impossible to define, Birdman is one of those rare films that effortlessly transcends genres to become something wholly unique.

'Michael Keaton is Riggan Thomson, an actor who raked in the cash in the early 1990s as a superhero in a blockbuster franchise (a clear nod to Keaton's own days as Batman). He hasn't made a Birdman film in years, but *it* is still part of him.

Quite literally: there's a booming voice in his head and it gives him superhuman powers.

There are streaks of 42nd Street, The Producers and Sunset Boulevard here, but otherwise, Birdman isn't much like anything else, apart from being about actors acting! Think Black Swan directed by Mel Brooks and you're in the vicinity, but only just.

"This is the role of Keaton's career, and he could hardly be better." (*Telegraph*)

Director Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu has a string of notable films to his name: 21 Grams, Amores Perros and Biutiful but Birdman could well be his best, if not his most ambitious. Keaton's winning prizes. If you can be bothered, come and see why. Said to have been shot in one take, it feels a lot longer than its 119 minutes.

Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu
 Cast: Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, Naomi Watts

Duration: 119 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Tue 17 7.30



Mortdecai

Johnny Depp's career has taken to winding along some peculiar paths of late (the same Capt Jack path in fact) and David Koepp's adaptation of Kyril Bonfiglioli's comic Mortdecai trilogy continues this phenomenon.

This madcap romp follows the unlikely of heroes in Charlie Mortdecai, a hideously eccentric art trader and moustache aficionado, as he haplessly hops across the continents in the hope of recovering a stolen Goya painting. Reunited with Depp from the set of the polarising *Transcendence* is Paul Bettany as the devoted manservant Jock Strapp (yes, really) who provides both brains and brawn for the lumpen duo. Gwyneth Paltrow and Ewan McGregor support, she as Johanna, Sir Charlie's glamorous wife whose recent discovery of the couple's financial woes sparks the ludicrous adventure. There are nods to *Jeeves & Wooster*, and perhaps even to Paul Whitehouse.

Fans of Depp's mischievous Capt Jack Sparrow will certainly find something to cling to but with a 'rum glass' empty.

"Depp affects an accent that's so exaggeratedly British he sounds like Terry Thomas, a dimwit toff art dealer with a taste for port and a moustache that would get him laughed out of Shoreditch." (*Times*) (research Chris Coetsee) Deliberately bonkers, so come for that.



Director: David Koepp
Cast: Johnny Depp, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ewan McGregor
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: USA 2015
Certificate: 12A

When...

**Wed 18
Tue 31**

**2.00, 7.30
12.30**



Whiplash

You really know heavyweight drama season is here when even the smallest of independents come out of nowhere and completely floor you. Andrew (Miles Teller) is a talented, dedicated 19-year-old drummer at the fictional Schaffer Conservatory of Music in New York City.

He's cherry-picked for a place in the school's studio jazz band by Terence Fletcher (an astonishing JK Simmons) a conductor who wanders the halls at night, his footsteps a metronomic clack-clack-clack, listening out for prospective young Charlie Parkers he can hammer into brilliance.

"Trying to make a thriller about jazz is like trying to make a horror movie about Cliff (although...)"

You are starting with a subject that inspires, in fans, the exact opposite of what feels like an emotion to the rest of us. Damien Chazelle has done just that."

(Empire)

Writer director, the young Chazelle, responsible for last year's wonderfully bonkers Grand Piano, infuses his own experiences as a jazz drummer. (uh oh)

Whiplash fizzles with energy. Simmons nabbed the BAFTA for best supporting actor, JK takes on the roll of Fletcher with such scary power, he may well score the Oscar. Well deserved too. *(research Jack Whiting)*

Director: Damien Chazelle
Cast: Miles Teller, J. K. Simmons, Melissa Benoist
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2014
Certificate: 15



The Interview

After all the hacking shenanigans from North Korea died down, Sony eventually grew a pair and released The Interview. Was it worth a potential nuclear war?

Short answer: no. But if like me you're a sucker for the odd joke about rectums and other such orifices, especially when they're delivered by the likes of Seth Rogen and James Franco (who is on especially outrageous form) then there are several guilty laughs to be had.

Dave Skylark (Franco) and his legit-wannabe producer Aaron (Rogen) run the cable tabloid TV show 'Skylark Tonight.' When they discover that Kim Jong-un is a fan, they land an interview with him in the hope of validating themselves as journalists.

As Dave and Aaron prepare to travel to Pyongyang, their plans change when C.I.A. Agent Lacey (Lizzy Caplan) supplies them with a fast-acting poison that can be transferred by handshake. Simple if you're James Bond, if you're Dave and Aaron, not so easy.

