

THE-REX

SEPTEMBER 2019

PAIN & GLORY
(TREES HILLS AND STREAMS...)

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2019 • ISSUE 174
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759

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

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 18-19

Rants & Pants 26-27

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.50

Concessions/ABL £8.00

Back Row £8.00

Table £11.50

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Whole Royal Box £73.00

Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs

£6.50, Royal Box £10

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

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

BEST COME-BACKS FROM THIS SUMMER

(and 2 from before you must not miss)



Balloon

A tense heart-in-mouth true story beautifully told of unbearable cat 'n mouse Cold War suspense. See page 10



Ella

From poverty to immortality in one exquisite voice is more than just one of those things. See page 9



Blade Runner

Rutger Hauer is dead. But in this timeless classic he lives on at his immortal best. See page 11



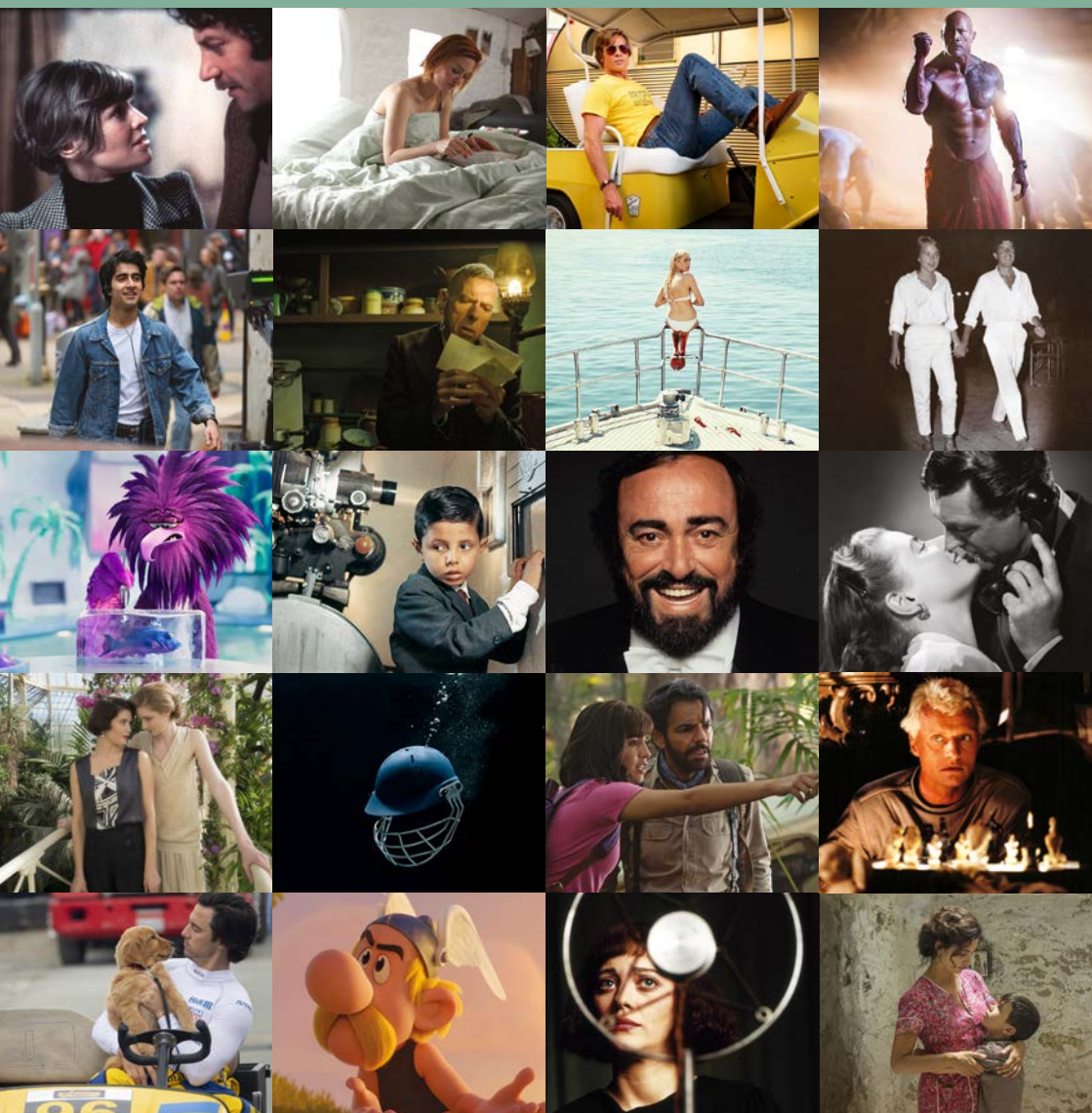
The Keeper

A despised ex-enemy's triumph over the smears of long-nurtured fear and bigotry. See page 13



La Vie en Rose

Another rare voice to lift us undeservedly. A tiny woman's single handed heavy-lifting out of life's gutter. See page 16



SEPTEMBER FILMS



Vita & Virginia

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

Poet and novelist Vita (Gemma Arterton) and literary icon Virginia W (Elizabeth Debicki) run in different circles in 1920s London. When their paths cross the magnetic Vita decides the beguiling, stubborn and gifted Virginia will be her next conquest, no matter the cost. Chanya Button's *Vita & Virginia* isn't simply a cinematic dramatisation of Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf's passionate correspondence and extramarital romance. It is a meditation on the nature of marriage, liberation and powerful love. The leads are a joy. Since her breakthrough role as a Bond Girl (deceased) in 2008's *Q of S*, Gemma A has developed as an authoritative and compelling big screen presence. As Vita Sackville-West, she's the psychologically fragile heart of London's racy bohemian Bloomsbury group, and Elizabeth Debicki's ethereal presence combined with Arterton's earthy urgency laces their coupling with a fierce erotic charge. A fitting supplement to both women's legacies and a thoughtful celebration of their complexity. (*Chris Coetsee*) Its big screen presence is light, airy and beautiful but the tale is, *To The Lighthouse*, turgid.

