

# THE REX

M A G A Z I N E



THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL  
APRIL 2014...

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

*Britain's Best Cinema - Guardian Film Awards 2014*

APRIL 2014 Issue 109  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

**01442 877759**  
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**“Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever...”** (STimes Culture)

<b>Gallery</b>	<b>4-5</b>
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<b>Kitty Clucas</b>	<b>Amberly Rose</b>
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## BEST IN APRIL



### The Past

French tale of love. Gorgeous faces, no acting, perfect. Mon 28th 7.30

## FILMS OF THE MONTH



### Monuments Men

Fab cast, critics hated it, so come. Wed 2nd / Thu 3rd / Fri 4th 7.30pm



### Tim's Vermeer

A complete treasure. Artist's impression of being wrong. Mon 7th 7.30



### 20 Feet From Stardom

1000 miles from the money. Fabulous, anonymous and immortal. Tue 29th 7.30

## WE WON A STATUETTE...



“Hi Team Rex,  
This MUST be kept under wraps until March 7, BUT, you have been voted as Best Cinema in the Guardian's first event Film Awards. We would love to see you there and are offering you 2 x tickets to the celebration evening this Thursday 6 March in London. Please see

invitation and let me know the names and contact details of the 2 people who can attend the party and pick up the award.

Congratulations!

Looking forward to seeing you there.  
Best, Amanda ”

By email – 1st March 2014







Yes, on the 6th March 2014, we won a prize. In the Guardian's first film awards, they gave us a fabulous wooden statuette for being the best cinema in the whole Country. It was a party in some gorgeous post-modern club-palace on the South Bank. The ceremony was perfectly understated with Peter Bradshaw reading out the winners from a balcony,

while their pictures came up on overhead screens. Our trophy nestled on a back shelf among those belonging to Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett and The Great Beauty. Here are a few pictures from the evening with Anna S, Ed M, James & Elizabeth H, swanning about with Peter Bradshaw. Thank you to all those who voted for us. Here's to another ten years.





A P R I L   E V E N I N G S

## Dallas Buyers Club

Tue 1 7.30



**Matthew McConaughey has been having somewhat of a winning streak of late, and now he's hit the jackpot in Dallas Buyers Club with a moving, unforgettable and Oscar skinny performance.**

With a deadly virus in his body and red tape around his throat, Ron Woodroof is fighting back. This is a drama of entrepreneurial self-help from the Reaganite 1980s. It is based on a true story about a heterosexual good ol' Dallas Texan boy with a previously unknown and yet to be invented, sex addiction.

Ron is told in 1986 that he has Aids and only 30 days to live, but defies the odds, gives the finger to the complacent doctors and the AZT merchants of Big Pharmaceuticals. Like Erin Brockovich in a later era, knuckles down to some research, finding alternative drug therapies in foreign countries; a no mean feat in the pre-Google era. Soon, Ron has set up a buyers' club, niftily sidestepping US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) laws about drugs selling by getting HIV/Aids patients to pay for 'membership' in which imported medicines are notionally free.

"Dallas Buyers Club fits the 'Breaking Bad' moment well, offering a difficult hero whose personal code takes on an intriguing coherence." (*Time Out*) Definitely worth seeing, as much for Jennifer Garner as the tale. She's the cool one playing the straight man to McConaughey's star turn.

**Director:** Jean-Marc Vallée  
**Starring:** Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Entertainment One UK

## Monuments Men

Wed 2 7.30, Thu 3 7.30,

Fri 4 7.30

**Director:** George Clooney  
**Starring:** Matt Damon, George Clooney, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**A far cry from the bullet riddled battlefields of Saving Private Ryan; Monuments Men is a well mannered but ultimately dull account of the men who set out to save Private Rodin from the Nazis.**

George Clooney is the decent curator in charge of a seven-man mission. His second in command (Matt Damon) is also decent. Next comes Lt Jeffries (Hugh Bonneville), very decent, but likes a sip. Then there's grouchy Sgt Bill Murray. Plus the even-grouchier Private Bob Balaban. Then there's the gloriously sarcastic John Goodman, and the very French Frenchman (Jean Dujardin). Based on a book by Robert M. Edsel, Monuments Men explains how, towards the end of WWII, roughly 350 experts, from 13 countries (mostly middle-aged art historians and museum personnel, not this lot) were sent by Roosevelt to protect and secure paintings and monuments plundered by the Nazis. It's co-written and directed by Clooney, and it shows. Everything about Monuments Men is polite. What might have been a riveting, heist thriller is instead a plodding, caper that can't quite settle upon Ocean's Eleven tomfoolery or sentimental camaraderie.

"The Monuments Men also discovered a Nazi stash of gold bullion. The gold got all the press. It still does. Look at the movie business. But don't look here. Not in this proudly untrendy, uncynical movie." (*Rolling Stone*) (*research Jack Whiting*). "untrendy, uncynical" ... Sounds great.





## August: Osage County

Sat 5 7.00



**Meryl Streep plays Violet Weston in this film adaptation of Tracy Lett's award-winning Broadway stage play.**

She is a cantankerous Oklahoma matriarch who, on becoming a widow, assembles her extended family for the funeral weekend. Her daughters Barbara (Julia Roberts), Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) and Karen (Juliette Lewis) bring along their various partners and children. Violet is suffering from mouth cancer and constantly self-medicating and Barbara is facing the end of her marriage, yet they may be the least-suffering members of the Weston clan. There's incest, attempted rape, familial abuse and horrible home cooking to deal with, not to mention the general despair of living in the Mid-West in 2007.

"Julia Roberts is the best she has been in years as the daughter, terrified of turning into her mother." (*Observer*)

"As for Chris Cooper, he threatens to steal the film out from under everyone's noses with yet another quietly commanding performance which suggests untapped depths of anger and remorse." (*Guardian*)

"A vastly enjoyable theatrical banquet, if perhaps not a profound one, is served up in a bit of a rush here, as if they can't wait to get the next sitting in. But you certainly don't come away feeling hungry." (*Telegraph*)

It is a talkie from start to finish, but with a brilliant script, and considering the cast, not too much ACTING to suffer. Don't miss.

<b>Director:</b>	John Wells
<b>Starring:</b>	Meryl Streep, Ewan McGregor, Julia Roberts
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	121 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	USA 2013
<b>By:</b>	Entertainment Film Distributors

## The Wolf of Wall Street Sun 6 6.00



**Martin Scorsese and his muse Leonardo DiCaprio are having the time of their lives with *Wolf of Wall Street*, and the self-indulgence is uninhibited.**

DiCaprio plays the real-life no-mark, salesman, Jordan Belfort, an unscrupulous stock-market wizard who, in his early twenties, became a multi-millionaire by fleecing Americans out of their investments. Belfort, along with his goofy-toothed sidekick Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill) lived high on the hog for the best part of a decade, a constant round robin of booze, hookers and hard drugs. And it is very dull.

