

THE-REX

PROGRAMME

ATOMIC BLONDE

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 • ISSUE 150
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 27

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)

Director: James Hannaway
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Advertising: Chloe Butler
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
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 SEPTEMBER



Slack Bay

Bonkers, surreal, straight faced, disgusting comedy. Back to the Rex by no demand at all. Don't miss. See page 24

FILMS OF THE MONTH



From the Land of The Moon

Back at the Rex for Marion Cotillard driven by the destructive notion of love itself... Fabulous. See page 10



Girls Trip

Raunchy, raucous and sassy... a freewheeling focus on friendship. A fun chic-flick for September. See page 15



Final Portrait

Geoffrey Rush is on his wittiest (Oscar) form as 20thC Italian painter and sculptor Giacometti. See page 19



Maudie

A gentle film to break your heart with infectious positivity. Sally Hawkins is outstanding. See page 23



SEPTEMBER FILMS



Director: Christopher Nolan
 Cast: Fionn Whitehead, Harry Styles, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, Tom Hardy
 Duration: 106 mins
 Origin: Netherlands/UK/France/USA 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Bros.

Dunkirk

Christopher Nolan's meticulous masterpiece is an exercise in clock-work tension and staggering visual spectacle.

Save for an opening paragraph, the politics of war are all but jettisoned as we cut right to the chase, telling a lean tale of survival against all odds. Told from three perspectives (air, sea, land) and intertwining timeframes (one hour, one day, one week) Nolan drops you in the heat of battle and never lets up. It means that the story itself is a little light, making it difficult to connect with our heroes on an emotional level (the Germans, too, are reduced to an intimidating, spectral presence), but that's because Dunkirk is going for a tangible experience; the sea air, sand and shrapnel can all be felt; it helps ground the film in a reality not many other films can match.

It's frighteningly immersive from the very first frame; no 3D required here, just ambitious shooting techniques (high-tech cameras strapped to real Spitfires!) and a score by Hans Zimmer that's so intense, so relentless, it'll cause genuine shell shock that'll linger for days. (*Jack Whiting*) It might be over hyped, over starry and over here. But it's well directed and looks and sounds very real.

When...

Fri 1	7.30	Sat 16	7.00
Sat 2	7.00	Mon 18	2.00
Sun 3	6.00	Thu 21	2.00
Mon 4	2.00	Mon 25	2.00
Mon 4	7.30	Wed 27	2.00
Wed 6	2.00	Wed 27	7.30
Thu 7	2.00	Thu 28	2.00



Captain Underpants

The title of this wacky farce says it all really. What is surprising, in a market stuffed with convoluted 'kids' films – is just how welcome its simplicity is.

The film, based on Dav Pilkey's book series, is about two friends, George (Kevin Hart) and Harold (Thomas Middleditch) who spend their spare time pulling pranks and creating D.I.Y. comic books about Captain Underpants, a superhero whose outfit boldly acknowledges that many superhero costumes are in fact little more than fancy undies.

The boys' nemesis is Mr. Krupp (Ed Helms) the school principal. You know he's mean when he has a sign on his desk that reads 'Hope dies here'. When the boys hypnotise him, he turns into the said Y-fronted super-hero and the story goes into overdrive, with the Captain becoming the world's defence against the evil Professor Poopypants (Nick Kroll).

If names like Professor Poopypants elicit even the slightest smirk (I'm not just talking about kids) then this is a no-brainer. Your inner 5 year old will dig it. (*research Jack Whiting*) But to be on the safe side, bring an outer 5yr old with you. If you can't find one, come without.

Director: David Soren
 Voices: Ed Helms, Kevin Hart, Thomas Middleditch
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: USA 2017
 Certificate: U
 Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Sat 2 2.00



Gifted

Gifted is one of those films systematically engineered to extract tears from as many audience ducts any hankie can take; whether those tears are worth their salt or not is up to you.

Chris Evans who is usually seen punching supervillains and flexing his considerable biceps as Captain America, plays Frank, who's raising his seven-year-old niece Mary (a fab McKenna Grace). The twist being the girl is a genius-level maths prodigy and top-level precocious twerp, the kind that blurts out both numerical square roots and smart-ass mouthies with ease. Frank talks to Mary like she's an adult and she talks it back. In one scene, she asks him to tell her the truth about God. Backlit by a vibrant orange sunset, director Marc Webb captures her in silhouette as she climbs over her uncle like a small monkey. Sounds corny? It is. Yet even the fact that the movie borrows heavily from Good Will Hunting, Five Easy Pieces, family tragedies, custody-battle courtroom dramas, other feel-good flicks and every egghead vs justice, class/prejudice-conflict, you've ever seen, it is totally forgivable. Cuteness reigns. (*research Jack Whiting*) As does some cracking easy to watch turns from the main pair. Come dry eyed.

Director: Mark Webb
 Cast: Chris Evans, McKenna Grace, Lindsay Duncan
 Duration: 101 mins
 Origin: USA 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Tue 5 2.00, 7.30
Wed 20 2.00



Hampstead

The extraordinarily tough-warm, Brendan Gleeson plays a homeless man, renamed Donald, living in his tumbledown shack in a hidden away part of Hampstead Heath. He has made a quiet life for himself.

Like all good yarns, 'true' and fiction, it needs a love interest. The still beautiful Diane Keaton plays Emily, a widow who is half-heartedly considering a last chance at love before it's too late. She finds no luck dating guys in her picture-book North-London neighborhood, until one day when she looks out her window (through binoculars) and sees Donald. They must work together to save Donald's lifestyle from being taken away by 'the man' who wants to build luxury apartments on the land. Along the way, Donald must learn that he can't do it by himself and Emily must learn to live without the luxuries of Hampstead living.

