

THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

CHASING ICE
JANUARY 2013...

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

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



JANUARY 2013 Issue 94
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

Gallery	4-6
January Evenings	11
Coming Soon	25
January Films at a glance	25
January Matinees	27
Rants and Pants	44-45

SEAT PRICES (+ REX DONATION £1.00)
 Circle £8.00+1
 Concessions £6.50+1
 At Table £10.00+1
 Concessions £8.50+1
 Royal Box (seats 6) £12.00+1
 or for the Box £66.00+1
 All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box) +1

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759
 Mon to Sat 10.30 – 6.00
 Sun 4.30 – 6.30

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

Some of the girls and boys you see at the Box Office and Bar:

Dayna Archer	Ellen Manners
Julia Childs	Liam Parker
Ally Clifton	Amberly Rose
Kitty Clucas	Georgia Rose
Nicola Darvell	Sid Sagar
Ashley Davis	Alex Stephenson
Romy Davis	Liam Stephenson
Alice Fishman	Tina Thorpe
Karina Gale	Amy Tobin
Ollie Gower	Jordan Turner
Elizabeth Hannaway	Bethanné Wallman
Billie Hendry-Hughes	W. James Wallman
Abigail Kellett	Jack Whiting
Amelia Kellett	Olivia Wilson
Lydia Kellett	Roz Wilson
Tatjana LeBoff	Keymea Yazdanian
Emily Main	

Ushers:

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

Sally Rowbotham In charge
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 JANUARY



The Hunt

Rumour can kill but hell is other people...
 Wed 23/Thu 24 7.30. Denmark 2012

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Lawrence of Arabia

Exquisite: nothing like it before or since
 Sun 13 4.30. UK 1962



Tu Seras Mon Fils

Father and son fight over vineyard...
 Mon 14 7.30. France 2011



Chasing Ice

Like Lawrence: a true but cold
 losing battle 100 yrs on.
 Wed 16 7.30. USA 2012

A FEW SNAPS FROM 2012...



June: Tony Hawks' Moldovans Tennis. **September:** Berkfest – Showadawaddy. **October:** Toby Jones Q&A. I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. **May:** The Pirate Captain & Polly c/oAardman Studios. Charlie Creed-Miles & Nick Moran for Wild Bill. **December:** Berkhamsted's Christmas Tree. Nicely lit, slightly skewed, surrounded by attractive protective barriers with sandbags... just in case.



THE ODYSSEY INSIDE OUT...

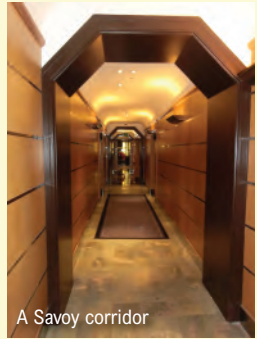


Optimistic banner reads 'opening 2012-13'. Now we know better, let's try the next one up. Realistically Spring 2014?
(top) Looking out from re-wind room. (inset) Stairs & doors - how they are, and how they might be.

ART DECO DAYS OUT...



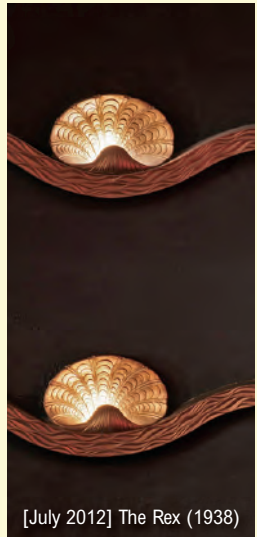
[Oct 13th 1012] The Mersey Tunnel ventilation building, circa 1932/33 to provide clean air for the first tunnel (Queensway opened 1934)



A Savoy corridor



The Savoy London [Nov 2012]



[July 2012] The Rex (1938)



The old Atlantic Bar & Grill London [2012] Note the name of the luxury liner.



J A N U A R Y E V E N I N G S

The Sapphires

Wed 2 7.30



Directed by Wayne Blair and based on Tony Briggs' play, *The Sapphires* is a warm, soulful Australian comedy drama, and true...

Australia, 1968. Four indigenous young women, Gail (Deborah Mailman), Julie (Jessica Mauboy), Kay (Shari Sebbens) and Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell), play country and western gigs to small, disinterested white audiences in crappy outback bars. Seemingly going nowhere, the four encounter a boozy Irish talent scout Dave Lovelace (Chris O'Dowd) who, sensing their natural talents, offers to manage them and suggests they change their style to an all-girl soul group. With some encouragement the transition is a success, and before long Dave has booked them a gig; a morale-boosting mission to perform for US troops in Saigon...! It's an utterly charming film; fantastic music, hilarious in parts and, after a series of Hollywood bit parts, an excellent vehicle for the eloquent, lanky and awkward comic talents of Chris O'Dowd. "Based, incredibly, on a true story and developed from a successful stage musical, this is a big-hearted, barnstorming put-on-a-show crowd-pleaser." (*Time Out*) "The combination of Irish soul music and entertaining American troops in Vietnam inevitably suggests a meeting between Alan Parker's *The Commitments* and Robin Williams' *Good Morning Vietnam*. I guess what we have here is *G'day Vietnam!*" (*Observer*; and *what a wag*) (*SM*) Fabulous, don't miss a note.

Director: Wayne Blair
Starring: Chris O'Dowd, Deborah Mailman, Jessica Mauboy, Miranda Tapsell
Certificate: PG
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: Australia 2012
By: Entertainment One UK

Silver Linings Playbook

Thu 3 7.30, Fri 4 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

David O. Russell swiftly follows *The Fighter* with a subversive, yet brutally honest crowd pleaser.

Damaged goods, that's Tiffany and Pat. He's a bipolar teacher just out of eight months in a state loony bin. She's a young widow, overcompensating for the death of her husband by shagging, well, anyone.