In theory, Belfort represents the most destructive and obnoxious side of late-20th century American capitalism. His antics in the early 1990s helped to pave the way for the financial collapse of 2008. As his mentor, Mark Hanna (Matthew McConaughey in a piece of one scene brilliance) tells him, "We don't create shit, we don't build anything, we sell nothing to any dumb-ass who'll buy." Belfort is pitiless, shameless and remorseless. An indulgent cliché of self at any cost (*other's*).

In Belfort, Scorsese has created yet another anti-hero? He can stand up to the likes of Travis Bickle, Henry Hill, even Howard Hughes. (*JackW*) It could have been told in 20 minutes. Three hours of repetition and grandstanding with some decent eight minute scenes.

**Director:** Martin Scorsese  
**Starring:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Matthew McConaughey, Jonah Hill  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 180 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Tim's Vermeer Mon 7 7.30

**Director:** Teller  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 80 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

**Tim Jenison, attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all art: How did 17th century Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer manage to paint so photo-realistically 150 years before the invention of photography?**

Directed, produced and narrated by eccentric magicians Penn and Teller comes a doc about their friend Tim, whose curious mind made him a millionaire inventor.

The epic research project Tim embarks upon spans nearly a decade. It takes him to Delft in Holland and on a pilgrimage to the North coast of Yorkshire to meet artist David Hockney, and even to Buckingham Palace to see a Vermeer masterpiece in the Queen's collection. Following a hunch he got in the bath, the story covers the years it took Tim to create the circumstances in which to test his theory. The ultimate proof is his own recreation of Vermeer's *The Music Lesson*.

"Here is an entertaining and entirely watchable documentary that sets out to prove that any old brush-swinging amateur can paint as brilliantly as the 17th-century Dutch master." (*Guardian*) "Teller manages a careful enough balance between painstaking technique and a larger cultural context over 80 brisk minutes to make even minor revelations feel like major moments." (*Film.com*) A film for all art lovers. (*Anna Shepherd*) and those who love passionate, well made films about art, fishing, racing cars or anything under the sun.







**Director:** Brian Percival  
**Starring:** Geoffrey Rush, Sophie Nélisse,  
Emily Watson  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 131 mins  
**Origin:** Germany/USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## The Book Thief

**Tue 8 7.30, Wed 9 7.30,  
Sun 13 6.00**

Based on the beloved international bestseller, *The Book Thief* tells the story of an extraordinarily spirited young girl, Liesel Meminger (Sophie Nélisse) sent to live with a foster family, the Hubermanns, in a small unremarkable German town. Liesel turns out to be illiterate and the kindly Hans Hubermann (Geoffrey Rush) and his cranky heart-of-gold wife Rosa (Emily Watson) not only teach her to read, but turn their basement walls into blackboards covered with words.

As time passes and wartime privations grow worse, their domestic situation turns more dangerous with the arrival of Max Vandenburg (Ben Schnetzer), the fugitive son of a Jewish comrade who saved Hans' life during WWI. Honour-bound to hide the young man from the authorities, the family nurse him back to health from serious illness and Max eventually bonds with the fascinated Liesel. She's sworn to tell no-one of his presence, not even new best-friend Rudy (Nico Liersch)...

*The Book Thief* is a heart-breaking retelling of tales of Nazi Germany. Like Stalin's USSR and every African conflict (every five minutes) – the Holocaust was a time of unimaginable horror, but even during the worst moments of man's inhumanity, there were good people who risked their lives to protect strays and shelter Jews in basements. (*research Jane Lucas*)

Apparently the book is brilliant. Hopefully the film is too.



**Director:** James Griffiths  
**Starring:** Nick Frost, Rashida Jones, Chris O'Dowd  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2014  
**By:** Studiocanal

## Cuban Fury

**Thu 10 7.30, Fri 11 7.30**

**Who would've thought Nick Frost could be so light on his feet? The comedic writing/acting partner of Simon Pegg flies (salsas) solo in this sweet, throwaway rom-com.**

Frost plays Bruce Garrett, a shy, overweight office worker who abandoned his boyhood brilliance in the world of salsa dancing in shame after he was beaten up by bullies. But then, in early middle age, he falls for his gorgeous boss Julia (Rashida Jones) who happens to be a huge salsa fan, and Bruce sees a shot at redemption.

"The truth is that Nick Frost clearly can't dance at all well, and no amount of sneaky framing and editing can conceal the fact that he looks like the celeb on *Strictly Come Dancing* who goes out in the first round." (*Guardian*)

In true 'nice guy gets girl' fashion, Bruce works his twinkle toes to win over the object of his affections; going as far as to get help from an overly camp dancer (played with brilliant verve by Four Lions' Kayvan Novak).

It's Chris O'Dowd however, who stands out (as always) as smug rival Drew. Nothing against Frost but I couldn't help thinking what it could have been with O'Dowd as the leading man. Still, it's fluffy, inoffensive stuff with a smattering of giggles. (*Jack Whiting*)

Friday salsa-class dancers will (should/may) love it. Sounds like fun. Come.



## Non Stop

Sat 12 7.00



In **Non-stop** everyone, and I mean everyone, is shift. I suppose that's part of the fun in a who-done-it to second guess the audience at every turn. It helps then that the performances are all equally (and we hope deliberately) B-movie awful. Liam Neeson, in true Hollywood style, plays Bill Marks; a divorced, alcoholic air marshal with a fear of flying. He boards a flight from New York to London when he begins to receive text threats saying someone on the plane will die every twenty minutes unless \$150 million is handed over. The passengers, including Julianne Moore, Downton's Michelle Dockery and 12 yrs... Lupita Nyong'o, are never far from suspicion. Neeson then proceeds to run up and down the aisle shouting and punching until he finds the bugged 106 minutes later. There are already superior, airborne thrillers out there (*Snakes on a Plane*) but *Non-Stop* is not a patch. Perhaps if he kept his phone off during the flight (as you're supposed to!) this infuriating game of guess-who might have turned into an exciting film about average passengers having an uneventful flight. *Non-Stop* is perfect in-flight, B-movie entertainment, but leave your brain with your heavy luggage, you won't like working it out too early. (research Jack Whiting)

Fortunately, once discovered it was the only in-flight entertainment on that ill-fated Malaysian plane, foul play will be ruled out.

**Director:** Jaume Collet-Serra  
**Starring:** Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore, Michelle Dockery  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France/USA 2014  
**By:** Studiocanal

## Stranger By The Lake

Mon 14 7.30

**Director:** Alain Guiraudie  
**Starring:** Pierre Deladonchamps, Christophe Paou, Patrick d'Assumcao  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** France 2014  
**By:** Peccadillo Pictures

**Summertime in France. Alain Guiraudie's seductive thriller unfolds on the shores of a lakeside cruising spot for gay men.**

Franck is an attractive young man who falls for Michel; a striking (Tom Selick 'tache kind of chap) extremely compelling but lethally dangerous man.

