

THE-REX

AUGUST 2019

anna

FRI 16TH AUGUST 7.30

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

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

AUGUST 2019 • ISSUE 173
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Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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Films At A Glance 18-19

Rants & Pants 30-31

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.50

Concessions/ABL £8.00

Back Row £8.00

Table £11.50

Concessions/ABL £10.00

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

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

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

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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 AUGUST



Cinema Paradiso

Sun 11th August 6pm

See page 15

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf

Mon 5th August 7.30pm

See page 11



Vita & Virginia

Wed 14th August 7.30pm

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Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love

Wed 21st August 2pm & 7.30pm

See page 24



Photograph

Thu 22nd August 7.30pm

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AUGUST FILMS



Aladdin

Guy Ritchie makes an unlikely addition to his directorial resume in this fun, yet standard addition to Disney's live-action vault.

The cheeky street urchin Aladdin (Mena Massoud) has a problem: He yearns for Jasmine (Naomi Scott) a princess (far beyond his thief-grade). You won't recognize Jasmine from her cartoon origins. She no longer dreams only of love; she would like to succeed her father the sultan (Navid Negahban) and make pay-grade decisions for her country. While a likable Will Smith can't replicate the mad-cap energy of Robin Williams' immortal Genie (an impossible ask, in his defence) he does put his own fresh prints on the role. If Marvel and Star Wars weren't enough for the The Mouse House – which has now absorbed 20th Century Fox into its somewhat terrifying vie for world domination – then the ongoing remakes, or regurgitation here and there, of its animated classics will keep investors happy? This, though thanks to the energy of Ritchie and Smith, is an Aladdin made with tremendous verve. What could have been a cynical exercise in repackaging an old hit turns out to be an invigorating ride. (*Jack Whiting*) Indeed it is Jack. Off with the crits, come for your own joy.

Director: Guy Ritchie
 Cast: Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Will Smith, Alan Tudyk, Billy Magnussen, Nasim Pedrad
 Duration: 128 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: PG
 Company: WDSMP UK



Yesterday

This Curtis/Boyle musical fairytale imagines a world without the Fab Four. Jack (Himesh Patel) is a struggling singer-songwriter from Suffolk, ready to pack in his music career. After crashing his bike during a freak global power surge, Jack is the only one in the universe that can remember The Beatles and their back catalogue. Reconstructing their songs from memory, Jack is presented with a golden opportunity for him to pursue the kind of success he's always dreamed of. Elevated by two fine performances courtesy of Patel and Lily James, the film wears its heart on its sleeve from the get go. Patel, previously of *EastEnders* fame, is an excellent choice for Jack. He's the millennial Hugh Grant character, mumbling and slightly more downplayed, but much less self-consciously. He nails the everyman vibe and the panic of suddenly having the world at your feet. *Yesterday* doesn't exactly rip up the rulebook but the new L&Mc, Curtis and Boyle, have gone to great lengths to subtly tweak the traditional romcom formula to create a genuinely touching, smart comedy, which will undoubtedly become the feel-good hit of the summer. (*Chris Coetsee*) As did the Beatles – for a few summers of their own. Come, hear, but don't listen.

Director: Danny Boyle
 Cast: Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ana de Armas, Kate McKinnon, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Ed Sheeran
 Duration: 116 mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Universal Pictures International

When... Sat 17 2.00
 Thu 1 2.00 Tue 20 2.00

When... Sun 4 6.00
 Thu 1 7.30 Mon 26 7.30



Spider-Man: Far From Home

Now that the post-Endgame dust has settled, we can get back to telling more personal stories; and it doesn't get more personal than a teenage love triangle.

Being in the shadow of Iron Man isn't easy for Peter Parker (Tom Holland), so perhaps a much-needed holiday is in order; luckily for him a school trip to Europe is on the curriculum. Less fortunate is the sudden appearance of giant elemental beings (earth, water etc). With the trip taking him from Venice to Prague, there's some fancy new architecture for Spidey to traverse as he battles the monsters with the help of Quentin Beck, aka Mysterio (a suitably unhinged Jake Gyllenhaal, channeling those Nightcrawler vibes) who may or may not be a threat himself (though the comics and cartoon aficionados will already know the score). It doesn't help that he's still trying to balance his world-saving antics with his crush MJ (Zendaya). It's a much needed breezy romp that ends in a climactic London Bridge face-off, but those hoping to see ol' webhead swing through the city itself will be left disappointed (I know I was). *(Jack Whiting)*



Director: Jon Watts
Cast: Tom Holland, Zendaya, Jon Favreau, Jake Gyllenhaal, Samuel L. Jackson
Duration: 135 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Cert: 12A
Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd

When...

Fri	2	2.00	Fri	9	2.00
Fri	2	7.30	Tue	13	2.00



Toy Story 4

Skepticism is only natural when confronted with an unwanted entry to a series that concluded faultlessly with the last one (TS 3).

Fear not Woody and Buzz fans! Turns out Pixar knew what it was doing all along – Toy Story 4 was already in its trick-bag. Zaniest of them all, certainly the funniest.

Forky is a plastic spork with mismatched googly eyes, pipe cleaners arms, and in existential crisis. Despite not being an official toy, young Bonnie 'Franksteins' him together herself, so Forky steals her affection over the others. Woody does his best to persuade him that being a toy can be as rewarding as being a plastic disposable.!! In town together, Woody is distracted by an antique shop. Sneaking inside in search of his lost love - Bo Peep, he falls into the clutches of Gabby Gabby (Christina Hendricks) a damaged doll who has designs on his pull-string voice box. He escapes, but Forky doesn't, which means it's time for one of Toy Story's signature rescue-missions.

This 4 reaffirms that Pixar, at its best, is like no other animation studio around. (*Jack Whiting*) You'll have seen it by now. Come again and enjoy it properly.