Satire's in there somewhere, albeit buried under bad taste, but come on Kim, it's hardly an attack on your country, nothing more than some gentle ribbing. *(research Jack Whiting)* Go get 'em Kim. It's their same witless look-at-us bum-jokes. Don't know why we're showing it.

Directors: Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg
Starring: James Franco, Seth Rogen, Randall Park
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2014
Certificate: 15

When...

Thu 19

2.00, 7.30

When...

Fri 20

7.30



Shaun The Sheep

Mossy Bottom Farm's mischief-maker bounds effortlessly onto the big screen in this fun-packed yarn from Aardman. Daily life on the farm has become a bit of a grind for Shaun, so he and the rest of the flock devise a cunning "counting sheep" ruse to make the Farmer fall asleep on the job. However, the plan backfires when the caravan, where he's peacefully snoozing ends up rolling over the hills and far away, bound for the 'Big City'. Bitzer the dog, Shaun and friends mount a daring search-and-rescue mission, prompting plenty of japes and scrapes: Bitzer finds himself impersonating a hospital surgeon, only to be distracted by a tasty-looking bone while Shaun and his four-legged friends are forced to dress up as a two-legged human family to evade an overzealous jobsworthly observed goateed animal catcher. "Aardman's latest stop-motion animated feature is a rarity: a film aimed at kids but will delight adults more." (*Independent*)

"Innocence in movies can all too often turn to saccharine sweetness. Three cheers then, for the good folk at Aardman who have once again toiled long and hard to override it and put delightfully childish smiles on all our (sideways mouth; you'll see) faces." (*Observer*) Bring anybody.



Directors: Mark Burton, Richard Starzack
 Voices: Justin Fletcher, John Sparkes.
 Duration: 85 mins
 Origin: UK/France 2015
 Certificate: U

When...

Sat	21	2.00
Sun	22	6.00
Tue	24	12.30
Sat	28	2.00



Love Is Strange

After nearly four decades together, Ben (John Lithgow) and George (Alfred Molina) finally tie the knot in an idyllic wedding ceremony in lower Manhattan. But when George loses his job soon after, the couple must sell their apartment and, victims of the relentless New York City housing market, temporarily live apart until they can find an affordable new home.

While George moves in with two cops who live down stairs, Ben lands in Brooklyn with his nephew his wife (Marisa Tomei), and their temperamental teenage son, with whom Ben shares a bedroom. While struggling with the pain of separation, Ben and George are further challenged by the intergenerational tensions and unpredictable family dynamics of their new living arrangements.

"The movie is Lithgow's. He just played King Lear in Central Park and blew everyone away. His performance in this film will make you cry and remind you that while kindness has a cost, there comes a time in life when it's all there is." (*Guardian*)

"John Lithgow plays Ben like it's the role he's waited for his entire life." (*Empire*)
Sounds like a downbeat tale we could do without right now, but come and see what happens.

Director: Ira Sachs
Cast: John Lithgow, Alfred Molina,
Marisa Tomei
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: USA/France/Brazil/Greece 2014
Certificate: 15

When...

Mon 23 7.30



Duck Soup

As the world's media debate the future of satire, it's an opportune time for the BFI to release the Marx Brothers' most barbed film, a silly-serious sideswipe at war, politics and the entire concept of heroism. The Ruritania state of Freedonia, forever teetering on the edge of war with its bellicose neighbour Sylvania, is bankrupt and forced to accept a multi-million dollar loan from a wealthy American widow (played superbly deadpan by the brother's regular foil, Margaret Dumont) on condition that they install as President her friend, Rufus T Firefly, a free-thinking genius and visionary... Wisecracking Groucho-Rufus soon causes chaos among the flummoxed flunkies in Freedonia's colossal government state rooms, designed with proto-fascist grandiosity.

"The Marx brothers' vaudeville-originated comedy requires a little acclimatisation now, but the silliness levels are inspiring." (*Guardian*)

"It turns out that the sharp-tongued humour of Groucho Marx is ageless, the slapstick timely and the subject matter bang up to date: loony dictatorship, religion, pointless warfare." (*Times*)

"It also includes what is perhaps the Brothers' funniest scene ever: An immaculately timed sequence with a broken mirror where Groucho, Chico and Harpo look identical." (*Time Out*). Bring everyone you can find.

Director: Leo McCarey
Cast: Groucho, Harpo and Chico Marx
Duration: 68 mins
Origin: USA 1933
Certificate: U

When...

