

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

12 YEARS A SLAVE  
FEBRUARY 2014...

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

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

FEBRUARY 2014 Issue 107  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

**01442 877759**  
Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

<b>Gallery</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>February Evenings</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Coming Soon</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>February Films at a glance</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>February Matinees</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	<b>42-45</b>

**SEAT PRICES (+ REX DONATION £1.00)**

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Concessions	£8.50+1
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or for the Box	£66.00+1
All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box) +1	

<b>BOX OFFICE:</b>	01442 877759
Mon to Sat	10.30 – 6.00
Sun	4.30 – 6.30

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

Some of the girls and boys you see at the Box Office and Bar:

<b>Dayna Archer</b>	<b>Ellen Manners</b>
<b>Ally Clifton</b>	<b>Liam Parker</b>
<b>Kitty Clucas</b>	<b>Amberly Rose</b>
<b>Nicola Darvell</b>	<b>Georgia Rose</b>
<b>Ashley Davis</b>	<b>Sid Sagar</b>
<b>Romy Davis</b>	<b>Alex Smith</b>
<b>Karina Gale</b>	<b>Alex Stephenson</b>
<b>Ollie Gower</b>	<b>Liam Stephenson</b>
<b>Elizabeth Hannaway</b>	<b>Jordan Turner</b>
<b>Billie Hendry-Hughes</b>	<b>Bethanné Wallman</b>
<b>Natalie Jones</b>	<b>James Wallman</b>
<b>Abigail Kellett</b>	<b>Jack Whiting</b>
<b>Amelia Kellett</b>	<b>Olivia Wilson</b>
<b>Lydia Kellett</b>	<b>Roz Wilson</b>
<b>Tatjana LeBoff</b>	<b>Keymea Yazdanian</b>
<b>Emily Main</b>	<b>Yalda Yazdanian</b>

**Ushers:**

**Amy, Amy P, Annabel, Becca, Cameron, Ellen W, Ellie, Freya, Hannah, James, Katie, Lizzie, Luke, Meg, Patrick, Sophie, Zoe**

**Sally Rowbotham** In charge  
**Alun Rees** Chief projectionist (ret'd)  
**Jon Waugh** Projectionist  
**Anna Shepherd** Projectionist & writer  
**Martin Coffill** Projectionist  
**Jacquie Rose** Chief Admin  
**Oliver Hicks** Best Boy (ret'd)  
**Simon Messenger** Writer  
**Jack Whiting** Writer  
**Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry** PR/Sales/FoH

**Andrew Dixon** Resident Artist  
**Darren Flindall** Maintenance  
**Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney** Advisors and Investors  
**Ed Mauger** Genius  
**Demiurge Design** Magazine Design 01296 668739  
**Lynn Hendry** Advertising 01442 877999

**James Hannaway** ceo 01442 877999  
**Betty Patterson** Company Secretary and THE ORIGINAL VISIONARY of The Rex.

**The Rex**  
 High Street (Three Close Lane) Berkhamsted HP4 2FG  
[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

**BEST IN FEBRUARY**



**Groundhog Day**

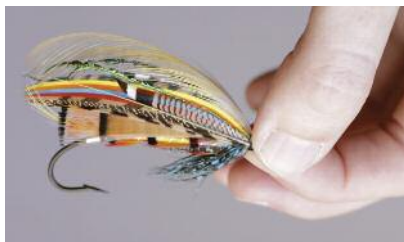
ON Groundhog Day. It's a real day: 2nd October  
 Sun 2nd 6.00

**FILMS OF THE MONTH**



**The Great Beauty**

A great beauty indeed.  
 Unashamedly art-house & Italian  
 Sun 9th 6.00



**Kiss The Water**

Fly fishing for all. Truly must not be missed  
 Tue 18th 7.30



**The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty**

Beautifully shot and he is remarkably good too  
 Thu 27th 7.30

## 2014 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

### BEST FILM

AMERICAN HUSTLE  
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS  
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB  
GRAVITY  
HER  
NEBRASKA



PHILOMENA ▲  
12 YEARS A SLAVE  
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

### FILM NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN  
THE GREAT BEAUTY



THE HUNT ▲  
THE MISSING PICTURE  
OMAR

### ANIMATED FILM

THE CROODS



DESPICABLE ME 2 ▲  
ERNEST & CELESTINE  
FROZEN  
THE WIND RISES

### DIRECTOR

David O. Russell AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Alfonso Cuarón GRAVITY  
Alexander Payne NEBRASKA  
Steve McQueen 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Martin Scorsese THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

### LEADING ACTOR

Christian Bale AMERICAN HUSTLE



Bruce Dern NEBRASKA ▲  
Leonardo DiCaprio THE WOLF OF WALL STREET  
Chiwetel Ejiofor 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Matthew McConaughey DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

### LEADING ACTRESS

Amy Adams AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Cate Blanchett BLUE JASMINE  
Sandra Bullock GRAVITY



Judi Dench PHILOMENA ▲  
Meryl Streep AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

### SUPPORTING ACTOR

Barkhad Abdi CAPTAIN PHILLIPS  
Bradley Cooper AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Michael Fassbender 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Jonah Hill THE WOLF OF WALL STREET  
Jared Leto DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

### SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Sally Hawkins BLUE JASMINE  
Jennifer Lawrence AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Lupita Nyong'o 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Julia Roberts AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY  
June Squibb NEBRASKA



## 2014 BAFTA NOMINATIONS

### BEST FILM

12 YEARS A SLAVE  
AMERICAN HUSTLE



CAPTAIN PHILLIPS ▲  
GRAVITY  
PHILOMENA

### OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM

GRAVITY  
MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



PHILOMENA ▲  
RUSH  
SAVING MR. BANKS  
THE SELFISH GIANT

### FILM NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

THE ACT OF KILLING  
BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOUR  
THE GREAT BEAUTY  
METRO MANILA



WADJDA ▲

### ANIMATED FILM

DESPICABLE ME 2  
FROZEN  
MONSTERS UNIVERSITY

### DIRECTOR

Steve McQueen 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
David O. Russell AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Paul Greengrass CAPTAIN PHILLIPS  
Alfonso Cuarón GRAVITY  
Martin Scorsese THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

### LEADING ACTOR

Bruce Dern NEBRASKA  
Chiwetel Ejiofor 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Christian Bale AMERICAN HUSTLE



Leonardo DiCaprio ▲ THE WOLF OF WALL STREET  
Tom Hanks CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

### LEADING ACTRESS

Amy Adams AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Cate Blanchett BLUE JASMINE



Emma Thompson SAVING MR. BANKS ▲  
Judi Dench PHILOMENA  
Sandra Bullock GRAVITY

### SUPPORTING ACTOR

Barkhad Abdi CAPTAIN PHILLIPS  
Bradley Cooper AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Daniel Brühl RUSH  
Matt Damon BEHIND THE CANDELABRA  
Michael Fassbender 12 YEARS A SLAVE

### SUPPORTING ACTRESS

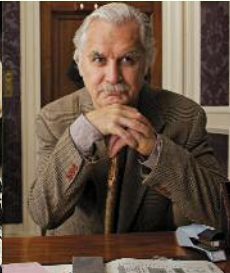
Jennifer Lawrence AMERICAN HUSTLE  
Julia Roberts AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY  
Lupita Nyong'o 12 YEARS A SLAVE  
Oprah Winfrey THE BUTLER  
Sally Hawkins BLUE JASMINE

## THE REX TOP 10 BEST SELLING FILMS 2013



Well, who would have guessed, from over 400 films, this would be our 2013 best sellers list? Never mind.

