

THE REX

NOVEMBER 2018

A STAR IS BORN

"velveteen glamour and brilliant programming..." (The Guardian)

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema.." (BBC)

NOVEMBER 2018 • ISSUE 164
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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
23-25

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30
Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle	£9.50
Concessions/ABL	£8.00
Back Row	£8.00
Table	£11.50
Concessions/ABL	£10.00
Royal Box Seat (Seats 6)	£13.00
Whole Royal Box	£73.00

Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs
£6.50, Royal Box £10

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

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01442 877999

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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 NOVEMBER



A Star is Born

Not only not a tired remake, but an inspired piece of casting in a love story worth believing. A revelation on many levels.

See page 13

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Puzzle

Back: it is worth seeing first time or again. Kelly Macdonald's serene non-acting face can hold any tale together. See page 10



They Shall Not Grow Old

Meticulously restored 100 years on: stinking archive in the final company of a million-ish? lost boys, as themselves, playing dead for God and Country. See page 10



The Little Stranger

A strange investigative ghost story, slow burning but nuanced by the cream of the (mostly) least histrionic British acting faces.

See page 11



Nureyev

A bio-documentary of that most enigmatic of Cold-War Russian dancers, his dramatic Front-page defection and wooing of Margot Fonteyn. See page 20



NOVEMBER FILMS



Christopher Robin

Next up in a recent wave of Winnie the Pooh films is Christopher Robin: a nostalgic adventure which explores the importance of reconnecting with childhood when grown up life weighs heavily. Christopher (Ewan McGregor) is fully grown up, the Hundred Acre Wood long gone, and youthful innocence lost in the face of mid-life and its crisis. A married father in 1950s Britain, work comes before family as he foregoes a trip with his wife Evelyn (Hayley Atwell) and daughter Madeline (Bronte Carmichael) to his childhood home in Sussex (fool). Thankfully Britain's best loved bear returns to revive Christopher from his slump, naturally voiced once again by Jim Cummings. When Pooh is unable to find Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet and co, he steps through Christopher's door and ends up in London. Although Christopher is unenthused by the idea, Pooh convinces him to travel to the Hundred Acre Wood to help find his friends. The storytelling falters with its mixture of tones, yet A.A. Milne's characters remain as ever, warming Christopher's heart once more. Sweet like honey, Christopher Robin captures the sentimentality we all have for those originals. (research Rachel Williams) Come as a child, and bring one or two.

Director: Marc Forster
 Cast: Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell
 Voices: Jim Cummings, Toby Jones
 Duration: 104 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: PG
 Company: WDSMP UK



The Wife

Standing in the shadows of her husband's acclaimed literary career, Glenn Close's performance of a wife's late-life crisis is exquisitely multi-layered. As its title suggests, Joan Castleman (Close) is defined by her role as an esteemed novelist's wife: her own talent as a writer masked through decades of self-sacrifice. Based on Meg Wolitzer's novel, *The Wife* is set in Clinton-era 1992, when Joan's husband Joe (Jonathan Pryce) is informed that he has won the Nobel Prize in Literature. As such, a magazine cover will replace Bill Clinton with Joe, setting up parallels between the successful man and supportive wife behind him. Leading up to the ceremony in Stockholm, Joan's desire for recognition begins to emerge. Through flashbacks to her younger self, played by Close's daughter (Annie Starke – surprised?) we see how she bonds with Joe (her professor, married at the time) over their determination to write. After a lifetime of supporting his success, she warns a fan seeking to be his biographer (Christian Slater) that she is too interesting to be 'painted as a victim'. A fascinating character, this tense dark comedy explores Joan's need to reclaim her identity after years of compromise. (research Rachel Williams) Much awards baiting. Come and see.

Director: Bjorn Runge
 Cast: Glenn Close, Jonathan Pryce, Christian Slater, Elizabeth McGovern
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Picturehouse Entertainment

When...

Thu 1 2.00

When...

Thu 1 7.30 Mon 5 2.00
 Sun 4 6.00 Mon 5 7.30



Crazy Rich Asians

The first major Hollywood film to feature an all-Asian cast in 25 years, about time! Crazy Rich Asians is a wildly entertaining, refreshing take on the Rom-Com. A smash hit in the US, Kevin Kwan's novel is here on the big screen; and everywhere else. It's gone box office crazy with all its extravagance, glamour and wit. Rachel Chu (Constance Wu) a Chinese-American academic, is to accompany her boyfriend Nick Young (Henry Golding) to his best friend's wedding in Singapore. Little does she know, Nick's family are one of the wealthiest in Singapore. So wealthy that spending \$1.2m on earrings is just another day. Scrutinised by Singaporean socialites who aren't keen to lose their chance with Society's most eligible bachelor, Rachel is bitched in the gold digger dept. Even more formidable is Nick's mother Eleanor (Michelle Yeoh) who steals it with her steel. Rachel is a subversive rom-com heroine, she does not need saving. Intelligent and grounded, she navigates Nick's world with a quiet confidence, following advice from her hilarious friend Peik Lin Goh (Awkwafina). It's a win for representation, and great fun. (*research Rachel Williams*) "A bouncy castle of a film – with tourist brochure glare" (*ST Culture*) So come and bounce.

Director: Jon M. Chu
 Cast: Constance Wu, Michelle Yeoh, Henry Golding, Gemma Chan, Awkwafina
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Bros Entertainment UK Ltd.