Whilst waiting for Michel to arrive each day, Franck befriends Henri, a fat, lonely and unhappy guy who sits by himself, away from the others. They share a tender, platonic friendship, and share observations of their world and situation. But when a single, terrible event takes place, the mood of the drama swings to that of classic Hollywood, where a beautiful lake becomes the epicentre of danger.

The film has picked up accolades from festivals around the world including Best Director: Un Certain Regard at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

"Claire Mathon's brilliant cinematography finds an appositely sinister glare in the shimmering water and sunny skies." (Irish Times)

"A gripping and superbly directed picture with something to say about the nature of infatuation and obsession." (ViewLondon) *Stranger by the Lake* is a stunning psychological drama and tense thriller. (Anna Shepherd)

Camilla Long adds. "This is a tale of danger and desires and extremely gay sportswear: possibly the Frenchest film I have ever seen" (ST Culture)







**Director:** Spike Jonze  
**Starring:** Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson, Rooney Mara, Amy Adams  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 126 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

## Her Tue 15 7.30

**Winner of Best Original Screenplay at this year's Oscars. Spike Jonze's self-penned modern romance, starring Joaquin Phoenix as Theodore Twombly; a soulful writer who falls in love with his computer's Operating System, voiced by Scarlett Johansson.**

Set in Los Angeles (but also filmed in Shanghai) in the near future and marvellously lit with afternoon sunshine throughout.

Theodore is a successful writer. His job, at which he is extremely skilled, is writing love letters for the tongue-tied at [beautifulhandwrittenletters.com](http://beautifulhandwrittenletters.com).

After finalising his divorce with childhood sweetheart Catherine (Rooney Mara) he becomes disenchanted with what he wants from life and relationships.

When he buys a new super-intuitive software package, he becomes besotted with it.

"Samantha", as the OS calls herself, is as perceptive about his own moods and feelings as he is about the couples he writes about.

"Delightfully played by Phoenix. He brings a lightness, humour and an unexpected sensitivity to Theodore." (*Independent*)

"At once a brilliant conceptual gag and a deeply sincere romance, an unlikely yet completely plausible love story about a man, who sometimes resembles a machine, and an operating system, who very much suggests a living woman." (*NewYorkTimes*)

A beautiful and touching love story. (*Anna Shepherd*) Perhaps it is not so absurd after all. If you come for that 'afternoon sunshine throughout' you should not be disappointed.



## The Rocket

Wed 16 7.30



**Longlisted for this year's Best Foreign-Language Oscar, this charming drama centres on Ahlo (Disamoe), a hapless boy from Laos who is believed in his community to be the bringer of bad luck.**

After a hydroelectric project leaves their village uninhabitable, he and his family set out on a calamity-prone journey in search of a new home. Determined to prove he is not the source of all disaster, Ahlo decides to compete in a dangerous competition to build a giant rocket. Shot through with vibrant colour, and with a flair for highlighting mischief and fun against even the most traumatic of backdrops, *The Rocket* is a real treat from half way round the world, recalling the likes of *Whale Rider* (2002) and last year's *Wadjda* in its celebration of a child's victory over 'grown-up' rules. It is stunning and gorgeous and beautiful... Don't miss.

ps please forgive the badly worded synopsis. Last minute, nearly missed it altogether.

**Director:** Kim Mordaunt  
**Starring:** Sitthiphon Disamoe, Loungnam Kaosainam  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** Australia/Laos/Thailand 2013  
**By:** Eureka Ent.

## Robocop

Thu 17 7.30

**Director:** José Padilha  
**Starring:** Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman, Abbie Cornish  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Studiocanal

**Comparisons to Paul Verhoeven's blood-soaked, modern masterpiece are unavoidable. So let's get it out of the way – it's not nearly as good.**

However, there are bursts of fun to be had in this slick update.

The framework is similar, albeit sorely missing the darkly twisted humour of its forebear. Alex Murphy (*The Killing's* Joel Kinnaman) is the unfortunate cop whose corpse is reborn as the mechanical law enforcer. The megacorporation responsible for his creation, and its maniacal Raymond Sellars (Michael Keaton) do their part in the war against terror by supplying the US military with drones and robotics. Sellars wants to see a friendly face on his best product. Enter Murphy's newly acquired, alloy chassis! Lovingly bolted together by Gary Oldman, *RoboCop* does as he is told by following his programmed directives... at first. As his human brain begins to recall the life and family he left behind, he begins to question his loyalty to his shady masters. After removing the Regan-era corporate-poking satire, and the beautifully clunky movements and uncompromising violence of (original tin-man) Peter Weller, what is left is a glossy, empty shell. *RoboCop* now looks and moves like a shiny Power Ranger. Despite its failings, however, Oldman and Keaton shine together, and at least kids won't have to wait till they're 18 to see it. [Tuesday babies will] (*research Jack Whiting*)





**Director:** Wes Anderson  
**Starring:** Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan, Jude Law  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## The Grand Budapest Hotel

**Fri 18** 7.30,  
**Sat 19** 7.00, **Sun 20** 6.00,  
**Mon 21** 7.30, **Wed 23** 7.30

Ralph Fiennes expertly plays eccentric hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave H. accompanied by Zero (touching newcomer Tony Revolori) the new lobby boy at the famous European hotel.

Perched on top of a mountain, in the fictional Republic of Zubrowka, and reached only by an old-fashioned funicular railway. The story begins when a young writer (Jude Law) meets an impressive old man, the hotel's owner, Mr Zero Moustafa (F. Murray Abraham). The young writer hears the tales of legendary concierge M. Gustave H, who in the pre-war period ran the hotel with impeccable control, style and suavity. Gustave's attentiveness to the rich, old, insecure, vain and needy patrons of the hotel extends to rather more personal services. As he bids farewell to 84-year-old fright Madame D (Tilda Swinton) her shocking murder sets in motion the crazy clockwork of the plot, Wes Anderson style. "Even on a second viewing, you hardly have time enough to take in all its intricate detailing and sumptuous furnishing." (Standard)

"Beneath all the jokiness there's a sense of loss, a nostalgia for an age that neither the filmmakers nor all but a few of their audience can ever have known". (S&S) Bewilderingly star-studded, come and indulge in this grand film in The Grand Rex Cinema over the grand Easter weekend. (Anna Shepherd)







**Directors:** Phil Lord, Chris Miller  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett, Chris Pratt  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Warner Brothers

## The Lego Movie

**Tue 22 7.30, Sat 26 7.00**

The most unfulfilling toy since Blow-  
football, yet somebody very clever  
convinced (emphasis on 'con') kids  
and hapless parents it was fun to  
spend hours constructing something  
that looked square no matter what  
you did with it, and there was always  
that missing piece.

This is a movie about LEGO made with  
digital LEGO with round pieces and a  
camera or two – that's cheating.  
Everybody appears to be raving about it.  
So, not only has it sucked you in again,  
but has made you buy a ticket to see  
what LEGO can do at the movies...!  
Got my own back at last. Rave on.



