



THE
M A G

QUARTET
FEBRUARY 2013...

"Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever seen..."
(Sunday Times 2012)

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

FEBRUARY 2013 Issue 95
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

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 Mon to Sat 10.30 – 6.00
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Some of the girls and boys you see at the Box Office and Bar:

Dayna Archer	Ellen Manners
Julia Childs	Liam Parker
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Nicola Darvell	Sid Sagar
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Elizabeth Hannaway	Jordan Turner
Billie Hendry-Hughes	Bethanné Wallman
Natalie Jones	James Wallman
Abigail Kellett	Jack Whiting
Amelia Kellett	Olivia Wilson
Lydia Kellett	Roz Wilson
Tatjana LeBoff	Keymea Yazdanian
Emily Main	Yalda Yazdanian

Ushers:

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

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

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

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

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

BEST IN FEBRUARY



The Hunt

Still the one to see. So don't miss.
 Tue 12 7.30. Denmark 2012

FILMS OF THE MONTH



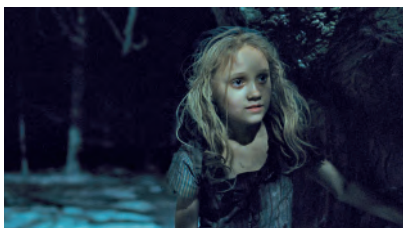
Quartet

Come for the fabulous old luvvies.
 Tue 5/Wed 6/Thu 7 7.30. UK 2012



The Life Of Pi

The brilliant Ang Lee being brilliant.
 Fri 8 7.30/Sat 9 7.00/Sun 10 6.00. USA 2012



Lay Miz

Intense and shouty, but you know that.
 Fri 22 7.30/Sat 23 7.00/Sun 24 6.00/Tue 26/
 Wed 27/Thu 28 7.30. USA 2013

TWO MORE TREASURES LOST...

**ALMA Duncan Rafter** NDD, ATD

Polly to her friends, studied Book Illustration at Liverpool College of Art. She came to teach at Berkhamsted School for Girls in the mid fifties, where she stayed for almost 40 years until retiring in 1992. She was loved and highly regarded at the School.



Sadly, Polly died shortly before Christmas after a short illness following a fall. A true illustrator, her attention to detail makes her exquisitely simple drawings slowly buzz. Her streets are empty, quiet, but not still. There is always a shadow, veiny roots or a puddle. As a welcoming face at the Way Inn behind the Post Office, she swelled the shelves with her illustrations. She is greatly missed, but her drawings are here.

Ian Foreman was the face of Scissors. He and Brian Pettifer (left) single handedly, kept the Rex dream alive. Their original High St shop was next to the Rex.

By refusing to move through coercion or risible offers, nobody could touch them, or the Rex. Amid late night fires, floods and threats; they stayed put. Never bolshy, always calm, with knowing smiles, never missing a trick.

When Brian left a few years ago, Ian carried on until 4th July last year, when he finally threw in the towel after a six month battle.

A great smile to have around. Sorry Ian, we didn't get to say goodbye.



DOG GONE...



The Dog and Bone in Lower Kings Rd is one more place lost. As a local treasure, the pet shop was a miniature landmark. Above all, for most of our kids (now 20something+) it was the place to go for their hamster, cat, dog, rabbit food and litter, not to mention all the other pet paraphernalia. So what will new kids do? Please don't say you can get a budgie on the internet. You can't you? I hope they all come back to bite your idle arses. You won't get a Rex ticket on-line, but we might be able to sort you out some endangered species of snake...

In the never-work-with-animals-or-kids dept, we had a real pet guest in January, and a surprising pleasure it was for an unsuspecting audience. A delightful wee dog, Smurf, who starred in Sightseers and stayed to watch himself on the big screen from table 10.



Above, Smurf in Sightseers.
Smurf on stage and in the foyer for the January screening of the film.



F E B R U A R Y E V E N I N G S



Director: Ben Affleck
Starring: Ben Affleck, Alan Arkin, John Goodman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers



Argo

Fri 1 7.30, Sat 2 7.00

This beautifully drawn account of a real event, skillfully plays the truth against oodles of delicious poetic license to make a riveting tale, taking a catastrophic real-world moment and disguising it as a tightly executed caper.

So, this true-ish period thriller tackles an incendiary period in the history of US-Iranian 'relations'. Set during the 1979/80 hostage crisis, in which Iran's revolutionary guard seized Tehran's US Embassy, Argo tells the story of six Americans who managed to escape. Finding refuge in the Canadian ambassador's house, their only hope of getting out alive is CIA extractor big Ben Aff.

His plan? To fly into Iran with fake IDs and convince them the six are a Canadian film crew scouting locations for a film. There are two main contrasts running throughout, each essential. The Tehran side is a thriller so tense you'll be hanging on to every (mostly audible) mumble. Our sweet relief comes from Alan Arkin and John Goodman's hotheaded Hollywood producers as Argo's 'best worst idea' escape plan unfolds. Big Ben Aff's stoic performance is squashed under the weight of such mammoth supporting roles. Hence, a decent director. He let's the audience in, knows what's important to the telling, then walks through his own part. (almost pure Clint) ps Arkin's catch phrase will come in handy, if only on your 21st C want/have it-all kids...?

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Sun 3 6.00



Peter Jackson has returned to Middle Earth after a decade, this time by adapting Tolkien's breezy children's tale into a behemoth of a movie: a three hour hike through shires, forests and goblin caves. And that only covers the first 100 pages!

Set 60 years before Frodo's journey in *The Lord of the Rings*, the oh-so thinly stretched story is held together by Martin Freeman's charm and mischief as a youthful Bilbo Baggins who is rudely interrupted in his home when Gandalf (Ian McKellen) accompanied by thirteen dwarves turn up with a proposal to reclaim their land, and many treasures, under the Lonely Mountain.

Admittedly it takes a while to get going; introductions might test the patience of even PT Anderson fans, but when they're finally out the door the familiarity of Middle Earth's returning characters and locations, along with their many charms, kick in. And it all bustles with an honest energy, warmth and irreverence you won't find in most epic contemporaries.

In keeping true to the book, *The Hobbit* is comparatively lighter in tone than its heftier Rings sibling. Alas, it's a rather flabby affair. It feels like you've devoured a five course meal by the time the credits roll.