Tue 24 7.30
Wed 25 2.00



What We Do In The Shadows

With the success of the brilliant *Flight of the Concorde* already under his belt, Jemaine Clement partners Taika Waititi to co-direct and star in one of the outstanding comedies of the year. Set in the murky suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand, this gut-busting mockumentary follows a trio of Vampires who, confounded by their inability to adapt to 21st century life, are in eternal torment, confined to their antiquated house in avoidance of sunlight, missing out on all the fun in life (or death). Things only get worse for the group, as recently sired Nick (Cori Gonzalez-Macuer) begins to lead an awkwardly open lifestyle, bringing unwanted attention and additional trouble to their already beleaguered existence. Throw into the mix a particularly hairy Rhys Darby and his pack of Werewolves (not Swearwolves) and you have the making of full-blooded mayhem and a comedy smash.

"The vampire mockumentary you've been longing for" (*Times*) [Not me Miss].

"At least one funny line a minute, and it's amazing what legs the basic joke has." (*Telegraph*) Not to be missed, especially by those who wouldn't be seen dead near a vampire movie.

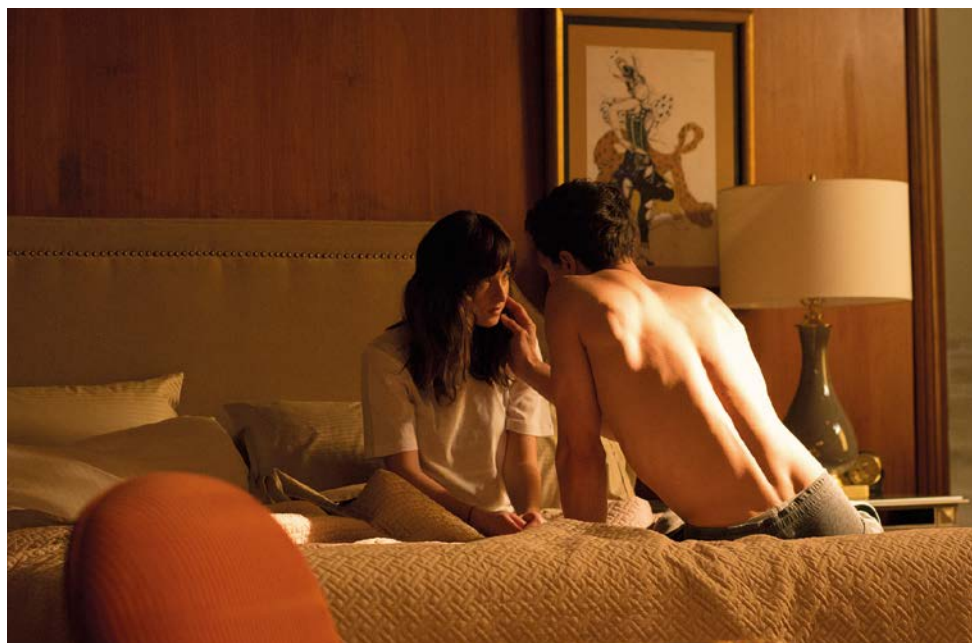


Director: Jemaine Clement
Cast: Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi
Duration: 85 mins
Origin: New Zealand/USA
Certificate: 15

When...

Wed 25

7.30



50 Shades Of Grey

It was only a matter of time before the literary phenomenon that found its way into millions of handbags and bedside drawers would come on the big screen. But it's not nearly as raunchy as it thinks it is. Student Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) strikes up a curious relationship with billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). After interviewing him for her college paper... [Enter big-boned (cuddly) heavily armed Ukrainian nurse (gender undetermined) to anticipate erectile dysfunction with 4B knitting needles for appropriate correction.]

I admit, I haven't read the book (should anyone?) but director, slimly talented Sam Taylor-Johnson has allowed a measure of self-parody to surface. The filmmakers have taken the absurdity of the text and have sat on the face of the sillier bits.

The sex scenes are playful, and surprisingly well shot, almost compensating for the fatuous, passionless and un-say-able words/lines/script. Bottom line, it's not awful, but for those expecting raw emotion and believable sexual tension, see 50 Sheds Of Grey.

50 Shades of Grey by Lars von Trier anyone? Now that would be fun-filth. (*research Jack Whiting*) Come Chicks for flicks for fun. Men: best take up knitting, stay out of it, and play dead.

Director: Sam Taylor-Johnson
 Cast: Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson
 Duration: 125 mins
 Origin: USA 2015
 Certificate: 18

When...

Thur 26	2.00, 7.30
Fri 27	7.30
Sat 28	7.00
Sun 29	6.00
Mon 30	2.00



Kajaki

A recent BAFTA nominee, Paul Katis' suspenseful drama centres on the true story of a unit of British soldiers as they are left isolated in unmarked territory in Helmand Province.

