

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

TRACKS

MAY 2014...

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

Britain's Best Cinema - Guardian Film Awards 2014

MAY 2014 Issue 110

www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

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Sally Rowbotham in charge

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The Rex

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www.therexberkhamsted.com

BEST IN MAY



Calvary

Brendon Gleeson's in it. That's all you need.

Fri 23rd 7.30 / Sat 24th 7.00

Sun 25th 6.00 / Mon 26th 7.30

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Suzanne

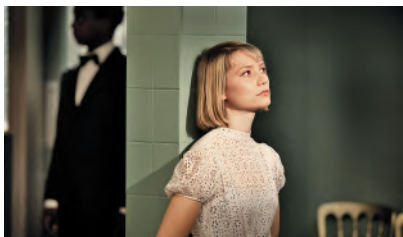
Love story, gorgeous, sincerely, L Cohen

Tue 6th 7.30pm



Funny Face

Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn 1950's technicolor - what more..? Sun 18th 6.00



The Double

Richard Aoyade's not a complete jockstrap after all. Come. Tue 27th / Wed 28th 7.30



M A Y E V E N I N G S



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



The Book Thief

Thu 1 7.30

Based on the beloved international bestseller, *The Book Thief* tells the story of an extraordinarily spirited young girl, Liesel Meminger (Sophie Nélisse) sent to live with a foster family, the Hubermanns, in a small unremarkable German town. Liesel turns out to be illiterate and the kindly Hans Hubermann (Geoffrey Rush) and his cranky heart-of-gold wife Rosa (Emily Watson) not only teach her to read, but turn their basement walls into blackboards covered with words. As time passes and wartime privations grow worse, their domestic situation turns more dangerous with the arrival of Max Vandenburg (Ben Schnetzer), the fugitive son of a Jewish comrade who saved Hans' life during WWI. Honour-bound to hide the young man from the authorities, the family nurse him back to health from serious illness and Max eventually bonds with the fascinated Liesel. She's sworn to tell no-one of his presence, not even new best-friend Rudy (Nico Liersch)...

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



Director:	Darren Aronofsky
Starring:	Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	138 mins
Origin:	USA 2014
By:	Paramount International Pictures

Noah

Fri 2 7.30, Sat 3 7.00

Forget what you know about Noah's Ark. The animals do indeed come two by two but what Darren Aronofsky has done with the Genesis fable will leave you exhausted, bewildered, and completely astounded.

Noah (a gloriously shaggy Russell Crowe) intercepts visions that he believes are warnings from the 'Creator' (the 'G' word is never mentioned), informing him of a pending doom. He's quick to catch on that this incoming disaster, in form of a great flood, is coming soon.

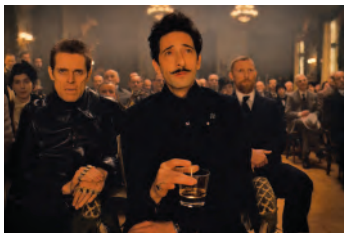
Before you shout 'heresy!' Aronofsky, who never gives a particularly easy ride (hello Black Swan, Requiem for a Dream), infuses Noah with a human vulnerability. He's a vegan, an environmentalist; a family man, but not afraid to shed blood for a higher purpose; he even sees his own family as expendable when, in the confines of his ark after the flood hits, realises that man was meant to perish in the flood, including himself. It's enough to drive anyone to madness, and it almost does. Noah begins to question his motives in the eyes of that what is greater than him.

Noah is an utterly bonkers, but strangely moving epic. The performances from Jennifer Connelly, as Noah's wife, and Emily Watson as his adopted daughter bring much needed emotional weight that stops it from drifting into absurdity. It's Lord of the Rings meets The Ten Commandments. And it's beautiful. *(Jack Whiting)*





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



The Grand Budapest Hotel

Sun 4 6.00,
Mon 5 7.30, **Wed 7** 7.30

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

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

"Beneath all the jokiness there's a sense of loss, a nostalgia for an age that neither the filmmakers nor all but a few of their audience can ever have known". (S&S) Bewilderingly star-studded, come and indulge in this grand film in The Grand Rex Cinema in May (Anna Shepherd). Non-stop fabulous, fast-flowing action dialogue. Don't miss

Suzanne Tue 6 7.30



An expertly realised drama about a woman's emotionally awkward journey through life.

When we first meet Suzanne (magnetically performed by Sara Forestier) she is still a young, giggly child, seemingly contented in a simple domestic set-up with her widowed truck-driver father Nicolas (François Damiens) and sister Maria (Adèle Haenel – from 2007's mesmerising *Water Lilies*).

Her story unfurls quietly amid the ebb and flow of daily domestic life. We see her life play out in a sequence of intimate scenes, whose drama, director Katell Quillévéré's shapes with candour and calm. The film holds on to vital clues about how much time has elapsed, and what's happened, then springs them on us.

The relationship between the two sisters is lovingly portrayed, and the triangular dynamic with their father is wonderfully managed.

Everything is OK in their lives, until a handsome, moody guy (Paul Hamy) catches Suzanne's eye.

"It is moving and heartfelt, and Quillévéré makes it look very easy." (*Guardian*)

"The performances slay you: Damiens, in a portrait of intense paternal love, worry and dismay; Haenel, a guarded wonder. But it's Forestier's film, and her strongest performance to date, after a decade working on screen." (*Telegraph*)

Remarkable, heartfelt and gripping. Do not miss. (*Anna Shepherd*)

Director: Katell Quillévéré
Starring: Sara Forestier, François Damiens, Adèle Haenel
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: France 2013
By: Studiocanal

Non Stop Thu 8 7.30

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

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

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





Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Sebastian Stan, Scarlett Johansson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 136 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Walt Disney Int'l

Captain America: The Winter Soldier

Fri 9 7.30, Sat 10 7.00, Sun 11 6.00

1970's paranoia is the name of the game in Marvel's latest baby. *Winter Soldier* is a rollickingly good thriller that actually gives the star-spangled soldier something fun to do for once. If fending off a quasi-Nazi army and alien invaders weren't enough for Steve Rogers aka Cpt America (an earnest Chris Evans) our newly thawed hero must now face a threat a little closer to home. SHIELD honcho Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) unearths a conspiracy that threatens to bring down the agency from within; just as SHIELD is in the process of unveiling a super-secret program to spy, and potentially eradicate, threats from anywhere in the world, but at the cost of breaching privacy. Could there be a connection? Fury manages to pass the incriminating evidence over to Rogers and former KGB, turned fellow Avenger, Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) just as the now corrupt SHIELD force them on the run in a Bourne Identity twist. There's a whiff of Sydney Pollack's *Three Days of the Condor* as well; even going as far as casting Robert Redford as a character so shady, you'll refuse to believe he's up to anything but no-good. But despite a tiresome air carrier takedown in the final act, and the horribly underused, titular villain, *Winter Soldier* is yet another BLANK. (Jack Whiting)



Only Lovers Left Alive

Mon 12 7.30



Tilda Swinton and Tom Hiddleston, play elegantly grungy vampires contemplating love, art, music and literature in today's strange modern world.

