

THE REX

PROGRAMME

HIDDEN FIGURES

MARCH 2017

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

MARCH 2017 • ISSUE 144
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 25-27

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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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



Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid

If we should show it once a year, this 26th March, is this year's best day.
See page 21

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Denial

A tense dangerous true story of clear truth over ugly lies (aren't all lies ugly...) See page 8



Christine

A tragic life story, measured perfectly by the most un-tragic Rebecca Hall. See page 13



Hidden Figures

Yet another 'true story'. Three mathematicians, essential to 1950's NASA, just happen to be black and female. See page 19



Fifty Shades Darker

And this is probably the only true 'true story'. Told with certain style in the 'eloquent filth' dept.
See page 24



MARCH FILMS



Denial

Imagine being sued for Libel and then, thanks to the UK legal system, having to find the burden of proof that something as undeniable as the Holocaust actually happened...? And on European soil. And – in OUR time...!

This was the pressure put on University Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt. The film is based on her acclaimed 1993 book: *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*. Rachel Weisz play Lipstadt as she fights her infamous legal battle against World War II historian David Irving (a beautifully nasty Timothy Spall). Written by the fabulously clever, meticulous David Hare it follows a fight against prejudice. It is laced with a strong, emotional score and is set for Oscar nods. "Another illuminating performance from Rachel Weisz and a brilliant screenplay by the distinguished British playwright David Hare make *Denial* one of the most powerful and riveting courtroom dramas ever made." (*New York Observer*)

"Awaiting the verdict, cleverly makes for a real nail-biter. *Denial* demonstrates the truth is worth fighting for." (*Toronto Star*) A great cast chase after an ugly true tale. Don't miss.

Director: Mick Jackson
 Cast: Timothy Spall, Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson, Alex Jennings
 Duration: 110 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One

When...

Wed 1 2.00, 7.30
Thur 2 2.00, 7.30
Wed 8 7.30



La La Land

Just this once, believe the hype. These two starry adorables reunite in Damien Chazelle's fabulous storytelling musical ditty.

He has you in the palm of his hand from the opening one-take shot, when the two leads, jobbing jazz musician Ryan Gosling and aspiring actress Emma Stone, pass in their cars after an all singing/dancing traffic snarl-up on a soaring freeway LA overpass.

La La Land gets a lot of flavour from its fabulous screen heritage. It's an indie do-over of a French New Wave-take on classic American musicals, part Top Hat, part Umbrellas Of Cherbourg, but mostly Singin' In The Rain. Yet Chazelle deftly handles the combination, and in doing so avoids the cheese. It is equal parts corny and cool. If Emma is the heart, Ryan is its soul.

This is Hollywood's American dream re-dreamt.

For two genuinely magical hours, you can forget about the real one. It is Hollywood's unabashed celebration of itself. It is why 'they' built 1100 seater 'escape' palaces, like Rex and Odysseys' everywhere throughout the kingdom.

An Oscar for fun, without one preachy po-faced Streep in sight. Come for fabulous old cinema and a few surprisingly good foot tappings...



Director: Damien Chazelle
Cast: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri	3	7.30	Mon	6	2.00
Sat	4	7.00	Wed	8	2.00
Sun	5	6.00	Tue	14	7.30



Moana (Sing-Along)

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 Cravalhowhojnk) 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 Box Offices 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) Now you can 'singalong' too...!

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

When...

Sat 4 2.00



Toni Erdmann

Seven years since her second feature Everyone Else first played, Maren Ade returns with another exquisite offering of unconventionality.

Eccentric oddball Winfried (Simonischek) a practical joker at heart, sees little of his daughter Ines (Hüller) a corporate strategist based in Bucharest. That is until the death of his loyal canine companion sparks a turnaround in his life. So he decides to pay her surprise visit. But when the two vastly different individuals are jumbled back together, it takes little time for Winfried's muted and continuous prods at Ines' lifestyle of performance reports and client meetings, to force them apart again. Several days pass and Winfried reappears, this time as "Toni Erdmann" a creation of his own, complete with wacky wig and a bizarre pair of false teeth. Claiming to be her CEO's life coach, and amidst the madness, Ines' attachment to her father steadily grows. Selected for contention in this years' Palme d'Or and making waves in the Oscars build up, Ade's unclassifiable gem is little short of miraculous, if at times emotionally upheaving.

"Earns every uproarious, heartbreaking or illuminating moment, and every corresponding emotional response." (*Screen International*) (research Chris Coetsee) Bring a packed lunch and some knitting.

Beware, I didn't check its running time (2hrs:42) before choosing a Monday eve. Apologies

Director: Maren Ade
Cast: Peter Simonischek, Sandra Hüller
Duration: 162 mins
Origin: Germany/Austria 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Soda Pictures

When...