Director: Josh Cooley
 Voices: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Annie Potts, Christina Hendricks, Keanu Reeves
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: U
 Company: WDSMP UK

When...	Wed 14	2.00
Sat 3	2.00	Sun 18 6.00
Sat 3	7.00	Fri 23 2.00
Mon 5	2.00	Fri 23 7.30



Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf

Piper's documentary offers an insight into the creative process of a renowned Dutch landscape designer. Not just for the horticulturist but intended for all interested in design and how we observe beauty. Piet Oudolf, the Dutch garden designer in his 70s, discusses how "beauty is in so many things you wouldn't think of" in the documentary. He is best known for his project in New York, the High Line, which converted an abandoned rail line into 'a hybrid public space where visitors experience nature, art, and design' on Manhattan's West Side. With ongoing work around the globe, we follow Oudolf as he plans and oversees the development of his projects. Observing him closely through the seasons, we witness his joy at Texas wildflowers and learn about his process of creating maps and prints for the layout of a new garden. Only discovering his medium in his mid-20s when he began work at a garden centre, Oudolf and his wife, Anja, later opened a nursery in 1982. Although the documentary explores how the relationships between people and nature is essential, it doesn't quite dig deep enough into Oudolf's roots - but is beautiful on a surface level. *(Rachel Williams)*

Director: Thomas Piper
 Cast: Piet Oudolf
 Duration: 75mins
 Origin: USA 2017
 Certificate: U
 Company: Dartmouth Films



The Queen's Corgi

Even the vivid animation and adorable array of corgis can't quite save this children's film, littered with tasteless Trump jokes and clichéd characters

In the opening, we see how cute pup Rex (voiced by Jack Whitehall) becomes the Queen's most beloved pet, angering the other corgis. As Rex is crowned 'Top Dog' in a lavish ceremony and awarded a gold collar, bitter corgi Charlie's (Matt Lucas) envy gets the better of him, and he plots to usurp Rex. After all, it grants endless tummy rubs from the Queen herself! Donald Trump (Jon Culshaw) and his wife Melania (Debra Stephenson) visit Buckingham Palace with Mitzi – a dog with perfectly groomed hair and heavy makeup. Mitzi chooses Rex as her ideal mate, chasing after him in a way that echoes Trump's own sexual assault allegations, confirmed by a disturbing pun aimed at adults – "grab them by the puppy". In his struggle to get away from Mitzi, Rex accidentally bites Trump in the crotch, angering the Queen and providing Charlie with the perfect opportunity to remove Rex from the palace. Alone on the streets of London, Rex must find a way back to his Queen. *(Rachel Williams)*

Directors: Vincent Kesteloot, Ben Stassen
 Voices: Jack Whitehall, Julie Walters, Tom Courtenay, Jon Culshaw, Jamal Fahim, Kulvinder Ghir
 Duration: 85 mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Lionsgate

When...

Mon 5 7.30

When...

Tue 6 2.00



Diego Maradona

By eschewing many of the standard tools of documentary filmmaking, Asif Kapadia takes an existential deep dive into Argentine football legend of the 1980s, Diego Maradona.

The film opens in breathless, bravura style – a frenetic car-chase through the crowded streets of Naples which snappily gets us up to speed with Maradona's shooting-star career prior to his big-bucks transfer to Napoli in 1984. A head-spinning montage of sights and sounds plunge us into the melee of an overcrowded press conference, where this underdog city unveils its most expensive signing. In visual terms, the film is composed almost entirely of existing TV footage, cleverly chosen and shaped. Kapadia uses voiceover commentaries from various observers to add context, including some reminiscence from the present-day Maradona. Kapadia's sticks to the same 'tortured genius' narrative template as his previous films Amy and Senna, the obvious difference being that Maradona is very much alive and kicking (with hands intact). He remains as unknowable as a figure from ancient myth. None of this dents the appeal of a film that makes brilliant use of his terrible, doomed momentum. A fair game played in extra time. Unravelling over 500 hours of unseen footage (in just over 90 minutes-ish) Kapadia's film doesn't go-to-penalties. Come.

Director: Asif Kapadia
 Cast: Diego Maradona
 Duration: 127 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Cert: 12A
 Company: Altitude Film Distribution

When...

Tue 6 7.30



Sometimes Always Never

Bill Nighy is as terrifically dour as ever in this downbeat comedy drama. Nighy steps into the shoes of Alan, a semi-retired tailor whose measured and debonair demeanour has driven his adult son, Peter (Riley) to the fringes. Alan has never fully come to grips with the disappearance of his son, Michael, two decades prior. Michael stormed out of the family home after an innocuous argument over a game of Scrabble, never to be seen again. Now Alan is obsessed with Scrabble; a walking dictionary partial even to hustling unsuspecting players he meets on his travels. Dealing with loss and searching for answers, he heads off to reconnect with Peter and together they embark on a life-changing journey. Frank Cottrell Boyce's, delicious dialogue bristles with wry exchanges and throwaway wit while the central performances share an effortless self-deprecating charm. Bill Nighy's minimalist, deadpan delivery underlines Alan's arrogance, which he wears like a perfectly tailored suit. Surprisingly, Sam Riley is excellent as Peter, a persistent source of dark humour throughout. Sweet without cloying, it's a quirky, quintessentially British affair. (*Chris Coetsee*) As Bill Nighy already plays himself effortlessly, why break into effort for a patchy mid-Mersey accent...? Never mind. Come.

Director: Carl Hunter
 Cast: Bill Nighy, Alice Lowe, Jenny Agutter
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: The Movie Partnership

When...

Wed 7 2.00, 7.30



Missing Link

Laika is a name that absolutely needs to be remembered. They are the US cousins of Aardman and still chugging along, one painstaking stop-motion shot at a time.

The degree of care that goes into every detail of these films is staggering. And Missing Link is no slouch. Sir Lionel Frost (Hugh Jackman) plans to distinguish himself among London's professional explorers, by procuring evidence that prehistoric beasts still walk among us. Upon receiving a letter off on spindly-stop-motion legs our hero goes into the woods slow on the heels of this behemoth. As it turns out, 'Mr Link' (or as he's later called... Susan) turns out to be a very chipper mythical beast (Zach Galifianakis). He's a gentle giant just looking for a home, and he's surprisingly literal-minded.

This is one of those films where the destination is much less important than the journey, and the slower pacing of the third act allows us to savour the stunning vistas that establish each new setting. While not as grand or quite as exciting as *Kubo* and the *Two Strings* (their magnum opus) *Missing Link* is nevertheless a rare and wonderful specimen. (*Jack Whiting*) Fantastic, clever and very funny. Come.

Director: Chris Butler
Voices: Zoe Saldana, Hugh Jackman, Timothy Olyphant, Zach Galifianakis, Emma Thompson, Amrita Acharia
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Thu 8 2.00



Tell It To The Bees

The power of love is challenged by narrow-minded and deep-rooted prejudices in this tale of forbidden romance in 1950's rural Scotland.

Told through the innocent eyes of schoolboy Charlie, the film unfolds over one of those summers that changes everything. Charlie's English mother Lydia (Holliday Grainger) is a stranded outsider in this tight-knit community. Abandoned by her philandering husband, she struggles to pay the rent and put food on the table. Following a visit to town doctor Jean Markham (Anna Paquin), Charlie is fascinated by the bee colonies that Jean keeps and it is the start of a friendship that soon extends to include Lydia. As the bond between Lydia and Jean eventually blossoms into a romance that scandalises the town and threatens the lives of all involved.

