

# THE REX

M A G A



MEN IN BLACK 3

JULY 2012...

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(Sunday Times 2012)

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

JULY 2012 Issue 88  
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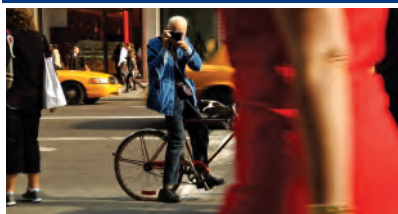
**The Rex**  
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## BEST IN JULY



A tense (true-ish) story told by the truest face on any screen  
**Free Men** Wed 11 7.30. France 2012

## FILMS OF THE MONTH



A beautiful tale of a beautiful man's beautiful pictures  
**Bill Cunningham: New York**  
 Mon 9 7.30. USA 2012



And just when you thought it was safe to go back in... It is!  
**Jaws** Fri 13 7.30. USA 1975



Timeless characters, words, Lemmon, Maclaine... and laughter  
**The Apartment** Wed 18 7.30. USA 1960

## A POSTCARD FROM 65TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

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No point queuing in the rain to see things first. Being first, so what? It took 10 months for The Artist to get here after seeing it at Cannes last year, and not allowed to spoil it by talking about it! This year, I went to soak up the street cafes, the wine, food, the glam and atmosphere; and I got soaked. That 16 hours a day cold windy rain we had in June, started with my weekend in Cannes! Still, Bill Murray greeted me like an old

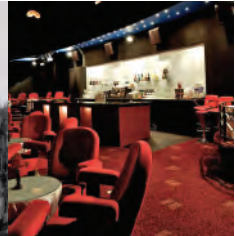
friend. I opened a door for Jane Fonda, eyes averted and expecting a tip (I didn't give her one). I watched Tom Hardy cream all over Jessica Chastain, 'shared' breakfast with Irving Welsh (well, same dining room). Saw Ben Stiller and François Cluzet (tiny) on the red carpet, just missed running into a very big hero... Mathieu Amalric. Could have got a great shot of Mads Mikkelsen but chose the wrong side of the tape. And



in a moment of mistaken swooning, a gorgeous thing stopped and stared as I passed. Just managed to avoid witnessing her crushing disappointment by getting far enough along the Croisette before she would realise – it wasn't 'him'?

My children came out, we caught one lovely warm festival evening together, then it rained. Still we bought umbrellas, dodged the cold and had fun. Left alone for the last day, I caught the bus to Monte

Carlo. Leaving a torrential Cannes, only to reach Monaco an hour later in glorious sunshine. In three layers, a mac, umbrella and cap, I got off in Europe's richest, most glamorous capital. Someone said it looked like I was on a 'care in the community' outing, standing there on the race circuit with the casino in the background. I didn't care. For that moment I was David Niven (mac and all). Perhaps they were right...!



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This teapot seen recently on an innocent Oxfam shelf, is the first ornamental artwork I had noticed with health & safety at its heart. Included in the design is the word 'HOT' repeated on the lid and belly of the pot. Perhaps we hadn't noticed, after 600 years, tea-for-two is dangerous too? Thank heavens they warned us in time. 'Drink me... straight from the spout' just wouldn't do?





J U L Y   E V E N I N G S

## Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Sun 1 6.00, Tue 3 7.30



Back, not so much by demand, as command. Still, this harmless film is taken from Paul Torday's wildly successful novel, and directed by Lasse Hallström (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *Chocolat*), *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* is a charming romantic comedy. Britain's leading fisheries expert Alfred Jones (McGregor) is called upon by a young consultant Harriet Chetwode-Talbot (Blunt) to fulfil a wealthy Yemeni sheikh's dream of introducing salmon fishing to the Arab nation. Jones rejects the eccentric notion, however when the Prime Minister's press secretary Patricia Maxwell (Scott Thomas) gets wind of the concept, the potential lure of furthering UK/Arab relations, proves too great. Thus, Jones is pressured into spearheading the project. Can the three of them help fulfil the sheikh's absurd dream? Is it so absurd...?

Oscar-winning screenwriter Simon Beaufoy (*Slumdog Millionaire*) does a solid job of adapting Torday's charming book, and McGregor plays the socially awkward fisherman in his own voice, for a change.

"Hallström wheels out the 'swimming against the tide' visual metaphor once too often, and there's some drop-off in pace towards the end. But this isn't half as gooey as one might expect..." (*Guardian*) (SM) Surprisingly easy to watch, with some great one-liners, and a gift for K Scott-Thomas in the Malcolm Tucker role.

**Director:** Lasse Hallstrom  
**Starring:** Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

## Woody Allen: A Documentary

Mon 2 7.30

**Director:** Robert Weide  
**Starring:** Woody Allen, Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Martin Scorsese  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 113 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Soda Pictures

**Born Allan Stewart Konigsberg in the Bronx in 1931, Woody Allen is one of the greatest living directors.** The neurotic New Yorker is responsible for such fabulous films as *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, etc and now a Rex favourite, *Midnight in Paris*.

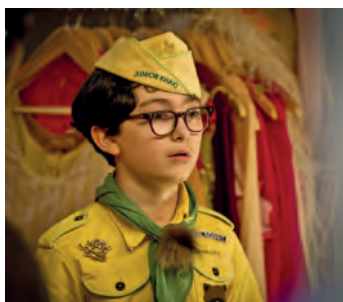
Directed by Robert B Weide, this hilarious, engrossing, documentary chronicles Woody's humble beginnings as a comedy writer, stand up comic in Greenwich Village, and finally, the director we all know, equally loved and not so.

A tediously long queue of talking heads from all eras of Woody's life pop up to share anecdotes about him: Diane Keaton, Larry David, Scarlett Johansson, Martin Scorsese, and the rest. Perhaps more interestingly, Allen himself features prominently in the picture, walking through New York regaling anecdotes from his childhood, and showing off his half-century old typewriter in his modest apartment.