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

When...

Sun 1 6.00



Pavarotti

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

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

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

When...

Mon 2 2.00, 7.30



The Edge

Barney Douglas' candid documentary explores the English Cricket Test team's trials and success from 2009 until their dramatic fall from grace in 2013.

With the drama of England's World Cup victory still fresh in the memory, Douglas digs into the human cost of a previous ascent, when England's Test team rose to No. 1 in the early 2010s during Zimbabwean Andy Flower's tenure as coach.

Full of dressing-room banter from the likes of spinner Graeme Swann and paceman James Anderson, Douglas makes splendid use of off-field tour footage and images of a pre-Ashes extreme training camp in Bavaria. All the while, this chronicle of a team's relentless rise is balanced with troubling revelations from skipper Andrew Strauss, bowler Steve Finn and South African imports Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior and Jonathan Trott who reveal the strain players feel both out on the pitch and in the media spotlight.

Narrated by Toby Jones, *The Edge* is a tight roller-coaster narrative that offers refreshingly bold visuals, honest talking heads interviews, all alongside genuine humane insight into professional athletes' mental states under pressure. (*Chris Coetsee*) sports films are the new seasons buses all at once. Two football films, one cricket and another about a (real...!) canine racing driver.

Director: Barney Douglas
Cast: James Anderson, Ian Bell, Tim Bresnan
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Noah X



Ella Fitzgerald: Just One Of Those Things

There is much more to say about Ella Fitzgerald than stock superlatives. Happily, this story of her life reaches for her and touches us as no other - so glaringly absent before now. Ella Fitzgerald was a 15 year-old street kid when she won a talent contest in 1934 at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Within months she was a star. This fascinating documentary follows her extraordinary journey over six decades as her sublime voice transforms the tragedies of her own life and the troubles of her times, into joy. Ella was aesthetically an unlikely star; a woman who didn't fit society's conventional idea of a traditionally glamorous, slender beauty. She transcended the sexism and racism of her day to day life. Marilyn Monroe is credited with demanding the prestigious Hollywood club: Mocambo open its doors to Ella. One of the film's poignant moments witnesses Fitzgerald speaking out (not whining) against bigotry on a radio show...the piece was never broadcast. There is a rush of hope for a future where Ella Fitzgerald's music lives on. We loved her as kids despite her being 'mums & dads' music'. Her exquisite, unique and emotionally transcendent voice will lift hearts always and... every time we say goodbye. Don't miss.

Director: Leslie Woodhead
Cast: Margo Jefferson, Tony Bennett, Norma Miller, Smokey Robinson, Cleo Laine
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Music Screen LTD

When...

Tue 3 2.00, 7.30

When...

Wed 4 2.00, 7.30



Balloon

You could probably choose a less conspicuous method of getting over the wall than floating across the border in what looks like a giant, brightly coloured, glowing light bulb.

Yet a spectacular nocturnal breakout from communist East Germany by hot-air balloon is exactly what two families tried two chilly nights in September, 1979. Director Michael Bully Herbig tells the true story of the Strelzyks and the Wetzels, who built their balloon in a cellar. After sewing and tinkering for weeks, they make their first attempt. A few feet from West German freedom, their balloon suffers from the rain and crash lands. Luckily, they manage to avoid being caught by the nazi-Stasi. However, the wreckage from their attempt is found. Enter: a desperate manhunt. The tension rises as the families determine to try again, and a race against time begins. Besides being a fine thriller, *Balloon* also shows very well the effects authoritarian societies have on its people. It's further proof that Herbig is one of the best directors his Country has to offer. (*Jack Whiting*) I remember my own family's tension at the international news of this fantastical misadventure, but will they make it 2nd time... Back by huge demand. Miss everything else but this.

Director: Michael Bully Herbig
 Cast: Friedrich Mücke, Karoline Schuch, David Kross, Alicia von Rittberg, Thomas Kretschmann
 Duration: 125 mins
 Origin: Germany 2019 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Studio Canal

When...

Thu 5 2.00, 7.30



Yesterday

This Curtis/Boyle musical fairytale imagines a world without the Fab Four.

Jack (Himesh Patel) is a struggling singer-songwriter from Suffolk, ready to pack in his music career. After crashing his bike during a freak global power surge, Jack is the only one in the universe that can remember The Beatles and their back catalogue. Reconstructing their songs from memory, Jack is presented with a golden opportunity for him to pursue the kind of success he's always dreamed of. Elevated by two fine performances courtesy of Patel and Lily James, the film wears its heart on its sleeve from the get go. Patel, previously of *EastEnders* fame, is an excellent choice for Jack. He's the millennial Hugh Grant character, mumbling and slightly more down-played, but much less self-consciously. He nails the everyman vibe and the panic of suddenly having the world at your feet. *Yesterday* doesn't exactly rip up the rulebook but the new L&Mc, Curtis and Boyle have gone to great lengths to subtly tweak the traditional romcom formula to create a genuinely touching, smart comedy, which will undoubtedly become the feel-good hit of the summer. (*Chris Coetsee*) As did the Beatles - for a few summers of their own. Come, hear, but don't listen.