As closely-guarded doctor Jean Markham, Anna Paquin conveys both her unwavering commitment to her career despite community disapproval as well as her shrewd conformity built for survival. Grainger captures the many faces Lydia puts on for those in her life while never losing sight of Lydia's own personhood. It's a perfect pairing at the centre of a compelling, naturalistic drama with genuine heart. (*Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Annabel Jankel
Cast: Anna Paquin, Gregor Selkirk, Euan Mason, Holliday Grainger, Lauren Lyle, Kate Dickie
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Vertigo Releasing Ltd

When...

Thu 8 7.30



The Dead Don't Die

Just when the zombie sub-genre was shuffling back into the ground, hipster filmmaker Jim Jarmusch comes along and digs it up again.

Jarmusch stalwarts Bill Murray (Broken Flowers) and Adam Driver (Paterson) play Cliff and Ronnie, respectively. These two small town police officers banter amiably in their squad car and check in with their partner, Mindy (Chloe Sevigny), back at Centerville HQ. Their wake-up call happens when the globe takes a spin on its axis, night never falls and in a forever daylight the dead rise from the cemetery, demanding what they wanted most in life: coffee, WiFi and "especially chardonnay." Two zombies, played by Sara Driver and Iggy Pop, make for stand out corpses. The blood-filled carnage is good for business for the town's undertaker, Zelda Winston, played by Tilda Swinton (Only Lovers Left Alive) in the film's most outrageously entertaining performance as a samurai from outer space. The ever increasing in-jokes, and the smug, self referential, not to mention overtly deadpan tone doesn't exactly ease in non-Jarmusch enthusiasts. Undead aside, this is a Jarmusch film, for better or worse. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Jim Jarmusch
 Cast: Adam Driver, Tilda Swinton, Chloë Sevigny, Bill Murray, Steve Buscemi, Danny Glover
 Duration: 105 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Fri 9 7.30



The Secret Life Of Pets 2

For fans of talking domesticated animals, it's been a long three years since we last got to spend time with Max, Snowball, Gidget, and the gang. The wait is over.

Max (a Jack Russell voiced by Patton Oswalt) faces some major changes after his owner Katie gets married and now has a child, up to the point he becomes overprotective. On a family trip to the countryside, Max meets a farm dog: Rooster (voiced by Harrison Ford) and each attempts to overcome their fears in their own way.

Meanwhile, Gidget (a cat) tries to rescue Max's favorite toy from a cat-packed apartment, and Snowball (a rabbit) sets on a mission to free a white tiger named Hu from a circus.

As with the first surprisingly fun instalment - not just content with slapping on the animal related gags - the sequel attempts to further explore the question every pet owner has wondered: what are my pets really up to when I'm not at home? Whether it really answers that question is another matter. For now just soak up the silliness. *(Jack Whiting)*

There's lot's of it, you may need a towel. Yes very silly but great fun. Come.

Director: Jonathan del Val, Chris Renaud
 Voices: Patton Oswalt, Eric Stonestreet, Kevin Hart, Jenny Slate, Ellie Kemper
 Duration: 86 mins
 Origin: France/ Japan/ USA 2019
 Cert: U
 Company: Universal

When...

Sat 10 2.00



Midsommar

Like a lucid daydream you wish you could wake up from, Midsommar is a Wickerman for the new age. Let the festivities begin!

Whilst not strictly a horror, Ari Aster's follow up to the haunting Hereditary does embrace some of the genre's motifs to wonderfully delirious effect. Dani (Florence Pugh) is going through a severe personal tragedy. For consolation, she turns to her boyfriend Christian (Jack Reynor). He says all the right things, but the guy lacks empathy. Dani nags him so incessantly about emotional withholding that he invites her along to a trip him and his friends are planning. It turns out that the guys, who all study anthropology, want to take part in a solstice festival that happens only once every 90 years in the remote Swedish settlement of Halsingland.

What follows is a slow descent into Pagan nightmare; as the visitors (including Will Poulter) begin realise there is something sinister is brewing under all the pleasantries and pretty white cloaks. Midsommar is a slow build to a haunting climax, but well worth the hallucinogenic trip. So raise a glass and embrace the terror. Skål!

Director: Ari Aster
Cast: Florence Pugh, Will Poulter, Jack Reynor, William Jackson Harper, Liv Mjones, Julia Ragnarsson
Duration: 147 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 18
Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Sat 10 7.00



Cinema Paradiso

If ever a film came from the heart, it is Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic Cinema Paradiso (1988).

We are taken back to a Sicilian childhood with a scamp called Toto/Salvatore played to perfection by Marcus Leonardi.

Learning to love the magic of cinema, he gets in the way of the reluctant old projectionist, Alfredo (Philippe Noiret, France's most faultless actor with the gentlest eyes. He died in 2006 aged 76).

In the dark confines of the Cinema Paradiso, young Toto and the other townsfolk escape grim post-war Sicily to crowd into the tiny cinema in the town square.

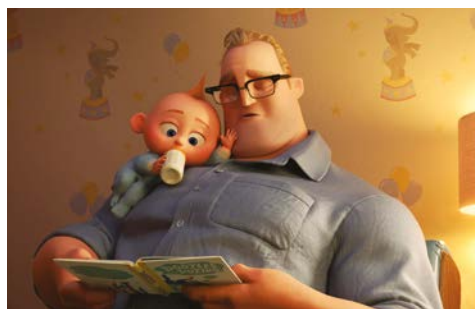
Funny, affectionate, nostalgic, heart-breaking, and winner of the 'Best Foreign Language' Oscar in 1989, Cinema Paradiso is a love letter to village life gone by, always in the top 10 best International films lists.

"It is a wonderful and open-hearted tribute to the beauty of cinema... one of the finest films about innocence ever made, a perfect picture of a time when cinema was a rare source of laughter and joy. The roaring, spitting, smoking, groping scenes in the old Paradiso might come from any culture at any time, but just not now, not ours..." (CL ST Culture)

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore
Cast: Philippe Noiret, Jacques Perrin, Marco Leonardi
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: Italy/France 1988 (Subtitled)
Certificate: PG
Company: Arrow Films

When...

Sun 11 6.00



Incredibles 2

Despite feeling like an age has passed (it has, fourteen years to be exact) in the film world we pick up mere seconds later as the spotlight falls squarely on the supermum.

The Incredibles' blundering attempts to stop mole-like villain Underminer have left a trail of chaos. The Parrs end up living in a sleazy motel. It looks as if they will have to get ordinary, civilian jobs to pay the rent. A marketing tycoon Winston Deavor (Bob Odenkirk) thinks the time is now to get the Incredibles back into the public's good graces and he believes Helen, aka Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) is the perfect poster child, so he launches a campaign to make superheroes popular again. Mr. Incredible, aka Dad is stuck playing Mr. Mom at home, totally unable to cope with Violet's boy problems, Dash's adolescent rebellion and baby Jack-Jack's rapidly increasing powers. Cue for the return of fashion guru Edna Mode to take the demon baby in hand for his very own super suit. (*Jack Whiting*) Incredibles 2 is a delight for all ages and may be the best superhero film since Big Hero 6. Find any excuse, or a child, but don't miss.

