

THE REX

DECEMBER 2019

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

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

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

DECEMBER 2019 • ISSUE 177
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Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 20-21

Rants & Pants 32-33

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
Concessions/ABL	£10.00
Royal Box Seat (Seats 6)	£13.00
Whole Royal Box	£73.00

Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs £6.50, Royal Box £10

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

Director: James Hannaway
01442 877999

Advertising: Chloe Butler
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
01296 668739

The Rex

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

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

ANNIVERSARY FILMS



From first to last: a selection of our fabulous, privileged 2004-2018 anniversary preview scoops - with one spot-the-turkey for fair measure...



DECEMBER FILMS



Official Secrets

Keira Knightley captivates in Gavin Hood's angry, urgent political thriller. A long time effective and loyal intelligence officer, Katharine is troubled when she receives an email from the NSA instructing her team to essentially blackmail members of the United Nations. Horrified, she leaks classified documents intended to strong-arm the UN Security Council into backing the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. As the hunt for the whistle blower begins, the war gets underway and Katharine finds herself facing a cat and mouse legal battle as the British government comes bearing down on her. *Official Secrets* highlights many of the issues explored previously in *Eye in the Sky* on top of original films like *All the President's Men* and *Spotlight*. As the characters work to unravel the personal, political, and professional implications of the leak, you always have a sense of the stakes at play. Keira Knightley gives it her all. Her initial passion for avoiding the war turns into a determination to take on the Country's lies. The story of an ordinary woman whose revulsion gives her the guts to take on this very dangerous game against ruthless heavyweights, is a cautionary tale indeed. *(Research Chris Coetsee)* Welcome to the now (then and evermore).

Director: Gavin Hood
Cast: Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Katherine Kelly
Duration: 112min
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Sun 1 6.00 Mon 9 2.00



The Farewell

Perfectly blending humour and melancholy, Awkwafina stars in this heartwarming Chinese-American melodrama.

Having emigrated with her parents as a child, Billi (Awkwafina) is now a struggling artist living in New York. Despite the distance, through regular phone calls, Billi maintains close to her Chinese Nai Nai (Mandarin for 'Grandma'). Nai Nai (Zhao Shuzhen) is diagnosed with that familiar terminal paracite. With only weeks to live, but not to worry Nai Nai, her family decides to hide it from her. Orchestrating a last minute wedding between Billi's cousin and girlfriend of three months, the family use it as a cover story to spend Nai Nai's final days together. Despite her parents' efforts to stop her, Billi flies out to see her Grandma one last time. *The Farewell* explores how Billi's identity is split across two cultures, further complicated by her conflict of ethics in withholding knowledge from someone with little time to live. Based on director Lulu Wang's own story, the film is sweet in its sorrow, exploring grief in a rare way. *(Rachel Williams)* And you can bet your sweet fannydoodledoo, Nai Nai knows all along. No spoiler just guessing – from plot, latest stars and Hollywood's irresistible shmaltz magnet. But don't miss.

Director: Lulu Wang
Cast: Awkwafina, Shuzhen Zhao, X Mayo, Tzi Ma, Diana Lin
Duration: 100min
Origin: USA
Certificate: PG
Company: Entertainment Film

When...

Mon 2 2.00



Miles Davis: Birth Of The Cool

Trumpeter, composer, band leader and innovator. He practically defined jazz in his own image as the ultimate in cool sophistication. Stanley Nelson's retrospective documentary catalogues the evolution of Miles Davis' styles and how they revolutionised music. Taking its title from Davis' 1957 compilation album, *Birth of the Cool* is loaded with wonderful time capsules, using news and cultural footage as a backdrop to signify key shifts in his life. Flashing photo montages which define each decade show how Miles was outside, perhaps beyond the times. Also present are fresh interviews with his peers, idols, children and, most fascinating, his partners. Davis, both a genius and an abuser, was deeply influenced every step of his career by the women he loved, all of whom discuss the turbulence of the relationships they had with him. Accompanying throughout, Carl Lumbly's fittingly raspy narration delves into themes of racism, drug abuse and Davis' ability to shift through a changing musical landscape, reciting passages taken from Davis' 1989 autobiography. Yet Miles never expressed himself more eloquently than he did through his horn. Beneath it all, *Birth of the Cool* pulses with that unmistakable Miles Davis sound. (Chris Coetsee)

Director: Stanley Nelson
 Cast: Ron Carter, Jimmy Cobb, Miles Davis, Flea, Juliette Gréco, Herbie Hancock
 Duration: 115 mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 15
 Company: MusicScreen Ltd

When...

Mon 2 7.30



Judy

Set in 1969, the year before her death, Renée Zellweger embodies Hollywood icon Judy Garland.

The film explores (with a little sugar) the lows of the star's career and personal life. Departing from the glamorous image we have of those Hollywood days, Garland here is broke and desperate for a come-back after her glory days have long gone. When theatrical impresario Bernard Delfont (Michael Gambon in peerless smarm) invites her to a five-week run of shows at a London nightclub (as the greaseball did 'for' Laurel & Hardy). She accepts, leaving her children behind with ex-husband (Rufus Sewell). Despite the love pouring in from her fans, Garland is struggling behind the scenes with a long history of the usual addictions. Through a series of flashbacks to her traumatic childhood, young Judy (Darci Shaw) connects the dots between what she suffered as a child star and her current dependencies. So fairly useless and in rags, she tests the patience of assistant Rosalyn Wilder (Jessie Buckley) and hooks new lover Mickey Deans (Finn Wittrock). "Zellweger offers an all-singing, all-dancing, all-collapsing performance of the star at her lowest ebb" (*Variety*). (Rachel Williams)
 Strong ironic choice of come-back star: Renée Zellweger. Oscars all round...?

Director: Rupert Goold
 Cast: Renée Zellweger, Jessie Buckley, Finn Wittrock
 Duration: 118min
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Pathé

When...

Tue 3 2.00, 7.30



Western Stars

Bruce Springsteen gets personal in this intimate and reflective concert film

Somehow the second Springsteen film of the year, following *Blinded by the Light*, the musician steps up as co-director alongside Thom Zimny. Unable to tour with a 30-piece orchestra, he instead decides to perform for close friends in his 100-year-old barn in New Jersey. A companion piece to his recent album, *Western Stars*, the songs form the spine of the film, fleshed out by interludes "of short-tone poems, with Springsteen ruminating on the autobiographical links and thematic ideas raised by the songs" (*Empire*). The mood is reflective, offering us insight into wistful memories, while each performance is entrancing; shot beautifully by cinematographer Joe DeSalvo. Embodying different down-and-out characters on the album, from a lonely widower to a struggling actor, *Western Stars* evokes the mythic American West with its epic orchestral arrangements. A tonal shift from his grand stadium shows, Bruce meditates on the human condition, exploring our longing for individuality versus a need for community. A moving duet with wife Patti Scialfa, *There Goes My Miracle*, is one to watch out for. Sublime for any admirers of The Boss.
(Rachel Williams)

Directors: Bruce Springsteen, Thom Zimny
Cast: Bruce Springsteen
Duration: 83 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Wed 4 2.00, 7.30



The Third Man

Our first film at the newly restored Rex in December 2004 *The Third Man* remains a huge global favourite. This BFI restoration brings the long shadows back to life.