## Yves Saint Laurent

Thu 24 7.30, Sun 27 6.00



**After being catapulted to international stardom at just 21, this luxurious biography traces the life of the pioneering fashion designer through his most turbulent decades.** Yves (Pierre Niney) goes from being Christian Dior's assistant, to taking over as Head Designer when he dies, to setting up his own eponymous couture house. Travelling through the decades in glamorous locations such as: Paris, New York and Morocco, the film follows Saint Laurent's troubles with addiction and depression, his creative inspirations for his iconic looks and his relationship with his lover and business partner, Pierre Berge (Guillaume Gallienne). "An engrossing story of a man with a singular vision and the price he paid for his many achievements, as well as a fascinating portrait of an industry for whom decadence and indulgence are in the job spec" (*Curzon*) "It's clear that Niney, did not take his performance lightly: reports state that the actor learned to sew, draw, and design, and researched the YSL archives in order to fully embody his character." (*Elle*) For all of you hooked on this or any year's red carpet fashions, or true style on any carpet, this is a must see! (*research Anna Shepherd*)

**Director:** Jalil Lespert  
**Starring:** Pierre Niney, Laura Smet  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2014  
**By:** Entertainment One UK

## Starred Up Fri 25 7.30

**Director:** David Mackenzie  
**Starring:** Jack O'Connell  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**We sure like our prison dramas? The Brits are known for ballsy productions set in cells. Be warned, Starred Up is no farkin different...**

New flavour, Jack O'Connell plays Eric, an authority-baiting teen psychopath. His first week in grown-ups prison after being prematurely transferred (or 'starred up') from a young offenders' institute is a busy one. He fashions a knife from a toothbrush, batters an inmate half to death, almost eviscerates one guard with a radio aerial, bites another in an extremely intimate area and predictably, gets banged up in solitary. But Eric has a bigger problem beyond his own destructive nature. His estranged dad, Neville (fantastic Australian actor Ben Mendelsohn, with an (unfortunately) unreliable 'cockerne' accent) is on the same wing, and he's an even nastier piece of work than junior.

"Director David Mackenzie isn't attempting to craft a larger-than-life antihero here, but delving into the sociology of this hellish subculture, where prisoners and staff alike coexist in this dehumanizing environment. Writer Jonathan Asser brings more than just realism, however, crafting the central father-son relationship on the foundation of classical Greek tragedy." (*Variety*) (oh yeah..?)

Too often hard-hitting, it lacks anything resembling the finesse of *A Prophet*; opting for blunt force trauma to get its message across. (*research Jack Whiting*) Is it yet another predictable BFI, Emperor's support-tights for gritty sledge-hammer English subtlety?



## Le Passé (The Past)

**Mon 28 7.30**



**Asghar Farhadi follows up Oscar success, *A Separation*; with a gripping exploration of the secrets exposed by a collapsing relationship.**

Bérénice Bejo - best remembered as the show-stealing flapper dancer from *The Artist* plays a flaky suburban mother Marie, living on the outskirts of Paris. When her estranged husband, Ahmad arrives from Iran to finalise their divorce, he is surprised to find her in a relationship with Samir (Tahar Rahim from the unforgettable *A Prophet*).

From here Farhadi weaves a complex, intelligent drama, aided in no small part by the note-perfect casting.

Like *A Separation*, *The Past* presents what seems at first to be an easily readable situation, but as the story reveals the history leading up to it, the reality shifts. Populated by notions of duty, parental and filial obligation, the memory of passions long since dwindled and the heavy burden of guilt.

"A mesmerically assured piece of filmmaking, crammed with performances as raw as the emotional nerves they expose." (*Telegraph*)

"The real star is the script, a masterwork of restraint that drip-feeds one explosive revelation after another" (*BFI*)

A gripping, emotional detective story. Don't let this tour de force pass you by. (*Anna Shepherd*)

[No. The real stars are these perfect faces reading that 'masterwork of restraint' so beautifully, to us.]

**Director:** Asghar Farhadi  
**Starring:** Bérénice Bejo, Tahar Rahim  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 130 mins  
**Origin:** France, Italy 2013  
**By:** Curzon Film World

## 20 Feet From Stardom Tue 29 7.30

**Director:** Morgan Neville  
**Starring:** Bruce Springsteen, Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Mick Jagger  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 91 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Altitude Film Distribution

**Noted music documentarian Morgan Neville's film lovingly salutes those unacknowledged but certainly not unsung heroines of the music business, the backing singers.**

They just never got paid anything like they were/are worth. Neville combines extensive interviews with the stars whose careers wouldn't have succeeded without them, with profiles of some of the greatest, most enduring backing vocalists, including Mary Clayton, Darlene Love and Claudia Lennear.

*20 Feet From Stardom's* finest moments spring from the archives: studio and concert performances of the present to Phil Spector's nasty beginnings. The Crystals were in reality, Darlene Love and the Blossoms. Fabulous archive footage of a world which should fallen flat on its starry, boney arse. Without these warbling treasures in tune and keeping time, off to the side in the deep background, every Sting, Springsteen, Lennox, Bowie and Jagger, would still be selling shoelaces at gigs on the way out. "Essentially, an underdog story of incredibly talented people whose huge contributions to our general wellbeing have gone unnoticed." (*Telegraph*) "This spirited, thoughtful look at unheralded but ubiquitous artists gives supreme credit (too late and no extra cash) where credit is due." (*New Yorker*).







## Under The Skin

Wed 30 7.30

**Scarlett Johansson is quietly brilliant as the girl who fell to earth; an alien in human form, on a journey through Scotland.**

Visually and aurally audacious and as mysterious as its central character, Jonathan Glazer's Scottish-set sci-fi about an alien creature who stalks down human prey is a brilliant amalgam of fantasy and reality.

Driving around Glasgow and the surrounding landscape she goes on the prowl in her large white van, effortlessly procuring not-so gullible lads from backstreets and local highways and luring them into an unimaginable void.

Shot on location in Scotland, the filmmaking recalls the realism of Ken Loach as much as the surrealism of David Lynch. Vividly heightened by Mica Levi's discordant string and synth score and Daniel Landin's starkly haunting and beautiful cinematography.

"If you crave certainty in your cinema then you are unlikely to enjoy this. Allow yourself to settle beside Scarlett Johansson's malleable lead, though, and ask questions with her, and its likely to be an invigorating experience." (*Empire*)

"A genuinely unique, full-on sensory experience that treads its own path between narrative clarity and pure visual expression." (*The List*)

A genuinely unique piece of cinema. (*Anna Shepherd*)

Beware the impro conceit asking you to believe genuine Glaswegian kids don't know it's Scarlett Johansson in a black wig.