"Diane Keaton's forte, her distinctively nervous, awkward charm, has worn beautifully in an astonishingly long reign as a rom-com queen." (*Empire*) Inspired by the amazing true story of Harry Hallowes, a homeless man whom after 20 years of squatting on the fringes of Hampstead Heath was...? (*research Emma Filippides*) Hampstead (village) looks fabulous, as does Gleeson Snr always, come and see...

Director: Joel Hopkins
 Cast: Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson, Lesley Manville
 Duration: 103 mins
 Origin: UK 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One



From The Land Of The Moon

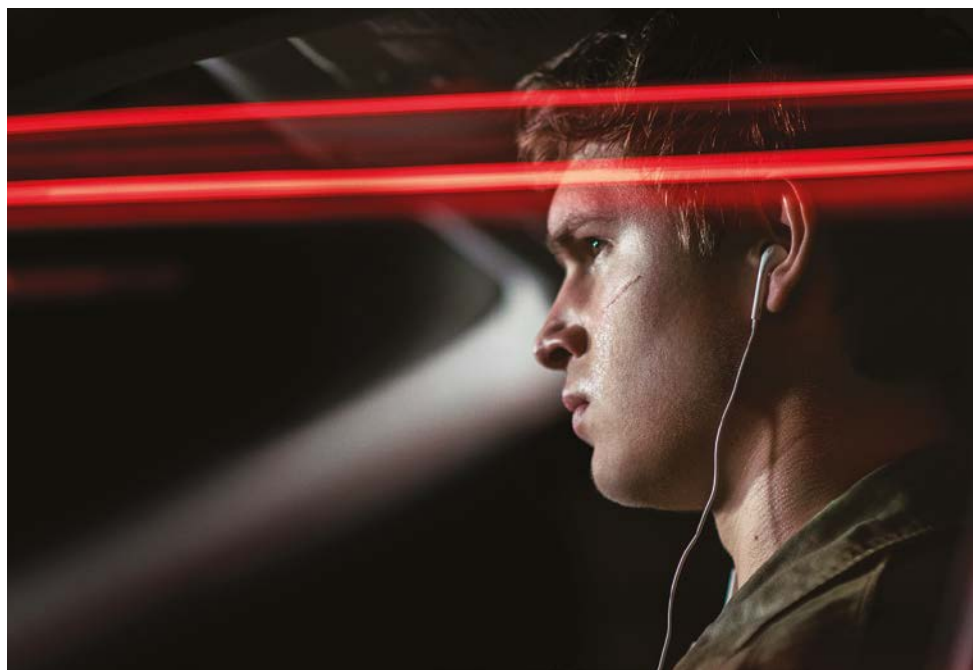
Cotillard plays Gabrielle, a Provençal lavender farmer's daughter who's waging a lifelong war against sexual frustration in the latest offering from French filmmaker Nicole Garcia. Inspired by romantic literature, she believes that profound passionate love is 'la chose principale' – the main reason to live. The kidney stones that torment her could as much be a physical manifestation of her aches of longing and unfulfillment. Gabrielle, who at the film's opening is nursing a wild (and unrequited) crush on the local village schoolteacher, is hastily arranged by her parents (their daughter 'needs a man' tout suite) to be married off to dependable bricklayer José (Alex Brendemühl). The subsequent union splutters along – but soon José packs her off to a residential alpine clinic to have her kidney stones treated. While at the clinic, romance finally bursts into flower. Enter Andre Sauvage (Louis Garrel). He is a French lieutenant and of course ticks every nonsense box on the fantasy-man checklist. In this tale of famous fou-loving the ideal of love, rather than an individual – Gabrielle is driven to rapturous distraction.

"A performance of tremulous commitment from Marion Cotillard" (*Variety*) (*research Emma Filippides*) Tres Francaise, back to be enjoyed again.

Director: Nicole Garcia
 Cast: Marion Cotillard, Louis Garrel
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: France/Belgium/Canada 2016
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Studiocanal

When... **Sun 24 6.00**
Wed 6 7.30 Tue 26 2.00

When... **Thu 7 7.30**



Baby Driver

Make no mistake, *Baby Driver* is pure thrilling big screen cinema. To miss this thrill-ride on our screen is to miss a pure, imaginative and adrenalin fuelled film making itself.

Edgar Wright, one of the few true, and the only British, auteurs in cinema, has fine-tuned his passion project to within an inch of its lense. Every edit, every stunt, every rhythmically timed sequence is meticulously planned and executed. His visual flair is his trademark and his eschewing digital to shoot on 35/70mm film stock is his weapon of choice. Baby-faced Ansel Elgort is behind the wheel as Baby, the getaway driver working for Kevin Spacey. His struggle with tinnitus means he's plugged into his iPod 24/7. For him that means chauffeuring crooks (including Jon Hamm and Jamie Foxx) to and from banks to hi-octane backdrop of classic pop. For us this means car chases and shootouts to the beat of the music. It's a unique big screen experience indeed.

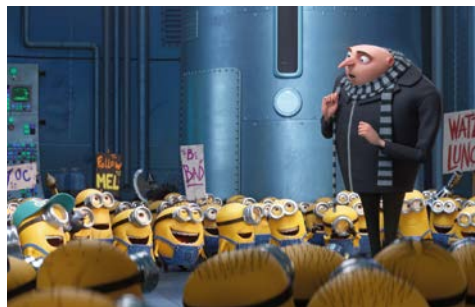
Wright has taken 1978's *The Driver*, *Blues Brothers* and, funnily enough, *La La Land* and put them in the grinder. This slick motor is the result. (*research Jack Whiting*) Fantastic. Doesn't miss a beat. The opening Harlem Shuffle alone is four minutes of genius.



