

THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS
MARCH 2014...

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

MARCH 2014 Issue 108
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

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

St Albans	4-5
March Evenings	13
Coming Soon	26
March Films at a glance	26
March Matinees	27
Dear Mrs Trellis...	42-43

SEAT PRICES (+ REX DONATION £1.00)

Circle	£8.00+1
Concessions	£6.50+1
At Table	£10.00+1
Concessions	£8.50+1
Royal Box (seats 6)	£12.00+1
or for the Box	£66.00+1
All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box) +1	

BOX OFFICE:	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:

Dayna Archer	Toby Morgan
Ally Clifton	Joanna Nakar
Ashley Davis	Becky Paton
Romy Davis	Alex Smith
Stephanie Day	Jordan Turner
Karina Gale	Bethanné Wallman
Ollie Gower	James Wallman
Billie Hendry-Hughes	Jack Whiting
Natalie Jones	Olivia Wilson
Tatjana LeBoff	Roz Wilson
Jo Littlejohn	Danielle Wright
Emily Main	

Ushers:

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

Sally Rowbotham In charge
Jo Littlejohn {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 (Guardsman ret'd)
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

WORST IN MARCH



Wolf of Wall Street

THREE hours of Oscar-baiting tedium
 Sat 1st 7.00 / Sun 2nd & 23rd 6.00

OSCAR CONTENDERS



12 Years A Slave

Brutal, overhyped and tries too hard
 Tue 4th / Wed 5th 7.30



American Hustle

Why...?

Tue 6th / Fri 7th 7.30 / Sat 8th 7.30



August: Osage County

Brilliant script and surprisingly underplayed
 Tue 18th / Wed 19th / Thu 20th 7.30

THE ODYSSEY GOOD NEWS & BAD...



We now have the finance in place to finish the building work. Bravo! BUT to fit out the site and turn it into a real cinema, in time for opening in the summer, we need to find that same half million-ish we've been chasing from the off.

We have over 200 seats left to sponsor and name. This alone will raise over £200,000.

They remain at £1000 & £1500 a seat on different floors. You are welcome to sponsor/name as many as you like. Better still, if you can help us 'sell' these seats, you will be an angel indeed. Please join us.

However, one more piece of astounding good news... Last week a St Albans resident donated the whole sum, amounting to almost £40,000 to provide and build the screen, curtains, masking and screen mechanisms. This extraordinary individual will remain anonymous.

There is the rest of the cinema to sponsor, named or anonymous. Projection, Sound, Seats, Carpets, Bars and more. Each item here is available for sponsorship by individuals, families, groups, small local companies.

This is the fully anticipated fit-out costs list. To avoid shocks or surprises they are calculated to the maximum.

- Screen loud speakers: £12k
- Surround loud speakers: £20k
- Sound system incl. amplifiers: £45k
- Digital projection systems: £100k
- Carpets: £96k
- Stair nosings & LEDs: £20k
- Free standing tables: £3k
- Fixed & swivel seating: £120k
- Full Box Office equipment: £30k
- Screen & curtains: £40k (DONATED)
- Baffle wall: £10k
- Ballustrades: £15k
- Bars (carcassing, lighting, finishes): £20k

Total: £531k (minus Screen)

We would anticipate lower negotiated prices.





M A R C H E V E N I N G S

The Wolf of Wall Street

Sat 1 7.00,
Sun 2 6.00



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

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

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

In Belfort, Scorsese has created yet another anti-hero? He can stand up to the likes of Travis Bickle, Henry Hill, even Howard Hughes. Perhaps it's Leo's turn for an Oscar. He deserves something? (*JackW*) Perhaps? It could have been told in 20 minutes. Three hours of repetition and grandstanding are worth precisely what Leonardo is selling.

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

The Armstrong Lie

Mon 3 7.30

Director: Alex Gibney
Certificate: 15
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

In 2009, Alex Gibney shot footage for a shelved Lance Armstrong comeback documentary.

Footage re-emerges alongside new interviews conducted in the wake of the cyclist's admissions of long-term doping. In his typically fascinating and intelligent investigation, Gibney delves not only into Armstrong's near-pathological 'arrogance' (a determination to win that helped him beat cancer but proved his Achilles heel) but also into his seduction by his own charismatic force.