Set against the romantic desolation of Detroit and Tangier, Adam, an underground musician, living alone in a semi-dilapidated Detroit townhouse; which heaves with vinyl records, vintage recording paraphernalia and antique musical instruments.

Deeply depressed by the direction of human activities, Adam, reunites with his resilient and enigmatic wife Eve. Eve has been resting in Tangier, Morocco, where she hangs out with fellow ancient vampire, Elizabethan dramatist Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe (John Hurt).

Visiting them in both their dreams is Ava (playfully performed by Mia Wasikowska).

Ava, Eve's younger sister, sporting all the recklessness of youth, arrives from Los Angeles – very hungry – and shatters the couples idyllic seclusion.

"At the film's heart is the perfect casting of Hiddleston and Swinton, both actors whose disarming attractiveness is marked with an otherworldly pallor." (*Film4*)

"You thought there was nothing new to add to the vampire genre? So, apparently, did Jarmusch, which is why *Only Lovers Left Alive* luxuriates in a curious end-of-an-era melancholy." (*Observer*)

Possibly the funniest and certainly the coolest vampire film around.

(*Anna Shepherd*)

Director: Jim Jarmusch
Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Tilda Swinton, Mia Wasikowska
Certificate: 15
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: Cyprus/France/Germany /UK/USA 2014
By: Soda Pictures

The Lunchbox

Tue 13 7.30

Director: Ritesh Batra
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France/Germany/India/USA 2014
By: Curzon Film World

A mix-up in Mumbai's famous 'dabbawalla' lunchbox delivery system leads to an exchange of heart-felt letters.

Middle class housewife, Ila (Nimrat Kaur), is trying once again to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. Desperately hoping that this new recipe will finally arouse some kind of reaction from her neglectful husband.

Irfan Khan (*Life of Pi*), plays Saajan, a grouchy, widowed claims adjuster who discovers that his lunch has accidentally been switched with a co-workers.

Curious about the lack of reaction from her husband, Ila puts a little note in the following day's lunchbox. This begins a series of notes between Saajan and Ila. Gradually their notes become little confessions about their loneliness, memories, regrets, fears and even small joys.

The sense of place – bustling, teeming modern Mumbai – is superbly realised in this enormously likeable, Indian romantic comedy-drama.

"A wistful, elegant love story played out across the streets of Mumbai, an unexpectedly aromatic charmer from first-time film-maker Ritesh Batra." (*Screen International*)

"Batra deftly unfolds a wonderfully observed range of subtle emotions, supported by a lightly paces and often humorous script." (*BFI*)

A veritable feast for the eyes.

(*Anna Shepherd*)



Labor Day Wed 14 7.30



Adapted from a novel by Joyce Maynard, Labor Day unfolds on the USA bank holiday weekend in 1987 at the home of an agoraphobic divorcee named Adele (Kate Winslet) and her 13-year-old son, Henry (Gattlin Griffith).

Adele is deeply depressed – emotionally paralysed by some unspoken trauma – and depends on her son as a connection to an outside world she retreated from long ago. But during a rare outing to the supermarket their routine is blown to smithereens by the arrival of an escaped convict named Frank (Josh Brolin). Bleeding from the gut, the menacing stranger collars Henry and quietly intimidates Adele into taking him to their home. While police comb the town for Frank, he cleans the gutters, teaches Henry how to throw a curveball and generally verses him in the ways of manhood.

“Labor Day lacks this film-maker’s usual sophisticated wit: it is bizarrely unconvincing, sugary and humourless, like a Walt Disney version of *The Night of the Hunter*.” (*Guardian*)

“Labor Day is a beautifully crafted, evocative and very well acted coming-of-age story which is just a little bit... preposterous.” (*Independent*)

“If any other actress was playing Adele it would be the performance of a life. But this is Kate Winslet, who can pull off Oscar-grade without breaking sweat.” (*Time Out*). (*Jane Clucas*)

Director: Jason Reitman
Starring: Josh Brolin, Kate Winslet, Tobey Maguire
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Paramount International Pictures

Locke Thu 15 7.30

Director: Steven Knight
Starring: Tom Hardy, Ruth Wilson, Andrew Scott
Certificate: 15
Duration: 85 mins
Origin: UK 2014
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Summoning the spirit of Richard Burton, Tom Hardy plays Ivan Locke, a soft-spoken Welshman on a journey.

The manager of a building site in Birmingham, his personal and professional lives have reached critical mass on the same night. Locke drives from Birmingham to Croydon in a BMW. Gradually his destination, and the reason for his hurry, is revealed through a series of calls that he makes on his Bluetooth carphone.

Filmed in just 8 nights, almost everything happens off-screen. Picking up on the intuition of Iggy Pop’s song *The Passenger* – that driving at night is a form of cinema – but gives it a twist.

Perhaps best known for writing for other directors: *Dirty Pretty Things* for Stephen Frears and *Eastern Promises* for David Cronenberg. On this smaller, more script-oriented film, he has flourished.

“This is a masterclass in how the most local, most hemmed-in stories can reverberate with the power of big, universal themes.” (*TimeOut*)

“Locke is a gripping and deeply cinematic human and ethical drama.” (*Screen International*)

A tense Brit drama with a coolly propulsive score and gorgeous night-time cinematography.

(*Anna Shepherd*)



Divergent Fri 16 7.30



Hungry for more Hunger Games? Well Divergent, an adaptation of yet another in a string of young adult phenomenon, isn't a patch on the adventures of Katniss, but it's not a terrible start.

"The hokey setup finds a futuristic, postwar society in which the now pacified population are divided into five distinct groups, each with their own singular attributes: Abnegation (selfless); Amity (peaceful); Candor (honest); Dauntless (brave); and Erudite (intelligent). No, I didn't buy it either, but never mind because neither does heroine Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) who commits the unspeakable crime of having more than one skill, thus making her... divergent!" (*Mark Kermode*) What follows for the majority of this bloated first chapter (the first of yet another trilogy), are essentially a series sci-fi GCSE tests, or a 140 minute long episode of the Krypton Factor.