Mon 6 7.30



Jackie

This raw portrait of America's, most tragic and history's only immortalised First Lady, captures in exquisite detail Jackie Kennedy's resolve to maintain a figure of poise and grace in the wake of Dallas, November 22nd 1963. Larraín's anticipated biopic shifts the focus from JFK to the iconic wife who continued living in the sight and shadow of his slaying. Natalie Portman takes Jackie K's elegance and makes it her own. In the four days following, she has to explain to her children why their father is never coming home. The narrative centres on her famous 'non-interview' with Life magazine a mere week after Dallas. Interjecting flashbacks to the killing scene and its tense build up, and her married life in the White House, constantly reminds the audience of the shadows between them. The psychological trauma from her being right beside Kennedy as he is shot, is the crux. It is this cool, aloof, absolute presence of mind, which assures Jackie Kennedy's long place in history. Femininity, grace, style and presence personified.

"The never-better Portman simply shines, giving a performance of mesmeric complexity..." (*Telegraph*)
 "Jackie is not Oscar bait, it's great cinema." (*Guardian*)
 (review Grace Atkins) Stunning. It will be back.

Director: Pablo Larraín
 Cast: Natalie Portman, Billy Crudup, Peter Sarsgaard, John Hurt, Greta Gerwig
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: USA/Chile/France 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment One

When...

Tue 7 2.00, 7.30
Thu 16 2.00



Loving

With its intimate, human scale and sparse content, Loving is a quietly beautiful true story about one couple's forbidden marriage. Ruth Negga plays Mildred Jeter, a young black woman from Caroline County, Virginia, who takes a shine to a local white construction worker called Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton). They fall in love, and when she becomes pregnant the next logical step is marriage. Uh oh, not in the Deep South of the 1950s, where racist laws still hold considerable sway, forbidding marriage between people of different races. The couple's nearly decade-long battle to legalise their interracial marriage in Virginia went all the way to the Supreme Court, bringing an eventual end to the laws that exiled the couple from their home. Nichols, director of *Take Shelter*, *Mud* and, most recently *Midnight Special* tells the Lovings' story in a way that feels immediate and modern, and not just like a history lesson. Characteristic to Nichols' films, the scenes brim with all the humid flavour of its rural Southern environment.

"There are few movies that speak to the American moment as movingly, and with as much idealism as Jeff Nichols' *Loving*" (*NY Times*) (research Emma Filippides) There is no grandstanding, it is mercifully dull. Don't miss.

Director: Jeff Nichols
 Cast: Ruth Negga, Joel Edgerton
 Duration: 123 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Thu 9 2.00, 7.30
Mon 13 2.00, 7.30



Director: Danny Boyle
 Cast: Ewan McGregor, Ewen Bremner, Jonny Lee Miller, Robert Carlyle, Kelly Macdonald
 Duration: 117 mins
 Origin: UK 2016
 Certificate: 18
 Company: Sony Pictures

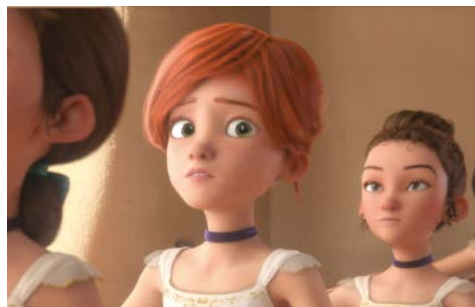
T2: Trainspotting

Nostalgia can be a powerful tool when in the hands of the right film-maker, and thankfully, Danny Boyle knows how to coax the right memories. Welcome back boys.

The story may be driven by extortion, prostitution, addiction and even Death Wish-style revenge, but its primary concerns are friendship and memory. Drawing on Irvine Welsh's 1993 novel and its 2002 sequel, *Porno*, and set twenty years after Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor) quietly slipped out with everyone's drug money, we're back in Edinburgh, where it's almost as though time stood still. He finds Spud (Ewen Bremner) on the verge of suicide, Sickboy (Jonny Lee Miller) still holding a grudge, and Begbie (Robert Carlyle) well, let's just say he's been promoted to true villainous status. Silly name aside (there's only one T2, and that stars Mr. Schwarzenegger) this new-age *Trainspotting* manages to revel in the present, look to an optimistic future, and reminisce about the past just beautifully. And while the nostalgia is handled without a hint of subtlety, it's too powerful not to reminisce yourself. If you have any fondness for the original, this a drug worth taking. (*Jack Whiting*) "This better not be shite Danny", came advice shouted from the next tower block.

When...

Fri	10	7.30	Sun	12	6.00
Sat	11	7.00	Tue	14	2.00



Ballerina

It's 1879 in rural Brittany and one young girl can't get the big stage out of her mind. Félicie (Elle Fanning) leads a simple life as an orphan living in the country, but has dreamed of being a ballerina all her tiny orphaned life.

Determined not to let her lack of anything hold her back, Félicie decides to flee for the unfamiliar bright lights and city sights of Paris (beautifully animated). She is alienated and frightened but passionate about 'la danse'. By assuming the identity of a pampered city girl, she becomes a ballet student at the Grand Opera House. The training is rigorous and the jeers of 'You will always be nothing' from the usual 'ballet bullies' prove even harder to conquer. With help from her friends Victor (Dane DeHaan) and Odette the caretaker (Carly Rae Jepsen) Félicie shows she can do it, and dreams really do come true. It's a cheesy moral, but the stunning visuals and foolish charm of the central characters carry the film well. (research Grace Atkins) "A cheesy moral"? But this is Disney, where dreams always come true... besides, the animation in *Ballerina* is nothing short of breathtaking. Don't miss.