Gibney also gives plenty of stage time to the whistleblowers, former teammates and journalists whose reputations were damaged by daring to speak out against cycling's golden boy. As Gibney admits, it wasn't just the 'Armstrong lie' that drove him through the endurance-testing Tour de France, but people's desire to believe in that lie. Armstrong comes across as both admirably resilient and frighteningly selfish, his treatment of teammates who crossed him is tellingly callous, but his refusal to be beaten, bizarrely engaging.

"What started out as a puff piece has transformed into a comprehensive demolition." (*Guardian*)

"If The Armstrong Lie doesn't quite have the tragic beauty and natural symmetry of say Senna, it nevertheless succeeds as a probing look into the mechanics of an epic lie, not to mention the emotion at its heart." (*Observer*) (*research Jane Clucas*). He is certainly one tough cookie, what Tour de France rider isn't? I don't care about doping, but he's no Senna.





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

Tue 4 7.30, Wed 5 7.30

In 1999 Steve McQueen was awarded the Turner Prize; this year his third feature film wins a Bafta 2014.

Adapted from a 19th century memoir by Solomon Northup; 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 has won the Bafta for best actor as Northup, a man who endures the unendurable, humanity intact.

Also proving their excellence: 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 newcomer 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 S*) OR... "I 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*) You decide...



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

**Thu 6 7.30, Fri 7 7.30,
Sat 8 7.00**

Currently enjoying nominations Oscars, David O. Russell's cheeky comedy is a 'sumptuous joy'!? It lost all the big Baftas.

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" are the last words on screen as the film kicks off. It turns out to be the best line in the whole film. It is the FBI's notorious Abscam sting of the late 1970s, with Bale's dopey New Jersey dry-cleaner (Rosenfeld) moonlighting as an art forger, coerced by a sleazy poodle-permed federal agent (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 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 caper, bursting with confidence. (*research JackW*) It is a pungent, indulgent 1970s costume drama closeted with the stench of ego.

An Oscar for 'distracting hair' would be nice. The Baftas gave it a gong for Hair & Make-up. Who'd have thought Bafta would have a sense of humour. Bravo.

The Railway Man

Sun 9 6.00, Tue 11 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 young railway enthusiast from Edinburgh. He had the terrible misfortune to be captured in 1942 and subjected to horrific abuse. 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*) The critics lashed it, so don't miss.

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

Les Salauds (Bastards) Mon 10 7.30

Director: Claire Denis
Starring: Vincent Lindon, Chiara Mastroianni
Certificate: 18
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France/Germany 2014
By: Curzon Film World

Acclaimed director Claire Denis delivers an unforgettable thriller and commentary on late Capitalism.

Handsome and craggy-faced Vincent Lindon (*Anything For Her*) is perfectly cast as Marco, a Tanker Captain, urgently called back to Paris to help his desperate sister, Sandra and teenage niece, Justine (Gazelle-like Lola Creton). Marco must assume the role of private investigator to watch the antics of powerful business man Edouarde Laporte (Michel Subor, Jules et Jim) in the suicide of his brother-in-law and the implosion of his family's company. Fuelled by recent headlines, an idea about Dominique Strauss-Kahn and the sexual abuse of power, Claire Denis and writer Jean-Pol Fargeau created a story that feels like a pulp readymade. Cinematographer Agnès Godard and Tindersticks music-man Stuart Staples deserve particular credit for the films relentless atmosphere. "One of France's finest contemporary film-makers... a work of uncompromising bleakness and astute if despairing, social diagnosis. Oddly beautiful." (*Film4*) "It's one of the rarest of cinematic objects - a completely contemporary, disturbingly relevant film noir." (*Sight&Sound*) Claire Denis once again proves she is one of the most exciting and innovative directors working today. (*research Anna Shepherd*) Atmospheric, erotic, dangerous and totally connected from beginning to end. Fabulous faces with enduring presence. You wont see acting. So don't miss it.



12 Years A Slave

Wed 12 7.30



In 1999 Steve McQueen was awarded the Turner Prize; this year his third feature film wins a Bafta 2014.