"Allen is in fine, funny, frank, self-disparaging form, there are fascinating revelations on every aspect of his life, well-chosen extracts from his films and TV interviews..." (*Observer*)

"There is more to Woody Allen: A Documentary than its modest title suggests, although perhaps not quite enough to justify swapping that 'a' for 'the'." eh? (*Telegraph*) (*research [and helpful lists] Simon Messenger*) (So much Woody-in-a-good-light feels like he could have made this himself?) You decide.





**Director:** Wes Anderson  
**Starring:** Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Edward Norton, Bruce Willis  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## Moonrise Kingdom

**Wed 4 7.30, Thu 5 7.30**

**Written and directed by Wes Anderson, Moonrise Kingdom is a quirky, retro, quasi-coming-of-age tale.**

1965, New England. At a Khaki Scout summer camp, an exceptionally skilled scout, and eccentric loner, Sam (Jarden Gilman) goes missing. He has run away with local girl Suzy (Kara Hayward). The two having fallen in love; much to the chagrin of her parents Walt and Laura (Bill Murray, Frances McDormand). As various authorities; scout master Ward (Edward Norton), police captain Sharp (Bruce Willis) and social services (Tilda Swinton) join the hunt for the missing children, a violent hurricane begins to form off the coast of their small New England island...

Wes Anderson's heavily stylised, immaculately conceived direction makes Moonrise Kingdom an exceptional film. A glorious soundtrack, predominantly by Andre Desplat, but which also makes excellent use of Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra, works wonderfully as we recall, with Sam and Suzy, the excitement and adventure of first love. It's fun, fey and utterly charming. "Anderson's homemade aesthetic is placed at the service of a counter-digital, almost hand-drawn cinema, and he has an extraordinary ability to conjure a distinctive universe, entire of itself. To some, Moonrise Kingdom may be nothing more than a souffle of strangeness, but it rises superbly." (*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*)



**Director:** Barry Sonnenfeld  
**Starring:** Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Emma Thompson  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Sony Int'l



## Men In Black 3

**Fri 6 7.30, Sun 8 6.00**

It's been a whole decade since the ET busting secret agents hung up their space guns and now here we are with a third chapter no one really wanted. The good news? It's a galactic step up from the lightweight sequel.

Beardy alien fugitive Boris the Animal (Flight of the Conchords' Jermaine Clement) has a bone to pick with ageing Agent K (Tommy Lee Jones) for past grievances that have left him bitter. Boris succeeds in erasing K from existence via time travel means, leaving partner Agent J (Smith) jumping back to 1969 to warn a younger K (Josh Brolin) from the future threat, and of course, save the world.

The perfect casting of Brolin as K's younger self is MiB3's ace in the hole – mimicking Jones right down to the southern drawl, squint and deadpan delivery. Their chemistry gives a much needed jolt to genre trial & error such as this, and it pays off in spades.

"It's like a cross between Looney Tunes and The Naked Lunch, a hallucinogenic popcorn movie you can safely forget a moment later." (*Guardian*)

It's passable fluff, light on sci-fi, light on comedy, heavy on grotesque alien effects (all credit to monster make-up legend Rick Baker) and reminds us why we flock to the cinemas over summer. (*Jack Whiting*) Flock Jack...?



## Marley

Sat 7 7.00



**Back on a Saturday by overwhelming demand, it traces Marley's life and career from his childhood as a fatherless mixed-race farmboy in rural Jamaica, through his wild adolescence on the mean streets of Kingston's Trenchtown slum, all the way to his tragically early death at 36.**

Marley doesn't stray from the familiar rags-to-riches music documentary format, mixing interviews, archive material, concert broadcasts and new footage of key locations in the story – and some fabulous faces early on chuckling through their own patois commentary.

We hear how he inspired many as a Rastafarian prophet, yet his peace'n'love image is complicated by accounts of his "competitive" streak and domestic shortcomings, the latter expressed by cheated-on wife Rita and painfully neglected daughter Cedella.

"While Kevin Macdonald (Touching the Void) has nothing but praise for Marley as a musician and political figurehead, he is perfectly willing to lay out the bare facts, for us to judge for ourselves.

It's enough to win over those who are not fans of his music.

Such an honest depiction can only contribute to a deeper appreciation of this remarkable icon." (*Time Out*)

"Every second is earned in Macdonald's long, generous and rigorously detailed Bob doc. You might wish for more live material but what's here is stirring, probing and moving." (*Total Film*).

Don't miss

**Director:** Kevin Macdonald  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 144 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Bill Cunningham:

New York Mon 9 7.30

**Director:** Richard Press  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 84 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Dogwoof Pictures

**Directed by Richard Press, Bill Cunningham New York is a warm and charming portrait of the now octogenarian fashion photographer and cultural anthropologist, Bill Cunningham.**

With only his trusty Schwinn bicycle for company, Cunningham has been documenting fashion in New York City for decades, practically inventing the concept of "street style" i.e. shooting 'ordinary', non-catwalk model folk as they go about their nattily dressed business.

Cunningham himself is an eccentric - living in a tiny one bedroom apartment which is filled with boxes and filing cabinets full of his photographs. The warmth and affection felt for him is made clear by the film's talking heads – an array of high fashion folk, including the famously reticent and icy editor of Vogue, Anna Wintour, who remarks "We all get dressed for Bill". So come along dressed for Bill, and The Rex of course. There's always a camera and/or photographer on hand...!

"He was the first, and what's obvious from this lively and engaging documentary, an original." (*Time Out*)

"This affectionate documentary celebrates the veteran photographer who, at 84, still works a tough schedule, taking photos on the street of real people wearing real fashion." (*Guardian*)

(*Simon Messenger*) A beautiful film about a beautiful man's beautiful pictures...

Don't miss.





**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Starring:** Paul Brannigan, John Henshaw, Gary Maitland  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** eOne Films



## The Angel's Share

Tue 10 7.30, Thu 12 7.30

Wheyn th'falm played a'th' Cannes falm feystahval puckle weeks agay furehts premeayre shoon, sum French dobber desidehd t'screen et w'subtaitles coz they didne hink th'audience wood be able tae kin th'Scottish accents. Bollocks tae 'at! Directed by Ken Loach, and written by Paul Laverty - the duo behind "The Wind That Shakes The Barley" and "Looking for Eric" - "The Angel's Share" is a darkly comic caper.