Directors: Eric Summer, Éric Warin
Voices: Ellie Fanning, Dane DeHaan, Carly Rae Jepsen
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: France/Canada 2016
Certificate: U
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Sat 11 2.00



Christine

Rebecca Hall delivers a mesmerising performance in Antonio Campos' haunting biographical drama.

Hall portrays Christine Chubbuck, a restless 29 year old television reporter working in Florida. Frequently at odds with her boss Michael (Letts), whose constant berating of her journalism stifles any chance of advancement in her career, her mental state slowly deteriorates as the problems in her personal and professional life begin to mount up against her. Set at a time when America was awash with the Watergate scandal and media correspondence was acquiring an unprecedented celebrity status, Christine expertly highlights the social and emotional pressures associated with a job in an increasingly cut-throat business. To tackle such a difficult subject so sensitively is indicative of Campos' quality and he thoroughly deserves the plaudits, crafting a heartbreakingly true story, which sadly demonstrates that sometimes people are able to triumph over the odds and sometimes they're not.

"The film's compassion towards Chubbuck emanates from a star turn of huge sensitivity: Hall's version of her is a crumbling person, not a concept." (*Telegraph*) "A dark, hypnotic, unsettling experience." (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee)

Rebecca Hall is the safest young female star to properly embrace non-showy, no-join, acting in every detail on any screen.

Director: Antonio Campos
Cast: Rebecca Hall, Tracy Letts
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Curzon Artificial Eye

When...

Wed 15 2.00, 7.30



The Eagle Huntress

Set in the stark and imposing landscapes of Western Mongolia, *The Eagle Huntress* traces its heroine's quest to break through traditional gender barriers and become the first female to compete in the community's annual Golden Eagle competition. Aisholpan Nurgaiv is a 13-year-old nomad Kasakh girl, whom has long been fascinated by her father and grandfather's age-old hunting practice. Dating back beyond the time of Genghis Khan this method trains wild eagles to hunt game in tandem with their keepers. Although her own family are behind her 100% there are certain things the conservative elders will not allow. Girls cannot hunt for Eagle, they're too weak and inept (of course they are, they're girls!). Nevertheless, the exuberant, and seemingly fearless, Aisholpan believes fervently that girls can do anything boys can. She goes on to complete her training with ease and is granted entrance into the competition. She is up against some 70 much more experienced men, so you'll have to come and see.

"Combining super National Geographic-style photography with a storyline that plays out like a thrilling real-life folktale." (*Independent*) (research *Heather Graves*) Otto Bell's first feature is a soaring documentary of a child's journey to determination. Don't miss.

Director: Otto Bell
 Cast: Daisy Ridley
 Duration: 87 mins
 Origin: USA/UK/Mongolia 2016
 Certificate: U
 Company: Altitude Film Distribution

When...

Thu 16 7.30



Fences

Denzel Washington directed and stars in this adaptation of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, about a black garbage collector, set in 1950s Pittsburgh. Fifty-something Troy (Denzel Washington) struggles with a fatigued marriage to Rose (soulfully portrayed by Viola Davis) his strained relationship with his son (Jovan Adepo) and the crippling weight of past disappointments. Troy, a gifted baseball player, was fenced-out of the major leagues when he was young but was too old when he emerged after a long time in prison. The fence that he's building in his back yard underscores the barrier he has erected between him and his sons, one from each of his marriages. True to the play, much of the action takes place in the stage-like setting of the Maxson home and yard. Both Washington and Davis reprise their leading stage roles in Washington's screen adaptation. In fact almost all of the film's cast comes from the Tony Award-winning 2010 Broadway revival of the 1983 play.

"A simply extraordinary film without crashes, bangs and wallops but full of towering performances delivered with intelligence, power and heart." (*Empire*) (research *Emma Filippedes*). Very shouty, claustrophobic and actory. Should have left it on stage Denzel.

Director: Denzel Washington
 Cast: Denzel Washington, Viola Davis
 Duration: 139 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Paramount

When...

Fri 17 7.30
Mon 20 2.00



Sing

Imagine an animated X factor; but instead of weepy teens, the spotlight is on pigs in leotards and various other charismatic critters. Illumination is most notable for creating *Despicable Me* yet *Sing* is more reminiscent of *Zootropolis*, without the political subtext and a whole lot more showbiz. Part-time impresario and full-time Koala Buster Moon's (Matthew McConaughey) theatre is on the brink of financial collapse. In a desperate attempt to save it, he plots a singing competition. The contestants flood in, including a pig housewife (Reese Witherspoon) a porcupine with an equally prickly attitude (Scarlett Johansson) and of course, a Gorilla with a passion for piano. *Sing* continues to tick all the typical talent show boxes, as the painfully shy underdog (under-elephant) stuns the audience and leaves the other over-confident creatures in the shadows. The fun is infectious, but is it enough to restore Buster's theatre to its former glory?