'Although his screen time is famously scanty Orson Welles' Harry Lime haunts every scene. Everywhere but invisible, he's a smirking Cheshire cat of a villain, a superb case study in shameless charisma as poisonous contagion. It is suffused with irony yet ultimately serious-minded: without personal responsibility, it says, there is no hope for civilisation – however charming the smirk.' (assorted clever clogs crits)

"In Italy, for 30 years under the Borgias, they had warfare, murder and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they have brotherly love. They had 500 years of democracy and peace, and what did that produce? - The cuckoo clock!" (the smirking Welles improv line..?) Cary Grant was down for the lacklustre Joseph Cotton role as the awkward hero – Noel Coward was to be Harry Lime, what a waste and what a fabulous character film that would have made. The best things about this *Third Man* are Trevor Howard, Anton Karas' haunting zither, the cat and the girl's long closing walk. The rest is cookoo.

Director: Carol Reed
Cast: Joseph Cotten, Valli, Orson Welles, Trevor Howard, Paul Hoerbiger
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: UK 1949
Certificate: PG
Company: Optimum Releasing

When...

Thu 5 2.00



Illustrations Mary Casserley. Prints and cards from Berkhamsted imaging

THE REX 15th ANNIVERSARY

2004 into 2020 who could know it would work let alone last this long - still working its imaginative magic...

No painful vanity teasing here: I did. I knew the whole time of the simplicity of how to rescue and transform an old cinema and make it work – against all odds. Otherwise I wouldn't have tried to raise a penny towards it, nor 'invested' sweat and tears (the blood came later). Not to mention the casual ridicule from barflies, gainsayers and mouths with that collective inbred 'fear' that misfits don't fit – in these parts. Being kindly souls at heart, with a natural fear of the stranger, the interloper, the foreigner, outsider, oddball, the quare-fella – they were among the first to seek me out. Their gracious climb down, with nods of approval in the street, has shared in the majority pats on the back. Why or how could I 'know' against the wave of film/cinema industry experts, businessmen, opinioners, investors and constipated thinking that such a thing might work.

How - Why... I looked. Then found a way with the best handful of people in any world. Enter St Albans: chapter two. By request/demand I rebuilt The Rex to the letter, as they asked, in their

derelict London Road Odeon. From replica interior to programming and open-hearted welcome, it has thrived as such to a runaway success. Of course it has. How could it not...

The Rex brought instant trust and investment. It's easy to trust the original seeing it come from nowhere with just four other trusted and trusting, non-barfly gifted chancers. Together we took the chance of a lifetime for all, the industry and copiers alike, to see. With this 'Magnificent handful Four': Alan Clooney, Paul Fullagar, Ed Mauger, Darren Flindall and many volunteers, we made it fly. (NB all of whom were essential to and in the rebuilding of The Odyssey StA - from scratch) Thanks for flying with us on this thrilling sixteen years Rex jetstream dream.

Time to stay up don't you think.

"If you have been... thank you... for listening".

James Hannaway

When...

Thu 5 7.30



The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out The Window And Disappeared

Based on the international best-selling novel by Jonas Jonasson, the unlikely story of 100-year-old man who decides it's not too late to start over. Allan Karlsson (Swedish comic Robert Gustafsson) a jovial pyromaniac, is committed to a care home (for revenge on a fox for killing his beloved cat). Allan then makes a swift exit via a window just as his own centennial birthday party gets under way.

Throughout his long life he has many accidental encounters with all sorts of key 20th Century figures, including Franco, Stalin and Reagan. The many highlights includes, meeting Einstein's dimwit half-brother Herbert (a splendid David Shackleton) who doodles animals while Albert tackles field equations. Allan innocently becomes caught up in a crime caper involving a suitcase full of cash, some nasty heavies, a frozen body and an elephant.

"A film of hapless tom-foolery that always makes sense, and is never dull." (*Total Film*)

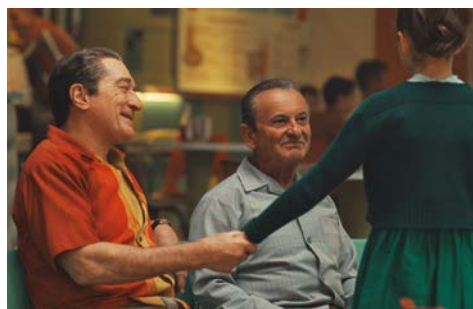
"A soundtrack of bubbling brass and some lively cinematography keep the fires of mischief lit. Daft and delightful." (*Irish Independent*)

A Swedish hit in 2013/14, this silly heart warming romp is here once more at the Rex. It is ingenious on all levels particularly 'daft and delightful'. Don't miss.

Director: Felix Herngren
Cast: Robert Gustafsson, Iwar Wiklander, David Wiberg, Mia Skäringer
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: Sweden 2013
Certificate: 15
Company: Studio Canal

When...

Fri 6 2.00



The Irishman

Martin Scorsese closes out a generation of gangland epics with a final, mesmerising masterpiece of cinema. Weaving together several timelines, we

follow the misdeeds of Frank Sheeran (De Niro) a real-life hit man for the Philadelphia mob who first cosies up to the head of the Bufalino crime family (Pesci) and eventually becomes an enforcer for Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino). As their story crosses decades, Scorsese uses Sheeran as a narrative means of dipping in and out of the East Coast underworld, 'painting' this expansive and disturbing a 'house' of American gangster ruthlessness. Pacino remarkably, in his first Marty collaboration, plays it large, a snarling portrayal of an outsized personality. De Niro's tightly coiled viper in Sheeran holds firm with icy coolness. With every moment onscreen, the duo justify their star status, yet through his soft and immovable presence as Bufalino, Pesci steals the show. Nobody, not even Scorsese, knew just what a gift he had in Pesci – until this. Scorsese has spent decades not only reaffirming his great style and vision through his own legacy but by lending his weight to the schemes of others. Marty has been working toward *The Irishman* his whole life (*Chris Coetsee*)

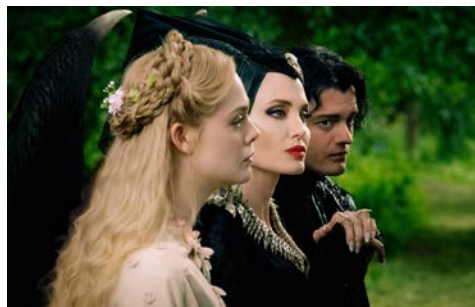
An essential big cinema screen movie. Come.