When...

Fri 2 7.30 Wed 7 2.00
Sat 3 7.00 Wed 7 7.30



The Witches

Nicolas Roeg (Walk About, Don't Look Now) captures the spirit of Roald Dahl in this dark and witty adaptation of the 1990's classic.

After being orphaned, 7 year old Luke is sent to England with his grandmother, where he stumbles across a convention of witches. The Grand High Witch (Anjelica Huston) reveals a plan to turn all children into mice – and now poor Luke is the test subject! Luke's grandmother (Mai Zetterling) explains, with scrumptious detail, that witches loath children, they have square toes and wear masks to hide their real, hideous faces. Enough to make any child squeal. With the help of Mr Stringer (Rowan Atkinson) Luke must fight back against the witches. Largely faithful to Dahl's gleefully nasty and mischievous edge, the film stands out for Jim Henson's outstanding animatronics. While theoretically made for children, in true Dahlia fashion, the film delves into outright horror – some scenes are mockingly intense and made to frighten grown ups more! It has a genuinely fabulous twisted flavour, equal parts funny and scary. Here to celebrate the re-opening of The Roald Dahl museum in Great Missenden, after fantastic restoration from flood damage. Come for the film, then fly off to Missenden... (*research Beth Wallman*)

Director: Nicolas Roeg
 Cast: Anjelica Huston, Mai Zetterling, Jane Horrocks, Jasen Fisher, Rowan Atkinson, Brenda Blethyn
 Duration: 88 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 1990
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Warner Bros Entertainment UK Ltd.

When...

Sat 3 2.00



Puzzle

Kelly Macdonald pieces together a perfect performance in Marc Turtletaub's graceful drama.

Based on a remake of *Rompecabezas*, a 2010 Argentine film by Natalia Smirnoff, *Puzzle* presents a sympathetic character study of a sheltered, downtrodden Connecticut housewife, who finds a new lease of life in a 1,000-piece jigsaw. Receiving the initially thoughtless and throwaway present from husband Louie and her two children, Gabe and Ziggy, it soon transpires, to the surprise of herself and her family, that she has a knack for puzzling. As completing puzzles becomes Agnes' burning passion, the pride she begins to feel knowing she's best at something re-plants a smile on her face and puts a much needed spring in her step, neither of which have been there for quite some time. Through her newfound energy, Agnes begins to come into her own like never before. A rare starring role for Macdonald, she finds the emotional complexity of Agnes without a second thought, like breathing. This is her film and she is outstanding, delivering one of the finest performances of her career, rounding off a charmingly modest piece of cinematic escapism. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) It is more than escapist. Kelly Macdonald is rare indeed, and here she finds that missing lost piece...

Director: Marc Turtletaub
 Cast: Kelly Macdonald, Irrfan Khan, Austin Abrams, Mandela Bellamy
 Duration: 103 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd.

When...

Tue 6 2.00
Wed 28 2.00, 7.30



They Shall Not Grow Old

Director Peter Jackson's revolutionary restoration provides a documentary window into the First World War like never before.

The Great War proved to be a landmark in cinema history, the first time that the horrors of war could be caught on camera. Many hours of dramatic footage were filmed on the battlefields, capturing the realities of conflict in remarkable and unprecedented detail. Jackson, best known for directing *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, has created this stunning documentary using original film reels from the Imperial War Museums' extensive archive, much of it previously unseen. Accompanying is a host of fascinating interviews conducted with servicemen who fought in the conflict. Footage has been photographically colour treated and transformed with modern production techniques, while sound has been enhanced and redesigned from the ground up, providing a unique if sombre sense of life at the front. This year marks the centenary of the armistice. We know much about the horrific impact of this conflict on its soldiers, especially the brutal scale of the casualties which decimated a generation. "This painstaking restoration reaches through the mists of time, offering a fresh understanding of their plight." (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Heartbreaking. They would never be kissed.

Director: Peter Jackson
 Duration: 99 mins
 Origin: UK 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Trafalgar Releasing

When...

Tue 6 7.30 **Sun 11** 1.30
Fri 9 2.00 **Mon 12** 2.00



King Of Thieves

Boasting an all-star line-up of British legends, James Marsh's gripping crime caper drills home the true story behind one of the biggest robberies in English legal history.

Déjà vu anyone? You may have had the displeasure of seeing last year's appalling *The Hatton Garden Job*, a film so bad it made empty cinema seats bleed across the country. If you are however unfamiliar with the facts, the heist saw 77-year-old thief and recent widower Brian Reader assemble a gang of aged crooks for one last score. The target? Hatton Garden's luxury safe deposit box vault, holding over hundreds of millions worth of bank notes, jewellery etc. The long quiet Easter/Passover weekend of April 2015 would do nicely. The tale of their audacious crime and subsequent downfall is laid bare, brought to life by a wonderful cast of British film stalwarts (Michael Caine, Jim Broadbent, Tom Courtenay, Ray Winstone, Michael Gambon). Winking at their iconic screen moments of yesteryear while gunning for *Ocean's 80*, it's a breezy affair with a dollop of murky twists and shady turns. Come and see Jim Broadbent outgeezer Ray Winstone? (*Research Chris Coetsee*) For the cast, it's worth a look.