"Kate Winslet plays the icily menacing Jeanine, the leader of Erudite, that thoroughly suspect faction of brainiacs who appear to show that intellectuals are creepy and not to be trusted, compared to the brave or the pious." (*Guardian*)

Woodley is a young, bright and talented actress (*The Descendants*, lovely). She deserves better. Let's hope the Hollywood machine doesn't chew her up and spit her out. At least Divergent book fans will be pleased with faithfulness. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Neil Burger
Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Kate Winslet, Jai Courtney
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Entertainment One UK

The Raid 2 Sat 17 7.00

Director: Gareth Evans
Starring: Iko Uwais, Julie Estelle, Yayan Ruhian
Certificate: 18
Duration: 150 mins
Origin: USA/Indonesia/France 2014
By: Entertainment One UK

Action fans, there is a God, and his name is Gareth Evans. The Raid part one was a beautiful ballet of blood and fists set within an apartment block in Jakarta, Indonesia. And its sequel spills out onto the streets in an ambitious crime saga.

Rookie cop Rama (Iko Uwais) is looking forward to reuniting with his family after kicking seven shades of shit out of everyone in the first film. Unfortunately, he only scratched the surface of a larger criminal underworld. So he reluctantly agrees to dive deep undercover, ala *The Departed*, in a super secret mission to take down an out-of-control mob boss. My only niggling problem with *Raid 2*, however, is that Evans wants to stretch his wings into multi-layered drama territory, and it just isn't engaging, (Mann and Scorsese won't lose any sleep). It just makes it all that more of an excruciating wait for the next audacious fight to break out.

But boy do they deliver. It's a veritable buffet of violence: a seventy man brawl in a mud-strewn prison yard? Check. A four way fight in the back of a car during a high-speed chase? Double check. A tense, one on one kitchen dice to the death, displaying the very best of the silat fighting style? You got it. It's all there; take your pick. (*Jack Whiting*)



Funny Face Sun 18 6.00



Audrey Hepburn plays Jo, a shy American intellectual-turned-supermodel, discovered by Fashion Photographer, Dick Avery (Fred Astaire), in her Greenwich Village bookstore.

Jo prefers literary salons and hard philosophy to shopping and idle pleasure. However, when Dick offers her the opportunity to visit Paris – to be the “new face” of Quality magazine – she jumps at the chance.

Dick whisks the wide-eyed girl off and transforms her into the fashion world’s hottest model.

Along the way, he falls in love with her, and has to work overtime to wean her away from phony intellectuals in smoke-filled Paris Cafes.

What’s startling is the eye-popping colour and visual effects, the dance sequences and the witty and ingenious use of locations – played out on the real, monument-littered streets of Paris.

The Gershwin tunes include “How Long Has This Been Going On” and “He Loves and She Loves”, among newer numbers is “Think Pink”.

“One of Hollywood’s funniest, most stylish musicals, this breezy satire from 1957 thrives on the pairing of Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn.”

(Total Film)

“A timeless musical treat and the most fun you can have with really elegant clothes on.” *(Empire)*

S’wonderful! S’marvelous!

(Anna Shepherd)

Director: Stanley Donen
Starring: Audrey Hepburn, Fred Astaire
Certificate: U
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA 1956
By: Park Circus Films

The Lunchbox Mon 19 7.30

Director: Ritesh Batra
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France/Germany/India/USA 2014
By: Curzon Film World

A mix-up in Mumbai’s famous ‘dabbawalla’ lunchbox delivery system leads to an exchange of heart-felt letters.

Middle class housewife, Ila (Nimrat Kaur), is trying once again to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. Desperately hoping that this new recipe will finally arouse some kind of reaction from her neglectful husband. Irrfan Khan (Life of Pi), plays Saajan, a grouchy, widowed claims adjuster who discovers that his lunch has accidentally been switched with a co-workers.

Curious about the lack of reaction from her husband, Ila puts a little note in the following day’s lunchbox. This begins a series of notes between Saajan and Ila. Gradually their notes become little confessions about their loneliness, memories, regrets, fears and even small joys.

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(Screen International)

“Batra deftly unfolds a wonderfully observed range of subtle emotions, supported by a lightly paces and often humorous script.” *(BFI)*

A veritable feast for the eyes.

(Anna Shepherd)





Director: Joel Hopkins
Starring: Celia Imrie, Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Spall, Emma Thompson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: France 2013
By: Entertainment One UK



The Love Punch

**Tue 20 7.30, Wed 21 7.30,
 Thu 22 7.30**

Emma Thompson and Pierce Brosnan play a divorced couple, acrimoniously separated after he left her for a younger woman. Both have struggled forming lasting relationships ever since the split but, having bumped into each other at a wedding, their biting banter suggests that the flames of their former relationship have not been fully extinguished.

Brosnan also owns a thriving investment firm – at least it appears to be thriving until it's bankrupted by a dodgy Frenchman (Lauren Lafitte) who cripples their assets and saunters off with their pension money. Not only is their financial future at stake but so is that of their trusting investors, so the bickering pair cross the channel to confront the scoundrel. Joined in the chase by rogueish ex-serviceman, Jerry (Timothy Spall) and his gently nutty wife, Penelope (Celia Imrie), the four of them embark on a daring revenge heist involving the theft of a diamond necklace worth £10m which the villain has given to his bride.

"This cast of national institutions make fools of themselves with a lack of vanity that's theoretically fun, but there's playing to the gallery, and then there's clambering up there to wiggle your bits at them."

(Telegraph)

"No-one's expecting Alexander Payne from every film featuring people over 50, but you'd hope for more than mellow, dumbing cinema that romps about with its ailments so proudly on display."

(Guardian) (Jane Lucas)



Director: John Michael McDonagh
Starring: Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd, Kelly Reilly
Certificate: 15
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: Ireland/UK 2014
By: Entertainment One UK



Calvary

Fri 23 7.30, **Sat 24** 7.00,
Sun 25 6.00 with Q&A,
Mon 26 7.30

Set along the rocky cliffs of County Sligo, Irish Catholic priest Father James (the magnificent Brendan Gleeson) is told by a mystery man during Confession that he is going to be killed in precisely one week. His would-be assassin explains that his death is revenge for abuse as a child – and it would be better to murder a ‘good priest’. Father James appears to have recognized the voice, and while he seeks counsel from the Bishop (David McSavage), he declines to name his prospective murderer, even later when a violent warning suggests the seriousness of the threat.