Our anti-hero Robbie (non-actor Paul Brannigan), a frustrated young offender, narrowly misses a custodial sentence for assault, and is instead sentenced to 300 hours community service under the watchful eye of the good natured Harry (John Henshaw). On a visit to a local distillery - along with other ne'er-do-wells Albert (Gary Maitland), Rhino (William Ruane) and Mo (newcomer Jasmin Riggins) - Harry notices Robbie has a rare nose for whisky; and Robbie and his pals spy a money-spinning opportunity to siphon off a rare, and hugely expensive malt to sell off to an unscrupulous buyer... "There is politics underlying every aspect of this funny, warm-hearted, deftly plotted film, and we fervently wish for the caper planned by this endearing quartet to succeed." *The Observer* (Simon Messenger; plucky Glaswegian and all). Ken Loach is still the only Brit-grit, screen storyteller who gets it right. Meadows, Arnold, Plan B etc, simply haven't listened. Don't miss.

## Free Men

Wed 11 7.30



After being caught by the Gestapo, young Algerian immigrant Younes (Rahim) is threatened with deportation unless he can infiltrate a Parisian mosque, blacklisted as a Resistance hotspot.

But he proves to be a lousy informant and is cut loose by the investigating Nazi officer, and inexplicably left to walk free? "Viewing the period from the perspective of North African immigrants in Paris is a fresh angle, but director Ismaël Ferroukhi fails to communicate much of the fear and paranoia of living in an occupied city."

(*Time Out*)

There are gaps to be filled in second-world-war history, and this is one: the role of North Africans in the French Resistance. *Free Men* takes the form of a semi-fictionalised thriller, headed by Tahar Rahim, who so impressed in *A Prophet*.

He's more profiteer here: an immigrant wheeler-dealer in occupied Paris, forced by the Gestapo to spy on the city's mosque. Headed by a magnificently hangdog Michael Lonsdale, the mosque is suspected of issuing false papers identifying Jews as Muslims.

"The realities of war and his own ethnic identity induce a change of heart in him, though it's often difficult to remember there's a war on, the period is so sketchily evoked. The tension doesn't grip as it should, but it's a worthwhile reminder of a moment of Muslim-Jewish co-operation." (*Guardian*) Come for Tahar Rahim.

**Director:** Ismael Ferroukhi  
**Starring:** Tarar Rahim, Alain-Michel Blanc  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 99 mins  
**Origin:** France 2012  
**By:** Artificial Eye

## Jaws

Fri 13 7.30

**Director:** Steven Spielberg  
**Starring:** Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1975  
**By:** Universal

The summer of 1975 saw millions of people avoiding coastal areas, queuing around blocks and coining 'Blockbuster' Yes, the culprit for that sweet word? A thirty foot, three ton great white tin bath of a shark.

Now, four decades later, just when you thought it was safe to back to your seat, Spielberg's aquatic monstrosity turns up at The Rex in a terrifyingly pristine digital scrub.

Based on Peter Benchley's novel, *Jaws*' set-up couldn't be simpler; a local sheriff Brody (Scheider) a body washed up a peaceful Amity Island, a potential shark threat, a Chamber control mayor (Murray Hamilton), ignores his warnings, to keep the tourist beaches open for business.

Cue screams, blood and shredded lilos. Brody gathers a motley crew of hombres; a marine biologist Hooper (Dreyfuss) and grizzled old shark hunter Quint (Shaw) to find the beast.

"Jaws is a perfect blend of set-pieces and story, its formula so hard to capture it's now near-mythical. Filmmakers have been chasing it ever since." (*Total Film*) Together with John Williams' now legendary score, Spielberg and co. took what should have been b-movie and turned it into a cinematic masterpiece. Its teeth marks are still felt to this day. (*Jack Whiting*) Best of all; Spielberg insisted on real sea locations, which accounted for some unforgettable boat improvisations, and Quint's unforgettable drunken dusk cabin song.





**Director:** Rupert Sanders  
**Starring:** Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Kristen Stewart  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Int'l



## Snow White & The Huntsman

**Sat 14 7.00**

We've been given two Snow White films in as many months and whilst *Mirror Mirror* happily indulged in its own silliness, and had Julia Roberts swanning around in goofy costumes; *Huntsman* on the other hand is an altogether darker, more Middle Earthy affair.

Kristen Stewart plays Snow White, the daughter of a benevolent king who's bumped off by his maniacal man-hating wife, Ravenna (Charlize Theron), aka the Wicked Queen. Fleeing to the Dark Forest, Snow White makes the acquaintance of the Huntsman (Thor's Chris Hemsworth), a rough-diamond loner with a dark past and a terrible Glaswegian accent.

Pretty average so far. But then the dwarfs turn up, and the true horror begins.

Wait, that's not Bob Hoskins is it? And it can't possibly be... Ray Winstone? But it is – and Toby Jones, Ian McShane, Nick Frost, and Eddie Marsan, too. The cream of British acting talent has been digitally shrunk and saddled with haircuts that make them look like a midget Slade tribute band." (*Time Out*)

The film's saving grace then, is Theron, her malevolent, bitter and deliciously bitchy queen is a welcome antidote to the gallant yet dull nature of our devil-may-care heroes. Fantasy is still enjoying its renaissance thanks to the success of the *Rings* trilogy, but *Huntsman* isn't going to usurp Peter Jackson any time soon.

(*Jack Whiting*)

## Two Days In New York Sun 15 6.00



**Julie Delpy writes and directs in this cross-cultural farce; a sequel of sorts to 2007's biting comedy *Two Days in Paris*. Following the not so biting *Before (& After) Sunrise*: 2004.**

Delpy reprises her role as Marion; a slightly unstable, intellectual late 30 something photographer. Having moved from Paris to New York, she's happily shackled up with DJ/writer Mingus (Chris Rock) both have children from previous relationships. The 'two days' refer to the hilarious, culture-clashing visit of Marion's family, her mad father (played by her real father, Albert), sister Rose (Alexia Landeau) and her irritating boyfriend Manu (Alexandre Nahon). Whilst it's fair to say the film derives a lot of its humour from poking fun at the French (and what's wrong with that?), Delpy's rapid-fire scripting, and Rock's naturally funny comic presence, make it worthwhile.