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Les Misérables   | 6. Life Of Pi      |
| 2. Rush             | 7. The Hobbit      |
| 3. The Great Gatsby | 8. Saving Mr Banks |
| 4. Quartet          | 9. Argo            |
| 5. Blue Jasmine     | 10. About Time     |





F E B R U A R Y   E V E N I N G S



## Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Sat 1 7.00



**It has taken nine years for Ron Burgundy's story to enter legend, causing fans to demand a sequel. And inevitably, here it is.** Clearly they didn't want to hurry a meticulous script Ron has left the sleepy streets of 1970s San Diego for the bright 1980s lights of the Big Apple. Now married to co-anchor Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate) Burgundy, looking more like a porn star than a newsman, is flying high. Until, that is, the pair's new boss, Mack Harken (Harrison Ford) bumps Corningstone up to primetime, and dumps Burgundy altogether. After a spectacularly inept suicide attempt, a washed-up Ron is rescued by his former producer who rallies behind his one-time news champ. Reignited, Ron reconnects with his posse, Champ (David Koechner), Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and weatherman Brick (Steve Carell), who then face-off with slick newscaster Jack Lime (James Marsden), himself now oblivious to change. Delivering 24-hour news inexplicably brings Burgundy and his merry band of misfits back into vogue. With supposedly enough unrestrained, improvised material to fill around five hours, Anchorman's zaniness doesn't disappoint. For the uninitiated it may all seem a little too 'WTF', but for all you Burgundy fans out there, it's a doozy! (*research Jack Whiting*). At under two hours, there'll be somewhere online for Ferrell fans to wade through the missing 3 hrs improvisation.

**Director:** Adam McKay  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Paul Rudd, Christina Applegate, Meagan Good  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 119 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Groundhog Day

Sun 2 6.00

**Director:** Harold Ramis  
**Starring:** Bill Murray, Andie Macdowell  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 142 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1993  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

### We've got Groundhog Day on Groundhog Day...!

This is Bill Murray in a time loop, in one of his best-loved roles as a grumpy, arrogant weatherman (Phil) on a hated annual assignment in Punxsutawney. After grudgingly giving his report on the festivities, Phil rushes his team back to Pittsburgh, but a blizzard shuts down all travel and the team are forced to return for one more night.

When Phil wakes up the following morning he is reliving yesterday, the worst day of his life: 2nd February! To begin with he is confused but when the phenomenon continues every morning and with no long-term consequences to fear, he decides to take advantage of it. Directed and co-written by comedy favourite, Harold Ramis who starred alongside Murray in cult classic *Ghostbusters*. Andie MacDowell features as Rita, the Producer of Phil's weather show and ultimately the key to his fate. "This 1993 farce is also a true romance; it's about getting to know yourself as you get to know her." (*New Yorker*) "The master of bone-dry acerbic wit, and even as his stiff facade is worn away by the toil of endless days (of self-discovery) he doesn't let things descend into the saccharine." (*Empire*) Come out of your burrows on (the real) Groundhog Day and brave the cold for Murray's flat faced genius. (*research Anna Shepherd*)



## Philomena

**Mon 3 7.30**



**Judi Dench plays Philomena Lee, who in the early 1950s became pregnant as a teenager, she was sent as a 'fallen woman' to the convent of Roscrea and forced to give up her child for adoption.**

Steve Coogan, who co-wrote and produced the film also plays the former BBC journalist, Martin Sixsmith. The script is adapted from Sixsmith's 2009 non-fiction book: *The Lost Child of Philomena*.

Sixsmith, at a low ebb in his career, agrees to help Philomena search for her missing son with the aim of writing a story about her. Although, originally calling it 'a human interest story... for weak minded, ignorant people'. Dench and Coogan's characters are the classic odd couple. On screen together throughout, their trail to find the boy brings them face to face with some long buried secrets.

"The brilliance of Judi Dench's performance lies in the sure-footed way she combines comedy and extreme pathos without ever lapsing into caricature." (*Independent*)

"The film is one of the few capable of allowing its watchers to shed a tear and laugh within the same sequence" (*Standard*)

Another fabulous award winning turn by Dame Judi. Let's hope for the best. Philomena herself still lives in St Albans. It is truly a fantastic pinch-yourself dream to see her amid a 1000 flashbulbs on all the red carpets. Don't miss.

**Director:** Stephen Frears  
**Starring:** Judi Dench, Steve Coogan  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK/USA/France 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

**Tue 4 7.30**

**Director:** Justin Chadwick  
**Starring:** Idris Elba, Naomie Harris  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 147 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**He was 27 years in jail for speaking out, much of it tortuous hard-labour, breaking rocks for no reason.**

In film terms if it helps, think of Cool Hand Luke being forced to dig that huge hole, fill it in, then dig it again and again. Nelson Mandela walked slowly to freedom, took charge of a country in turmoil and about to explode into a 100 years war. Then miraculously calmed it down. And even though, it is still a tough place to live, and probably will be for ever, it is not suffocated by bloody civil war.

Then, as if to defy the life sentence, his jailors and the State, he died at 95, a free man, a statesman, a saviour of his country, and in one piece.

There is no victory greater than to win without retaliation, grandstanding, incitement or a smug arrogance. Surprisingly not up for awards. Come and see if it's been overlooked...





## Captain Phillips

Wed 5 7.30



**Still reeling from the intensity of Denmark's A Hijacking earlier last year, Hollywood has made this.** To be fair, they must have been in production at the same time. Captain Phillips is based on the true story of a skipper whose vessel was overrun by pirates (four tiny men with big guns and huge courage) off the coast of Somalia in 2009. It gives British director Paul Greengrass licence to indulge two of his favourite storytelling lines: high-stakes tension and real-world politics, with much hand-held camera shake (United '93 and the Bourne's: Supremacy & Ultimatum). It also sees Tom Hanks playing an unexceptional guy at the heart of an exceptional crisis. (Bearded, paunchy and comfortable; the complete antithesis of his skinny captors). "Greengrass doesn't deny either, their heroic qualities, Phillips shows resilience and courage yet there's nothing superhuman about any of them." (*Time Out*) "It might have all been another Hollywood-formula flick with American might taking on the alien other. But Greengrass gives Phillips and his captors equal bearing, with time to discover shared beliefs and fears" (*Rolling Stone*) It is without a doubt one of, if not the best role of Hanks' career. Applause too to Greengrass for delivering yet another edge-of-seat movie. (*research JW*). It was all a bit too shouty for me, but that won't stop deserved nominations.

**Director:** Paul Greengrass  
**Starring:** Tom Hanks  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 134 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## The Butler Thu 6 7.30

**Director:** Lee Daniels  
**Starring:** Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 132 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

**On the eve of Barack Obama's election victory in November 2008, The Washington Post tracked down 'a story from the back pages of history' that of Eugene Allen who served in the White House for 34 years before retiring as head butler in 1986.**

Described as 'a figure in the tiniest of print', Allan had been called 'Gene' by Truman, talked golf with Ford and been invited to dinner by the Reagans. More importantly, he had seen America change from a segregated country in which he wasn't allowed to use public lavatories in his native Virginia to a superpower ruled by its first black president.

Inspired by this story, Lee Daniel's star-studded adaptation sees the fictional Cecil Gaines (Forest Whittaker) live an extraordinary life that takes him from the cotton fields of Georgia (where his mother is raped and his father shot) to the corridors of the White House (where the serving staff are black) via an apprenticeship that teaches him to first accept and then to reject the term 'house nigger' as servitude turns to empowerment.

"Forest Whitaker is quietly powerful as a servant who lived through the long battle for civil rights". (*M.Kermode*). It is a lot better than the cast, wigs and distracting starry Hollywood cameos would have you believe. Luckily the story is big enough to overcome, those Presidential distractions.



## 47 Ronin Fri 7 7.30



**Good news? 47 Ronin isn't the disaster its (incredibly troubled) production has led us to believe. Other news? It's not as much fun as it should be.**

In this variation, the Ronin are joined by a half-breed named Kai (Keanu Reeves) who is discovered as a young refugee in the forest and taken in by the feudal lord Asano (Min Tanaka). It's an obvious Hollywoodism: Kai is the scrappy half-breed underdog, the guy without any pedigree who will predictably grow up to be a great warrior against all odds. But it takes the focus away from the person who should be the hero of this tale; Oishi (Hiroyuki Sanada), the leader of Asano's samurai. After their lord is framed for an assassination attempt and forced to commit seppuku, Oishi and the other warriors are cast adrift as Ronin (the term for a masterless samurai). But after spending a year rotting in a dark, pit, Oishi emerges and gets the band back together, this time it includes Kai, whom he had denigrated as a lowly urchin earlier in their lives. The Seven Samurai it ain't, but the filming was troubled, not the film. I've always had a soft spot for Reeves' particular brand of acting; what goes on behind those doe-eyes of his is always incredibly intriguing. Guaranteed cult status? Come see for yourself. (research Jack Whiting)

**Director:** Carl Rinsch  
**Starring:** Keanu Reeves  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 119 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Last Vegas Sat 8 7.00

**Director:** Jon Turteltaub  
**Starring:** Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline play faded Brooklyn buddies who reunite to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of their former ringleader (Michael Douglas).**

'This is the first bachelor party that could be covered by Medicaid,' they remark as they weave through the deodorised fantasy land of modern-day Vegas. They whistle at the girls by the pool and guzzle alcohol from the breasts of an attractive iced sculpture. The loins are willing but the flesh is weak. The erstwhile members of the "Flatbush Four" have all seen better days and their wild weekend stirs up old resentments. Back in the old neighbourhood, the wolfish Billy (Douglas) and the stoical Paddy (De Niro) went to war over a girl and the outcome still rankles. Besides which, what does Billy think he's doing, marrying a girl who's less than half his age? The man is in crisis; he needs to grow up...