Director: Brad Bird
Voices: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Sarah Vowell, Huck Milner
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: USA 2018
Certificate: PG
Company: WDSMP UK

When...

Mon 12 2.00



Pavarotti

If Luciano Pavarotti ever had a bad day, you wouldn't know it from this upbeat documentary, one that recounts the opera singer's life, or at least its better moments.

Directed by Ron Howard, Pavarotti grounds itself in the artist's childhood in Italy and winds its way through his career to his death in 2007. High points are the film's forte, and they're backed by extensive and well-assembled footage: the Three Tenors concerts, the celebrity friendships, the sold-out performances. Pavarotti's attempts to broaden opera's audience are rightly praised, and the featured audio recordings are superb. Asked how he wanted to be remembered, he said "as someone who took opera to the people" – a cliché, of course, but in his case a justifiable one. His capacity to reach those with no other knowledge of classical music is unmatched. And his singing in his prime, from the Sixties to the Eighties, remains to the more expert ear miraculous in its clarity of projection and splendour of tone. Not even Bono and his astronomical ego can steal the limelight away from the great singer. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Ron Howard
Cast: Luciano Pavarotti, Spie Lee, Princess Diana, Bono, Stevie Wonder, José Carreras, Harvey Goldsmith
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Entertainment One UK Ltd

When...

Mon 12 7.30



In Fabric

Peter Strickland conjures the spirit of giallo horror classics in this riveting, offbeat tale of a demonic dress. A winter sale in a hilariously yet disturbingly bizarre department store draws the attention of Sheila, a lonely, recently separated middle-aged woman searching for something to wear for an upcoming blind date. Captivated by a particularly eye-catching red dress, she's seduced by it, not knowing that the dress is possessed and that the shop itself may be some kind of gateway to something altogether more sinister. Sheila's story is just an introduction to Strickland's wardrobe strangler. As the garment changes hands, various other owners suffer similar fates as the tyrannical grip that the dress holds over its wearers is revealed. Following *The Duke Of Burgundy* and *Berberian Sound Studio*, *In Fabric* is a deeply weird and dark fable that serves as a loving throwback to Euro-horror and ghostly British anthology films. It is both a dangerous fashion noir and a stylised piece of comic horror, cementing Strickland as one of this generation's leading absurdist auteurs. *(Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Peter Strickland
Cast: Gwendoline Christie, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Caroline Catz, Julian Barratt, Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Hayley Squires
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: UK 2018
Certificate: 15
Company: Artificial Eye

When...

Tue 13 7.30



Vita & Virginia

The scintillating true story of a literary love affair that fuelled the imagination of one of the 20th century's most celebrated writers.

Poet and novelist Vita (Gemma Arterton) and literary icon Virginia (Elizabeth Debicki) run in different circles in 1920s London. When the two cross paths, the magnetic Vita decides the beguiling, stubborn and gifted Virginia will be her next conquest, no matter the cost. Chanya Button's *Vita & Virginia* isn't simply a cinematic dramatisation of Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf's passionate correspondence and extra marital romance. It's also a meditation on the nature of marriage and a celebration of the liberating power of love. It's also the joy it is because of its leads. Since her breakthrough role in 2008's *Quantum of Solace*, Gemma Arterton has developed into an authoritative and compelling big screen performer. As Vita Sackville-West, she's the psychologically fragile heart of London's racy bohemian Bloomsbury set, and Elizabeth Debicki's ethereal presence combined with Arterton's earthy urgency laces their coupling with a genuinely erotic charge. A fitting supplement to both women's legacies and a thoughtful celebration of their complexity and their complex relationship. *(Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Chanya Button
Cast: Gemma Arterton, Elizabeth Debicki, Isabella Rossellini
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Thunderbird Releasing Ltd

When...

Wed 14 7.30

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

YESTERDAY
THE LION KING
HORRIBLE HISTORIES:
ROTTEN ROMANS
VITA & VIRGINIA
TOY STORY 4

NEW RELEASES

ANIMALS
DO THE RIGHT THING
PHOTOGRAPH
THE CURRENT WAR
PLUS...



ONCE UPON A TIME
IN HOLLYWOOD



THE FAREWELL



UGLYDOLLS



BLINDED BY THE LIGHT



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

AUGUST	FILM	TIME
1 THU	YESTERDAY	1.00, 7.30
2 FRI	TOY STORY 4	1.00
2 FRI	ROCKETMAN	7.30
3 SAT	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2	1.00
3 SAT	ROCKETMAN	7.00
4 SUN	ROCKETMAN	1.00
4 SUN	VITA AND VIRGINIA	6.00
5 MON	YESTERDAY	1.00, 7.30
6 TUE	VITA AND VIRGINIA	1.00, 7.30
7 WED	TOY STORY 4	1.00
7 WED	ROCKETMAN	7.30
8 THU	ALADDIN	1.00
8 THU	TOY STORY 4	7.00
9 FRI	SPIDER MAN: FAR FROM HOME	1.00
9 FRI	MIDSOMMAR	7.30
10 SAT	TOY STORY 4	1.00
10 SAT	THE MATRIX	7.00
11 SUN	WILD ROSE	1.00
11 SUN	AVENGERS: ENDGAME	6.00
12 MON	FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF	1.00
12 MON	ELLA FITZGERALD: JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS	7.30
13 TUE	APOLLO 11	1.00, 7.30
14 WED	VITA AND VIRGINIA	1.00
14 WED	WILD ROSE	7.30
15 THU	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2	1.00
15 THU	DIEGO MARADONA	7.30
16 FRI	THE LION KING	1.00
16 FRI	TAKE THAT - GREATEST HITS LIVE: ENCORE	7.30
17 SAT	THE LION KING	11.30, 3.45
17 SAT	PULP FICTION (1993)	8.00
18 SUN	THE LION KING	11.30
18 SUN	THE DARK CRYSTAL	3.45
18 SUN	DON'T LOOK NOW (1973)	8.00
19 MON	THE LION KING	1.00
19 MON	FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF	7.30
20 TUE	TOY STORY 4	1.00
20 TUE	THE LION KING	7.30
21 WED	FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF	1.00
21 WED	THE LION KING	7.30
22 THU	THE LION KING	1.00
22 THU	IN FABRIC	7.30
23 FRI	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	1.00
23 FRI	MIDSOMMAR	7.30
24 SAT	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	1.00
24 SAT	APOCALYPSE NOW: THE FINAL CUT	7.00
25 SUN	PONYO	12.00
25 SUN	STOP MAKING SENSE	5.00
25 SUN	ROCKETMAN	8.15
26 MON	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	1.00
26 MON	THE ITALIAN JOB	7.30
27 TUE	THE LION KING	1.00
27 TUE	VARDA BY AGNÈS (S) (+I)	7.30
28 WED	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	1.00
28 WED	MARIANNE & LEONARD: WORDS OF LOVE	7.30
29 THU	YESTERDAY	1.00
29 THU	THE DEAD DON'T DIE	7.30
30 FRI	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	1.00
30 FRI	FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW	7.30
31 SAT	SCHOOL OF ROCK	1.00
31 SAT	FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW	7.00