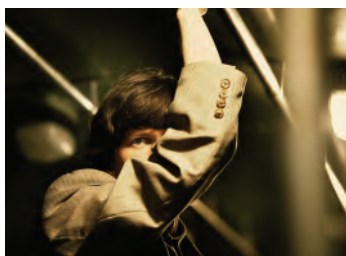
Instead, in what amounts to an anticipatory whodunit that's equal parts Agatha Christie and a post-modern Cluedo, he makes his regular parish rounds. For the next seven days he is forced to soak up vicious abuse from his parishioners, including supercilious squire Dylan Moran and his wife-beating butcher Chris O'Dowd, as his appointment with fate looms.

“John McDonagh's follow-up to *The Guard* is a rich, ripe and altogether delicious whodunit with a difference.” (*Guardian*)

“It's puckish and playful, mercurial and clever, rattling with gallows laughter as it paints a portrait of an Irish community that is at once intimate and alienated.” (*Observer*)

“The mighty Brendan Gleeson – a man built like a wardrobe, with a face like he's been left on a cliff-edge, battered by north winds.” (*Time Out*) (Jane Clucas)





The Double

Tue 27 7.30, Wed 28 7.30

Jesse Eisenberg plays Simon James, a skivvyng worker bee and mild-mannered office drone who's belittled by his colleagues and shunned by Hannah (Mia Wasikowska), the elfin girl who works the office's giant, clanking photocopier. This all takes place in a beautifully designed vision of workplace dystopia – a dark, cramped, industrial space in a world without daylight or human decency, in which no one even seems to recognise him let alone value his graft.

Things go from bad to worse when his doppelganger shows up at work, identically dressed and going by the name James Simon (also Eisenberg).

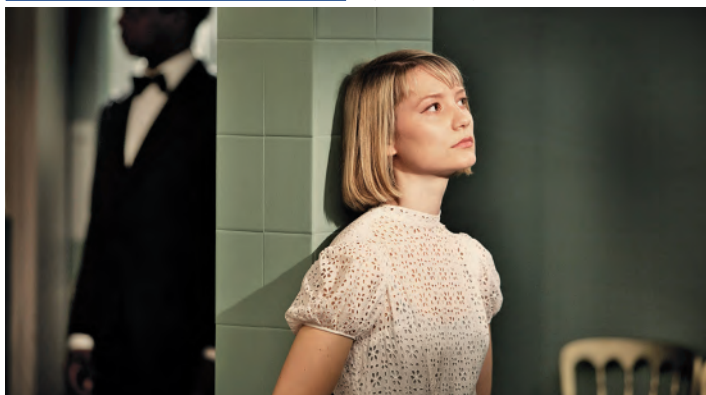
He's instantly embraced by their bosses (Wallace Shawn and James Fox) as the great white hope for this creepily non-specific organisation, and immediately starts dating Hannah. He is outspoken, confident with women and sure of his place in the world – and most upsetting for the original Simon is that nobody reacts to the duplication because he is invisible to the rest of the work-force. Submarine director Richard Ayoade's second film lays Dostoevsky's novella out in a nowhere land of office bureaucracy where backstabbing and one upmanship soon take over in this noir nightmare.

"Richard Ayoade turns an unpromising Dostoevsky story into a quick-witted, elegant and genuinely unsettling film." (*Guardian*)

"It is a stylised and idiosyncratic affair, combining deadpan humour with a real sense of existential terror." (*Independent*) (*Jane Lucas*)



Director: Richard Ayoade
Starring: Noah Taylor, Jesse Eisenberg, Mia Wasikowska
Certificate: 15
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: UK 2014
By: Studiocanal





Director: Nick Cassavetes
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Other Woman

Thu 29 7.30

After discovering her boyfriend (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau – Game of Thrones/Headhunters) is married, a woman (Cameron Diaz) tries to get her ruined life back on track. But when she accidentally meets the wife he's been cheating on (Leslie Mann – Knocked Up), she realises they have much in common, and her sworn enemy becomes her greatest friend. Rather than get into a Dynasty-like cat fight, the women put their heads together for some alcohol-fuelled revenge planning. When yet another affair is discovered (Kate Upton – bikini model), all three women team up to wreak vengeance on their cheating, lying, three-timing son-of-a-b**ch.

Directed by Nick Cassavetes (son of John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands), who has delivered such classics as *The Notebook* and *My Sisters Keeper*, *The Other Woman* also sees the film debut of Nicki Minaj – singer, rapper and fragrance launcher.

"He (Cassavetes) had the talent and the star power necessary to create the quintessential infidelity comedy, but instead we get what looks like a PG-13 version of an unfinished Judd Apatow script." (*Cinemablend*)

"Hands down, the best part of the film is Leslie Mann who injects what altogether fleeting life she can into this utterly deflated corpse of toilet humour and vivacious estrogen." (*Moviepilot*)
(Jane Clucas)





Director: John Curran
Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Adam Driver
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: Australia 2014
By: Entertainment One UK

Tracks

Fri 30 7.30, Sat 31 7.00

Tracks tells the incredible true story of Robyn Davidson, (Mia Wasikowska), a young woman who, in April 1977, undertook a perilous solo trek across 1,700 miles of stunning Australian outback – but terrain that is also some of the hardest and hottest in the world.

Abandoning city life, Robyn arrives in Alice Springs and declares her ambition to cross the desert to the Indian Ocean to the amusement of the locals. However, after months of camping out and working on a camel farm, people begin to take her seriously. A chance meeting with National Geographic photographer, Rick Smolan (Adam Driver) provides her with the necessary financing for her expedition under the condition that he be allowed to photograph parts of her journey for the magazine. With only her dog and four unpredictable camels for company, she embarks on an inspiring and life changing journey of self-discovery.