**Director:** Jonathan Glazer  
**Starring:** Scarlett Johansson  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 108 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2013  
**By:** Studiocanal



## COMING SOON

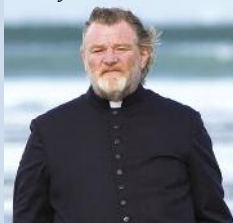
## NEW RELEASES

Calvary  
Only Lovers Left Alive  
Nymphomaniac 1  
Suzanne  
Funny Face

## BACK BY DEMAND

The Grand Budapest Hotel  
The Lego Movie  
Philomena

Calvary



Only Lovers Left Alive



Funny Face



Suzanne



## APRIL FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	TUE	MONUMENTS MEN	12.30
1	TUE	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	7.30
2	WED	MONUMENTS MEN	2.00, 7.30
3	THU	AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY	2.00
3	THU	MONUMENTS MEN	7.30
4	FRI	MONUMENTS MEN	7.30
5	SAT	TINKERBELL & THE PIRATE FAIRY	2.00
5	SAT	AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY	7.00
6	SUN	WOLF OF WALL STREET	6.00
7	MON	TINKERBELL & THE PIRATE FAIRY	2.00
7	MON	TIM'S VERMEER	7.30
8	TUE	THE BOOK THIEF	12.30, 7.30
9	WED	THE BOOK THIEF	2.00, 7.30
10	THU	MR PEABODY & SHERMAN	2.00
10	THU	CUBAN FURY	7.30
11	FRI	CUBAN FURY	7.30
12	SAT	ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH	2.00
12	SAT	NON-STOP	7.00
13	SUN	THE BOOK THIEF	6.00
14	MON	ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH	2.00
14	MON	STRANGER BY THE LAKE	7.30
15	TUE	FROZEN (SING-A-LONG)	12.30
15	TUE	HER	7.30
16	WED	FROZEN (SING-A-LONG)	2.00
16	WED	THE ROCKET	7.30
17	THU	CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	2.00
17	THU	ROBOCOP	7.30
18	FRI	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.30
19	SAT	MATILDA	2.00
19	SAT	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.00
20	SUN	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	6.00
21	MON	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.30
22	TUE	THE LEGO MOVIE	12.30, 7.30
23	WED	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	2.00, 7.30
24	THU	YVES SAINT LAURENT	2.00, 7.30
25	FRI	STARRED UP	7.30
26	SAT	THE LEGO MOVIE	2.00, 7.00
27	SUN	YVES SAINT LAURENT	6.00
28	MON	YVES SAINT LAURENT	2.00
28	MON	THE PAST	7.30
29	TUE	THE LEGO MOVIE	12.30
29	TUE	20 FEET FROM STARDOM	7.30
30	WED	KISS THE WATER	2.00
30	WED	UNDER THE SKIN	7.30



# A P R I L   M A T I N E E S

**ALL MATINEES:** Balcony £5.00 • Table seats £6.50 • Royal Box seats £10.00  
*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*



**Director:** George Clooney  
**Starring:** Matt Damon, George Clooney, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## Monuments Men

**Tue 1 12.30, Wed 2 2.00**

**A far cry from the bullet riddled battlefields of Saving Private Ryan; Monuments Men is a well mannered but ultimately dull account of the men who set out to save Private Rodin from the Nazis.**

George Clooney is the decent curator in charge of a seven-man mission. His second in command (Matt Damon) is also decent. Next comes Lt Jeffries (Hugh Bonneville), very decent, but likes a sip. Then there's grouchy Sgt Bill Murray. Plus the even-grouchier Private Bob Balaban. Then there's the gloriously sarcastic John Goodman, and the very French Frenchman (Jean Dujardin). Based on a book by Robert M. Edsel, *Monuments Men* explains how, towards the end of WWII, roughly 350 experts, from 13 countries (mostly middle-aged art historians and museum personnel, not this lot) were sent by Roosevelt to protect and secure paintings and monuments plundered by the Nazis. It's co-written and directed by Clooney, and it shows. Everything about *Monuments Men* is polite. What might have been a riveting, heist thriller is instead a plodding, caper that can't quite settle upon Ocean's Eleven tomfoolery or sentimental camaraderie. "The *Monuments Men* also discovered a Nazi stash of gold bullion. The gold got all the press. It still does. Look at the movie business. But don't look here. Not in this proudly untrendy, uncynical movie." (*Rolling Stone*) (research Jack Whiting). "untrendy, uncynical" ... Sounds great.



## August: Osage County

### Thu 3 2.00



**Meryl Streep plays Violet Weston in this film adaptation of Tracy Lett's award-winning Broadway stage play.**

She is a cantankerous Oklahoma matriarch who, on becoming a widow, assembles her extended family for the funeral weekend. Her daughters Barbara (Julia Roberts), Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) and Karen (Juliette Lewis) bring along their various partners and children. Violet is suffering from mouth cancer and constantly self-medicating and Barbara is facing the end of her marriage, yet they may be the least-suffering members of the Weston clan. There's incest, attempted rape, familial abuse and horrible home cooking to deal with, not to mention the general despair of living in the Mid-West in 2007.

"Julia Roberts is the best she has been in years as the daughter, terrified of turning into her mother." (*Observer*)

"As for Chris Cooper, he threatens to steal the film out from under everyone's noses with yet another quietly commanding performance which suggests untapped depths of anger and remorse." (*Guardian*) "A vastly enjoyable theatrical banquet, if perhaps not a profound one, is served up in a bit of a rush here, as if they can't wait to get the next sitting in. But you certainly don't come away feeling hungry." (*Telegraph*)

It is a talkie from start to finish, but with a brilliant script, and considering the cast, not too much ACTING to suffer. Don't miss.

**Director:** John Wells  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Ewan McGregor, Julia Roberts  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 121 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

## Tinkerbell and The Pirate Fairy

### Sat 5 2.00, Mon 7 2.00

**Director:** Peggy Holmes  
**Starring:** Mae Whitman, Tom Hiddleston, Christina Hendricks  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 78 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Walt Disney Int'l

**Peter Pan's faithful fairy gets another (now on the fifth!) solo adventure, courtesy of Disney, in this cutesy, swashbuckling mash up that'll charm tiny children and likely to send adults into Neverland.**

"This time around 'Mad Men' star Christina Hendricks is the voice of rebellious Zarina, a fairy with a Tina Turner haircut who steals the gang's pixie dust and runs away to join the pirates. Tom Hiddleston gives it some welly as the voice of young James Hook, not yet a captain and still in possession of both hands. For a kids' film, this has an unnecessarily twisty plot that Christopher Nolan would be proud of (expect a lot of 'Who's that?' and 'Why is she up there?' from five-year-olds)." (*Time Out*)

"Tom Hiddleston has silver-tongued fun as a young Captain Hook, but the results are as unmemorable as they are innocuous." (*Guardian*)

"And, because Hiddleston is a genius and the scriptwriters obviously adore him, the ocean-bound scenes are less tedious than non-fans of the genre might expect." (*Standard*)

What is essentially a straight-to-DVD feature stretched thinly onto the big screen, *Pirate Fairy* nevertheless will delight the very young. (*Jack Whiting*) Parents beware, this one is definitely for little ones. Bring some knitting.