(S) SUBTITLED (+I) INTRO

THE-REX

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BOX OFFICE:

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AUGUST	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 THU	ALADDIN	2.00	8
1 THU	YESTERDAY	7.30	8
2 FRI	SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME	2.00, 7.30	9
3 SAT	TOY STORY 4	2.00, 7.00	10
4 SUN	YESTERDAY	6.00	8
5 MON	TOY STORY 4	2.00	10
5 MON	FIVE SEASONS: THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF	7.30	11
6 TUE	THE QUEEN'S CORGI	2.00	11
6 TUE	DIEGO MARADONNA	7.30	12
7 WED	SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER	2.00, 7.30	12
8 THU	MISSING LINK	2.00	13
8 THU	TELL IT TO THE BEES	7.30	13
9 FRI	SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME	2.00	9
9 FRI	THE DEAD DON'T DIE	7.30	14
10 SAT	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2	2.00	14
10 SAT	MIDSOMMAR	7.00	15
11 SUN	CINEMA PARADISO (S)	6.00	15
12 MON	INCREDIBLES 2	2.00	16
12 MON	PAVAROTTI	7.30	16
13 TUE	SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME	2.00	9
13 TUE	IN FABRIC	7.30	17
14 WED	TOY STORY 4	2.00	10
14 WED	VITA & VIRGINIA	7.30	17
15 THU	SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS	2.00	20
15 THU	WOMAN AT WAR (S)	7.30	20
16 FRI	THE GREATEST SHOWMAN	2.00	21
16 FRI	ANNA	7.30	21
17 SAT	ALADDIN	2.00	8
17 SAT	ROCKETMAN	7.00	22
18 SUN	TOY STORY 4	6.00	10
19 MON	DUMBO	2.00	22
19 MON	NEVER LOOK AWAY (S)	7.30	23
20 TUE	ALADDIN	2.00	8
20 TUE	LATE NIGHT	7.30	23
21 WED	MARIANNE & LEONARD: WORDS OF LOVE	2.00, 7.30	24
22 THU	JUNGLE BOOK (1967)	2.00	24
22 THU	PHOTOGRAPH (S)	7.30	25
23 FRI	TOY STORY 4	2.00, 7.30	10
24 SAT	THE LION KING	2.00, 7.00	26
25 SUN	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	6.00	27
26 MON	YESTERDAY	7.30	8
27 TUE	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	2.00, 7.30	27
28 WED	THE LION KING	2.00	26
28 WED	THE CURRENT WAR	7.30	28
29 THU	HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS	2.00, 7.30	27
30 FRI	THE LION KING	2.00	26
30 FRI	STUBER	7.30	29
31 SAT	THE LION KING	2.00, 7.00	26

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

MARIANNE & LEONARD

CURRENT WAR

ELLA

WOMAN AT WAR

THE LION KING

TOY STORY 4

NEW RELEASES

FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

ANIMALS

KURSK: THE LAST MISSION

PLUS...





Swallows and Amazons

Arthur Ransome's beloved tales recounting childhood adventures are told anew on the big screen. The twelve books were named after the title of the first one in the series and set between the two World Wars. Despite some deviations from the original plot, including the addition of heavily overcoated spies, the children, non-actors, are perfectly cast. The Lake District is perfect in all its careless, spectacular beauty and moody tranquillity, fulfilling our love for trees and hills and streams. As for simple penknife and string adventures, this is a delicious tale set in a time of innocence in a most beautiful part of England.

"A good-natured, if self-conscious period adaptation that grafts on a new grown-up plotline with dastardly spies" (*Guardian*)

"There's a period-appropriate honesty to it, easily mistaken at first for earnestness or nostalgia. It stands apart from any other family film you'll see for a long time." (*Telegraph*)

Much of it was filmed on the endlessly breathtaking, blue Derwent Water at Keswick, where the most special 'Cat Bells' ridge can be seen clearly in many background shots. I will love Keswick in April, forever. Thus this film will come back here again and again. So come again and again.

Director: Philippa Lowthorpe
Cast: Rafe Spall, Kelly Macdonald, Andrew Scott
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2016
Certificate: PG
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Thu 15 2.00



Woman At War

An Icelandic eco-warrior with a difference is the unlikely heroine of this distinctive comedy-drama about our warring relationship with nature.

Halla (Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir) is known to her friends as a quiet upbeat choir mistress. However, her seemingly unadventurous life covers up a dark secret. Halla is also 'The Mountain Woman'. The environmental activist waging a one-woman war on an international industrial giant to protect her bleak-glorious Icelandic rural landscape. When the chance comes to grasp her family dream, she finds herself with a difficult life-decision. Director Benedikt Erlingsson's first film, *Of Horses and Men*, was one of the most startlingly original, audacious features of the past decade. While *Woman at War* has a different dimension, its breathtaking central wonder woman and rousing theme offer a more focused and driven story. (*Chris Coetsee*) After the plastic cartoon antics of *Avengers* and *Captain Marvel*, Halla is morning sunshine. In a sensible cardigan, she is literally something else. The very opposite of those soft-as-shit spandexed digital heroes. In her own knitting, this flesh-real woman unstunts unstinting, actually running around Iceland with a bow and arrow, over the hardest terrain. She will be back and back until you have all seen her. Come twice.

Director: Benedikt Erlingsson
Cast: Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson, Juan Camillo Roman Estrada, Jörundur Ragnarsson
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Iceland 2018 (Subtitled)
Cert: 12A
Company: Picturehouse Entertainment

When...

Thu 15 7.30



The Greatest Showman

Hugh Jackman steps into the spotlight as 19thC impresario P.T. Barnum in this all-singing-all-doings rags to riches extravaganza.

2012's *Lez Miz* was supposed to be the movie that showcased Jackman's triple-treat talents as a singer, dancer and serious actor. It didn't. Here debut director Michael Gracey deservedly hands him a better chance and this time around he smashes it out of the park.

Born the son of a poor cobbler, Phineas Taylor Barnum longs to rise and dazzle the world. Having conned his way to start a 'museum', he assembles the unfortunates and the bizarre of marginalised society, creating a showcase of oddities: a 'Freak Show' to break the ground for circus, sleight-of-hand and live derring-do.