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

When...

Fri 6 2.00 Sat 7 7.00



Blade Runner – Final Cut

Two reasons why Blade Runner returns to The Rex. One: we're now firmly in the year the film is set, and two: the passing of cult legend Rutger Hauer.

It's 2019 and Harrison Ford's Deckard is a former police officer tasked with hunting and 'retiring' rogue androids, or 'replicants'. Existential android Roy Batty is, in fact, the real star of Ridley Scott's slow-burn masterpiece; not least because Hauer's presence dominates every inch of the frame, but his character is the one that goes through the most change; culminating in a tragic, yet satisfying arc. The Dutch actor even contributed his own infinitely quotable couplet to the film's epochal "tears in rain" scene, a moment as iconic as Casablanca's "Here's looking at you, kid".

Blade Runner (here in its 'final cut') is a mesmerising slice of neo-noir, with a rich, vibrant, but ultimately bleak world, one that has only now, finally, been matched by its stunning sequel. A misunderstood gem back in 1982, Blade Runner has now entered the pantheon of classic cinema, to become the definitive cult movie. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Ridley Scott
Cast: Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young, Daryl Hannah
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 1982
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Fri 6 7.30



The Lion King

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

The most accurate, shot for shot remake since Gus Van Sant's wholly unnecessary Psycho, this shiny new Lion King takes all the cues and hits all the beats from the 1994 classic. Elton John's beautiful melodies and Hans Zimmer's sweeping score remain intact. The Hamlet inspired story should be pretty well known by now, and here it's largely unchanged: Lion cub Simba is set to inherit his father's throne, but tragic (even traumatising) events leave Simba cast out and fending for himself.

Admiration towards the film lies with its astonishing level of detail; this technical marvel pushes pixels to their absolute limit, to the point where I half expected David Attenborough to chime in at some point. And that's maybe film's only real foil; the expressiveness of the cartoon is replaced with dead-eyed realism; so when Simba belts out that he can't wait to be king, something feels a little off. Still, the template of the original is strong enough that this version still delights. (*Jack Whiting*) But not as much.

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

When...

Sat 7 2.00



Don't Look Now

It is said to have been the first 'they-ARE-really-doing-it' sex scene in mainstream cinema. We all gasped in 1973 – at how skinny Julie Christie was and how silly was Donald Sutherland's pineapple hair and terrifying moustache. Everyone was looking out for his toddler. The scene was a crude theatrical device used by Roeg to show a grieving couple still in love, and capable of full-on desire for each other. Even back then in the neanderthal 70's ice-age, pre-porn, pre-mobiles, instagram, tinder, on-line shopping and satnav, audiences found it laughable, cold and embarrassing.

Helpless to save their daughter from drowning in a bright red mac (uh oh) their grief carries the story. Cut to Venice, where Donald is in charge of restoring a crumbling church. Enter the psychic-freak sisters you wouldn't touch with a gondola pole. From here on you will want to shake Sutherland & Christie into getting the hell out of there.

"Roeg's thriller has an aura of menace throughout and a sexual honesty that is startling even today." (from a popular review) Menace? Manipulative B-Movie horror jumps. Sexual honesty? Contrived, pretentious, gratuitous, perhaps even utter bollocks, but digitally restored. Come and be shocked again at how shocked you were then.

Director: Nicolas Roeg
Cast: Julie Christie, Donald Sutherland, Hilary Mason
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: UK/Italy 1973
Certificate: 15
Company: British Film Institute (BFI)

When...

Sun 8 6.00



Notorious

Alfred Hitchcock's post-war thriller classic remains a brilliant allegory of love and betrayal.

Devlin (Cary Grant) a U.S. agent tracking Nazis who have fled to Brazil in the aftermath of 1946. When an opportunity arises to infiltrate an infamous spy circle, Devlin persuades Alicia Huberman (Ingrid Bergman) to assist him and as they get deep into her dangerous mission, they fall in love. But she must carefully operate in enemy surroundings to unearth the truth behind this urgent and secretive curtain of espionage. Featuring two of the most iconic screen presences of their day, a suave Grant and ethereal Bergman, their on-screen chemistry plays into Hitchcock's thematic obsession with desire, creating a bristling dynamic, an erotic and tense melodrama.

Hitchcock's mastery is here in Notorious combining all his intrinsic elements: intrigue, suspense, treachery, suspicion and romance. It has all these, some good lines too. It is phenomenally rich and rewarding cinema, whether the first or umpteenth time. (*Chris Coetsee*) It is very good indeed, despite Hitchcock's use of backdrop. He hated location work, hence distracting audiences with irritating B-Movie backdrops, turning tension instantly to flaccid theatricals. But watch out for that one fabulous long focused zoom from wide to the key in her hand.

Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Cast: Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains, Louis Calhern
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 1946
Certificate: U
Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Mon 9 2.00, 7.30



The Keeper

David Kross stars in this charming true story set against a backdrop of top-tier 1950s football and post war anger and intolerance.

In the history of the oldest cup competition in world football, the tale of goalkeeper Bert Trautmann's legendary. A German prisoner of war, he would suffer years of abuse after becoming the first German footballer to play in the post-war British football league. He had to convince teammates, supporters and Manchester's Jewish community of his right to play. He went on to make over 500 appearances for City during his 15 years, including the 1956 FA Cup Final during which he broke his neck but incredibly continued to make vital saves until the final whistle. Trautmann would later be voted the club's best ever player. But this is just part of the story.