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"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 S*)

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

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

Lone Survivor

Thu 13 7.30

Director: Peter Berg
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Emile Hirsch, Eric Bana
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 121 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Some say it's not the outcome that counts, but the journey. Thankfully Peter Berg's war-time thriller has enough macho, chest-beating energy to fuel its journey.

Which is fine, seeing as how the title spoils the end a bit. A bit...? The film's plot comes from a this-almost-could-have-happened yarn by Marcus Luttrell, a former US Navy SEAL. It describes an operation in the mountains of Afghanistan in 2005, in which four American marines (Mark Wahlberg, Ben Foster, Emile Hirsch and Taylor Kitsch) found themselves caught on the prongs of a moral dilemma.

They are sent to assassinate a Taliban warlord, but while lurking in the foothills outside his village, they unexpectedly encounter three goatherds; an elderly man, a doe-eyed young boy and a scowling teenager.

They have two options. The first is to press on with the mission after 'terminating the compromise'; a euphemism for either shooting the goatherds dead, or tying them up and letting wolves and the weather do the rest. The second is to let them go, fairly safe in the knowledge that one will raise the alarm, and whatever forces the Taliban can immediately muster will soon be bearing down on them very soon. It's refreshing to see Berg follow up his Battleship drowner with a leaner, focused tale of human behaviour and endurance against all odds. (*research Jack Whiting*) Come and see...?





Directors: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen
Starring: Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan, John Goodman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Studiocanal



Inside Llewyn Davis

**Fri 14 7.30, Sat 15 7.00,
 Sun 16 6.00, Mon 17 7.30**

"If it was never new, and it never gets old, then it's a folk song."

Oscar Isaac plays Llewyn Davis, a fictional folk singer in early 1960s New York. After losing his musical partner, Mike, who jumped from the Brooklyn Bridge, Llewyn is now struggling through a harsh winter. Chronically short of money and with no fixed address, he goes from place to place, sleeping on the couches of his disgruntled friends.

One morning, Llewyn accidentally locks himself out with the owners' ginger tom cat. Until he can return it, Llewyn must act as guardian, he takes him on the subway and even on a road trip to Chicago.

This is the Coen brother's sixteenth feature and one of their most soulful films to date. Its low-key melancholy comedy shows Llewyn, trying to find a balance between artistic integrity and mainstream success.

"The music choices alone will ensure this haunting, beautifully detailed film will live a long and lasting life." (*RadioTimes*)

"It's a what-if imagining of a cultural also-ran that maybe tells us more about the truth than the facts themselves ever could." (*TimeOut*)

Llewyn's live performances in the smoke-filled Gaslight Café, is where the character truly comes to life. (*Anna Shepherd*) Look at Dylan's 1963 Freewheelin' cover for the Coens' New York cold climate inspiration.





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

August: Osage County Tue 18 7.30, Wed 19 7.30, Thu 20 7.30

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

She is a cantankerous Oklahoma matriarch who, on becoming a widow, assembles her extended family for the funeral weekend. Her daughters Barbara (Julia Roberts), Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) and Karen (Juliette Lewis) bring along their various partners and children.

Violet is suffering from mouth cancer and constantly self-medicating and Barbara is facing the end of her marriage, yet they may be the least-suffering members of the Weston clan. There's incest, attempted rape, familial abuse and horrible home cooking to deal with, not to mention the general despair of living in the US in 2007.

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

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

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

What self-satisfied bollocks critics speak. It's talkie, but with a brilliant script, and considering the cast, not too much ACTING to destroy the words. Don't miss.





Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Entertainment One UK



Dallas Buyers Club

**Fri 21 7.30, Sat 22 7.00,
Thu 27 7.30**

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

With a deadly virus in his body and red tape around his throat, Ron Woodroof is fighting back. This is a drama of entrepreneurial self-help from the Reaganite 1980s. It is based on a true story about a heterosexual good ol' Dallas Texan boy with a previously unknown and yet to be invented, sex addiction. Ron is told in 1986 that he has Aids and only 30 days to live, but defies the odds, gives the finger to the complacent doctors and the AZT merchants of Big Pharmaceuticals. Like Erin Brockovich in a later era, knuckles down to some research, finding alternative drug therapies in foreign countries; a no mean feat in the pre-Google era. Soon, Ron has set up a buyers' club, niftily sidestepping US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) laws about drugs selling by getting HIV/Aids patients to pay for 'membership' in which imported medicines are notionally free. "Dallas Buyers Club fits the 'Breaking Bad' moment well, offering a difficult hero whose personal code takes on an intriguing coherence." (*Time Out*) Definitely worth seeing, as much for the nurse as the tale. She's the cool one playing the straight man to McConaughey's Eric Morcambe.