"The breakneck pacing and the fizzing energy of the storytelling make this an unexpectedly joyful experience." (*Guardian*)

"*Sing* swiftly makes it clear that it's not here for anything other than a good time. And a good time it has" (*NME*) (research Grace Atkins). It should teach the X-Factor something, but its not listening.

Directors: Garth Jennings, Christophe Lourdelet
Voices: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Scarlett Johansson
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: U
Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Sat 18 2.00



John Wick: Chapter 2

In an age of quick edits and jittery camerawork, 2014's John Wick stood out as a beacon of true action cinema; a delicately orchestrated ballet of bullets and fists; La La Land for gun enthusiasts.

Keanu Reeves' assassin is settling in again at his sleekly modern home, this time with a new pup, but the past pulls him back in, this time via an Italian gangster. He wants Wick to assassinate his sister so that he can take her place at an international council of criminal syndicates, and he won't take no for an answer. Chapter 2 has all the vigor of a confident sequel, improving on the original in every department; you know the film's director is a stunt fan when the opening sequence involves a classic Buster Keaton clip. It's pure, visceral cinema; an adrenaline rocket of image and sound that explodes on contact.

It's not a particularly original concept; however, it's such a dizzying arrangement of gorgeous cinematography that it's impossible not to be in complete awe. It's that kind of old-school filmmaking one rarely gets to relish these days. (research Jack Whiting)

Ken Reeves has never been better. A great face.

Director: Chad Stahelski
Cast: Keanu Reeves, Ruby Rose, Ian McShane
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Sat 18 7.00

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

LA LA LAND

HIDDEN FIGURES

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

T2: TRAINSPOTTING

LION

NEW RELEASES

LOGAN

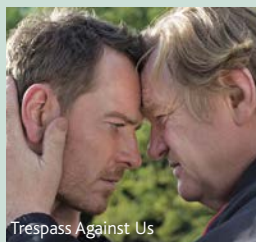
TRESPASS AGAINST US

ELLE

THE GREAT WALL



Elle



Trespass Against Us



The Great Wall



Logan



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

MARCH	FILM	TIME
1 WED	LA LA LAND	2.00, 7.30
2 THU	JACKIE	2.00
2 THU	LA LA LAND	7.30
3 FRI	LA LA LAND	7.30
4 SAT	BALLERINA	2.00
4 SAT	HACKSAW RIDGE	7.00
5 SUN	LA LA LAND	12.30
5 SUN	SULLY	4.30
6 MON	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	12.30, 7.30
7 TUE	JACKIE	12.30, 7.30
8 WED	JACKIE	2.00, 7.30
9 THU	FANTASTIC BEASTS	2.00
9 THU	SNOWDEN	7.30
10 FRI	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	7.30
11 SAT	MOANA SING-ALONG	2.00
11 SAT	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	7.00
12 SUN	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	1.00, 5.00
13 MON	LA LA LAND	12.30
13 MON	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	7.30
14 TUE	TONI ERDMANN	12.30, 7.00
15 WED	A UNITED KINGDOM	2.00, 7.30
16 THU	FIFTY SHADES DARKER	2.00, 7.30
17 FRI	FIFTY SHADES DARKER	7.30
18 SAT	SING	2.00
18 SAT	LA LA LAND	7.00
19 SUN	SING	1.00
19 SUN	FENCES	5.00
20 MON	FENCES	12.30
20 MON	CHRISTINE	7.30
21 TUE	HIDDEN FIGURES	12.30, 7.30
22 WED	HIDDEN FIGURES	2.00
22 WED	MOONLIGHT	7.30
23 THU	MOONLIGHT	2.00
23 THU	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7.30
24 FRI	PATRIOTS DAY	7.30
25 SAT	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	2.00
25 SAT	PATRIOTS DAY	7.00
26 SUN	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	1.00
26 SUN	20TH CENTURY WOMEN	5.00
27 MON	20TH CENTURY WOMEN	12.30
27 MON	THE FOUNDER	7.30
28 TUE	HIDDEN FIGURES	12.30, 7.30
29 WED	LOVING	2.00, 7.30
30 THU	20TH CENTURY WOMEN	2.00, 7.30
31 FRI	LION	7.30

