

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E



INTERSTELLAR
DECEMBER 2014

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema.." (BBC)
Britain's Best Cinema – Guardian Film Awards 2014

DECEMBER 2014 • ISSUE 117
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Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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**BOX OFFICE: 01442
877759**

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30
Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle	£9.00
Concessions	£7.50
Table	£11.00
Concessions	£9.50
Royal Box Seat (Seats 6)	£13.00
Whole Royal Box	£73.00
All matinees	£5, £6.50, £10 (box)

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

CEO: James Hannaway
01442 877999

Advertising: Lynn Hendry
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
01296 668739

The Rex
High Street (Three Close Lane)
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2FG
www.therexberkhamsted.com

**"Unhesitatingly The
Rex is the best cinema
I have ever..." (STimes
Culture)**

BEST IN DECEMBER



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

George Bailey lives on - 10 years more...

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FILMS OF THE MONTH



WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

A priceless bittersweet comedy of
(grown-up) errors. Page 8



LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Another priceless bittersweet...
Fabulous, silly, uplifting. Page 20



PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR

Smile and wave boys, smile and
wave... Page 18



THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

The bonkers, gorgeous, brilliant film
of the old year for New eve... Page 21

COMING SOON

BACK BY DEMAND

Ida
 What we Did on Our Holiday
 Mr Turner
 The Imitation Game

NEW RELEASES

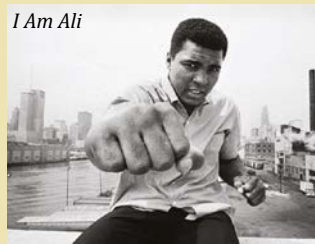
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay
 Leviathan
 Paddington
 The Drop
 I Am Ali



Leviathan



Paddington



I Am Ali



The Drop

REX DECEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

DATE	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 MON	HOCKNEY: LIFE IN PICTURES	2.00	8
1 MON	WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY	7.30	8
2 TUE	WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY	12.30	8
2 TUE	GONE GIRL	7.30	9
3 WED	GONE GIRL	2.00, 7.30	9
4 THUR	GONE GIRL	2.00, 7.30	9
5 FRI	THE REX 10TH ANNIVERSARY	7.30	10
6 SAT	ALEXANDER & THE TERRIBLE ETC	2.00	10
6 SAT	NIGHTCRAWLER	7.00	11
7 SUN	GET ON UP	6.00	12
8 MON	THE JUDGE	2.00	12
8 MON	PLAYTIME	7.30	13
9 TUE	MY OLD LADY	12.30	13
9 TUE	THE JUDGE	7.30	12
10 WED	MY OLD LADY	2.00, 7.30	13
11 THUR	MY OLD LADY	2.00, 7.30	13
12 FRI	FURY	7.30	14
13 SAT	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	14
13 SAT	FURY	7.00	14
14 SUN	MR TURNER	6.00	15
15 MON	WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY	2.00	8
15 MON	MR TURNER	7.30	15
16 TUE	WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY	12.30	8
16 TUE	MR TURNER	7.30	15
17 WED	MR TURNER	2.00, 7.30	15
18 THUR	MR TURNER	2.00, 7.30	15
19 FRI	THE IMITATION GAME	7.30	16
20 SAT	POLAR EXPRESS	2.00	17
20 SAT	THE IMITATION GAME	7.00	16
21 SUN	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00	16
22 MON	THE IMITATION GAME	2.00, 7.30	16
23 TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	12.30, 7.30	17
24 WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	17
25 THUR	CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED		
26 FRI	BOXING DAY CLOSED		
27 SAT	PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR	2.00	18
27 SAT	INTERSTELLAR	6.00	19
28 SUN	INTERSTELLAR	5.00	19
29 MON	PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR	2.00	18
29 MON	INTERSTELLAR	6.00	19
30 TUE	FROZEN SINGALONG	12.30	20
30 TUE	LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE	7.30	20
31 WED	GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	6.00	21





DECEMBER FILMS



Hockney: A Life In Pictures

This spirited documentary spans the artist's career. Director Randall Wright, whose previous subjects include Lucien Freud and Sister Wendy Beckett, has researched a spectrum of archive material, which is pieced together with kaleidoscopic verve.

Richest of these is Hockney's own home-movie footage, giving candid insight into the painter's relationship with his Bradford roots and the father he credits with teaching him to never care what the neighbours think. The film reflects on Hockney's formative years in the British Pop Art Scene and his experience as a gay man as the Aids crisis takes hold, as well as his years working in California. As a character, Hockney emerges as a man of great friendships and a loyal cast of fellow artists chronicle his personal and artistic journey, each in possession of a crisp wit, bringing humour and light to the life of an artist who continues to broaden horizons.

"An unqualified, life-enhancing joy from start to finish!" (*Sunday Times*)

"As gently hypnotic and fulfilling as one of Hockney's own works." (*Time Out*)

"Wider perspectives are needed now" states David Hockney, referencing both technical ways of seeing and the parameters of what we choose to see.

This is the only screening outside the London Film Festival. It is here at the Rex after only three showings at the festival. A rare man, a rare opportunity.

Don't miss.

Director: Randall Wright
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: UK 2014
Certificate: 15



What We Did On Our Holiday

From the pens of (the fabulous) Andy Hamilton, and Guy Jenkin, creators of the sitcom Outnumbered, What We Did On Our Holidays follows a middle-class North London family, Doug (David Tennant) Abi (Rosamund Pike) and their three children as they head up to Scotland to visit their ailing granddad, Gordy (Billy Connolly) who is about to celebrate his 75th birthday.