"Here is a film with scotch on its breath and Viagra in its back pocket; a series of artificial highs en route to the maudlin final clinch. In fits and starts I rather enjoyed it." (*Observer*)

"They're counterfeiting emotion, faking their roles for all that they're worth. But they do it with such grace that they convince us it's real." (*Guardian*) (research Jane Clucas). Come, just to see how this odd foursome gets on..?



## The Great Beauty – La Grande Bellezza

Sun 9 6.00



**Paolo Sorrentino's new film is a withering portrait of the city of Rome and one cynical inhabitant of its la dolce vita.**

As Jep Gambardella (Sorrentino regular Toni Servillo – *Il Divo*, *Consequences of Love*) celebrates his 65th birthday, he thinks back on his life, which has also been the life of the city, and realises he has spent most of it searching on the rooftops and in the gutters for what he calls *La Grande Bellezza*: *The Great Beauty*.

Aristocratic ladies, social climbers, politicians, high-flying criminals, journalists, actors, decadent nobles, artists and intellectuals, whether authentic or presumed, attend parties at antique palaces, immense villas and the most beautiful terraces in the city.

"This movie looks and feels superb, it is pure couture cinema" (*Guardian*)

"This is more than a night-stalking tribute to Italian cinema. Servillo's super-dry performance creates one of the more pungent screen characters of recent years" (*Sight&Sound*)

Sorrentino's film sets out to explain Rome today, as a city, mindset and belief system. A "huge mass of interlocked facts, characters and anecdotes" casts a fascinated eye over the cavernous marble palaces and terraces stalked by the rich of the Berlusconi era. (*Anna Shepherd*) Startling in its originality, and breathtaking in its delicious photography. It is unashamedly art-house and unapologetically Italian. Don't miss it for the world.

**Director:** Paolo Sorrentino  
**Starring:** Toni Servillo, Sabrina Ferilli,  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 141 mins  
**Origin:** Italy/France 2013  
**By:** Curzon Film World

## Philomena Mon 10 7.30

**Director:** Stephen Frears  
**Starring:** Judi Dench, Steve Coogan  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK/USA/France 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Judi Dench plays Philomena Lee, who in the early 1950s became pregnant as a teenager, she was sent as a 'fallen woman' to the convent of Roscrea and forced to give up her child for adoption.**

Steve Coogan, who co-wrote and produced the film also plays the former BBC journalist, Martin Sixsmith. The script is adapted from Sixsmith's 2009 non-fiction book: *The Lost Child of Philomena*.

Sixsmith, at a low ebb in his career, agrees to help Philomena search for her missing son with the aim of writing a story about her. Although, originally calling it 'a human interest story... for weak minded, ignorant people'.

Dench and Coogan's characters are the classic odd couple. On screen together throughout, their trail to find the boy brings them face to face with some long buried secrets.

"The brilliance of Judi Dench's performance lies in the sure-footed way she combines comedy and extreme pathos without ever lapsing into caricature." (*Independent*)

"The film is one of the few capable of allowing its watchers to shed a tear and laugh within the same sequence" (*Standard*)

Another fabulous award winning turn by Dame Judi. Let's hope for the best. Philomena herself still lives in St Albans. It is truly a fantastic pinch-yourself dream to see her amid a 1000 flashbulbs on all the red carpets. Don't miss.





## Saving Mr Banks

Tue 11 7.30



**The testy stand-off between Walt Disney and PL Travers, the formidable author of *Mary Poppins*, is well-known in film circles.** Travers resisted attempts by Disney, his screenwriters and composers, to make her fictional heroine more lovable, and railed at the thought of animation being used in the 1964 film bearing her name.

This clash has been reworked into a cat-and-mouse game that resembles a seduction. In one corner: Tom Hanks as Disney, all bluff charm and sweet persuasive reason. In the other: Emma Thompson as the prickly Travers, protective of her literary creation, a stickler for facts and grammar, and suspicious of the wearingly cheerful optimism of the studio's culture. Will starchy old PL finally get thawed by Walt's rich warmth? Will she abandon her haughty resistance to his folksy schmaltz? And can this intensely American figure faithfully represent the quintessential Britishness (Australianness in fact) of the *Mary Poppins* story?

"Smart, witty entertainment." (*Telegraph*)

"An enormous spoonful of sugar and the tiniest bit of medicine: it all goes down, just about". (*Guardian*)

"It boasts a fine (eyebrows and disapproving mouth) performance from Thompson, who starts the movie in eccentric groove like a prickly version of Joyce Grenfell's Miss Gossage, but slowly and subtly reveals Ms Travers' vulnerabilities and complexities".

(*Independent*) It is in the Rex top ten 2013, and Emma's up for a BAFTA...

**Director:** John Hancock  
**Starring:** Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** Australia/UK/USA 2013  
**By:** Walt Disney Int'l

## The Butler

Wed 12 7.30

**Director:** Lee Daniels  
**Starring:** Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 132 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

**On the eve of Barack Obama's election victory in November 2008, *The Washington Post* tracked down 'a story from the back pages of history' that of Eugene Allen who served in the White House for 34 years before retiring as head butler in 1986.**

Described as 'a figure in the tiniest of print', Allan had been called 'Gene' by Truman, talked golf with Ford and been invited to dinner by the Reagans. More importantly, he had seen America change from a segregated country in which he wasn't allowed to use public lavatories in his native Virginia to a superpower ruled by its first black president.

Inspired by this story, Lee Daniel's star-studded adaptation sees the fictional Cecil Gaines (Forest Whittaker) live an extraordinary life that takes him from the cotton fields of Georgia (where his mother is raped and his father shot) to the corridors of the White House (where the serving staff are black) via an apprenticeship that teaches him to first accept and then to reject the term 'house nigger' as servitude turns to empowerment.

"Forest Whitaker is quietly powerful as a servant who lived through the long battle for civil rights". (*M.Kermode*).

It is a lot better than the cast, wigs and distracting starry Hollywood cameos would have you believe. Luckily the story is big enough to overcome, those Presidential distractions.



## Behind The Candelabra Thu 13 7.30



**Audiences and critics alike swooned over this last year. Soderbergh's so-called swansong.** People really have enjoyed it. He's very clever, keeping an edge to all his films, you can't quite put your finger on, but can feel it as the story turns, folds and unfolds. Although he successfully sued the Daily Mirror in 1958 for suggesting he was homosexual, it was nevertheless a Hollywood open secret that Liberace was proudly gay. Between 1976 and 1982 he was in a serious relationship with Scott Thorson, whom he 'promoted' to be his bling-bling chauffeur. Soderbergh drew on his autobiography to make this HBO biopic. A convincing Douglas does his best big acting as Lee Liberace, but I wish Matt Damon would have tried a few Jason Bourne kicks to get out of it. He seems like a fish in the wrong Jacuzzi. But Rob Lowe as Liberace's pinch-faced plastic surgeon, a supercilious Aykroyd as his agent and Debbie Reynolds as his sanctified mother, are brilliant. It is by turns funny, melodramatic, shocking, sad and overacted. That Soderbergh treats the source material with his usual piercing intelligence, is some compensation for those who can do without all the camp. "A magnificent guilt trip..." (*Telegraph*) And here it's back for one more trip at Oscar time.