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

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MARCH	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 WED	DENIAL	2.00, 7.30	8
2 THU	DENIAL	2.00, 7.30	8
3 FRI	LA LA LAND	7.30	9
4 SAT	MOANA SING-ALONG	2.00	10
4 SAT	LA LA LAND	7.00	9
5 SUN	LA LA LAND	6.00	9
6 MON	LA LA LAND	2.00	9
6 MON	TONI ERDMANN	7.30	10
7 TUE	JACKIE	2.00, 7.30	11
8 WED	LA LA LAND	2.00	9
8 WED	DENIAL	7.30	8
9 THU	LOVING	2.00, 7.30	11
10 FRI	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	7.30	12
11 SAT	BALLERINA	2.00	13
11 SAT	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	7.00	12
12 SUN	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	6.00	12
13 MON	LOVING	2.00, 7.30	11
14 TUE	T2: TRAINSPOTTING	2.00	12
14 TUE	LA LA LAND	7.30	9
15 WED	CHRISTINE	2.00, 7.30	13
16 THU	JACKIE	2.00	11
16 THU	THE EAGLE HUNTRESS	7.30	14
17 FRI	FENCES	7.30	14
18 SAT	SING	2.00	15
18 SAT	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7.00	15
19 SUN	GOODFELLAS	6.00	18
20 MON	FENCES	2.00	14
20 MON	MOONLIGHT	7.30	18
21 TUE	MOONLIGHT	2.00, 7.30	18
22 WED	CASABLANCA	2.00	19
22 WED	HIDDEN FIGURES	7.30	19
23 THU	HIDDEN FIGURES	2.00, 7.30	19
24 FRI	HACKSAW RIDGE	7.30	20
25 SAT	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	2.00	21
25 SAT	HACKSAW RIDGE	7.00	20
26 SUN	BUTCH CASSIDY & THE SUNDANCE KID	6.00	21
27 MON	BUTCH CASSIDY & THE SUNDANCE KID	2.00	21
27 MON	TANNA	7.30	22
28 TUE	MANCHESTER BY THE SEA	2.00, 7.30	22
29 WED	20TH CENTURY WOMEN	2.00, 7.30	23
30 THU	20TH CENTURY WOMEN	2.00	23
30 THU	FIFTY SHADES DARKER	7.30	24
31 FRI	PATRIOTS DAY	7.30	24

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

LA LA LAND

JACKIE

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

T2: TRAINSPOTTING

NEW RELEASES

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TRESPASS AGAINST US

ELLE

THE GREAT WALL





Goodfellas

As far back as I can remember, I always thought he'd never top Taxi Driver, but Marty's mobster masterpiece sure gives it a run for its dirty money.

A true example of epic filmmaking - spanning fifteen years, from 1955 to 1970 - it's the story of real-life mobster-turned-informant Henry Hill (Liotta) and is told with both dizzying abandon and breathtaking precision. Chronologically, it leaps back and forth; alternate characters pick up the voice-over narration, the camera is ceaseless in its roaming, swooping, crash-zoom motion.

Couple that with a bottomless empathy for the Italian-American subject matter, and unbeatable turns from De Niro, Pesci and of course Liotta, Goodfellas improves with the years: brutally funny, and often just plain brutal.

And the music? Best soundtrack ever, hands down. From Bennett to Bobby Darin to the Stones to the final kick-in-the-face delivery of Sid Vicious' My Way, the wall-to-wall musical panoply compounds the head-rush immersion of the whole experience. So sit back, relax, and let the grime and violence wash over you. And remember folks: never rat on your friends, and always keep your mouth shut. (research Jack Whiting) No, 'relax' is what you want do! Don't miss this big screen remastering.

Director: Martin Scorsese
Cast: Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci, Lorraine Bracco
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 1990
Certificate: 18
Company: Warner Brothers

When...

Sun 19 6.00



Moonlight

Barry Jenkins's immensely powerful coming-of-age drama hits lunar heights. Moonlight follows Chiron, a young black boy from a rough neighbourhood in Miami. Struggling to deal with his mother Paula's crippling drug addiction alongside coming to terms with his sexuality, he squarely faces the toils of self-discovery as he tirelessly searches for his place in the world. As he witnesses a series of transformations in his life, the film's central narrative is divided into three defining chapters, each detailing an important fragment of Chiron's character as he progresses through childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Both Barry Jenkins' script and direction conjure feelings of romance and wistfulness, masterfully balancing the two not only with skill but subtle precision and offering a refreshing if haunting perspective on today's society. Boasting an impressive and ever expanding list of accolades, this is one of the must-sees of Oscar season.

"Moonlight takes the pain of growing up and turns it into hardened scars and private caresses. This film is, without a doubt, the reason we go to the movies." (Time Out)

"An indelible portrait of an imperilled life, "Moonlight" is a devastating depiction of masculinity, race and identity." (Screen International) (research Chris Coetsee). Another for the don't miss dept.

Director: Barry Jenkins
Cast: Alex Hibbert, Naomie Harris, Trevante Rhodes, Ashton Sanders
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Altitude

When...

Mon 20 7.30 **Tue 21 2.00**
Tue 21 7.30



Casablanca

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world she walks into... The Rex on a Wednesday afternoon.

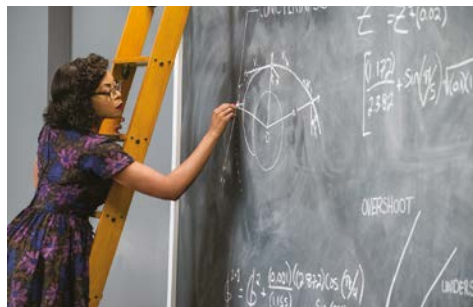
On a shortlist of all-time classic Hollywood love stories, Casablanca must be close to the top. Come and enjoy every second of every line you've heard a million times.