Wolf Of Wall Street

Sun 23 6.00



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

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

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

In Belfort, Scorsese has created yet another anti-hero? He can stand up to the likes of Travis Bickle, Henry Hill, even Howard Hughes. Perhaps it's Leo's turn for an Oscar. He deserves something? (*JackW*) Perhaps? It could have been told in 20 minutes. Three hours of repetition and grandstanding are worth precisely what Leonardo is selling.

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

Journal De France

Mon 24 7.30

Directors: Claudine Nougaret, Raymond Depardon
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2014
By: Soda Pictures

An intimate, wistful portrait of France; past and present, directed by Raymond Depardon and his wife Claudine Nougaret.

Depardon is a justly celebrated French photographer, photojournalist and documentary film-maker. His work now spans five decades, every continent and a vast range of famous subjects; including glimpses of Nelson Mandela, Jacques Chirac, Jean-Luc Godard, Alain Delon and Eric Rohmer.

Now 71, he travels up and down France in a camper van photographing the changing landscapes and people. Along with his partner and sound recordist, Nougaret they rediscover archive footage; his TV reports from around the world; snatches of their memories and our history.

En route we see Nelson Mandela observe a moving minute of silence; archaeologist Françoise Claustre interviewed while held hostage by rebels in Chad in the 70s; Valéry Giscard d'Estaing on the presidential campaign, in snippets of film he would later try to ban.

"It's fascinating fare, offering both an insight into the emergence of Depardon's still influential "direct cinema" aesthetic, and an affectionate portrait of a unique visual artist and cultural archivist."

(*Observer*)

"Even in fragments, the humanism of Depardon's gaze moves and inspires."
 (*TotalFilm*)

An engrossing and valuable introduction to the work of Raymond Depardon.

(*Anna Shepherd*) Stunning and for everyone, that's you. Please come. You will remember it and be glad...





Director: Ralph Fiennes
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones, Kristin Scott Thomas
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2014
By: Lionsgate Films UK



The Invisible Woman

**Tue 25 7.30, Wed 26 7.30,
Sun 30 6.00**

Ralph Fiennes directs and stars in this adaptation of Claire Tomalin's bestselling book about the likely affair between Charles Dickens (Fiennes) late in his career and the young actress, Nelly Ternan (Felicity Jones). With a script by Abi Morgan, the story is seen in flashback from the perspective of the now married Nelly, tormented by the memories of her affair with the charismatic author. Nelly first meets the writer during a school production of a play by Dickens and Wilkie Collins, *The Frozen Deep*. She is guided in this stage

apprenticeship, along with her two sisters, by her protective, apprehensive mother (Kristen Scott Thomas). Nelly is fast installed as a favourite of Dickens, whilst his long-suffering wife (Joanna Scanlan) has become too worn down to protest after bearing him 10 children. "In a vivid and mercurial performance, Fiennes captures Dickens' blazing energy, his love of theatre and his chafing unhappiness at his family life." (*Independent*)

"Expressing much while often saying little, Jones proves once again to be a mesmerising screen presence, a performer behind whose face you can see the most complex and subtle thought processes at work." (*Observer*)

"Piercingly intimate and intelligent, this new movie shows how Ralph Fiennes is going from strength to strength as a director." (*Guardian*) Oh dear. All costume, distracting hair and earnest acting to enjoy.

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit **Fri 28** 7.30



Everyone's favourite CIA analyst is back again in *Shadow Recruit*; which does an admirable, if less than spectacular job of re-introducing the late Tom Clancy's iconic hero to younger audiences.

Chris Pine takes the Ryan reins once held by Alec Baldwin (*The Hunt for Red October*), Harrison Ford (*Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger*) and, to a lesser extent, Ben Affleck (*The Sum of All Fears*). This time, in a sort of *Batman* Begins re-jig, we're right at the start of Ryan's espionage career.