Stepping away from the pitch, *The Keeper* focuses chiefly on Trautmann's relationship with his wife, Margaret Friar and reconciliation with his time in the War. It's a celebration of how forgiveness and persistence can bring home more than just a winner's medal. (*Chris Coetsee*) Goal! Chris. As kids in Goodison's 'boys pen', we saw Bert play, but mostly his back, in a green jumper.

Director: Marcus H. Rosenmüller
 Cast: David Kross, Freya Mavor, John Henshaw, Harry Melling, Michael Socha, Dave Johns
 Duration: 119 mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Parkland Entertainment

When...

Tue 10 2.00, 7.30



Cinema Paradiso

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When...

Wed 11 2.00



Only You

Harry Wootliff's sensual drama chronicles one couple's desperate race against the biological clock.

Little does singleton Elena (Laia Costa) know when she sings Auld Lang Syne at her friend's New Year's Eve party that this is truly about to be a new beginning. A chance encounter on the streets of Glasgow leads to her sharing a taxi with marine biology student Jake (Josh O'Connor). With sparks flaring between them, they spend the night together at her flat. But as their romance gets more serious, she comes clean. Laia is actually 35 to his 26. He has no problem with the age difference and in no time they have moved in together and are trying for a baby. Unhappily, neither time nor conception is on their side and their entire life is soon reduced to a brutal battle against infertility.

Catalan actress Costa, brilliant in 2014's *Victoria*, is a terrific choice for the role, crackling with a sensual energy that sparks wonderfully with O'Connor. The duo show intelligence and alertness and share a vital chemistry, giving a vivid ring of emotional authenticity throughout. Heartfelt and honest, *Only You* stands out this year as a UK gleaming gem. (Chris Coetsee) Sparkling flashing diamonds of lust into love into pain.

Director: Harry Wootliff
Cast: Natalie Arle-Toyne, Isabelle Barth, Tam Dean Burn, Daniel Campbell, Joe Cassidy, Laia Costa
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Artificial Eye Film Co. Ltd

When...

Wed 11 7.30



Woman At War

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

Halla (Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir) is known to her friends as a quiet upbeat choir mistress. However, her seemingly unadventurous life covers up a dark secret. Halla is also 'The Mountain Woman'. The environmental activist waging a one-woman war on an international industrial giant to protect her bleak-glorious Icelandic rural landscape. When the chance comes to grasp her family dream, she finds herself with a difficult life-decision. Director Benedikt Erlingsson's first film, *Of Horses and Men*, was one of the most startlingly original, audacious features of the past decade. While *Woman at War* has a different dimension, its breathtaking central wonder woman and rousing theme offer a more focused and driven story. (Chris Coetsee)

After the plastic cartoon antics of *Avengers* and *Captain Marvel*, Halla is morning sunshine, and all in a sensible cardigan. As for the live score - priceless. The very opposite of those soft-as-shit spandexed digital heroes. In her own knitting, this flesh-real woman unstunts unstinting, actually running around Iceland with a bow and arrow, over the hardest terrain. She will be back until you have all seen her - twice.

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

When...

Thu 12 2.00, 7.30



Once Upon A Time In Hollywood

Quentin Tarantino's ninth feature is an outrageously funny, twisted and mesmerising fairytale of pure cinema intoxication.

A tribute to the final moments of Hollywood's golden age, it basks in the warm California sun and glowing neon signs of Los Angeles in 1969 as we follow washed-up television star Rick Dalton (DiCaprio) and his stunt double Cliff Booth (Pitt) in their struggles to revive fading careers at the close of a turbulent decade. Confronting hippie culture, a changing industry and the lingering menace of the Manson Family, Dalton and Booth's fates collide with history as they ride a wild and treacherous road to redemption. A master filmmaker, Tarantino conjures a story that remains unbound by category, bouncing between reality and fiction, weaving between the historical and the iconic. It's a film that plays with a love of movie making, and the love of individual soul. Not since *Pulp Fiction* have we seen him present such a complex and emotionally driven bunch of characters. Undoubtedly his greatest achievement since the turn of the millennium, this is the proof that QT is at his best when he's dealing with hope, heart and the hearts he wants to keep beating. (*Chris Coetsee*) Stunning. See it (again) here on The BIG screen.



Director: Quentin Tarantino
Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Margaret Qualley
Duration: 161 mins
Origin: UK/ USA/ China 2019
Certificate: 18
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Fri	13	2.00	Thu	19	2.00
Fri	13	7.30	Thu	19	7.30
Sat	14	7.00	Fri	20	2.00
Wed	18	2.00	Fri	20	7.30



Asterix: The Secret Of The Magic Potion

No Gerard Depardieu awkwardly bumbling around to be found here, the Asterix franchise feels much safer, and is closer to its comic-book counterpart, in animated form.

Asterix is – as all French people know – a barrel-chested Gaul protecting his people from Roman invaders. Aided by the barrel-bellied Obelix, Asterix and the Gauls are above all safeguarded by the wise magician Panoramix, whose magic potion allows them to pounce the better armed and better trained Roman army, which far outnumbers the Frenchies. When Asterix and Obelix are sent away on a quest, all hell breaks loose at home as the Romans – led by Tomcrus (pronounced Tom Cruise, because why not?) – start attacking. Meanwhile, an evil wizard does everything he can to steal the potion's secret recipe, which, for lovers of French cuisine, seem to contain carrots, salt, fish, honey and mead. Hardcore and casual fans of Asterix alike will find *The Secret of the Magic Potion* hits all the right notes; even the non-converted will find delight. It's certainly leaps and bounds better than most of the fluff *Illumination* (*Minions*) puts out. (Jack Whiting)

Directors: Alexandre Astier, Louis Clichy
Voices: John Innes, Ken Kramer, C.Ernst Harth, Fleur Delahunty
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: France 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Altitude

When...