The couple are currently separated and trying to pretend to everyone else that their marriage is fine. The trip means staying with Doug's uptight brother, Gavin (Ben Miller) and his depressed wife, Margaret (Amelia Bullmore) and tensions also run high as not only are Doug and Abi struggling to scotch rumours of their imminent divorce but, Gordy is concealing a tragic secret of his own.

"It's impossible not to enjoy this big-hearted and sweet-natured British family movie from Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin, effectively a feature-format development of their smash-hit BBC TV comedy, Outnumbered, which pioneered semi-improvised dialogue from children. It creates a terrifically ambitious (and unexpected) narrative with a tonne of sharp gags." (*Guardian*)

"Tennant and Pike are nicely convincing as the unloving couple, and Ben Miller goes for broad laughs as uptight brother, Gavin, but Amelia Bullmore steals several scenes with typically angular precision." (*Observer*) (research Jane Clucas) It's fabulous. Don't miss.

Directors: Guy Jenkin, Andy Hamilton
Cast: Rosamund Pike, Billy Connolly
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2014
Certificate: 12A

When...

Mon 1 2.00

When...

**Mon 1 7.30 Mon 15 2.00
Tue 2 12.30 Tue 16 12.30**



Gone Girl

By now David Fincher can direct thrillers in his sleep. His meticulous attention to detail that has complimented *Se7en*, *Zodiac* and *The Social Network* fits Gillian Flynn's bestseller like a bloodied glove.

Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) returns to his Missouri home to find that his socialite wife 'Amazing' Amy (Rosamund Pike at her career best) has disappeared. When signs of a struggle are discovered, all fingers point to Nick.

Affleck plays Nick with just the right amount of apathy, which naturally sets him up for the villain's role. But there are deeper, darker aspects at work that beautifully unravel as we dive into their toxic marriage via her diary entries. By then *Gone Girl* has dug its claws in deep.

Moving away from the dourness of *Dragon Tattoo*; *Gone Girl* toys with an almost playful, but wholly sick sense of humour (there will be nervous sniggering aplenty). It's this blackly comic delivery that prevents *Gone Girl* from getting sunk by its ludicrous (yet hugely entertaining) final act.

Both Flynn (adapting her own work) and Fincher are fully aware of *Gone Girl*'s trashy origins, all the while tweaking and cutting away any excess flab from the novel to deliver a leaner, more concise thriller, and arguably one of the best films of the year.

(Jack Whiting) Hyped up to Ben's pants, so beware...



Director: David Fincher
 Cast: Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Harris
 Duration: 149 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 18

When...

Tues 2	7.30
Wed 3	2.00, 7.30
Thur 4	2.00, 7.30



Goodnight and Goodluck



Slumdog Millionaire

10TH ANNIVERSARY PREVIEW

Alongside a couple of non-starters, there have been some glorious anniversary gems. Now ten anniversaries later, on 5th December 2014, we'll have another.

Unlikely to be Oscar material, nor will it be a freaky new-clothes contender, like where a string of A-listers pretend to be Bob Dylan. It will always be hard to beat *The King's Speech* and *Slumdog Millionaire* (with personal congratulations from Danny Boyle and his Oscar winning Sound Designer, Glen Freemantle at the Rex to instruct us in volume control) Then there was *The History Boys* in 2006. It wasn't quite a preview, but Alan Bennett came instead! An anniversary coup indeed. Our first sensational preview in 2004 was George Clooney's directorial debut and multi Oscar winner: *Goodnight and Goodluck*, which we must show again.

This year who knows? We're still hustling. Come all the same, and take that same chance. The Rex is here always, no matter what.

When...

Fri 5 7.30

THE-REX 10
Years
ANNIVERSARY



Alexander And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Author Judith Viorst's children's favourite from the 70s provides the title for this heart-warmer about a dorky pre-teen who makes a wish that his family might experience what a really rubbish day feels like. The film follows 11-year-old Alexander (Ed Oxenbould) as he has a very bad day.

A day that begins with gum stuck in his hair, followed by one calamity after another. But when Alexander tells his upbeat family about his misadventures, he finds little sympathy and begins to wonder if bad things only happen to him.

In blowing out a candle hours before his 12th birthday he opens a fateful curse on his nearest and dearest.

His motive is not malicious, he merely wants his family: mom (Jennifer Garner) dad (Steve Carell) brother (Dylan Minnette) and sister (Kerris Dorsey) to know how it feels to have their own terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Hence, anyone who says there is no such thing as a bad day just hasn't had one?

"Sweet and good-natured, this feels like a throwback to family comedies of the '80s." (*Empire*)

"The set-up is very similar to that of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movies and shares all their wit and brio." (*Independent*) Sounds very silly, bring the family.

Director: Miguel Arteta

Cast: Steve Carell, Jennifer Garner, Dylan Minnette, Ed Oxenbould, Kerris Dorsey

Duration: 81 mins

Origin: USA 2014

Certificate: PG

When...

Sat 6 2.00



Nightcrawler

Slinking in the nighttime streets of LA, Lou Bloom (a gaunt Jake Gyllenhaal) is not a man to be bargained with.