"They're manic energy unleashed. But as played with go-for-broke intensity, humour and raw feeling by Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, they're deranged romantics you can't help rooting for." (*Rolling Stone*)

"Moving back into his dysfunctional family home with parents Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver (the hardcase mum in *Animal Kingdom*) Pat finds rebuilding his life isn't that simple, especially as his social filter is clogged and his anger management leaves something to be desired." (*Total Film*)

"It zips along on its off-beat energy and fast-paced wisecracking script. It's undemanding, but funny, honest even, about mental health without being patronising and best of all, it's 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." (Little White Lies) who types this stuff? Watch out, it could steal some Oscar bingo...?



Argo

Sat 5 7.00

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



It's Munich meets Mission: Impossible as Ben Affleck now coming into his own with his third film behind (two in front too) the camera. Argo takes on a real-world dangerous subject and disguises it as a tightly executed caper. Argo is a (true) period thriller tackling 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. Holed up in the Canadian ambassador's house, their only hope of getting out alive is CIA extractor Tony Mendez (Affleck). His plan? To fly into Iran with fake IDs and convince the new powers that the six are a Canadian film crew scouting locations for a film.

There are two contrasting tones running throughout, each essential and complementary. The Tehran side is a thriller so tense you'll be hanging onto every seat. Yet we get sweet relief from the rapport between Alan Arkin and John Goodman's hotheaded movie producers as we switch back to Argo's loopy production in Hollywood. Affleck's fairly stoic performance is squashed under the weight of such mammoth supporting roles. (*Jack Whiting*) That's why he's turned into a good director Jack. He let's everybody in, knows what's important to the story, then just walks through his own part – pure Clint.





Director: Mike Newell
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Jeremy Irvine, Helena Bonham Carter, Robbie Coltrane, Jason Flemyng
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK



Great Expectations

**Sun 6 6.00, Mon 7 7.30,
 Tue 8 7.30, Wed 9 7.30**

Another year, another adaptation of Charles Dickens' magnum opus. This iteration is directed by Mike Newell (*Four Weddings*, a Harry P. Donnie Brasco), with a screenplay by David Nicholls, and features an ensemble cast including Helena Bonham-Carter (*Miss Havisham*), Ralph Fiennes (*Magwitch*) and Robbie Coltrane (*Mr. Jaggers*).

The plot is wearily familiar by now, and is difficult to summarise in three sentences. Essentially, it's the coming of age of orphan Pip (Jeremy Irvine - previously the star of last year's *War Horse*). Taken by Uncle Pumblechook (David Walliams) to Miss Havisham's estate, he falls in love with her adopted daughter Estella (Holly Grainger). Later, Pip becomes a blacksmith, before learning he is the recipient of a large sum of money from an anonymous benefactor, and everything becomes a little complex...

"Great Expectations is about as comfortable as a very fat man sitting in a very small aircraft seat...even at two hours and nine minutes it feels perilously squished...scenes have been truncated, characters shrunk, relationships squeezed like concertinas." (*Telegraph*)

"Newell and Nicholls' safe, schoolteacher-friendly interpretation makes no real case for going down this much-travelled road once more." (*Empire*) (*Simon Messenger*) At their purest, film remakes of classics are for new generations to see perhaps for the first time. At their worst, they do little to beat what has gone before. It is for you to judge.



Sightseers

Thu 10 7.30



Relative newcomer Ben Wheatley has already created quite a stir with last year's surprising shocker Kill List.

Not one to stick with genre conventions Wheatley has fled to the countryside for this caravan themed, blackly comic tale. Alice Lowe and Steve Oram, who also wrote these characters for a stage play, are Tina and Chris, a new couple who leave cosy Midland suburbia on a caravan tour around some of Northern England's least prepossessing tourist hotspots.

But Chris's fusty, ginger-bearded exterior hides the heart and soul of a ruthless killer, and it's not long before the sheer, bloody-minded rudeness of the English public has him reaching for the nearest blunt instrument." (*Time Out*)

"Lowe and Oram developed the characters over several years, researching the roles by actually touring the show in a caravan themselves. They inhabit their characters so completely that you never question them, just look on aghast. This makes them appealing and ordinary, even as they reveal themselves to be homicidal lunatics." (*Standard*)

There's a murky sense that nothing is what it seems, and even though it never quite comes to fruition by the end, the journey is demented enough and Wheatley's eye for capturing the feral aspects of the English countryside proves that, for a third time, he's one to watch. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Ben Wheatley
Starring: Alice Lowe, Steve Oram, Dan Charles, Eileen Lowe
Certificate: 15
Duration: 88 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Studiocanal

Skyfall

Fri 11 7.30, Sat 12 7.00

Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem, Ralph Fiennes
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 145 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Skyfall takes Bond's psyche to fractured depths, humanising him in a way not seen since George Lazenby lost Diana Rigg in his arms. A vulnerable 007? Surely not.

Bond (Daniel Craig, now looking quite comfortable in a dinner jacket) is left floating in early retirement after scuppering a mission to retrieve a stolen list of undercover agents, but when MI6 comes under fire, Bond duly returns. But who for, Queen and country, or for M? Director Sam Mendes and cinematographer Roger Deakins have made Skyfall a dollar-printing beauty, and its confidence with real world sets and live stunts is a triumph. Not to mention that scary tropical island built in daylight at Home Counties Pinewood.

(*Jack Whiting*)

So Bond is finally back, hyped to the exploding pen, in a suit too tight and a face too straight, apart from that most people (and Jack) liked it. Well done to those who have waited to see it here in January or have come to see it again properly in decent Fleming surroundings. For now, come dressed to kill or come as you are – unstirred.



Lawrence Of Arabia

Sun 13 4.30



At 3 hours 36 minutes with epic overtures before the opening curtain and interval you daren't miss a second.

I'd forgotten how long it is. Yet it never feels like it. Not a frame is wasted, making it one of the most exciting, engrossing, moving and unforgettable epic films of all time. Moreover, its depiction of the tribal nature of the whole region through Egypt, Syria to Palastine goes some way to 'explaining' the futility of today's intervention by the West into Arab affairs, though there's been a lot of oil under that bridge since 1917.