Positioned near the strategically important Kajaki Dam, a routine patrol quickly descends into chaos as one trooper inadvertently steps on a land mine. During a panicked extraction, it soon becomes clear that they are stranded in the middle of a minefield, a gruesome legacy of the 1980's Soviet invasion. But it's the side-by-side battle with high command at base camp which proves to be the most bitter of all. A horrifying reminder of how fine the line can be between sanity and madness. Sharp and insightful, Kajaki is tense, strong, gritty storytelling and a refreshing change from the list of flag-waving Afghan/Iraq movies.

"A lacerating power, reinforcing its self-contained claustrophobia." (*Guardian*)

"Tense, blackly comic and troubling. It is so recent, so real." (*Empire*)

"It makes you flinch, recoil, hide behind your hands, and even care: a very sturdy set of achievements. Less mention of What We Were Even Doing There And Why than Hollywood movies." (*Telegraph*) (research *Chris Coetsee*) There's talk of a Q&A with director, Paul Katis. Listen out.

Director: Paul Katis
 Cast: David Elliot, Mark Stanley, Scott Kyle, Benjamin O'Mahony, Bryan Parry
 Duration: 15
 Origin: 108 mins
 Certificate: 15

When...

Mon 30 7.30



Ida

From acclaimed director Pawel Pawlikowski comes Ida, a poignant and powerfully told drama about a young nun in 1960s Poland, on the cusp of taking her vows.

Stunning newcomer Agata Trzebuchowska plays 18-year-old Anna, a sheltered orphan raised in a convent. Before she takes her vows, the Mother Superior insists she first visits her sole living relative.

Anna soon finds herself in the presence of her aunt Wanda (Agata Kulesza), a worldly and cynical Communist Party insider, who shocks her with the declaration that her real name is Ida and her Jewish parents were murdered during the Nazi occupation. This revelation triggers a heart-wrenching journey into the countryside, to the family house and into the secrets of the repressed past, evoking the haunting legacy of the Holocaust and the realities of post war Communism.

"Emphatically written, splendidly acted, and beautifully photographed, Ida finds director Pawlikowski revisiting his roots to powerful effect" (*RottenTomatoes*)

Shot in academy ratio (old square-ish image set in mid-screen) in smoky monochrome, this deserves a big screen viewing. (research *Anna Shepherd*) It won this year's Bafta and might even do the same at the Oscars? But come for the film, not the prize. The prize is the film.

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski
 Cast: Agata Trzebuchowska, Agata Ogrodnik
 Duration: 82 mins
 Origin: Denmark/Poland 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Tue 31 7.30

Two screens eight miles apart

Most people are delighted with the Odyssey. It already feels at-home for many, and the young staff are making the most of the makeshift bars and ticket/box office pods. When there I am often asked about the Rex and vice versa. I'm very happy to tell you that Rex is thriving and has hardly felt a ripple from St Albans. This was at the front of our minds when the Odyssey opened, and now it can slip to the back, but never disappear altogether. The programmes are running in parallel and will get smoother as juggling films between the two gets to be more fun. It's like we're programming a two screen multi, eight miles apart! One, a huge newly restored spaceship, the other an established intimate picture palace.

Due to many enquiries, new opportunities are available now, to be part of the Odyssey spaceship and watch it take off, develop and establish itself as a living part of St Albans.

It is already selling out. We are only releasing a further 10% shares. So it is a chance for current (many from a full five years ago!) and new investors to get in early. The same conditions

apply and the price per share is holding. All details, please contact our chief members and investors administrator Marie Jahn on:

contactus@odysseypictures.co.uk.

Or by phone or in person in the foyer.

So too seat plaques will be going on the chairs in April and May. This is to celebrate the early sponsorship you have made exactly five years on. (We exchanged on the building 16th April 2010) Should you want to be it and wish to join the hundreds of these loyal seat sponsors in celebration, there are still seats available. This is a once and final opportunity to have your name at the Odyssey, now that it has opened to such acclaim and full houses.

We believe it will be the last single screen original art deco period building to be restored in Britain.

A further reason to be glad you are a part of the whole thing, especially for those whose early faith and funds gave us that vital leg-up when it was no more than a hope and a prayer.

[Again ask Marie about seat sponsorship or come and see us at the box office.]

Back row (left to right); Paul Rowbottom, Steve Pollock, Pim, Andrew Dixon, Kevin, Mike Burnett, Adam Collins, Jason Bennett

Front Row(Lto R); Gary Hawkins, Joe O'Neil, Will Hicks, Neil Proctor, Ed Mauger, Dave Fahy



The Magnificent Artisans charged with finishing what the rest of us started



The way we are... The Odyssey February 2015
The way we were... The Rex May 1938