Please note earlier time of 7pm for Fri 6th

Director: Martin Scorsese
Cast: Robert De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Al Pacino, Anna Paquin
Duration: 209 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Netflix

When...

Fri 6 7.00 **Sat 7 7.00**
Sun 8 6.00



Maleficent: Mistress Of Evil

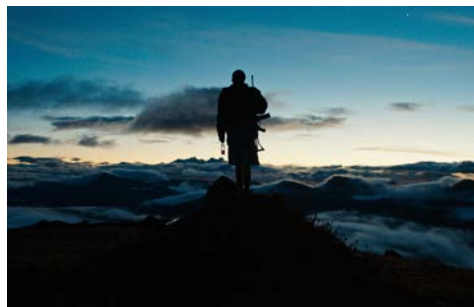
Angelina Jolie and her cheekbones that resemble the white cliffs of Dover return for another helping of devilish, fantasy adventure

Prince Philip (Harris Dickinson) has finally popped the question to Aurora (Elle Fanning). And so, naturally, the boy's parents – King John (Robert Lindsay) and Queen Ingrith (Michelle Pfeiffer) – invite Maleficent, who raised Aurora, for a celebratory feast. Yet Ingrith has ulterior motives up her pearl-encrusted sleeves. She's pushing Maleficent's buttons: dismissing her fellow fairy folk, while enthusing about the fact Aurora will finally have a real mother. This gives Jolie an excuse to turn evil again. The film is simultaneously a world-building bonanza, a melodramatic anti-war parable, and a high-camp soap opera that features Jolie, Pfeiffer, and Fanning as three contrasting archetypes of femininity (the men are largely side-lined while the warrior queens do battle). It's a tonal mess, but it has admirable confidence. In addition to Disney fans, who will find it comes with plenty of loving homages to past princesses, *Mistress of Evil* will appeal equally to audiences who love bold, bonkers genre storytelling. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Joachim Rønning
Cast: Angelina Jolie, Teresa Mahoney, Michelle Pfeiffer, Elle Fanning
Duration: 119min
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney

When...

Sat 7 2.00



Monos

A fearsome group of teenage guerrillas enter the heart of darkness in Alejandro Landes' visceral, visually captivating portrait of adolescence and survival.

High up in the Andes under the watchful eye of a group known as The Organisation, a ragtag assembly of child soldiers idle away their youth with machine guns and mischief. When an unexpected ambush forces the unit and their American hostage deep into the jungle, childish recklessness descends into primal anarchy as they fracture and spiral out of control. Flecked with the unmistakable, deranged energy of both *Apocalypse Now* and *Lord of the Flies*, *Monos* conjures a stranger, richer, unique take on the subject of war and its casualties. Landes and cinematographer Jasper Wolf create a breathtaking sense of place in the lush natural scenery of the mountains and the jungle, landscapes teeming with life even as their inhabitants are haunted by death and destruction. Controlled and affecting, manic and menacing, this is a film that engages your senses and then removes them from their comfort zones. A blistering white knuckle ride, *Monos* is unquestionably one of this year's best. (*Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Alejandro Landes
Cast: Sofia Buenaventura, Moises Arias, Julianne Nicholson, Laura Castrillón
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Colombia/Argentina/Netherlands (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Picturehouse Entertainment

When...

Mon 9 7.30



Sorry We Missed You

A Newcastle couple struggles to cope with precarious employment in Ken Loach's unapologetic assault on zero-hours Britain.

Three years after their critically-acclaimed and award-winning *I, Daniel Blake*, Loach and writer Paul Laverty have produced a similarly sombre view of people working in the gig economy. Before it was the state, now a corporate business model getting away with murder.

Ricky Turner, an energetic family man, believes he's just got the big break of his life. Convinced by his employer into selling wife Abby's car to fund his own van, he becomes his 'own boss' as a driver for a large delivery company. It doesn't take long for him to understand the brutal nature of the work as 12-hour shifts, docked wages and penalty fines begin to stack up. Meanwhile, carer Abby is left taking bus after bus to the elderly she looks after. Powerless to contest and working themselves to the bone, trouble arises on all sides and their humble family life starts to unravel dangerously fast.

Moving, unflinching and spiked with moments of rare but profound humanity, Loach's latest once more fights for a class demographic so frequently blighted by a system designed to devalue them.

(Chris Coetsee)

Director: Ken Loach
Cast: Kris Hitchen, Debbie Honeywood, Nikki Marshall
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: UK/France/Belgium 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Tue 10 2.00, 7.30



The Report

How do you engage, never mind excite, an audience with reams of classified documents, and dialogue delivered by men in identical grey suits? Easy, you cast Adam Driver.

Driver is Daniel Jones, the real-life Senate investigator charged with filing a report on the CIA's use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" on suspected terrorists after 9/11. The *(Torture) Report* took Jones and his team six years to complete. And boy, do you feel the grinding, painstaking effort of the job in every minute of this potent political thriller. Annette Bening plays Senator Dianne Feinstein, chair of the Senate's select committee on intelligence; Jon Hamm is Denis McDonough, the Obama chief of staff who is deeply uneasy about the report, being employed by a drone-enthusiast administration keen to work with the CIA; and Douglas Hodge plays the US air force psychologist James Mitchell, credited with inventing the *Torture 2.0* techniques for the CIA.

A sturdy political thriller in the mold of *All the President's Men* and *Three Days of the Condor*, *The Report* is about the hunt for truth, and the moment-to-moment investigative fervor of it. Utterly gripping from start to finish. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Scott Z. Burns
Cast: Adam Driver, Annette Bening, Jon Hamm, Corey Stoll, Matthew Rhys
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Artificial Eye

When...

Wed 11 2.00, 7.30
Tue 17 7.30



The Aeronauts

Funny old things, hot air balloons. Once the future of aviation, they're now seen as something of a curio in British culture.

Wild Rose director Tom Harper would like to remind us of the majesty of these wonders of aviation in this thrilling adventure. Eddie Redmayne – who, at this point, is physically incapable of turning down earnest biographical dramas – plays meteorologist James Glaisher; he wants to prove to the doubting, guffawing fellows at the Royal Society that weather can be measured and predicted.