And get this; it is only the first part of an equally enormous trilogy! Tuck in. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Peter Jackson
Starring: Ian McKellen, Cate Blanchett, Elijah Wood, Martin Freeman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 169 mins
Origin: New Zealand/USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers

The Hunt

Mon 4 7.30

Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Thomas Bo Larsen, Annika Wedderkopp
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: Denmark 2012
By: Arrow Films

Lucas (Mikkelsen) a teacher living a lonely life, all the while struggling over his son's custody. His life slowly gets better as he finds love and receives good news about his son, but his new luck is about to be brutally shattered by an innocent fib.

"For only the fifth time so far this year, I believe I have witnessed a near-perfect film. *The Hunt* is complete due to the tight screenplay, the sensitivity of Vinterberg's direction and the performances from principal and peripheral actors alike that are always absorbing and frequently astounding. Mikkelsen must certainly be the focal point of any review. His performance as Lucas causes the stomach to tighten and the back tingle as we wonder How would I react?" (*IMDB*)

Mads Mikkelsen won best actor in Cannes 2012 for his portrayal of a man wrongly accused. The story is as old as child abuse itself: the ganging up, the mob rule fed by rumour and lies, and lust for revenge. The whole town turns against him. It is a 'near-perfect' film, in that we are in on the lie from the outset, so the tension created belongs entirely to an audience willing-on the truth every second of its two short hours. If you see only one film in January, it must be this.





Director: Dustin Hoffman
Starring: Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Momentum Pictures



Quartet

**Tue 5 7.30, Wed 6 7.30,
Thu 7 7.30**

This is Dustin Hoffman's first day trip into directing, and a great day out it is. On his bus to Hedsor House overlooking the Thames Valley in deepest beautiful Chiltern Buckinghamshire, towards the end of 2011, he invited the some of the oldest, most talented and beautiful names and faces in the British scholarship of performance. Billy Connolly (proudly February's cover pin-up) overwhelmed by them all, said it was like playing alongside Elvis!

The gorgeous Dustin Hoffman brought them all together to play in his directorial debut 44 years or so after his own startling first screen appearance in *The Graduate* (1967) and play they did. He chose Ronald Harwood's (*The Diving Bell* and *The Butterfly*) screenplay of his stage play *Tosca's Kiss*, to play with. Harwood's inspiration came from the residents of Verdi's Casa di Riposoper Musicisti, an Italian retirement home for performers, where "singing is like breathing to them." This is the result. An, easy, sentimental, predictable, heart-lifting, unforgettable, very funny and delicious trip in the best company you will ever want to keep. It's all you need to know. Encore...



Director: Ang Lee
Starring: Tabu, Irrfan Khan
Certificate: PG
Duration: 127 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Life Of Pi

**Fri 8 7.30, Sat 9 7.00,
Sun 10 6.00**

Yann Martel's supposedly unfilmable novel has been beautifully realised due the blending of newcomer Suraj Sharma, a convincingly rendered Bengal tiger, and Ang Lee's meticulous direction.

The film opens with an older Pi (Kahn) retelling his seaborne fable to an author (Rafe Spall). We see Pi as a child and eventually the teenager who takes centre stage (played by the inexperienced Sharma, but you wouldn't know it) growing up in India trying Hinduism, dabbling in Christianity and Islam too. When his family decide to move their zoo to Canada, Pi reluctantly leaves his old life behind.

During their ocean voyage a storm overwhelms the ship, drowning and most of its passengers, including Pi's family, leaving him and a tiger curiously named Richard Parker, stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific.

What follows is a beautiful, amusing yet often challenging story of survival, but more importantly it's a film about storytelling itself and how the very fabrication of a story can carry its message through generations.

"Life of Pi is perfectly paced, elegantly plotted and often very funny: there's a universality about Lee's film that transcends barriers of language and age." (*Telegraph*) Give this film the Oscar already! (*Jack Whiting*) Ang Lee has a beautiful mastery over everything he touches, and he touches everybody in the absurdly wide scope of everything he tries. Don't miss.

McCullin

Mon 11 7.30



Don McCullin; British Photojournalist, spent over three decades covering wars and conflicts in Cyprus, Congo, Biafra, Vietnam, Northern Ireland, Cambodia and Lebanon and brought them to our peaceful Sunday morning Breakfast tables.

This riveting made-for-cinema documentary by David and Jacqui Morris draws on a vast array of archive footage and interviews, including the photographer himself.

McCullin worked principally for Harold Evans at The Sunday Times until the 80s when Rupert Murdoch decided (McCullin tells us) the paper should move away from his kind of harsh realism and concentrate on "the pleasures of life". Going to extraordinary lengths and putting himself in the front line, he was taken prisoner in Uganda, blinded by CS gas in Northern Ireland, and miraculously survived when his camera stopped a bullet in Cambodia.

Today he devotes himself to recording the British countryside from his home in rural Somerset, though since this film was made, at the age of 77, he couldn't resist the war in Syria.

"McCullin is one of the last of a breed of artists who captured history as it was made." (*Independent*)

It presents a history on twentieth century politics seen through the unflinching lens of a self-confessed 'War Junkie'.

A sobering account of good journalism and its power; a still image taken as seen, telling a true story in a split second. Please, don't miss. (research Anna Shepherd)

Directors: David Morris, Jacqui Morris
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Artificial Eye

The Hunt

Tue 12 7.30

Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Thomas Bo Larsen, Annika Wedderkopp
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: Denmark 2012
By: Arrow Films

Lucas (Mikkelsen) a teacher living a lonely life, all the while struggling over his son's custody. His life slowly gets better as he finds love and receives good news about his son, but his new luck is about to be brutally shattered by an innocent fib.

"For only the fifth time so far this year, I believe I have witnessed a near-perfect film. The Hunt is complete due to the tight screenplay, the sensitivity of Vinterberg's direction and the performances from principal and peripheral actors alike that are always absorbing and frequently astounding. Mikkelsen must certainly be the focal point of any review. His performance as Lucas causes the stomach to tighten and the back tingle as we wonder How would I react?" (*IMDB*)

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Untouchable

Wed 13 7.30



A huge hit in France, now around the world, even New York! And at the Rex where it will run a run until it loses steam...?

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 live-in carer.

It is routine "odd-couple shtick" but it works gloriously, simultaneously wry and tender hearted. Perhaps inevitably, Philippe and Driss quickly disregard the cosmic differences between them to reveal more about themselves in the process. Philippe's reluctant romantic involvement with his pen-friend; Driss with his flirtatious, mischievous ways and his deep rooted family troubles.