In the end he stands helpless against the might and will of imperial powers (England & France) in fulfilling his so nearly won dream of Arab autonomy and government throughout the whole of the Middle East. His 'map' would have made perfect sense and enjoyed some measure of peace and co-operation to a region so bitterly contested ever since. It is said his 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' was used by the US to instruct its troops in the ways of the people they had just invaded. They certainly managed that didn't they? The film has a thousand quotable lines in its sublime script. Defying hierarchy and standard military practice, early in the film Lawrence sees "The trick, William Potter, is not minding that it hurts" Don't miss a word.

Director: David Lean
Starring: Omar Shariff, Alec Guinness, Peter O'Toole
Certificate: PG
Duration: 216 mins
Origin: UK 1962
By: Park Circus Films

Tu Seras Mon Fils
(You Will Be My Son)

Mon 14 7.30

Director: Gilles Legrand
Starring: Niels Arestrup, Lorant Deutsch
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Swipe Productions Ltd

A dark and sumptuous family drama set in the beautiful Saint Émilion wine country.

Niels Arestrup (*The Beat That My Heart Skipped*, *A Prophet*) plays Paul de Marseul, an ageing winemaker; determined to find a suitable heir for his estate.

Despite being the natural candidate, Paul's only son; wimpish wallflower Martin (Lorant Deutsch) does not have the talents to prove himself worthy of his father's legacy. Martin is the complete opposite of his father and his dominant displays of authoritarian masculinity.

Then enters charismatic Philippe (Nicolas Bridet), visiting his terminally ill father François (Patrick Chesnais) Paul's long-standing friend and key wine maker. Paul is immediately smitten with Philippe, viewing him as a more deserving and knowledgeable successor to the Marseul empire.

Tensions mount when Martin realises he will never be good enough for his father, as he names Philippe his successor.

"Rarely does a drama with such subtle plotting and pacing create such edge-of-the-seat tension. As events reach fever pitch, the climactic confrontation between them does not disappoint." (*LWLies*)

"Lustrous photography and a fine cast make this a dark drama a compelling one." (*Empire*)

The best (or only?) film about wine since *Sideways*?... You decide. (*Anna Shepherd*)
 Passionate and French, ergo not to be missed.



I, Anna

Tue 15 7.30



The first feature by British TV director Barnaby Southcombe, this slick, tricky Anglo-German thriller, stars the director's mother, Charlotte Rampling, as the eponymous Anna. Not a good start Barnaby...

Anna sells bedroom furniture in Peter Jones. Using her bedding experience she picks up some speed dating sleaze bag in the West End. Next morning, she is seen emerging from a Barbican flat where his battered corpse is found.

"The witness to her departure is Bernie (Gabriel Byrne) a sad detective chief inspector, who rapidly becomes fascinated by her, their hooded eyeball-to-eyeball exchanges being something to watch. She's apparently suffering from amnesia, while he has evidently forgotten everything he learnt about police procedure...Next time out, the Rampling boy should get someone else to write the screenplay." (*Guardian*) A classy, enigmatic thriller that shows off contemporary London at its cinematic best. (*Empire*)

"The acting's shrewdly understated, the mood evocatively downbeat and the palette muted, set to a Richard Hawley sound track." (*Total Film*)

"The problem is the script, it is full of psychological gaps and dead-ends. There's a twist which might explain why Rampling looks a bit missing in action for much of the film. Still, the capital looks stunning. This is London with a 6 o'clock shadow, lit like an Edward Hopper painting." (*Time Out*) So come for that.

Director: Barnaby Southcombe
Starring: Charlotte Rampling, Gabriel Byrne, Hayley Atwell, Eddie Marsan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Chasing Ice

Wed 16 7.30

Director: Jeff Orlowski
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 80 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Dogwoof

In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate.

Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a sceptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.

"The results photographed using state-of-the-art time-lapse cameras are sensational in their beauty, terror and the irrefutable evidence they provide of the rapidity with which millennia-old ice packs are melting away in no time." (*The Observer*)

"This climate-change documentary's approach is conventional, but the extraordinary images of crumbling ice-sheets speak volumes." (*The Guardian*)

"Balog says he is doing this for his daughters. 'I am convinced that in the future people will be aghast at how we could have been so indifferent to this issue, so unwilling to respond to the information. I want to be able to say that I and my team were paying attention'." (*The Telegraph*)

This is for everyone's children. As helpless as it will make you feel, you can't miss it.



The Joy Of Six

Thu 17 7.30



This sextet of British shorts, more a platter of attractive nibbles than a full meal, ranges in length from seven to 21 minutes, each neatly turned and all beautifully performed by equally gorgeous familiar faces. This may be the only time you will encounter Dame Judi on Facebook, as a woman attempting to woo her local choirmaster through social media.

Romola Garai also makes her directorial debut with *Scrubber*, the story of a young mother who is both obsessed and attracted to the notions of perfection and dirt, and explores these seemingly conflicting opposites through the desperate pursuit of anonymous sex. "Peter Mullan, Luke Treadaway and Tom Hiddleston also show their faces in this poignant, intelligent and mostly excellent collection. It's just all a bit, too short." Too short? What a delight. If only Batman could learn from this. Leaving people wanting more is not to batter them into submission with three hours and a hanging sequel.

"An outstanding and diverting half-dozen morsels." (*Guardian*)

"As a tapas spread of bite-sized British films, *The Joy Of Six* is satisfying and varied." (*Total Film*). If you can get passed all these snack metaphors, come full of plum duff.

Director: Romola Garai
Starring: Judi Dench, Luke Treadaway, Tom Hiddleston
Certificate: 15
Duration: 73 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Soda Pictures

Seven Psychopaths

Fri 18 7.30, Sat 19 7.00

Director: Martin McDonagh
Starring: Colin Farrell, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell, Christopher Walken
Certificate: 15
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Momentum Pictures

Martin MacDonagh's follow up to the startlingly original *In Bruges*, is not startling other in its disappointment.