Felicity Jones is a fictional renegade pilot named Amelia Rennes, a perky young woman who has to fight against patriarchal bias to get anywhere. With the most vertiginous of vistas, this hot air balloon takes to the skies and soars, taking the film along with it. From the ringing of church bells which echoes on high, to a thunderstorm, to the silence of the atmosphere above; *The Aeronauts* is the sort of soft and fluffy yarn that slips effortlessly into Christmas TV schedules, but one that deserves a spot on the big screen due to the two magnetic leads, and its soaring visual splendour.

(Jack Whiting)



Director: Tom Harper
Cast: Felicity Jones, Eddie Redmayne, Himesh Patel, Anne Reid
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Entertainment One

When...

Thu 12 2.00, 7.30



Doctor Sleep

It is widely known that Stephen King dismissed Stanley Kubrick's loose interpretation of *The Shining*, and yet the legacy of both masterminds seeps into this sprawling sequel.

Danny Torrence (Ewan McGregor) is now a forty-something washout trying to drown away his haunted-hotel PTSD in booze, sex, and bathroom brawls. A sympathetic AA sponsor steers him to a job at a hospice where he uses his 'shine' ability to ease patients gently into that good night. He's not alone in his abilities, though, as a young girl named Abra (Kyliegh Curran) is coming into her own and crossing psychic paths with a roving band of vampiric goons, led by Rebecca Ferguson, who feed off those with the shine.

Because of the lasting impact of movie *Shining*, writer/director Mike Flanagan had the unenviable task of acknowledging both camps; making a faithful adaptation of *Doctor Sleep* (King's 2013 novel) and a worthy sequel to Kubrick's classic. It is with great relief, then, that he has, for the most part, succeeded. Though it doesn't use any footage from *The Shining*, it does recreate the walls of the Overlook Hotel to haunting perfection, therefore preserving the (un)holy chalice of horror-cinema. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Mike Flanagan
Cast: Ewan McGregor, Rebecca Ferguson, Kyliegh Curran, Cliff Curtis
Duration: 152 mins
Origin: USA/UK 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Fri 13 2.00, 7.30



Abominable

Or How to Train Your Yeti; this mountainous endeavour sees one of the big furry guys on a trek to get home to the Himalayas.

Yi (voiced by Chloe Bennet) is living with her mother (Michelle Wong) and delightful grandma Nai Nai (Tsai Chin) – and still not over the death of her violinist dad, who had inspired Yi to play the violin. Now she is working many jobs to pay for some much yearned for travel. When an adorable baby yeti escapes from a research lab owned by the alpinist-turned-corporate-plutocrat Mr Burnish (Eddie Izzard) our heroes must journey from the streets of Shanghai, cross the Gobi desert to the cliffs and mountains where the yeti hopes to be reunited with his parents.

There are some obvious borrowings from *ET* - the yeti has the supernatural power to control the elements, which means that a lot of the ordinary narrative jeopardy is conveniently abolished. Coldplay's tearjerker *Fix You* is shamelessly deployed at a key scene. Hankies at the ready. *(Jack Whiting)*

Directors: Jill Culton, Todd Wilderman
Voices: Chloe Bennet, Sarah Paulson, Albert Tsai, Tenzing Norgay Trainor
Duration: 97min
Origin: China/USA 2019
Certificate: U
Company: Universal

When...

Sat 14 2.00



Le Mans '66

James Mangold helms this star studded biography of the revved-up rivalry between two automotive titans, Ford and Ferrari.

Unlike 2013's *Rush*, which covered the personal rivalry between Formula One drivers James Hunt and Nikki Lauda, this film sides racers against corporate suits. At its centre are two eminently reliable actors. Matt Damon, as race-car-champion-turned-car designer Carroll Shelby, and Christian Bale, as a hot-headed former tank commander Ken Miles. When Shelby is hired by Ford to create the car that will defeat Ferrari at the Le Mans 24 Hour Race, the Ford GT, it becomes apparent that the only person who can drive it is Miles. Together, they form a partnership that sees them take on the giants of racing, and the Ford Motor Company itself. For a sports movie to work for more than just the fans, it has to have drama off the pitch, track or field, with characters to root for, personal demons and a good underdog. *Le Mans '66* duly obliges. Rarely does such muscular studio entertainment kick into higher, faster and more surprising gears than this. *(Chris Coetsee)*

Director: James Mangold
Cast: Matt Damon, Christian Bale, Caitriona Balfe, Jon Bernthal
Duration: 152 mins
Origin: USA/France 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Walt Disney Studios



The Good Liar

Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen share the screen for the very first time in Bill Condon's outrageous cat-and-mouse thriller.

Ageing career con artist Roy Courtney can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish online. Having lured in his mark with a string of online lies, the two eventually meet. Finding a spark, they each come clean over their various white lies and embark on a relationship. As Betty opens her home and life to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her, turning what should be a cut-and-dry swindle into the most treacherous tightrope walk of his life. As expected, Mirren and McKellen make for a superb double star billing. Both playing against type to one extent or another, their performances are deceptively light on any kind of twinkle. Elsewhere Russell Tovey shines in a supporting role as Betty's suspicious grandson Steven, who proves to be a continual thorn in Roy's side. From *The Sting* to *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, con artistry has always made for great cinema. In its own old-fashioned, fall-about way, *The Good Liar* delivers a satisfying sting of its own. *(Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Bill Condon
Cast: Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen, Russell Tovey, Jim Carter
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros

When... Sun 15 6.00
 Sat 14 7.00 Sat 28 7.00

When... Mon 16 2.00 Tue 17 2.00



Les Parapluies De Cherbourg

(The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg)

Admiring the lush, pastel-coloured wonders of French new-wave director Jacques Demy's 1964 Palme d'Or winner, you can't help but fall in love with it. This melodramatic musical – which La La Land director Damien Chazelle said was a key influence on his film – is set between 1957 and 1963, and stars a radiant Catherine Deneuve. She's an umbrella shopkeeper's teenage daughter left pregnant by her mechanic boyfriend (Nino Castelnuovo), who's left for military service, and forced by her mother to marry a rich jeweller. It's an entirely sung-through musical, with nary a spoken word in site. It's not all rainbows (even if the film's colour palette suggests so); Demy manages to cut to the quick of the realities of love, never forgetting that the giddy heights can also send us crashing back down to earth. Umbrellas retains its direct appeal to the eyes, ears, and tear ducts after five decades, with an emotionalism that's shameless but never crass. Demy and Michele Legrand (who wrote the music) give their love story a depth that, beneath the tinsel and Technicolor, is only made possible by a beating, broken heart. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Jacques Demy
 Cast: Catherine Deneuve, Nino Castelnuovo, Anne Vernon, Ellen Farner
 Duration: 89 mins
 Origin: France/West Germany 1964 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: PG
 Company: BFI Distribution

When...