After recovering from a post 9/11 war wound, a young(er) Jack Ryan is recruited by the CIA to keep a covert eye on sinister financial transactions. Spying a market irregularity, he heads to Russia where creepy Viktor Cherevin (director Kenneth Branagh) is planning to wreak havoc on Wall Street.

"Can Jack hack the Russian computers before Viktor hacks Jack's girlfriend Cathy, Keira Knightley? She holds her own against the boys and an American accent with ease" (*Mark Kermode*) Not so sure about the accent Mark.

There's nothing quite like a serviceable thriller on a Friday night; Pine always looks good in his roles and Branagh's clearly enjoying his Bond villain moment. Fun as it is, *The Hunt for Red October* needn't worry, it will remain comfortably as Clancy's king of yarns. (*research Jack Whiting*)

Director: Kenneth Branagh
Starring: Chris Pine, Kevin Costner, Keira Knightley
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Paramount International Pictures

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug **Sat 29** 7.00

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 performance of a lifetime; his grizzly tones perfectly suit 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 please Tolkien fans. Apart from Stephen Fry's fabulous face, Martin's Frodo and Cumberbatch's dragon, there is little in it for the rest of us...?





Director: Rithy Panh
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: Cambodia/France 2013
By: New Wave



The Missing Picture

Mon 31 7.30

Rithy Panh is a Paris-based Cambodian film-maker, historian and survivor of the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Winner of Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard award and also nominated for this year's Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. The Missing Picture presents Panh's personal story of the Khmer Rouge atrocities.

Panh searched vainly in the archives, in old papers, in the country villages of Cambodia, but he could not find The Missing Picture. On the cusp of middle-age, Panh has decided to reconstruct the events of his 1970s childhood; with the aid of painted clay figurines and elaborate dioramas.

The director, who claims he can remember every detail of his captivity, is challenging viewers to picture what he endured. By not showing atrocity footage he is also showing respect for the victims.

"This remarkable documentary works as a survivor's testament, a film about memory and loss, and as a self reflexive essay asking how atrocities should be depicted on screen." (*Independent*)

"The best film about atrocity, memory, national trauma and primeval dirt since Patricio Guzmán's *Nostalgia For The Light*." (*FilmFour*)

An ingenious and poignant documentary. (*research Anna Shepherd*)

Trust it. Come and see a story too painful to carry alone, told without malice.

Again, another film you will remember from an unmemorable Oscary March.

COMING SOON

NEW RELEASES

The Book Thief
Her
Monuments Men
Tim's Vermeer
Cuban Fury

BACK BY DEMAND

Wolf of Wall Street
August: Osage County
Dallas Buyers Club
Invisible Woman



MARCH FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	SAT	THE HOBBIT	2.00
1	SAT	WOLF OF WALL STREET	7.00
2	SUN	WOLF OF WALL STREET	6.00
3	MON	WOLF OF WALL STREET	2.00
3	MON	THE ARMSTRONG LIE	7.30
4	TUE	AMERICAN HUSTLE	12.30
4	TUE	12 YEARS A SLAVE	7.30
5	WED	AMERICAN HUSTLE	2.00
5	WED	12 YEARS A SLAVE	7.30
6	THU	PHILOMENA	2.00
6	THU	AMERICAN HUSTLE	7.30
7	FRI	AMERICAN HUSTLE	7.30
8	SAT	FROZEN SING-A-LONG	2.00
8	SAT	AMERICAN HUSTLE	7.00
9	SUN	THE RAILWAY MAN	6.00
10	MON	THE RAILWAY MAN	2.00
10	MON	LES SALAUDS (BASTARDS)	7.30
11	TUE	THE RAILWAY MAN	12.30, 7.30
12	WED	12 YEARS A SLAVE	2.00, 7.30
13	THU	THE RAILWAY MAN	2.00
13	THU	LONE SURVIVOR	7.30
14	FRI	INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS	7.30
15	SAT	HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE	2.00
15	SAT	INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS	7.00
16	SUN	INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS	6.00
17	MON	AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY	2.00
17	MON	INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS	7.30
18	TUE	AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY	12.30, 7.30
19	WED	AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY	2.00, 7.30
20	THU	AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY	2.00, 7.30
21	FRI	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	7.30
22	SAT	MR PEABODY & SHERMAN	2.00
22	SAT	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	7.00
23	SUN	WOLF OF WALL STREET	6.00
24	MON	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	2.00
24	MON	JOURNAL DE FRANCE	7.30
25	TUE	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	12.30
25	TUE	THE INVISIBLE WOMAN	7.30
26	WED	THE INVISIBLE WOMAN	2.00, 7.30
27	THU	THE INVISIBLE WOMAN	2.00
27	THU	DALLAS BUYERS CLUB	7.30
28	FRI	JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT	7.30
29	SAT	MR PEABODY & SHERMAN	2.00
29	SAT	THE HOBBIT	7.00
30	SUN	THE INVISIBLE WOMAN	6.00
31	MON	THE INVISIBLE WOMAN	2.00
31	MON	THE MISSING PICTURE	7.30