"A charming, uplifting French drama, an irreverent, humorous take on disability, closely drawn from real-life." (*Guardian*) "Untouchable's moral is conservative optimism: give a man responsibility and he will act responsibly? Not a film to change the world, but might charm it." (*Telegraph*) (*SM*) From its opening ambiguity, it draws you in, teasing an uncertain tension, before you fall in love with them. If unlucky in February, we won't let you miss it in the months to come. Only the French seem to be able to make these films. Certainly not us or the yanks. Hence, Hollywood, in its poverty of ideas, has bought the rights. So watch out for Dustin Hoffman and Chris Rock...?

Directors: Oliver Nakache, Eric Toledano
Starring: François Cluzet, Omar Sy
Certificate: 15
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

♥ VALENTINE'S DAY ♥

Silver Linings Playbook Thu 14 7.30

Director: David O Russell
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Entertainment Film Distributors

This bitter sweet romance is the first film ever to have all four categories of Best Male, Female, and M&F Supporting roles nominated for Oscar smarties...! And it's a tiny fag packet movie...?

Tiffany and Pat are 'damaged goods'. He, a bipolar teacher just out of eight months in a state loony bin; she, a young widow, overcompensating for the death of her husband by shagging anyone.

Moving back into his dysfunctional family home with parents Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver (each up for those best-support statuette) Pat finds rebuilding his life isn't that simple.

"It zips along on its off-beat energy and fast-paced wisecracking script. It's undemanding, but funny, honest about mental health and best of all brilliantly acted." (*Time Out*)

"More than anything else, though, it's just nice to see Russell revisit his darkly comic comfort zone. That an echo of his unique voice can still be heard through the fog of this more populist comedy drama is good news indeed." (*LWL*) who types this stuff? "They are 'manic energy unleashed'. But as played with go-for-broke intensity, humour and raw feeling by Jen and Brad, they become deranged romantics you can't help rooting for." (*Rolling Stone*) Hence, the perfect Valentine outing for 2013? We've never had a 'now, happening' Valentine film before, nor one about edgy love, or up for Awards! Come together...?





Director: Christopher McQuarrie
Starring: Robert Duvall, Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount International Pictures



Jack Reacher

Fri 15 7.30

The character of Jack Reacher, immortalised in Lee Childs' series of popular spy novels, is a seriously big bloke, and Tom Cruise fills his shoes in this well constructed pulpy thriller.

A killer drives into a multi-storey car park in midtown Pittsburgh, sets himself up, looking across the river to a path alongside the Pittsburgh Pirates stadium, and proceeds to observe potential targets through the crosshairs of a sniper's rifle. He kills five then makes his getaway.

Reacher springs to life when German film maker Werner Herzog shows up as hilarious Russian villain 'The Zec', complete with a manky eye and bad temper. Christopher McQuarrie, who wrote Usual Suspects, weaves a tasty narrative that wrong foot's us all the way to its satisfying end, but doesn't feature nearly enough Herzog (thank heavens, Jack) leaving it feeling a little too serious.

"A superior thriller, with Cruise and McQuarrie slotting together like a bullet in a clip. Like Reacher on the firing range, the aim isn't always true, but the misses are fractional." (*Total Film*) Its sobriety will make you long for the crazier Cruise days when he was throwing himself off skyscrapers. (*Jack Whiting*) And all the better for it. Get over the self conscious self parody and you'll enjoy the ride. And this is only the first...?





Director: Juan Bayona
Starring: Tom Holland, Ewan McGregor, Naomi Watts
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Entertainment One UK



The Impossible

Sat 16 7.00, Sun 17 6.00

The amazing tsunami that hit the coast of Thailand on Boxing Day 2004 ripped apart the homes and lives of thousands. The Impossible follows the story of a troubled family on holiday, and their epic struggle for survival that follows in the wreck of their tropical winter paradise. All their differences and thoughts of holiday are soon blown apart by events (that shocked the UK public's Christmas) were the fight to reunite their family becomes everything.

Maria and Henry (Watts & McGregor) are on holiday in Thailand with their three boys. Christmas Day has been a happy one, and they're beginning to shake off life's minor worries in an idyllic setting by the hotel pool, when a wall of black water comes hurtling ferociously towards them and scatters them like matchsticks. "It marries a tremendous feat of physical filmmaking to an emotional true story of family survival.... Wrenchingly acted, deftly manipulated and terrifyingly well made..." (*Telegraph*)

"Director J.A. Bayona directed the exuberantly nasty Spanish ghost story *The Orphanage* (2007) and he treats this natural disaster as the ultimate horror tale, featuring a rising saltwater monster that devours everything in its wake." (*Time Out*) (*research Will Newis*) An agonising true story we can only imagine, but like disaster voyeurs can't wait to get the full picture. Strong performances throughout, wet and dry, make it unmissable.

West of Memphis

Mon 18 7.30



Directed by Amy Berg (Deliver Us From Evil), and produced by Peter Jackson (The Hobbit etc), this is a gripping documentary about a notorious miscarriage of justice, and serves as a damning indictment of a prejudiced judicial system.

In the case of the West Memphis Three, Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols, and Jason Baldwin were arrested in 1993 and subsequently convicted, one sentenced to death, for the gruesome murders of three children. Wrongfully linked to the crimes on flimsy evidence, as all three seemingly had alibis, including one who was at a wrestling match miles from the crime scene, the trio served over 18 years in prison before being released after a lengthy, contentious, and controversial legal battle.

This remarkable and at times infuriating documentary highlights the dangers of a small-town mentality, and the apparently ludicrousness of the plea bargaining system. It's an edge of your seat ride in the company small town fear and vengeance.

"Amy Berg's long, fiercely compelling, film states clearly without favour that when you have to settle for the best a corrupt judicial system can give you, it may be time to clean house." (*Telegraph*) (research Simon Messenger)

In the (not quite) final deal, the State of Arkansas agreed to accept an 'Alford plea' whereby the defendants could assert their innocence and go free while still pleading guilty??? Don't miss.