Mon 16 7.30



High Noon

In the 1940s and 50s, high-stakes westerns were inclined to the epic, with Technicolor deserts, and hordes of cowboy and Indian extras, but High Noon did something very different.

Eschewing panoramic landscapes and colorful action sequences, High Noon generates claustrophobic suspense. Guns aren't drawn in anger until the last five minutes, when the streets are clear for one of the best gun fights in the movies.

At the film's center is Gary Cooper's iconic performance as Will Kane, a popular small-town sheriff whose wedding to a beautiful young Quaker gal (Grace Kelly) on the day of his retirement represents his attempt to leave his old life behind. But then Kane learns that an old enemy, Frank Miller, who has sworn revenge has been released from prison, and that his old gang members are awaiting him on the noon train.

Fred Zinnemann's taut, meticulously crafted Western – largely played out in 'real time' with an emphasis on ticking clocks palpably cranking up the tension – still stands as one of the greatest examples of the genre. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Fred Zinnemann
Cast: Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Thomas Mitchell, Lloyd Bridges
Duration: 81 mins
Origin: USA 1952
Certificate: U
Company: United Artists



Downton Abbey

Downton Abbey was made to show here. Emma and Julian Fellowes are firm friends of the Rex.

A few years after the acclaimed series' end, the period drama set in the famed fictional Yorkshire country estate makes its big screen debut. With creator Julian Fellowes back on board, it's 1927 and Downton is turned upside down when Lord Grantham (Hugh Bonneville) is informed that King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (Geraldine James) will be staying the night. At first excited by the news of royal company, giddiness turns to outrage once the downstairs staff hear that King and Queen will bring their own servants with them. The formidable Countess of Grantham (played wonderfully by Maggie Smith) is also dismayed to hear that the Queen has brought her lady-in-waiting and a Crawley cousin Lady Bagshaw, (introducing the A-list-er's A-list-er: Imelda Staunton), with whom she has a longstanding feud. The royal visit unleashes 'scandal, romance and intrigue, which could leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance'. (*Rachel Williams*) It does look opulent and fabulous with great attention to detail and terrific location shots.

Director: Michael Engler
Cast: Matthew Goode, Maggie Smith, Michelle Dockery, Hugh Bonneville
Duration: 122 min
Origin: UK 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd.

When...

Wed 18 2.00, 7.30

When...

Thu 19 2.00

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

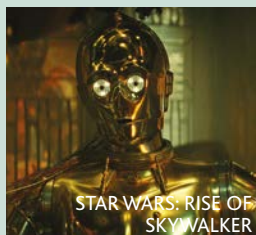
BACK BY DEMAND

DOWNTON ABBEY
THE IRISHMAN
FROZEN 2

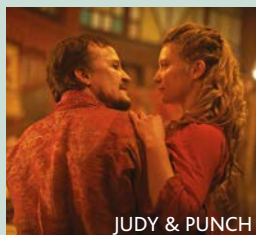
LAST CHRISTMAS
FLEABAG - NT ENCORE
BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

NEW RELEASES

LITTLE WOMEN
CATS
MILES DAVIS:
BIRTH OF THE COOL
PLUS...



STAR WARS: RISE OF
SKYWALKER



JUDY & PUNCH



2040



KNIVES OUT



THE ODYSSEY

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

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

DECEMBER	FILM	TIME
1 SUN	SORRY WE MISSED YOU	1.00
1 SUN	JOKER	6.00
2 MON	OFFICIAL SECRETS	12.30, 7.30
3 TUE	JOKER	7.30
4 WED	DOWNTON ABBEY	1.00
4 WED	BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN'S - WESTERN STARS	7.30
5 THU	SORRY WE MISSED YOU	1.00, 7.30
6 FRI	DOCTOR SLEEP	7.30
7 SAT	SHAUN THE SHEEP: FARMAGEDDON	1.00
7 SAT	THE IRISHMAN	7.00
8 SUN	THE IRISHMAN	11.30 ^{A.M.}
8 SUN	THE AERONAUTS	5.00
9 MON	THE AERONAUTS	7.30
10 TUE	SORRY WE MISSED YOU	12.00, 7.30
11 WED	THE GOOD LIAR	1.00, 7.30
12 THU	THE AERONAUTS	1.00
12 THU	THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO	7.30
13 FRI	JUDY	12.00
13 FRI	LE MANS '66 (+)	7.30
14 SAT	HOME ALONE	1.00
14 SAT	DIE HARD	7.00
15 SUN	ELF	1.00
15 SUN	WHITE CHRISTMAS	5.00
15 SUN	GREMLINS	8.50
16 MON	LE MANS '66	1.00, 7.30
17 TUE	MONOS (S)	7.30
18 WED	THE AERONAUTS	1.00
18 WED	LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30
19 THU	THE GOOD LIAR	1.00
19 THU	NT ENCORE: ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS	7.00
20 FRI	LAST CHRISTMAS	5.00, 8.50
21 SAT	HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS	1.00
21 SAT	LAST CHRISTMAS	5.00, 8.30
22 SUN	THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL	12.30
22 SUN	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
22 SUN	SCROOGED	8.50
23 MON	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	1.00
23 MON	LAST CHRISTMAS	7.30
24 TUE	ELF	12.00
24 TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25 WED	CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS	
26 THU	CLOSED - BOXING DAY	
27 FRI	FROZEN 2	1.00
27 FRI	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	7.00
28 SAT	FROZEN 2	11.00 ^{A.M.}
28 SAT	WEST SIDE STORY	3.00
28 SAT	THE IRISHMAN	7.30
29 SUN	FROZEN 2	12.00, 4.00
29 SUN	THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG (S) (+)	8.00
30 MON	SHAUN THE SHEEP: FARMAGEDDON	1.00
30 MON	NT ENCORE: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	7.00
31 TUE	FROZEN 2	1.00
31 TUE	TOMMY	5.30