“John Curran’s film is less concerned with coming-of-age than simply coming-and-going: this is a simple and beautiful journey undertaken purely for its own sake, and approached in that spirit. Tracks will lead you to a place of quiet wonder.” (*Telegraph*)

“The film rests on the ordinary-yet-enigmatic presence of Mia Wasikowska as Davidson.” (*Time Out*)

“This is a vivid, heartbreaking and captivating character piece and travel movie in one, guided by an outstanding Wasikowska.” (*Empire*) (*Jane Clucas*)



COMING SOON

NEW RELEASES

Story of Children and Film
Half of a Yellow Sun
Pioneer
The Amazing Spider-Man 2
The Last Days On Mars
Rebel Without A Cause

BACK BY DEMAND

Noah
Captain America
Love Punch
Calvary
Tracks

The Amazing Spider-Man 2



Half Of A Yellow Sun



Rebel Without A Cause



Pioneer

MAY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	THU	THE BOOK THIEF	2.00, 7.30
2	FRI	NOAH	7.30
3	SAT	RIO 2	2.00
3	SAT	NOAH	7.00
4	SUN	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	6.00
5	MON	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	7.30
6	TUE	20 FEET FROM STARDOM	12.30
6	TUE	SUZANNE	7.30
7	WED	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	2.00, 7.30
8	THU	THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	2.00
8	THU	NON-STOP	7.30
9	FRI	CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER	7.30
10	SAT	CAPTAIN AMERICA: WINTER SOLDIER	2.00, 7.00
11	SUN	CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER	6.00
12	MON	TIM'S VERMEER	2.00
12	MON	ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE	7.30
13	TUE	THE LUNCHBOX	12.30, 7.30
14	WED	LABOR DAY	2.00, 7.30
15	THU	CUBAN FURY	2.00
15	THU	LOCKE	7.30
16	FRI	DIVERGENT	7.30
17	SAT	DIVERGENT	2.00
17	SAT	THE RAID 2	7.00
18	SUN	FUNNY FACE	6.00
19	MON	THE LUNCHBOX	2.00, 7.30
20	TUE	LOVE PUNCH	12.30, 7.30
21	WED	LOVE PUNCH	2.00, 7.30
22	THU	LOVE PUNCH	2.00, 7.30
23	FRI	CALVARY	7.30
24	SAT	MUPPETS MOST WANTED	2.00
24	SAT	CALVARY	7.00
25	SUN	CALVARY: Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JOHN MCDONAGH	6.00
26	MON	CALVARY	7.30
27	TUE	MUPPETS MOST WANTED	12.30
27	TUE	THE DOUBLE	7.30
28	WED	THE OTHER WOMAN	2.00
28	WED	THE DOUBLE	7.30
29	THU	THE KING AND THE MOCKING BIRD	2.00
29	THU	THE OTHER WOMAN	7.30
30	FRI	TRACKS	7.30
31	SAT	THE WHITE BALLOON	2.00
31	SAT	TRACKS	7.00



M A 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

The Book Thief

Thu 1 2.00



Based on the beloved international bestseller, *The Book Thief* tells the story of an extraordinarily spirited young girl, Liesel Meminger (Sophie Nélisse) sent to live with a foster family, the Hubermanns, in a small unremarkable German town. Liesel turns out to be illiterate and the kindly Hans Hubermann (Geoffrey Rush) and his cranky heart-of-gold wife Rosa (Emily Watson) not only teach her to read, but turn their basement walls into blackboards covered with words. As time passes and wartime privations grow worse, their domestic situation turns more dangerous with the arrival of Max Vandenburg (Ben Schnetzer), the fugitive son of a Jewish comrade who saved Hans' life during WWI. Honour-bound to hide the young man from the authorities, the family nurse him back to health from serious illness and Max eventually bonds with the fascinated Liesel. She's sworn to tell no-one of his presence, not even new best-friend Rudy (Nico Liersch)...

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

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

Rio 2 Sat 3 2.00

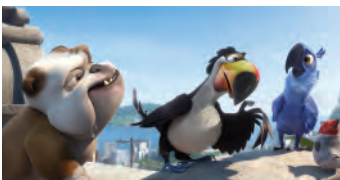
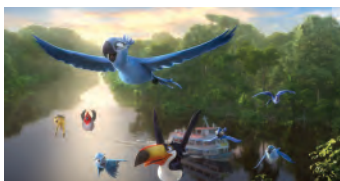
Director: Carlos Saldanha
Voices: Anne Hathaway, Jesse Eisenberg, Jamie Foxx
Certificate: U
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Rio 2 follows the sequel rule book of 'bigger, bolder, sillier.. but by no means better' (or even nearly as good) down to a feather frayed tee.

"We find our avian hero Blue (voiced by Jesse Eisenberg) living happily with his wife and chicks in Brazil. But when an entire flock of their rare species, the Spix's Macaw, is discovered deep in the Amazon, Blue and his brood swoop off to investigate. There are problems here: the middle hour runs perilously close to the story of 'Meet the Parents', and a subplot involving a talent show feels a little calculating. But the characterisation is feisty and memorable" (*Time Out*) Let your eyes be washed over with the sumptuous colour palette because there isn't much else in the way of mental stimulation. You'll chuckle at Jemaine Clement's rendition of I Will Survive, however.

Rio 2 continues the vibrancy set by its much loved predecessor, but come on guys, you know this doesn't have the same appeal as *Ice Age*, so perhaps just stop after this one. The cash cow needs its nap.

(*Jack Whiting*)



20 Feet From Stardom

Tue 6 12.30



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

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

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

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

The Grand Budapest Hotel

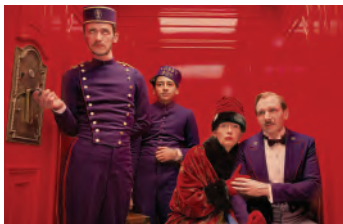
Wed 7 2.00, Thu 8 2.00

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

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

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

"Beneath all the jokiness there's a sense of loss, a nostalgia for an age that neither the filmmakers nor all but a few of their audience can ever have known". (*S&S*) Bewilderingly star-studded, come and indulge in this grand film in The Grand Rex Cinema in May (*Anna Shepherd*). Non-stop fabulous, fast-flowing action dialogue. Don't miss





Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Starring: Chris Evans, Sebastian Stan, Scarlett Johansson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 136 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Walt Disney Int'l