Director: Amy Berg
Starring: Jason Baldwin, Damien Wayne Echols, Jessie Misskelley
Certificate: 15
Duration: 147 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Gangster Squad

Tue 19 7.30, Wed 20 7.30

Director: Ruben Fleischer
Starring: Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, Josh Brolin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Warner Brothers

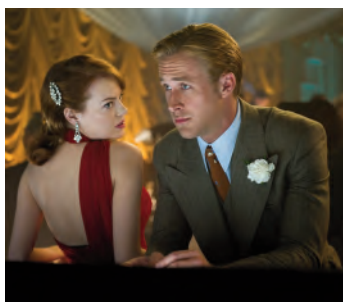
After glamorising the undead in the comedy Zombieland, director Ruben Fleischer turns to real life mobsters; completely changing history in the process.

Bolstered by an impressive collection of faces (and hats) Gangster Squad tells the true, but heavily skewed story of Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn), a particularly nasty, loud-mouthed mobster in 1949 Los Angeles.

"Josh Brolin plays John O'Mara, the square-jawed, clean living cop tasked by a walrus in a tuxedo (Nick Nolte) to bring down Cohen's operation before the mob boss can fix a stranglehold on the city of angels. John forms a task force, hauling in interestingly named pal Jerry Wooters (Ryan Gosling) who, unknown to O'Mara, is having an affair with Cohen's squeeze Grace (Emma Stone)." (*Total Film*)

The likes of The Godfather, LA Confidential and The Untouchables are still very much, well, untouchable and Gangster Squad can only bask in their collective glory as it does its best to ape their DNA. But you can tell it's having a lot of fun.

It's sexy, very violent, very dumb and a whole lotta fun. Yet you'll find more maturity in Bugsy Malone. To quote Mickey 'You're gonna be begging for a bullet before it's over!' and some of you will. (*Jack Whiting*) So we'll have tommy-guns lined up ready behind the screen... Come for the look, and stylish showing-off by some fabulous faces.



The Impossible

Thu 21 7.30

Director:	Juan Bayona
Starring:	Tom Holland, Ewan McGregor, Naomi Watts
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	114 mins
Origin:	USA 2012
By:	Entertainment One UK

The amazing tsunami that hit the coast of Thailand on Boxing Day 2004 ripped apart the homes and lives of thousands.

The Impossible follows the story of a troubled family on holiday, and their epic struggle for survival that follows in the wreck of their tropical winter paradise. All their differences and thoughts of holiday are soon blown apart by events (that shocked the UK public's Christmas) were the fight to reunite their family becomes everything.

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Director: Tom Hooper
Starring: Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway,
 Hugh Jackman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 158 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



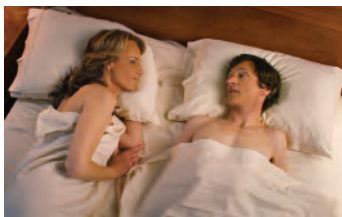
Les Misérables

**Fri 22 7.30, Sat 23 7.00,
 Sun 24 6.00, Tue 26 7.30,
 Wed 27 7.30, Thu 28 7.30**

Gaily referred to as 'Lay Miz' "impossible to say without a twinkle of camp" comes to the Rex in its full Oz-Anglo-Yank whining glory on our sumptuous sound screen.

It has excited critics who didn't like it, into waxing such things as "Even as a non-believer in this kind of 'sung through' musical, I was battered into submission by this mesmeric, compelling film. For dignity and intelligence it's Hugh Jackman, with an unexpectedly vulnerable turn from grumpy old bear Russell Crowe..." (*PB Guardian*)

The stars have hyper-patted on about the miracle of their whinings recorded live on set as though they'd never heard of Fred Astaire or Sinatra/Crosby/ Celeste Holm's unforgettable live routines in High Society. So, why let the short memory of cinematic history get in the way of a good ego neck crying 'me first'? Remember too The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) created it (directed by Trevor Nunn) at The Barbican in 1985 to scurvy reviews. They then took it, as is, to the West End where it went mad, servicing a million coach trips by an all-devouring Mammia audience (on the same coach years later). Cameron Macintosh jumped at it and the rest is... over acted, over emotional warbling, now in wobbly tonsil 3-D close-up with trillions in the bank for sweet Cam Mac. Hope the RSC got well paid plus a 10% royalty for ever. Unlikely.



Director: Ben Lewin
Starring: John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, William Macy
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Sessions

Mon 25 7.30

Tender, touching and poignant, it might even be an Oscar contender?

The Sessions, based on the painfully optimistic autobiographical essays of Californian journalist Mark O'Brien, tells the story of a paralysed polio sufferer, confined to an iron lung who decides at 38 he wishes to lose his virginity. Coming to grips with the delicacy of the task, he employs the help of therapists, friends and the guidance of a priest to make his dream come true.

This is a movie about sex, unusually explicit sex, coupled with plenty of therapeutic chats about it. Yet it still manages to be exuberant and deeply felt. But the real heat of The Sessions comes from its pitch-perfect sense of place, the free-spirited Berkeley in the 80s.

"Though The Sessions does at times feel just that; like a series of recorded therapy sessions, the ease of the actors in their parts, might leave even the most hardened cynic with a warm afterglow?" (*Film4*)

"What gives Ben Lewin's first directorial outing in 18 years a feeling of freshness is confronting the fear and loss experienced by its central character even as it plays to a warm rom-com narrative." (*Time Out*)

An instant hit at festivals, The Sessions proves Hollywood can produce a grown-up film about sex...? (*research Will Newis*) Worth seeing for the extraordinary John Hawkes and Helen Hunt.



