



THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

THE LONE RANGER
SEPTEMBER 2013...

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2013 Issue 102
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759
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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Elizabeth Hannaway	Jordan Turner
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Natalie Jones	James Wallman
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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
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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 SEPTEMBER



Robin Ince

A face to frighten David Starkey's. Don't miss the Ince-stant magic. Sun 15 6.00

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Red 2

Bruce and Malkovitch, who'd have thought?

Fun is all you need.

Tue 17/Wed 18 7.30. USA 2013



The Deep

Remarkable story, unbelievable footage, and it's only acting!!! Mon 23 7.30. Iceland 2013



The Lone Ranger

Don't listen to poor crits. Come and love it.

Fri 27 7.30/Sat 28 7.00. USA 2013

BERKHAMSTED ROOF TOPS

Taking advantage of sunny days and a ladder here is a little rooftop indulgence.

(anticlockwise from top left)

Castle St early 20th C. from the canal bridge, a horse drawn cart delivering (to the Boote?) opposite the sunken cottages, another wending it's way. There's a big orange school sports building there now.

An ethereal Castle St early 21st C

(July 2013) same school hall spire from the other end of the street.

Three Close Lane from the roof of the Rex projection box (July 2013).

High St rooftops looking towards Hemel the same day.

Sunset over Chapel Street (Aug 2013)

Next month: pictures of beautiful Hemel, long neglected and spat upon by 'crap' creeps.







S E P T E M B E R E V E N I N G S

The Great Gatsby

Sun 1 6.00, Mon 2 7.30



Back by ridiculous demand... For this new adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's bittersweet novel set during New York's gaudy jazz era, director Luhrmann has turned it into a pantomime with a 21st century soundtrack. Leonardo DiCaprio as the maverick new-money millionaire Jay Gatsby is always good, even in a bad movie, and Carey Mulligan is perfect as Daisy, his unobtainable love. However, the critics have panned it, but who cares for them. What most of them missed is that there was no reason to remake a film from a book that was unfilmable in the first place. F-Scott Fitzgerald's Great-American novel is said to be an epic parable of excess and its consequences, but it is more than that, and that's the bit nobody can film. So too they say that shooting it in 3D was a real masterstroke. Come to the Rex to see what all the fuss is about. Even in 2-D it is said to be the only setting to see it for 100 miles. So come five or ten and see for yourself. Last time.

Director: Baz Luhrmann
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, Tobey Maguire, Joel Edgerton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 143 mins
Origin: Australia/USA 2013
By: Warner Brothers

Wadjda Tue 3 7.30

Director: Haifaa Al-Mansour
Starring: Reem Abdullah, Waad Mohammed, Sultan Al Assaf
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: Germany/Saudi Arabia 2013
By: Soda Pictures

The first film ever to be entirely shot in Saudi Arabia by the country's first female director: Haifaa Al-Mansour. Everyday on her way to school, Wadjda passes a green bicycle which she dreams of one day owning. The need to prove she can beat her friend Abdullah in a bike race prompts this 11 year old girl to start saving to buy the bike. She listens to western pop music, makes her own mix-tapes and has her own business selling plaited friendship bracelets. Wadjda may sound like an ordinary girl, if somewhat rebellious, but she lives in a country where cinemas are banned and women are not allowed to drive, vote or ride a bike. The film charts these injustices faced by Saudi women. The travails of the child protagonist mirror those of the wider society. Wadjda spends as much time roaming the never-before-filmed streets of Riyadh, as it does behind closed doors. Opening up a previously unseen world. "It is a film that's hopeful of the changes that a younger generation could bring." (S&S)
 "Modest as it may look, this is boundary-pushing cinema in all the best ways, and what a thrill it is to hear those boundaries creak." (Telegraph)
 Brought to you in Berkhamsted all the way from Saudi Arabia. For the sheer triumph of Al-Mansour's first feature, and Wadjda's beautiful, impish face, this deserves to be seen. (Anna Shepherd)
 Beautifully told and acted, Don't miss.



Behind the Candelabra Wed 4 7.30



Audiences and critics alike have swooned over this (last, next-last or more-to-come?) Soderbergh swansong. People really have enjoyed it. I don't get it. He's very clever, keeping an edge to all his films, you can't quite put your finger on, but can feel it as the narratives twists, folds and unfolds. Although he successfully sued the Daily Mirror in 1958 for suggesting he was homosexual, it was nevertheless a Hollywood open secret that Liberace was. Between 1976 and 1982 he was in a serious relationship with Scott Thorson, whom he 'promoted' to his bling-bling chauffeur. Soderbergh drew on his autobiography to make this HBO biopic. A convincing Douglas does his best big acting as Lee Liberace, but I wish Matt Damon would have tried a few Jason Bourne kicks to get out of it. He seems like a fish in the wrong Jacuzzi. With Rob Lowe as Liberace's pinch-faced plastic surgeon, a supercilious Aykroyd as his agent and Debbie Reynolds as his sanctified mother, it is by turns funny, melodramatic, shocking, sad and overacted. That Soderbergh treats the source material with his usual piercing intelligence, is some compensation for those who can do without the camp stuff.

"A magnificent gilt trip..." (*Telegraph*) Back by demand, selling out from a long run in July and short one, mobbed in August. Last time.

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Michael Douglas, Matt Damon, Dan Aykroyd, Debbie Reynolds
Certificate: 15
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

Populaire Thu 5 7.30

Director: Régis Roinsard
Starring: Romain Duris, Deborah François, Bérénice Bejo
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: France 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

This sumptuous and chic French romantic comedy, starring Romain Duris and Déborah François sparkles with vintage Hollywood charm.

Set in the spring of 1958: 21 year-old Rose Pamphyle (Déborah François) lives with her grouchy widower father who runs the local village shop. Rose dreams of escaping her village and the inevitability of becoming a bored housewife. Travelling to Lisieux in Normandy, Rose applies for a job as a secretary to insurance broker Louis Echard (Romain Duris). Despite the interview being a disaster; Rose reveals a real skill: typing at great speed. Louis, a former athlete, decides to train Rose to compete in a regional speed-typing competition; and then on to the world championships! "Pastel-coloured sets and suave costumes nail the period vibe, while our lead male revels in society's chauvinist attitudes with wit as sharp as his side-parting." (*Glasgow Film Fest*)

"The chemistry between the two leads is positively nuclear, and the film's effervescent, spot-on evocation of the period in its visual style and soundtrack is a joy to absorb." (*Screen Daily*) This fine blend of Pygmalion, popular American cinema and Mad Men references is a winning combination. (*research Anna Shepherd*) A winning synopsis from Ms Shepherd, describing possibly one of the easiest, most engaging, beautifully staged films of our ninth year. Back by demand for a 4th successive summer month so don't dare miss.





Director: Edgar Wright
Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Paddy Considine
Certificate: 15
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: UK 2013
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



The World's End

Fri 6 7.30, Sat 7 7.00

There's nothing quite like a good, well organised pub crawl with your mates (Yes, nothing to quite like about it?)

In Edgar Wright's mad genre mash-up he's, quite literally, delivered the one to end all pub crawls.

Co-writer Simon Pegg is Gary King, an alcoholic still clinging on to the one fateful night in his late teens when, he and his best friends attempted a 12 pint pub crawl in their home town of New Haven (nr High Wycombe, supposedly) dubbed The Golden Mile. Trouble is, they never made it to the end.

Two decades later and his childhood mates: Andrew (Nick Frost), Oliver (Martin Freeman), Steven (Paddy Considine) and Peter (Eddie Marsan) have moved on to lead family lives and successful careers. The only one stuck in the past, is Gary, who yearns to get the gang back together in an attempt to reach the World's End pub. He slyly convinces them, however, and the crawl begins anew, this time though, something isn't quite right with the town...