You know the story but just in case: Bogart plays to his greatest-type, the seen-it-all, battered, laconic, tired, wisecracking tough guy: Rick Blane. The ethereal Bergman who left him waiting on that rainy Parisienne platform years before, walks into his bar and back into his life. Cue: "Moonlight and love songs never out of date... that no one can deny..." Casablanca here in Berkhamsted or wherever we show it, is dedicated to Peter Clark who played Capt Renault (Claude Reins) in Boxmoor Arts Centre's live theatrical production set in glorious grey (March 1983) and on the Edinburgh Fringe in the August. When he replaced his vast collection of vinyl with CDs, he gave me his precious turn-table and amp on permanent-loan. It's still here, now permanently. Peter died for no good reason in August 2002 aged 55. Here's looking at you kid...

Director: Michael Curtiz
 Cast: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman
 Duration: 102 mins
 Origin: USA 1942
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Wed 22 2.00



Hidden Figures

Empowerment at full-thrust in Theodore Melfi's feel-good bio-flick. With the Cold War looming on the horizon, the United States and the Soviet Union are locked in a fierce battle to be crowned victor of the Space Race. Joining proceedings at Langley, and as tensions continue to rise, three patient and patriotic African-American women sit just out of the limelight. Focus soon shifts however when Katherine Goble (Henson) a former mathematical child prodigy, is assigned to work under Al Harrison (Costner) and his team of male engineers who are coordinating the flights of first American astronaut in Space, John Glenn. Faced with repeated attempts at racial humiliation, Katherine, with help of her two best friends Dorothy (Octavia Spencer) and Mary (Janelle Monáe) strives onwards, continues to commit to the project and with the brilliance of her mathematical calculations finds herself at the centre of the mission. Having already rocketed to success stateside, Hidden Figures proves to be far more than just an inspirational history lesson, doing justice to a trio of wrongfully ignored figures and tipping the scales of praise rightfully back in their favour. (*research Chris Coetsee*) This is by far the most enjoyable film on the 'Diversity' circuit. Don't miss.

Director: Theodore Melfi
 Cast: Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe
 Duration: 127 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: PG
 Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Wed 22 7.30
Thu 23 2.00, 7.30



Hacksaw Ridge

Andrew Garfield stars as WWII combat medic Desmond Doss in Gibson's highly effective and fantastically moving directorial comeback.

Bringing to life this incredible true story, *Hacksaw Ridge* focuses squarely on the battle of Okinawa, said to be the bloodiest conflict of the Second World War. As the only American soldier to fight on the front line without a weapon, Doss devoted his efforts to single-handedly evacuating his wounded allies from the battlefield, braving explosions, enemy snipers and the perils of all hand combat in the process. Acting above and beyond the call of duty, Doss miraculously saved the lives of 75 men without needing to fire a shot. With stunning cinematography and an acute attention to eruptive/visceral detail, Gibson finds the confusions of war, faith and honour; mirroring Doss's own ethical conflicts.

"War is hell, but through *Hacksaw Ridge*, Gibson finds a way to harrow it." (*Telegraph*)

"It's a tribute to Garfield's total commitment to the role that he never lets easy sentiment colour the character's convictions." (*Rolling Stone*)

"Gibson is a man looking for redemption, and in this redemptive vision he may just have found it." (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee) Andrew Garfield's face expresses 'pacifist' without moving. Come for him.

Director: Mel Gibson
Cast: Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington, Hugo Weaving
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri 24 7.30
Sat 25 7.00



The Lego Batman Movie

It's down to the ingenuity of the folks behind this bonkers film that they've managed to craft one of the best on-screen versions of Batman. Christian and Ben, eat your capes.

It's also the best feature to come out of the DC stable since Nolan capped his Dark Knight trilogy with a bang. Batman (Will Arnett) is confronted by the Joker, the surprisingly sensitive arch-villain who wants the Caped Crusader to admit that they "complete" each other. He must recruit the help of a wide-eyed Robin to save the day. Every possible bat-related joke and pun you could think of is crammed into this unstoppable, ninety minute candy rush. Aside from the obvious sight gags, there is genuine nuance to be found as it pokes fun at the entire Batman cinematic run, from Adam West camp to Tim Burton brooding. There is literally a joke-per-second rate so thick and fast that if you haven't recovered immediately from the last joke, you won't have enough time to chortle at the next. And I'm talking about the parents. (*research Jack Whiting*). A ridiculous, ingenious masterpiece. Not sure the kids will get it, dads will have all the fun.

Director: Chris McKay
Voices: Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis,
Michael Cera
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: USA/Denmark 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Sat 25 2.00



Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Early in 1970 at a small cinema off Oxford Circus (the Regent St Cinema?) just as the final frame caught them, there was a dead silence. Then the clapping began. By the time the screen had turned to sepia the audience was on its feet, applauding loudly through tears. It was the first time I had experienced such an outpouring at the end of a film, and the last, until the Rex reopened. Being part of that cinema audience has stayed with me as a huge and magical moment. The film was, and remains, faultless and holds up as fresh today as it did forty eight years ago. It is witty, sharp, a great story and the camera doesn't miss a trick.