Captain America: The Winter Soldier

Sat 10 2.00

1970's paranoia is the name of the game in Marvel's latest baby. *Winter Soldier* is a rollickingly good thriller that actually gives the star-spangled soldier something fun to do for once. If fending off a quasi-Nazi army and alien invaders weren't enough for Steve Rogers aka Cpt America (an earnest Chris Evans) our newly thawed hero must now face a threat a little closer to home. SHIELD honcho Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) unearths a conspiracy that threatens to bring down the agency from within; just as SHIELD is in the process of unveiling a super-secret program to spy, and potentially eradicate, threats from anywhere in the world, but at the cost of breaching privacy. Could there be a connection? Fury manages to pass the incriminating evidence over to Rogers and former KGB, turned fellow Avenger, Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) just as the now corrupt SHIELD force them on the run in a Bourne Identity twist. There's a whiff of Sydney Pollack's *Three Days of the Condor* as well; even going as far as casting Robert Redford as a character so shady, you'll refuse to believe he's up to anything but no-good. But despite a tiresome air carrier takedown in the final act, and the horribly underused, titular villain, *Winter Soldier* is yet another BLANK. (Jack Whiting)



Tim's Vermeer

Mon 12 2.00



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

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

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

"Here is an entertaining and entirely watchable documentary that sets out to prove that any old brush-swinging amateur can paint as brilliantly as the 17th-century Dutch master." (*Guardian*)
 "Teller manages a careful enough balance between painstaking technique and a larger cultural context over 80 brisk minutes to make even minor revelations feel like major moments." (*Film.com*)

A film for all art lovers. (*Anna Shepherd*) and those who love passionate, well made films about art, fishing, racing cars or anything under the sun.

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

The Lunchbox

Tue 13 12.30

Director: Ritesh Batra
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France/Germany/India/USA 2014
By: Curzon Film World

A mix-up in Mumbai's famous 'dabbawalla' lunchbox delivery system leads to an exchange of heart-felt letters.

Middle class housewife, Ila (Nimrat Kaur), is trying once again to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. Desperately hoping that this new recipe will finally arouse some kind of reaction from her neglectful husband. Irrfan Khan (*Life of Pi*), plays Saajan, a grouchy, widowed claims adjuster who discovers that his lunch has accidentally been switched with a co-workers.

Curious about the lack of reaction from her husband, Ila puts a little note in the following day's lunchbox. This begins a series of notes between Saajan and Ila. Gradually their notes become little confessions about their loneliness, memories, regrets, fears and even small joys.

The sense of place – bustling, teeming modern Mumbai – is superbly realised in this enormously likeable, Indian romantic comedy-drama.

"A wistful, elegant love story played out across the streets of Mumbai, an unexpectedly aromatic charmer from first-time film-maker Ritesh Batra." (*Screen International*)

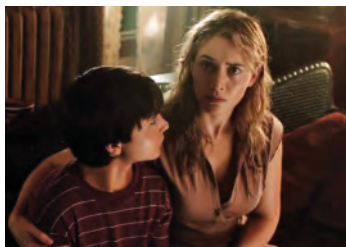
"Batra deftly unfolds a wonderfully observed range of subtle emotions, supported by a lightly paces and often humorous script." (*BFI*)

A veritable feast for the eyes. (*Anna Shepherd*)



Labor Day

Wed 14 2.00



Adapted from a novel by Joyce Maynard, *Labor Day* unfolds on the USA bank holiday weekend in 1987 at the home of an agoraphobic divorcee named Adele (Kate Winslet) and her 13-year-old son, Henry (Gattlin Griffith). Adele is deeply depressed – emotionally paralysed by some unspoken trauma – and depends on her son as a connection to an outside world she retreated from long ago. But during a rare outing to the supermarket their routine is blown to smithereens by the arrival of an escaped convict named Frank (Josh Brolin). Bleeding from the gut, the menacing stranger collars Henry and quietly intimidates Adele into taking him to their home. While police comb the town for Frank, he cleans the gutters, teaches Henry how to throw a curveball and generally verses him in the ways of manhood.

“*Labor Day* lacks this film-maker’s usual sophisticated wit: it is bizarrely unconvincing, sugary and humourless, like a Walt Disney version of *The Night of the Hunter*.” (*Guardian*)

“*Labor Day* is a beautifully crafted, evocative and very well acted coming-of-age story which is just a little bit... preposterous.” (*Independent*)

“If any other actress was playing Adele it would be the performance of a life. But this is Kate Winslet, who can pull off Oscar-grade without breaking sweat.” (*Time Out*). (*Jane Lucas*)

Director: Jason Reitman
Starring: Josh Brolin, Kate Winslet, Tobey Maguire
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Paramount International Pictures

Cuban Fury

Thu 15 2.00

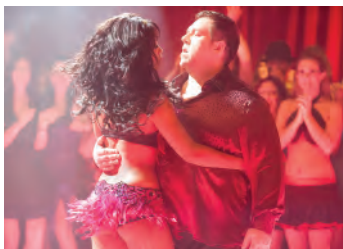
Director: James Griffiths
Starring: Nick Frost, Rashida Jones, Chris O'Dowd
Certificate: 15
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2014
By: Studiocanal

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

Frost plays Bruce Garrett, a shy, overweight office worker who abandoned his boyhood brilliance in the world of salsa dancing in shame after he was beaten up by bullies. But then, in early middle age, he falls for his gorgeous boss Julia (Rashida Jones) who happens to be a huge salsa fan, and Bruce sees a shot at redemption. “The truth is that Nick Frost clearly can’t dance well, and no amount of sneaky framing and editing can conceal the fact that he looks like the celeb on *Strictly Come Dancing* who goes out in the first round.” (*Guardian*)

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

It’s Chris O’Dowd however, who stands out (as always) as smug rival Drew. Nothing against Frost but I couldn’t help thinking what it could have been with O’Dowd as the leading man. Still, it’s fluffy, casually offensive stuff with a smattering of giggles. (*Jack Whiting*) Friday salsa-class dancers will/should/may/not love it. Might be fun.



Divergent Sat 17 2.00



Hungry for more Hunger Games? Well Divergent, an adaptation of yet another in a string of young adult phenomenon, isn't a patch on the adventures of Katniss, but it's not a terrible start.

"The hokey setup finds a futuristic, postwar society in which the now pacified population are divided into five distinct groups, each with their own singular attributes: Abnegation (selfless); Amity (peaceful); Candor (honest); Dauntless (brave); and Erudite (intelligent). No, I didn't buy it either, but never mind because neither does heroine Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) who commits the unspeakable crime of having more than one skill, thus making her... divergent!" (*Mark Kermode*) What follows for the majority of this bloated first chapter (the first of yet another trilogy), are essentially a series sci-fi GCSE tests, or a 140 minute long episode of the Krypton Factor.