**Director:** Steven Soderbergh  
**Starring:** Michael Douglas, Matt Damon, Dan Aykroyd, Debbie Reynolds  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment One UK

## ♥ VALENTINE'S DAY ♥

## Ghost Fri 14 7.30

**Director:** Jerry Zucker  
**Starring:** Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1990  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**Investment banker, Sam Wheat (Patrick Swayze) and Molly Jensen (Demi Moore) an up-and-coming artist, are an idyllically happy New York couple moving into a new loft.** But this idyll is destroyed when Sam and Molly are mugged one day. Sam is murdered and Molly is left alone with her memories of their pottery table romps to the tune of 'Unchained Melody'.

Yet there's a twist: Sam may be dead but he's stayed on earth as a spirit to spend a few more moments with his beloved. As a ghost, however, he cannot be seen or heard by the living – so enters Whoopi Goldberg (in an Oscar winning role) playing a disreputable medium named Oda Mae Brown who is horrified to find one of her bogus séances is interrupted by a real ghost! Oda Mae now becomes Sam's means of communicating with the real world and between them they discover that a friend was linked to Sam's death. He also has designs on Molly. So together, Sam and Oda Mae set out to serve justice and to save the love of Sam's life.

"A perfect balance of laughs and tears, a sparkingly funny script and a clever fantasy." (*Telegraph*)  
 "Eccentric enough to remain interesting." (*Times*)

Perfect for Valentine's Day... One of them is already dead.





**Director:** David O Russell  
**Starring:** Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Amy Adams  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors



## American Hustle

**Sat 15 7.00, Sun 16 6.00,  
 Mon 17 7.30, Wed 19 7.30**

Currently enjoying a bucket load of nominations both from BAFTA and the Academy, David O. Russell's brilliantly cheeky comedy is a 'sumptuous joy'!? American Hustle is a whirling, wilful take on the con caper, with much of its ensemble drawn from Russell's two previous films: The Fighter and Silver Linings Playbook.

'Some of this actually happened' it quips as the film launches into a fictionalised, digressive account of the FBI's notorious Abscam sting of the late 1970s. The plot has Christian Bale's dopey New Jersey dry-cleaner, moonlighting as an art forger, coerced by a sleazy poodle-permed federal agent (Bradley Cooper) into taking part in a plot to bring down several high-ranking politicians.

It's also a love story, oddly affecting in its cold-heartedness. Rosenfeld (Bale) is alternately wooed and wound up by slippery Sydney (Amy Adams) while his garish New Jersey-girl-wife Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence) watches from the sidelines.

Russell is enjoying a somewhat quick-fire renaissance. Forget the overblown nominations, take it for what it is: a sexy, stylish and irreverent black comedy caper, bursting with confidence. (*research Jack Whiting*)

If there is an Oscar for distracting 'hair', this is the daddy.

It is an indulgent 1970s costume acting fest with a smell of ego so pungent, no audience but itself, should be seen anywhere near it. But it will win lollipops. So come jostle with the egos.



## Kiss The Water

Tue 18 7.30



What seems at first an impossibly flimsy and meagre documentary subject slowly reveals itself as a beautiful piece of cine-miniaturism with great charm. Eric Steel, who directed *The Bridge*, a film about suicides off San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, was inspired by a New York Times obituary of Megan Boyd. Boyd had lived in a tumbledown cottage in remote northern Scotland and had been awarded the British Empire medal for creating fishing flies with passionate dedication and craft.

Fishing aficionados and connoisseurs valued her work and jealously guarded their relationship. Anglers came from around the world to buy the flies hand-spun from exotic bird feathers, tinsel and silk and even The Prince of Wales was a regular customer who went on to become a life-long friend. Steel talks to Boyd's friends, neighbours and customers and builds up an intriguing portrait of a real eccentric: a woman who dressed mannishly, drove outrageously, danced vigorously and played bridge with abandon.

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

(research Jane Lucas)

Don't miss this gorgeous treasure.

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

## Nebraska Thu 20 7.30

**Director:** Alexander Payne  
**Starring:** Bruce Dern, Will Forte, Stacy Keach  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 115 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

After making side trips to California's Central Coast (*Sideways*) and Hawaii (*The Descendants*) Alexander Payne returns to his home state of Nebraska for his sixth directorial feature, a wistful ode to small-town Midwestern life and the idealistic dreams of stubborn old men.

The premise is a dead end: Bruce Dern plays an elderly man named Woody Grant living in Billings, Montana who gets a letter saying he's won \$1million. All he needs to do is call a number and maybe buy a magazine subscription. Instead of laughing it off, Woody insists on travelling hundreds of miles to company headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska for his fortune. Since he's lost his driving licence, it comes down to his son, David (Will Forte) to take him.

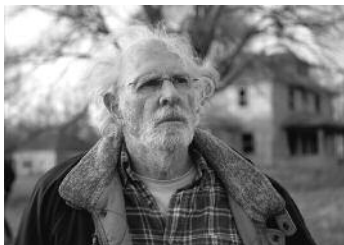
The movie's true destination turns out not to be Lincoln but a stopover at the small Nebraska town where Woody once lived. His extended family is there and so are many old neighbours and friends. The film then turns its focus inward to the emotional heart of Woody's absurd, romantic quest.

"Bruce Dern is at the top of his game." (*Observer*)

"Payne's bittersweet road movie, finds Bruce Dern in terrific form, it blends hard truths with a soft heart."

(*Guardian*)

Sad to see Bruce Dern like this. But more uplifting than it seems, and up for Oscars. Don't miss.





**Director:** Steve McQueen  
**Starring:** Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brad Pitt  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 134 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Entertainment One UK



## 12 Years A Slave

**Fri 21 7.30, Sat 22 7.00,  
 Sun 23 6.00**

In 1999 Steve McQueen was awarded the Turner Prize; this year his third feature film confirms his status as one of Britain's most accomplished filmmakers.

Adapted from Solomon Northup's 19th century memoir; it tells the story of his life as a free man from New York; who is kidnapped and sold into slavery, to the plantations of Louisiana.

British-Nigerian Chiwetel Ejiofor is magnificent as Northup, a man who endures the unendurable without losing his humanity.

Also proving their excellence on screen, is kindly Ford (Cumberbatch). In contrast, the raw power of Fassbender's rage filled Epp, is fuelled by tormented lust for a fiery, fragile, fiercely proud Patsey (the graciously beautiful Lupita Nyong'o).

"We are worlds away from the exploitative tones of Django Unchained. This is an important story, told with passion, conviction and grace." (*Observer*)

'If you have any interest in cinema then you need to watch 12 Years a Slave.' This is a powerful film that deserves to be seen by all. (*research Anna Shepherd*) OR..."I am beginning to tire of McQueen's mirthless, preachy style..."

This isn't so much a film as an unrelenting sermon, a ranting monologue that teaches us little we didn't already know about the horrors of slavery... I didn't expect to come away thinking Tarantino's Django Unchained was the more enlightened and nuanced of the two films." (*ST Culture*)



**Director:** Rama Burshtein  
**Starring:** Hadas Yaron, Yiftach Klein, Irit Sheleg  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 91 mins  
**Origin:** Israel 2013  
**By:** Curzon Film World



## Fill The Void Mon 24 7.30

**Written and directed by Rama Burshtein and set in Tel Aviv within an Orthodox Hasidic family. Fill the Void examines the place of marriage in a young woman's life.**

Esther and Shira are the daughters of a respected rabbi. Heavily pregnant, Esther is happily married to Yochay. Tragedy strikes when Esther dies in childbirth. Shira her 18 year-old sister is expected to 'fill the void' left by her death by marrying brother-in-law, Yochay to act as mother to his child.

Director Rama Burshtein wrestled with this film for 15 years, drawing on her experience of Orthodox Judaism, to which she converted at 25.

Burshtein's women wrestle not with whether they should marry, but with the issue of whom and why? And why they're not married.

"The story unfolds intriguingly within an intimate, almost claustrophobic environment. The film is a well acted, beautifully presented piece of work."

*(Guardian)*

"Like Saudi Arabia's Wadjda, Burshtein's film is a groundbreaking first. The first Israeli film to be directed by a woman. Although it lacks a little of the emotional heft of Haifaa al-Mansour's work, it's a well acted and delicately told tale."

*(Empire)*

Graceful, complex and beautifully layered. A sympathetic portrait of an insulated culture, inevitably capturing universal themes.

At The Rex, we try to keep your Monday nights small and international.