Director: James Marsh
Cast: Michael Caine, Charlie Cox, Michael Gambon, Tom Courtenay, Jim Broadbent, Ray Winstone
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: UK 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Studio Canal

When...

Thu 8 2.00
Fri 9 7.30



The Little Stranger

Don't let the trailer fool you, there are no cheap scares here. *The Little Stranger* is a compelling meditation on the past, and much more than just a ghost story.

Domhnall Gleeson is Faraday, a Warwickshire country doctor of humble origins who finds himself called, in the summer of 1948, to Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for centuries. But the family matriarch, Angela (Charlotte Rampling) still rules as if by divine right. Angela's son Roderick (Will Poulter) has returned from the war covered in burn scars that underscore his even more serious PTSD. His sister Caroline (Ruth Wilson) appears normal enough, but at Hundreds Hall, looks can be deceiving. Has Angela really ever got over the death of her first daughter, Susan. She was only 8 when she died, 30 years before? Could it be her spirit making the room bells ring?

Lenny Abrahamson's film is as much an account of a thwarted love affair as it is a haunted house chiller. The mood here is that of *The Turn Of The Screw*. The real terror is in their minds. (*research Jack Whiting*)

A rare ghost story for a Thursday evening. Beware if you live in a rambling old house...

Director: Lenny Abrahamson
Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, Ruth Wilson, Will Poulter, Charlotte Rampling
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: Ireland/UK/France 2018
Certificate: 12A
Company: Pathé

When...

Thu 8 7.30



Johnny English Strikes Again

Britain's beloved bumbling idiot spy is back, as Rowan Atkinson's unrivalled talent for slapstick comedy guarantees laugh-out-loud enjoyment.

In the third instalment of the franchise, moments of second-hand embarrassment strike us again as Johnny English wreaks havoc. When the country is hit by a devastating cyber attack, all of its agents' identities are exposed. Left with no other option, the British PM (Emma Thompson) is forced to bring back ex-spy 00 Johnny to save the nation. Unaccustomed to a digital world powered by smartphones, social media and VR, he is determined to stick to his analogue ways, speeding around the Riviera in a vintage Aston Martin. Joined by his long-suffering sidekick Bough (Ben Miller) the duo investigate the source of the attacks. With the addition of former Bond girl Olga Kurylenko, playing femme fatale Ophelia, and villainous tech billionaire Jason Volta (Jake Lacy) the film has all the ingredients for a 007 spoof. While lightheartedly exploring contemporary issues such as data security, GDPR anyone? the film still contains much of the original's charms, with all of Atkinson's timeless facial contortions and pratfalls. (*research Rachel Williams*) You know what's coming and as much as you try not to, you'll fall about. Well I will.

Director: David Kerr
Cast: Rowan Atkinson, Emma Thompson, Olga Kurylenko, Michael Gambon, Charles Dance, Ben Miller
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: UK 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: Universal

When...

Sat 10 2.00
Sun 11 6.00



A Star Is Born

Gaga and Cooper’s raw vocals invite you into the soundscape of their characters’ sweeping love story: luminous, thrilling, and achingly moving. It’s the fourth remake of the 1937 original and an impressive directorial debut by Bradley Cooper, well-rounded by his own leading performance as Jackson Maine.

A legendary country singer-songwriter, known for his deep Southern drawl and trademark rancher’s hat, we join him looking for another drink. He finds the only drag bar open.

The spotlight is on Ally (Lady Gaga) the only non-drag performer, giving a mesmerising rendition of ‘La Vie en Rose’. Lady G, known as a shapeshifter, here presents a new side to herself, one refreshingly natural. After the show they ‘connect’ by singing together in a car park, leading Jackson to invite Ally on stage before an arena of his adoring fans, where they perform her electrifying original song ‘Shallow’. Their natural and immediate chemistry takes you with them. This *Star Is Born* is born to be seen. (*research Rachel Williams*) Inseparable from the music they make, one beautiful two-part harmony is inevitable.

Moreover and so rare, it is impossible, watching these two so naturally falling in love on screen, not to fall with them. Don’t dare miss.



Director: Bradley Cooper
Cast: Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle
Duration: 136 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros Entertainment UK Ltd.

When...

Sat 10	7.00	Fri 16	7.30
Wed 14	2.00	Fri 23	7.30
Wed 14	7.30	Sat 24	7.00
Thur 15	2.00	Sat 25	6.00
Thur 15	7.30	Mon 26	2.00



Black '47

Prepare to get muddy. This austere drama, set in the aftermath of the Irish potato famine, is a wicked jolt. It is 1847, the worst year of the famine that saw a million people die and some two million uprooted. Amid this political and personal horror, deserter Feeney (James Frecheville) begins a rollercoaster ride of revenge, taking out crooked cops, posh army officers and a callous rent collector. To take Feeney down the British send in WMD Hannah (Hugo Weaving) a disgraced officer who served with him in Afghanistan (the first debacle, that is. 150 years earlier). And all the while, Feeney comes closer to his ultimate target: landowner, Lord Kilmichael, played by Jim Broadbent. Fictional, but presumed to be inspired by Ireland's most hated absentee landlord, the Earl of Lucan. (altogether now: Nanneee...!!) As a historically accurate social lesson, it is limited, closer to unreliable. But taken as a revenge western aka Peckinpah/Eastwood, it is tremendous, rattling along at the pace of a hungry dog in full pursuit. Fun for those who like their films violent and uncompromising. That'll be the matinee audience then Jack. (*research Jack Whiting*) Not the sensitive take on it, you had hoped? Come and see.