Finishing what was started with *Shaun of the Dead* and continued with *Hot Fuzz*; Wright, Pegg and Frost deliver arguably their best moment. Melding slapstick physical gags with touching character depth, *World's End* is a fitting conclusion to a trilogy of comedy treasures. Time gentleman, it's been a pleasure. (*Jack Whiting*).

Untouchable

Sun 8 6.00



A huge hit in France, now around the world, even New York! And at the Rex, by huge demand where it will probably run and run...?

The film chronicles the unlikely burgeoning friendship between Philippe (Cluzet), a wealthy and cultured quadriplegic, and Driss (Omar Sy) a young banlieue (slum) dwelling French West African hired to be his 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 both. It started here in January, 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

Looking for Hortense

Mon 9 7.30

Director: Pascal Bonitzer
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Jean-Pierre Bacri
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Arrow Films

This tale of Parisian intellectuals bears all the hallmarks of classic French auteur cinema.

Directed by a former critic for Cahiers du Cinéma; Pascal Bonitzer, comes this droll toned and finely plotted drama. Damien Hauer (Jean-Pierre Bacri), an academic who teaches Asian culture to business students; lives with his partner, Iva Delusi (Kristin Scott Thomas) a stage director, and their son Noé in a large, beautiful apartment in central Paris. The couple's relationship has drifted into routine that has drained it of love. One day, Iva traps Damien, and orders him to ask his pompous father; a senior member at the Council of State, to use his powers to prevent a friend from being deported.

The woman in question, Aurore (Isabelle Carré) has lost her nationality following a divorce. In a minor key, the film touches on the contemporary social issue of illegal immigration.

"A Pleasingly intelligent picture" (*Total Film*)

"Jean-Pierre Bacri gives a pitch perfect performance as an academic who understands the cultural minutiae of the Orient, but cannot fathom his own loved ones" (*SkyMovies*)

Come and see for another Kristin Scott Thomas acting master class.
(research Anna Shepherd)



Silence Tue 10 7.30



Prolific Cork-based documentarian Pat Collins' meditative feature debut is a rhapsody to the beauty of nature.

Eoghan, (played by Irish writer Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhríde) an enigmatic sound recordist from his adopted city of Berlin returns to his native Donegal after a 15 year absence.

His undertaking is to aurally document landscapes free from man-made noise. The pull of this film is orchestrated artfully as Eoghan makes a sentimental journey to the coast of his childhood; in this poetic appraisal of Ireland's landscape, history and folk culture.

On his journey he speaks with locals, as they open up about their experiences of island life and how they define themselves; Collins acknowledges that a search for isolation and a hankering for company can often coexist.

"An aural bath of a film that will soothe troubled minds" (*Empire*)

"An immersive and creative appreciation of the Irish landscape, culture and language as shown by sound recordings of environments untouched by man-made noise, archive footage and frank dinner table discussion"

(*Standard*)

Take refuge in Ireland's beautiful landscapes on the big screen.

(research Anna Shepherd) Stunning, thought-provoking, beautiful, not to be missed.

Director:	Pat Collins
Starring:	Eoghan Bhríde, Andrew Bennett, Tommy Fahy
Certificate:	PG
Duration:	87 mins
Origin:	Ireland 2013
By:	New Wave

The Heat

Wed 11 7.30, Thu 12 7.30

Director:	Paul Feig
Starring:	Melissa McCarthy, Sandra Bullock
Certificate:	15
Duration:	117 mins
Origin:	USA 2013
By:	Twentieth Century Fox

Bridesmaids was a surprise hit for director Paul Feig and he brings The Heat, again with R-rated success. His secret weapon? The pairing of Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy.

The Heat is much like every other Hollywood comedy cop movie. Two mismatched officers are placed together, an unlikely friendship is struck, countless scenes of unrealistic violence and wanton mayhem ensue, all building to a good old fashioned happy ending. A female buddy cop comedy, McCarthy stars with Bullock as an odd-couple crime-fighting duo. You wouldn't think of pairing them in a million years, but they're a riot together. Bullock is a control freak FBI agent whose colleagues can't stand her. McCarthy is a local detective who dresses like a homeless biker. Predictably they hate each other, but have to join forces to take down a drugs baron.

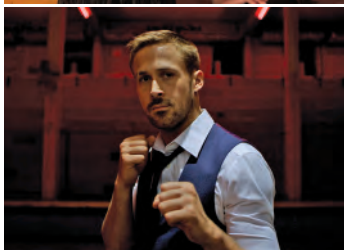
"The Heat is initially hard to warm up to, as it tries too hard to establish its belligerent bolshiness and take-no-prisoners crudity; but ultimately the film ends up being both extremely funny and undeniably likeable." (*Film4*)

Try not to expect anything more than it is, but at face value, the lovely Sandra Bullock proves again she can deliver raw comedy. Coupled with McCarthy's streamroller performance carried over from Bridesmaids, it makes for some good comic interplay. (research Newiss & Whiting)





Director: Nicolas Winding Refn
Starring: Ryan Gosling, Kristin Scott Thomas
Certificate: 18
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: Thailand/USA 2013
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Only God Forgives

Fri 13 7.30, Sat 14 7.00

Brace yourselves. Loved Drive? Well you might not love this as much.

Nicolas Winding Refn's follow up may star the same tight lipped swooner.

But this is a far cry even for Gosling.

Applauded to the sound of shrill boos at Cannes earlier this year, Refn's arthouse shocker is pure Marmite, in the bloodiest sense.

Gosling plays Julian, a laconic tough guy who speaks hardly more than a few words throughout the whole film. He runs a drug business under the cover of a Thai boxing club, co-managed with his brother, Billy (Tom Burke) a violent and hate-filled misogynist whose grisly fate is to involve Julian in a strange metaphysical duel with Chang (Vithaya Pansringarm), an enigmatic, karaoke, sword-wielding cop. The situation is made even more eerie and grotesque with the arrival of Julian's exasperated mother, Crystal (K Scott-T) demanding acts of evil retribution. Drive had its violent outbursts, sure, but Only God revels in it to the point where you're going to need an iron stomach to see it through. "It's not without its artistic merits however; stunning neon-tinged cinematography and another hypnotic score from Drive composer Cliff Martinez are but a few highlights."

(Guardian)

It's tough to watch, but come to stay.

(research Jack Whiting)

Ryan is mute and mesmerising while Kristen's icy mother-horror makes Lady Mac look like Mary Popp.



Robin Ince: Happiness Through Science (Aunt Apes & Monkey Uncles) **Sun 15** 6.00



Sony Gold Award winner and local treasure, Robin Ince, will again be bringing his fabulously eclectic mix of science, comedy, music and musings on the space shuttle to the Rex stage.

Robin is THE pioneer in turning science from the GCSE we all avoided at school to a subject that is fascinating, awe-inspiring and, most importantly, understandable. His work with Professor Brian Cox on the Infinite Monkey Cage on Radio 4 has brought him word-wide acclaim and he continues to spread the word up and down the country in his sell-out stand up shows.



Those joining him on stage include Grace Petrie (right), a folk singer/songwriter (with an acoustic punk twist) who has accompanied Robin on his many festival appearances, and neuroscientist Sophie Scott (left) who, fresh from the Edinburgh Festival, will give her captivating take on the science of laughter. There may be others who turn up on the night but whoever they may be, Prof Cox or not it will be a magnificent event. One show only, so hurry or not even science will magic you a seat...!

Blackfish **Mon 16** 7.30

Director:	Gabriela Cowperthwaite
Certificate:	15
Duration:	83 mins
Origin:	USA 2013
By:	Dogwoof Pictures

There is no record of an orca doing any harm to humans in the wild.

However, notorious Orca whale Tilikum (captured in 1983) is responsible for the deaths of three individuals, including a top killer whale trainer.