*(Anna Shepherd)*





**Director:** Jonathan Teplitzky  
**Starring:** Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman, Stellan Skarsgard  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** Australia/UK 2013  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK



## The Railway Man

**Tue 25 7.30, Wed 26 7.30**

The unspeakable horrors dished out by the Japanese army to British prisoners-of-war working on the Burma railway are the subject of this extremely affecting and accomplished drama, based on the autobiography of Eric Lomax. Lomax (played by Colin Firth), who died last year, was a railway enthusiast from Edinburgh. He had the terrible misfortune to be captured in 1942 and subjected to horrific abuse after owning up to having built a radio receiver at his camp.

We first meet him in 1980 when, on one of his obsessive train trips around the North, he meets the much younger Patti (Nicole Kidman). They court like teenagers and marry quickly, but soon after their honeymoon, Lomax's post-traumatic stress becomes unbearable. Their happy marriage is endangered by his brittle temper and worsening melancholia. Desperate to understand, Patti learns most of the story from Lomax's friend, former comrade in arms, Finlay (Stellan Skarsgard). But it is up to Lomax to banish his demons, especially once he learns his chief torturer escaped justice and is still living, apparently happily, giving tours of the camp where he meted out horrific punishment.

"A stunning, unexpected and ultimately triumphant finale to an extraordinary true story of heroism, humanity and the redeeming power of love." (*Telegraph*)  
"It's Firth's great touch: however remote, distinguished or gentlemanly he appears, you can feel his secret grief within." (*Standard*)





**Director:** Ben Stiller  
**Starring:** Kristen Wiig, Ben Stiller, Sean Penn  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## The Secret Life of Walter Mitty Thu 27 7.30

**Inspired by James Thurber's short story, about a man who lapses into heroic daydreams at the slightest provocation.**

Some of you may have seen Danny Kaye's 1947 version of the story, which sees Walter as a pulp-fiction proof reader with an overbearing mother; who likes to imagine that he is a hero who experiences fantastic adventures.

Long in development, and previously sought after by comic actors: Jim Carrey, Mike Myers and Sacha Baron Cohen. Ben Stiller's film has imposed an unusual tale concerning the last days of Life magazine (which really did close in 2000).

An employee in the photo department, Walter is tasked with tracking down a missing negative, taken by elusive photojournalist, Sean O'Connell (a rugged Sean Penn).

With the encouragement of a fond co-worker (Kristen Wiig) Walter embarks on a quest to find O'Connell, leading him to Greenland, Iceland, Yemen and Afghanistan.

"Beautifully made and featuring nicely dry performances from Stiller and Wiig, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* succeeds on its own terms." (*Times*)

"Mitty pays tribute to people who cherish the past and, in the face of extinction, are devoted to preserving it." (*TIME*)

A rare film for all the family to enjoy. Bring a rucksack and walking boots to begin your own adventure on the way home...

(research Anna Shepherd)





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



## The Wolf of Wall Street Fri 28 7.30

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

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

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

In Belfort, Scorsese has created yet another likeable anti-hero. He can stand up to the likes of Travis Bickle, Henry Hill, even Howard Hughes. Perhaps it's Leo's turn for an Oscar. He deserves something. (*Jack Whiting*) Perhaps? It could have been told better in 90 minutes. Three hours of repetition and grandstanding is worth precisely what he's selling.

## COMING SOON

## NEW RELEASES

The Book Thief  
August: Osage County  
Inside Llewyn Davis  
Monuments Men  
Her

## BACK BY DEMAND

Wolf of Wall Street  
12 Years A Slave  
The Hobbit  
American Hustle



The Book Thief



August: Osage County



Inside Llewyn Davis



Monuments Men

## FEBRUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Sat	FROZEN	2.00
1	Sat	ANCHORMAN 2	7.00
2	Sun	GROUNDHOG DAY	6.00
3	Mon	CINEMA PARADISO	2.00
3	Mon	PHILOMENA	7.30
4	Tue	ANCHORMAN 2	12.30
4	Tue	MANDELA: THE LONG WALK TO FREEDOM	7.30
5	Wed	MANDELA: THE LONG WALK TO FREEDOM	2.00
5	Wed	CAPTAIN PHILLIPS	7.30
6	Thu	MANDELA: THE LONG WALK TO FREEDOM	2.00
6	Thu	THE BUTLER	7.30
7	Fri	47 RONIN	7.30
8	Sat	WALKING WITH DINOSAURS	2.00
8	Sat	LAST VEGAS	7.00
9	Sun	THE GREAT BEAUTY	6.00
10	Mon	PHILOMENA	2.00, 7.30
11	Tue	SAVING MR BANKS	12.30, 7.30
12	Wed	THE BUTLER	2.00, 7.30
13	Thu	GHOST	2.00
13	Thu	BEHIND THE CANDELABRA	7.30
14	Fri	VALENTINE'S DAY – GHOST	7.30
15	Sat	THE GENERAL	2.00
15	Sat	AMERICAN HUSTLE	7.00
16	Sun	AMERICAN HUSTLE	6.00
17	Mon	AMERICAN HUSTLE	2.00, 7.30
18	Tue	THE HOBBIT	12.30
18	Tue	KISS THE WATER	7.30
19	Wed	DESPICABLE ME 2	2.00
19	Wed	AMERICAN HUSTLE	7.30
20	Thu	FROZEN	2.00
20	Thu	NEBRASKA	7.30
21	Fri	12 YEARS A SLAVE	7.30
22	Sat	THE HOBBIT	2.00
22	Sat	12 YEARS A SLAVE	7.00
23	Sun	12 YEARS A SLAVE	6.00
24	Mon	12 YEARS A SLAVE	2.00
24	Mon	FILL THE VOID	7.30
25	Tue	12 YEARS A SLAVE	12.30
25	Tue	THE RAILWAY MAN	7.30
26	Wed	THE RAILWAY MAN	2.00, 7.30
27	Thu	THE RAILWAY MAN	2.00
27	Thu	WALTER MITTY	7.30
28	Fri	WOLF OF WALL STREET	7.30





## F E B R U A R Y M A T I N E E S

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

## Frozen Sat 1 2.00



**Disney's Frozen, an animated fairy tale musical inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's 'The 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, the panicked king and queen decide to isolate their daughters from the outside world and push Elsa to keep her emotions in check (out of fear that she will cause serious harm).

Several years later, following some tragic circumstances, grown-up Elsa (Idina Menzel) and Ana (Kristen Bee) no longer share the close bond that 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*). Definitely don't miss.

**Directors:** Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 108 mins

**Origin:** USA 2013

**By:** Walt Disney Int'l

Cinema Paradiso  
Mon 3 2.00

**Director:** Giuseppe Tornatore  
**Starring:** Jacques Perrin, Philippe Noiret  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 120 mins  
**Origin:** Italy/France 1988  
**By:** Arrow Films

**If ever a film came from the heart, it is Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic Cinema Paradiso (1988) now getting a re-release to celebrate its silver jubilee.** We are taken back to a Sicilian childhood with a cheeky scamp called Salvatore (Toto) played by a perfect little scamp, Marcus Leonardi). Learning to love the magic of cinema, he befriends 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 (when 'Best Foreign Language' was a category) Cinema Paradiso is a love letter to the power of cinema and is now a constant presence in the top best films of all time. "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 the only 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*) Don't miss it for the world.



## Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

**Tue 4 12.30**



**It has taken nine years for Ron Burgundy's story to enter legend, causing fans to demand a sequel. And inevitably, here it is.** Clearly they didn't want to hurry a meticulous script Ron has left the sleepy streets of 1970s San Diego for the bright 1980s lights of the Big Apple. Now married to co-anchor Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate) Burgundy, looking more like a porn star than a newsman, is flying high. Until, that is, the pair's new boss, Mack Harken (Harrison Ford) bumps Corningstone up to primetime, and dumps Burgundy altogether. After a spectacularly inept suicide attempt, a washed-up Ron is rescued by his former producer who rallies behind his one-time news champ. Reignited, Ron reconnects with his posse, Champ (David Koechner), Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and weatherman Brick (Steve Carell), who then face-off with slick newscaster Jack Lime (James Marsden), himself now oblivious to change. Delivering 24-hour news inexplicably brings Burgundy and his merry band of misfits back into vogue. With supposedly enough unrestrained, improvised material to fill around five hours, Anchorman's zaniness doesn't disappoint. For the uninitiated it may all seem a little too 'WTF', but for all you Burgundy fans out there, it's a doozy! (*research Jack Whiting*). At under two hours, there'll be somewhere online for Ferrell fans to wade through the missing 3 hrs improvisation.