Isn't always the case, great expectations are rarely great? It is why hype has the opposite affect. I find it essential to sanity (whatever's is left) never to look forward to anything which has the media wetting itself with excitement. The plot is quite fun, in spite of Farrell's heavy drinking Irish hot-headed movie-writer with nothing to write. He falls in with a couple of dog-nappers. They confiscate rich peoples dogs, then return them for reward or ransom, whichever way it falls. Then they pinch a top-dog gangster's stupid little furry rat-on-a-lead and all hell breaks loose. There are intertwining sub-plots involving various psychos, but all in all it's hairbrained, with a whole scrapyard of the most fabulous faces from old Hollywood. It's swearsy all the time, bloody and disgusting in places but great fun if you have no great expectations, but to enjoy a pointless Tarantino style thriller with twists and turns, some great lines and the joy of watching Walken, Harrelson and Tom Waits having fun. Come for them.





Director: Bill Condon
Starring: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Entertainment One UK



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part II

Sun 20 6.00

Hurrah! After four progressively dour instalments (okay, Eclipse wasn't that bad) sparkly Vampires and shirtless Werewolves finally let their hair down and bow out with a semi self aware romp that fully embraces the ridiculous. On one side are vampires from all over the world dedicated to peaceful coexistence, led by Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), a newly initiated vampire herself, mother of a precocious child and married to the vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson).

"On the other side are the Volturi, a sinister collection of unreconstructed black-cowled vampires from wicked old Europe, led by Martin Sheen, looking more than ever like Tony Blair." (*Guardian*)

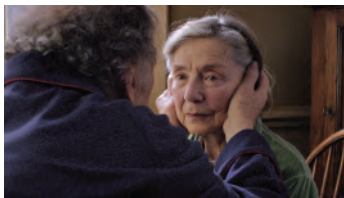
It's as if director Bill Condon is apologising for part one's 'atrocities' by throwing out the dull and in a stroke of genius, letting the brilliantly hammy Sheen run away with the film.

"You're going to hear a lot about Breaking Dawn Part II being the best of the Twilight movies. That's like saying a simple head cold is preferable to swine flu. They will each make you sick." (*Rolling Stone*) It was never going to win over new fans, but at least maybe now that it's over we can all get a bit of peace and quiet. (*Jack Whiting*) No Jack, they'll come up with something else, far worse.



Amour

Mon 21 7.30



Written and directed by Michael Haneke, *Amour* is a tender, harrowing study of a relationship in old age.

Devoted middle-class Parisian couple - Georges and Anne Laurent (Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva) both retired music teachers in their 80s, living out their twilight years in a capacious, imposing apartment.

As the couple breakfast at the beginning of the film, Anne suffers a stroke, which later transpires to have paralysed the right side of her body. With her confined to a wheelchair, Georges promises to look after her, despite protestations to the contrary by their daughter Eva (Isabelle Huppert). As Anne's condition deteriorates, Georges' love and compassion are tested in extremis. "There's no doubt that Haneke brings us a resolutely tough experience here, unsurprisingly free of the icky homilies or contrived silver linings we expect even from respectable art-house drama about the end of life." (*Telegraph*)

"The film unfolds with a seemingly effortless grace, the apartment, like the sepulchral interiors in a painting by Danish artist Vilhelm Hammershøi, becoming a metaphor for the labyrinths of a mind. And the two central performances, rich in subtle gestures and expressive detail, are beyond reproach." (*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*) Ever the tough uncompromising director, apparently during filming Haneke, treated them as able actors playing important roles, not as old people returning to play grace and sentiment. Don't know who will like it.

Director: Michael Haneke
Starring: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva, Isabelle Huppert
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 127 mins
Origin: Austria/France 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Untouchable

Tue 22 7.30

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

A huge box office smash in France and now around the world, even New York! Watch it clean up for Best Foreign Language Film at February's Oscars.

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 January, we won't let you miss it. It will be back and back. Only the French (or anyone but us or the yanks) can make these films. However, Hollywood, in its poverty of original ideas, has bought the rights. So watch out for Dustin Hoffman and Chris Rock...?





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



The Hunt

Wed 23 7.30, Thu 24 7.30

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 from his son, but his new luck is about to be brutally shattered by an innocent little lie.

"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 a man wrongly accused. The story is as old child abuse itself: the ganging up, the mob rule fed by rumour and lies, and lust for revenge. The whole town turns against Lucas. 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 the truth on every second of its two short hours. If you see only two films in January, it must be this (and Chasing Ice).



Director: David Ayer
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Peña, Anna Kendrick, America Ferrera
Certificate: 15
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Studiocanal



End Of Watch

Fri 25 7.30, Sat 26 7.00

David Ayer is no stranger to the Los Angeles underbelly, filling it with brute cops and shady drug dealers, and with *End of Watch* he shows no sign of slowing down; giving Jake Gyllenhaal another Jarhead-style, badass role to chew on.

“At first, it seems as amiable and uncomplicated as its two leads: officers Brian Taylor and Mike Zavala (Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña), a pair of straight-up South Central cops who slowly, methodically uncover a Mexican cartel operating on their patch.

Gyllenhaal and Peña share an utterly plausible, long-marinated chemistry, and when Taylor, a serial bachelor, frets that he will never find the perfect partner, we laugh – because he already has.”

(Telegraph)

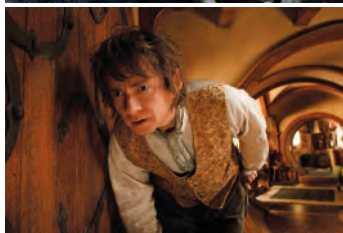
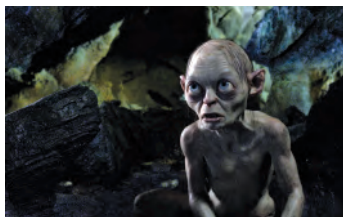
It's a bulldog of a movie that not so much catapults cop clichés as it does shotgun blast them into the digital age. Opting for the, by now pretty tiresome found footage angle, *End of Watch* is shot with sledgehammer style; thrusting the viewer to ground level and getting up close and personal with its colourful citizens.