"He is one of the city's freelance 'nightcrawlers', eternally on the lookout for true-crime porn and car-wreck footage he can sell to the TV news, into whose bland corporate citadels he dreams of insinuating himself." (*Guardian*)

Bloom will do anything to climb the ladder of success, no matter what career path; so when he stumbles upon his golden opportunity, he wastes no time applying his sociopathic tendencies to great effect.

"Think of our newscast as a screaming woman, running down the street with her throat cut," the straight talking Nina (Rene Russo) advises Bloom, after he's sold her his first, shaky but intense footage of a carjacking casualty. She's the news producer working the so-called 'vampire shift' on a bottom-rung TV station, hungry for sensation.

The media satire is a bite on the nose, (and hardly fresh, remember *Network*?) but the sheer unease Gyllenhaal evokes pushes *Nightcrawler* into A-grade thriller territory. One where, much like *Taxi Driver* and *The King of Comedy*, its protagonist treads the murky waters of the anti-hero to unnerving effect.

Writer/director Dan Gilroy has crafted one hell of a debut. (*Jack Whiting*) Sounds good, if a little scary. Come, but not by yourself...



Director:	Dan Gilroy
Cast:	Jake Gyllenhaal, Bill Paxton, Rene Russo
Duration:	117 mins
Origin:	USA 2014
Certificate:	15

When...

Sat 6

7.00



Get On Up

Based on the incredible life story of the Godfather of Soul, James Brown, Get On Up is directed by Tate Taylor (The Help) from a screenplay by Jez and John-Henry Butterworth: Mick Jagger was one of the key producers. His presence was crucial to securing the rights to make the production possible.

With an extraordinary performance by Chadwick Boseman in the title role, the film hits the highs and lows of Brown's story, including his torturous childhood in racially hardline Georgia (where, among other things, he was sentenced to five-to-thirteen-years for stealing a suit!) Influenced by gospel music, he grew his own talent and hit the sticky fame and fortune trail with nothing but shutzpa and no education to draw from. Another desparate American story of from rags to riches.

The story also chronicles his legendary work ethic and overbearing personality, with a revolving door of women and band members unable to cope. As always, the private life and the public face, bare no resemblance to each other. Brown kept few friends: mentor Little Richard (Brandon Smith) longtime sidekick Bobby Byrd (Nelsan Ellis) and promoter Ben Bart (Dan Ackroyd) who gave him his big break. "Chadwick Boseman delivers one of the year's best performances in this film which leavens respect with a little light mockery." (*Guardian*) If his is your music, come get on down.

Director: Tate Taylor
 Cast: Chadwick Boseman, Dan Aykroyd, Nelsan Ellis
 Duration: 139 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Sun 7 6.00



The Judge

Robert Downey Jr and Robert Duvall make a fine double act in this old-fashioned, sappy courtroom drama that is, alas, a little dull.

RDJ plays Hank, a hotshot big-city lawyer with flexible morals, no interest in pro bono and makes mincemeat in of his peers in the courtroom.

But such posturing masks private pain: Hank's wife is divorcing him, his moppet daughter misses him and he has long lost contact with his Father (Robert Duvall) a judge in smalltown Indiana. Yet, after his Mother dies suddenly, it is to his Dad's frosty embrace that he must return. And there he must stay after the judge is accused of hit-and-run the night of her funeral.

"We're so used to RDJ's Stark/Holmes charm, that such a po-faced performance is disappointing. That said, he is still the best thing in it." (*Telegraph*)

Where is the confidence of *The Lincoln Lawyer*, or the heavyweight intensity of *A Few Good Men*? For these sub-genres to take a hold they require that key spark, otherwise they might as well be confined to daytime soap. But if it's a glossy 1950's family tale-cum-courtroom melodrama you're after, *The Judge* makes a strong case. (*research Jack Whiting*) "RDJ is too much the star of his own show..." (*Standard*) Isn't that why we're coming?

Director: David Dobkin
 Cast: Robert Downey Jr, Robert Duvall, Billy Bob Thornton

Duration: 141 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Mon 8 2.00
Tues 9 7.30



Playtime

Throughout his long career, Jacques Tati worked as a comic actor, writer and director. With only six feature-length films to his credit as director, **Playtime is a perfectly orchestrated city symphony.**

Playtime is structured in six sequences, linked by two characters who repeatedly encounter one another in the course of a day (the germ of Groundhog day perhaps?).

These two characters are Barbara, a young American tourist visiting Paris with a group of women, and Monsieur Hulot, a befuddled Frenchman lost in the new modernity of Paris.

Notable for its enormous set (constructed of concrete, glass and steel which Tati had built specially for the film) as well as Tati's trademark use of subtle, yet complex visual comedy supported by creative sound effects.

"Jacques Tati's 1967 masterpiece still holds up as a feast of subtle sight gags, playful noise and, above all, visual wonders." (*Time Out*)

"Once dismissed, *Playtime* is today acknowledged as a radically innovative marvel. No other film uses space, architecture and crowds quite like this." (*Guardian*)

Now diligently restored in-line with the filmmaker's particular, perfectionist approach, audiences can once again enjoy the expansive scope of his comic vision.

(research Anna Shepherd) A fantastic piece of absurd magic, not to be missed.

Director:	Jacques Tati
Cast:	Jacques Tati, Barbara Dennek, Jacqueline Lecomte, Valérie Camille.
Duration:	124 mins
Origin:	France/Italy 1967
Certificate:	U

When...

Mon 8 7.30



My Old Lady

Mathias Gold (Kevin Kline) is a down-on-his-luck New Yorker who inherits a Parisian apartment from his late, estranged father.