"Delpy captures the specifics of bustling New York life, but, more universally, she captures the chaos experienced by everyone who's ever had their in-laws to stay. Meet *The Fockers* would have needed twice the brains and twice the laughs to get anywhere near it."

(*Independent*) (research *Simon Messenger*) Though Julie Delpy always seems to write herself in to stories about herself, somehow they don't cloy as either auto biography or over indulgence. You decide.

**Director:** Julie Delpy  
**Starring:** Julie Delpy, Chris Rock, Vincent Gallo  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** France/Germany 2012  
**By:** Network Releasing

## Sing Your Song Mon 16 7.30

**Director:** Susanne Rostock  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2011  
**By:** Verve

**Singing, actor and civil rights champion, Harry Belafonte became a key figure in the fight for equal rights for black Americans.** Director Susanne Rostock's documentary tells his story. And a skilfully compiled celebratory biography of Harry Belafonte, it is. He was born into poverty in Harlem in 1927, raised in his father's native Jamaica, and after serving in the US navy at the end of the second world war, he worked as a janitor before being drawn into the theatre. From the late 1940s on he was primarily a singer, becoming sensationally successful in the 1950s as the 'King of Calypso'.

"There's so much more to Belafonte than the Banana Boat Song and Rostock does a fine job revealing it in a fitting celebration of a mighty talent." (*Empire*) "This excellent film, eloquently narrated by its octogenarian subject in that wonderfully husky voice, carefully balances an account of his career in showbusiness with his 50-year commitment to civil and human rights." (*Observer*)

"A deeply respectful look at an extraordinary life. Belafonte took the biggest gamble an entertainer can, he risked appearing unpopular, and we could have asked the same of Rostock." (*Guardian*)

"If Richard Dawkins's mob want to start giving out secular sainthoods, they should start with Harry Belafonte. What a man." (*Time Out*) Don't miss.



## Monsieur Lazhar

Tue 17 7.30



Some films have an extra dimension, hard to describe. This is one. Selling out in days in June, **M Lazhar** is quietly, moving French-Canadian drama, rightly nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Oscars.

A school-teacher is found hanged in a Montreal elementary school, and Algerian immigrant Bachir Lazhar (Mohamed Fellag) is rapidly drafted in as her replacement. Having recently suffered a personal tragedy of his own, the kindly, compassionate Monsieur Lazhar sets about nurturing the children, only to run into trouble with the school's policies on a number of issues. The delicate nature of his refugee status hangs in the balance... The story touches on themes of grief, loss, integration, unity, with the onus on the optimism of youth,

"You could almost describe Monsieur Lazhar as a morality tale, but it's more thought-provoking than debate-provoking. Its strength is the realness of the emotions and authenticity of the detail, although there is a gentle insistence here that integration is a two-way street." (*Time Out*)

"Only the most obstreperous delinquent could fail to be charmed by Monsieur Lazhar..." (*Guardian*) "Life affirming" (*Total Film*) 'Life affirming' have become two of my favourite words, of late. If you loved *The Chorus* here in 2005, you will love this seven years on. Don't miss.

**Director:** Philippe Falardeau  
**Starring:** Mohamed Fellag, Sophie Nélisse  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** Canada 2011  
**By:** Soda Pictures

## The Apartment

Wed 18 7.30

**Director:** Billy Wilder  
**Starring:** Jack Lemmon, Shirley Maclaine, Fred Macmurray, Ray Walston,  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1960  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**At the Oscars of 1960, *The Apartment* won Best Film with Billy Wilder taking Best Director.**

Bud Baxter (Lemmon) is a struggling clerk in a huge New York insurance company. He is the archetypal put-upon and only tolerated for a place on the corporate ladder by lending out his apartment to executives for nooky. He often has to deal with the sordid aftermath of their visits but one night he's left with a bigger than usual nuisance on his hands. Enter Shirley Maclean's fabulous lift attendant Fran Kubelik. As a comedy, and an early major Hollywood production to play with sex and the abuse of power, *The Apartment* was years ahead of its time. (Isn't that what comedy does best?)

Middle aged, middle executives headed by slimey big cheese, beautifully played to maximum slime by Fred MacMurray, look upon their insurance company as a huge pick-up joint. (sounds familiar?). Jack Lemmon is at his fumbling best while Shirley Maclean underplays perfectly. They are a perfect double-act, creating between them a true Hollywood gem.

The script is as timeless as it is priceless. So think like a top insurance salesman, throw away your executive washroom key and cancel the afternoon's golf, shenanigans & lunch so you don't miss this restored crystal clear gem.



## Casa De Mi Padre

Thu 19 7.30



**Whether you've grown weary of Will Ferrell's brand of humour or not there's no denying the likable 6ft 4 comic's diversity in his roles.** After all, branching out into foreign territories when you don't speak the language is a ballsy move. Ferrell plays humble ranchero Armando whose simple, sweet nature is ridiculed by his landowning father and successful businessman brother, Raul (Diego Luna). When Raul returns to the ranch with a gorgeous bride to be, hearts flutter and forbidden romance blossoms against the backdrop of a war between DEA and drug runners.

"Casa is a spoof of soapy tele-novelas, skid-row Westerns and over-the-border B-movies. Painted backdrops, re-used rear-projection footage and intentionally bad continuity are thrown in." (*Telegraph*)

"The result is odd, intermittently amusing but wholly unsatisfying, an oddball experiment that simply doesn't work." (*Time Out*) Take your pick.

Those expecting the slapstick to come thick and fast might be upset at Ferrell playing it decidedly straight-faced throughout and the joke is spread thin by the end, but despite the wonky sets and deliberately terrible production values, the wondrous attention to (the 1970s) detail will leave its mark. (*Jack Whiting*) Ferrell fans will come, but worth it for those who aren't, to see comedy at its most straight faced, with Gael Garcia Bernal gamely keeping up.