Sat 14 2.00



La Vie En Rose

Marion Cotillard's stunning performance as fabled French singer Edith Piaf is the white-hot centre of Olivier Dahan's heart wrenching biopic.

Piaf became a national icon, her voice cried out loud, orphan's sorrows. How do you tell a life story as chaotic, jumbled and open to chance as Piaf's? Hers did not have an arc but a trajectory. Joy and tragedy seemed simultaneous. Her loves were heart-felt but doomed.

Structured as a largely non-linear series of key events throughout her life, *La Vie en Rose* moves from childhood through to the events prior to and surrounding her death, poignantly juxtaposed by a performance of her untouchable, "Non, je ne regrette rien." Dahan movingly captures it all. From being abandoned as a child, the death of her own only child, to the death in a plane crash of the love of her life. It's a tough history, brought painstakingly to the screen through a breathtaking central turn by Cotillard. She doesn't just play it, she embodies her completely. She is at one with Piaf.

A beautiful but tragic journey of a girl from the slums whose voice became as symbolic as the Eiffel tower. (*Chris Coetsee*) Won Oscars in 2007/8, but beautiful still. Come.

Director: Olivier Dahan
Cast: Marion Cotillard, Sylvie Testud, Pascal Greggory, Marc Barbe
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: USA 2007
Certificate: 12A
Company: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

When...

Sun 15 6.00 Mon 16 2.00



Holiday

Despite the, and I'm saying this now as a sort of pre-warning, cruel rape of its protagonist, Swedish writer-director Isabella Eklof's debut never feels like an empty provocation.

Young, decorative and nakedly avaricious, Sascha (Victoria Carmen Sonne) is the new girlfriend of drug dealer Michael (Lai Yde). For an hour or so, *Holiday* comes on like a sinister *Love Island* as Sascha — always in a swimsuit — arrives in Turkey to hang around Michael's house. We get insights into Michael's controlling relationship with Sascha, disturbingly positioning her legs while she lies unconscious, while juxtaposing her new found relationship with yacht-owning dude Tomas (Thijs Römer), which suggests a different kind of relationship might be possible. At around an hour in, Eklof's master-plan becomes clear: she unleashes a scene of such discomfiting, depraved intensity that it sends the film spiralling in a different direction, subsequently inverting revenge conventions in a way that dares the audience to call it perverse. *Holiday* eventually becomes a traumatic survival story in which victory comes not from escaping the boundaries of a corrupt world so much as learning to play by its rules. Strong stomachs will be rewarded. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Isabella Eklof
Cast: Victoria Carmen Sonne, Lai Yde, Thijs Römer, Michiel de Jong, Koray Alay, Kerem Arslan
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: Sweden 2019
Certificate: 18
Company: Anti-Worlds Film and Television Ltd

When...

Mon 16 7.30



Diego Maradona

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

It opens in breathless, bravura style — a frenetic car-chase through the crowded streets of Naples which snappily gets us up to speed with Maradona's shooting-star career prior to his big-bucks transfer to Napoli in 1984. A head-spinning montage of sights and sounds plunge us into the melee of an overcrowded press conference, where this underdog city unveils its most expensive signing. — a boy from the barefoot shacks of Buenos Aires (via Barcelona). Happily, the film is composed almost entirely of existing TV footage, cleverly picked and shaped. Kapadia uses voiceover commentaries from observers to add context with reminiscences from the present-day Diego. Kapadia's sticks to the same 'tortured genius' narrative template as his previous films *Senna* and *Amy*, the obvious difference being that Maradona is very much alive and kicking. He remains as unknowable as a figure from ancient myth. This is no dent in a film that makes brilliant use of his doomed momentum. A fair game played in extra time. Unravelling over 500 hours of unseen footage (in just over 90 minutes-ish) (*Jack Whiting*) Kapadia doesn't go-to-penalties. Come.

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

When...