The inheritance has come along in the nick of time: Mathias is penniless and homeless after a string of failed marriages and barely managed alcoholism.

But when he arrives in France to sell the vast domicile, he's shocked to discover a live-in tenant who is not prepared to budge. His apartment is 'viager', an ancient French estate system with complex rules regarding its resale, and the feisty Englishwoman, Mathilde Girard (Maggie Smith) who has lived in the apartment with her daughter, Chloe (Kristen Scott Thomas) for many years, can by contract collect monthly payments from Mathias until her death.

"It all sounds like a ripe set-up for a gentle farce in which the star of Downtown Abbey gets to play a wily curmudgeon while the increasingly frustrated hero schemes to dislodge her. But despite appearances, *My Old Lady* isn't a comedy. It's a drama about family secrets, loss, regret and redemption, and a turgid one at that." (*Telegraph*)

"*My Old Lady* is affecting, even if many of the revelations and high voltage speeches occur at predictable moments. But if you can look past this formulaic side, it's a movie worth seeing."

(*Washington Post*)

Director:	Isreal Horowitz
Cast:	Maggie Smith, Kevin Kline, Kristin Scott Thomas
Duration:	107 mins
Origin:	UK/France/USA 2014
Certificate:	12A

When...

Tues 9	12.30
Wed 10	2.00, 7.30
Thur 11	2.00, 7.30



Fury

April, 1945. As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a battle-hardened army sergeant named Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) a grizzled veteran of the African and European campaigns, commands a Sherman tank named Fury. Under his command is a ragtag bunch, including a terrified kid called Norman, played by the cherubic Logan Lerman. Outnumbered and outgunned, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds in their heroic attempts to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany. "Your eyes see it," mourns one of them, "but your head don't make no sense of it."

"Ayer does well in creating the weird listless boredom of war, interspersed with sudden frenzies of violence and fear as the soldiers engage the enemy. In the end, Pitt's men seem destined for their own Alamo or Little Bighorn in the German countryside." (*Guardian*)

"Loud, intense, violent, relentless, Fury doesn't stop until the credits roll, thanks to Ayer's cracking direction and a committed cast. The best WW2 movie in some time." (*Total Film*).

"As a vision of the fag-end of war, David Ayer's Fury is both set-piece impressive and claustrophobically exciting, with a simple and coherent story." (*Financial Times*)

Sounds worth more than the first crit's grumblings. If nothing else, come for Brad's greased torso and some other things...

Director: David Ayer
 Cast: Shia LaBeouf, Brad Pitt, Logan Lerman
 Duration: 134 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: 15

When...

Fri 12 7.30
Sat 13 7.00



Arthur Christmas

Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation team up to present this whimsical, and fabulous festive tale the 'Family Christmas'.

It's the night before Christmas, and the logistical complexity of Father Christmas' (Jim Broadbent) annual trek is laid bare. How DOES he get all those presents to all those children all over the world? Ah ha... His eldest son, technocrat Steve (Hugh Lawrie), runs the entire operation with military precision and a covert team of thousands of elves equipped with much high-tech gadgetry. When, lost in this colossal operation, one present goes astray, youngest son Arthur (James McAvoy) takes it upon himself to ensure that one little girl won't be left out on Christmas morning...

Masterfully written by Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith, and fantastically rendered, Arthur Christmas has much to delight the tiniest to the eldest.

"It's playful, observant, sentimental without being slushy, and boasts the kind of jokes that will still sound funny when your children quote them in April." (*Telegraph*)

"Aardman films' yuletide offering is both a heartwarmer and a sly dig at the gospel of family togetherness, a witty wonder of invention. Should keep the whole family chuckling from now to New Year." (*Independent*) (SM). Arthur Christmas is an absolute gem. Watch the elves spring into Mission Impossible stuntmen as a child begins to wake, and note Steve Christmas's goatee. Don't miss.

Director: Sarah Smith
 Duration: 97 mins
 Origin: UK/USA 2011
 Certificate: U

When...

Sat 13 2.00



Mr Turner

A supremely enjoyable biopic of the British artist known as 'the painter of light' - Joseph Mallord William Turner, played tenderly and totally human by Timothy Spall (who spent two years learning to paint like Turner).

The film begins in 1826, with Turner 51 years old. He works from a studio in his London town house where his housekeeper Hannah and elderly father, William Senior keep things ticking over.

The film spans a quarter century until his death in 1851, and follows him wherever he goes.

In Margate, Turner meets a friendly landlady (Marion Bailey) who comes to play an important role in his later life.

At the Royal Academy we see him walking around, joking with friends and winding up John Constable.

We get towed into the paintings as Turner creates them "Staffa", "The Fighting Temeraire", and "Rain, Steam and Speed".

"If there is one film you should see on the largest screen possible (at the Rex) this year, it is Mr Turner, which is not merely the portrait of an artist but a full-frontal, joyous bellyflop into the seascapes of his paintings." (*Times*)

Winning Spall the best actor prize at Cannes this year he looks set to be a strong contender for the 2015 BAFTAS. (*research Anna Shepherd*). It's Mike Leigh, so it's measured to within a hair, and it's Timothy Spall's finest bottom lip performance.