**Director:** Matt Piedmont  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Gael García Bernal, Diego Luna, Pedro Armendáriz Jr, Genesis Rodriguez  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 84 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Studiocanal

## Cosmopolis

Fri 20 7.30, Sat 21 7.00

**Director:** David Cronenberg  
**Starring:** Robert Pattinson, Paul Giamatti, Juliette Binoche  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 109 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** eOne Films

**Robert Pattinson enjoys his deserved breakout role as a fractured billionaire in David Cronenberg's urban fever dream.**

Based on Don DeLillo's novel, *Cosmopolis* follows Eric Packer (Pattinson), a 28-year-old captain of the money markets and tech industries. He insists on travelling across town for a haircut, even though his driver warns him that a presidential visit and a rap star's funeral are causing traffic gridlock. Packer's world is confined to this luxury vehicle.

Cronenberg meanwhile, is back in the familiar territory that populated his earlier, eerier works (*Videodrome*, *Dead Ringers*). After a hatrick of Viggo Mortensen stints ending with the curious but tame natured *A Dangerous Method*, Cronenberg takes a gamble on the youthful allure of Pattinson, making the *Twilight* star his latest muse. "It has the air of an experimental theatre piece and trades in heightened, eroticised language." (*Time Out*)

"To equate the experience, my screening of *Cosmopolis* had 23 walkouts, likely as much a testament to its thematic misappropriation." (*What Culture*) Oh dear, thematic misappropriation eh?

Yes, *Cosmopolis* is slow and pretentious but fight the temptation to walk out and you may find a small amount of pleasure in seeing Packer's perplexing, claustrophobic world unfurl around him. (*research Jack Whiting*). Cronenberg is always worth the time 'thematic misappropriation' and all.





**Director:** Nikolaj Arcel  
**Starring:** Mads Mikkelsen, Mikkel Boe Følsgaard, Alicia Vikander, David Dencik  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** Denmark 2012  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors



## A Royal Affair

Sun 22 6.00, Mon 23 7.30

Denmark, 1760s. German doctor Johann Struensee (Mikkelsen) is taken on to attend to the questionable sanity of the erratic King Christian. The German's eye is quickly caught by the king's beautiful wife, Queen Caroline (Vikander), and the two fall into an affair that threatens to consume them both.

The opening scene, where a beautiful woman strokes a horse, and then walks by a river in a rain-soaked landscape, is like one of those paintings where you see a figure, and a face, and a certain kind of light, and glimpse a world. Within moments, she's writing a letter. Within a few more moments, she's back in a sunlit field, in a different country and a different time. In moments, it is clear that this beautiful woman, in this rain-soaked landscape, has an extraordinary story to tell.

Caroline Mathilde is the sister of England's King George III and the central character of this, Nikolaj Arcel's award-winning new film. In that sunlit field, she's fifteen and on the brink of an arranged marriage to the new 17 yr old king of Denmark...

The astonishing thing about this astonishing film is that everything that happens is true (best to handle that word with care).

A Royal Affair is the definition of classy period drama: well acted, intelligently scripted with a small-ish dose of bodice-ripping. (*Time Out*) Don't miss.



**Director:** Jennifer Westfeldt  
**Starring:** Jennifer Westfeldt, Adam Scott, Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

## Friends With Kids

**Tue 24 7.30, Wed 25 7.30**

**Two best friends decide to have a child together while keeping their relationship platonic, so they can avoid the toll kids can take on romantic relationships.**

Here's a relationship comedy riffing on that drunken 2am conversation between friends of the opposite sex: why don't we have a baby together, never mind sex or marriage.

Their solution to friends who have kids? Have kids with a friend, much to the bemusement of the other couples in their circle.

Friends with Kids takes an unusual romantic premise and explores it in satisfying and perceptive depth. She should also be congratulated for avoiding the sad spinster stereotype by giving equal screen time to Jason's struggles with ageing and fatherhood. It's only a shame that after several interesting diversions, the plot eventually settles in such a predictable place.

"Yet there are two major obstacles to appreciating the film's achievements: First, the persistent feeling that you'd rather be watching Wiig in *Bridesmaids 2*, and second, Westfeldt's Hollywood cheekbones, which rather give the lie to the notion that she's just an ordinary gal looking for love. Luckily, she offers a performance that's heartfelt enough to emote through several layers of Botox." (*Guardian*) Sounds okay for, over-talkie with over-friendly friends, American pap?



## The Angel's Share

Thu 26 7.30



When the film played at the Cannes film festival weeks ago, French dober desidehd t'screen et w'subtitles coz they didn't hink th'audience wood be able tae kin th'Scottish accents. Bollocks tae 'at!

Directed by Ken Loach, and written by Paul Laverty - the duo behind "The Wind That Shakes The Barley" and "Looking for Eric" - "The Angel's Share" is a darkly comic caper.

Our anti-hero Robbie (non-actor Paul Brannigan), a frustrated young offender, narrowly misses a custodial sentence for assault, and is instead sentenced to 300 hours community service under the watchful eye of the good natured Harry (John Henshaw). On a visit to a local distillery - along with other ne'er-do-wells Albert (Gary Maitland), Rhino (William Ruane) and Mo (newcomer Jasmin Riggins) - Harry notices Robbie has a rare nose for whisky; and Robbie and his pals spy a money-spinning opportunity to siphon off a rare, and hugely expensive malt to sell off to an unscrupulous buyer...

"There is politics underlying every aspect of this funny, warm-hearted, deftly plotted film, and we fervently wish for the caper planned by this endearing quartet to succeed." *The Observer* (Simon Messenger, plucky Glaswegian and all). Ken Loach is still the only Brit-grit, screen storyteller who gets it right. Meadows, Arnold, Plan B etc, simply haven't listened. Don't miss.

**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Starring:** Paul Brannigan, John Henshaw, Gary Maitland  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** eOne Films

## Prometheus

Fri 27 7.30, Sat 28 7.00,  
 Sun 29 6.00, Mon 30 7.30

**Director:** Ridley Scott  
**Starring:** Idris Elba, Guy Pearce, Charlize Theron, Michael Fassbender, Noomi Rapace  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

In Ridley Scott's belated sci-fi homecoming, Michael Fassbender's android David poses the question "How far would you go to get your answers?" Once *Prometheus*' credits roll your answer would more than likely be "Not very".