Director: Edgar Wright
Cast: Ansel Elgort, Lily James, Kevin Spacey
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Fri	8	7.30
Thu	21	7.30



Despicable Me 3

Wildly inconsistent tone means you don't quite know what you're getting when walking into a Despicable Me feature, except for the treasured minions, of course. Not to mention Universal's trillion \$ merchandising dream-come-true.

This time, Gru (Steve Carell) discovers he has a twin, Dru (also Carell). Possessed of hair, a sunny outlook and substantial wealth, Dru is pitched as the polar opposite to his surly, self-loathing long-lost brother; he is also keen to re-establish the family tradition of supervillany; the very practice Gru has left behind. It's only a matter of minutes before a heated sibling rivalry is raging.

It's evident immediately, in a fizzy prologue which tees up the bad guy du jour: a fallen child star Balthazar Bratt (Trey Parker) who's villainous M.O. along with his taste in clothes and music, is heavily 1980s-themed (when are they going to leave the 80s, and 70s for that matter, to their natural graves...?). This means self-inflating bubble-gum bombs, and a keystar cannon that fires lethal Van Halen riffs. Yes, the minions are stars but put the yellow blobs obsession to one side and you'll see Bratt is the franchise's most fun addition. (*research Jack Whiting*) Just come it's fab.

Directors: Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin, Eric Guillon
Voices: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: U
Company: Universal

When...

Sat 9 2.00



Hot Fuzz

Prepare for riotous weekend of tight editing and sharp comic timing as Edgar Wright's Hot Fuzz bumps shoulders with his own Baby Driver.

It plays out like a Midsummer Murders on steroids as London super cop Sgt. Angel (Simon Pegg, who co-wrote) gets reassigned to the sleepy village of Sandford and teams with Sergeant Butterman (Nick Frost) to... apprehend a runaway swan!

Hot Fuzz is a treasure trove of movie homages and clichés: from The Stepford Wives to Point Break and beyond; it gets better with each (now big screen) viewing. The jokes are constructed with precision timing, and often the editing itself is the gag, like when they stop a speeding driver after only a few feet of chase, mundane on its own, but filmed with all the intensity of a Michael Bay movie.

It's this constant lampooning of other set pieces and styles that makes Hot Fuzz accessible to the casual viewer as pleasures film know-it-alls. A fraction of the cost of Baby Driver, and set in the middle of Somerset only makes it more impressive how well it holds up a decade on. (*research Jack Whiting*). This is observational film making at its wittiest. Edgar doesn't miss a police 'officer' trick. Don't miss.

Director: Edgar Wright
Cast: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Bill Bailey, David Bradley, Jim Broadbent, Paddy Considine, Steve Coogan
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: UK/France/USA 2007
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Sat 9 7.00



Howards End

Passion, heartache and class divides come to the fore in James Ivory's beautiful romantic drama.

An adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel following three families from different economic circles in London of the early 1900s, *Howards End* focuses on the Middle-class Margaret Schlegel (Emma Thompson) as she befriends Ruth Wilcox (Vanessa Redgrave) the long-ailing wife of businessman Henry Wilcox (Anthony Hopkins). All the while, Margaret's sister, Helen, becomes close to the working-class clerk Leonard Bast (Samuel West) who falls into destitution after taking bad advice from Henry. Jhabvala's Oscar-winning script deftly juggles the characters' romantic and financial troubles, while Ivory's direction manages to cut right to the emotional core. Emma Thompson justly won an Oscar for her performance as the level-headed Margaret, holding her own in moving scenes with Hopkins and Redgrave and cementing herself in cinema folklore.

"Warm and thankfully pacey, this tale of tea and tribulations stands as one of the most memorable of Merchant Ivory's many period pieces." (*Empire*)

"The performances are impeccable, but honours go to Thompson, who manages to make Margaret's saintliness actually seem seductive." (*Time Out*)

(research Chris Coetsee) A fresh airing at the Rex for this 1992 classic Oscar winner. Come and see it on our big screen.



Director: James Ivory
 Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Vanessa Redgrave, Helena Bonham Carter
 Duration: 140 mins
 Origin: UK 1992
 Certificate: PG
 Company: BFI

When...	Mon 11	2.00
Sun 10	6.00	Wed 13 2.00



Le Doulos

Le Doulos is a slang term for "hat", but also doubles as "rat", used to refer to snitches and paid informants in Jean-Pierre Melville's 1962 classic.

Jean-Paul Belmondo plays Silien, a safe-cracker who labours under the reputation of a "doulos" because of his friendship with a cop. His buddy Maurice (Serge Reggiani) is just out of prison and, having already whacked the fence he knows killed his girlfriend while he was inside, is now on the run again because his latest robbery was interrupted by Silien's inspector friend, whom Maurice shoots dead before escaping. Silien is suspected of fitting him up, so he realises that to redeem his criminal honour, he must get the law off Maurice's back by framing an alternative suspect for the cop killing: creepy club-owner Nutthecchio (Michel Piccoli). *Le Doulos* roots itself in traditional noir themes of loyalty and betrayal, of male codes of honour, and ultimately of man's inability to escape his lot in life. In this romantically gloomy environment, no one gets out alive, which, perhaps, is why Melville's doomed protagonists so often encase themselves in their cigarettes' hazy fog. (*Jack Whiting*).

Director: Jean-Pierre Melville
Cast: Jean-Paul Belmondo, Serge Reggiani, Jean Desailly, Monique Hennessy
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: France/Italy 1962
Certificate: 12A
Company: Park Circus

When...