**Director:** Adam McKay  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Paul Rudd, Christina Applegate, Meagan Good  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 119 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

**Wed 5 2.00, Thu 6 2.00**

**Director:** Justin Chadwick  
**Starring:** Idris Elba, Naomie Harris  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 147 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**He was 27 years in jail for speaking out, much of it tortuous hard-labour, breaking rocks for no reason.**

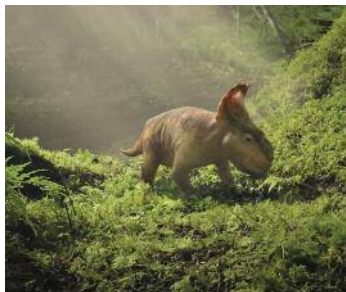
In film terms if it helps, think of Cool Hand Luke being forced to dig that huge hole, fill it in, then dig it again and again. Nelson Mandela walked slowly to freedom, took charge of a country in turmoil and about to explode into a 100 years war. Then miraculously calmed it down. And even though, it is still a tough place to live, and probably will be for ever, it is not suffocated by bloody civil war.

Then, as if to defy the life sentence, his jailors and the State, he died at 95, a free man, a statesman, a saviour of his country, and in one piece.

There is no victory greater than to win without retaliation, grandstanding, incitement or a smug arrogance. Surprisingly not up for awards. Come and see if it's been overlooked...



## Walking With Dinosaurs **Sat 8 2.00**



**'But, dinosaurs aren't supposed to talk, are they?' you might ask, and you'd be right to ask.** Hollywood has taken a few liberties with the esteemed name of 'Walking with Dinosaurs' and transformed it into *The Land Before Time*...!

The reptilian giants we fell in love with during the groundbreaking BBC documentary, have been given voices; American voices (but of course).

Over the course of the next 80 minutes, which for convenience's sake, compress time-lapse and growth into a single cross-country trek. Patchi, a runty, horn-headed Pachyrhinosaurus voiced by Justin Long, blooms into a massive, veggie-eating monster. Thanks to Long's playful voice and endearing character work, audiences will cheer for this big, ugly brute as he falls in love with lady dino Juniper (Tiya Sircar), butts heads with big brother Scowler (Skyler Stone) and defends the herd from a Gorgosaurus attack (like a T. Rex, but with even tinier claws).

The sight of these beasts are majestic enough, do we really need nasally voices and sassy pop tunes to accompany them? I don't know, but there's a genuine educational nod there somewhere, it's just buried under a plethora of cuteness, like a forgotten fossil. (*research Jack Whiting*). Come and see...

**Directors:** Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## Philomena **Mon 10 2.00**

**Director:** Stephen Frears  
**Starring:** Judi Dench, Steve Coogan  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK/USA/France 2013  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Judi Dench plays Philomena Lee, who in the early 1950s became pregnant as a teenager, she was sent as a 'fallen woman' to the convent of Roscrea and forced to give up her child for adoption.**

Steve Coogan, who co-wrote and produced the film also plays the former BBC journalist, Martin Sixsmith. The script is adapted from Sixsmith's 2009 non-fiction book: *The Lost Child of Philomena*.

Sixsmith, at a low ebb in his career, agrees to help Philomena search for her missing son with the aim of writing a story about her. Although, originally calling it 'a human interest story... for weak minded, ignorant people'.

Dench and Coogan's characters are the classic odd couple. On screen together throughout, their trail to find the boy brings them face to face with some long buried secrets.

"The brilliance of Judi Dench's performance lies in the sure-footed way she combines comedy and extreme pathos without ever lapsing into caricature." (*Independent*)

"The film is one of the few capable of allowing its watchers to shed a tear and laugh within the same sequence" (*Standard*)

Another fabulous award winning turn by Dame Judi. Let's hope for the best. Philomena herself still lives in St Albans. It is truly a fantastic pinch-yourself dream to see her amid a 1000 flashbulbs on all the red carpets. Don't miss.





## Saving Mr Banks

Tue 11 12.30



**The testy stand-off between Walt Disney and PL Travers, the formidable author of *Mary Poppins*, is well-known in film circles.** Travers resisted attempts by Disney, his screenwriters and composers, to make her fictional heroine more lovable, and railed at the thought of animation being used in the 1964 film bearing her name.

This clash has been reworked into a cat-and-mouse game that resembles a seduction. In one corner: Tom Hanks as Disney, all bluff charm and sweet persuasive reason. In the other: Emma Thompson as the prickly Travers, protective of her literary creation, a stickler for facts and grammar, and suspicious of the wearingly cheerful optimism of the studio's culture. Will starchy old PL finally get thawed by Walt's rich warmth? Will she abandon her haughty resistance to his folksy schmaltz? And can this intensely American figure faithfully represent the quintessential Britishness (Australianness in fact) of the *Mary Poppins* story?

"Smart, witty entertainment." (*Telegraph*) "An enormous spoonful of sugar and the tiniest bit of medicine: it all goes down, just about". (*Guardian*)

"It boasts a fine (eyebrows and disapproving mouth) performance from Thompson, who starts the movie in eccentric groove like a prickly version of Joyce Grenfell's Miss Gossage, but slowly and subtly reveals Ms Travers' vulnerabilities and complexities".

(*Independent*) It is in the Rex top ten 2013, and Emma's up for a BAFTA...

**Director:** John Hancock  
**Starring:** Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** Australia/UK/USA 2013  
**By:** Walt Disney Int'l

## The Butler

Wed 12 2.00

**Director:** Lee Daniels  
**Starring:** Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 132 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

**On the eve of Barack Obama's election victory in November 2008, *The Washington Post* tracked down 'a story from the back pages of history' that of Eugene Allen who served in the White House for 34 years before retiring as head butler in 1986.**

Described as 'a figure in the tiniest of print', Allan had been called 'Gene' by Truman, talked golf with Ford and been invited to dinner by the Reagans. More importantly, he had seen America change from a segregated country in which he wasn't allowed to use public lavatories in his native Virginia to a superpower ruled by its first black president.

Inspired by this story, Lee Daniel's star-studded adaptation sees the fictional Cecil Gaines (Forest Whittaker) live an extraordinary life that takes him from the cotton fields of Georgia (where his mother is raped and his father shot) to the corridors of the White House (where the serving staff are black) via an apprenticeship that teaches him to first accept and then to reject the term 'house nigger' as servitude turns to empowerment.

"Forest Whitaker is quietly powerful as a servant who lived through the long battle for civil rights". (*M.Kermode*). It is a lot better than the cast, wigs and distracting starry Hollywood cameos would have you believe. Luckily the story is big enough to overcome, those Presidential distractions.



Ghost **Thu 13** 2.00

**Investment banker, Sam Wheat (Patrick Swayze) and Molly Jensen (Demi Moore) an up-and-coming artist, are an idyllically happy New York couple moving into a new loft.** But this idyll is destroyed when Sam and Molly are mugged one day. Sam is murdered and Molly is left alone with her memories of their pottery table romps to the tune of 'Unchained Melody'.

Yet there's a twist: Sam may be dead but he's stayed on earth as a spirit to spend a few more moments with his beloved. As a ghost, however, he cannot be seen or heard by the living – so enters Whoopi Goldberg (in an Oscar winning role) playing a disreputable medium named Oda Mae Brown who is horrified to find one of her bogus séances is interrupted by a real ghost! Oda Mae now becomes Sam's means of communicating with the real world and between them they discover that a friend was linked to Sam's death. He also has designs on Molly. So together, Sam and Oda Mae set out to serve justice and to save the love of Sam's life.

"A perfect balance of laughs and tears, a sparkingly funny script and a clever fantasy." (*Telegraph*)

"Eccentric enough to remain interesting." (*Times*)

Perfect for Valentine's Day... One of them is already dead.

**Director:** Jerry Zucker  
**Starring:** Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1990  
**By:** Park Circus Films

The General **Sat 15** 2.00

**Directors:** Buster Keaton, Clyde Bruckman  
**Starring:** Buster Keaton, Marion Mack, Glan Canvender, Jim Farley  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1926  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**This is a full length Silent, albeit only 75 minutes long.**

**It is an amazing feat of endurance and death-defying stunts, real and in one-take (a second would be impossible). It is startling for its daring.**

The film-making is secondary. There are no tricks. What you see is what they really did, in real time with real bones, ready to be broken.