“Forceful and arresting, Ayer's follow-up to *Harsh Times* and *Street Kings* sees him confidently playing to his strengths.”

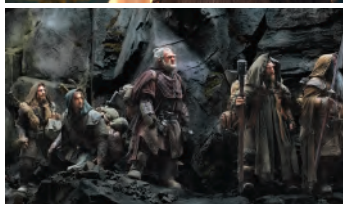
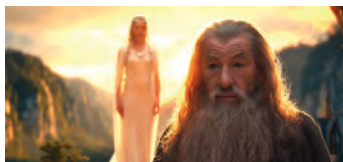
(Total Film)

The City of Angels never looked meaner. And Gyllenhaal has never been better.

(Jack Whiting) Health & Safety warning: crammed with more eff words than you can safely shake a stick at.



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 Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Sun 27 6.00, **Tue 29** 7.30,
Wed 30 7.30, **Thu 31** 7.30

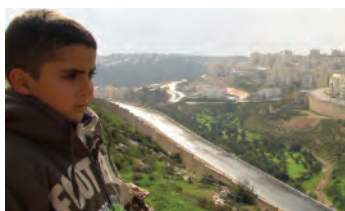
Peter Jackson has returned to Middle Earth after a decade, this time by adapting Tolkien's breezy children's tale into a behemoth of a movie: a three hour hike through shires, forests and goblin caves. And that only covers the first 100 pages!

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*)



Directors: Emad Burnat, Guy Davidi
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: France, Israel, Netherlands, Palestinian Territory 2011
By: New Wave



5 Broken Cameras

Mon 28 7.30

An extraordinary work of both cinematic and political activism. Filmed in Palestine between 2005 – 2010 in Bil'in, a village in the Occupied Territories.

Behind the camera is Emad Burnat; a handsome and serious family man and farmer, turned amateur video journalist. Emad bought his first camera to record the life of his new born son Gibreel, but almost immediately, horrific events in his small town spurred him to use his camera to document them.

Recording peaceful protests and village life in Bil'in, Emad shot over 700 hours of footage before teaming up with Israeli activist/filmmaker Guy Davadi who assisted him in turning it into a film. It has gone on to win the World Cinema Documentary Directing Award at Sundance and numerous other international awards. The title 5 Broken Cameras comes from the collection of cameras Emad used to shoot the film before each of them became irreparably damaged; usually at the hands/weapons of the Israeli military. "There's a raw immediacy about Emad's footage that's impossible to resist. The very amateurishness of the filming carries its own sense of urgency" (*Sight & Sound*) "It's impossible to understate the importance of this documentary in helping us see exactly what life is like in occupied Palestine" (*FilmFocus*) (*Anna Shepherd*) We're helpless perhaps, but we can come to the film Emad has risked so much to make.

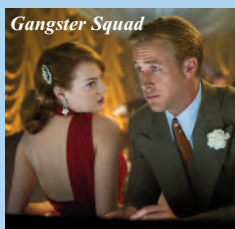
COMING SOON

New releases

Life of Pi
Gangster Squad
Django Unchained
The Impossible
Jack Reacher

Back by demand

The Sapphires
Argo
The Hunt



JANUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Tue	CINEMA CLOSED	
2	Wed	THE SAPPHIRES	2.00, 7.30
3	Thu	SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK	2.00, 7.30
4	Fri	SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK	7.30
5	Sat	MADAGASCAR 3	2.00
5	Sat	ARGO	7.00
6	Sun	GREAT EXPECTATIONS	6.00
7	Mon	GREAT EXPECTATIONS	2.00, 7.30
8	Tue	THE SAPPHIRES	12.30
8	Tue	GREAT EXPECTATIONS	7.30
9	Wed	GREAT EXPECTATIONS	2.00, 7.30
10	Thu	GREAT EXPECTATIONS	2.00
10	Thu	SIGHTSEERS	7.30
11	Fri	SKYFALL	7.30
12	Sat	BUGSY MALONE	2.00
12	Sat	SKYFALL	7.00
13	Sun	LAWRENCE OF ARABIA	4.30
14	Mon	TU SERAS MON FILS	2.00, 7.30
15	Tue	I, ANNA	12.30, 7.30
16	Wed	CHASING ICE	2.00, 7.30
17	Thu	TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE	2.00
17	Thu	THE JOY OF SIX	7.30
18	Fri	SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS	7.30
19	Sat	RISE OF THE GUARDIANS	2.00
19	Sat	SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS	7.00
20	Sun	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN	6.00
21	Mon	AMOUR	2.00, 7.30
22	Tue	UNTOUCHABLE	12.30, 7.30
23	Wed	UNTOUCHABLE	2.00
23	Wed	THE HUNT	7.30
24	Thu	THE HUNT	2.00, 7.30
25	Fri	END OF WATCH	7.30
26	Sat	THE HOBBIT	2.00
26	Sat	END OF WATCH	7.00
27	Sun	THE HOBBIT	6.00
28	Mon	THE HOBBIT	2.00
28	Mon	5 BROKEN CAMERAS	7.30
29	Tue	THE HOBBIT	12.30, 7.30
30	Wed	THE HOBBIT	2.00, 7.30
31	Thu	THE HOBBIT	2.00, 7.30



J A N 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

The Sapphires

Wed 2 2.00



Directed by Wayne Blair and based on Tony Briggs' play, *The Sapphires* is a warm, soulful Australian comedy drama, and true...

Australia, 1968. Four indigenous young women, Gail (Deborah Mailman), Julie (Jessica Mauboy), Kay (Shari Sebbens) and Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell), play country and western gigs to small, disinterested white audiences in crappy outback bars. Seemingly going nowhere, the four encounter a boozy Irish talent scout Dave Lovelace (Chris O'Dowd) who, sensing their natural talents, offers to manage them and suggests they change their style to an all-girl soul group. With some encouragement the transition is a success, and before long Dave has booked them a gig; a morale-boosting mission to perform for US troops in Saigon...!