Director: Mike Leigh
 Cast: Timothy Spall, Marion Bailey, Paul Jesson
 Duration: 149 mins
 Origin: UK 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Sun	14	6.00
Mon	15	7.30
Tues	16	7.30
Wed	17	2.00, 7.30
Thur	18	2.00, 7.30



Director: Morten Tyldum
 Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Charles Dance
 Duration: 113 mins
 Origin: UK/USA
 Certificate: 12A

The Imitation Game

Based on Andrew Hodges' biography and marking the English-language debut of Norwegian director, Morten Tyldum (Headhunters) The Imitation Game begins with Turing's (Benedict Cumberbatch) arrest in 1951 on charges of gross indecency. Little did officials know they were actually incriminating the pioneer of modern-day computing. Famously leading a motley group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers, Turing was credited with cracking the so-called unbreakable codes of Germany's World War II Enigma machine.

Flashbacks to his schooldays and his years at Bletchley Park paint a touching account of a man with few intellectual equals and even fewer social graces. Turing alienates his colleagues, exasperates his military masters and seems blithely unaware of the impact his blunt candour has on those around him. His rational mind also makes him blind to the sexism of his era as he becomes a fond champion of Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley) an equally formidable intellect with the disadvantage of being a mere 'gel'.

"Benedict Cumberbatch is odds-on to be nominated for an Oscar (at the very least) for his brilliant turn as Alan Turing... It's the performance of his career in what is also the best British film of the year." (*Independent*) "It's all anchored in a storming performance from Cumberbatch: you'll be deciphering his work long after the credits roll." (*Time Out*) Hope the hype does it no harm.

When...

Fri	19	7.30
Sat	20	7.00
Sun	21	6.00
Mon	22	2.00, 7.30



Polar Express

At its best, Polar Express is a heart-in-the-mouth, fantastical adventure from start to finish; spectacular on the big screen, with a happy ending. In ten short years it too has become an essential part of our Christmas programme.

At its worst, little ones (under 7s) will be thrilled but a little frightened by the clever (if weird) realistic detail of the animation.

When a doubting boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole to find Father Christmas, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Polar Express, with its eye-popping, animated photo-realism, tells a touching family story, based upon Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks is the voice (and unfortunate face) of The Conductor, who stays in charge, knows everything, but lets the children make up their own minds about each other. It is an odd, quasi-educational tale of tolerance, discovery and redemption. It is at times a little spooky for little ones. But hold them tight and they'll be alright. You might need somebody to hold you too!

Remember: every story takes the heroes of the tale on adventures, gets them into deep trouble, then gets them out of it again... for that happily-ever-after ending.

"The wonder of life never fades for those who believe"
Never mind all that, come for the heart stopping ride to Santa's homeland.

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Voices: Tom Hanks, Andrew Aleson
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2004
Certificate: U



It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our Tenth Anniversary Christmas with the same old irresistible film we've been showing since the Rex re-opened in December 2004...!

It was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946. After the war, the USA wanted fun, cars and fridges. We had bombed sites, rations, war debts and the grey 1950's with fabulous inner city trams and everything in black & white.

It became essential TV viewing in the UK during the mid 70s, when repeated year after year, it became a new part of Christmas itself. You couldn't see it at the pictures until independents flirted with a re-release seventeen years ago. Now thanks to the BFI, this beautifully restored digital copy, is here again at the beautiful Rex for Christmas 2014.

A Rex Christmas would be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how terrible life would be in Bedford Falls, if he had not been born. The simplest and best of all messages... Without us and each other, the world would be a very different place for better or worse.

Christmas is the time for fireside tales, come AGAIN for this the warmest of all.

A very warm Christmas to you from all of us at the Rex... Have fun, go easy and here's to the next ten years and into infinity... for our grandchildren.

Director: Frank Capra
Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
Certificate: U

When...

Sat 20 2.00

When...

Tue 23 12.30, 7.30
Wed 24 5.00



❄️ ❄️ ❄️

A
VERY
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
FROM
US ALL
AT
THE-REX

❄️ ❄️ ❄️



Penguins of Madagascar

The quartet of flightless birds from the Madagascar films are back starring in their own feature.

Skipper and his crew – brainy Kowalski (Chris Miller) rugged Rico (John DiMaggio) and young rookie, Private (Christopher Knights) are the most hilarious covert birds in the global espionage business. The opening of the movie finds the penguins trying to break into Fort Knox to steal the last remaining vending machine containing Private's favourite snack food, 1960's era Cheesy Dibbles, for his birthday.

But events take a more serious turn as the gang comes into conflict and ultimately teams with the high-tech organization: North Wind whose motto: "no-one breaks the wind" should get them far in the kids laughter dept. Led by handsome and husky Agent Classified (Benedict Cumberbatch) the new group includes the seal, Short Fuse (Ken Jeong), an explosives expert; snow owl, Eva (Annet Mahendru), an intelligence analyst with a Russian accent: the object of Kowalski's affections; and hulking Norwegian bear, Corporal (Peter Stormare) who constantly wants to embrace his four new bird friends.

Together, they must stop the villainous Dr. Octavius Brine, voiced by John Malkovich, from not only eliminating the whole penguin race, but destroying the world as we know it.

Sounds very fab indeed, but let's keep disappointment close at hand. "Smile and wave boys, smile and wave..."

Directors: Eric Darnell, Simon Smith
 Voices: Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom McGrath, John Malkovich
 Duration: 92 mins
 Origin: USA 2014
 Certificate: U

When...