Mon 11 7.30



Alone In Berlin

The ideals of Nazism and inevitable rebellion are approached with a fresh eye in Vincent Pérez' fact-based wartime drama. When a young German soldier is killed in the melee of 1940's France, it is quickly established that he was the much cherished son of middle-aged German couple Otto and Anna Quangel (Brendan Gleeson and Emma Thompson). Now consumed by grief and seeking justice, they form a unique and silent resistance against their country's warring government and begin sending out anonymous anti-Nazi postcards, quickly drawing the ire of Berlin's nazi police. Led by inspector Escherich (Daniel Brühl) a hunt begins for the invisible perpetrators. Terrific performances from the ever-reliable Brendan Gleeson and Emma Thompson, as well as the timely themes of how two seemingly ordinary German citizens refused to remain model citizens by risking their lives to oppose the Nazi regime do wonders to prevent *Alone in Berlin* from wandering down a familiar path of mediocrity, instead laying the groundwork for a thrilling if understated affair.

"Gleeson, Thompson and Brühl give strong performances and this is a well-carpeted film." (*Guardian*) (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Rivetting plot with red hot low key turns from those three. Knocks Churchill and Dunkirk together, into a jacked boot.

Director: Vincent Perez
Cast: Emma Thompson, Brendan Gleeson, Daniel Brühl
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK/France/Germany 2016
Certificate: 12A
Company: Trafalgar Releasing

When...

Tue 12 7.30
Tue 12 2.00 Sun 17 6.00



Girls Trip

Women Behaving Badly. When bestselling author Ryan Pierce (Regina Hall) is invited to give a keynote speech at the Essence Festival, she uses the opportunity to reunite her gang of long-lost college friends; divorced single mom Lisa (Jada Pinkett Smith) aggressively sexual Dina (newcomer Tiffany Haddish) and the elusive Sasha (Queen Latifah) whose celebrity gossip blog is beginning to gain momentum. Ryan's vanity project titled "You Can Have It All" glorifies her marriage to football star Stewart (Mike Colter) but her longtime girlfriends have known her long enough to see through the act, and while they're more than happy to join her in New Orleans, they're not about to sit idly by while the unfaithful Stewart makes a fool of their blissfully unaware best friend. Rude and raucous, *Girls Trip* is *The Hangover* with triple-grade sass. "It doesn't take an old vagrant's penis pressed up against a window to prove that *Girls Trip* means business." (*Vanity Fair*)

"The female-led cast and barrage of raunchy gags will inevitably draw comparisons with *Bridesmaids*, but its bombastic set pieces, freewheeling energy and focus on friendship is more reminiscent of *Magic Mike XXL*" (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee) Sass, raunch and laughter. So, one flick Chics shouldn't miss.



Director: Malcolm D. Lee
 Cast: Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith, Regina Hall
 Duration: 122 mins
 Origin: USA 2017
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Wed 13 7.30
 Thu 14 7.30

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

BABY DRIVER
DUNKIRK
MAUDIE
DETROIT

NEW RELEASES

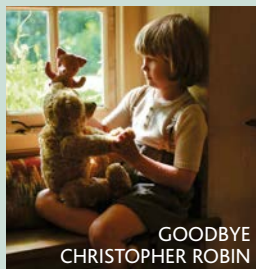
VICTORIA AND ABDUL
BORG vs MCENROE
GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER
ROBIN
AMERICAN MADE



BORG vs MCENROE



VICTORIA AND ABDUL



GOODBYE
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN



AMERICAN MADE



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

SEPTEMBER	FILM	TIME
1 FRI	DUNKIRK	7.30
2 SAT	DESPICABLE ME 3	2.00
2 SAT	DUNKIRK	7.00
3 SUN	DUNKIRK	1.00, 5.00
4 MON	DUNKIRK	12.00, 7.30
5 TUE	MY COUSIN RACHEL	12.00, 7.30
6 WED	HAMPSTEAD	2.00, 7.30
7 THU	DUNKIRK	2.00
7 THU	THE BIG SICK	7.30
8 FRI	GIRLS TRIP	7.30
9 SAT	DESPICABLE ME 3	2.00
9 SAT	BABY DRIVER	7.00
10 SUN	DUNKIRK	1.00
10 SUN	BABY DRIVER	5.00
11 MON	THE BIG SICK	12.00
11 MON	BABY DRIVER	7.30
12 TUE	GIFTED	12.00, 7.30
13 WED	ALONE IN BERLIN	2.00, 7.30
14 THU	CHURCHILL	2.00
14 THU	DUNKIRK	HOH* 7.30
15 FRI	ATOMIC BLONDE	7.30
16 SAT	SPIDER-MAN: HOME COMING	2.00
16 SAT	ATOMIC BLONDE	7.00
17 SUN	HAMPSTEAD	1.00
17 SUN	ENGLAND IS MINE	5.00
18 MON	DUNKIRK	12.00, 7.30
19 TUE	MAUDIE	12.00
19 TUE	THE ODYSSEY (SUBTITLED)	7.30
20 WED	BABY DRIVER	2.00, 7.30
21 THU	REAR WINDOW	2.00
21 THU	FROM THE LAND OF THE MOON (SUBTITLED)	7.30
22 FRI	GIRLS TRIP	7.30
23 SAT	THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE	2.00
23 SAT	CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND	7.00
24 SUN	DUNKIRK	1.00
24 SUN	MAUDIE	5.00
25 MON	WITHNAIL & I	12.00, 7.30
26 TUE	HAMPSTEAD	12.00, 7.30
27 WED	FINAL PORTRAIT	2.00, 7.30
28 THU	DUNKIRK	HOH* 2.00, 7.30
29 FRI	DETROIT	7.30
30 SAT	STEP	2.00
30 SAT	DETROIT	7.00