"Kate Winslet plays the icily menacing Jeanine, the leader of Erudite, that thoroughly suspect faction of brainiacs who appear to show that intellectuals are creepy and not to be trusted, compared to the brave or the pious." (*Guardian*)

Woodley is a young, bright and talented actress (*The Descendants*, lovely). She deserves better. Let's hope the Hollywood machine doesn't chew her up and spit her out. At least Divergent book fans will be pleased with faithfulness. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Neil Burger
Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Kate Winslet, Jai Courtney
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Entertainment One UK

The Lunchbox Mon 19 2.00

Director: Ritesh Batra
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France/Germany/India/USA 2014
By: Curzon Film World

A mix-up in Mumbai's famous 'dabbawalla' lunchbox delivery system leads to an exchange of heart-felt letters.

Middle class housewife, Ila (Nimrat Kaur), is trying once again to add some spice to her marriage, this time through her cooking. Desperately hoping that this new recipe will finally arouse some kind of reaction from her neglectful husband. Irrfan Khan (*Life of Pi*), plays Saajan, a grouchy, widowed claims adjuster who discovers that his lunch has accidentally been switched with a co-workers. Curious about the lack of reaction from her husband, Ila puts a little note in the following day's lunchbox. This begins a series of notes between Saajan and Ila. Gradually their notes become little confessions about their loneliness, memories, regrets, fears and even small joys.

The sense of place – bustling, teeming modern Mumbai – is superbly realised in this enormously likeable, Indian romantic comedy-drama.

"A wistful, elegant love story played out across the streets of Mumbai, an unexpectedly aromatic charmer from first-time film-maker Ritesh Batra." (*Screen International*)

"Batra deftly unfolds a wonderfully observed range of subtle emotions, supported by a lightly paces and often humorous script." (*BFI*)

A veritable feast for the eyes. (*Anna Shepherd*)





Director: Joel Hopkins
Starring: Celia Imrie, Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Spall, Emma Thompson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: France 2013
By: Entertainment One UK



The Love Punch

Tue 20 12.30, **Wed 21** 2.00,
Thu 22 2.00

Emma Thompson and Pierce Brosnan play a divorced couple, acrimoniously separated after he left her for a younger woman. Both have struggled forming lasting relationships ever since the split but, having bumped into each other at a wedding, their biting banter suggests that the flames of their former relationship have not been fully extinguished.

Brosnan also owns a thriving investment firm – at least it appears to be thriving until it's bankrupted by a dodgy Frenchman (Lauren Lafitte) who cripples their assets and saunters off with their pension money. Not only is their financial future at stake but so is that of their trusting investors, so the bickering pair cross the channel to confront the scoundrel. Joined in the chase by rogueish ex-serviceman, Jerry (Timothy Spall) and his gently nutty wife, Penelope (Celia Imrie), the four of them embark on a daring revenge heist involving the theft of a diamond necklace worth £10m which the villain has given to his bride.

"This cast of national institutions make fools of themselves with a lack of vanity that's theoretically fun, but there's playing to the gallery, and then there's clambering up there to wiggle your bits at them." (Telegraph)

"No-one's expecting Alexander Payne from every film featuring people over 50, but you'd hope for more than mellow, dumbing cinema that romps about with its ailments so proudly on display." (Guardian) (Jane Clucas)



Director: James Bobin
Starring: Tina Fey, Ricky Gervais
Certificate: U
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Walt Disney Int'l

Muppets Most Wanted

Sat 24 2.00, Tue 27 12.30

Everyone adored the return of Jim Henson's much loved creations to the big screen in 2011. It was treated with just the right amount of care and attention that drew in old and new fans alike. Can they relive the magic? Yes and no. It's still a huge amount of fun but now with a slightly unwelcome, cynical edge. Comedy writer and star Jason Segel was the secret ingredient and he's notably absent from this, with Ricky Gervais standing in.

"The plot is a flung-together hodgepodge of espionage and mistaken identity. Kermit's evil doppelgänger, a vicious frog by the name of Constantine, takes control of the Muppets with his henchman (Gervais) and lead them on an unwitting crime spree around Europe. Meanwhile, Kermit languishes in a Siberian gulag under the watch of prison guard Tina Fey. Hijinks, as you'd expect, ensue." (*Guardian*)

"The songs aren't quite as catchy as one might like, but Bret McKenzie's lyrics remain witty and warm. And in the end, we get not only a sweet moment between Kermit and Piggy but also a huge Muppet singalong." (*Empire*) Heart is what is seriously lacking this time round. Remember how lovely *Cars* was until *Cars 2* came a long and crushed your hopes and dreams? Well it's not as bad as that but I don't think anyone will be clambering for another Muppet entry. (*Jack Whiting*)





Director: Nick Cassavetes
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2014
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Other Woman

Wed 28 2.00

After discovering her boyfriend (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau – *Game of Thrones/Headhunters*) is married, a woman (Cameron Diaz) tries to get her ruined life back on track. But when she accidentally meets the wife he's been cheating on (Leslie Mann – *Knocked Up*), she realises they have much in common, and her sworn enemy becomes her greatest friend. Rather than get into a *Dynasty*-like cat fight, the women put their heads together for some alcohol-fuelled revenge planning. When yet another affair is discovered (Kate Upton – bikini model), all three women team up to wreak vengeance on their cheating, lying, three-timing son-of-a-b**ch.

Directed by Nick Cassavetes (son of John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands), who has delivered such classics as *The Notebook* and *My Sisters Keeper*, *The Other Woman* also sees the film debut of Nicki Minaj – singer, rapper and fragrance launcher.

"He (Cassavetes) had the talent and the star power necessary to create the quintessential infidelity comedy, but instead we get what looks like a PG-13 version of an unfinished Judd Apatow script." (*Cinemablend*)

"Hands down, the best part of the film is Leslie Mann who injects what altogether fleeting life she can into this utterly deflated corpse of toilet humour and vivacious estrogen." (*Moviepilot*)
 (*Jane Lucas*)

The King & The Mocking Bird

Thu 29 2.00



"If I had not seen this film, I would have never imagined entering the world of animation" Isao Takahata, Studio Ghibli

Widely considered one of the best animated features of all time, and certainly a masterpiece of French animation, the Prix Louis Delluc-winning *The King and the Mockingbird* (Le Roi et l'Oiseau) has been cited by Studio Ghibli's Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata as a profound influence on their work (an influence most notable, in both films, for a castle stretching up to the sky).