Blackfish is the story of how captive orcas in general, and one in particular, have been effectively driven mad by being used in marine-park attractions, forced to parade around swimming pools with trainers on their backs as kids and parents cheer, cooped up in unnatural conditions, bred for other high-earning performers and separated from their young.

It shows the devastating consequences of keeping such intelligent and sentient creatures in captivity.

Director Gabriela Cowperthwaite uses shocking footage and emotional interviews to present a convincing case against keeping these wild animals for human entertainment.

"As horribly gripping as a serial-killer thriller, though the real villain is not the ostensible culprit, but its human captors." (*Guardian*)

"Cowperthwaite juxtaposes to devastating effect official PR spin with news reports and eye-witness accounts of marine park tragedies." (*Scotsman*) 'If you were in a bathtub for 25 years, don't you think you'd get a little psychotic' (*Anna Shepherd*)

Harrowing, but only here once and not to be missed.





Director: Dean Parisot
Starring: Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA/France/Canada 2013
By: Entertainment One UK



Red 2

Tue 17 7.30, Wed 18 7.30

The wrinklies are out of retirement to shoot 'em up in a sequel no one asked for. (When did you last hear anybody even witless 'ask' for a sequel?) Has the franchise, like its actors, aged like a fine wine? Or is RED 2 in need of sheltered accommodation?

A dusty collection of antique thespis (no, not you Bruce) including Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins and Brian Cox form the 'Retired Extremely Dangerous' force.

"Former CIA agent Frank Moses (Willis) is happy with the quiet life but his girlfriend Sarah (Mary-Louise Parker) is bored. Their buddy Marvin (Malkovich) suggests that when it comes to Frank and Sarah, the attraction is action! So they embark on a mission to keep a next-generation weapon out of terrorist hands. This takes them to Paris (enter CZ-Jones) London (Mirren) and Moscow (Cox)." (*Time Out*)

"The climax looks like a stray grenade went off in the editing suite before a bored intern spliced the final cut back together as best he could." (*Total Film*) They all do a fab job of working within the limitations of a fussy and overcomplicated script. So if you found Dame Helen's recent role in *The Audience* (2pm 5th) lacking in machine gun fire and explosions, this is just the bus pass for you. (*research Jack Whiting*) Forgive juvenile Jack, it's fabulous fun. Don't miss.



The Conjuring

Thu 19 7.30



A refreshingly spooky tale with all the trappings of a classic haunted house ride.

James Wan brings us a surprisingly refreshing and engaging modern horror film. Based on a true story (Hmmm). The Conjuring tells the eerie tale of how world renowned spiritual investigators (or kooks) Ed and Lorraine Warren visit a family terrorized by a dark presence in their Rhode Island farm house. As the nightmarish terrors escalate, the whole area is discovered to be steeped in a satanic haunting which will target the Perron family wherever they go. It is up to the Warrens to tackle the spectral horror at it's source, for it is their damnation too, that is at risk.

The 70s setting, paired with the cheapish visual effects, helps the thing scramble along like a fleshed-out episode of Scooby Doo." (*Guardian*)

"Unlike The Woman in Black, Paranormal Activity or director James Wan's previous hit, Insidious, there's a welcome reliance on story and character development over more basic terrors. The intense creepiness therefore feels fully earned; our increasing anxiety is rooted in affection and is therefore all the stronger." (*Film4*)

Wan made his name as the co-creator of the Saw franchise (wisely bailing out after the brilliant original) but his follow ups lacked chills. The Conjuring, thankfully, provides more than its share of shocks. Hold on to your cheese and biscuits.

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson, Lili Taylor
Certificate: 15
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Warner Brothers

Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa

Fri 20 7.30,
 Sat 21 7.00, Tue 24 7.30

Director: Declan Lowney
Starring: Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney, Sean Pertwee
Certificate: 15
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: UK 2013
By: Studiocanal

Fictional radio and national television broadcaster, Alan Partridge is unleashed this summer, on the ruddy big screen. (He started life as a brilliant figment of Chris Morris' and Armando Iannucci's imagination in BBC R4's 'On the Hour' 1991/2, where he should have stayed).

After being fired from North Norfolk Digital (when it is taken over by a rapacious media conglomerate) DJ Pat Farrell (Colm Meaney); once a decent man, is driven to the edge. Returning to the station with a shotgun, he holds the station hostage during an office party. The only person he'll talk to during siege negotiations is fellow DJ Alan Partridge who, as he quickly becomes the public and media face of the siege, sees an opportunity to stage a triumphant return to the limelight (Coogan anybody?) Alan is thrown into a life-or-death situation where his majestically inappropriate behaviour is deliberately against the grain.

"Steve Coogan is so good at making Alan simultaneously repellent and endearing: his rubbery mug alone justifies the big screen" (*Standard*)

"Fans of Steve Coogan's enduring middle-aged middle Englander will be gladdened to find that Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa is a resounding success, not tarnishing or diluting the character in any way." (*Total Film*)

"Kiss my face." (review Anna Shepherd)



Wadjda Sun 22 6.00



The first film ever to be entirely shot in Saudi Arabia by the country's first female director: Haifaa Al-Mansour.

Everyday on her way to school, Wadjda passes a green bicycle which she dreams of one day owning. The need to prove she can beat her friend Abdullah in a bike race prompts this 11 year old girl to start saving to buy the bike.

She listens to western pop music, makes her own mix-tapes and has her own business selling plaited friendship bracelets. Wadjda may sound like an ordinary girl, if somewhat rebellious, but she lives in a country where cinemas are banned and women are not allowed to drive, vote or ride a bike. The film charts these injustices faced by Saudi women. The travails of the child protagonist mirror those of the wider society.

Wadjda spends as much time roaming the never-before-filmed streets of Riyadh, as it does behind closed doors. Opening up a previously unseen world. "It is a film that's hopeful of the changes that a younger generation could bring." (S&S)

"Modest as it may look, this is boundary-pushing cinema in all the best ways, and what a thrill it is to hear those boundaries creak." (Telegraph) Brought to you in Berkhamsted all the way from Saudi Arabia. For the sheer triumph of Al-Mansour's first feature, and Wadjda's beautiful, impish face, this deserves to be seen. (Anna Shepherd) Beautifully told and acted, Don't miss.

Director: Haifaa Al-Mansour
Starring: Reem Abdullah, Waad Mohammed, Sultan Al Assaf
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: Germany/Saudi Arabia 2013
By: Soda Pictures

The Deep Mon 23 7.30

Director: Baltasar Kormakur
Starring: Olafur Olafsson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: Iceland 2013
By: Metrodome Distributors

Based on the true story of the sinking of an Icelandic trawler and its miraculous lone survivor, Gudlaugur "Gulli" Fridthórsson.

During a freezing night in March 1984, a trawler capsized off the coast of Iceland. Against the odds, of the six men plunged into the freezing waters, one survived. After escaping the sinking boat, Gulli, a big-boned 24 year old islander, had to swim for 6 hours in temperatures that would have killed the average human in 20 minutes.

The local community were only alerted to the disaster by the return of Gulli to the island. Somehow his weight saved him but this makes his survival guilt worse. Back on dry land, scientists ponder how he survived where others perished. Director Baltasar Kormákur (Jar City and surprisingly upcoming action flick 2 Guns) filmed an actual trawler - which he also sank to make the scenes more authentic. "Like its hero, the film still manages against the odds to hold the attention." (LWLies)

"A gripping journey through stormy waters and survivalist guilt, with some surprising black humour." (Scotsman) This noirish Icelandic survival drama will leave you in awe and admiration.

(Anna Shepherd) See him literally being pulverised by brick-hard house-sized waves against jagged unforgiving rocks and remarkably surviving (and that's only the actor; all for the film...!).

Another extraordinary gem from an ice-cold continent and another September gem not to be missed.