M A R C H 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

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

Sat 1 2.00



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 Tolkien'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 performance of a lifetime; his grizzly tones perfectly suit 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 please Tolkien fans. Apart from Stephen Fry's fabulous face, Martin's Frodo and Cumberbatch's dragon, there is little in it for the rest of us...?

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

The Wolf of Wall Street

Mon 3 2.00

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

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

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

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

In Belfort, Scorsese has created yet another anti-hero? He can stand up to the likes of Travis Bickle, Henry Hill, even Howard Hughes. Perhaps it's Leo's turn for an Oscar. He deserves something? (JackW) Perhaps?

It could have been told in 20 minutes. Three hours of repetition and grandstanding are worth precisely what Leonardo is selling.





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

Tue 4 12.30, Wed 5 2.00

Currently enjoying nominations Oscars, David O. Russell's cheeky comedy is a 'sumptuous joy'!? It lost all the big Baftas.

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" are the last words on screen as the film kicks off. It turns out to be the best line in the whole film. It is the FBI's notorious Abscam sting of the late 1970s, with Bale's dopey New Jersey dry-cleaner (Rosenfeld) moonlighting as an art forger, coerced by a sleazy poodle-permed federal agent (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 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 caper, bursting with confidence. (*research JackW*) It is a pungent, indulgent 1970s costume drama closeted with the stench of ego.

An Oscar for 'distracting hair' would be nice. The Baftas gave it a gong for Hair & Make-up. Who'd have thought Bafta would have a sense of humour. Bravo.



Philomena Thu 6 2.00



Judi Dench plays Philomena Lee, who as a teenager, in the early 1950s, fell pregnant. As a 'fallen woman' she was sent 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. Fantastic pinch-yourself moments to see her amid a 1000 flashbulbs walking up 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

Frozen Sing-A-Long Sat 8 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 Snow Queen takes place in the kingdom of Arendelle, where the young princess Elsa was born with the ability to magically create ice and snow using her bare hands. When Elsa slips up and nearly kills her sister Ana, by accident. Fearing Elsa might cause serious harm, the panicking king and queen decide to isolate both daughters from the outside world! (Weird)

Several years later, following some tragic events, grown-up Elsa (Idina Menzel) and Ana (Kristen Bee) no longer share the close bond they once had. However, upon Elsa's coronation day, people from all over the kingdom flock to meet the new queen and Ana meets and falls for the handsomely goofy Prince Hans (Santino Fontana).

Unfortunately, Elsa's mounting emotions start to break free, as she terrifies the locals with her powers and inadvertently starts an eternal winter upon fleeing the kingdom.

'Cheesy critical metaphors are hard to avoid: with such warmth within its icy landscape, this is a celluloidbaked Alaska. It is glorious family entertainment'. (*Guardian*)

'This is terrifically enjoyable; romantic, subversive, engaging and enthralling'. (*Observer*)

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





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

Mon 10 2.00, **Tue 11** 12.30,
Thu 13 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 young railway enthusiast from Edinburgh. He had the terrible misfortune to be captured in 1942 and subjected to horrific abuse.

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*) The critics lashed it, so don't miss.