Director: Lance Daly
 Cast: Hugo Weaving, James Frecheville, Stephen Rea, Barry Keoghan, Freddie Fox, Jim Broadbent, Moe Dunford
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: UK/Ireland 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Altitude

When...

Mon 12 7.30
Tue 13 2.00, 7.30



Smallfoot

The age-old Bigfoot legend is turned upside-down in this delightful, smart and colourful animated tale. Himalayan yeti Migo (voiced by Channing Tatum) challenges the origin story of his isolated village high above the clouds. Etched in stones, it says that yetis were birthed by mammoths, who hold up the yetis' icy land on their backs. One day, having fallen partway down the mountain, Migo is nearly hit by a crashing plane. He sees the tiny unconscious pilot, proof that the yeti villagers' longtime myth of a hairless smallfoot "monster" is actually a fact. As he sets out on a determined adventure to prove that his discovery is real, Migo slowly comes to terms with the reality that yetis and humans have remained ignorant of each other for generations, and why. Animated movies regularly deal with significant real-world issues in overly-diluted fashion, but Smallfoot happily shuns this convention. At first a simple fish-out-of-water story, slowly it sneaks up on you, revealing its true intentions as a clever morality tale about the costs and benefits of telling the truth, a big, furry message that feels particularly timely. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Brilliant. Bring the street.

Director: Karey Kirkpatrick
 Voices: Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya, Common, LeBron James, Danny DeVito
 Duration: 96 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Warner Bros Entertainment UK Ltd.

When...

Sat 17 2.00



First Man

Ryan Gosling soars in Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelle's subtle, poetic, nerve-racking retelling of the most dangerous, audacious mission in human history (in a Morris Minor of swiss-army-knife technology).

While still holding the grief of losing their young daughter, test pilot Neil Armstrong and wife Janet prepare for the upcoming Gemini space project's rigorous training programme. Submersing himself deeper into it, Armstrong channels his ability to close off the lingering pain of loss to serve his unnerving capacity to focus.

As Gemini moves into the legendary Apollo missions, Armstrong's headstrong approach singles him out as the perfect candidate to lead NASA, America and mankind into an uncertain future.

Perfectly cast, Gosling and Foy carry the emotional weight of the film as a loving couple whose family tragedy has driven a wedge between them.

He buries himself, finding refuge in his work, but she has no outlet for her growing anxiety in his increasing isolation. Their feelings both individually

and as parents are beautifully expressed through outstanding, understated performances. Chazelle, whose work on Whiplash and La La Land gave no indication of his ambition to make a space-race drama, has succeeded in thinking this big. It's a thunderous, unmissable piece of filmmaking.

(Research Chris Coetsee) Fantastic. Come.



Director: Damien Chazelle
 Cast: Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy, Jason Clarke, Christopher Abbott, Corey Stoll
 Duration: 141 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Universal

When...			Tue 20	2.00
Sat 17	7.00	Tue 20	7.30	
Sun 18	6.00	Wed 21	2.00	
Mon 19	2.00	Thu 22	2.00	
Mon 19	7.30	Thu 29	2.00	

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

A STAR IS BORN
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
FIRST MAN
SMALLFOOT

NEW RELEASES

WIDOWS
FANTASTIC BEASTS 2
PETERLOO
THE NUTCRACKER AND THE
FOUR REALMS
WILDLIFE
SUSPIRIA (2018)



PETERLOO

THE NUTCRACKER AND
THE FOUR REALMS

WILDLIFE



SUSPIRIA



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

NOVEMBER	FILM	TIME
1 THU	KING OF THIEVES	2.00
1 THU	MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN (S)	7.30
2 FRI	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00
2 FRI	KING OF THIEVES	8.00
3 SAT	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00
3 SAT	VENOM	7.00
4 SUN	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	1.00, 5.00
5 MON	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	2.00, 7.30
6 TUE	THE WIFE	12.00, 7.30
7 WED	CRAZY RICH ASIANS	1.00, 7.30
8 THU	A SIMPLE FAVOUR	12.00
8 THU	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – FALLOUT	7.30
9 FRI	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	4.00
9 FRI	A STAR IS BORN	8.00
10 SAT	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00
10 SAT	A STAR IS BORN	7.00
11 SUN	A STAR IS BORN	1.00
11 SUN	NIGHT OF THE DEMON	5.00
11 SUN	A STAR IS BORN	8.15
12 MON	THE CHILDREN ACT	2.00
12 MON	THE WIFE	7.30
13 TUE	BLACK '47	12.00, 7.30
14 WED	THE WIFE	1.00
14 WED	BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE	7.30
15 THU	BLACKKKLANSMAN	2.00, 7.30
16 FRI	FIRST MAN	8.00
17 SAT	SMALLFOOT	12.00
17 SAT	FIRST MAN	5.00
17 SAT	BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE	9.00
18 SUN	FIRST MAN	1.00, 6.00
19 MON	FIRST MAN	2.00
19 MON	MATANGI / MAYA / MIA	7.30
20 TUE	FIRST MAN	12.00
20 TUE	ORPHÉE (S)	7.30
21 WED	A STAR IS BORN	1.00
21 WED	FIRST MAN	7.30
22 THU	HURRICANE	2.00
22 THU	HALLOWEEN (2018)	7.30
23 FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	5.45
23 FRI	MANDY	9.30
24 SAT	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00
24 SAT	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.00
25 SUN	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	1.00, 6.00
26 MON	A STAR IS BORN	2.00
26 MON	DOGMAN (S)	7.30
27 TUE	ORPHÉE (S)	12.00
27 TUE	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30
28 WED	MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN	1.00
28 WED	A STAR IS BORN	7.30
29 THU	THE WIFE	2.00
29 THU	DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T GET FAR ON FOOT	7.30
30 FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	5.15, 8.45