What Maisie Knew

Wed 25 7.30



Charming, heartbreaking and melancholy. What Maisie Knew is a modern reinvention of the 1897 Henry James novel of the same name, set in modern day New York City. Susanna (Moore) is a rock and roll icon, who lives with her partner Beale (a rather charming? Coogan, really?). They are middle-aged by now and had enough of each other. So they separate, but caught in the middle is their only child, the 6 year old Maisie. As both adults try and move on with their lives Maisie is pushed to and fro as an emotional bargaining chip, and although loved seems to represent a past that both parents regret. Maisie soon understands how selfish and damaged are her parents, and begins to contemplate an entirely new family to replace the shattered remains of her own. "A heartbreakingly perceptive illustration of the axiom that when parents get divorced, the ones most affected are the children" (*Screen International*) Huh? "Young Aprile is a real find, investing what might have been a symbolic part with a visible sense of craft and patience (this isn't merely cute-kid cinema), but it would be a shame not to mention the risks taken by Moore and Coogan, pushing difficult parts into daring registers of irresponsibility" (*Time Out*) Jeez, it sounds like a lecture. Should have stayed in 1897. It might have been well received in premier at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival, but even Henry James couldn't rescue this from ridiculous modern times. You decide.

Directors: Scott McGehee, David Siegel
Starring: Julianne Moore, Alexander Skarsgård, Steve Coogan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Curzon Film World

Lovelace Thu 26 7.30

Directors: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman
Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Peter Sarsgaard
Certificate: 18
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Amanda Seyfreid (Mamma Mia, Mean Girls) is surprisingly cast in the story of small town girl Linda Boreman, later known as Linda Lovelace. We follow her life from age 20 to 32, which includes her rise to 'girl next door' fame in the notorious but groundbreaking film, *Deep Throat*. The film focuses on her exceptional skills, and by chance turns her into an international sensation, and latterly, spokeswoman for sexual freedom and hedonism. We also see the darker side; the break away from her highly religious family, the degradation of a 'blue-movie' star's lifestyle and her unhealthy relationship with controlling husband and self declared pornstache manager Chuck Traynor.

"Sarsgaard gives a deftly multi-layered performance, showing the fear fuelling his rages, as the superb Seyfried reveals raw emotions, past roles never hinted at." (*Total Film*)

"This biopic manages the feat of remaining entertaining even as its storyline becomes progressively darker. Lovelace is at once an exploitation pic itself (with a healthy smattering of star cameos) and a critique of exploitation movies. The directors perform an unlikely balancing act, throwing in cheap jokes about fellatio alongside feminist polemic." (*Independent*)

Not one to see with your mother, though an enlightening and a serious stab in 92 minutes, at the exploitative climate of the time. James Franco as Hugh Hefner, Hugh will be pleased.

(*research Will Newis*) A tragic tale worth seeing, even not to be missed.





Director: Gore Verbinski
Starring: Helena Bonham Carter, Johnny Depp, Armie Hammer
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 149 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Walt Disney Int'l



The Lone Ranger

Fri 27 7.30, Sat 28 7.00

It doesn't matter about the storyline, the hype and US critics lambasted it out of Monument Valley, thus killing any interest in who does or says what. So here's a mix of Brit crits for you to dis (or) regard.

"Making a western is trickier than it looks. Treat it with respect, as John Ford, Peckinpah and even Tarantino found, and the Wild West can be one of cinema's most unpredictable and exciting landscapes. But take it lightly, and all you're left with is..." (*Time Out*)
 "Real storytelling, well thought-out and beautifully, at times insanely, executed, with excitement, laughs and fun to make you feel seven years old again (*Empire*)
 "In truth, it is far from the disaster some critics have pegged it: it's admirable in scale, features two charismatic leads in Depp and Armie Hammer, and climaxes with a joyous free for all (*Film4*)
 "There are about five films here; a comedy, a tragedy, an epic, a thriller, a western. Johnny plays Capt Jack inland with stuffed bird on his head, Armie (parents?) is a gorgeous greek god giving it teeth'n'tits. There are so many wild and funny ideas. The problem is, they used them all."

(mix'n'match'n'misquote *CL Times Culture*)

Listen, it's Johnny Depp, and some "new exciting old fashioned movie star" ridin', shootin' and wisecrackin'. It's Cowboys & Indians. DON'T MISS.

The Way Way Back

Sun 29 6.00



This feels very familiar. From the studio that brought you Juno and Little Miss Sunshine, this year's family summer comedy, The Way Way Back follows in much of the same style as the other two. This is the coming of age story of introverted Duncan (Liam James), who is forced on a summer holiday with his mother Pam (Toni Collette), her overbearing and very Carell-esque husband Trent and his sister Steph (Zoe Levin). After a hard time fitting in, Duncan finds an unexpected friend in outgoing manager of the Water Wizz water park Owen (Sam Rockwell). Through their clandestine relationship, Duncan starts to leave his shell and shed off some of the low self esteem that haunts, follows behind and chases ahead of him.

"If the Collette/Carell reunion suggests Little Miss Sunshine, it's not quite that crowd-pleasing. But crafted with much TLC and sympathy, it's perfectly tailored to the tongue-tied teen in us all." (*Total Film*)

Largely well received, it seems there will always be a place for awkward family comedies. A tight script with great off-the-cuff players can take a film anywhere and everywhere, as this one does. A great start to the end of the holidays. (*research Will Newiss*)

It looks good and will almost certainly be back in October. This is awards heads-up time. Keep an eye on this one.

Director: Jim Nash
Starring: Nat Faxon, Steve Carrell, Toni Collette, Sam Rockwell
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Twentieth Century Fox

The Great Beauty

Mon 30 7.30

Director: Paolo Sorrentino
Starring: Toni Servillo, Sabrina Ferilli,
Certificate: 15
Duration: 141 mins
Origin: Italy/France 2013
By: Curzon Film World

Paolo Sorrentino's new film is a withering portrait of the city of Rome and one cynical inhabitant of its dolce vita.

As Jep Gambardella (Sorrentino regular Toni Servillo – Il Divo, Consequences of Love) celebrates his 65th birthday, he thinks back on his life, which has also been the life of the city, and realises he has spent most of it searching on the rooftops and in the gutters for what he calls La Grande Bellezza: The Great Beauty.

Aristocratic ladies, social climbers, politicians, high-flying criminals, journalists, actors, decadent nobles, artists and intellectuals, whether authentic or presumed, attend parties at antique palaces, immense villas and the most beautiful terraces in the city.

"This movie looks and feels superb, it is pure couture cinema" (*Guardian*)

"This is more than a night-stalking tribute to Italian cinema. Servillo's super-dry performance creates one of the more pungent screen characters of recent years" (*Sight&Sound*)

Sorrentino's film sets out to explain Rome today, as a city, mindset and belief system. A "huge mass of interlocked facts, characters and anecdotes" casts a fascinated eye over the cavernous marble palaces and terraces stalked by the rich of the Berlusconi era. (*Anna Shepherd*)

Another piece of looking and seeing the way we grey Anglo Saxons can't. Startling in its originality, and breathtaking in its delicious photography. So, another not to miss.