12 Years A Slave

Wed 12 2.00



In 1999 Steve McQueen was awarded the Turner Prize; this year his third feature film wins a Bafta 2014.

Adapted from a 19th century memoir by Solomon Northup; 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 has won the Bafta for best actor as Northup, a man who endures the unendurable, humanity intact.

Also proving their excellence: 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 newcomer 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 S*)

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

This isn't so much a film as an unremitting 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*) You decide...

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

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Sat 15 2.00

Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 146 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Lionsgate Films UK

This sequel to the wildly successful Hunger Games gets down and dirty with its contestants upping the stakes, and a triple OTT in costume design.

"The story picks up in the classico-futurist kingdom of Panem, where an annual bread-and-circuses spectacle has teenagers competing for rations in a televised fight to the death. The first film introduced us to Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), a bold 16-year-old who volunteers for the fight. By the start of *Catching Fire*, she is a champion, celebrity and role model, trapped in the crowd-pleasing romance she concocted with fellow contender Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) while her secret lover Gale (Liam Hemsworth) languishes on the sidelines.

President Snow (a brilliantly malign Donald Sutherland, and looking better than ever) is still in charge, but Katniss's clever, rule-bending victory has made the populace itch for revolution. Snow's Machiavellian media chief (Philip Seymour Hoffman) suggests a simple solution: commission a special, all-star Hunger Games that will bring Katniss back into the arena, where she will lose her reputation and then her life.

Catching Fire continues to distance itself from the Twilight crowd and succeeds admirably; inching ever closer to the televised carnage of *Battle Royale*, but with nary a drop of blood in sight. Lawrence too brings a gravitas seldom seen in young actresses. Roll on part three. (*research Jack Whiting*)





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

August: Osage County **Mon 17** 2.00,
Tue 18 12.30, **Wed 19** 2.00,
Thu 20 2.00

Meryl Streep plays Violet Weston in this film adaptation of Tracy Lett's award-winning Broadway stage play. She is a cantankerous Oklahoma matriarch who, on becoming a widow, assembles her extended family for the funeral weekend. Her daughters Barbara (Julia Roberts), Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) and Karen (Juliette Lewis) bring along their various partners and children. Violet is suffering from mouth cancer and constantly self-medicating and Barbara is facing the end of her marriage, yet they may be the least-suffering members of the Weston clan. There's incest, attempted rape, familial abuse and horrible home cooking to deal with, not to mention the general despair of living in the US in 2007. "Julia Roberts is the best she has been in years as the daughter, terrified of turning into her mother." (*Observer*) "As for Chris Cooper, he threatens to steal the film out from under everyone's noses with yet another quietly commanding performance which suggests untapped depths of anger and remorse." (*Guardian*) "A vastly enjoyable theatrical banquet, if perhaps not a profound one, is served up in a bit of a rush here, as if they can't wait to get the next sitting in. But you certainly don't come away feeling hungry." (*Telegraph*) What self-satisfied bollocks critics speak. It's talkie, but with a brilliant script, and considering the cast, not too much ACTING to destroy the words. Don't miss.



Mr Peabody & Sherman

Sat 22 2.00,
Sat 29 2.00



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dallas Buyers Club

Mon 24 2.00, **Tue 25** 12.30

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

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

With a deadly virus in his body and red tape around his throat, Ron Woodroof is fighting back. This is a drama of entrepreneurial self-help from the Reaganite 1980s. It is based on a true story about a heterosexual good ol' Dallas Texan boy with a previously unknown and yet to be invented, sex addiction. Ron is told in 1986 that he has Aids and only 30 days to live, but defies the odds, gives the finger to the complacent doctors and the AZT merchants of Big Pharmaceuticals. Like Erin Brockovich in a later era, knuckles down to some research, finding alternative drug therapies in foreign countries; a no mean feat in the pre-Google era. Soon, Ron has set up a buyers' club, niftily sidestepping US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) laws about drugs selling by getting HIV/Aids patients to pay for 'membership' in which imported medicines are notionally free.