COMING SOON

New releases

Django Unchained
Hitchcock
Zero Dark Thirty
Lincoln

Back by demand

Untouchable
The Hunt
Argo
The Life of Pi
Oh yeah.. and that Lay Miz



Lincoln



Zero Dark Thirty



Hitchcock

FEBRUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Fri	ARGO	7.30
2	Sat	MADAGASCAR 3	2.00
2	Sat	ARGO	7.00
3	Sun	THE HOBBIT	6.00
4	Mon	QUARTET	2.00
4	Mon	THE HUNT	7.30
5	Tue	QUARTET	12.30, 7.30
6	Wed	QUARTET	2.00, 7.30
7	Thu	QUARTET	2.00, 7.30
8	Fri	THE LIFE OF PI	7.30
9	Sat	THE LIFE OF PI	2.00
9	Sat	THE LIFE OF PI	7.00
10	Sun	THE LIFE OF PI	6.00
11	Mon	MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN	2.00
11	Mon	MCCULLIN	7.30
12	Tue	THE LIFE OF PI	12.30
12	Tue	THE HUNT	7.30
13	Wed	UNTOUCHABLE	2.00, 7.30
14	Thu	SOME LIKE IT HOT	2.00
14	Thu	SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK	7.30
15	Fri	JACK REACHER	7.30
16	Sat	THE HOBBIT	2.00
16	Sat	THE IMPOSSIBLE	7.00
17	Sun	THE IMPOSSIBLE	6.00
18	Mon	THE RAILWAY CHILDREN	2.00
18	Mon	WEST OF MEMPHIS	7.30
19	Tue	PITCH PERFECT	12.30
19	Tue	GANGSTER SQUAD	7.30
20	Wed	QUARTET	2.00
20	Wed	GANGSTER SQUAD	7.30
21	Thu	BRAVE	2.00
21	Thu	THE IMPOSSIBLE	7.30
22	Fri	LES MISERABLES	7.30
23	Sat	FRANKENWEENIE	2.00
23	Sat	LES MISÉRABLES	7.00
24	Sun	LES MISÉRABLES	6.00
25	Mon	LES MISÉRABLES	2.00
25	Mon	THE SESSIONS	7.30
26	Tue	LES MISÉRABLES	12.30, 7.30
27	Wed	LES MISÉRABLES	2.00, 7.30
28	Thu	LES MISÉRABLES	2.00, 7.30

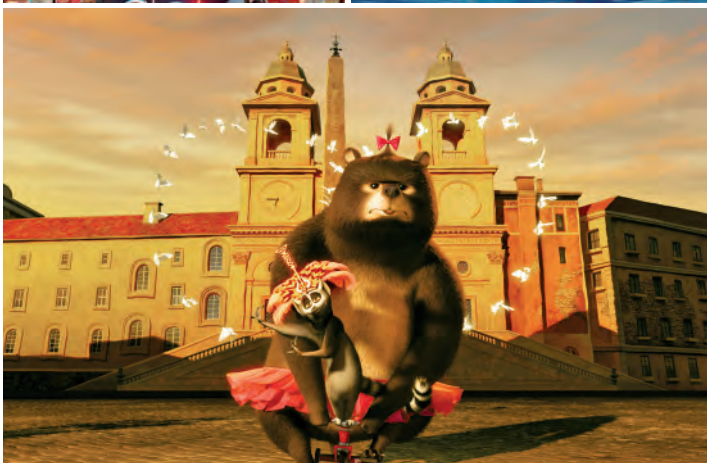


F E B R U A R Y M A T I N E E S

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



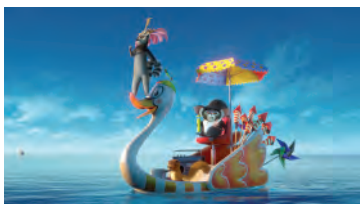
Director: Eric Darnell
Starring: Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Certificate: PG
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount International Pictures

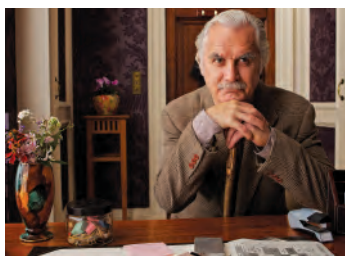


Madagascar 3

Sat 2 2.00

With the appeal of life in Africa rapidly waning, our heroes: Alex (Stiller), Marty (Rock), Melman (Schwimmer) and Gloria (Pinkett-Smith), plus King Julien XIII (Baron Cohen) decide to go home to New York, via Europe. But France's top animal control inspector forces them to run away with the circus... "This is that rare thing: a franchise that grows more winning with each instalment. The garish, noisy 'Madagascar' series has always been something of a circus, so it's fitting that this ingratiatingly manic third entry finds its quartet of Yankified African beasts actually in a big top." (*Time Out*) "Powered by a dazzling circus act, a gaggle of goofy accents and a fresh dose of action-adventure silliness, Madagascar 3 severs the DreamWorks cartoon franchise's ties with reality entirely and emerges none the worse for it. Good-humoured, endearing, full of energy and colour." (*Variety*) "A muscular, potent and very funny film" (*Guardian*) Smile and wave boys, smile and wave...





Director: Dustin Hoffman
Starring: Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Momentum Pictures



Quartet

**Mon 4 2.00, Tue 5 12.30,
Wed 6 2.00, Thu 7 2.00**

This is Dustin Hoffman's first day trip into directing, and a great day out it is. On his bus to Hedsor House overlooking the Thames Valley in deepest beautiful Chiltern Buckinghamshire, towards the end of 2011, he invited the some of the oldest, most talented and beautiful names and faces in the British scholarship of performance. Billy Connolly (proudly February's cover pin-up) overwhelmed by them all, said it was like playing alongside Elvis!

The gorgeous Dustin Hoffman brought them all together to play in his directorial debut 44 years or so after his own startling first screen appearance in *The Graduate* (1967) and play they did. He chose Ronald Harwood's (*The Diving Bell and The Butterfly*) screenplay of his stage play *Tosca's Kiss*, to play with. Harwood's inspiration came from the residents of Verdi's Casa di Riposoper Musicisti, an Italian retirement home for performers, where "singing is like breathing to them." This is the result. An, easy, sentimental, predictable, heart-lifting, unforgettable, very funny and delicious trip in the best company you will ever want to keep. It's all you need to know. Encore...





Director: Ang Lee
Starring: Tabu, Irrfan Khan
Certificate: PG
Duration: 127 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Life Of Pi

Sat 9 2.00, Tue 12 12.30

Yann Martel's supposedly unfilmable novel has been beautifully realised due the blending of newcomer Suraj Sharma, a convincingly rendered Bengal tiger, and Ang Lee's meticulous direction.

The film opens with an older Pi (Kahn) retelling his seaborne fable to an author (Rafe Spall). We see Pi as a child and eventually the teenager who takes centre stage (played by the inexperienced Sharma, but you wouldn't know it) growing up in India trying Hinduism, dabbling in Christianity and Islam too. When his family decide to move their zoo to Canada, Pi reluctantly leaves his old life behind.

During their ocean voyage a storm overwhelms the ship, drowning and most of its passengers, including Pi's family, leaving him and a tiger curiously named Richard Parker, stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific.

What follows is a beautiful, amusing yet often challenging story of survival, but more importantly it's a film about storytelling itself and how the very fabrication of a story can carry its message through generations.

"Life of Pi is perfectly paced, elegantly plotted and often very funny: there's a universality about Lee's film that transcends barriers of language and age." (*Telegraph*) Give this film the Oscar already! (*Jack Whiting*) Ang Lee has a beautiful mastery over everything he touches, and he touches everybody in the absurdly wide scope of everything he tries. Don't miss.