Tue 17 2.00, 7.30

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

APOLLO 11
ROCKETMAN
YESTERDAY
TOY STORY 4
THE LION KING

NEW RELEASES

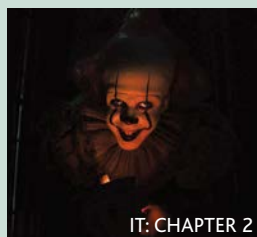
IT: CHAPTER TWO
DOWNTON ABBEY
THE SHINY SHRIMPS
THE FAREWELL
THE GOLDFINCH



DOWNTON ABBEY



THE SHINY SHRIMPS



IT: CHAPTER 2



THE GOLDFINCH



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

SEPTEMBER FILM

			TIME
1	SUN	APOLLO 11	1.00
1	SUN	THE LAST TRAIN HOME (+i) (S) +SHORT FILM	6.30
2	MON	THE LION KING	1.00
2	MON	PAVAROTTI	7.30
3	TUE	JUNGLE BOOK	12.00
3	TUE	ROCKETMAN	7.30
4	WED	YESTERDAY	1.00, 7.30
5	THU	THE CURRENT WAR	1.00, 7.30
6	FRI	YESTERDAY	1.00, 7.30
7	SAT	TOY STORY 4	1.00
7	SAT	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (1986) (+i)	7.00
8	SUN	THE LION KING	1.00
8	SUN	APOLLO 11	6.00
9	MON	THE CURRENT WAR	7.30
10	TUE	THE CURRENT WAR	12.00
10	TUE	BREATHLESS (1959) (S) (+i)	7.30
11	WED	ANIMALS	1.00, 7.30
12	THU	YESTERDAY	1.00
12	THU	DO THE RIGHT THING	7.30
13	FRI	PAVAROTTI	1.00
13	FRI	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	7.00
14	SAT	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2	11.00
14	SAT	YESTERDAY	5.00
14	SAT	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	8.30
15	SUN	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	1.00
15	SUN	BLADE RUNNER - THE FINAL CUT (1982)	6.00
16	MON	PHOTOGRAPH (S)	1.00, 7.30
17	TUE	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	12.00, 7.30
18	WED	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	1.00
18	WED	NON-FICTION - SPECIAL PREVIEW (+i) (S)	7.30
19	THU	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	1.00
19	THU	ARE YOU PROUD? (+i) Q&A	7.30
20	FRI	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	1.00, 7.30
21	SAT	DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD	1.00
21	SAT	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	7.00
22	SUN	DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD	1.00
22	SUN	PAIN & GLORY (S) (+i)	5.00
22	SUN	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	8.30
23	MON	PAIN & GLORY (S)	1.00, 7.30
24	TUE	MRS LOWRY & SON	12.00, 7.30
25	WED	PAIN & GLORY (S)	1.00, 7.30
26	THU	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	1.00
26	THU	THE EDGE (+i) Q&A	7.30
27	FRI	YESTERDAY	1.00
27	FRI	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	7.30
28	SAT	THE LION KING	1.00
28	SAT	SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK	7.00
29	SUN	MRS LOWRY & SON	1.00
29	SUN	IL POSTINO (+i) (S) (1995)	6.00
30	MON	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	1.00, 7.30

(S) SUBTITLED (+i) INTRO

THE-REX

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SEPTEMBER FILM			TIME	PAGE
1	SUN	VITA & VIRGINIA	6.00	8
2	MON	PAVAROTTI	2.00, 7.30	8
3	TUE	THE EDGE	2.00, 7.30	9
4	WED	ELLA FITZGERALD: JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS	2.00, 7.30	9
5	THU	BALLOON (S)	2.00, 7.30	1
6	FRI	YESTERDAY	2.00	10
6	FRI	BLADE RUNNER - THE FINAL CUT	7.30	11
7	SAT	THE LION KING	2.00	11
7	SAT	YESTERDAY	7.00	10
8	SUN	DON'T LOOK NOW	6.00	12
9	MON	NOTORIOUS	2.00, 7.30	12
10	TUE	THE KEEPER	2.00, 7.30	13
11	WED	CINEMA PARADISO (S)	2.00	13
11	WED	ONLY YOU	7.30	14
12	THU	WOMAN AT WAR (S)	2.00, 7.30	14
13	FRI	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	2.00, 7.30	15
14	SAT	ASTERIX: THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION	2.00	16
14	SAT	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	7.00	15
15	SUN	LA VIE EN ROSE (S)	6.00	16
16	MON	LA VIE EN ROSE (S)	2.00	16
16	MON	HOLIDAY	7.30	17
17	TUE	DIEGO MARADONA	2.00, 7.30	17
18	WED	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	2.00	15
18	WED	MARIANNE & LEONARD: WORDS OF LOVE	7.30	20
19	THU	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	2.00, 7.30	15
20	FRI	ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD	2.00, 7.30	15
21	SAT	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2	2.00	20
21	SAT	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	7.00	21
22	SUN	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	6.00	21
23	MON	PAIN AND GLORY (S)	2.00, 7.30	22
24	TUE	ANIMALS	2.00, 7.30	23
25	WED	PAIN AND GLORY (S)	2.00, 7.30	22
26	THU	PAIN AND GLORY (S)	2.00, 7.30	22
27	FRI	BLINDED BY THE LIGHT	2.00, 7.30	21
28	SAT	DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD	2.00	23
28	SAT	FAST & FURIOUS: HOBBS & SHAW	7.00	24
29	SUN	THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN	6.00	24
30	MON	MRS LOWRY & SON	2.00, 7.30	25

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

DEAD DON'T DIE
BLINDED BY THE LIGHT
ONCE UPON A TIME IN
HOLLYWOOD
THE LION KING

NEW RELEASES

GOOD BOYS
21 BRIDGES
LETO
GOOD BOYS
PLUS...





Marianne & Leonard: Words Of Love

Love is not a victory march; Leonard Cohen swooned. Nick Broomfield's haunting documentary is a tale of the twists of a impassioned relationship.

The enduring love between Leonard Cohen and Marianne Ihlen, on the Greek island of Hydra in the early 1960s. It is a story that is at once simple and threaded with startling complexities. Its narrative twists seem like the stuff of fiction, resulting in broken hearts, cold shoulders and beautiful songs. During his spent-days writing his failed (then?) Beautiful Losers, she supported him.

An openly jealous chronicle about how there ain't no cure for love, the tale continually finds his finicky nature, and his shark-like need to keep moving on or perish. Broomfield was an early friend and later Marianne's lover. As for Marianne, we get a sense of her loneliness, her attempts to balance being a mother and a loyal partner, the toll of wanting something she can't have and someone who won't be tied down. Even as things are coming to an end, Leonard is still using their bond as the basis for his art. (*Jack Whiting*) No, his was never 'art', musical 'craft' or clever-arsed structures. He came so far for beauty and left so much behind... That's All.

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

When...

Wed 18 7.30



The Angry Birds Movie 2

An animated sequel inspired by a phone app isn't the most promising film premise, but the second instalment in the Angry Birds series is much funnier and flappier than it has any right to be.