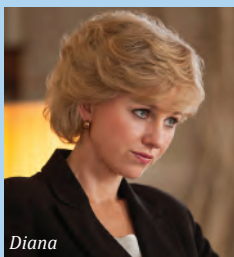
COMING SOON

New releases

Kick Ass 2
2 Guns
Runner Runner
Prisoners

Back by demand

The Way Way Back
The Deep
Red 2
Wadjda
Lone Ranger



Diana



Elysium



Rush



The Artist & Model

SEPTEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Sun	THE GREAT GATSBY	6.00
2	Mon	THE GREAT GATSBY	2.00, 7.30
3	Tue	NOW YOU SEE ME	12.30
3	Tue	WADJDA	7.30
4	Wed	BEHIND THE CANDELABRA	2.00, 7.30
5	Thu	THE AUDIENCE	2.00
5	Thu	POPULAIRE	7.30
6	Fri	THE WORLD'S END	7.30
7	Sat	DESPICABLE ME 2	2.00
7	Sat	THE WORLD'S END	7.00
8	Sun	UNTOUCHABLE	6.00
9	Mon	LOOKING FOR HORTENSE	2.00, 7.30
10	Tue	THE HEAT	12.30
10	Tue	SILENCE	7.30
11	Wed	THE HEAT	2.00, 7.30
12	Thu	ROMAN HOLIDAY	2.00
12	Thu	THE HEAT	7.30
13	Fri	ONLY GOD FORGIVES	7.30
14	Sat	FROM UP ON POPPY HILL	2.00
14	Sat	ONLY GOD FORGIVES	7.00
15	Sun	SPECIAL EVENT: ROBIN INCE SCIENCE EVENING	6.00
16	Mon	THÉRÈSE DESQUEYROUX	2.00
16	Mon	BLACKFISH	7.30
17	Tue	RED 2	12.30, 7.30
18	Wed	RED 2	2.00, 7.30
19	Thu	WADJDA	2.00
19	Thu	THE CONJURING	7.30
20	Fri	ALAN PARTRIDGE: ALPHA PAPA	7.30
21	Sat	SMURFS 2	2.00
21	Sat	ALAN PARTRIDGE: ALPHA PAPA	7.00
22	Sun	WADJDA	6.00
23	Mon	ALAN PARTRIDGE: ALPHA PAPA	2.00
23	Mon	THE DEEP	7.30
24	Tue	WHAT MAISIE KNEW	12.30
24	Tue	ALAN PARTRIDGE: ALPHA PAPA	7.30
25	Wed	LOVELACE	2.00
25	Wed	WHAT MAISIE KNEW	7.30
26	Thu	RENOIR	2.00
26	Thu	LOVELACE	7.30
27	Fri	THE LONE RANGER	7.30
28	Sat	HARRY POTTER & THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE	2.00
28	Sat	THE LONE RANGER	7.00
29	Sun	THE WAY WAY BACK	6.00
30	Mon	THE WAY WAY BACK	2.00
30	Mon	THE GREAT BEAUTY	7.30

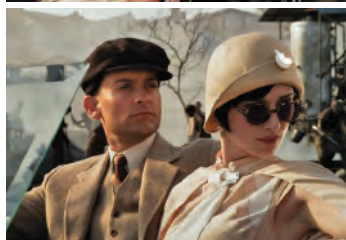


S E P T E M B E R M A T I N E E S

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

The Great Gatsby

Mon 2 2.00



Back by ridiculous demand... For this new adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's bittersweet novel set during New York's gaudy jazz era, director Luhrmann has turned it into a pantomime with a 21st century soundtrack.

Leonardo DiCaprio as the maverick new-money millionaire Jay Gatsby is always good, even in a bad movie, and Carey Mulligan is perfect as Daisy, his unobtainable love.

However, the critics have panned it, but who cares for them. What most of them missed is that there was no reason to remake a film from a book that was unfilmable in the first place. F-Scott Fitzgerald's Great-American novel is said to be an epic parable of excess and its consequences, but it is more than that, and that's the bit nobody can film. So too they say that shooting it in 3D was a real masterstroke.

Come to the Rex to see what all the fuss is about. Even in 2-D it is said to be the only setting to see it for 100 miles. So come five or ten and see for yourself. Last time.

Director: Baz Luhrmann
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, Tobey Maguire, Joel Edgerton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 143 mins
Origin: Australia/USA 2013
By: Warner Brothers

Now You See Me

Tue 3 12.30

Director: Louis Leterrier
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Morgan Freeman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

Now You See Me puts an elite FBI squad in a game of cat and mouse against The Four Horsemen, a team of four of the best magicians (illusionists!) in the world.

For their final act in Vegas, The Horsemen run a daring heist against a rich and corrupt (never) businessman and shower their ill gotten gains on the audience by sending one unsuspecting audience member to the Parisian bank to steal 30 million euros. This is investigated by the FBI, who have no explanation other than magic for the stunt.

"Woody Harrelson secretes an oily charm. He's pretty much a stalwart these days, a pleasingly erratic, twitchy presence in an otherwise straight-laced world." (*LW Lies*)

"For a good stretch Now You See Me is engaging and eye-popping and the cast are clearly having a ball, even if our 'heroes' aren't as lovably roguish as, say Danny Ocean's mob, Eisenberg unleashes all his Social Network arrogance" (*Time Out*)

Bringing back the surprisingly good duo of Jesse Eisenberg and Woody Harrelson from Zombieland, not to mention Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman, the premise is promising, the cast excellent. Judge for yourself what seems to have divided critics and viewers alike. It has to be better than Burt Wonderstone at the least. (*research Will Newis*). Except Burt W had Alan Arkin, this doesn't. A great Sept afternoon's adventure.



Behind The Candelabra **Wed 4 2.00**



Audiences and critics alike have swooned over this (last, next-last or more-to-come?) Soderbergh swansong. People really have enjoyed it. I don't get it. He's very clever, keeping an edge to all his films, you can't quite put your finger on, but can feel it as the narratives twists, folds and unfolds. Although he successfully sued the Daily Mirror in 1958 for suggesting he was homosexual, it was nevertheless a Hollywood open secret that Liberace was. Between 1976 and 1982 he was in a serious relationship with Scott Thorson, whom he 'promoted' to his bling-bling chauffeur. Soderbergh drew on his autobiography to make this HBO biopic. A convincing Douglas does his best big acting as Lee Liberace, but I wish Matt Damon would have tried a few Jason Bourne kicks to get out of it. He seems like a fish in the wrong Jacuzzi. With Rob Lowe as Liberace's pinch-faced plastic surgeon, a supercilious Aykroyd as his agent and Debbie Reynolds as his sanctified mother, it is by turns funny, melodramatic, shocking, sad and overacted. That Soderbergh treats the source material with his usual piercing intelligence, is some compensation for those who can do without the camp stuff.

"A magnificent gilt trip..." (*Telegraph*) Back by demand, selling out from a long run in July and short one, mobbed in August. Last time.

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Michael Douglas, Matt Damon, Dan Aykroyd, Debbie Reynolds
Certificate: 15
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

NT Encore: The Audience **Thu 5 2.00**

Director: Stephen Daldry
Play by: Peter Morgan
Starring: Helen Mirren, Edward Fox, Haydn Gwynne
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 158 mins
Origin: UK 2013
By: Picturehouse Ent. Ltd

Following its sold-out West End run, Stephen Daldry's *The Audience* is now available to watch on the Rex screen.

The acclaimed production won 2 Olivier Awards – Helen Mirren for Best Actress and Richard McCabe for Best Supporting actor. Written by Peter Morgan, screenwriter of *The Queen*, and broadcast as part of National Theatre Live, *The Audience* takes us behind the doors of Buckingham Palace into a series of meetings like no other in British society. During her sixty year reign, Elizabeth II has granted a special weekly audience to each of her twelve Prime Ministers. Both parties have agreed never to repeat what is said. Now, this fascinating blend of fact and fiction imagines the meetings that have taken place between the various Downing Street incumbents and the Queen.

A uniquely intimate speculation about the dialogue that occurs between our heads of state, this is an unmissable, and cheaper, opportunity to see the regal Helen Mirren return to the role that secured her the Academy Award. And, more importantly, you don't have to catch the nightmare 12.04 back from Euston (especially as we're showing it as a matinee).



Despicable Me 2

Sat 7 2.00



More minion madness with the sequel to the extremely popular Despicable Me.

We have our favourite ex-super villain Gru adjusting to his new family life and an honest way of living.

However it's never that simple. Gru is enlisted by the Anti-Villain League to uncover the culprit behind an Arctic Laboratory stolen with a giant magnet. Inside the lab is a secret chemical which turns living beings into evil killing robots, and this mutagen must not be used at any cost. More minions, more despicable(ness) good things come in small packages.