Sat 27 2.00
 Mon 29 2.00



Interstellar

Our planet isn't in the best condition; blight has swept the globe, destroying nearly all crops other than corn. As the human race scurries in the dirt to farm and protect what little remains, remnants of NASA are instead looking to the stars for salvation.

A team of astronauts, led by Matthew McConaughey's stoically smouldering Cooper, venture into the great beyond in search of a new home for humanity. Starlight whirls, planets, and spacecraft cartwheel through nothingness.

An odyssey where Einstein's theory of relativity is a heart-breaking reality?

Once tipped for Spielberg, this long gestating project, born from the theories of physicist Kip Thorne, it lands in Christopher Nolan's hands. Where, once again embracing celluloid, keeping CGI to a minimum, *Interstellar* is as filmic as it gets. (shot on expensive 70mm film)

Deafening (the church organ score will pummel your senses) [but not here at the Rex/Odyssey] disjointed and exhausting perhaps, but so overwhelming, visually and emotionally there might be tears [oh dear].

Even Kubrick's 2001 was lambasted on first release (1968). Now look at it! Nolan has taken his gargantuan budget and used it to fuel ambition. That commands respect. (*research Jack Whiting*) Not sure Jack. Indulgence and a neglected script might prove otherwise. At 10 mins short of three hours, it is more likely to be the audience who commands respect...?



Director: Christopher Nolan
 Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Michael Caine
 Duration: 169 mins
 Origin: USA/UK 2014
 Certificate: 12A

When...

Sat	27	6.00
Sun	28	5.00
Mon	29	6.00





Frozen Sing-A-Long

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!

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*). This film wont go away... So here's another chance to dress up, drink fizz, screech along and cry all the way home.

Director: Chris Buck
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2013
Certificate: PG



Little Miss Sunshine

Every screening has sold out every since its first Bafta preview in September. It is very funny, moving and will take you on an unanticipated, emotional ride. The characters are beautifully drawn, and unlike too many films where you're left empty, this will warm your heart. It tells the story of the Hoovers, one of the most endearingly fractured families you're ever likely to meet. To fulfil the dream-wish of seven-year-old Olive, the whole motley family, trek to the Little Miss Sunshine pageant in California. Along the way they must deal with crushed dreams, heartbreaks and a broken-down van. The family is made up of an uncommonly natural little miss Olive, a silent, Nietzsche-reading teenager, a suicidal uncle, an embarrassingly optimistic dad, a scatty mother, and a horny, coke-snorting grandfather with a penchant for creative profanity (the wholly original, Alan Arkin, got Best Supporting Oscar for this) This is a beautifully observed road movie, where sanity takes a back seat, while innocence and hope drive it every step of the way. Don't miss this uplifting and life-affirming ride on the edge of a brave new 2015.

Directors: Jonathan Dayton, Valerie Faris
Cast: Toni Collette, Alan Arkin, Steve Carell, Greg Kinnear, Paul Dano
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 2006
Certificate: 15

When...

Tue 30 12.30

When...

Tue 30 7.30



Grand Budapest Hotel

Back to end the year on an absurd high. Ralph Fiennes expertly plays eccentric hotel concierge Monsieur Gustave H accompanied by Zero (fascinating newcomer Tony Revolori) the new lobby boy at the Grand Budapest.

Perched on top of a mountain, in the fictional Republic of Zubrowka, and reached only by an old acute funicular railway. The story begins when a young writer (Jude Law) meets an impressive old man: 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 precision and style. 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 the 84-year-old fright Madame D (Tilda Swinton) her shocking murder sets in motion Wes Anderson's crazy clockwork plot.

"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 but a few in the audience can ever have known". (*S&S*) Bewilderingly star-studded, non-stop fabulous, ridiculous, riotous, quick witted and crystal clear. So indulge in this grand tale to herald New Year at the grand un-metropolitan Rex.

My glass is raised to a brave 2015.



Director: Wes Anderson
 Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Saoirse Ronan, Jude Law
 Duration: 100 mins
 Origin: USA 2013
 Certificate: 15

When...

Wed 31 6.00



10th year at The Rex 1st year at The Odyssey

THE-REX **10**
Years
ANNIVERSARY



THE REX: I know we keep going on about it, but if you're lucky, you only get one 10 year anniversary. If you're lucky you only get any anniversary once, so why the big fuss...?

This time ten years ago The Rex was a heap of chairs, carpet, white noise from a new untested sound system, flickering images on a new screen, bars half finished (started) with a leftover cement mixer here and there. But it had come from a hopeless ten years earlier, to these heaps of gear which meant we might just have a cinema in three weeks time (it is much how the Odyssey looks right now with only one week to go!). Since then we have sold out nearly every night. A single screen art deco restoration with proper leg room and tables where the stalls should be? All of which 'they' said "wouldn't work". Not only are we the most successful cinema in Britain, but we have employed many people from a wider area. We have encouraged kids to go on to

greater or lesser things, but they still keep turning up between jobs, gaps or adventures. We have nurtured a whole community of waifs and strays without knowing. Why go on about this now? Because, sitting down to write this with nothing to say, I realise we have not just been a cinema, but a house, a home, a fabulously dysfunctional home (whatever that weasel word means) not just for those kids but to you – YOU the everyman/ woman/child who comes here and stays here. You are the sold-outs on the foyer screens and the queues in the rain... This is getting maudlin. I would hate to say we love you, but you're alright, all the same. Thank you and well done. Here's to next ten...

THE ODYSSEY: Nothing would have persuaded me then to believe we would be opening another ten years later, and almost to the day! Well we are. It's a very long story, so for now...