Film two pushes further into action territory, diversifying its carnival of candy-coloured animals – again headed by fiery avian Red (Jason Sudeikis) and porcine blowhard Leonard (Bill Hader) – as our heroes scale the eagles' ice fortress to face the vengeful Zeta (Leslie Jones). Three credited writers have been let off the leash to truffle for gags, as evidenced by a B-plot that pitches three fledglings into space while recovering stray eggs: essentially a replay of the Ice Ages' squirrel-and-nut business, but with ample scene-by-scene invention to distinguish it. The obligatory smash-and-grab pop-culture raiding includes The Great Escape, Dawson's Creek, David Bowie's Space Oddity and even the Beverly Hills Cop theme, which becomes the focus of perhaps one too many dance-offs. Still no word on why the pigs are green, but even that now looks intrinsic to how these loony toons have upturned convention and expectation. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Thurop Van Orman
Cast: Dove Cameron, Awkwafina, Maya Rudolph
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: Finland/USA 2019
Certificate: U
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Sat 21 2.00



Blinded By The Light

Bend It Like Beckham director Gurinder Chadha's heartwarming coming-of-age fable pits the music of The Boss against a murky backdrop of Thatcher's Britain. Torn between cultures, young Pakistani immigrant Javed (stellar newcomer Viveik Kalra) finds himself increasingly at odds with his old-school dad's rigid cultural expectations. Things aren't any less stormy outside the family home where the British social fabric is starting to fray, thanks to a sputtering economy, high unemployment and a toxic backlash against immigrants. After a starry-eyed classmate introduces him to Bruce Springsteen, Javed discovers a working-class dreamer whose lyrics resonate with his soul. Finding the courage to challenge his father and follow his ambition of becoming a writer, he sets out on his own search for meaning, resulting in a book, now this film.

This film accentuates Springsteen's words through its visual storytelling by letting them speak for themselves, highlighting how his lyrics speak to Javed's life without the need for cloying sentimentality. An anthem to the importance of music, it is a joyous, feel-good romp that celebrates creativity, freedom and learning to define one's own destiny. (*Chris Coetsee*) Unbeknown to Javed, *The Boss* had read his book. So endorsed this film, and by doing so – Luton. Well done Bruce.



Director: Gurinder Chadha
 Cast: Paul Mayeda Berges, Gurinder Chadha
 Duration: 117 mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Entertainment One

When...

Sat	21	7.00
Sun	22	6.00
Fri	27	2.00, 7.30



Pain & Glory

Visually exquisite and deeply meditative, Antonio Banderas excels as an ageing director reflecting on his past

In his most personal work to-date, Almodóvar returns with his colourful stylistic flair and humanist themes. Banding together with Banderas to take on a semi-autobiographical role, Antonio plays Salvador, a successful yet reclusive film director in limbo, miserable and sick. Thirty years after his hit film *Sabor*, he reunites with the film's star Alberto (Asier Etxeandia) after a lengthy rift in their friendship (the comedic Q&A scene in which they both feature is a treasure). As Alberto brings out heroin during their reunion, Salvador, uncharacteristically, asks to have some. In one of many interesting access points into his memory, the trip takes Salvador back to his childhood with his mother, Jacinta (played beautifully as you would expect by Penelope Cruz). *Pain and Glory* seamlessly moves between the past and present, the literal highs and lows, and all the while exploring how the two very different times interconnect. From Salvador's time with his mother, his first real desire, to grown-up-love, the film is a powerful exploration of how passions and losses shape us. (*Rachel Williams*) And what crippling shapes passion and loss can make...

Director: Pedro Almodóvar
 Cast: Antonio Banderas, Asier Etxeandia, Leonardo Sbaraglia
 Duration: 113 mins
 Origin: Spain 2019 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Pathé

When...

Mon 23	2.00	Wed 25	7.30
Mon 23	7.30	Thu 26	2.00
Wed 25	2.00	Thu 26	7.30



Animals

A nuanced study of female friendship, *Animals* explores a wild duo's foray into their 30s

Bonded by a boozy decade of endless excess, Laura (Holliday Grainger, here in a career-best) and Tyler (Alia Shawkat) live together in Dublin in a Georgian apartment which is at once glamorous and shabby (chic?). Sharing a bed, thrifted clothes and bottles of wine for breakfast, lunch and dinner; the film is both a profile of substance abuse and a comedy apt for a drinking game (??). Moreso, *Animals* portrays the conflict between continuing the 24-hour parties or settling into the status quo of adulthood. When aspiring writer Laura begins a romance with the sensible classical pianist Jim (Fra Fee) her BFF inevitably looks not 'forever' after all. With a sister settling down with a first child, a best friend determined to live in a world comprised of MDMA and lines of poetry, and a fiancée dedicated to his musical career - these differing lifestyles force Laura to question what she really wants. An electric gem not to be missed. A glass of white wine might go down well with it. *(Rachel Williams)* A good hedonists mid-weeker, but it thinks it's funnier than it is. It's not.

Director: Sophie Hyde
Cast: Holliday Grainger, Alia Shawkat, Fra Fee
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: UK/Australia/Ireland 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Picturehouse Entertainment

When...

Tue 24 2.00, 7.30



Dora & The Lost City Of Gold

Dora the Explorer is a teen in this live-action adventure, brought to life by the magnetic Isabela Moner.