It is said to be Keaton's best, and "arguably the greatest screen comedy ever made".

Set against a "meticulously evoked Civil War background", Buster risks life and limb for love (but literally, for that one take).

He chases after his beloved railway engine, with his beloved on board.

It has been hijacked by Northern spies up to no good for the Confederates.

The result is everything: witty, dramatic, visually stunning, full of subtlety, insight, and all broken-legs-dangerous.

We are very happy it has been restored so beautifully and saved digitally for good (top marks BFI)

So drag children away from there vid-games, rip their ipods from their ears; draw blood if you have to, but bring them to see something that may change their lives!

A long shot perhaps, but all the action and the stunts are real. No CGI, just people, props, a train and a camera. Cancel breathing.



## American Hustle

**Mon 17 2.00**



Currently enjoying a bucket load of nominations both from BAFTA and the Academy, David O. Russell's brilliantly cheeky comedy is a 'sumptuous joy'! American Hustle is a whirling, wilful take on the con caper, with much of its ensemble drawn from Russell's two previous films: The Fighter and Silver Linings Playbook.

'Some of this actually happened' it quips as the film launches into a fictionalised, digressive account of the FBI's notorious Abscam sting of the late 1970s. The plot has Christian Bale's dopey New Jersey dry-cleaner, moonlighting as an art forger, coerced by a sleazy poodle-permed federal agent (Bradley Cooper) into taking part in a plot to bring down several high-ranking politicians. It's also a love story, oddly affecting in its cold-heartedness. Rosenfeld (Bale) is alternately wooed and wound up by slippery Sydney (Amy Adams) while his garish New Jersey-girl-wife Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence) watches from the sidelines.

Russell is enjoying a somewhat quick-fire renaissance. Forget the overblown nominations, take it for what it is: a sexy, stylish and irreverent black comedy caper, bursting with confidence. (*research Jack Whiting*)

If there is an Oscar for distracting 'hair', this is the daddy.

It is an indulgent 1970s costume acting fest with a smell of ego so pungent, no audience but itself, should be seen anywhere near it. But it will win lollipops. So come jostle with the egos.

**Director:** David O Russell  
**Starring:** Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Amy Adams  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distributors

## The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

**Tue 18 12.30, Sat 22 2.00**

**Director:** Peter Jackson  
**Starring:** Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Cate Blanchett  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 161 mins  
**Origin:** New Zealand/USA 2013  
**By:** Warner Brothers

Now that's a bit better. Unexpected Journey was difficult to fully enjoy due to a saggy start and plodding pace; turning the first third of Tolkein's brisk novel into a somewhat bloated trudge. Thankfully part two hits the ground running (but not too fast). Bilbo (Martin Freeman), Gandalf (Ian McKellen) and their merry band of dwarves continue their quest to reclaim Thorin's kingdom from the clutches of the gold hording dragon, Smaug. They've still got a fair bit of ground to cover, mind, and to get there they must traverse dense, murky forests; a giant man-bear; pesky wood-elves (including the return of fan favourite Legolas) and a soggy, canal town run by Stephen Fry. The eventual encounter with Smaug is worth a ticket alone; Benedict Cumberbatch gives the mo-cap performance of a lifetime; his grizzly tones perfectly suited to such a ferocious beast.

The Lord of the Rings was a masterpiece in adaptation. With part two of the Hobbit trilogy out the door, it is evident that Peter Jackson has still yet to reach the same heights of storytelling. However, The Desolation... is a clear improvement on part one, and paves the way for a thrilling final act, which will no doubt leave jaws on the floor. (*research Jack Whiting*) Hope not Jack, a bit messy.



## Despicable Me 2

Wed 19 2.00



**This is fabulous beyond fabulous. Great imaginations, great visual joke writers, ridic/fab voices and perfect animation.**

Yes, more minions and madness to equal the glorious first Despicable Me. Here we have our favourite ex-super villain Gru adjusting to his new family life and honest way of living. However nothing is that simple. Gru is enlisted by the Anti-Villain League to uncover the culprit behind a whole Arctic Laboratory sucked into the sky by a giant magnet. More gorgeous minion behaviour, more fabulous despicable(ness) and all the best fun comes in small, fat, dungareed yellow bumps.

"Carell and Wiig make a splendid vocal pair. Nick and Nora Charles with ice guns and lipstick Tasers and the candy-coloured 3-D (glorious Rex 2-D) animation is enthralling." (*Time Out*) "The real stars of the Despicable Me series are, of course, Gru's sweetcorn-shaped minions (Kevin, Stuart et al). Infantile, indestructible, impossible to keep a straight face around, they're deployed in full force here as gag Polyfilla." (*Total Film*)

With Steve Carell and Miranda Cosgrove, this is possibly the best children's film out this year, one to watch, regardless of how much you loved the first one. Your children will love it, and you (big kids) will love it more. Bring someone you don't like, and you'll love them all the way home. Up for an Oscar wee heee...

**Directors:** Pierre Coffin, Chris Renaud  
**Starring:** Steve Carrell, Steve Coogan  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2013  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Frozen Thu 20 2.00

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

**Disney's Frozen, an animated fairy tale musical inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's 'The 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, the panicked king and queen decide to isolate their daughters from the outside world and push Elsa to keep her emotions in check (out of fear that she will cause serious harm). Several years later, following some tragic circumstances, grown-up Elsa (Idina Menzel) and Ana (Kristen Bee) no longer share the close bond that 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*). Definitely don't miss.







**Director:** Steve McQueen  
**Starring:** Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brad Pitt  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 134 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2014  
**By:** Entertainment One UK

## 12 Years A Slave

**Mon 24 2.00, Tue 25 12.30**

**In 1999 Steve McQueen was awarded the Turner Prize; this year his third feature film confirms his status as one of Britain's most accomplished filmmakers.**

Adapted from Solomon Northup's 19th century memoir; it tells the story of his life as a free man from New York; who is kidnapped and sold into slavery, to the plantations of Louisiana.

British-Nigerian Chiwetel Ejiofor is magnificent as Northup, a man who endures the unendurable without losing his humanity.

Also proving their excellence on screen, is kindly Ford (Cumberbatch). In contrast, the raw power of Fassbender's rage filled Epp, is fuelled by tormented lust for a fiery, fragile, fiercely proud Patsey (the graciously beautiful Lupita Nyong'o). "We are worlds away from the exploitative tones of Django Unchained. This is an important story, told with passion, conviction and grace." (*Observer*) 'If you have any interest in cinema then you need to watch 12 Years a Slave.'

This is a powerful film that deserves to be seen by all. (*research Anna Shepherd*)

OR... "I am beginning to tire of McQueen's mirthless, preachy style..."

This isn't so much a film as an unrelenting sermon, a ranting monologue that teaches us little we didn't already know about the horrors of slavery... I didn't expect to come away thinking Tarantino's Django Unchained was the more enlightened and nuanced of the two films." (*ST Culture*)





**Director:** Jonathan Teplitzky  
**Starring:** Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman, Stellan Skarsgard  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** Australia/UK 2013  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK



## The Railway Man

**Wed 26 2.00, Thu 27 2.00**

The unspeakable horrors dished out by the Japanese army to British prisoners-of-war working on the Burma railway are the subject of this extremely affecting and accomplished drama, based on the autobiography of Eric Lomax. Lomax (played by Colin Firth), who died last year, was a railway enthusiast from Edinburgh. He had the terrible misfortune to be captured in 1942 and subjected to horrific abuse after owning up to having built a radio receiver at his camp.

We first meet him in 1980 when, on one of his obsessive train trips around the North, he meets the much younger Patti (Nicole Kidman). They court like teenagers and marry quickly, but soon after their honeymoon, Lomax's post-traumatic stress becomes unbearable. Their happy marriage is endangered by his brittle temper and worsening melancholia. Desperate to understand, Patti learns most of the story from Lomax's friend, former comrade in arms, Finlay (Stellan Skarsgard). But it is up to Lomax to banish his demons, especially once he learns his chief torturer escaped justice and is still living, apparently happily, giving tours of the camp where he meted out horrific punishment.