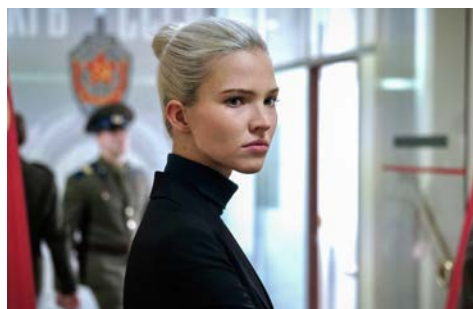
But despite his flourishing success, he yearns to debunk arty critics. To get their attention and loosen the purse strings of high-art snob culture, Barnum risks it all, and his family...

Questions are raised over this sanitised telling of a rags to riches tale, but showbiz is showbiz and historical haziness aside, this is nothing short of spectacle and splendour. (*Chris Coetsee*) Glorious big screen cinema trickery. You keep coming, so here it is again in August 2019.

Director: Michael Gracey
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, Zac Efron
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: 20th Century Fox Film Co. Ltd

When...

Fri 16 2.00



Anna

John Wick's days are numbered; a new assassin is in town and she's faster, leaner and has cheekbones to die for.

Anna (Sasha Luss) is a Russian beauty who's been living the swank parties-and-photoshoots life of a professional model. In reality, the svelte Eastern European twentysomething is an undercover killer for the KGB, because of course she is. Her handsome handler Alex (Luke Evans) and his boss, a perpetually agitated agency apparatchik named Olga (Helen Mirren), want to test her mettle. Anna is handed a gun. She must enter a restaurant, find an enemy of the state and shoot him through the head. The task has to be completed in five minutes, give or take. After that, she's on her own.

All you need for a movie, Jean-Luc Godard famously declared, is a gun and a girl. His fellow French filmmaker Luc Besson has taken the maxim to heart, albeit with a few upgrades. Reaching back to his earlier works, specifically 1990's *Le Femme Nikita*, Besson produces a spy thriller that is full of excess, but with its tongue (hopefully) firmly in cheek. Anna is sexy, trashy fun. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Luc Besson
Cast: Sasha Luss, Helen Mirren, Luke Evans, Cillian Murphy, Lera Abova, Alexander Petrov, Nikita Pavlenko, Andrew Howard
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Fri 16 7.30



Rocketman

If we've learnt anything from the insanely popular *Bohemian Rhapsody*, it's that we should never take biopics for granted again.

Rocketman stars Taron Egerton as music legend Reginald Kenneth Dwight aka Elton John, Bryce Dallas Howard is Reg's mum...!? Jamie Bell is Elton's esteemed songwriting partner Bernie Taupin, and Richard Madden his manager John Reid. Director Dexter Fletcher, best known for taking over from Bryan Singer on the Queen biop: 'Bo-Rhap' (to us in the know) yet unlike the glossy Freddie parade, Dexter takes Rocketman in an audacious and unconventional direction, making it a far more satisfying and entertaining tale in the process.

Rocketman doesn't shy away from Elton's dark side of drug and alcohol abuse and depression, and treats his career as a surreal, out of body experience. The highlight is the piano-playing prodigy elevated high into the air during a rousing rendition of Crocodile Rock.

Egerton not only embodies Elton, but he does all of his own singing; it takes a moment to adjust your ears, but Egerton comes scarily close to the pop legend's vocal range. I think it's gonna be a long long time before we see a biopic this flashy again. (*Jack Whiting*) There is a god after all.

Director: Dexter Fletcher
 Cast: Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell, Richard Madden, Bryce Dallas Howard
 Duration: 121 mins
 Origin: UK/ USA 2019
 Cert: 15
 Company: Paramount

When...

Sat 17 7.00



Dumbo

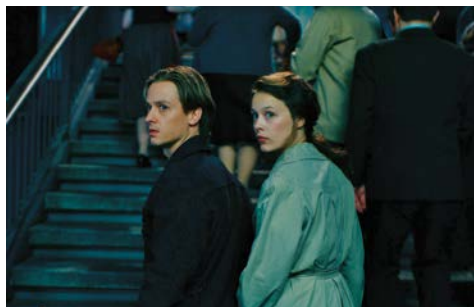
Tim Burton's take on Disney's doe-eyed elephant is sure to enchant audiences both young and old.

Following in the footsteps of the stunning *Beauty and the Beast* and *Jungle Book*, Disney's industrious mission to remake their most beloved animated classics continues. The first of three sparkling live-action reincarnations to be released this year, *Dumbo* opens as the struggling Medici circus train winds its way through ramshackled towns of the Deep South. When WWI veteran Holt returns to find his horses have been sold to pay the bills, he is demoted to the elephant pen where a big-eared outcast: guess Who... where he 'lives' with his Mum. As *Dumbo's* extraordinary ability to fly quickly captures the world's imagination, hyper-ambitious and greedy entertainment mogul V.A. Vandevere plots to exploit *Dumbo* and the Medici circus for his own ends. Burton is no stranger to the circus, every one of his films a carnival of colour and enchantment. "You put on a hell of a show," someone says to Vandevere. When he replies "That's what you pay me for," it's hard not to hear Burton talking about himself there. (*Chris Coetsee*) Critics: they sniff through forked trunk. No trumpety-trump in this tower. Come. It IS magical.

Director: Tim Burton
 Cast: Eva Green, Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Alan Arkin, Deobia Oparei
 Duration: 112 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: PG
 Company: WDSMP UK

When...

Mon 19 2.00



Never Look Away

The life of painter Gerhard Richter is loosely adapted in this kaleidoscopic 30-year journey through every human emotion.

As a young boy, Kurt Barnert witnesses his aunt being taken away by the Nazis under suspicion of schizophrenia. It is she who nurtured his interest in art. After the war, whilst studying painting at the Dresden art school, he falls in love with Elisabeth, a beautiful fashion student. Unbeknownst to Kurt, her father, who is now an eminent gynaecologist, was responsible for his aunt's euthanasia.

Writer-director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, the mind behind Oscar-winning *The Lives of Others*, has a gift for heightening and exploring that can range from harrowing to heartfelt, and he hits all the right beats here. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Oscars, it's yet another recent triumph of German cinema and Donnersmarck confirms a gift for mainstream storytelling that few contemporaries can match.

Whilst *Never Look Away* is a film about art, and more precisely the process of its creation, there's much, much more going on under its shimmering surface.

A sumptuous and elegant drama.

(Chris Coetsee)

Director: Florian Henckel Von Donnersmarck
 Cast: Tom Schilling, Sebastian Koch, Paula Beer, Saskia Rosendahl, Oliver Masucci, Hanno Koffler
 Duration: 189 mins
 Origin: Germany 2018 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Modern Films

When...