Earth 2089 and a pair of archaeologist lovers: religious Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace, complete with wonky Brit accent) and atheist Charlie Holloway (Logan Marshall-Green) discover a cave painting in Wales? one of many in fact that points to the possible beginnings of our existence.

Believing that these maps are an invitation, Shaw is granted a ship and scientific team including Charlize Theron, Idris Elba and film stealing Fassbender, to launch an expedition to meet our makers. This isn't the same location of Scott's 1979 *Alien*; die-hard fans hoping for direct connections to the horror classic will be disappointed to find *Prometheus* sticking to its own guns, mostly.

When the crew arrive after their two year journey (the wonders of hyper-sleep) and set down on the moon's surface the black goo hits the fan, including script, pacing, and character motives that defy logic, yet the extraordinary sets and visual effects mask the narrative cracks. There are plentiful nods to Kubrick's 2001, and of course *Alien*, yet under the conspicuous twaddle of birth, God and the universe is a monster movie that'll leave you squirming. (*Jack Whiting*)



## The Hunter

Tue 31 7.30

**Director:** Daniel Nettheim  
**Starring:** Frances O'Connor, Willem Dafoe  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** Australia 2011  
**By:** Artificial Eye

A beautifully photographed outdoorsman's woody thriller with an environmentalist theme, *Mysterious American*, Martin (a magnetic Dafoe) is tasked by a shadowy biotech company to go into the wilderness and find a Tasmanian tiger, a species long considered extinct.

Based on the 1999 novel by Julia Leigh (writer-director of last year's maddeningly awful *Sleeping Beauty*) and directed by Oz TV vet Daniel Nettheim. Filmed in Tasmania, it has the faintly surreal look peculiar to Australian movies in which nature pulses with a mysterious, primordial shimmer.

Martin lodges with the wife and children of a man who went missing months ago in the nearby mountains, possibly on the same quest.

The vanished father was an environmentalist who may have fallen foul of loggers representing the leading industry in this part of Tasmania. Martin soon discovers that he is in danger from both sides. The timber types associate him with the green protesters, while the environmentalists suspect (correctly) that he is using illegal steel traps in the wilderness.

"Prehistoric might also describe the cavernous face of Mr. Dafoe, now 56, he proves to have the right blend of ruggedness and sensitivity for this conflicted hero.

The *Hunter* never declares who is good, bad, right or wrong. And the implications of Martin's decisions are left for the viewer to unravel." (*NY Times*)



# COMING SOON

## New releases

King of Devil's Island  
Spiderman  
Magic Mike  
Chariots Of Fire

## Back by demand

The Source  
Salmon Fishing  
Free Men  
Senna



# JULY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Sun	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	6.00
2	Mon	WOODY ALLEN: A DOCUMENTARY	2.00, 7.30
3	Tue	THE SOURCE	12.30
3	Tue	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	7.30
4	Wed	MY AFTERNOONS WITH MARGUERITTE	2.00
4	Wed	MOONRISE KINGDOM	7.30
5	Thu	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00
5	Thu	MOONRISE KINGDOM	7.30
6	Fri	MEN IN BLACK 3	7.30
7	Sat	THE MUPPETS	2.00
7	Sat	MARLEY	7.00
8	Sun	MEN IN BLACK 3	6.00
9	Mon	MARLEY	2.00
9	Mon	BILL CUNNINGHAM: NEW YORK	7.30
10	Tue	THE ANGELS' SHARE	12.30, 7.30
11	Wed	THE ANGELS' SHARE	2.00
11	Wed	FREE MEN	7.30
12	Thu	MOONRISE KINGDOM	2.00
12	Thu	ANGELS' SHARE	7.30
13	Fri	JAWS	7.30
14	Sat	SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN	2.00, 7.00
15	Sun	TWO DAYS IN NEW YORK	6.00
16	Mon	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
16	Mon	SING YOUR SONG	7.30
17	Tue	TWO DAYS IN NEW YORK	12.30
17	Tue	MONSIEUR LAZHAR	7.30
18	Wed	MONSIEUR LAZHAR	2.00
18	Wed	THE APARTMENT	7.30
19	Thu	THE APARTMENT	2.00
19	Thu	CASA DE MI PADRE	7.30
20	Fri	COSMOPOLIS	7.30
21	Sat	WINNIE THE POOH	2.00
21	Sat	COSMOPOLIS	7.00
22	Sun	A ROYAL AFFAIR	6.00
23	Mon	A ROYAL AFFAIR	2.00, 7.30
24	Tue	FRIENDS WITH KIDS	12.30, 7.30
25	Wed	FRIENDS WITH KIDS	2.00, 7.30
26	Thu	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
26	Thu	THE ANGELS' SHARE	7.30
27	Fri	PROMETHEUS	7.30
28	Sat	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	2.00
28	Sat	PROMETHEUS	7.00
29	Sun	PROMETHEUS	6.00
30	Mon	A ROYAL AFFAIR	2.00
30	Mon	PROMETHEUS	7.30
31	Tue	PROMETHEUS	12.30
31	Tue	THE HUNTER	7.30



## J U L 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*

## Woody Allen: A Documentary

Mon 2 2.00



**Born Allan Stewart Konigsberg in the Bronx in 1931, Woody Allen is one of the greatest living directors.** The neurotic New Yorker is responsible for such fabulous films as *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*, etc and now a Rex favourite, *Midnight in Paris*.

Directed by Robert B Weide, this hilarious, engrossing, documentary chronicles Woody's humble beginnings as a comedy writer, stand up comic in Greenwich Village, and finally, the director we all know, equally loved and not so.

A tediously long queue of talking heads from all eras of Woody's life pop up to share anecdotes about him: Diane Keaton, Larry David, Scarlett Johansson, Martin Scorsese, and the rest. Perhaps more interestingly, Allen himself features prominently in the picture, walking through New York regaling anecdotes from his childhood, and showing off his half-century old typewriter in his modest apartment.