It's an utterly charming film; fantastic music, hilarious in parts and, after a series of Hollywood bit parts, an excellent vehicle for the eloquent, lanky and awkward comic talents of Chris O'Dowd.

"Based, incredibly, on a true story and developed from a successful stage musical, this is a big-hearted, barnstorming put-on-a-show crowd-pleaser." (*Time Out*)

"The combination of Irish soul music and entertaining American troops in Vietnam inevitably suggests a meeting between Alan Parker's *The Commitments* and Robin Williams' *Good Morning Vietnam*. I guess what we have here is *G'day Vietnam!*" (*Observer*; and what a wag) (*SM*) Fabulous, don't miss a note.

Director: Wayne Blair
Starring: Chris O'Dowd, Deborah Mailman, Jessica Mauboy, Miranda Tapsell
Certificate: PG
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: Australia 2012
By: Entertainment One UK

Silver Linings

Playbook Thu 3 2.00

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

David O. Russell swiftly follows *The Fighter* with a subversive, yet brutally honest crowd pleaser.

Damaged goods, that's Tiffany and Pat. He's a bipolar teacher just out of eight months in a state loony bin. She's a young widow, overcompensating for the death of her husband by shagging, well, anyone.

"They're manic energy unleashed. But as played with go-for-broke intensity, humour and raw feeling by Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, they're deranged romantics you can't help rooting for." (*Rolling Stone*)

"Moving back into his dysfunctional family home with parents Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver (the hardcase mum in *Animal Kingdom*) Pat finds rebuilding his life isn't that simple, especially as his social filter is clogged and his anger management leaves something to be desired." (*Total Film*)

"It zips along on its off-beat energy and fast-paced wisecracking script. It's undemanding, but funny, honest even, about mental health without being patronising and best of all, it's 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." (Little White Lies) who types this stuff? Watch out, it could steal some Oscar bingo...?





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 5 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: Mike Newell
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Jeremy Irvine, Helena Bonham Carter, Robbie Coltrane, Jason Flemyng
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK



Great Expectations

**Mon 7 2.00, Wed 9 2.00,
Thu 10 2.00**

Another year, another adaptation of Charles Dickens' magnum opus. This iteration is directed by Mike Newell (*Four Weddings*, *a Harry P*, *Donnie Brasco*), with a screenplay by David Nicholls, and features an ensemble cast including Helena Bonham-Carter (*Miss Havisham*), Ralph Fiennes (*Magwitch*) and Robbie Coltrane (*Mr. Jagger*).

The plot is wearily familiar by now, and is difficult to summarise in three sentences. Essentially, it's the coming of age of orphan Pip (Jeremy Irvine - previously the star of last year's *War Horse*). Taken by Uncle Pumblechook (David Walliams) to Miss Havisham's estate, he falls in love with her adopted daughter Estella (Holly Grainger). Later, Pip becomes a blacksmith, before learning he is the recipient of a large sum of money from an anonymous benefactor, and everything becomes a little complex...

"Great Expectations is about as comfortable as a very fat man sitting in a very small aircraft seat...even at two hours and nine minutes it feels perilously squished...scenes have been truncated, characters shrunk, relationships squeezed like concertinas." (*Telegraph*)

"Newell and Nicholls' safe, schoolteacher-friendly interpretation makes no real case for going down this much-travelled road once more." (*Empire*) (*Simon Messenger*) At their purest, film remakes of classics are for new generations to see perhaps for the first time. At their worst, they do little to beat what has gone before. It is for you to judge.

The Sapphires

Tue 8 12.30



Directed by Wayne Blair and based on Tony Briggs' play, *The Sapphires* is a warm, soulful Australian comedy drama, and true...

Australia, 1968. Four indigenous young women, Gail (Deborah Mailman), Julie (Jessica Mauboy), Kay (Shari Sebbens) and Cynthia (Miranda Tapsell), play country and western gigs to small, disinterested white audiences in crappy outback bars. Seemingly going nowhere, the four encounter a boozy Irish talent scout Dave Lovelace (Chris O'Dowd) who, sensing their natural talents, offers to manage them and suggests they change their style to an all-girl soul group. With some encouragement the transition is a success, and before long Dave has booked them a gig; a morale-boosting mission to perform for US troops in Saigon...!

It's an utterly charming film; fantastic music, hilarious in parts and, after a series of Hollywood bit parts, an excellent vehicle for the eloquent, lanky and awkward comic talents of Chris O'Dowd.

"Based, incredibly, on a true story and developed from a successful stage musical, this is a big-hearted, barnstorming put-on-a-show crowd-pleaser." (*Time Out*)

"The combination of Irish soul music and entertaining American troops in Vietnam inevitably suggests a meeting between Alan Parker's *The Commitments* and Robin Williams' *Good Morning Vietnam*. I guess what we have here is *G'day Vietnam!*" (*Observer*; and what a wag) (*SM*) Fabulous, don't miss a note.

Director: Wayne Blair
Starring: Chris O'Dowd, Deborah Mailman, Jessica Mauboy, Miranda Tapsell
Certificate: PG
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: Australia 2012
By: Entertainment One UK

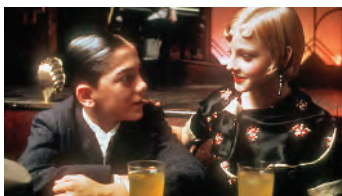
Bugsy Malone

Sat 12 2.00

Director: Alan Parker
Starring: Scott Baio, Florrie Dugger, John Cassisi, Martin Lev, Paul Murphy, Jodie Foster
Certificate: U
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: UK 1976
By: Park Circus Films

Always worth being reminded how Jody Foster got started. But what ever happened to all the other kids...?