(S) SUBTITLED (+) INTRO

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

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877759



DECEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1	SUN OFFICIAL SECRETS	6.00	8
2	MON THE FAREWELL	2.00	8
2	MON MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL	7.30	9
3	TUE JUDY	2.00, 7.30	9
4	WED WESTERN STARS	2.00, 7.30	10
5	THU THE THIRD MAN	2.00	10
5	THU THE REX 15TH ANNIVERSARY	7.30	11
6	FRI THE 100 YEAR-OLD MAN...	2.00	12
6	FRI THE IRISHMAN	7.00	12
7	SAT MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL	2.00	13
7	SAT THE IRISHMAN	7.00	12
8	SUN THE IRISHMAN	6.00	12
9	MON OFFICIAL SECRETS	2.00	8
9	MON MONOS (S)	7.30	13
10	TUE SORRY WE MISSED YOU	2.00, 7.30	14
11	WED THE REPORT	2.00, 7.30	14
12	THU THE AERONAUTS	2.00, 7.30	15
13	FRI DOCTOR SLEEP	2.00, 7.30	16
14	SAT ABOMINABLE	2.00	16
14	SAT LE MANS '66	7.00	17
15	SUN LE MANS '66	6.00	17
16	MON THE GOOD LIAR	2.00	17
16	MON THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG (S)	7.30	18
17	TUE THE GOOD LIAR	2.00	17
17	TUE THE REPORT	7.30	14
18	WED HIGH NOON	2.00, 7.30	19
19	THU DOWNTON ABBEY	2.00	19
19	THU LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30	22
20	FRI ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	22
20	FRI LAST CHRISTMAS	7.30	23
21	SAT MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	2.00	23
21	SAT LAST CHRISTMAS	7.00	23
22	SUN IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	6.00	24
23	MON SHAUN THE SHEEP: FARMAGEDDON	2.00	25
23	MON IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30	24
24	TUE IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	24
25	WED CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS		
26	THU CLOSED - BOXING DAY		
27	FRI SHAUN THE SHEEP: FARMAGEDDON	2.00	25
27	FRI AIRPLANE!	7.30	26
28	SAT FROZEN 2	2.00	27
28	SAT LE MANS '66	7.00	17
29	SUN MARY POPPINS	1.00	28
29	SUN UNTOUCHABLE (S)	6.00	28
30	MON THE WIZARD OF OZ	2.00	29
30	MON WHEN HARRY MET SALLY...	7.30	30
31	TUES SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	6.00	31

(S) SUBTITLED

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

HONEYLAND

THE 100 YEAR OLD MAN

FARMAGEDDON

THE IRISHMAN

NEW RELEASES

JUDY & PUNCH

OPHELIA

THE MARRIAGE STORY

PLUS...





Love Actually

This very silly tale is requested every year. So here it is; one more needle in the Christmas tree.

Don't call the Samaritans yet. If this film doesn't tip you over the edge, you'll be safe for another year. Richard Curtis has talked his old pals, plus a few new faces, into this award winning farce?

Hugh Grant would never have been Prime Minister in Harold Wilson's day. Here, Hugh is in love with No10's tea lady, while Harold allegedly preferred the designer of his mac. I'm with Mr Wilson. Anyone can make tea, but a woman who knows her Ganex from her Burberry gets my button! With a cast of near Spartacus proportions, this flimsy tale boasts intrigue, 'embroiled in various overlapping tales of love and woe'. With the emphasis on the Lurve, not the Actually, and with a hint of woe to inject hope, we bring you 'Love Actually'. But no hope, it remains sloppy nonsense without a trace of smut, just in time for Christmas. Apologies. Escape the family or bring them with you. At least then you'll be in the dark together for an hour or so, where you don't have to look at each other.

Director: Richard Curtis
Cast: Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Bill Nighy
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: UK 2003
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Thu 19 7.30



Arthur Christmas

Welcome back to Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation teamwork on this whimsical, and fabulous festive tale of the 'Family Christmas'.

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

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

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

"Aardman films' yuletide offering is both a heartwarmer and a sly dig at the gospel of family togetherness, a witty wonder of invention." (*Independent*). Watch the elves spring into Mission Impossible stuntmen as a child begins to wake, and note Steve Christmas's 'ridic' festive goatee.

Director: Sarah Smith
Voices: James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2011
Certificate: U
Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Fri 20 2.00



Last Christmas

It wouldn't be the holidays without a Richard Curtis inspired stocking filler; and as the title suggests, this yuletide rom-com is set to the tunes of Wham!

Now that she's done with being a genocidal dragon queen, Emilia Clarke puts her winning smile to work as disorganised twenty-something Kate, who works at a Christmas shop in Covent Garden. You'll be able to guess the entirety of the film's plot from the moment handsome Tom (Henry Golding) bounds on to the scene. He's developed a habit of crossing paths with Kate at random, only to conveniently slip away the moment she has a chance to ask him what his deal is. Eventually, A connects to B, everyone has a good time, and it all ends in a big singalong. Bridesmaids director Paul Fieg assembles a jumble of romantic comedy, holiday fantasy, love letter to the music of George Michael, and pro-immigrant statement; Last Christmas is also warm and charming, and so aware of its own lack of subtlety that you can't help but fall in love with it. At least in a half-watching-while-drunk-on-mulled-wine stupor. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Paul Feig
Cast: Emilia Clarke, Emma Thompson, Henry Golding, Michelle Yeoh, Patti LuPone
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Universal



Miracle on 34th Street

This is the film 25 to 30 somethings, long to see at Christmas.

Perhaps as little kids they watched it on telly and were lucky enough to be wrapped in warm snugly jimmi-jams and tucked into each other. Here at the Rex today you are transported back to that one moment when the whole world stopped for a tiny euphoric hour or so. Enough to catch your breath in that precious joy of a child's Christmas. You might not come in your onesies but you are welcome to snuggle up together. Very loyal to the original 1947 classic with few changes, it is transplanted to 1990s 34th Street. Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) is chief executive of New York's world famous Macy's. Neither her nor her petulant daughter Susan (Mara Wilson) believe this Christmas nonsense. That is until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all Santas. My daughters, remain convinced if there is a Father Christmas, IT IS Richard Attenborough!) This film does have enough spirit of its own to suggest there might well be a Santa-borough afterall... x

Director: Les Mayfield
Cast: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 1994
Certificate: U
Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Fri 20 7.30 Sat 21 7.00

When...

Sat 21 2.00



It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our 15th anniversary Christmas, with the same old irresistible film we've been showing since the Rex re-opened in December 2004.

It was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946. After the war, the USA celebrated the brave new world with fashion, cars and fridges. We had bomb-sites, functional clothes, cold water, rations, war debts and the grey 1950's but with essential, fabulous and much missed old City trams in every corner of Britain. Accidentally, it became essential TV viewing in the UK during the mid 70s, hence a new part of Christmas itself. You couldn't see it at the cinema until independents got it re-released nineteen years ago. Now thanks to the BFI, this beautifully restored digital copy, is here again at the hand-restored Rex (and Odyssey) for Christmas 2019. Our cinemamatic Christmas would not now be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how terrible life would be in Bedford Falls, had he not been born. The simplest universal message: without that One in your life, your world is diminished.

Happy Christmas. Have fun, go easy and raise a glass to a world with a George Bailey-like future for future children.