"I got vision while the rest of the world wears bifocals..." What ever happened to director, George Roy Hill?

Supposed to be based on the true story of two bandits who made outlaw history in the Wyoming of the late 19th Century. It emerges as a fabulous comedy of errors played beautifully to the last shot by the glorious pairing of Redford and Newman.

Don't miss, no matter how many times...

"Somebody say one two three go..."

Director: George Roy Hill
Cast: Paul Newman, Robert Redford
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 1969
Certificate: PG
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sun 26 6.00
Mon 27 2.00



Tanna

Intimacy and beauty are at the heart of this enlivened tale of star-crossed lovers.

On the South Pacific island of Tanna, young Yakel tribe member Wawa (Marie Wawa) meets fellow tribe member Dain (Mungau Dain) the grandson of her village's chief, Charlie (Chief Charlie Kahla). With strict conventions being the cornerstone of their ancient society, Wawa is expected to partake in an arranged marriage with a rival tribesman in an attempt to bring peace and prosperity to the bad-blood between the rival tribes. Turning her back on ancient tradition, Wawa falls in love with Dain and begins to spend time with him in secret. Only her younger sister Selin knows of their forbidden romance.

Warm, fresh and emotionally engrossing, co-directors Martin Butler and Bentley Dean, as well as the members of the Yakel tribe, come together in true harmony to deliver a humanist love story that is both familiar and unlike any other.

"The Yakel people's passion to tell this story is undoubtedly at the heart of the film's success. Tanna has a warm, shimmering vitality. Like the trees and the birds, the frame feels alive." (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee) A beautiful and most extraordinary film. Come.

Directors: Martin Butler, Bentley Dean
Cast: Kapan Cook, Mungau Dain, Charlie Kahla
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Australia 2016
Certificate: 12
Company: Yume Pictures

When...

Mon 27 7.30



Manchester By The Sea

Casey Affleck's burgeoning career continues to go from strength to strength as he shines in Kenneth Lonergan's searing emotional drama.

Set against Massachusetts' gloomy North Shore, this tragic tale follows Lee Chandler (Affleck) a young man hopelessly lost in life, as he returns to his hometown after the death of his brother Joe (another brilliant turn by Kyle Chandler) to care for Joe's only son, 16-year-old, Patrick. His brother's death has left Lee an unexpected, and most under-qualified, legal guardian. With painful flashbacks to the past intermingled with turbulent scenes of the present, the source of Lee's sorrow is slowly revealed, underpinning the complexity of his relationships with Patrick and ex-wife Randi (the reliably odd, Michelle Williams) who has remarried and has a baby on the way. Considered front runners for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress Oscars, Affleck and Williams may have to play second string to Lonergan on the night with many predicting a Best Picture nomination. Whether or not, Manchester-by-the-Sea remains a career highlight, not only for its director but, for virtually all involved.

"His heartbreaking third feature finally confirms Lonergan as an auteur of genuine merit" (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee). It will wring you dry, but don't miss.

Director: Kenneth Lonergan
Cast: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Tue 28 2.00, 7.30



20th Century Women

If Mike Mills' 2011 film *Beginners* was a tribute to his late father, then *20th Century Women*, though less tied up with autobiography, serves as a heartfelt acknowledgement of his mother's guidance through the tumultuous adolescent period. Dorothea Fields (Annette Bening) is a divorced mother, born into the Great Depression, navigating her way through the enormous cultural shifts of late '70s America. Her 15 year old son, Jamie (Lucas Jade Zumann) is experiencing changes of his own and, as he is becomes increasingly alien to her, she realises he needs more than just her input to become the moral individual she so desperately wishes him to be. With the help of Abbie (Great Gerwig) and Julie (Elle Fanning) two offbeat women both relatively close to Jamie in age, Dorothea comes closer to understanding the youth of the day and the three of them work together to guide him through his clumsy transition into manhood.

"Mills authentically encapsulates the signpost features of an era, short shorts and VW beetles, where feminism had lost its militant edge but continued to change the world; appreciating nostalgia but not wallowing in it." (*Variety*) (research Heather Graves) A coming of (all) age tale. Understated, warm and tender.



Director: Mike Mills
 Cast: Annette Bening, Elle Fanning, Alia Shawkat, Greta Gerwig
 Duration: 118 mins
 Origin: USA 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment One

When...

Wed 29
 Thu 30

2.00, 7.30
 2.00



Fifty Shades Darker

The title of the second instalment in the frustratingly gargantuan series is a bit of a misnomer. Where's the darkness? It's still about as racy as a shampoo advert.