**Director:** Brian Percival  
**Starring:** Geoffrey Rush, Sophie Nélisse, Emily Watson  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 131 mins  
**Origin:** Germany/USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## The Book Thief

**Tue 8 12.30, Wed 9 2.00**

Based on the beloved international bestseller, *The Book Thief* tells the story of an extraordinarily spirited young girl, Liesel Meminger (Sophie Nélisse) sent to live with a foster family, the Hubermanns, in a small unremarkable German town. Liesel turns out to be illiterate and the kindly Hans Hubermann (Geoffrey Rush) and his cranky heart-of-gold wife Rosa (Emily Watson) not only teach her to read, but turn their basement walls into blackboards covered with words.

As time passes and wartime privations grow worse, their domestic situation turns more dangerous with the arrival of Max Vandenburg (Ben Schnetzer), the fugitive son of a Jewish comrade who saved Hans' life during WWI. Honour-bound to hide the young man from the authorities, the family nurse him back to health from serious illness and Max eventually bonds with the fascinated Liesel. She's sworn to tell no-one of his presence, not even new best-friend Rudy (Nico Liersch)...

*The Book Thief* is a heart-breaking retelling of tales of Nazi Germany. Like Stalin's USSR and every African conflict (every five minutes) – the Holocaust was a time of unimaginable horror, but even during the worst moments of man's inhumanity, there were good people who risked their lives to protect strays and shelter Jews in basements. (*research Jane Lucas*)

Apparently the book is brilliant. Hopefully the film is too.



## Mr Peabody & Sherman **Thu 10** 2.00



**Much like Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, or that Family Guy episode; Peabody and Sherman is an enjoyably silly romp through time.**

Derived from a recurring segment of the old 1960s US TV show Rocky and Bullwinkle this animation follows Mr Peabody, a super-intelligent beagle resident in a spectacular New York apartment who has been granted the right to adopt a human boy: this is seven-year-old Sherman (voiced by Max Charles).

Mr Peabody is finicky and precise but a very caring foster parent, with a slight resemblance to Dr Niles Crane in the 90s TV show Frasier. He wants to complete young Sherman's historical education with a time-machine he has invented, allowing them both to visit various important eras.

The vehicle literally driving the plot is Peabody's time-travel machine the WABAC (pronounced 'way back'), which spirits him and Sherman off to the French Revolution, ancient Egypt, the Renaissance and the Trojan wars.

In each era, there's a light sprinkling of historical fact within the context of comedic nonsense. "We learn why Mona Lisa's smile might have been so discreet, what was going on inside the Trojan horse, and the importance of cake in the France of 1789." (*Telegraph*)

Perhaps more fun than your average history lesson? (*TV research JW*)

**Director:** Rob Minkoff  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## Escape From Planet Earth **Sat 12** 2.00, **Mon 14** 2.00

**Director:** Cal Brunker  
**Starring:** Sarah Parker, Jessica Alba, Brendan Fraser  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 84 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**A soulless, sci-fi animation that'll no doubt kill some time until the superior Lego movie rears its blocky head. Escape from Planet Earth nevertheless has its share of satirical, quirky moments.**

When his wantonly heroic brother Scorch Supernova is stranded on 'the Dark Planet', it's left to nerdy sibling Gary to boldly go from Baab (pronounced 'bob') to Earth, winding up a prisoner of Area 51, wherein enslaved aliens are forced to work on new-fangled inventions such as the internet, the mobile phone, and (more recently) an exterminating death ray.

"With Stephen Fry providing "additional writing" and Ricky Gervais as the voice of the on-board computer, you'd expect wry humour and cine-literate pop-culture references aplenty..." (*Mark Kermode*) Unfortunately the reality is that Planet Earth is a slapstick riddled, glossy cartoon that doesn't add anything new to the already crowded kids market.

"A few gags land brilliantly, however, such as the moment when our hero's wife pulls on her anti-gravity boots to join the mission, insisting 'It's not rocket science' only to be met with an exquisitely timed "That's exactly what it is!" (*Guardian*) William Shatner's voice inclusion alone garners enough nerd points to be worth a matinee punt. (*research Jack Whiting*) Well done Jack (*and The Guardian*) for giving away the only funny line.



## Frozen Sing-A-Long

**Tue 15 12.30, Wed 16 2.00**



Disney's *Frozen*, an animated fairy tale musical inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's *Snow Queen* takes place in the kingdom of Arendelle, where the young princess Elsa was born with the ability to magically create ice and snow using her bare hands. When Elsa slips up and nearly kills her sister Ana, by accident. Fearing Elsa might cause serious harm, the panicking king and queen decide to isolate both daughters from the outside world! (Weird)

]Several years later, following some tragic events, grown-up Elsa (Idina Menzel) and Ana (Kristen Bee) no longer share the close bond they once had. However, upon Elsa's coronation day, people from all over the kingdom flock to meet the new queen and Ana meets and falls for the handsomely goofy Prince Hans (Santino Fontana). Unfortunately, Elsa's mounting emotions start to break free, as she terrifies the locals with her powers and inadvertently starts an eternal winter upon fleeing the kingdom. 'Cheesy critical metaphors are hard to avoid: with such warmth within its icy landscape, this is a celluloidbaked Alaska. It is glorious family entertainment'.

(*Guardian*)

'This is terrifically enjoyable; romantic, subversive, engaging and enthralling'.

(*Observer*)  
 "Frozen is the best Disney since Aladdin, a glittering, sparkling cartoon epic..." (ST Culture). One not to miss, plus the chance to singalong (to unsingable tunes?)

**Directors:** Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 108 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Walt Disney Int'l

## Charlie & The Chocolate Factory

**Thu 17 2.00**

**Director:** Tim Burton  
**Starring:** Helena Bonham Carter, Freddie Highmore, Johnny Depp  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2005  
**By:** Warner Brothers

Gene Wilder said of Johnny Depp's re-make "there was no need" (para), implying perfection could not be improved upon. Roald Dahl saw no reason for Gene Wilder's version at all. In fact he hated it, music and all. So much so he refused to allow it to be called Charlie and the Choc...

Thus Willy Wonka and the Choc...

Ironically, it is the 19 year olds here who loved the first one and missed all the songs absent from the second. Happily the young know nothing but regetfully want to share it with everyone. They are remembering happy childhood days of Christmas around the telly, not the quality of the film.

I'm with Mr Dahl, but then I am bound to side with miserable old devils.

All this aside, you know the story and are bound to be able to whistle the tunes. Look out for the faces in crowd at the gates: one is Berkhamsted's the late David Woollacott. Don't blink.





## Matilda Sat 19 2.00



Adapted from children's-favourite Roald Dahl's fantastical book of the same name, *Matilda* is a bright little girl who discovers she has magical powers.