Bugsy is Alan Parker's curse on the youth Am-Dram circuit. As was his 'The Commitments' on the 80's pub circuits. From nowhere hundreds of white middle-aged stone-washed, soulsters shook cricket pavilions and village halls, belting out 'Mustang Sally' like they meant it. As for *Fame*: look what that has spawned! Apparently he dreamt up *Bugsy* one lunch-time session with a mate. That said, a few gems have been written on the 'back of a fag-packet' most of Slade's hits for instance? Not to mention the restoration of *The Rex!* This is a gangster movie where all the hoods are children. Instead of real bullets they use splurge guns to whack their victims. It tells of the rise of *Bugsy Malone* and the battle for power between Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. It launched Jodie Foster's (Tallulah) career, not to mention a few stalkers. To its credit there are some good tunes, plus it has injected real fun into school plays ever since. And all that dreaded splurge... Don't miss.



Tu Seras Mon Fils (You Will Be My Son)

Mon 14 2.00



A dark and sumptuous family drama set in the beautiful Saint Émilion wine country. Niels Arestrup (The Beat That My Heart Skipped, A Prophet) plays Paul de Marseul, an ageing winemaker; determined to find a suitable heir for his estate.

Despite being the natural candidate, Paul's only son; wimpish wallflower Martin (Lorant Deutsch) does not have the talents to prove himself worthy of his father's legacy. Martin is the complete opposite of his father and his dominant displays of authoritarian masculinity.

Then enters charismatic Philippe (Nicolas Bridet), visiting his terminally ill father François (Patrick Chesnais) Paul's long-standing friend and key wine maker. Paul is immediately smitten with Philippe, viewing him as a more deserving and knowledgeable successor to the Marseul empire.

Tensions mount when Martin realises he will never be good enough for his father, as he names Philippe his successor.

"Rarely does a drama with such subtle plotting and pacing create such edge-of-the-seat tension. As events reach fever pitch, the climactic confrontation between them does not disappoint." (*LWLies*)

"Lustrous photography and a fine cast make this a dark drama a compelling one." (*Empire*)

The best (or only?) film about wine since Sideways?... You decide. (*Anna Shepherd*) Passionate and French, ergo not to be missed.

Director: Gilles Legrand
Starring: Niels Arestrup, Lorant Deutsch
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Swipe Productions Ltd

I, Anna Tue 15 12.30

Director: Barnaby Southcombe
Starring: Charlotte Rampling, Gabriel Byrne, Hayley Atwell, Eddie Marsan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Artificial Eye

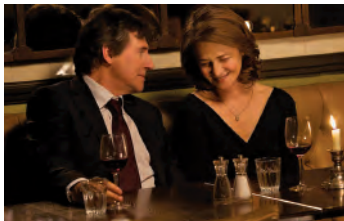
The first feature by British TV director Barnaby Southcombe, this slick, tricky Anglo-German thriller, stars the director's mother, Charlotte Rampling, as the eponymous Anna. Not a good start Barnaby...?

Anna sells bedroom furniture in Peter Jones. Using her bedding experience she picks up some speed dating sleaze bag in the West End. Next morning, she is seen emerging from a Barbican flat where his battered corpse is found.

"The witness to her departure is Bernie (Gabriel Byrne) a sad detective chief inspector, who rapidly becomes fascinated by her, their hooded eyeball-to-eyeball exchanges being something to watch. She's apparently suffering from amnesia, while he has evidently forgotten everything he learnt about police procedure...Next time out, the Rampling boy should get someone else to write the screenplay." (*Guardian*) A classy, enigmatic thriller that shows off contemporary London at its cinematic best. (*Empire*)

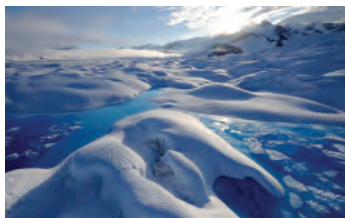
"The acting's shrewdly understated, the mood evocatively downbeat and the palette muted, set to a Richard Hawley sound track." (*Total Film*)

"The problem is the script, it is full of psychological gaps and dead-ends. There's a twist which might explain why Rampling looks a bit missing in action for much of the film. Still, the capital looks stunning. This is London with a 6 o'clock shadow, lit like an Edward Hopper painting." (*Time Out*) So come for that.



Chasing Ice

Wed 16 2.00



In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog headed to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images to help tell the story of the Earth's changing climate.

Even with a scientific upbringing, Balog had been a sceptic about climate change. But that first trip north opened his eyes to the biggest story in human history and sparked a challenge within him that would put his career and his very well-being at risk.

"The results photographed using state-of-the-art time-lapse cameras are sensational in their beauty, terror and the irrefutable evidence they provide of the rapidity with which millennia-old ice packs are melting away in no time." (*The Observer*)

"This climate-change documentary's approach is conventional, but the extraordinary images of crumbling ice-sheets speak volumes." (*The Guardian*)

"Balog says he is doing this for his daughters. 'I am convinced that in the future people will be aghast at how we could have been so indifferent to this issue, so unwilling to respond to the information. I want to be able to say that I and my team were paying attention'." (*The Telegraph*)

This is for everyone's children. As helpless as it will make you feel, you can't miss it.

Director: Jeff Orlowski
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 80 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Dogwoof

Trouble With The Curve

Thu 17 2.00

Director: Robert Lorenz
Starring: Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams, John Goodman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers

This baseball drama, light on drama and heavy on baseball, marks the directorial debut of Clint Eastwood's long-serving producer Robert Lorenz, and its plot follows an arc as predictable as a tennis ball tossed to a golden retriever.

Eastwood is set to autogrowl in the role of Gus Lobel, a baseball scout of the old school who has no truck with the statisticians colonising his trade. He is sent to assess a promising young player, his daughter (Amy Adams) awkwardly tags along.

Their strained relationship begins to heal during these long, sun-dappled days on the trail, while Gus proves that computers are no match for the instincts of an old man with a stogie between his teeth.

Justin Timberlake plays a young scout with a fondness for Gus's methods, and his daughter.

The trouble with *Trouble with the Curve* is that it contains no curves and precious little trouble. (*Telegraph*)

Is it, perhaps, Clint Eastwood's last movie before retiring (from in front of the camera only?) Only he knows for sure. He indulges a hint in a scene where his heart-to-heart with one of his team is actually played by his own son, Scott Eastwood.