Having grown up in the Peruvian rainforest with her archaeologist father (Michael Peña) and zoologist mother (Eva Longoria), Dora (Moner) is free spirited, extremely energetic, and up for any adventure. Aside from the one she must now embark on. Instead of bringing Dora along on a mission to uncover Parapata, the lost city of gold, her parents ship her off to school in LA (perhaps the scariest task yet). Despite only knowing her cousin Diego (Jeff Wahlberg), Dora's positive outlook in any situation is infectious, with her desire to learn and spontaneous singing (Moner manages to make it endearing). We don't get to see Dora adapt to high school for long, though, as she and her fellow outcasts, Sammy (Madeleine Madden), Randy (Nicholas Coombe) and Diego are kidnapped by mercenaries. Thankfully the explorer Alejandro (Eugenio Derbez) helps them escape, and the group find themselves in a location reminiscent of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The real mission begins: find Dora's parents and uncover the lost city of gold. An unexpectedly entertaining family film. *(Rachel Williams)* Looks fab. Come.

Director: James Bobin
Cast: Isabela Moner, Q'orianka Kilcher, Benicio Del Toro, Eva Longoria
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Australia/USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Paramount

When...

Sat 28 2.00



Fast And Furious: Hobbs And Shaw

Testosterone levels are practically off the charts as two of Hollywood's most iconic hairless heroes go head-to-head, and then side-by-side, in this ludicrous, yet impossible to hate thrill-ride.

Dwayne Johnson is Luke Hobbs, a classic, rugged and philosophical (spouts Nietzsche on occasion); while Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) is a slickly refined off-kilter Brit. Hobbs and Shaw insult each other like high-school mean girls. Throw in Idris Elba, having a blast as Brixton, a former Brit agent who's been carved up into a cyber-villain and ordered to capture a virus that can terminate half the globe. Then there's the dazzling Vanessa Kirby as Shaw's Mi6 agent sister Hattie, and two cameos from Helen Mirren and to round off the fun cast.

Director David Leitch (*Atomic Blonde*) keeps the action and the comedy at full velocity, and while it never reaches the action highs of *John Wick* or *Mission: Impossible*, *The Rock* and *The Stath* hold even the faltering moments up through sheer charm. Their chemistry never better than when they lean into the slapstick of two macho doofuses having to work together. Buckle up. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: David Leitch
 Cast: Vanessa Kirby, Dwayne Johnson, Eiza González, Jason Statham, Idris Elba, Helen Mirren
 Duration: 140 mins (tbc)
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Universal Pictures

When...

Sat 28 7.00



The Art Of Racing In The Rain

The art of making animals talk on film shows no signs of slowing down as yet another canine centric tear-jerker (ala *Marley and Me*) based around motor racing. As far as strange combinations go, it's up there.

The film, aimed with lethal efficiency at your tear ducts, stars Milo Ventimiglia as Denny, an aspiring racing driver who buys a puppy on a whim and christens it Enzo. Kevin Costner lends his gravel-blasted rumble of a voice to Enzo, one that makes him sound more like a chain-smoking dive bar derelict than a retriever. "All I know is that I was meant to be his dog."

The bond between pup and his man is tested when Denny meets Eve (Amanda Seyfried). But Eve shows the kind of loyalty usually reserved for canine companions, and spends most of her scenes urging Denny never to give up on his dreams of motor racing stardom. But a dark shadow falls when Eve begins to feel unwell. Corny? Yes. Manipulative? You betcha. But still endearing. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Simon Curtis
 Cast: Milo Ventimiglia, Amanda Seyfried, Kevin Costner (voice), Gary Cole, Kathy Baker, Ryan Kiera Armstrong
 Duration: 109 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Sun 29 6.00



Mrs Lowry & Son

Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Spall team up in *Mrs Lowry & Son*, depicting the complex relationship between the artist L.S. Lowry and his mother. With remarkable performances from Redgrave and Spall, the pair add depth to this biopic set almost entirely in one house - making the most of a script perhaps better suited for the stage. The Lancashire artist (Spall) is a timid figure, dominated by his controlling mother Elizabeth (Redgrave). As we are introduced to the characters, a letter arrives from London, with an opportunity at a gallery. Elizabeth sees no value in her son's artwork, doing her best to dissuade him from this 'art nonsense'. He longs to give up his job as rent collector, at classes and painting every spare minute, he observes the Salford streets in his creations. Exploring the conflict between being a filial son and pursuing his passion, The film is a deep-dive into the inner workings of Lowry's biggest obstacle: his mother! Bed-ridden and deeply miserable, Redgrave manages to steer away from making a villain out of her character. As Lowry proclaims, "There's a beauty in everything." (*Rachel Williams*) Except his paintings and his mother. Genius and/or heartbreakingly lonely optimist.



Director: Adrian Noble
Cast: Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Spall, Stephen Lord
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Mon 30 2.00, 7.30

No country for an empty lump with no cars



The way we were...

"You can't stop whats comin' – they ain't all waitn' on you... All the time you spend trying to get back what's been took from you – more of it is goin' out the door..." (No Country For Old Men 2008)
I promised to give the car lump a rest. Well, "now that you've had your drink.."
This ugly concrete sky thief, like a fat man eating, will grow fatter and uglier and very soon.



1...



2...



Trees, lines and sky in harmony. That-was-then (in the words of the December turkey)
1.2.&3... This-is-now sucker - so: "argo.... We at DBC provide your car-lump and you will have no more
silly sky or even free parking after 6pm to enjoy ever again - ha hah aha..."



3...Where's the Tate Modern when you need it -
come and get it.

Irony parked in their own temporarily permanent
out-of-order imagination. 'until further notice'...!
How - do they wake let alone sleep - and why
bother with eyes wide shut and a pillow over
their face.