With the film version taking place in America, Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman play Matilda's unpleasant parents, who are contemptuous of their daughter's prodigious talent.

When Matilda is 4, her only enjoyment in life is the local library, she walks there everyday to read while her parents are at work and her older brother, Michael, is at school.

Eventually, her insensitive parents send her to Crunchem Hall, a school run by Miss Trunchbull. She is a cruel authoritarian who loathes children. Fortunately, Matilda's teacher, Miss Jennifer Honey, is a kind woman who adores her pupils and takes an immediate liking to her.

Warming to Miss Honey's kindness, Matilda begins to realise she can use her powers to do something about her sufferings and help her friends as well. "With her sweet-sad face, Mara Wilson is a perfect Matilda." (*USA Today*) "Magical. Would watch it again and again" (*Natalie Jones*)

A heart-warming and faithful adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic.

(research Anna Shepherd) don't miss this on Easter Saturday afternoon.

**Director:** Danny De Vito  
**Starring:** Danny De Vito, Mara Wilson, Rhea Perlman, Pam Ferris  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1996  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

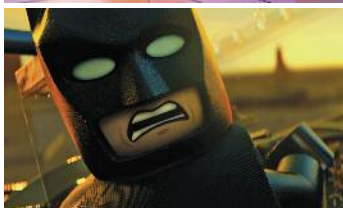
## The Lego Movie

Tue 22 12.30, Sat 26 2.00,  
 Tue 29 12.30

**Directors:** Phil Lord, Chris Miller  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett, Chris Pratt  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Warner Brothers

The most unfulfilling toy since Blow-football, yet somebody very clever convinced (emphasis on 'con') kids and hapless parents it was fun to spend hours constructing something that looked square no matter what you did with it, and there was always that missing piece.

This is a movie about LEGO made with digital LEGO with round pieces and a camera or two – that's cheating. Everybody appears to be raving about it. So, not only has it sucked you in again, but has made you buy a ticket to see what LEGO can do at the movies...! Got my own back at last. Rave on.





**Director:** Wes Anderson  
**Starring:** Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan, Jude Law  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## The Grand Budapest Hotel

**Wed 23 2.00**

**Ralph Fiennes expertly plays eccentric hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave H. accompanied by Zero (touching newcomer Tony Revolori) the new lobby boy at the famous European hotel.**

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

The young writer hears the tales of legendary concierge M. Gustave H, who in the pre-war period ran the hotel with impeccable control, style and suavity. Gustave's attentiveness to the rich, old, insecure, vain and needy patrons of the hotel extends to rather more personal services. As he bids farewell to 84-year-old fright Madame D (Tilda Swinton) her shocking murder sets in motion the crazy clockwork of the plot, Wes Anderson style. "Even on a second viewing, you hardly have time enough to take in all its intricate detailing and sumptuous furnishing." (*Standard*)

"Beneath all the jokiness there's a sense of loss, a nostalgia for an age that neither the filmmakers nor all but a few of their audience can ever have known". (*S&S*) Bewilderingly star-studded, come and indulge in this grand film in The Grand Rex Cinema over the grand Easter weekend. (*Anna Shepherd*)



**Director:** Jalil Lespert  
**Starring:** Pierre Niney, Laura Smet  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2014  
**By:** Entertainment One UK

## Yves Saint Laurent

**Thu 24 2.00, Mon 28 2.00**

**After being catapulted to international stardom at just 21, this luxurious biography traces the life of the pioneering fashion designer through his most turbulent decades.**

Yves (Pierre Niney) goes from being Christian Dior's assistant, to taking over as Head Designer when he dies, to setting up his own eponymous couture house.

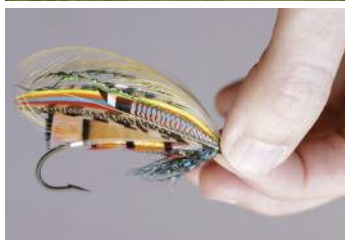
Travelling through the decades in glamorous locations such as: Paris, New York and Morocco, the film follows Saint Laurent's troubles with addiction and depression, his creative inspirations for his iconic looks and his relationship with his lover and business partner, Pierre Berge (Guillaume Gallienne).

"An engrossing story of a man with a singular vision and the price he paid for his many achievements, as well as a fascinating portrait of an industry for whom decadence and indulgence are in the job spec" (*Curzon*)

"It's clear that Niney, did not take his performance lightly: reports state that the actor learned to sew, draw, and design, and researched the YSL archives in order to fully embody his character." (*Elle*)

For all of you hooked on this or any year's red carpet fashions, or true style on any carpet, this is a must see! (*research Anna Shepherd*)





**Director:** Eric Steel  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 79 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Independent Cinema Office

## Kiss The Water

**Wed 30 2.00**

**What seems at first an impossibly flimsy and meagre documentary subject slowly reveals itself as a beautiful piece of cine-miniaturism with great charm.** Eric Steel, who directed *The Bridge*, a film about suicides off San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, was inspired by a New York Times obituary of Megan Boyd. Boyd had lived in a tumbledown cottage in remote northern Scotland and had been awarded the British Empire medal for creating fishing flies with passionate dedication and craft. Fishing aficionados and connoisseurs valued her work and jealously guarded their relationship. Anglers came from around the world to buy the flies hand-spun from exotic bird feathers, tinsel and silk and even The Prince of Wales was a regular customer who went on to become a life-long friend. Steel talks to Boyd's friends, neighbours and customers and builds up an intriguing portrait of a real eccentric: a woman who dressed mannishly, drove outrageously, danced vigorously and played bridge with abandon.

"She looked like a man in a skirt, we are told. Disconcertingly, one interviewee tells us that the 'Hairy Mary' (one of her flies) was rumoured to have been first made in 1961 with the pubic hair of a barmaid from Inverness." (*Independent*) "Make sure this strange little film isn't one you let get away." (*Guardian*) Back by request and not for the last time.





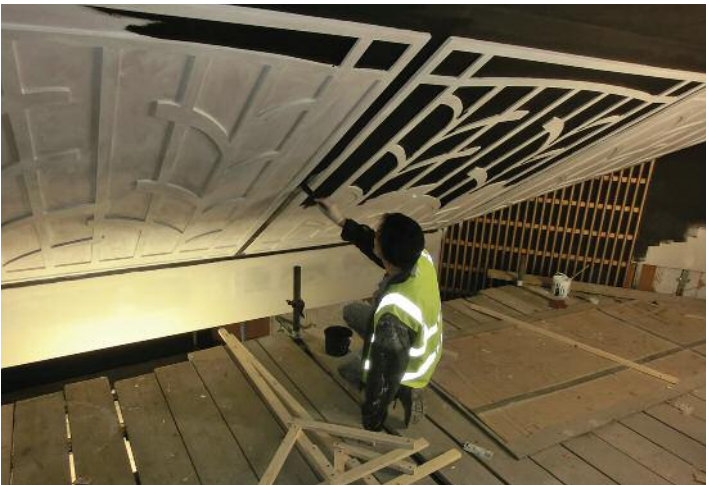
## UNIQUE ARTWORK IN ST ALBANS...