Mon 19 7.00



Late Night

Writer Mindy Kaling co-stars with Emma Thompson in this biting, feel-good satire of diversity and late night television.

After over thirty years at the top, late night's only female host Katherine Newbury is being phased out by the network's new president. Difficult to work for, Newbury is challenged to hire a female wordsmith to freshen up a white male-dominated writers room. When Molly Patel lands the dream job, her opinions about the show and its direction forward do not sit well with Newbury and her cohorts who initially refuse to welcome her modern approach. As the network moves to shift the show away from her, Katherine begins to embrace the bright personality and youthful perspective of her new colleague and the two women separated by culture and generation are united by their love of a biting punchline.

As Katherine, Emma Thompson is wonderful; commanding, imposing, casually cruel, she shows just enough of Katherine's humanity for you to care. Kaling does a great job of conveying the neurotic, competitive rhythms of the writers' room and the unique pressures of working for a demanding boss. An earnest and funny comedy, with very sharp teeth. (Chris Coetsee) Sounds fantastic. Come

Director: Nisha Ganatra
 Cast: Emma Thompson, Mindy Kaling, John Lithgow, Hugh Dancy
 Duration: 102 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment One UK Ltd

When...

Tue 20 7.30



Marianne & Leonard: Words Of Love

"Love is not a victory march," Leonard Cohen swooned. Nick Broomfield's haunting documentary is a lovely illustration of the twists and turns of a complicated relationship.

The film is about the enduring love between Cohen and Marianne Ihlen, the Norwegian woman he met on the Greek island of Hydra in the early 1960s. It's a story that is at once simple and threaded with startling complexities. Its narrative twists can seem the stuff of fiction, one which resulted in broken hearts, cold shoulders and several unbelievably beautiful songs. He spent his days writing his novel *Beautiful Losers*, and she supported him. Both a memento mori and the chronicle for how there ain't no cure for love, the doc continually underlines Cohen's finicky nature, and his shark-like need to keep moving or perish. As for Ihlen, we get a sense of her loneliness, her attempts to balance being a mother and a partner, the toll of wanting something she can't have and someone who won't be tied down. Even as things are coming to their conclusion, Cohen is still using their bond as the basis for his art. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Nick Broomfield
 Cast: Marianne Ihlen, Leonard Cohen, Judy Collins, Helle Goldman, Richard Vick
 Duration: 102 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Dogwoof Pictures



Jungle Book

Inspired by Rudyard Kipling's book of the same name, The Jungle Book is the 19th animated feature in the Walt Disney Animated Classics series. Directed by Wolfgang Reitherman, it was the last to be produced by Walt Disney, who died during the production. The plot follows Mowgli, a feral child raised in the Indian jungle by wolves, as his friends Bagheera the panther and Baloo the bear try to convince him to leave the jungle before the evil tiger Shere Khan arrives.

"I thought you were entertaining someone up there in your coils," Shere Khan the Tiger purrs malevolently (the glorious and unmistakable voice of George Sanders) while Kaa the Snake endeavours to squeeze Mowgli the Man Cub in his hypnotic clutches. This animated Disney feature based on the Kipling is the last to be supervised by Big Walt himself. It is chock-a-block with memorable lines, much loved songs and all those knockabout visual gags. "It's a slight tale, and rather short, but the characters and songs are pretty much perfect for viewing time and again." (*Empire*) Such dull praise aside: it is the original 1967 delicious Disney treat. Don't miss a single beat... "Ooobe do..."

Director: Wolfgang Reitherman
 Voices: Phil Harris, Sebastian Cabot, Bruce Reitherman, George Sanders
 Duration: 77 mins
 Origin: USA 1967
 Certificate: U
 Company: Walt Disney

When...

Wed 21 2.00, 7.30

When...

Thu 22 2.00



Photograph

Writer-director Ritesh Batra captures working-class life through a personal lens in this study of two divergent worlds in one city.

In Mumbai, Rafi (Siddiqui) works as a photographer snapping tourists at the Gateway. When he takes a photo of Miloni (Malhotra), she gets away without paying, but something about her strikes a nerve. So when his grandmother Dadi complains once again that he's unmarried, he sends her Miloni's picture and tells her she's his girlfriend. When Dadi wants to meet her, Rafi manages to track her down and come along for lunch. Initially posing as his fiancée, the pair gradually form a powerful connection which transforms their lives over the coming days.

Quiet reflection is the key in which Batra works, a trait found in his previous international hit *The Lunchbox*, likewise exploring gentle, unexpected love. Siddiqui and Malhotra are superb as people who are mismatched on several levels, but still notice each other. Their pairing might be far-fetched, but that's the point, both actors adding weight to the internal journeys. It's a film much more about individual experience than throwaway romance.

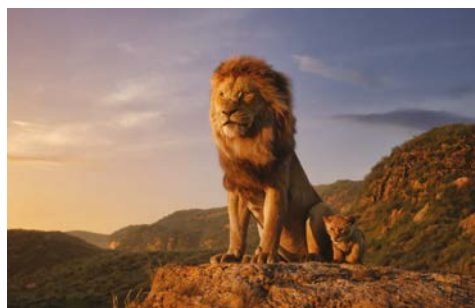
(Chris Coetsee)



Director: Ritesh Batra
Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra, Sachin Khedekar, Denzil Smith, Brinda Trivedi, Lubna Salim
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: India 2019 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Artificial Eye Film Co. Ltd

When...

Thu 22 7.30



The Lion King

Aladdin has barely left our collective consciousness and already we're being whisked off to the digital serengeti in Disney's new 'live action' reimagining.

The most accurate, shot for shot remake since Gus Van Sant's wholly unnecessary *Psycho*, this shiny new *Lion King* takes all the cues and hits all the beats from the 1994 classic. Elton John's beautiful melodies and Hans Zimmer's sweeping score remain intact. The Hamlet inspired story should be pretty well known by now, and here it's largely unchanged: Lion cub Simba is set to inherit his father's throne, but tragic (even traumatising) events leave Simba cast out and fending for himself. Admiration towards the film lies with its astonishing level of detail; this technical marvel pushes pixels to their absolute limit, to the point where I half expected David Attenborough to chime in at some point. And that's maybe film's only real foil; the expressiveness of the cartoon is replaced with dead-eyed realism; so when Simba belts out that he can't wait to be king, something feels a little off. Still, the template of the original is strong enough that this version still delights. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Jon Favreau
 Voices: Donald Glover, James Earl Jones, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Billy Eichner, Seth Rogen, Alfre Woodard, John Kani
 Duration: 118 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: PG
 Company: WDSMP UK

When...