"Allen is in fine, funny, frank, self-disparaging form, there are fascinating revelations on every aspect of his life, well-chosen extracts from his films and TV interviews..." (*Observer*)

"There is more to Woody Allen: A Documentary than its modest title suggests, although perhaps not quite enough to justify swapping that 'a' for 'the'." eh?

(*Telegraph*) (research [and helpful lists] *Simon Messenger*) (So much Woody-in-a-good-light feels like he could have made this himself?) You decide.

**Director:** Robert Weide  
**Starring:** Woody Allen, Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Martin Scorsese  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 113 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Soda Pictures

## The Source

Tue 3 12.30

**Director:** Radu Mihaileanu  
**Starring:** Leila Bekhti, Hafsia Herzi, Sabrina Ouazani  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 125 mins  
**Origin:** Belgium/Italy/France 2011  
**By:** Picturehouse Entertainment

**Back by great demand, Romanian-born filmmaker Radu Mihaileanu (*The Concert*) offers up another certifiably crowd-pleasing slice of world cinema in *La Source des Femmes*, a modern-day fable exploring female empowerment in the Arab world.**

Set in an unnamed contemporary Maghreb village, the women decide they no longer want to fetch water while their men sit around and watch. For as long as anyone can remember, women have fetched water from a mountaintop spring in the blazing sun. Given that new bride, Leila (Bekhti), Loubna (Hafsia Herzi) and the loud mouth, Mother Rifle (Biyouna) have very little powers of persuasion over the macho, Koran-quoting, males who control the remote enclave, they launch a 'love strike'. Meaning no sex until their men learn how to divert the running water to the village. Inspired by a true story, and in part a retelling of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, it is a meditation on love and community. "Mihaileanu explores women's lives and relationships, with men, with each other and with Islam and the Koran, debunking myths through his intelligently drawn characters and thoughtful blend of comedy and tragedy." (*Hollywood Reporter*) Another portrait from across the world's oceans and deserts; one that will stay with you. Not as a flimsy Victorian tale of quaint savages, but a strong reminder that we know little outside our own world...? Don't miss.



## My Afternoons With Marguerite **Wed 4 2.00**



**This tiny gem is deservedly back in the summer programme. Directed by Jean Becker (son of Jacques) it is a sweet natured, heart-over-head French comedy of manners.**

Set in a typical small French country town, Germain (ç Depardieu), a semi-literate, bumbling, fat handyman, strikes up a friendship with ninety-something Marguerite (astonishing, real life nonagenarian, Gisèle Casadesu). Their chance meeting on a park bench sets in motion a whimsical friendship. Marguerite reads Camus to the big man, and slowly sets him on a path of unanticipated redemption.

It's unashamedly cosy, inimitability French, set in a leafy town where the sun always shines. Depardieu's character is a mixture of blustering assurance and low self-esteem, despite having a blonde girlfriend half his age. Such inconsistencies are there for Depardieu to pull off with ease. However, Gisèle is the star; an actress since the 1930s, she is grace and charm personified.

"It's charming, sentimental, well-acted, and any readers' group should make an outing to see it." (*Observer*)

"Nicely acted, feel-good lesson in self-improvement with a portrait of petit bourgeois village life that uses every cliché in the book." (*Independent*)

It's close to *Conversations with My Gardener* in the sure knowledge that one of them is in charge, but it's not that one. You will love it.

**Director:** Jean Becker  
**Starring:** Gérard Depardieu, Gisèle Casadesu  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 82 mins  
**Origin:** France 2010  
**By:** Picturehouse Entertainment

## Salmon Fishing In The Yemen **Thu 5 2.00**

**Director:** Lasse Hallstrom  
**Starring:** Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

**Back, not so much by demand, as command. Still, this harmless film is taken from Paul Torday's wildly successful novel, and directed by Lasse Hallström (What's Eating Gilbert Grape, Chocolat), Salmon Fishing in the Yemen is a charming romantic comedy.**

Britain's leading fisheries expert Alfred Jones (McGregor) is called upon by a young consultant Harriet Chetwode-Talbot (Blunt) to fulfil a wealthy Yemeni sheikh's dream of introducing salmon fishing to the Arab nation. Jones rejects the eccentric notion, however when the Prime Minister's press secretary Patricia Maxwell (Scott Thomas) gets wind of the concept, the potential lure of furthering UK/Arab relations, proves too great. Thus, Jones is pressured into spearheading the project. Can the three of them help fulfil the sheikh's absurd dream? Is it so absurd...?

Oscar-winning screenwriter Simon Beaufoy (*Slumdog Millionaire*) does a solid job of adapting Torday's charming book, and McGregor plays the socially awkward fisherman in his own voice, for a change.

"Hallström wheels out the 'swimming against the tide' visual metaphor once too often, and there's some drop-off in pace towards the end. But this isn't half as gooey as one might expect..." (*Guardian*) (*SM*) Surprisingly easy to watch, with some great one-liners, and a gift for K Scott-Thomas in the Malcolm Tucker role.



## The Muppets

Sat 7 2.00



**In the final scene of 2008's *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, Jason Segel's character fulfils his lifelong dream of composing and performing with a host of Jim Henson inspired puppets.**

Now, Segel himself gets to fulfil his dream of co-writing and starring in his very own Muppets movie. Kermit, Miss Piggy and the gang return, in self referential style, for a new adventure that doesn't just poke fun at itself, but surprisingly (like *The Artist* and *Hugo*), stands as a brazen wink at the golden age of Hollywood, film making and showbiz. "Segel plays Gary, a small-town optimist whose younger brother Walter happens to be a puppet. Now that Gary is all grown up, he hopes to marry his childhood sweetheart, Mary (Amy Adams), and get out on his own, leaving no place for his furry, still-single sibling. So they head for LA to seek out the only folks who know Walter's pain: his heroes, the Muppets. But times have changed. The old Muppet Theatre is in ruins, sold off to an evil oil magnate (Chris Cooper). There's only one thing for it..."