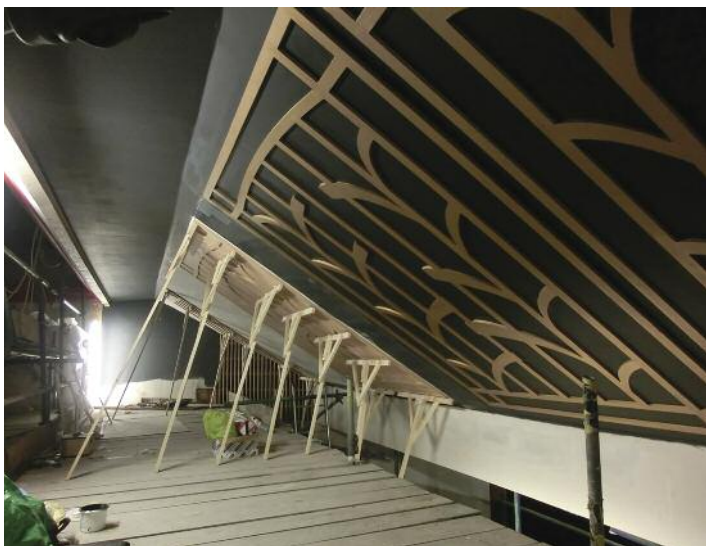


**T**he Odyssey restoration is running at full steam. The predicted Spring opening has now moved predictably to a later fanfare. But a fanfare there will be. So keep an eye on dates this year. Inevitable delays and chasing that last half million hasn't stopped us getting on with the precious restoration and rebuilding.

Here you can see the proscenium arch at full tilt being constructed by hand,

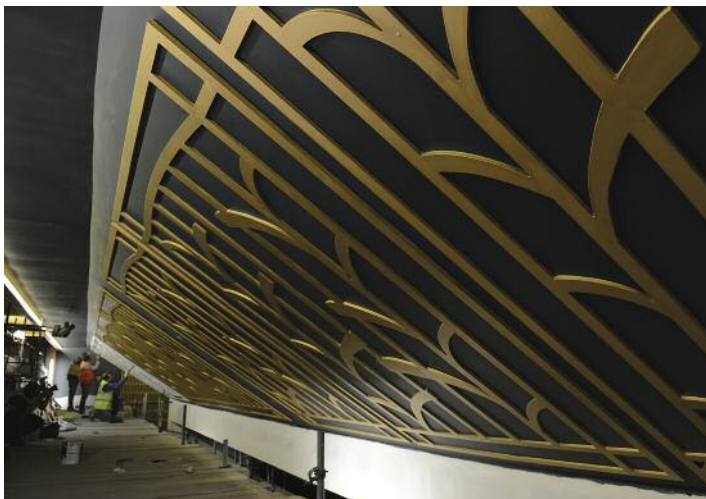
and from scratch, by our Rex artists under the leadership of Andrew Dixon. There were no design features across the arch at all. This artwork is all original to the Odyssey, and it is huge! What fantastic props: primitive, simple and ingenious. Our artists' unique design is influenced by the original window, which can still be seen above the entrance. As you can see, the construction and brushwork of this original artwork is being painstakingly



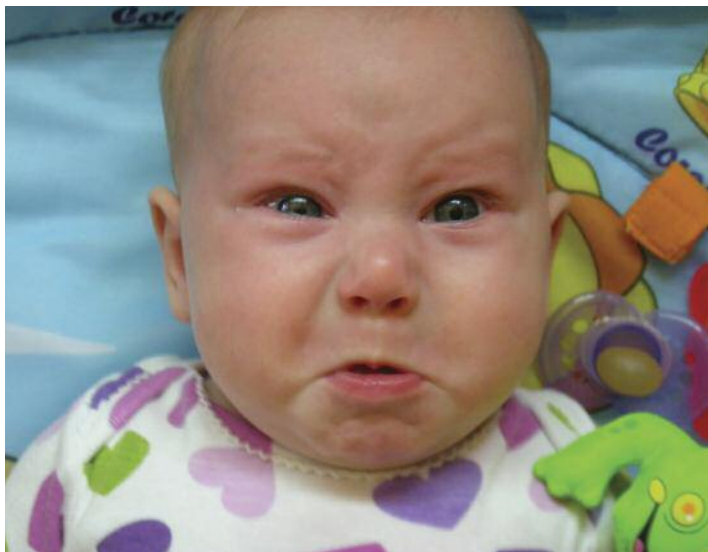


finished despite the ever-pressing race against time to dismantle the 'birdcage' scaffolding from the ceiling. It is these spectacular finishing touches on such a huge scale throughout the building that will make The Odyssey in St Albans a unique work of art all of its own. One that happens to show films from across the world, on possibly the biggest and last single screen to be rebuilt in the UK. Our last fundraising push from now until we open will have no prizes or gimmicks.

**W**e are asking you to sponsor and name the last 200 seats for £1000 & £1500 OR give us a tenner! For your £10 you will get a limited edition, personally signed certificate. For your £1000 & £1500 you get your name (or loved one or company) proudly on a big red velvet seat. Each item is for life and your only prize is the same: Possibly the last and most beautiful cinema in Europe (or just this side of Berkhamsted) to be restored entirely by hand, over four short years.



## BABY BLUES...



**T**his began as a rant about babies on Tuesdays, their mothers, their nappies left on the carpet, their absurd military prams and some whose distinct snottiness, has turned them into the first mothers on earth! Now it has turned into a much better one (rant) about the absurdity of rules and snitching, and the curious pleasure individuals get from either or both.

On Thursday afternoon 13th March, a man appeared at the Rex box office to serve notice upon us preventing us from showing Certificate 15 rated films at mothers' and baby matinees. Whilst the mess mothers' often leave is Cert 18 and their attitude towards our bending over backwards Rex staff, is X-rated, this is not covered by licensing laws. Hence, between mothers and the licensing authority and those (in the balcony) who snitched us up (presumably to put a stop to babies and baby noises at baby matinees) you have done a very good job.

Perhaps there is something in common here.

They each believe they're right, some more than others. Hence the first step towards hell in a crowded room. Therefore the outcome is simple. Babies' matinees will be either stopped or monitored by the authorities. Nothing above 12A will be allowed in the same room as babies (which rules out all this year's Oscar nominees and winners and many of the best films in the coming year). So along with attitude and nappies etc, the mothers for whom it was designed seven years ago (to see the best of the Rex programme, and escape for a few hours) lose most of all. The licensing man will have to find some stapling to do. As for the snitches, you lose a Tuesday matinee. So well done, and congratulations to you all. Everybody loses.

[During May there will be no more Tuesday matinees. This will give us time to think about what to do next]