*Hard of Hearing subtitled screening (HOH) The same format applies but with closed caption subtitles along the bottom of the screen

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

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SEPTEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 FRI	DUNKIRK	7.30	8
2 SAT	CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS	2.00	9
2 SAT	DUNKIRK	7.00	8
3 SUN	DUNKIRK	6.00	8
4 MON	DUNKIRK	2.00, 7.30	8
5 TUES	GIFTED	2.00, 7.30	9
6 WED	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
6 WED	HAMPSTEAD	7.30	10
7 THU	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
7 THU	FROM THE LAND OF THE MOON	7.30	10
8 FRI	BABY DRIVER	7.30	11
9 SAT	DESPICABLE ME 3	2.00	12
9 SAT	HOT FUZZ	7.00	12
10 SUN	HOWARDS END	6.00	13
11 MON	HOWARDS END	2.00	13
11 MON	LE DOULOS	7.30	14
12 TUES	ALONE IN BERLIN	2.00, 7.30	14
13 WED	HOWARDS END	2.00	13
13 WED	GIRLS TRIP	7.30	15
14 THU	CHURCHILL	2.00	18
14 THU	GIRLS TRIP	7.30	15
15 FRI	VALERIAN AND THE CITY OF A THOUSAND PLANETS	7.30	18
16 SAT	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2.00	19
16 SAT	DUNKIRK	7.00	8
17 SUN	ALONE IN BERLIN	6.00	14
18 MON	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
18 MON	FINAL PORTRAIT	7.30	19
19 TUES	MY COUSIN RACHEL	2.00, 7.30	20
20 WED	GIFTED	2.00	9
20 WED	THE BIG SICK	7.30	20
21 THU	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
21 THU	BABY DRIVER	7.30	11
22 FRI	ATOMIC BLONDE	7.30	21
23 SAT	STEP	2.00	22
23 SAT	ATOMIC BLONDE	7.00	21
24 SUN	HAMPSTEAD	6.00	10
25 MON	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
25 MON	MAUDIE	7.30	23
26 TUES	HAMPSTEAD	2.00	10
26 TUES	SLACK BAY	7.30	24
27 WED	DUNKIRK	2.00, 7.30	8
28 THU	DUNKIRK	2.00	8
28 THU	THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD	7.30	24
29 FRI	AMERICAN MADE	7.30	25
30 SAT	THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE	2.00	25
30 SAT	AMERICAN MADE	7.00	25

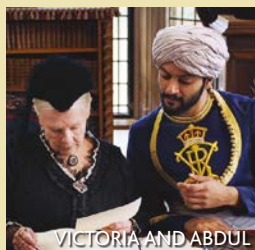
COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

BABY DRIVER
DUNKIRK
MAUDIE
DETROIT

NEW RELEASES

VICTORIA AND ABDUL
BORG vs MCENROE
GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
A GHOST STORY





Churchill

Brian Cox works hard in Jonathan Teplitzky's timely 'lesson' in political leadership.

It opens 96 hours before the Allied invasion of Normandy: D-Day. The man who announced "we shall never surrender" four years earlier is a shell of that Churchill. Exhausted and haunted by guilt over the disastrous Gallipoli debacle in 1915, where many thousands lost their lives, he fears this invasion will have the same horrific results. Falling into depression and the bottle, it is the unwavering support of wife Clementine (a shrewd Miranda Richardson) he needs most to bring him out of his funk and inspire him on to 'greatness'. Whilst benefitting from smart screenwriting and handsome photography, Churchill ultimately relies on its inevitably over-acting lead. Cox's performance of an old man railing against the dying of the light is Lear-esque. A once confident statesman and World leader fearing his place in history is in jeopardy.

"Churchill goes beyond stock images of the machine gun wielding British bulldog in the homburg. It shows his weaknesses." (*Independent*) (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

"What is this film on? It turns the arch bullying, eccentric tough guy into a wobbly-lipped moany snowflake. This might have been a clever counterintuitive film but...?" (*CL ST Culture*) You decide.

Director: Jonathan Teplitzky
Cast: Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson, John Slattery, James Purefoy, Ella Purnell
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Thu 14 2.00



Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

There's more inventiveness in the first fifteen minutes of Luc Besson's bonkers sci-fi opus than in most blockbusters. Ambitious doesn't begin to describe it. It's probably because he's the Frenchman

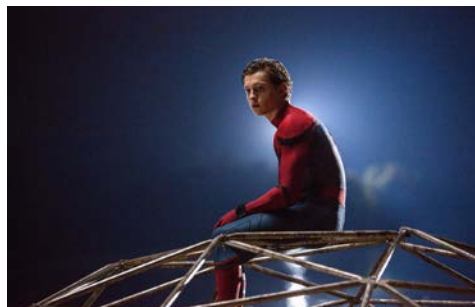
responsible for the wonderful *Leon*, and the equally mental *Fifth Element*. Based on a 1960s comic series that not even many residents of France can recall, *The City of a Thousand Planets* refers to a vast galactic colony comprising numerous alien districts, which Dane DeHaan and Cara Delevingne smash and shoot their way through en route to uncovering the truth about a mysterious extinct planet. Inside the Valerian metropolis, a colourful miscellany of CG extraterrestrials coexist in (relative) harmony: 30 million individuals speaking 5,000 languages, with each species safely cocooned in its own self-sustaining microcosm. There's a lot going against Valerian: a weak script and woefully miscast leads don't help, and yet visually it's on another level, with enough colour and imagination to fuel a thousand dreams. And if you're concerned about marring your taste in high-brow cinema, did I mention it was French? (*research Jack Whiting*)

But it's Luc Besson. (*Leon*, *Fifth Element*, *Angel-A*, *Tell No One*, but also *Taken 1,2&3*.) So forgive that last trio and come to Valerian for the others.