"You'll know exactly where it's going, but it still has Clint doing full-on-cranky and is a fun finger-up at corporate suits the world over." (*Empire*)



Rise Of The Guardians Sat 19 2.00



I can't believe it hasn't been done before; putting together Santa, Easter Bunny, Jack Frost and even the Tooth Fairy all under one roof in an Avengers flavoured showdown against every child's worst nightmare, the Bogeyman. DreamWorks Animation (of Shrek fame) has cobbled together a story to fit around these festive characters. Based on a series of books by William Joyce Rise of the Guardians places Jack Frost at centre stage.

"Jack's journey is to learn how he became who he is and why he has been chosen to be a member of the Guardians, a group of 'mythical' beings — Father Christmas (Alec Baldwin), the Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman), the Tooth Fairy (Isla Fisher) and the (silent) Sandman — who delight kids and protect them from fear in the form of Pitch Black (Jude Law). But these Guardians all have defined reasons for being. How does Jack, with no holiday to call his own, offer a reason to believe in him?" (*Empire*) It's a beautifully realised animation that puts on a visual show, but again, it's hardly Pixar in the story stakes. If it's chase sequences you're after, Guardians has them by the stocking full. (*Jack Whiting*) Don't miss - little and big kids.

Directors: Peter Ramsey
Starring: Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, Hugh Jackman, Isla Fisher
Certificate: PG
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount International Pictures

Amour Mon 21 2.00

Director: Michael Haneke
Starring: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 127 mins
Origin: Austria/France 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Written and directed by Michael Haneke, Amour is a tender, harrowing study of a relationship in old age.

Devoted middle-class Parisian couple - Georges and Anne Laurent (Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva) both retired music teachers in their 80s, living out their twilight years in a capacious, imposing apartment.

As the couple breakfast at the beginning of the film, Anne suffers a stroke, which later transpires to have paralysed the right side of her body. With her confined to a wheelchair, Georges promises to look after her, despite protestations to the contrary by their daughter Eva (Isabelle Huppert). As Anne's condition deteriorates, Georges' love and compassion are tested in extremis. "There's no doubt that Haneke brings us a resolutely tough experience here, unsurprisingly free of the icky homilies or contrived silver linings we expect even from respectable art-house drama about the end of life." (*Telegraph*)

"The film unfolds with a seemingly effortless grace, the apartment, like the sepulchral interiors in a painting by Danish artist Vilhelm Hammershøi, becoming a metaphor for the labyrinths of a mind. And the two central performances, rich in subtle gestures and expressive detail, are beyond reproach." (*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*) Ever the tough uncompromising director, apparently during filming Haneke, treated them as able actors playing important roles, not as old people returning to play grace and sentiment. Don't know who will like it.



Untouchable

Tue 22 12.30, Wed 23 2.00



A huge box office smash in France and now around the world, even New York! Watch it clean up for Best Foreign Language Film at February's Oscars.

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 January, we won't let you miss it. It will be back and back. Only the French (or anyone but us or the yanks) can make these films. However, Hollywood, in its poverty of original 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

The Hunt

Thu 24 2.00

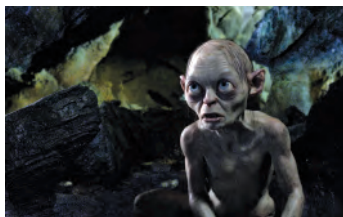
Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Thomas Bo Larsen, Annika Wedderkopp
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: Denmark 2012
By: Arrow Films

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 from his son, but his new luck is about to be brutally shattered by an innocent little lie.

"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 a man wrongly accused. The story is as old child abuse itself: the ganging up, the mob rule fed by rumour and lies, and lust for revenge. The whole town turns against Lucas. 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 the truth on every second of its two short hours. If you see only two films in January, it must be this (and Chasing Ice).





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 Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Sat 26 2.00, **Mon 28** 2.00,
Tue 29 12.30, **Wed 30** 2.00,
Thu 31 2.00

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)

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM US ALL AT THE REX & ODYSSEY



To lighten a difficult moment and enjoy some hard earned laughter, at the last meeting of the year (Wednesday 12.12.12) of the Odyssey building & design-team, our architect was asked if, as a kid he'd foreseen the hassle he was in for, would he have thought of something else? He answered, he had wanted to be a marine and added: (paraphrasing) "Fighting the Taliban would have been easier, at least you can negotiate with them...!" This refers not only to me, but to the dead ends we reach every time we must engage the new evangelical regulatory industry.

To brighten things before dismantling them again, the architect and the greater part of the design team have made good progress since August. I might be the one who must try harder in 2013? The can-dos and the cants are all but agreed (there are bound to more) but none can stop the real job of restoration beginning in January. Whatever happens, The Odyssey is set on course to open early 2014. You'll see and hear the progress in the brave New Year.



Intense Odyssey plotting at the Rex Sept 2012



Not boasting, wishing this willing queue, and these Feb & Dec (2012) sell out months (plus another eight, not shown) will be the good fortune of the Odyssey St Albans from 2014...

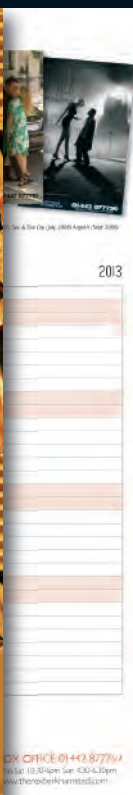
**ALL CONTACT DETAILS:**

Marie Jahn - Chief administrator: contactus@odysseypictures.co.uk
General: denise@odysseypictures.co.uk, hannaway07@btinternet.com
www.odysseypictures.co.uk www.therexberkhamsted.com
Rex main office phone: 01442 877999



THE-REX

2013 CALENDARS



NOW AVAILABLE FROM
THE BOX OFFICE FOR £12
(£1 FOR EVERY GLORIOUS REX MONTH)