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





Director: Ralph Fiennes
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones, Kristin Scott Thomas
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2014
By: Lionsgate Films UK

The Invisible Woman

**Wed 26 2.00, Thu 27 2.00,
 Mon 31 2.00**

Ralph Fiennes directs and stars in this adaptation of Claire Tomalin's bestselling book about the likely affair between Charles Dickens (Fiennes) late in his career and the young actress, Nelly Ternan (Felicity Jones). With a script by Abi Morgan, the story is seen in flashback from the perspective of the now married Nelly, tormented by the memories of her affair with the charismatic author.

Nelly first meets the writer during a school production of a play by Dickens and Wilkie Collins, *The Frozen Deep*. She is guided in this stage apprenticeship, along with her two sisters, by her protective, apprehensive mother (Kristin Scott Thomas). Nelly is fast installed as a favourite of Dickens, whilst his long-suffering wife (Joanna Scanlan) has become too worn down to protest after bearing him 10 children. "In a vivid and mercurial performance, Fiennes captures Dickens' blazing energy, his love of theatre and his chafing unhappiness at his family life." (*Independent*)

"Expressing much while often saying little, Jones proves once again to be a mesmerising screen presence, a performer behind whose face you can see the most complex and subtle thought processes at work." (*Observer*) "Piercingly intimate and intelligent, this new movie shows how Ralph Fiennes is going from strength to strength as a director." (*Guardian*) Oh dear. All costume, distracting hair and earnest acting to enjoy.



THE REX... BEFORE AND AFTER



General release queue for
February. Jan 25th 2014

“An up to date
SUPER CINEMA
and CAFÉ with
accommodation for
1,300 persons together
with SHOPS. FLATS and
LARGE CAR PARK

(Can't make out the last line leading
to...) SHIPMAN & KING CIRCUIT ! ”

Not to waste the crowd, notice the
fence below, where a nifty sign
for the COURT cinema drums up
custom from a passing audience. (The
Court stood where Tescos stands).
The demolition of Egerton House on
Berkhamsted High Street in 1937 made
way for The Rex. It had been home to
the Llewellyn Davies family from 1904.
Legend has it, their close friend JM
Barrie, based his tale of Peter Pan on
their five sons, naming Peter after the
youngest.

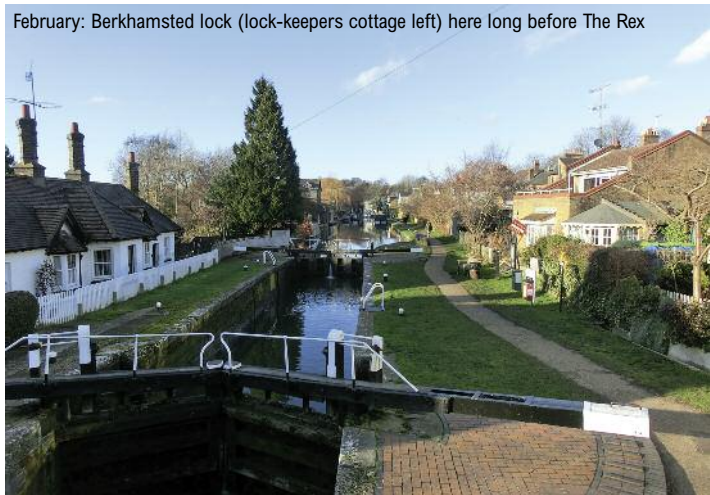
It is still sad to see an Elizabethan
house and garden dating from 16th
century demolished for a cinema, as it
is to see a 30's cinema demolished for
posh apartments or Tesco's. Had I been
born, I'd have been out there tied to the
gate with a few old friends, dead and
alive, yelling "Go shove your cinema..."
It all comes full circle!



Photo courtesy of Berkhamsted Local
History & Museum Society

They might not agree, but all the same,
as demolitions go, it's something to see
casual labourers pulling the place down
with their bare hands in sensible old
Sunday best suits, without scaffolding,
tin hats or fluorescent coats. The wrong
kind of nostalgia perhaps, but based on
my own childhood twenty years later,
when workmen still wore the same and
swore at children, dodging across the
site.

February: Berkhamsted lock (lock-keepers cottage left) here long before The Rex



The Right Honourably Glamorous Mayor of St Albans: Cllr Annie Brewster at The Rex promoting The Odyssey seat-sponsorship campaign. (February)