"Carell and Wiig make a splendid vocal pair. Nick and Nora Charles with ice guns and lipstick Tasers and the candy-colored 3-D (glorious Rex 2-D) animation is always enthralling." (*Time Out*)

"The real stars of the Despicable Me series are, of course, Gru's sweetcorn-shaped minions (Kevin, Stuart et al). Infatigable, indestructible, impossible to keep a straight face around, they're deployed in full force here as gag Polyfills." (*Total Film*)

With Steve Carell, Russell Brand and Miranda Cosgrove, possibly the best children's film out this year, one to watch, regardless of how much you loved the first one, the kids will thank you. (*Will Newis*). They just might this time, but you (big kids) will love it more. Bring the street.

Directors: Pierre Coffin, Chris Renaud
Starring: Steve Carrell, Steve Coogan
Certificate: U
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Looking For Hortense Mon 9 2.00

Directors: Pascal Bonitzer
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Jean-Pierre Bacri
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Arrow Films

This tale of Parisian intellectuals bears all the hallmarks of classic French auteur cinema.

Directed by a former critic for Cahiers du Cinéma; Pascal Bonitzer, comes this droll toned and finely plotted drama. Damien Hauer (Jean-Pierre Bacri), an academic who teaches Asian culture to business students; lives with his partner, Iva Delusi (Kristin Scott Thomas) a stage director, and their son Noé in a large, beautiful apartment in central Paris. The couple's relationship has drifted into routine that has drained it of love. One day, Iva traps Damien, and orders him to ask his pompous father; a senior member at the Council of State, to use his powers to prevent a friend from being deported.

The woman in question, Aurore (Isabelle Carré) has lost her nationality following a divorce. In a minor key, the film touches on the contemporary social issue of illegal immigration.

"A Pleasingly intelligent picture" (*Total Film*)

"Jean-Pierre Bacri gives a pitch perfect performance as an academic who understands the cultural minutiae of the Orient, but cannot fathom his own loved ones" (*SkyMovies*)

Come and see for another Kristin Scott Thomas acting master class. (*research Anna Shepherd*)





Director: Paul Feig
Starring: Melissa McCarthy, Sandra Bullock
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Heat

Tue 10 12.30, Wed 11 2.00

Bridesmaids was a surprise hit for director Paul Feig and he brings **The Heat**, again with R-rated success. His secret weapon? The pairing of Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy.

The Heat is much like every other Hollywood comedy cop movie. Two mismatched officers are placed together, an unlikely friendship is struck, countless scenes of unrealistic violence and wanton mayhem ensue, all building to a good old fashioned happy ending.

A female buddy cop comedy, McCarthy stars with Bullock as an odd-couple crime-fighting duo. You wouldn't think of pairing them in a million years, but they're a riot together. Bullock is a control freak FBI agent whose colleagues can't stand her. McCarthy is a local detective who dresses like a homeless biker. Predictably they hate each other, but have to join forces to take down a drugs baron.

"**The Heat** is initially hard to warm up to, as it tries too hard to establish its belligerent bolshiness and take-no-prisoners crudity; but ultimately the film ends up being both extremely funny and undeniably likeable." (*Film4*)

Try not to expect anything more than it is, but at face value, the lovely Sandra Bullock proves again she can deliver raw comedy. Coupled with McCarthy's streamroller performance carried over from **Bridesmaids**, it makes for some good comic interplay. (*research Newiss & Whiting*)

Roman Holiday

Thu 12 2.00



Audrey Hepburn's first starring role won her a Best Actress Oscar in 1954; illuminating her unique qualities from the start.

Hepburn plays Ann, bored princess (of an unnamed country) who is slowly being driven to despair by the toll of endless engagements.

While in the bustling city of Rome, Ann makes her escape for 24 hours of fun.

She happens to meet American Journalist Joe Bradley (dashing handsome Gregory Peck). Recognising a hot news story, Joe pretends not to recognise the princess and offers to give her a guided tour of Rome.

Eddie Albert plays Joe's friend Irving, who is excellent as the bewildered and breezy photographer who surreptitiously snaps the unwitting princess on her tour.

"It's a beautiful snapshot into the past, both for the historic look of Rome and to witness the birth of the romantic comedy." (7MPictures)

"Timeless, exuberant classic, with Hepburn's naïve sense of fun and perfectly charming performance matched equally by Peck's lauche and charismatic worldly American." (Empire)

Filmed entirely in Rome, the location does rather dominate the movie; however, it turns the viewer into a willing tourist. (the location, it's beauty, it's sunshine and a time lost, is the whole reason for the film)

Come and escape to Italy for 2 hours of fun with real stars, Miss Hepburn and Mr Peck. (research Anna Shepherd)

Director: William Wyler
Starring: Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn
Certificate: U
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: UK/USA 1953
By: Park Circus Films

From Up On Poppy Hill

Sat 14 2.00

Director: Goro Miyazaki
Certificate: U
Duration: 91mins
Origin: Japan 2013
By: Studiocanal

Another beautiful, hand drawn delight from Studio Ghibli and Goro Miyazaki, son of legendary animator and Ghibli founder, Hayao (Ponyo, Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle).

From Up on Poppy Hill may seem confusing at first. Where are the fantastical elements: the talking animals, magic spells and bewildering landscapes? Am I watching a Ghibli production? But all the flourishes that we've come to love from the exquisite animation team are intact.

"Set in the 1960s, this is the gently romantic tale of Umi and Shun, a pair of teenagers who develop feelings for one another as they campaign to save their beloved student club house from demolition. They then realise it's possible they are related. Story wise, this is the polar opposite of big-budget US animation, which would bin the storyline as ridiculously uncommercial. Though it was a huge hit in Japan." (Time Out) But then, it would?

A Japanese story by the most famous and respected animators on the island. Miyazaki Jr hasn't had quite the same success as his esteemed father – Tales from Earthsea was lacking, but with Up on Poppy Hill his confidence is clearer. This is a gentle, slow burner; more for older kids and parents than little ones. (research Jack Whiting)



Thérèse Desqueyroux

Mon 16 2.00



Audrey Tautou plays the title character Thérèse, created by François Mauriac in his 1927 Nobel prize winning novel.

His mysterious novel of dark provincial passion is gloriously brought to the screen by the late Claude Miller (who died last year at the age of 70).

Sumptuously photographed to capture the full beauty of the pine-forested Landes area in Southwest France, Thérèse Desqueyroux is a beautifully realised drama of exquisite taste.

Pre-war France, Thérèse is a free-spirit and a free-thinker whose family own half the forests around Bordeaux. In the tradition of old money, she is married off to the neighbouring landowner's son, Bernard (Gilles Lellouche). Wedded less for love than for convenience; Thérèse hopes marriage will help cure her of the thoughts racing around her head. Married life is easy at first; living in the lap of luxury in their pinewood estate.

But Thérèse soon begins to feel increasingly stifled. Desperate to escape the confines of her indentured marriage, she is compelled to take drastic action. "Stifling like an airless house, Miller's adaptation of the period novel is a beautiful and measured epitaph." (*Empire*)

Audrey Tautou's central performance as Thérèse is utterly mesmerising, and unmissable. (*research Anna Shepherd*) Indeed it is, so don't miss her or Gilles Lallouche or Anaïs Demoustier or the whole largely unknown cast.

Director: Claude Miller
Starring: Audrey Tautou, Gilles Lellouche
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: France 2013
By: Curzon Film World

Red 2

Tue 17 12.30, **Wed 18** 2.00

Director: Dean Parisot
Starring: Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA/France/Canada 2013
By: Entertainment One UK

The wrinklies are out of re-retirement to shoot 'em up in a sequel no one asked for. (When did you last hear anybody even witless 'ask' for a sequel?) Has the franchise, like its actors, aged like a fine wine? Or is RED 2 in need of sheltered accommodation? A dusty collection of antique thespes (no, not you Bruce) including Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins and Brian Cox form the 'Retired Extremely Dangerous' force.