"A stunning, unexpected and ultimately triumphant finale to an extraordinary true story of heroism, humanity and the redeeming power of love." (*Telegraph*)  
 "It's Firth's great touch: however remote, distinguished or gentlemanly he appears, you can feel his secret grief within." (*Standard*)

## KICKSTARTER CROWD FUNDING



Ed taking charge of curtain drop high above the screen

**L**ike all promises of hope, there is a catch... We can't claim any 'Crowd Funding pledges' until we reach the figure we are asking for. A pound short, and that's the end of that! So it's a waste of time asking for the full £500K we've been chasing from the off. Hence we have to break the project up into useful packages: Projection, Sound, Carpets, Seats etc. (I know, we've done it before, but not with the power of the internet behind us!) Our brilliant Kickstarter friends have decided the Screen and Curtains is a pretty good place to start. So here goes. The following is their qualified pitch at Crowd Funding. Please read, or go to the website below and see what you think.

Go to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and type Odyssey Cinema in the search box.

“We now need your help to clear the final hurdle and raise £40,000 to fund the single screen, which will be a striking focal point. The word odyssey means a long, wandering and eventful journey. As you will see, we are close to the end of the journey, but not quite at the start of The Odyssey!

This is your chance to become part of history and help us with these final stages of the restoration. We have raised over £3 million so far. This means so much to everybody in St Albans. There is a passionate team who initially fought so hard to rescue the building from demolition, and are now so close to finishing the project.

### The History

Since its closure in 1995 a steady campaign in St Albans and surrounding towns and villages has kept alive the hope of protecting the building and to see it returned to its former glory. In 2010, thousands of local people played a key role in securing the site by helping to raise £1 million in a mere, heart-stopping, eight weeks. The cinema was rescued from development by the Odyssey team, who completed on their purchase of the site on 9th April 2010. Rebuilding work began three years later, and now it is on the brink of a summer opening. The restoration project has been featured across the national press and media. In June 2013 the BBC interviewed James Hannaway about his mission to save this solid building from demolition.



High above the screen (organ chamber)

**The Screen**

With your help, we will be fitting the Odyssey with one of the biggest screens in the UK. It will be surrounded by a huge hand built proscenium arch with velvet curtains opening on command. For those interested in the screen itself; Made by Harkness, it will stand 13.5 metres wide (the world’s most foremost, reputable and respected screen maker). With a white perforated screen, it will have a 6 degrees tilt and a curvature radius of 30m. If we are fortunate enough to exceed in our initial goal, then we have other vital equipment that we need to buy and we will add these as Stretch Targets.

**Risks and Challenges**

We are determined to complete the restoration of the Odyssey and open the cinema in whatever fit (unfinished) state it is in, during the Summer this year. Having previously restored the Rex, we are well aware of the challenges to this final stage. The key one is, of course, raising the final funds needed to get it open and working. There is no going back and no time to waste. ”

**KICKSTARTER**

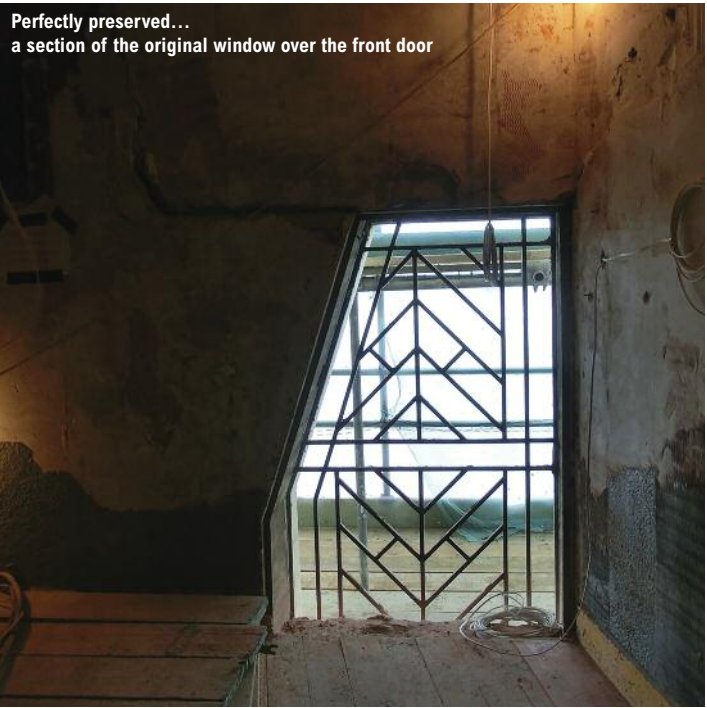
Go to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and type Odyssey Cinema in the search box.



Roof in perspective



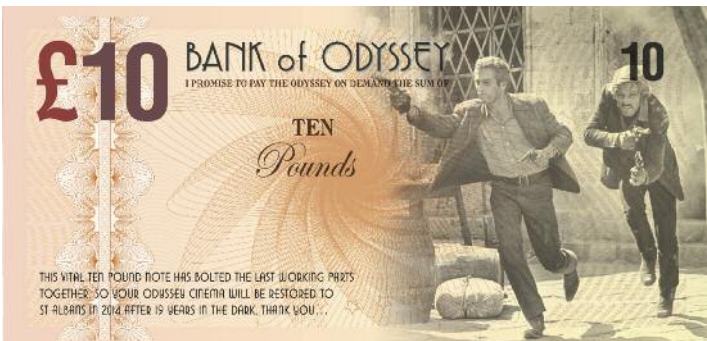
Perfectly preserved...  
a section of the original window over the front door



## ALTERNATIVELY...

**T**here is a SIMPLER, MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY to raise a small amount from say, every household. You can forget all the palaver of pledging and waiting. You can give us £10 now and win nothing. Except the Odyssey Cinema London Road St Albans Herts – OPEN...! You will also get a hand signed Butch & Sundance certificate (for the mantelpiece) to treasure for the rest of your life.

We don't know how to make it easy for you to give us your ten pounds. We're working on smart phone tricks – but for now give it to Jill Taylor at Raindrops on Roses (shop opposite the Clock Tower) and she will give you a hand signed certificate there and then. OR drop it in to the Rex anytime, and they too will give you a hand signed certificate there and then. For now we will run this and Kickstarter in parallel. See which one wins...



## BOX OFFICE BANTER...

**Here are some frequently and occasionally asked questions the box office finds interesting or funny.**

*There must be better/funnier ones than these...?*

**Q: Is this the cinema? How does it work?**

*This is a great opportunity to tell the story of the Rex (abridged) and show people (clearly new or first-timers) around the place.*

**Q: How do you get downstairs?**

*This is a further opportunity for the box office to get off its collective arse and show people our peculiar step/stairs arrangement. They could add as they walk... This is due to the sell off of our original foyer to a bar on the High St, thus the need to cut a side door into the Grade ii listed building. Hence our now treasured side entrance and why (long story, short) the stairs to the auditorium go up before they go down.*

**Q: I see the 30th is sold out... can I have 4 on a table?**

A: No I'm sorry it's completely sold out

**Q: Oh okay. What about 4 in a Royal Box?**

**Q: If there is 36 people on the raffle and you have 18 seats, what are my chances?**

**Q: I'm an hour late for the film, can I have a refund?**

**Q: I watched the film and didn't like it. Can I have a refund?**

**Q: My friend's cousin's cat has just died, can I exchange my ticket?**  
*Some fun enjoyed by the box office...?*

**Q: Oh it's sold out? I don't normally ask for favours but...**

**Q: I've been ringing since 7am and no one has answered!**

*This is unfortunate, and deserves a polite reply: "Forgive us, we have seven phone lines manned during busy weekends, and at least three/four regularly all day, six days a week.*

**BOX OFFICE BY PHONE**

**01442 877759**

**Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm**

**Sun 4.30-5.30pm**



**BUT...**

Book tickets in person up to the time the film goes in.  
Check starting times in the programme.

*After BT advice and all manner of experiments, this has evolved into our most manageable telephone system, which should cost nothing if you don't get through. Our Box Office opens at 10.30am Mon to Saturday and 4.30 on Sundays. Phone lines stay open until 6.30. Bookings in person at the box office (foyer) continue until the evening film goes in (during the ads & trailers and after the door-raffle). So please check starting times in the programme.*

**Q: Can I become a member?**

A: I'm afraid the list is now full until next year

**Well I'm really good friends with... oh what's his name... James is it?**