The Rex was easy, there were only four of us. The Odyssey has a few more.

We started from scratch with none of the same artwork intact, so you will either get or even like the simple design we took from what was left, or not.

It is now a magnificent cinema space with some hefty lessons learned.

We will open unfinished on 27th to 30th for four evenings, then close again to finish until Saturday 13th when we will open with the full programme for YOU a full and proper audience. Forgive us, you will have to be patient a few weeks longer. The first four days are already sold out.

ABL sales will be available soon for the proper December programme (you will be notified sooner) with general release a week later early in December. Please keep an eye on facebook and the website for the most reliable information about how when and where to book.

But most of all, be patient, don't believe rumour and tell gossip where to go please itself. This has been five years sleepless, blood, sweat and tears, and except for sleep, it's all still flowing. You have come this far with us. Stay with us and stay cool, we are staying the distance with you. By January ticket sales etc should have settled into an easier routine. By February the Odyssey will feel like it has been here all our lives. So here's to the first ten...

The following 4 pages are taken from The Rex's very first programme.

FRANZ FELDMAN

HUGH GRANT

COL

SAME BRIDGET

BRIDGET JONES
THE EDGE OF REA

BRAND NEW DI

THE REX
BERKHAMSTEDERNESTO
CHE
MAYRA

First Programme December 2004

Come and see it all...in this palace of outstanding unnatural beauty where the noises are big noises and the pauses long and languid.

As there can be nothing more unnatural than paying to sit in a dark room full of strangers all facing the same way, absorbed in the same sensations manipulated by the same performers and a puppeteer, come here in style and comfort and not too close to each other. The Rex is brand new, give or take 60 years. Story-telling is about two million years old. The perfect combination then a story-teller, perhaps a few actors, a small gathering and the thrill of being rapt in a fantasy beyond your control.

When he was starting out Spielberg said he wanted his films to be so immediate you couldn't touch the popcorn between your knees for fear of missing a split second on the screen or simply for fear itself.

Stories are made to excite, enthrall and entertain. The best stories make you jump, gasp, laugh, cry or sit very, very still. Real rare gems do all of this - and make you think. Film at its best on a big screen will hold you fixed, unable to move or think about anything else. The Rex will bring you the good, the bad and the forgettable. It is only the messenger after all. We'll be guided by professional programmers, read the reviews, listen to your opinions and book the best titles available. The trick is to get it right more often than wrong.

We will have new titles three weeks or so after national release.

So WAIT THREE WEEKS. The old, rare, art-house, world movies will be peppered in between the new. The programme will be busy and fresh with few films screened for more than three days. As we grow, we will introduce surprises into the calendar.

So come ride with us. Come and see and be blinded by explosions, stop breathing in the face of extraordinary beauty. Sob, laugh and sing along. Cover your eyes at demons and squirm sitting next to your Mum while big fat kissing, is going on in bright red lipstick right in front of you - Fifty feet wide!

And remember ALL are welcome. First come, first seated.

Box Office Phone: 01442 877759

OPENING NIGHT.

Sun 5th December 7.45pm

All welcome

THE THIRD MAN. (UK 1949). By Optimum Releasing. Cert PG. Screenplay Graham Greene. Sound recordist: John Ross's father. Dir Carol Reed. 104 mins.
Starring: Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton, Trevor Howard, Alida Valli

Hailed as one of the masterpieces of British cinema. Why? It has a dull leading man, Joseph Cotton. A nemesis played by a much overrated, Orson Welles (both American). A cat (probably American). Though there is the wonderful Trevor Howard (UK). Some fabulous long shadows on wet Viennese cobblestones and huge walls. Lots of running and hide-and-seek. A half-ish comprehensible plot and a fabulous speech about the Swiss and their microscopic place in world history (the credit for which allegedly belongs to a little unscripted indulgence by Mr Welles). Shouldn't this be a masterpiece of international cinema with a touch of post-war American green-back propaganda about distrusting commie Europeans? It doesn't matter. In the end, the film belongs to Robert Krasker's camera work and Anton Karas' best and most haunting background/foreground music (score) in any film until Ennio Morricone's "Once Upon A Time In The West"? The bet is he took his fee 50 quid tops, and was never heard of again. Above all, in this Graham Greene centenary year, The Rex is delighted to show *The Third Man* to lead its much awaited restoration.

PS John Ross lives in Tring. As a boy he would visit this and many other film sets with his parents, meeting many of the stars of the late Forties and Fifties. A remarkable man, still tall and handsome at seventy, who as an angry young man in 1950's London protested with the left, later to become right of Thatcher, then out of the blue discovered Jackson Pollock and can now articulate the notion of abstract with the same passion he once used to deride it. He is mentioned here as the son of one of the most important people on the film Mr Ross snr, the sound recordist. We are hoping he will be with us for this historic opening night.



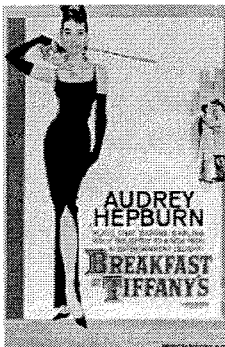
Mon 6th & Tues 7th December 7.45pm

All welcome

BREAKFAST AT TIFFANYS

All welcome

(US 1961). By BFI. Cert PG. Dir Blake Edwards. 115 mins.
Starring: Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Mickey Rooney.