Director: Frank Capra
 Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Ward Bond and Clarence (angel 2nd class).
 Duration: 130 mins
 Origin: USA 1946
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus Films

When...
Sun 22 6.00 **Mon 23 7.30**
Tue 24 5.00



Shaun The Sheep: Farmageddon

This sheep-quel mixes the same jolliness and English eccentricity with a Spielbergian sci-fi twist – and pulls it off with typical Aardman charm.

The plot plays a bit like ET with Shaun in the Elliott role. Shaun and his flock encounter Lu-la, an alien who has crash-landed near Mossy Bottom Farm. With government agents hunting her down, Shaun decides to defy farm dog Bitzer and help Lu-la return home. Shaun, the littlest of heroes, provides much delight and fun in a film that has tremendous crossover for both adults and children alike. Aardman's charming and stupendously popular ruminant again gets by on a steady stream of bleats, squeaks and rubbery facial expressions. The result is another great showcase for the animation house's powers of non-verbal storytelling that's a giddy delight for kids, and just witty and knowing enough for grown-ups eg: one visual gag involving a piece of toast resembling the monolith from Kubrick's 2001 is classic Aardman. It's one giant leap for lamb kind. (*Jack Whiting*) Nice gag Jack. Farmageddon is pure joy from the painstaking and genius animators at Aardman's stop-frame-click shop floor. Don't miss a single facial expression. Fabulous, hilarious and fun.



Director: Will Becher, Richard Phelan
 Cast: Justin Fletcher, Joe Sugg, John Sparkes
 Duration: 87min
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: U
 Company: Studio Canal

When...

Mon 23 2.00
Fri 27 2.00



A
VERY
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
FROM
ALL OF US
AT
THE-REX



Airplane!

Roger Murdock: Flight 2-zero-9'er, you're are cleared for take-off.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: L.A. departure frequency, 123 point 9'er.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Victor Basta: Request vector, over.

Captain Oveur: What?

Tower voice: Flight 2-zero-9'er cleared for vector 324.

Roger Murdock: We have clearance, Clarence.

Captain Oveur: Roger, Roger. What's our vector, Victor?

Tower voice: Tower's radio clearance, over!

Captain Oveur: That's Clarence Oveur. Over.

Tower voice: Over.

Captain Oveur: Roger.

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: Roger, over!

Roger Murdock: What?

Captain Oveur: Huh?

Victor Basta: Who?

"Joey... ever seen a grown man naked?"

Don't miss. (No impro. Every word and sight gag scripted).

Directors: Jim Abrahams, Jerry Zucker, David Zucker

Cast: Robert Hays, Julie Hagerty, Lloyd Bridges, Leslie Nielsen, Peter Graves

Duration: 84 mins

Origin: USA 1980

Certificate: 12A

Company: Paramount

When...

Fri 27 7.30



Frozen 2

After sparking endless karaoke renditions of Let It Go, Disney's ice princesses have returned

Six years since the smash-hit original, the sequel matures with its audience, both in its narrative and visual flair. Set three years later, we are reunited with loveable sisters Elsa (Idina Menzel) and Anna (Kristen Bell). Elsa is ruling Arendelle, living alongside Anna, her soon-to-be-brother-in-law Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), and comic snowman Olaf (Josh Gad). The peace is disturbed, however, when a mysterious voice from the north starts calling to Elsa. Together with Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and pet reindeer Sven, the group embark on a quest to discover the origin of Elsa's magical powers and save the kingdom of Arendelle. The film drops "binary good-and-evil storytelling for more nuanced depictions of the balance between humanity and nature" (*Empire*), exploring themes such as impermanence and growth. *Frozen 2* tracks the evolution of its characters, most notably the emotional bond between the sisters, while still remaining light and humorous (Olaf is even funnier than before). With new catchy musical numbers written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, it's yet to be seen which will be this film's standout hit. (*Rachel Williams*)



Directors: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee
Cast: Idina Menzel, Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Josh Gad
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: PG
Company: Walt Disney

When...

Sat 28 2.00



Mary Poppins

Long resistant to film adaptations of her Mary Poppins books (See 'Saving Mr Banks'!).

P.L. Travers finally succumbed to the entreaties of Walt Disney, and the result is often considered the finest of Disney's personally supervised films. When Mr. Banks advertises for a new nanny, his children alternately compose their own ad, asking for someone with a little kindness and imagination. Mary Poppins (Julie Andrews in her screen debut) answers the children's ad by arriving at the Banks' home from the skies, parachuting by umbrella. The exploits of novelist P. L. Travers' nanny sparkle thanks to the Sherman brothers' songs (from the sweet *Feed the Birds* to the rollicking *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*) Poppins' arrival from the sky to shape up the lives of the Banks family is still magical, and the animation (so hated by P.L. Travers) is too. "Julie Andrews' first appearance on the screen is a triumph. She performs as easily as she sings, displaying a fresh type of beauty nicely adaptable to the new colour cameras." (*Variety* 1964..!) You must come for this big screen original at the last throes of 2019.

Director: Robert Stevenson
Cast: Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, David Tomlinson, Glynis Johns, Hermione Baddeley
Duration: 133 mins
Origin: USA 1964
Certificate: U
Company: Walt Disney

When...

Sun 29 1.00



Untouchable

What more to be said of this fabulous heartwarming gallic spark? A huge true-story hit around the world, no moreso than at here the Rex where it has/will run and run. The film chronicles the unlikely burgeoning friendship between Philippe (Cluzet) a wealthy and cultured quadriplegic, and Driss (Omar Sy) a young banlieue (slum) dwelling French West African hired to be his reluctant carer. This routine 'odd-couple' story works on some other level, simultaneously wry, tender and hard-hitting. Perhaps inevitably, Philippe and Driss find their cosmic differences reveal more about... Philippe's reluctant romantic involvement with a pen-friend; Driss with his flirtatious, mischievous ways and his deep rooted immigrant poverty and consequent daily family earthquakes.

"Untouchable's moral is conservative optimism: give a man responsibility and he will act responsibly? Might charm, but wont change the world..." (Oh yeah? *Telegraph*) It will move yours. From its opening ambiguity, it draws you in, teasing an uncertain tension, before you fall in love. Only the French seem to understand how to tell a fundamental human tale to touch us all across barriers of language and... borders. At the closing of a bad year, come: be uplifted by a European Country's effortless art of screen story telling; perhaps France's greatest export gift...

Directors: Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache
Cast: François Cluzet, Omar Sy
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: France 2011 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Entertainment Film Distribution

When...

Sun 29 6.00



The Wizard Of Oz

It's the original 'Wizard of Oz' cleaned up for the big screen. Not only don't miss it but bring every child in the street, if only to frighten the life out them.

Made in 1939, just a year after the Rex first opened; it must have been shown here.