A collaboration between director Paul Grimault and French poet and screenwriter Jacques Prévert (*Les Enfants du Paradis*, *Le crime de Monsieur Lange*), it's adapted from a fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson about a tyrannical King ruling over the kingdom of Takicardia. Viewed with fear by his subjects, it's only the spirited, brightly feathered Mr Bird who, from his nest near the King's secret chambers in his gigantic palace, dares to make fun of him. It's a story told with wit, imagination and a piquant charm, with quite beautifully realised animation, and rich with cultural references. The result is a perfect union of narrative and imagery which fully explains its inspiration for Studio Ghibli. Suitable for children of all ages (dubbed) and adults who enjoy their animation packed full of ideas and wonder. A rarity not to be missed.

Director: Paul Grimault
Certificate: U
Duration: 83 mins
Origin: France 1980
By: Independent Cinema Office

The White Balloon

Sat 31 2.00

Director: Jafar Panahi
Starring: Aida Mohammedkhani, Fereshteh Sadre Orafaiy
Certificate: U
Duration: 85 mins
Origin: Iran 1995
By: Filmhouse

The White Balloon tells the story of Razieh, a seven-year-old girl intent on buying a new goldfish in time for Tehran's annual New Year's Day festivities (in Iranian culture, the goldfish is a symbol of life).

Upon badgering her mother into giving her a 500-toman banknote, Razieh heads off to the marketplace alone; it is her first real experience away from her parents' watchful eyes, and the excitement and wonder she feels is palpable.

Told in real time, her struggle to prove her independence is dramatically undercut when she loses the banknote not once but twice, but her spirit and ingenuity nevertheless remain unflinching.

Along the way, she encounters snake-charmers, irate shopkeepers, a country-born soldier, a young Afghan boy with a white balloon - a whole world hitherto 'forbidden'.

Scripted in collaboration with leading Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami, this is a film of small incident, minute, telling observations, and enormous heart and intelligence.

"Panahi absorbs us so entirely into his heroine's delicate, enquiring world, that the loss of her money and her separation from her brother create an atmosphere of suspense as gripping as that of any Hitchcock thriller." (*Time Out*) Winner of the Camera d'Or in Cannes in 1995, this is a family film that everyone will enjoy. (*Anna Shepherd*)



NO PRIZES... JUST A BRAND NEW CINEMA!



As it stands The Odyssey cinema in St Albans is a unique piece of work. One that will show films from all over the world on possibly the biggest and last single screen to be rebuilt and restored in all of Europe.

This is our last fundraising campaign from now until we open later this year. There are no prizes or gimmicks and only two options:

- 1 £1000 & £1500 a seat**
- 2 £10 Butch & Sundance hand signed certificate**

£1000 & £1500 will entitle you to sponsor an Odyssey seat in your own name or that of a local company or to celebrate the name of a loved one.

These two options are **for life**, with the **only prize** being an extraordinary and most beautiful 83 year old, period cinema – 1931. Possibly the last standing in Europe and restored entirely by hand in only four years – 2010 to 2014.

Is there anybody you can think of who should have their name, or benefit from their name, or simply a loved one's name on a priceless Odyssey seat...? There are only 200 left.

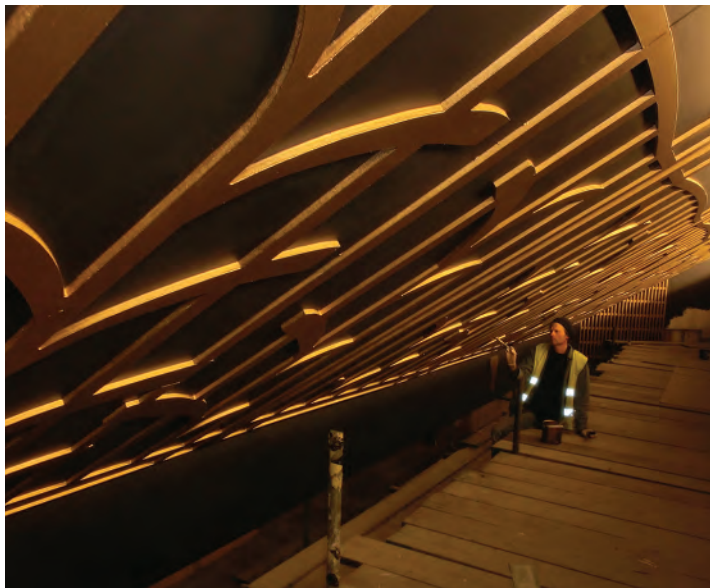


HOW?

Contact Marie at contactus@odysseypictures.co.uk with your details and chosen name. Then select one of the following methods of payment...

By Cheque:
payable to 'The Odyssey Cinema St Albans'
and posted to:
The Rex Cinema, High Street
(Three Close Lane), Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

By Bank Transfer:
Santander;
Sort Code: 09-01-27
A/C Number: 89416262



BABIES WIN... ISH



All babies look and sound the same... 'Oh no they don't...' etc. In their uniform chubbiness, with their phantom busting tight-jumper wrists, they make a pretty good stab at it. That aside, these tiny creatures have another thing in common. They have won the day. Tuesday. No more daring 15 certificate films for them. They will still enjoy flashes of colour and light, and huge sounds. Were it not for our miraculous, non-piercing, perfectly balanced sound system, they might think they're still amidst the High St traffic, but without exhaust fumes full in their faces.

Instead they'll be back in a safe environment to be thrilled by flashing lights, catch some un-nursery-like language, a few loud bangs and screams, and be exposed to grown-ups bare bottoms here and there. It is all there under the 15 certificate at 12A.

All we have to do is to follow their example, gurgle a little and be glad to be away from the traffic. Babies are oblivious to our rules... for all too short a time.

Our only rule here is; turn up early, park your tanks considerably with gun turrets disarmed and not sticking out all over the place. Then be nice to everyone you see.

So too, this goes for all those welcome

upstairs, without babies. It is Tuesday. It is a 12.30pm matinee. The programme warns 'May contain babies'. A small humour on our part, celebrating ridiculous health warnings.

Therefore, from Tuesday onwards, we will not listen to another complaint about babies.

Whilst you are always most welcome, in this small matter, you must take it or leave it.

For your own enlightenment, polite derision, and accompanied by some healthy sniggering, look up the measurements of slack behaviour considered 'appropriate' at each certificate level from the BBFC. The British Board of Film Censors (now Classification) decrees the following.



Universal. General viewing suitable for all ages.



Parental Guidance. General viewing suitable for children.



Under twelves must be accompanied by an adult.



No one under 15 may be allowed to enter.



No one under 18 may be allowed to enter.