Midnight's Children

Mon 11 2.00



Directed by Deepa Mehta, and based on Salman Rushdie's seminal Booker Prize-winning novel (as well as written for the screen and, somewhat embarrassingly, narrated by him too) *Midnight's Children* is a hazy, grandiose adaptation.

Born at midnight on 15th August 1947 - and therefore exactly the same age as the Republic of India itself, the film tells the story of Saleem (Satya Bhabha), a street child switched intentionally at birth with the affluent Shiva (Siddharth). Gifted with telepathic powers to psychically converse with the other children born at that auspicious moment, and living one another's lives in a nascent India, the boys' paths slowly and mysteriously converge. *Midnight's Children* is a muddled, intriguing allegory for the birth of nation.

"The film is stunningly beautiful. And the story retains at least some of the elements that made the novel so special in its imagination, ambition and scope." (*Radio Times*)

"Mehta fudges the political allegory in favour of the story's magical realism, but still can't get her arms around the material, or past Rushdie's own bear-hug." (*Time Out*)

(*Simon Messenger*) Many have loved the book, it will be interesting to hear how many will love the film. In for a matinee to see...

Director: Deepa Mehta
Starring: Satya Bhabha, Shahana Goswami, Anita Majumdar
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 146 mins
Origin: Canada/USA 2012
By: Entertainment One UK

Untouchable

Wed 13 2.00

Directors: Oliver Nakache, Eric Toledano
Starring: François Cluzet, Omar Sy
Certificate: 15
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

A huge hit in France, now around the world, even New York! And at the Rex where it will run a run until it loses steam...?

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 live-in carer. It is routine "odd-couple shtick" but it works gloriously, simultaneously wry and tender hearted. Perhaps inevitably, Philippe and Driss quickly disregard the cosmic differences between them to reveal more about themselves in the process. Philippe's reluctant romantic involvement with his pen-friend; Driss with his flirtatious, mischievous ways and his deep rooted family troubles.

"A charming, uplifting French drama, an irreverent, humorous take on disability, closely drawn from real-life." (*Guardian*) "Untouchable's moral is conservative optimism: give a man responsibility and he will act responsibly? Not a film to change the world, but might charm it." (*Telegraph*) (SM) From its opening ambiguity, it draws you in, teasing an uncertain tension, before you fall in love with them. If unlucky in February, we won't let you miss it in the months to come. Only the French seem to be able to make these films. Certainly not us or the yanks. Hence, Hollywood, in its poverty of ideas, has bought the rights. So watch out for Dustin Hoffman and Chris Rock...?



Some Like It Hot

Thu 14 2.00



"I'll enjoy a few more spins on the merry-go-round and wait for the music to stop" (Tony Curtis. 2009)

Inspired casting by Billy Wilder. In this great spoof, Curtis and Lemmon play jazz musicians on the run from Spats Columbo (George Raft) after witnessing the St Valentine's Day massacre. Broke and desperate to escape Chicago, they turn into Daphne and Josephine, join Sweet Sue's band AND... meet Sugar.

Interestingly, Wilder deliberately shot it in black and white to avoid the pitfalls of camp or transvestism (What, why?)

Highlights: the Gangland scenes; Pat O'Brian as the world-weary sarcastic cop; Nehemiah Persoff's agitated Little Bonaparte; Tony Curtis' playboy parody of Cary Grant; Jack's Tango with Osgood and that rose; Ms Monroe in that dress; and what is surely one of the best closing exchanges of all time. Jack Lemmon's exasperated: "I'm a man...!" to Joe E Brown's deadpan 'Nobody's perfect'. His Osgood Fielding III must be one of cinema's most delicious support characters. Don't miss it on our big screen for a Valentine afternoon. Bring a platinum blonde (or come as one) a sax or bass fiddle (complete with bullet holes).

Three lives, one short. Captured for ever in this glorious 'merry-go-round...'

Mr. Curtis 3.6.1925 – 29.9.2010

Mr. Lemmon 8.2.1925 – 27.6.2001

Miss Monroe 1.6.1926 – 5.8.1962

Salut.

Director: Billy Wilder
Starring: Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Joe Brown, George Raft, Pat O'Brien, Jack Lemmon

Certificate: U
Duration: 121 mins
Origin: USA 1959
By: Park Circus Films

The Hobbit:

An Unexpected Journey

Sat 16 2.00

Director: Peter Jackson
Starring: Ian McKellen, Cate Blanchett, Elijah Wood, Martin Freeman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 169 mins
Origin: New Zealand/USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers

Peter Jackson has returned to Middle Earth after a decade, this time by adapting Tolkien's breezy children's tale into a behemoth of a movie: a three hour hike through shires, forests and goblin caves. And that only covers the first 100 pages!

Set 60 years before Frodo's journey in The Lord of the Rings, the oh-so thinly stretched story is held together by Martin Freeman's charm and mischief as a youthful Bilbo Baggins who is rudely interrupted in his home when Gandalf (Ian McKellen) accompanied by thirteen dwarves turn up with a proposal to reclaim their land, and many treasures, under the Lonely Mountain.

Admittedly it takes a while to get going; introductions might test the patience of even PT Anderson fans, but when they're finally out the door the familiarity of Middle Earth's returning characters and locations, along with their many charms, kick in. And it all bustles with an honest energy, warmth and irreverence you won't find in most epic contemporaries.

In keeping true to the book, The Hobbit is comparatively lighter in tone than its heftier Rings sibling. Alas, it's a rather flabby affair. It feels like you've devoured a five course meal by the time the credits roll.

And get this; it is only the first part of an equally enormous trilogy! Tuck in. (*Jack Whiting*)



Railway Children

Mon 18 2.00



The welcome return of this beautiful film on the big screen, keeps it alive for new generations to see for the first time and for us to watch it again and again.

It perfectly captures the English landscape at a time when children waved at steam trains. It is a tale of innocence, pride and good manners; about hardship, adversity and the once tender friendships between children and grown-ups. It is a celebration of old-fashioned fortitude set in an environment of steam trains, endless summer days and buns.