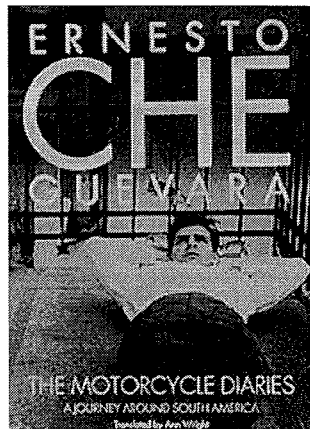
A classic for its own sake. It wasn't thought so when it opened. It is about beautiful people doing what beautiful people do or did in 1961. Apart from fashion and a few naive moments, don't we still do some of it today? Of course the idea of a silly love story was invented by American Pie. How forgetful.

It needs only two words to invite it to our big screen: AUDREY HEPBURN... Listen to her whispering Moon River then tell me there is no God. You're right there isn't but George Peppard is pretty too but it is high-class hooker, Holly Golightly, who steals every scene. The Rex is the perfect setting. Miss it and miss the exquisite Audrey Hepburn on the big screen. What more is there to life... except American Pie 2.... Start biting on the cyanide...



Mon 13th Tues 14th December 7.45pm

All welcome



THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES.

(ARGENTINA. UK.US. 2004). By Pathe Dist. Cert 15. Dir.Walter Salles. Produced by Robert Redford. 126 mins.

Starring: Gael Garcia Bernal, Mia Maestro, Rodrigo de la Serna.



This tells the story of a carefree Che Guevara at 23 on a journey, not of discovery just a fantastic bike ride through South America. The discovery came with the journey. It is about youth, adventure and what happens to those who dare to escape their doorstep to see what else is out there. This is the story of 'what else' not 'what if'.

It is a beautiful ride.

Wed 15th Thurs 16th December 7:45pm

All welcome

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO.

(US 1965). By MGM Cert A. Dir David Lean. 193 mins.

Starring: Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Tom Courtney, Alec Guinness, Rod Steiger, Geraldine Chaplin

A classic in all senses. An epic novel by Boris Pasternak cut beautifully onto film by one of the greatest of the greats, David Lean. It tells the story of hopeless love set against a hopeless Russian revolution. You can feel the cold from the opening shot to the last heartbreaking moment. It is an aching love story with what if and if only written throughout. They meet before but don't see each other.



No, he sees her. Unexpectedly they meet again in a battlefield hospital. This time they see each other. The rest is all the things we wish, hope and dread in love. See it. Don't say you've seen it until you see it again. See it now. It carries all the questions no one has ever answered about loyalty, lies, infidelity, deceit, political insanity and integrity, only love can cure or curse. Forget The Rex and 'big seat/screen' sales nonsense. Come and see it now in December 2004, wherever it's showing. See for yourselves... then think again...if only...



Fri 17th Sat 18th Dec. 6:45pm.

All welcome

Double Horror Feature in 3-D

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE

(US 1953). By UIP. Cert PG. Dir Jack Arnold. 80 mins.

Starring: Barbara Rush, Charles Drake, Richard Carlson, Russell Johnson.

THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON.

(US 2004). By UIP. Cert PG. Dir Jack Arnold. 79 mins.

Starring: Julie Adams, Richard Carlson, Richard Denning.



You must see these in 3-D. They are the best examples of the worst B-movie pulp fiction to come out of communist obsessed Hollywood in the mid 50s.

Corny, wooden and as scary as a Cliff Richard concert, with special effects your kids will howl at. So make them come. Bring them, treat them to what their grandparents sat through open mouthed. Give child-abuse a bad name, force them to sit through this classic, nightmare-free, pulp horror the week before Christmas. Or sneak out on your own, then amuse them all over the holiday with Dad doing animated, word-for-word reconstructions of the best scenes. Young or old, nobody should miss this once-in-a-lifetime B-movie experience on the big screen in 3D. Glasses provided, no extra cost.

INTERVAL Drinks, snacks, ice cream and surround sound Scary music

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

Leviathan
Paddington
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay
The Drop
I Am Ali
Untouchable
Heartbreaker



The Drop



The Hunger Games: Mockingjay



Leviathan



Paddington



THE ODYSSEY DECEMBER FILMS ON SALE MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

PLEASE NOTE FESTIVE STARTING TIMES

The Odyssey Box Office number will be announced
on our website www.odysseypictures.co.uk

DATE	FILM	TIME
13 SAT	FROZEN SINGALONG	2.00
13 SAT	PREVIEW	7.00
14 SUN	MR TURNER	6.00
15 MON	MR TURNER	2.00, 7.30
16 TUE	MR TURNER	2.00, 7.30
17 WED	MR TURNER	2.00
17 WED	FURY	7.30
18 THUR	MY OLD LADY	2.00, 7.30
19 FRI	INTERSTELLAR	7.30
20 SAT	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00
20 SAT	INTERSTELLAR	7.00
21 SUN	INTERSTELLAR	6.00
22 MON	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00
22 MON	INTERSTELLAR	6.00
23 TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00, 7.30
24 WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25 THUR	CHRISTMAS DAY - CLOSED	
26 FRI	BOXING DAY - CLOSED	
27 SAT	THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR	2.00
27 SAT	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00
28 SUN	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00
29 MON	THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR	2.00
29 MON	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00
30 TUE	ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE...	2.00
30 TUE	THE IMITATION GAME	6.00
31 WED	SOME LIKE IT HOT	6.00