Anastasia (Dakota Johnson) is adamant that she'll have nothing to do with Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) after her experiences in the first film. When he sends her flowers, she throws them straight in the bin. However, after running into him at a photographers' gallery, where all the pictures are of her, she shows remarkably little resistance when he asks her out. "Okay, I will have dinner with you because I am hungry," is how she justifies her immediate capitulation. Soon, they are back together, but this time on her terms. The 'Darker' in the title isn't referring to any increase in explicitness; it's all coated in a syrupy romance that is very careful not to offend or titillate too much. No sweating or grunting here, just slow scenes of hanky-panky accompanied by gentle, soft rock. The very definition of safe sex. (*Jack Whiting*) Go on Mr Darker Grey (the colour of my carpet) grease them pecs and get on with it.

Director: James Foley
Cast: Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan, Kim Basinger
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 18
Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Thu 30 7.30



Patriot's Day

Mark Wahlberg wears his badge with pride in Peter Berg's tense account of the Boston Marathon bombing. What had started as a day of celebration

ended in a whirlwind of chaos and tragedy. As news of what had happened spread like wildfire, the eyes of the world turned to the stricken state capital as a city-wide manhunt for the perpetrators began.

Wahlberg plays Tommy Saunders, a Police Sergeant who finds himself in the midst of the catastrophe.

As a city comes together, Tommy joins the many first responders, emergency officers and valiant survivors at the heart of the scene. Facing an anxious race against time, Saunders and the Boston Police Department prepare to hunt down the bombers before they can carry out another attack.

Berg's choice to have a fictional hero lead the line has certainly been Patriot Day's most controversial talking point, but there is no doubt that Saunders is intentionally symbolic of Boston's true heroes on the day, and it's to them that this film pays its respects.

"A moving and compelling homage to a city and its spirit, as well as a gripping procedural." (*Guardian*) (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Run for the box office.

Director: Peter Berg
Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Kevin Bacon, Michelle Monaghan
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri 31 7.30

John Hurt...



Shooting Dogs, screened at The Rex Mon 29 May 2006



John Hurt came to the Rex for **Shooting Dogs** in May 2006. It was a strong film, set during the genocide in Rwanda. He liked the Rex, and was gracious about being Q&A'd for the umpteenth time. He has taken on as many major roles as cameos and virtual walk-ons in a fifty year career, and was unabashed by any part. He even played a Dr Who baddie in 2013. On stage at the Rex he delighted the audience with the story of 'that scene' in *Alien* as though telling it for the first time, with the guy under the table being given the 1.2.3. go aaannd... Push! ahead of that spectacular, now immortal, ground breaking, string and gaffer 'special effect'. As for his Oscar nominated *Elephant Man* he never bemoaned it was acting under a blanket with a lump for a face throughout, noting he is possibly the only Academy nomination unseen on screen. Happily, his film legacy means he will be seen on screen many more times to come. Currently seen here playing the priest in the Oscar nominated *Jackie*. While on-screen can never make up for his not being here, it provides us with his immortality.



Audrey...

Audrey would come to the Rex often, more than once or twice a week, and equally to matinees and evenings to see everything, noisy, new world, old and silent. When we ran into each other she'd talk with authority about the films she had seen or was looking forward to. Little did I know she was the daughter of 1930/40s film director Maclean Rogers.

Upon leaving school she joined the BBC, radio and early television, which must have been the most exciting time for any young girl or boy of that era. Then in the midst of this fabulous pioneering, she was sent to Australia to set up Australian TV in time for the Melbourne Olympics of 1956. While she loved Australia, and thought to settle, she also fell in love with Richard Hope. Upon returning to the UK, they married and settled in Berkhamsted. By now it is the 1960s and Audrey, with a young family gave up her adventures with the BBC and began new ones with the creation of Oxfam in the High Street.

Only a few years ago, she was awarded an MBE for her founding work with Oxfam, but more significantly she was made an honorary member of the Rex!

She loved coming here, and little did I know, along with all this rich life, she was very excited about the Rex's restoration from the earliest rumours of its re-birth.

Late last year, I noticed she hadn't been for a while. Thank you to her son Colin, who broke the news kindly, and told me this story of his Mum's life. Audrey died in December, and like we always say of people who have left, they were the loveliest of all, with the warmest smile. In Audrey Hope, it is true... We'll miss her smiling at the top of those unforgiving steps, always believing the next two hours would be worth it. Then she'd make fun on her way out. Film: outstanding, okay or awful, she made it worth the journey.

Audrey's beloved Berkhamsted rooftops



Fillers...

Taken from passing observations in everyday life. Please send yours. Witty, silly, poignant, clever, overheard etc.

LABYRINTH OF LIFE... FEB 2017

Caught in the kitchen on some clever Radio 4 comedy 6.30pm slot:

They were talking about the notion of a Labyrinth as a metaphor for Life. With all it's twists and turns, dead ends, and goings-back when we swore we never would etc, one wag concluded (roughly recounted) "So Life is nothing more than the waste of a pleasant afternoon..."

Followed by: "When he read of the terrible consequences of smoking, he gave up reading."

If you feel like, send anything you see or hear, not all from the radio, real life will do.

Winter on the Grand Union in different moods, daylight and darknight, within days of each other. Beauty yes, but here's to the new light of Spring.



*Ridiculous tranquillity from the footbridge to the station.
Early January 2017*



Frozen over night and day mid January 2017