Is it sentimental? Unashamedly. Nobody can deny the love and charm of this timeless 1970 film version of Edith Nesbitt's classic children's novel. It is a chance to choke back a new tear and give new children the chance to be lost in the simple beauty of the original. "Putting aside its fusty look and feel, Jeffries' film remains an enjoyable evocation of the time. Of course, whether today's kids get it is open to debate." (*Time Out*) There are no explosions and nobody gets a thick ear.

But no debate; as the father of girls, "Daddy ... my daddy!" when the steam clears the platform, remains forever heartlifting and breaking. Bring your grandparents, and if you don't fidget, there might be buns for tea when you get home...?

Director: Lionel Jeffries
Starring: Jenny Agutter, Bernard Cribbins, Dinah Sheridan
Certificate: U
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: UK 1970
By: British Film Institute

Pitch Perfect

Tue 19 12.30

Director: Jason Moore
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Arriving at her new college, Beca (Anna Kendrick) at first unable to fit in with any clique; finds herself cajoled into joining an a cappella group of all girl singers.

This highly amusing campus comedy follows the rivalry between two singing groups; one male – The Treblemakers, one female – The Bellas; to climb their way to the top of the cutthroat world of college a cappella.

Beginning their fight for victory from auditions at university; where one of The Treblemakers competes for Beca's affections; all the way to the International Championship Finals at the Lincoln Centre.

The numbers are taken seriously and are admirably choreographed, and the performances are sprightly. Rebel Wilson as a Tasmanian student who styles herself as/on Fat Amy and Anna Kendrick as the lively freshman are excellent, and John Michael Higgins and Elizabeth Banks are a hilarious double act as the TV dance commentators. Though it suggests itself as 'Glee: The Movie', Pitch Perfect is, pleasingly much closer to 'Mean Girls: The Musical'. It has Mean Girls' catty wit and shrewdly observed characters.

Pitch Perfect goes to ruder, stranger places than Glee would ever dare, certainly among the best teen movies to come along in a while. (*Research by Anna Shepherd*) Perhaps we should have squeezed it into a February (awards crammed) evening slot. Never mind.



Quartet

Wed 20 2.00



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Director: Dustin Hoffman
Starring: Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Momentum Pictures

Brave

Thu 21 2.00

Directors: Steve Purcell, Brenda Chapman, Mark Andrews
Voices: Robbie Coltrane, Kelly Macdonald, Emma Thompson, Billy Connolly
Certificate: PG
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Walt Disney Studio INTL

Pixar's thirteenth feature takes to the Highlands for a Celtic adventure in this beautiful animated fable.

Our heroine is the 16-year-old Princess Merida (voiced by Kelly Macdonald), daughter of the indulgent, one-legged warrior King Fergus (Billy Connolly) and his wife, the stern Queen Elinor (Emma Thompson).

The spirited, red-haired Merida, an accomplished archer and tomboy, challenges her fate by reacting against a traditional arranged marriage to one of the nation's rival clans.

In her desperation, she seeks a spell from an old witch (Julie Walters) to change her mother's mind. The magic potion, however, turns Elinor and Merida's three unruly little brothers into bears.

"No one seems to review a Pixar film without comparing it to other Pixar films. OK, *Brave* isn't *The Incredibles* or *Toy Story*. So? It's still a rousing, gorgeously animated good time." (*Rolling Stone*)

Pixar have a near perfect track record (we'll ignore *Cars*) so it's a little jarring, at least for adults, to see *Brave* not quite hit gold standards. Nevertheless there's plenty here to fall in love with. (*Jack Whiting*) Sure about *Cars* Jack? Kids loved it, as did us bigger kids!

It's beautifully observant oddball characters are treasures of detail and all in broad Scots. I loved it and laughed out loud lots. Don't miss.





Director: Tim Burton
Voices: Charlie Tahan, Winona Ryder
Certificate: PG
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Walt Disney



Frankenweenie

Sat 23 2.00

After almost a decade of Depp induced disappointments, Tim Burton returns to his gloriously macabre past with this early 80's new-lease-of-life 'short'. The end of which is a touching and wholly personal tale of a boy and his dog. Yet as we know with Burton, nothing is ever quite normal. Frankenweenie tells the story of Victor, an awkward schoolboy and a vague alter ego of the filmmaker's younger self, who brings his dead dog Sparky back to life with the help of lightning.

"It's Frankenstein, softened and re-imagined in the postwar American suburbs, with that gentle stamp all over it of the mid-century American horror movies that Burton grew up on." (*Time Out*)

Much like *Corpse Bride*, *Frankenweenie* is a stop-animation beauty; with a black and white palette rich with gothic imagery.

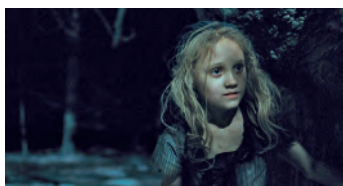
"The best movie monsters feast on very real fears; Godzilla: atom bomb, Dracula: promiscuity. In the same way, this says something profound about the way children deal with bereavement."

(*Telegraph*) (Come on heavies, it's a Saturday matinee kid's film...?)

Unlike *ParaNorman* and *Hotel Transylvania*, Burton's labour of love has a natural sense of the bizarre, recalling classic Hammer Horror. Fear not kids, at its heart *Frankenweenie* is deeply sweet, and very funny. (*Jack Whiting*) Well, no scarier than your family, but leave the dog... home alone.

Beware: black&white, and in glorious 2-D.





Director: Tom Hooper
Starring: Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 158 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Les Misérables

Mon 25 2.00, **Tue 26** 12.30,
Wed 27 2.00, **Thu 28** 2.00

Gaily referred to as 'Lay Miz' "impossible to say without a twinkle of camp" comes to the Rex in its full Oz-Anglo-Yank whining glory on our sumptuous sound screen.

It has excited critics who didn't like it, into waxing such things as "Even as a non-believer in this kind of 'sung through' musical, I was battered into submission by this mesmeric, compelling film. For dignity and intelligence it's Hugh Jackman, with an unexpectedly vulnerable turn from grumpy old bear Russell Crowe..." (*PB Guardian*)

The stars have hyper-patted on about the miracle of their whinings recorded live on set as though they'd never heard of Fred Astaire or Sinatra/Crosby/ Celeste Holm's unforgettable live routines in High Society. So, why let the short memory of cinematic history get in the way of a good ego neck crying 'me first'? Remember too The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) created it (directed by Trevor Nunn) at The Barbican in 1985 to scurvy reviews. They then took it, as is, to the West End where it went mad, servicing a million coach trips by an all-devouring Mammia audience (on the same coach years later). Cameron Macintosh jumped at it and the rest is... over acted, over emotional warbling, now in wobbly tonsil 3-D close-up with trillions in the bank for sweet Cam Mac. Hope the RSC got well paid plus a 10% royalty for ever. Unlikely.