Director: Luc Besson
Cast: Dane DeHaan, Clive Owen, Cara Delevingne
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: France 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri 15 7.30



Spider-Man: Homecoming

Spidey's back! Now part of the ever-expanding Avengers family, Marvel takes it back to school and gives us a super-hero that teens can relate to (how wonderful - hairy faced Studio men sharing their fantasies for 'teens to relate to').

Tom Holland is the third actor to pick up the web-shooters (the second Brit after Andrew Garfield, but we're not boasting) and after stealing Civil War from under everyone in just one sequence, he gets to flex the spandex in his own movie. Homecoming has fun when it wants to be Ferris Bueller, though Peter Parker (Holland) is also a crime-fighting wunderkind. Radioactive spider bite aside, it adheres closely to the John Hughes formula and it's all the better for it. Is there a villain to be bested in Michael Keaton's Vulture? A mechanically winged blue-collar worker out for revenge against Iron Man (Downey Jr. showing up, and off) but that's just the usual Marvel showboating. Will Spider-Man defeat the baddie? Will Peter get the girl and finish his studies? Why does Keaton keep playing birds? (and... who cares) Tune in to find out, true-believers! (*Jack Whiting*) Real people, not crits, say it is a fab film. Bring the whole family. You'll be glad you did.

Director: Jon Watts
Cast: Tom Holland, Robert Downey Jr, Michael Keaton
Duration: 133 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Sat 16 2.00



Final Portrait

Geoffrey Rush's buoyant performance as painter and sculptor Alberto Giacometti brings colour to Stanley Tucci's delightfully playful look at the life of the Swiss painter.

Set in Paris of 1964, and seen through the eyes of American writer James Lord (Armie Hammer), hours turn to days as the faultlessly polite Lord has the fortune and then the misfortune of posing for Giacometti's latest portrait.

Becoming slave to the whims of a creator wracked with self-doubt, Lord is also witness to Giacometti's turbulent personal life, befriending his hard-done-by wife Annette, his devoted brother Diego and his manic mistress Caroline (Clémence Poésy). Optimistic and patient at first, he eventually concedes, taking to other means to relieve the physical and psychological strain. An entertaining examination of the shifting dynamic between artist and subject, *Final Portrait* plays like a farce, beautifully shot but drained of colour to fit Giacometti's sombre visual style. Constant wit and a jaunty score also keep this more than afloat, acting as a breath of fresh air in quagmire of artist biopics.

"There's a lot to dig into here – and Geoffrey Rush hasn't had a showcase this good in years." (*Empire*) (research Chris Coetsee) Low key and not to be missed.

Director: Stanley Tucci
Cast: Geoffrey Rush, Armie Hammer, Clémence Poésy
Duration: 90mins
Origin: UK 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Mon 18 7.30



My Cousin Rachel

Rachel Weisz is perfectly cast as the desirous older woman in Roger Michell's moody black-widow mystery. Orphaned as a young boy, Philip (Sam Claflin) is brought up his odd cousin Ambrose at his Cornish estate, the two forming an inseparable father-son bond. After ill health sees Ambrose take frequent vacations to Italy during the harsh English winters, Phillip unexpectedly receives a letter from him telling of Rachel, a wonderful woman he has married.

As Ambrose's letters begin to sour over the coming months, Philip becomes suspicious, hence journeys to Italy. Upon arriving at the idyllic villa, he is stunned to learn that Ambrose has died and Rachel has mysteriously vanished.

Returning to England, he learns that Rachel has followed him. With the vast estate left to him in Ambrose's will, Phillip struggles to balance suspicion with a growing infatuation as he tries to uncover the true motives of his enigmatic house guest.

The second film adaptation of the Daphne Du Maurier's 1951 novel, almost channels a Hitchcockian level of anxiety, leaving little room to breathe before its darkly delicious build up.

(*Research Chris Coetsee*) It is Du Maurier, so expect twists. Come, see if the film can carry it off.

Director: Roger Michell
Cast: Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin, Iain Glen
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA/UK 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: 20th Century Fox



The Big Sick

The 'doomed romance by way of illness' sub-genre receives a welcome entry in this largely improvised comedy.

Starring Kumail Nanjiani, and based on his true-life experiences with writer Emily Gordon (whom he is now married to). The Big Sick sees Kumail, a version of his younger self – a part-time Uber driver and wannabe standup star, cracking gags from his perch somewhere along the spectrum of comedy geekiness. Emily (Zoe Kazan) starts off by heckling Kumail during his standup and winds up having a romance with him. Kazan combines her doe-eyed and rather cherubic beauty with a plausible mix of intelligence and vulnerability. The film takes a sharp turn when Emily succumbs to an unknown illness and spends the second act in a coma. Kumail then has the unenviable task of bonding with her oddball parents Holly Hunter and Ray Romano.

Audiences have grown (I hope) smarter to the ways of the traditional rom-com (overly twee scenarios, forced and unrealistic exchanges) so it's up to these more natural stories to fly the flag. Thank goodness then that this one is heartfelt and genuine. (*Jack Whiting*) Improvised and autobiographical, so beware.

Director: Michael Showalter
Cast: Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Holly Hunter, Ray Romano
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Tue 19 2.00, 7.30

Wed 20 7.30



Atomic Blonde

Baby Driver isn't the only perfect marriage of soundtrack and action this year, Atomic Blonde takes synth sounds of the '80s to hypnotic heights.