(S) SUBTITLED (J) SING-A-LONG

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

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NOVEMBER FILM			TIME PAGE	
1	THU	CHRISTOPHER ROBIN	2.00	8
1	THU	THE WIFE	7.30	8
2	FRI	CRAZY RICH ASIANS	7.30	9
3	SAT	THE WITCHES	2.00	9
3	SAT	CRAZY RICH ASIANS	7.00	9
4	SUN	THE WIFE	6.00	8
5	MON	THE WIFE	2.00, 7.30	8
6	TUE	PUZZLE	2.00	10
6	TUE	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	7.30	10
7	WED	CRAZY RICH ASIANS	2.00, 7.30	9
8	THU	KING OF THIEVES	2.00	11
8	THU	THE LITTLE STRANGER	7.30	11
9	FRI	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	2.00	10
9	FRI	KING OF THIEVES	7.30	11
10	SAT	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	2.00	12
10	SAT	A STAR IS BORN	7.00	13
11	SUN	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	1.30	10
11	SUN	JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN	6.00	12
12	MON	THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD	2.00	10
12	MON	BLACK '47	7.30	14
13	TUE	BLACK '47	2.00, 7.30	14
14	WED	A STAR IS BORN	2.00, 7.30	13
15	THU	A STAR IS BORN	2.00, 7.30	13
16	FRI	A STAR IS BORN	7.30	13
17	SAT	SMALLFOOT	2.00	14
17	SAT	FIRST MAN	7.00	15
18	SUN	FIRST MAN	6.00	15
19	MON	FIRST MAN	2.00, 7.30	15
20	TUE	FIRST MAN	2.00, 7.30	15
21	WED	FIRST MAN	2.00	15
21	WED	A SIMPLE FAVOUR	7.30	18
22	THU	FIRST MAN	2.00	15
22	THU	C'EST LA VIE! (S)	7.30	18
23	FRI	A STAR IS BORN	7.30	13
24	SAT	SKATE KITCHEN	2.00	19
24	SAT	A STAR IS BORN	7.00	13
25	SUN	A STAR IS BORN	6.00	13
26	MON	A STAR IS BORN	2.00	13
26	MON	NUREYEV	7.30	20
27	TUE	NUREYEV	2.00	20
27	TUE	THE HATE U GIVE	7.30	21
28	WED	PUZZLE	2.00, 7.30	10
29	THU	FIRST MAN	2.00	15
29	THU	BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE	7.30	21
30	FRI	BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	7.30	22

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

A STAR IS BORN

FIRST MAN

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

NEW RELEASES

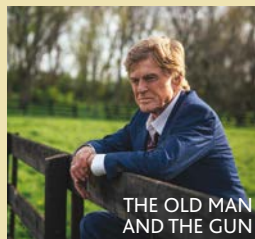
THE GODFATHER

COLUMBUS

THE GIRL IN THE SPIDERS WEB

FANTASTIC BEASTS 2

THE OLD MAN AND THE GUN



THE OLD MAN
AND THE GUN



FANTASTIC BEASTS:
THE CRIMES OF
GRINDELWALD



THE GIRL IN THE
SPIDERS WEB



COLUMBUS



A Simple Favour

Anna Kendrick and Blake Lively shine in this savagely entertaining thriller from Bridesmaids director Paul Feig. Stephanie Smothers, a widow living in a posh Connecticut suburb of New York, counting out the days until her clueless husband Sean's life insurance money runs out, and meanwhile attempting to make a go of it with her vlog where she offers helpful life hacks to busy mums. After striking up a friendship with the seductive Emily (Lively) Stephanie and Sean find themselves turning amateur sleuths following their newfound friend's sudden disappearance. Throughout their investigations, affection grows between the two but as strange events begin to pile up, they soon realise the bulk of them seem to be connected to Emily's mysterious past. Feig takes a deliciously dark turn into neo-noir by way of spiky social satire. Forget hard-boiled detective, here at the centre of his very unusual yarn is an enigmatic femme fatale to rival any from the golden age of Bogie and Bacall. A comic mystery that smacks of a wittier *Gone Girl*, *A Simple Favour* gradually ventures into more off-the-wall territory. It's wildly funny, delightfully devious and an unanticipated joy ride. *(Research Chris Coetsee)* Anticipate an off-the-grid joy indeed. Don't miss.

Director: Paul Feig
 Cast: Anna Kendrick, Blake Lively, Henry
 Golding
 Duration: 117 mins
 Origin: USA 2018
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Lionsgate

When...

Wed 21 7.30



C'est La Vie

The directing duo who graced us with the loveable Rex classic *Untouchable*, has returned with this riotous ensemble comedy about the preparations for a chateau-set wedding.