It tells the story of Dorothy and her new friends on a huge, surreal adventure. I didn't get it as a kid and hated it at Christmas ever since. But don't let that put you off. Every child must be subjected to it, like cod-liver oil from a spoon and goose-grease rubbed into your chest every winter until you are 32. The best is the fade from black and white into spectacular technicolour.

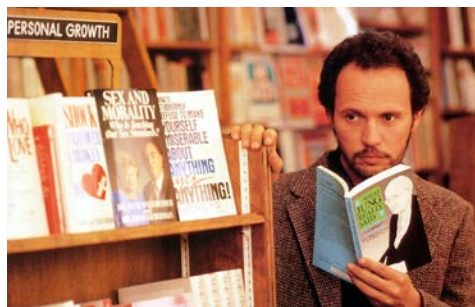
The film's big homespun, American message is 'There's no place like home': Dorothy's mythic journey seems to reveal that to find one's heart's desire, you need not look further than your own backyard. Never mind the hokum, come for the spectacle of early primitive film effects. Forget the witch, Judy Garland still frightens me.



Director:	Victor Fleming
Cast:	Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton
Duration:	103 mins
Origin:	USA 1939
Certificate:	U
Company:	Warner Bros

When...

Mon 30 2.00



Director: Rob Reiner
Cast: Billy Crystal, Meg Ryan, Carrie Fisher, Bruno Kirby, Steven Ford, Lisa Jane Persk
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: USA 1989
Certificate: 15
Company: Palace Video

When Harry Met Sally

As this film so famously posed, and so glibly answered, twenty six years ago...

Can men and women ever just be friends? From enemies to confidants to lovers, it seems to smugly relish the fact that it has proven its point: men and women can never just 'be friends'. Sex is always the bond that unites/destroys them.

Each scene is a set piece with a string of one-liners. Forget content, it is put-downs and one-liners from the start. But what fabulous liners and put-downs. Look at all the familiar clichés. The one-track mind male; the sensitive, practical female, repulsed yet compelled by him (despite his hair) the unsettled mistress playing the field, the live-ins who can't 'commit', the 'tendency' for men (not just men) to run after sex, the horror and unpredictability of blind dates. Then there's 'that scene' of a woman's ultimate ball-breaking. Its pace, wit, economy, good humour and grace and Billy Crystal's fabulous, consistently deadpan face, have turned it into comedy classic. The comedy hit of 1989 in fact. Come and see still working... at new year 2019. Only the years change, we pretend to, but will always... want what she's having... Don't fake it. Come, titter along. Tittering doesn't get much better.

When...

Mon 30 7.30



Singin' In The Rain

This is one film we cannot resist. Whistle the tune in the street and we'll show it!

It all begins in 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent screen. Off screen, Don, aided by Cosmo Brown (the sensational Donald O'Connor) has to dodge Lina's romantic overtures especially when he falls for chorus girl Kathy Selden (the lovely, then 19 year old Debbie Reynolds).

With the advent of the 'Talkies', Don and Lina's new film will be all singing, dancing and... talking! Unfortunately, Lina's voice would make gums bleed (think: Kate Bush screeching Sinatra). Kathy is hired to secretly dub Lina's voice off screen while Gene K goes off splashing in the street, to make B-Movie Musical history. When Lina (who steals the show) finds out, run for cover. For Gene's famous splash dance, the rain was lit from behind so primitive acetate film might capture the downpour, and Gene had the flu! One single take, no waste or mishap after just three dry runs. Ouch! Witness too the fabulous Donald O'Connor's unparalleled screen masterpiece "Make 'em Laugh" (one take?). What greater celebration of family cinema. New Years Eve. A timeless 1952 classic to take us into 2020... Irresistible.

Director: Gene Kelly
Cast: Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor,
Gene Kelly
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1952
Certificate: U
Company: British Film Institute (BFI)

When...

Tue 31 6.00



Through a gap in the sand...



John and Jim on their magic island 1964.

And... so the twins dreamed of a life far beyond that flat horizon and vast sky to get lost in trees and hills and running streams. They found a gap in the sand. They each landed feet first into dreams of their own – never to return.

Happy endings take a little longer. One of us has now finished reading his last page. Apart from not being here to close the book... he has already found his happily ever after in his beautiful late-coming family. The other twin found his way, embracing his own loving family. In dreams and broken schemes along the way... it seems he is staying a little longer to share those precious trees hills and streams...

In plain words: my twin brother John died on Saturday 2nd November 2019 at about 4pm. He left just a little older than Jessie, mother of the twins, who drudged away her youth in a 2up-2down... but only ever longed to dance.

We escaped to dance for her through that shifting gap in the sand...



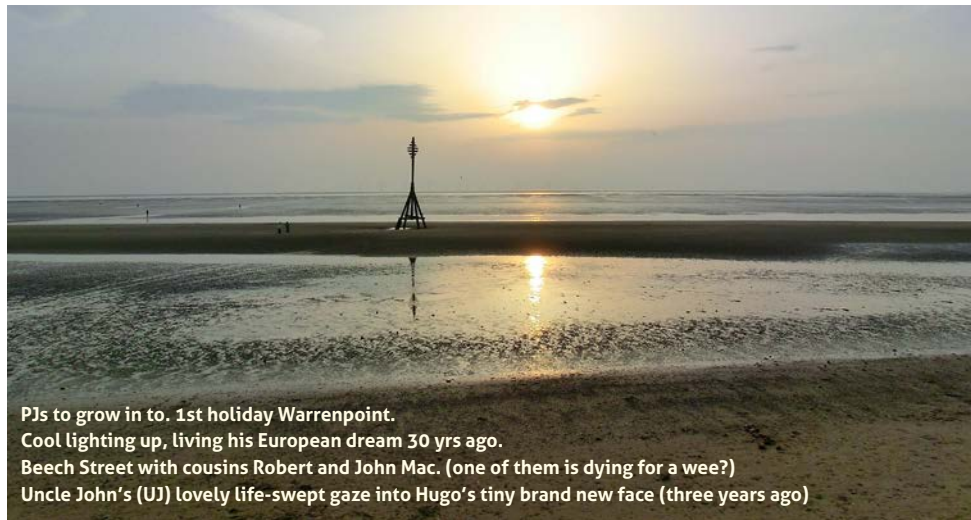
Together with Chris, John's son.
Lime Street 2001....?



The gap in the sand where walking the shoreline in puffs of late night summer Woodbine dreams they conjured their escape....



First school pic 1954



PJs to grow in to. 1st holiday Warrenpoint.

Cool lighting up, living his European dream 30 yrs ago.

Beech Street with cousins Robert and John Mac. (one of them is dying for a wee?)

Uncle John's (UJ) lovely life-swept gaze into Hugo's tiny brand new face (three years ago)