Sat 24	2.00	Fri 30	2.00
Sat 24	7.00	Sat 31	2.00
Wed 28	2.00	Sat 31	7.00



Horrible Histories: The Movie – Rotten Romans

From a bestselling book series by Terry Deary to a BAFTA-winning TV series, Horrible Histories challenges itself to a big-screen adaptation

Keeping the grotesque moments and toilet humour of the original stories, the film reiterates what Horrible Histories aims to do: explore the delightfully darker details of British history. The time is circa 54 AD, set after the death of emperor Claudius (Derek Jacobi, returning to the role again after the 1976 BBC series). Within the backdrop of a power-struggle between Nero (Craig Roberts) and his mother (Kim Cattrall), it focuses on our fictitious teenage protagonist, Atti (Sebastian Croft). After an unfortunate incident selling fake gladiator sweat, which turns out to be horse wee and is poured over the Emperor Nero, Atti is faced with a horrifying punishment: exile to Britain. Captured by Orla (Emilia Jones), the Celtic daughter of a chieftain (Nick Frost) who believes she is incapable of fighting in battle against the Romans, Orla uses her prisoner to demonstrate otherwise. Director Dominic Brigstocke took inspiration from Monty Python and Blackadder – believing in the “great tradition of the British making fun of their history”.

Although not very cinematic, it's certainly humorous. (Rachel Williams)



.....
Director: Dominic Brigstocke
Cast: Emilia Jones, Sebastian Croft, Nick Frost, Kim Cattrall, Derek Jacobi, Craig Roberts
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Altitude Film Distribution
.....

When...

Sun	25	6.00
Tue	27	2.00, 7.30
Thu	29	2.00, 7.30



Director: Alfonso Gomez-Rejon
 Cast: Tom Holland, Benedict Cumberbatch,
 Nicholas Hoult, Katherine Waterston,
 Michael Shannon, Tuppence Middleton
 Duration: 108 mins
 Origin: USA 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment Film Dists Ltd

The Current War

Benedict Cumberbatch looks to get the sparks flying in this historical portrait of America's greatest inventor. The last thing cinema needs right now is another movie about a genius whose brilliance is expressed through being a stubborn jerk. Director Alfonso Gomez-Rejon manages however to get some great mileage by taking such a setup and approaching it through a deconstructed lens. The brilliant jerk in question this time is none other than Thomas Edison. On the verge of bringing electricity to Manhattan with his radical new technology, Edison's plans are upended by charismatic businessman George Westinghouse who believes he and his partner, Nikolai Tesla, have a far superior idea for how to rapidly electrify America. Edison, that brilliant inventor and occasional thief, is played by an actor who has made almost an entire career playing brilliant jerks. It's straight typecasting, but it also works. Cumberbatch brings an amusing, detached air to Edison, playing the genius as an overly competitive, short-tempered thinker who wants to slap his name on everything. An informative history lesson which may not break new ground, but finds inventive ways to make the old seem new. (Chris Coetsee)

When...

Wed 28 7.30



Stuber

What we have here is an action-comedy about an Uber driver named Stu. Hence the title, Stuber. In case you were wondering.

Stitching together every bromance action cliché this side of Jump Street, the concept is simple.

Dave Bautista is Vic, a tough-as-nails cop, recovering from eye surgery; he is forced to hire a repressed, nice-guy Uber driver named Stu (Kumail Nanjiani) to escort him around as he chases down a ruthless drug lord. It's basically Michael Mann's *Collateral* reimagined as a gross-out comedy.

There's a likably cartoonish juxtaposition between Bautista, best known as the hulking Drax in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and Nanjiani (*The Big Sick*), who traffics in witty neurosis and beta-male banter. Since Vic can't see well, Stu is left to serve as his eyes, resulting in a pantomime dynamic in which Bautista embodies brute force while Nanjiani nimbly tries to direct the aggro cop's rage in the right direction. They make for a surprisingly effective team — resulting in a bloody series of henchman-dropping headshots. The action is blunt, and the humour is about as low-brow as you can get, but the sheer bravado of Stu makes it for one hell of a ride.

(Jack Whiting)



Director: Michael Dowse
Cast: Kumail Nanjiani, Dave Bautista, Natalie Morales, Karen Gillan, Iko Uwais, Patricia French
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: 20th Century Fox

When...

Fri 30 7.30

Found... Not Lost

Hatty De Barnard was the first to be presented at the Copper House in July with the Muddy Stiletto's award for her inspired, unsung miniature gallery selling innovative and original new art – across Herts & Bucks.

On the Hatfield Rd in Fleetville, StA, Nude Tin Can stands unabashed in a parade of shops with a fab café just as compact, two doors down at the corner. A parade indeed.

St Albans has always hoarded secrets, treasured places, not hidden but in open view. For the many-few who looked to 'see' – they were loved and taken to heart. The Verulam Arms in Lower Dagnall St, where from time to time in the 90s, Friday/Saturday nights and Summer Sunday afternoons would throng and ring to no-noise harmonies. That magical gated antiques yard in George St, still throngs and comes alive, and always open for best-breakfast the next morning. And who could forget Garibaldi's... It was nestled into the neck of the far edge of the tricky Clarence Park junction, at the start of the Living-Hatfield-Road.

Never too late, Garibaldi's served the most exquisite home-Italian dishes set on shared formica tables, with a straight face, in a room no bigger than itself. Now gone, it still pulls at this heart.

I've always loved the scruffy beauty of StA's Fleetville: a bustling pavement, a busy trafficky street reminding me of where, a thousand miles away, we ran as kids. At this perfectly formed Nude Tin Can you will find a white clean one-room gallery, with curved glass windows. Carefully uncluttered it is filled with fabulous, diverting works of art, life-size and tin-can tiny, created by artists local and international. This page sketches a fraction of the picture.

This gallery is the other place in StA not-to-be-missed. It is here for the seeing, a glimpse of what we miss while looking the other way.

Sadly, we seem glazed to the unhurried beauty of things we miss in plain sight. This Nude Tin Can is to be found and opened – not missed. So do and – don't. (JH July 2019)



Nude Tin Can Gallery
125 Hatfield Rd,
St Albans
AL1 4JS
01727 569291
nudetincan.com



First & collecting... artist Stuart Beck with Hatty De Barnard



Judy Garland's Dorothy as never before...
Rear Window below. Miniatures hiding against the wall



Full size mana/harle/quin with
open-hearted miniatures



You will find the gallery in the heart of Fleetville StA. For its style alone, it is worth walking to. As for sheer diversity of shapes sizes and colours, it feels like a moving collection. Nothing seems stale or static, all can be reached and touched. In its busy uncluttered compact space you will find treasure in every corner and... in full plain view.

OPENING HOURS:

TUES / WED: 12noon - 4pm

THU / FRI / SAT: 10am - 5pm

Exhibitions may vary and most Sundays and Mondays the gallery may be closed. Evening appointments are available please telephone during opening hours.