One half of the director combo for John Wick drops Charlize Theron into East Berlin at the tail end of the Cold War and the last days of the Wall, in a spy romp that aims for John le Carré but gets closer to Jason Bourne. Theron is Lorraine an MI6 lorraine indeed. She makes life hell for her handlers (Toby Jones and John Goodman). They need her to stop a secret list of undercover double agents from falling into the usual wrong hands.

Something goes wrong along the way however (otherwise why bother). Enter James McAvoy as a twitchy secret agent with the usual past. If you're not here for the fight sequences? They're astonishingly good. From a beating-up (and down and inside-out) involving Theron's stiletto heel and a thug's jugular vein, to a climactic free-for-all in a swanky hotel suite where soundtrack: 99 Luftballoons accompanies every gunshot and gut-punch. Atomic Blonde is every bit as sexy, slick, and silly as its title. (*Jack Whiting*)

Sounds like fun, then there's always Toby Jones... to save any film.



Director: David Leitch
Cast: Charlize Theron, James McAvoy, Sofia Boutella
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Fri 22 7.30 Sat 23 7.00



Step

After the fantasy of Wonder Woman some feisty feminist reality that remains entirely grounded is welcome; and here it is. At the heart of a sociopolitically volatile Baltimore, *Step* follows a group of young African-American women using dance as an expression of anger, passion, and most significantly, a desperate desire for change. Founded by director Amanda Lipitz, the Baltimore leadership school for young women has one agenda: helping low-income students to graduate. This enlightened documentary follows the schools dance project STEP. It offers personal insight into the lives of financially disadvantaged and discriminated against individuals through the collective frame of their solidarity. The film focuses on three young women. Here one of them summarises: "STEP taught me if you come together with a group of powerful women the impact will be intense". Their transition from adolescence to womanhood is both empowering and ferocious while the music keeps it a lighter-hearted, lovable feature. "It is a highly pertinent story told in an entertaining way" (*NY Times*)

"This movie fires on every cylinder, investing viewers in personal stories that couldn't have higher stakes and inviting them on a journey that pays off in ways expected and utterly surprising." (*Washington Post*)
(research Grace Atkins) Bring the street.

Director: Amanda Lipitz
Cast: Blessin Giraldo, Cori Grainger, Tayla Solomon, Gari McIntyre, Paula Dofat
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Sat 23 2.00



Maudie

Sally Hawkins artfully brings the achingly true story of 30's folk artist Maud Lewis to life in Aisling Walsh's gentle biopic.

Maud, a naive thirty-something spinster, saddled with arthritis and a bleak future sees her modest life take an unprecedented turn when she meets gruff, old-fashioned bachelor Everett Lewis (Ethan Hawke). In between her household chores, Maud fills postcards and other scraps with her charmingly unsophisticated paintings of birds, flowers and other basic subjects. When one of Everett's fishmonger customers with an eye for art and sympathy for a working woman offers to buy a few of them, Maud and Everett find themselves at the helm of a fledgling business.

The ever-versatile Hawkins crafts a beautiful spirit from an increasingly twisted role, capturing the unjust existence of a simple woman who longs for simplicity. Hawke similarly gives his all and both act as an example of an artist at work.

A portrait of a woman in thrall to art and nature.

Infectious and inspiring.

"As unassuming and gentle as its subject, Maudie breaks your heart with its infectious positivity and an outstanding Sally Hawkins." (*Time Out*) (research Chris Coetsee) Sounds and looks fantastic. Come.



Director:	Aisling Walsh
Cast:	Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke, Kari Matchett
Duration:	116 mins
Origin:	Ireland/Canada 2016
Certificate:	12A
Company:	Sony Pictures

When...

Mon 25 7.30



Slack Bay (Ma Loute)

Critics hated it. But that's not the only reason it is back. Even when director Bruno Dumont is being funny you need to be prepared...!

Stick with me! Set in the summer of 1910, Slack Bay is a very surreal black comedy mystery 'thriller' set in the not-so picturesque flats of the North Normandy coastal marshes. It is a mystery that unfolds in short folds. This is a deliberate strategy rather than failure of imagination, as are the straight-faced, comedic shenanigans. Haute bourgeois André arrives at his summer home on Slack Bay with wife Isabelle and sister Aude, just as the farcical and ridiculously rotund police Inspector Machin is summoned to investigate a spate of mysterious disappearances.

This vicious dissection of the French class system carries echoes of Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Delicatessen*, although plenty of pratfalls and slapstick are imported from Laurel and Hardy, Tati, Python, and Clouseau. A very odd allsorts indeed. (*research Jack Whiting*) Apart from Binoche and Luchini these extraordinary faces, you will see nowhere else and some, never again. If nothing else, come for them, casual incest, and other less edifying things.

Above all come for that something you will talk and laugh about long afterwards, like divorce. Don't miss.

Director: Bruno Dumont
Cast: Fabrice Luchini, Juliette Binoche, Valerie Bruni Tedeschi
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: France/Germany 2016
Certificate: 15
Company: Verve

When...

Tue 26 7.30



The Hitman's Bodyguard

A consensus: if you can't get Shane Black (Kiss Kiss Bang Bang, The Nice Guys) to write smart dialogue for your buddy-cop comedy, just go loud and silly.

Luckily for *The Hitman's Bodyguard*, the combined comedy force of Samuel L. Jackson and Ryan Reynolds makes for a winning formula. Simple: Jackson plays Darius the hitman, Reynolds, Michael his bodyguard. They need to get from London to The Hague without getting killed. Uh oh! There's an inexhaustible army of Belarusian mercenaries doing all kinds to rub them out enroute, eg: firing bazookas down Amsterdam canals, all to prevent Darius from testifying against genocidal warlord Vladislav Dukhovich (Gary Oldman on his day off).