BIRCHNELL'S...

Sun 30 Jan 2011



Tue 15 Jan 2013



ODYSSEY...

Closing down SALE, 'SOLD' and 'TO LET' all beaming from the same building at different stages of its life and death. Each easily understood but lost in any sense of meaning. The first is Percy Birtchnell's closing down sale, after being here since Doomsday, selling tweeds and handkerchiefs. The second is a proper estate sign, ironically still intact on the wall of a building no longer intact, but still sold? Then two years later (almost to-the-day) after nothing seems to have been done and nobody held responsible for its 'accidentally falling down' in the middle of the night, a sign appears on the hoarding offering 'New Retail Premises To Let'? Nothing fits. There are no premises, unless a hoarding hiding a hole in the ground constitutes premises? Would somebody in Berkhamsted who cares, please take it up and start asking questions? I have my hands full at the moment with the new Odyssey cinema project in St Albans so would appreciate some help with the Birtchnell's story. The Odyssey itself is not short of difficulties, only to



be expected with an eighty year old public building, left empty for the last eighteen. It is going ahead slowly and carefully. Unanticipated clearance work has slowed things down by a some months, but drawings and plans have been approved, and with our main contractor, Borrás (St A) now ready to start restoration work, our target for opening remains assured for Spring next year. I promise to assure you more when all our assurances are assured! We couldn't have come this far without you. Your unerring belief that we will do it, is still my driving force.

The Odeon: London Rd circa 1972...? With little change to the front wall, only a new name, The Odyssey will open its new doors early 2014, a mere nineteen years and a few £million later...



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2013 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

LEADING ACTOR

Daniel Day-Lewis - Lincoln
 Denzel Washington - Flight
 Hugh Jackman - Les Misérables



▲ Bradley Cooper - Silver Linings Playbook
 Joaquin Phoenix - The Master

SUPPORTING ACTOR



▲ Alan Arkin - Argo
 Robert De Niro - Silver Linings Playbook
 Tommy Lee Jones - Lincoln
 Christoph Waltz - Django Unchained
 Philip Seymour Hoffman - The Master

LEADING ACTRESS

Naomi Watts - The Impossible



▲ Quvenzhané Wallis - Beasts of the Southern Wild
 Jessica Chastain - Zero Dark Thirty
 Jennifer Lawrence - Silver Linings Playbook
 Emmanuelle Riva - Amour

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Adams - The Master
 Sally Field - Lincoln



▲ Jacki Weaver - Silver Linings Playbook
 Anne Hathaway - Les Misérables
 Helen Hunt - The Sessions

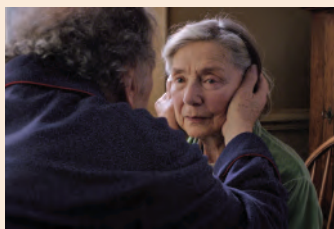
BEST PICTURE

Amour
 Argo



▲ Life of Pi
 Beasts of the Southern Wild
 Django Unchained
 Les Misérables
 Lincoln
 Silver Linings Playbook
 Zero Dark Thirty

DIRECTOR



▲ Michael Haneke - Amour
 Benh Zeitlin - Beasts of the Southern Wild
 Ang Lee - Life of Pi
 Steven Spielberg - Lincoln
 David O. Russell - Silver Linings Playbook

2013 BAFTA NOMINATIONS

LEADING ACTOR

Ben Affleck - Argo

Bradley Cooper - Silver Linings Playbook



▲ Hugh Jackman - Les Miserables

Daniel Day-Lewis - Lincoln

Joaquin Phoenix - The Master

SUPPORTING ACTOR

Alan Arkin - Argo

Javier Bardem - Skyfall

Philip Seymour Hoffman - The Master

Tommy Lee Jones - Lincoln

Christoph Waltz - Django Unchained

LEADING ACTRESS

Jessica Chastain - Zero Dark Thirty

Marion Cotillard - Rust and Bone

Jennifer Lawrence - Silver Linings Playbook

Helen Mirren - Hitchcock

Emmanuelle Riva - Amour

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Adams - The Master



▲ Judi Dench - Skyfall

Sally Field - Lincoln

Anne Hathaway - Les Miserables

Helen Hunt - The Sessions

BEST PICTURE

Argo

Les Miserables

Life of Pi

Lincoln

Zero Dark Thirty

DIRECTOR

Ben Affleck - Argo

Kathryn Bigelow - Zero Dark Thirty

Michael Haneke - Amour

Ang Lee - Life of Pi

Quentin Tarantino - Django Unchained

It's fabulous red glam time again. Baftas (10th) Oscars (24th). With them comes the list of usual suspects; the politically motivated, the epic, the maverick and the small film nobody thought stood a chance. Silver Linings Playbook is this year's, and turns out to hold a record already, for being the first Oscar contender to have nominations in all the main categories, and unprecedented; all four names up for best actor/actress and best supports! Bafta was less impressed. The epics are 'Lay Miz' mirroring the same-ish categories across the water, with Lincoln up for everything except wigs, when you see Tommy Lee Jones' cottage loaf, you'll see why. The maverick, and he couldn't be anything else, nor have it any other way: Tarantino's Django Unchained, is up for Director and Best picture depending which side of the pond. I don't get it. Shouldn't the best directed film automatically be in line for Best picture? Argo and Zero Dark Thirty are the all-American political tickets, both offering 'true' yarns about covert operations to either rescue or kill, and each with their feet firmly in Middle Eastern affairs. Argo is tense but very funny, and though we have yet to see Zero Dark Thirty, there can't be many laughs, apart from the title. You can hear that deep slow American trailer voice gravelling 'Zero Dark Thirty' with intense meaning. However, (lost) in translation, it simply means 12.30am. So it's half twelve. Now imagine that deep dark voice squeezing intensity from 'Half Twelve'. Imagine it announced on Oscar night. Try it at home. So who? Alan Arkin should win everything, including Best for Being There. Lay Miz will clean up in London alongside Amour with nods to Lincoln, Argo, Pi and Dame Judi. In LA, Half Twelve and Lincoln will take all the biscuits, with lip service to Argo, Pi, Beasts' and Silver Linings. Care?