"Former CIA agent Frank Moses (Willis) is happy with the quiet life but his girlfriend Sarah (Mary-Louise Parker) is bored. Their buddy Marvin (Malkovich) suggests that when it comes to Frank and Sarah, the attraction is action! So they embark on a mission to keep a next-generation weapon out of terrorist hands. This takes them to Paris (enter CZ-Jones) London (Mirren) and Moscow (Cox)." (*Time Out*)

"The climax looks like a stray grenade went off in the editing suite before a bored intern spliced the final cut back together as best he could." (*Total Film*) They all do a fab job of working within the limitations of a fussy and overcomplicated script. So if you found Dame Helen's recent role in *The Audience* (2pm 5th) lacking in machine gun fire and explosions, this is just the bus pass for you. (*research Jack Whiting*) Forgive juvenile Jack, it's fabulous fun. Don't miss.



Wadjda

Thu 19 2.00



The first film ever to be entirely shot in Saudi Arabia by the country's first female director: Haifaa Al-Mansour.

Everyday on her way to school, Wadjda passes a green bicycle which she dreams of one day owning. The need to prove she can beat her friend Abdullah in a bike race prompts this 11 year old girl to start saving to buy the bike.

She listens to western pop music, makes her own mix-tapes and has her own business selling plaited friendship bracelets. Wadjda may sound like an ordinary girl, if somewhat rebellious, but she lives in a country where cinemas are banned and women are not allowed to drive, vote or ride a bike. The film charts these injustices faced by Saudi women.

The travails of the child protagonist mirror those of the wider society. Wadjda spends as much time roaming the never-before-filmed streets of Riyadh, as it does behind closed doors. Opening up a previously unseen world. "It is a film that's hopeful of the changes that a younger generation could bring." (S&S)

"Modest as it may look, this is boundary-pushing cinema in all the best ways, and what a thrill it is to hear those boundaries creak." (Telegraph)

Brought to you in Berkhamsted all the way from Saudi Arabia. For the sheer triumph of Al-Mansour's first feature, and Wadjda's beautiful, impish face, this deserves to be seen. (Anna Shepherd) Beautifully told and acted, Don't miss.

Director: Haifaa Al-Mansour
Starring: Reem Abdullah, Waad Mohammed, Sultan Al Assaf
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: Germany/Saudi Arabia 2013
By: Soda Pictures

Smurfs 2

Sat 21 2.00

Director: Raja Gosnell
Starring: Hank Azaria, Christina Ricci
Certificate: U
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

A Belgium cartoonist named Peyo harmlessly created the Smurfs over half a century ago and look where they are now; a second big screen outing!

This time, the main stage is Paris. Ever since he got trapped in modern times in the earlier film, the evil wizard Gargamel has become a celebrity magician, delighting crowds the world over with his sorcery, and he's now settled in for an extended run at the Paris Opera House. Unfortunately, he needs to harvest more Smurf-essence, which is the source of his powers. To help him, he's created two new Smurf-like creatures, called Naughties: Vexy (Christina Ricci) and Hackus (J.B. Smoove) who are small and grey, instead of blue, and who treat him as their own father. Gargamel then concocts a plan to kidnap Smurfette (Katy Perry) and force her to reveal a secret formula that will allow him to turn the Naughties into Smurfs. Kids under eight will no doubt have a smurftastic time but if you aren't sick of the little blue blighters by now, well, Smurf help you. (research JW)



Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa **Mon 23** 2.00



Fictional radio and national television broadcaster, Alan Partridge is unleashed this summer, on the ruddy big screen. (He started life as a brilliant figment of Chris Morris' and Armando Iannucci's imagination in BBC R4's 'On the Hour' 1991/2, where he should have stayed).

After being fired from North Norfolk Digital (when it is taken over by a rapacious media conglomerate) DJ Pat Farrell (Colm Meaney); once a decent man, is driven to the edge. Returning to the station with a shotgun, he holds the station hostage during an office party. The only person he'll talk to during siege negotiations is fellow DJ Alan Partridge who, as he quickly becomes the public and media face of the siege, sees an opportunity to stage a triumphant return to the limelight (Coogan anybody?)

Alan is thrown into a life-or-death situation where his majestically inappropriate behaviour is deliberately against the grain.

"Steve Coogan is so good at making Alan simultaneously repellent and endearing: his rubbery mug alone justifies the big screen" (*Standard*)

"Fans of Steve Coogan's enduring middle-aged middle Englander will be gladdened to find that Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa is a resounding success, not tarnishing or diluting the character in any way."

(*Total Film*)

"Kiss my face." (*review Anna Shepherd*)

Director: Declan Lowney
Starring: Steve Coogan, Colm Meaney, Sean Pertwee
Certificate: 15
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: UK 2013
By: Studiocanal

What Maisie Knew **Tue 24** 12.30

Directors: Scott McGehee, David Siegel
Starring: Julianne Moore, Alexander Skarsgård, Steve Coogan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Curzon Film World

Charming, heartbreaking and melancholy. What Maisie Knew is a modern reinvention of the 1897 Henry James novel of the same name, set in modern day New York City. Susanna (Moore) is a rock and roll icon, who lives with her partner Beale (a rather charming? Coogan, really?). They are middle-aged by now and had enough of each other. So they separate, but caught in the middle is their only child, the 6 year old Maisie. As both adults try and move on with their lives Maisie is pushed to and fro as an emotional bargaining chip, and although loved seems to represent a past that both parents regret. Maisie soon understands how selfish and damaged are her parents, and begins to contemplate an entirely new family to replace the shattered remains of her own. "A heartbreakingly perceptive illustration of the axiom that when parents get divorced, the ones most affected are the children" (*Screen International*) Huh? "Young Aprile is a real find, investing what might have been a symbolic part with a visible sense of craft and patience (this isn't merely cute-kid cinema), but it would be a shame not to mention the risks taken by Moore and Coogan, pushing difficult parts into daring registers of irresponsibility" (*Time Out*) Jeez, it sounds like a lecture. Should have stayed in 1897. It might have been well received in premier at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival, but even Henry James couldn't rescue this from ridiculous modern times. You decide.



Lovelace Wed 25 2.00



Amanda Seyfried (*Mamma Mia*, *Mean Girls*) is surprisingly cast in the story of small town girl **Linda Boreman**, later known as **Linda Lovelace**. We follow her life from age 20 to 32, which includes her rise to 'girl next door' fame in the notorious but groundbreaking film, *Deep Throat*. The film focuses on her exceptional skills, and by chance turns her into an international sensation, and latterly, spokeswoman for sexual freedom and hedonism. We also see the darker side; the break away from her highly religious family, the degradation of a 'blue-movie' star's lifestyle and her unhealthy relationship with controlling husband and self declared pornstache manager **Chuck Traynor**.

"Sarsgaard gives a deftly multi-layered performance, showing the fear fuelling his rages, as the superb Seyfried reveals raw emotions, past roles never hinted at." (*Total Film*)

"This biopic manages the feat of remaining entertaining even as its storyline becomes progressively darker. Lovelace is at once an exploitation pic itself (with a healthy smattering of star cameos) and a critique of exploitation movies. The directors perform an unlikely balancing act, throwing in cheap jokes about fellatio alongside feminist polemic." (*Independent*)

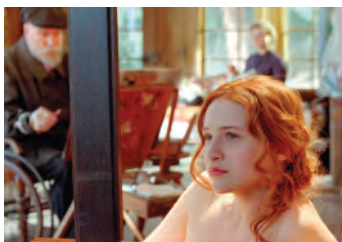
Not one to see with your mother, though an enlightening and a serious stab in 92 minutes, at the exploitative climate of the time. **James Franco** as **Hugh Hefner**, Hugh will be pleased. (*research Will Newis*) A tragic tale worth seeing, even not to be missed.