At the centre of the action is Max (Jean-Pierre Bacri), the head of a catering company with wedding planner duties, whose motto is 'We adapt'. That phrase is tested to its limit with the impending nuptials of groomzilla Pierre (Benjamin Lavernhe) and his bride-to-be H  l  na (Judith Chemla). Max's problems begin when egotistical wedding singer Etienne, aka DJ James (Gilles Lellouche) turns up as a last-minute replacement and quickly picks a fight with Ad  le (Eye Haidara) Max's foul-mouthed second-in-command. Other disasters soon follow, including a bout of food poisoning, an unexpected power outage and the fact that one of the waiters is in love with the bride. Like expert jugglers at a slapstick circus, the directors keep most of the characters and their faults and needs neatly in the air, with the rhythm hardly flagging and the tone buzzy and bustling throughout without becoming exhausting. *C'est la Vie!* relishes in its off-kilter characters, and has a sweet, sentimental heart, which builds to a good-natured, ludicrous high. (Jack Whiting) French and fabulous. Don't miss.

Directors: Olivier Nakache,   ric Toledano
Cast: Jean-Pierre Bacri, Jean-Paul Rouve, Gilles Lellouche, Vincent Macaigne
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: France 2017 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Cinefile

When...

Thu 22 7.30



Skate Kitchen

Now here's a first: a film based entirely on an Instagram feed (we must look forward to it being the last). A perfect amalgamation of fantasy and reality through the lens of a coming-of-age tale.

This sun-drenched story introduces Rachelle Vinberg as Camille, a lonely teen who just wants to skate. She struggles to forge a connection with her peers in the Long Island suburb she calls home, and so escapes to New York City to find an Insta-famous female skate collective: The Skate Kitchen.

Following on from her awards documentary, *The Wolfpack*, Crystal Moselle's latest offering is based on her own 2016 short: *That One Day*, which features much of the same cast. Real members of The Skate Kitchen play thinly disguised versions of themselves. The years of chemistry between the crew and their familiarity with skater slang adds authenticity to the film's dialogue, talked as naturally as an 'ollie'?

New York itself becomes a skate park, beautifully filmed by Moselle. In her dedication to represent youth culture in an authentic way, she captures 'teen angst', insecurity and gender politics earnestly, so separating this from the rest. (research Jack Whiting) A welcome matinee experiment for teenage girls, none younger than 15 or older than 19.

Director: Crystal Moselle
Cast: Kabrina Adams, Tom Bruno, Thaddeus Daniels, Nina Moran, Rachelle Vinberg
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Modern Films

When...

Sat 24 2.00



Nureyev

The fiery and occasionally controversial life of the Russian ballet giant is the subject of this immaculate documentary portrait from co-directors David and Jacqui Morris. Tracing the dancer's journey from poverty-stricken childhood in the Soviet Union to Royal Ballet behemoth, contemporary interviews with Nureyev and his friends and dance partners are laid over footage of the performer not just on stage but fooling around at home, always swarmed by paparazzi. The arrival of this footage at a cinematic level brings the physicality of the art form to life, the animalism and strength behind the structure of dance coming through alongside Nureyev's wry sense of humour. The Rudolf Nureyev Foundation gave the Morris's access to a wealth of old VHS tapes, including unseen footage of his more avant-garde performances. His early years, meanwhile, are illustrated by interpretative dance sequences choreographed by Russell Maliphant. It's a risky strategy, but it pays off. Essential viewing for anyone with even a passing interest in ballet and dance, Nureyev chronicles the rise and fall of one of the last century's greatest dancers and performers, an extraordinarily magnetic figure whose legacy continues to live on. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Come, glimpse this extraordinary man and huge symbolic figure in the '60s Cold War circus.

Directors: Jacqui Morris, David Morris
 Cast: Marlon Dino, Grace Jabbari, Jordan Kennedy, Leon Poulton, Lucia Lacarra, Dana Fouras
 Duration: 109 mins
 Origin: Italy 2018
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Piece of Magic Entertainment

When...

Mon 26 7.30
Tue 27 2.00



The Hate U Give

An affecting adaptation of the bestselling novel, *The Hate U Give* explores a teen's activist awakening after witnessing the horrors of police brutality. Starr Carter (a powerful performance by Amandla Stenberg) finds her identity split between home life in her predominantly black neighbourhood, Garden Heights, and the wealthy (mostly) white private school she attends. Well-versed in code-switching, she presents different versions of herself to adapt. Yet when she witnesses the shooting of her childhood friend Khalil (Algee Smith) the disconnect between Starr's worlds shatters. Driven home from a house party by Khalil, the pair are pulled over. Remembering 'the talk' given by her dad (Russell Hornsby) instructing her how to survive when stopped by the cops, she puts her hands on the dashboard. When Khalil foolishly reaches for a hairbrush! he is shot (of course!) and Starr is handcuffed next to her dying friend. As his death ignites national outrage, Starr is conflicted by the politics of speaking up. Stenberg praises the "timeless way the story portrays #BlackLivesMatter and brings empathy and humanity to these experiences." Inflected with youthful romance and humour, it is both entertaining and deeply moving. (research Rachel Williams) An intelligent film, not cut and dried or over-clichéd. Come.

Director: George Tillman Jr.
Cast: Amandla Stenberg, Russell Hornsby, Algee Smith, Anthony Mackie
Duration: 133 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 12A
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Tue 27 7.30



Bad Times At The El Royale

Writer/director Drew Goddard returns to pack in even more twists, turns, and subversions than he did with *Cabin in the Woods* in this all-star chamber opera.