It's a good thing their banter works. The script is, after all, tailor made to suit this odd-couple well. The rest is so over-the-top, the only way is to play along. It's *Tom & Jerry*, where Jackson can take a bullet, extract it himself there and then and jump off a roof without even an apologetic limp. (*research Jack Whiting*) Turn an otherwise dull *Weight-Watchers/Gym*, evening into a fun September Thursday Rex night out. Ditch wasted carnal-free sweat. Come and sit, be absorbed/absorbed. Drink and laugh for an hour or so...

Director: Patrick Hughes
Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Salma Hayek, Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman, Elodie Yung, Richard E. Grant
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Thu 28 7.30



American Made

It's been over a decade since Tom Cruise headlined a movie like this. One which isn't beholden to franchise expectations, but one where his charm can actually become the crux of the tale.

'Based On A True Lie', American Made is a biographical comedy about a pilot, Barry Seal (Tom Cruise). Barry is a bit like UPS for illicit cargo; if it absolutely has to get there overnight and it's illegal, Barry is your guy. He doesn't care much about what he's transporting, whether it be guns for the CIA, or drugs for the cartel. He's extremely reliable, and who doesn't like/want/need reliability?

Involvement in a CIA scheme then turns Barry into a smuggler, informant, patriot and one of the richest men in 1980s America, running crates of AK-47s and kilos of cocaine, which also happens to cement him as a key figure in the Iran-contra affair.

Fab director Doug Liman, who is just as comfortable handling the indie gems (Go, Swingers) as he is with the big hitters (Bourne Identity, Edge of Tomorrow) is the perfect candidate to tell this story with just the right level of irreverence. *(research Jack Whiting)* Good words on Tom and Doug. Well said, Jack.

Director: Doug Liman
Cast: Tom Cruise, Domhnall Gleeson, Sarah Wright
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Fri 29 7.30
Sat 30 7.00



The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature

I've never even heard of the first Nutjob, yet here we are, round two. The squirrels are back in this sequel to a film no one remembers.

The purple-coated Surly (voiced by Will Arnett) is still leading the squirrels but they've become lazy, spoilt and fat. Rather than gathering nuts in the park and storing them for winter, they've been relying on supplies they've found in an abandoned "Nut Shop". The obese and creepy mayor has plans to turn their park into a gigantic fairground. When the Nut Shop explodes, the little bushy-tailed rodents are faced with starvation. Sully's attempts to find popcorn and doughnuts come to nothing and he makes an enemy of Mr Feng (Jackie Chan) the cute looking but vicious leader of the city's Kung-Fu-kicking street mice. When Feng and his army go on the warpath, the filmmakers throw in fun puns eg: 'weapons of mouse destruction...!'

It's enough to give adults a severe nut (job) allergy, but as a 91 minute distraction for little ones, you could do a lot worse... The Emoji Movie – worse!! *(research Jack Whiting)*

Mercifully short, and it might rain that day.

Director: Cal Brunker.
Voices: Will Arnett, Katherine Heigl, Maya Rudolph
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: Canada/USA/South Korea 2017
Certificate: U
Company: Warner Bros.

When...

Sat 30 2.00

Sharking Parking...

Two parking notices, one from the gorgeous Hemel High Street the other, Berkhamsted. As you will see, they differ rather more than is easily understood. They look like fees plucked from the air, or worse, from some sub-committee's imaginings; Berkhamsted can afford to pay more for the same privilege of leaving your car safely between two white lines while you go wandering, shopping, meeting, carousing or just to get out of the car and walk for a little. The Rex and Odyssey have had to look into tickets and drinks prices in the light of the new business rates, increased supply costs introduced in April, and new staffing costs to begin in September. Before deciding a fair and modest increase, we researched bars and box offices, taking into account how much we needed to run successfully with average tickets and drinks prices across the board. We were astounded at each. Ours remain under in both pub/bar and cinema. We could almost boast "Never Knowingly Undersold" but someone beat us to it. We never

knowingly understand a word anyway, even though there are only three. Expensive PR weasels, every one, meaningless. At the risk of preaching, we remain committed to fairness and thrive. I have enjoyed unsolicited advice a number of times to put prices up, because 'People in this area can afford it... People would pay twice as much to come here...' Fortunately I rarely listen to advice. To "know the price of everything and the value of none" as Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde put it, has been my maxim since I was 28. It was a good year. Now at the risk of being smug, from Oscar's few words, we are all enjoying good years at both houses. Jesus, Mary & St Joseph... that is smug indeed. Nevertheless, the question arising from this smugness, is how did Dacorum Borough Council decree our mutual car parks should be at different charges. Discuss or not? Ps... Very sorry Hemel, if this goes the wrong way and they put you up, rather than bring Berko down.



Welcome High Street car park

All vehicles must display a valid parking permit or have a valid RingGo session

Park wholly within a marked space

Hours of operation

At all times

Charges

Monday - Sunday 8am - 6pm

0-1 hour	£0.50
1-2 hours	£0.70
2-3 hours	£0.90
3-4 hours	£1.10
4-10 hours	£1.60

Charges apply every day including weekends and public holidays.

 No charge. Display valid badge in windscreen.



Welcome Lower Kings short stay car park

All vehicles must display a valid parking permit or have a valid RingGo session

Park wholly within a marked space

Hours of operation

At all times

Charges

Monday - Sunday 8am - 6pm

Maximum stay 4 hours

0-1 hour	£0.70
1-2 hours	£1.30
2-3 hours	£2.00
3-4 hours	£2.60

Maximum stay 4 hours. For longer stay parking please use St John's Well Lane car park

 No charge. Display valid badge in windscreen.