Directors: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman
Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Peter Sarsgaard
Certificate: 18
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Renoir Thu 26 2.00

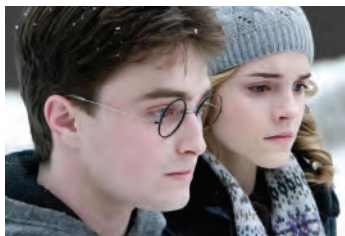
Director: Gilles Bourdos
Starring: Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret, Vincent Rottiers
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Soda Pictures

Based on the biography "*Le Tableau Amoureux*," by **Jacques Renoir**, the film tells the story of the arrival of artist's model **Andrée Heuschling** (a compelling **Christa Theret**) to the estate of recently widowed **Pierre-Auguste** (**Michel Bouquet**) at **Cagnes-sur-Mer**. It is 1915 and France is war torn, his second son, the future celebrated **Jean Renoir** (**Vincent Rottiers**) has returned to convalesce from injuries sustained in battle. Each Renoir languishes in torpor and blocked inspiration. Enter fiery red-head **Andrée** to re-ignite their passions and become the muse to both father and son. A fabulous recipe for all hell to break loose, which according to critics; doesn't. "Not building to a compelling drama, leaves the film in a quiet, temperate realm that scarcely makes the pulse race." (*Hollywood Reporter*) Sounds perfect; what would Hollywood know about 'a quiet temperate realm'? "Interestingly, convicted art forger **Guy Ribes** (famous for his Renoir fakes!) was hired to paint live-action on set; it is indeed his hands convincingly painting in the Renoir style - a shame the film isn't quite so convincing." (*Telegraph*) "But, there are worse things than luxuriating in two-hours on the Côte d'Azur at the hands of **Mark Ping Bing Lee**'s luscious cinematography." (*Time Out*) Come for a film beautiful to watch, imbued with the light and characteristics of a Renoir masterpiece, without being one itself...



Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince

Sat 28 2.00



Settling down to watch each new Harry Potter movie is a bit like slipping into a much-loved old coat you've found at the back of the wardrobe. You know broadly what to expect; the pleasure is in the rediscovery.

But it is to the enormous credit to Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, that it doesn't rest too comfortably in this familiarity. It takes the saga in a dark direction, as Harry accepts his role as the Chosen One and sets about preparing to destroy the evil Lord Voldemort.

Director: David Yates
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Jim Broadbent
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 153 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers

The Way Way Back

Mon 30 2.00

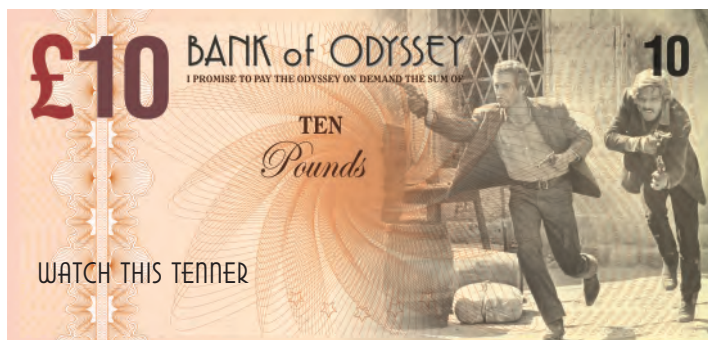
Director: Jim Nash
Starring: Nat Faxon, Steve Carrell, Toni Collette, Sam Rockwell
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: USA 2013
By: Twentieth Century Fox

This feels very familiar. From the studio that brought you Juno and Little Miss Sunshine, this year's family summer comedy, The Way Way Back follows in much of the same style as the other two. This is the coming of age story of introverted Duncan (Liam James), who is forced on a summer holiday with his mother Pam (Toni Collette), her overbearing and very Carrell-esque husband Trent and his sister Steph (Zoe Levin). After a hard time fitting in, Duncan finds an unexpected friend in outgoing manager of the Water Wizz water park Owen (Sam Rockwell). Through their clandestine relationship, Duncan starts to leave his shell and shed off some of the low self esteem that haunts, follows behind and chases ahead of him. "If the Collette/Carrell reunion suggests Little Miss Sunshine, it's not quite that crowd-pleasing. But crafted with much TLC and sympathy, it's perfectly tailored to the tongue-tied teen in us all." (*Total Film*)

Largely well received, it seems there will always be a place for awkward family comedies. A tight script with great off-the-cuff players can take a film anywhere and everywhere, as this one does. A great start to the end of the holidays. (*research Will Newiss*) It looks good and will almost certainly be back in October. This is awards heads-up time. Keep an eye on this one.



ST ALBANS LATEST...



Working your way around these pictures, you will find a building boxed in by huge scaffolding, a spot of nimble (harnessed) acrobatics, the front render, stripped back to solid 81 years old bare brickwork (which way is it facing?). During this rare heat of summer we came across this fabulous sign outside the Prince Charles Cinema off Leicester Square. It celebrates the wit of priceless independence, while 50 yards away the Odeon and Empire remain aloof, corporate and stiff from hoovering red carpets. The Butch and Sundance ten pound note is a tease. We have applied to the Gambling Commission for permission to run a 'tenner' prize draw offering Odyssey gifts (including named seats, first year early booking membership and opening night

tickets). St Albans licensing dept has been a huge treasure of help and information. They have pointed us to The Gambling Commission and surprisingly helpful they are too. The title sounds so serious and stern but no, they are real people at the end of a phone, willing to listen and help. So upon their instruction, we have applied for the correct licence. It takes six weeks to process, but our Odyssey project falls in to their remit for approval. So with any luck, we will open this prize draw in September. So make ready to take part.

A 'like' on facebook/website (when this gets there) will give us a fair idea ahead of approval, if you too fancy the idea. If it fails, we'll think of something else. We've come this far. Nothing will stop us now, especially not having enough





money. Your 'sister' cinema, The Rex was broke a week before opening in November 2004, with cement mixers in the foyer. The dream is nearly real, the odyssey nearly over and reality, nearly real...

THE NAMING OF SEATS...

Naming a seat in the Odyssey makes a unique gift for a friend or loved one (and/or to yourself with your own name). It is an exceptional way of remembering someone with a passion for cinema, St Albans and the old Odeon. Or you might be a small company who wants to be associated with the place now, and have your name (in low lights) on a seat or row of six...!

The seat will bear your chosen name for the lifetime of the cinema. So forever(ish). You can name a seat for £1000. It goes directly towards the costs of the vital final stages of the Odyssey cinema fit-out. After many expensive delays, unforeseen consultancy fees and costs such as the £130,000 'Environmental Clean' (still under question), our chosen main contractor, Procure, is brilliant, unswervingly supportive, and keeping us on course to open in the Spring next year. But we need that final few hundred thousand. It no longer matters how much, we'll find it. Not whining, or worrying, though we all felt much younger at the start of this great new adventure, it's just telling you straight.





Two views from inside, each with daylight bursting in from broken parts. The man on the boards is standing on top of a birdcage scaffolding high above the auditorium (that's the ceiling just above his head). Sunlight is streaming through holes everywhere. Take it in. When you see it, it will be dark with different magical lights, though never as magical as this again.



ABL MEMBERSHIP	(£285)
[Advanced Booking List For Year 1]	
686 sold so far	
total ABL's available	800
<hr/>	
ABL'S LEFT...	114

NAME YOUR SEAT	
<hr/>	
NAME YOUR SEAT FOR	£1000
NAMED SO FAR	152
SEATING CAPACITY	450
SEATS STILL OPEN	
FOR NAMING	298
<hr/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a seat in your own name or dedicated to a loved one.• It will be your chosen name on that seat for life.	

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