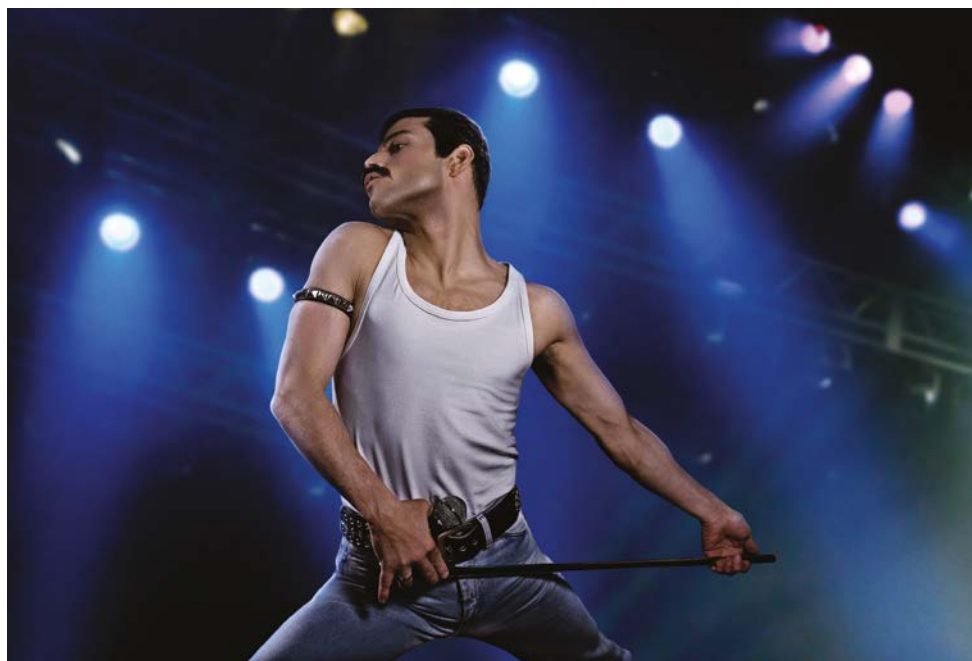
Set in 1969, the film has an ace in the hole in its title character: The El Royale, a once-luxurious hotel on the border between California and Nevada which is now in near terminal decay. A group of guests arrive here for reasons which only very slowly become clear. Among them is a whisky-quaffing priest (Jeff Bridges) a fast-talking salesman (Jon Hamm) a soul singer (Cynthia Erivo) and a femme fatale (Dakota Johnson). None of them are what they seem. Chris Hemsworth even turns up halfway in, with a mean and violent streak (and no shirt).

Linear clarity gets shredded as Goddard – taking perhaps a few too many pages from the book of Tarantino – gleefully dabbles in forward-backward-sideward storytelling, but at 2 hours and 21 minutes, this can get heavy going. Thankfully, El Royale is still crammed with enough depraved delights to make you consider checking in. (research Jack Whiting) Must check running times more carefully. Come and see how far you get.

Director: Drew Goddard
Cast: Jeff Bridges, Cynthia Erivo, Dakota Johnson, Jon Hamm, Chris Hemsworth
Duration: 141 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Thu 29 7.30



Bohemian Rhapsody

Bohemian Rhapsody is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer, Freddie Mercury. The film traces the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs and revolutionary sound. They reach unparalleled success, but in an unexpected turn Freddie (Rami Malek), surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie reunites with the band in time for Live Aid. While bravely facing a recent AIDS diagnosis, he leads the band in one of the greatest performances in the history of rock. In doing so, Queen cements its legacy. Those hoping for a deep dive into Freddie's private life may be left feeling short changed; this is nothing more than a glorified Wiki entry – covering all the basics, yet with so much pizzazz, gorgeous set design and attention to the era, it's easy to get swept up in its kinda magic. Forget the behind-the-scenes faffing with directors etc, although Dexter Fletcher picks up the pieces nicely. This is Malek's film. *(research Jack Whiting)* Malek's film through and through. He might raise it above expectations, but he can't polish one of the most overrated, overplayed songs and over-haired cringe-pop videos – ever.

Directors: Bryan Singer, Dexter Fletcher
Cast: Rami Malek, Joseph Mazzello, Lucy Boynton, Mike Myers, Aiden Gillen, Tom Hollander
Duration: 134 mins
Origin: UK / USA
Certificate: 12A
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Fri 30 7.30

Multistory Barbers Agents and Chains...

"We know what's best for Berkhamsted - you don't" (a direct quote from Alan Gator to my face, then chief planning officer during the 1980/90s and happy to see the Rex de-listed and demolished). How does a council in Hemel, unashamedly blinkered and partisan, know or care how to plan for the rest of Dacorum? In Town Planning terms, their imagination sees a multistory concrete lump is 'best' here. Nobody has seen the full research and evidence for this, but planning officers have convinced careless Hemel-phile councillors to vote for it. They say much of their 'thinking' is based on ensuring there is enough car parking space to bring trade into the High St for business to thrive. A noble conceit?

Town Planning identifies the need for variety, colour and shape in High Street shop windows. So how come town-planners have never exercised those three words. When I came in 1977, established estate agents numbered two or three, ballooning to the dozen or so easy fast-buckers you see today. There were two restaurants, a café, greengrocers, butchers, a fishmonger, newsagents and three chandlers (hardware) where you could buy tools and a bag of nails. There were no charity shops or chains. Then inevitably, supermarkets took shopkeepers trade as private rents and public rates conspired to run them out. The pox'd on-line would later steal the rest. Nail bars grew where you can get only a mere handful. Cafes and restaurants spawned and bred, estate agents took the rest,



A typical non-Saturday afternoon in the leafy downtown carpark about to be home to a vast concrete lump.

October dusk. Magical station lights...
Trees, Moor and Canal



Brian & Ian. The original High St barbers and Rex gate keepers.

openly servicing their millions from hungry buyers, greedy sellers/investors and rotten landlords. Variety, colour and shape evaporated into cappuccino. A posh East Berlin (c1958) where you couldn't buy a loaf until, against all odds, Darvells bakery opened to rescue the High Street at the Rex end.

Who then could have predicted the preposterous invasion of barbershops? There is even one in Potten End where there are no other shops at all. How? Why? Councillors? Anyone for a quartet? So, Hemel Hempstead Council, thinly disguised as that all-village guardian and protector: Dacorum Borough Council, why do we need your multistorey concrete in a town you have happily overseen drained of its colour, variety and shape. One you have neglected to 'plan' with care, for over thirty years. So much 'for the greater good'. You might fancy a short stroll out of Hemel to see why we don't need your car lump in a town thriving, albeit in chains, without it – or you. Or just come for a haircut.



Local protest has managed to save one of these trees. Unheard of!! But the planned carpark (temporary??) still remains. Heard of.

Skin and Moan

"As a supporter of your excellent work, I was aggrieved to read your "Rant" (Skin deep...) in September's programme. The tone was deliberately divisive and extremely offensive. The references made do not reflect any reality I recognise. Had this level of hateful abuse been directed at another race, religion or LGBT community, instead of 50% of the population, you would have committed a criminal offence."

(An extract from a polite, if anxious, letter. Thank you.)

There is much to hear and say outside this cancer of extreme censorship, where language is outlawed by consent. Hiya Stalin? Talking is essential now, and in straight language. Everybody is scared. Ignorance, bigotry and rejection of knowledge are celebrated. The English have embraced it on an epidemic scale. Worse than right/left extremes, is the Neither. Disqualified youth, black and white, aggressively celebrate it. This refuge in ignorance has aided the growth of unnatural hatred/fear, not only of foreigners, but everything outside the huddled sphere of the gullible's consent to believe what is safe to believe. The most dangerous 'fear itself' is fed by a comforting dispassionate blind eye. 'Me Too' is one word too many, to many. The celebration of ignorance or gullible consent might be the most urgent things to face, not accusations of 'criminal offence'. Irreverence and humour are our best weapons, sadly absent here. But have you heard the one about... the LGBT, PMT and BLT?



The Rex black and white fat cat.
More Postman Pat than Diversity.

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RANTS AND PANTS

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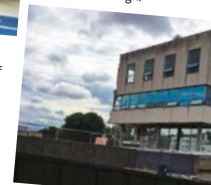
Picture courtesy The Times 13th August 2018

Beauty is skin-deep... skin

Our fabulous athletes, our victorious British relay team splashed across the front pages of tomorrow's papers. They celebrate winning gold proudly in GBR vests. What colour are they? Shall we send them back now? Yeah ok, so where shall we send them 'back' to: Engerland...? Independence is one of life's greatest adventures but 48% v 52% is not independence, nor an adventure. It is merely half 'The People' getting it wrong all at once. The full impact of the ugliest side of that pox'd phoney 'the people have spoken' Brexit vote came quickly. Within weeks/months British people were being lined-up to be 'sent back'. White-eyes and copycat rednecks were/are celebrating the notion of British/Englishness as non-European white, born bred and proud. As are these golden skinned athletes, with some of the same regional North, Midland, Southern, Neutral accents, with allegiances intact. To be born, bred and proud of an accident of birth is insane. But it rules the Earth. This tiny island, once the World's bigshot is now an irritating busbody, as it deserves. White accidents are no longer or more entitled. Perhaps, for us largely pink/grey bloated fake-tanned whitish accidents masquerading as supreme, there is a fair chance that "your times is over..." (Butch & Sundance 1969) Fat chance. The only truly pure white coloured man I know is a skinny vegan genius who lives like a cave spider in Streatham.

A Huge Short Lost... In Our T

I am very sad to see this sort of apart like this. Since 1977 it has been a fact I grew to love its expansive co-offices and post-concrete gran where I rummaged all my tricks. Boxmoor's vibrant punk Arts Centre letting go of the Rex. And I met great individuals, eccentric if not many have not lived to see its brutal demolition. My last visit (last summer) now gladly lie in rubble. That Berkhamsted multi-a foregone. Enough.



Dacorum Civic Centre c1977

A FEW SMALL STEPS FOR MAN - TO STAY ALIVE AND SANE:

1. Never believe: "...but it's for your own good" neither the killer leaving-you line "it's not you - it's me..."
2. "Don't trust a woman who pronounces the first 'd' in Wednesday" (attributed to Dorothy Parker?)
3. Never go IN for tests. You might walk in, but you won't be walking out.