Songs written by Flight of the Conchords' Brett McKenzie blend with leads' own brand of sarcasm to include children & adults alike in the grinning dept. (*JW*)

**Director:** James Bobin  
**Starring:** Chris Cooper, Jason Segel, Amy Adams  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2011  
**By:** Walt Disney Studio INTL

## Marley

Mon 9 2.00

**Director:** Kevin Macdonald  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 144 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**Back on a Saturday by overwhelming demand, it traces Marley's life and career from his childhood as a fatherless mixed-race farmboy in rural Jamaica, through his wild adolescence on the mean streets of Kingston's Trenchtown slum, all the way to his tragically early death at 36.**

Marley doesn't stray from the familiar rags-to-riches music documentary format, mixing interviews, archive material, concert broadcasts and new footage of key locations in the story – and some fabulous faces early on chuckling through their own patoir commentary.

We hear how he inspired many as a Rastafarian prophet, yet his peace'n'love image is complicated by accounts of his "competitive" streak and domestic shortcomings, the latter expressed by cheated-on wife Rita and painfully neglected daughter Cedella.

"While Kevin Macdonald (*Touching the Void*) has nothing but praise for Marley as a musician and political figurehead, he is perfectly willing to lay out the bare facts, for us to judge for ourselves. It's enough to win over those who are not fans of his music.

Such an honest depiction can only contribute to a deeper appreciation of this remarkable icon." (*Time Out*)

"Every second is earned in Macdonald's long, generous and rigorously detailed Bob doc. You might wish for more live material but what's here is stirring, probing and moving." (*Total Film*).

Don't miss



## The Angel's Share

Tue 10 12.30, Wed 11 2.00



**Wheyn th'falm pleyed a'th' Cannes falm feystahval puckle weeks agay furehts premeayre shoon, sum French dobber desidehd t'screen et w'subtaitles coz they didne hink th'audience wood be able tae kin th'Scottish accents. Bollocks tae 'at!**

Directed by Ken Loach, and written by Paul Laverty - the duo behind "The Wind That Shakes The Barley" and "Looking for Eric" - "The Angel's Share" is a darkly comic caper.

Our anti-hero Robbie (non-actor Paul Brannigan), a frustrated young offender, narrowly misses a custodial sentence for assault, and is instead sentenced to 300 hours community service under the watchful eye of the good natured Harry (John Henshaw). On a visit to a local distillery - along with other ne'er-do-wells Albert (Gary Maitland), Rhino (William Ruane) and Mo (newcomer Jasmin Riggins) - Harry notices Robbie has a rare nose for whisky; and Robbie and his pals spy a money-spinning opportunity to siphon off a rare, and hugely expensive malt to sell off to an unscrupulous buyer...

"There is politics underlying every aspect of this funny, warm-hearted, deftly plotted film, and we fervently wish for the caper planned by this endearing quartet to succeed." *The Observer* (Simon Messenger, plucky Glaswegian and all). Ken Loach is still the only Brit-grit, screen storyteller who gets it right. Meadows, Arnold, Plan B etc, simply haven't listened. Don't miss.

**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Starring:** Paul Brannigan, John Henshaw, Gary Maitland  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** eOne Films

## Moonrise Kingdom

Thu 12 2.00

**Director:** Wes Anderson  
**Starring:** Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Edward Norton  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

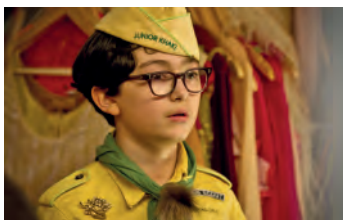
**Written and directed by Wes Anderson, Moonrise Kingdom is a quirky, retro, quasi-coming-of-age tale.**

1965, New England. At a Khaki Scout summer camp, an exceptionally skilled scout, and eccentric loner, Sam (Jarden Gilman) goes missing. He has run away with local girl Suzy (Kara Hayward). The two having fallen in love; much to the chagrin of her parents Walt and Laura (Bill Murray, Frances McDormand).

As various authorities; scout master Ward (Edward Norton), police captain Sharp (Bruce Willis) and social services (Tilda Swinton) join the hunt for the missing children, a violent hurricane begins to form off the coast of their small New England island...

Wes Anderson's heavily stylised, immaculately conceived direction makes Moonrise Kingdom an exceptional film. A glorious soundtrack, predominantly by Andre Desplat, but which also makes excellent use of Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra, works wonderfully as we recall, with Sam and Suzy, the excitement and adventure of first love. It's fun, fey and utterly charming.

"Anderson's homemade aesthetic is placed at the service of a counter-digital, almost hand-drawn cinema, and he has an extraordinary ability to conjure a distinctive universe, entire of itself. To some, Moonrise Kingdom may be nothing more than a soufflé of strangeness, but it rises superbly." *(Guardian)* (Simon Messenger)



## Snow White & The Huntsman Sat 14 2.00



We've been given two Snow White films in as many months and whilst *Mirror Mirror* happily indulged in its own silliness, and had Julia Roberts swanning around in goofy costumes; *Huntsman* on the other hand is an altogether darker, more Middle Earthy affair.

"Kristen Stewart plays Snow White, the daughter of a benevolent king who's bumped off by his maniacal man-hating wife, Ravenna (Charlize Theron), aka the Wicked Queen. Fleeing to the Dark Forest, Snow White makes the acquaintance of the Huntsman (Thor's Chris Hemsworth), a rough-diamond loner with a dark past and a terrible Glaswegian accent.

Pretty average so far. But then the dwarfs turn up, and the true horror begins. Wait, that's not Bob Hoskins is it? And it can't possibly be... Ray Winstone? But it is – and Toby Jones, Ian McShane, Nick Frost, and Eddie Marsan, too. The cream of British acting talent has been digitally shrunk and saddled with haircuts that make them look like a midget Slade tribute band." (*Time Out*)

The film's saving grace then, is Theron, her malevolent, bitter and deliciously bitchy queen is a welcome antidote to the gallant yet dull nature of our devil-may-care heroes. Fantasy is still enjoying its renaissance thanks to the success of the Rings trilogy, but *Huntsman* isn't going to usurp Peter Jackson any time soon. (*Jack Whiting*)

**Director:** Rupert Sanders  
**Starring:** Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Kristen Stewart  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Universal Int'l

## The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel Mon 16 2.00, Thu 26 2.00

**Director:** John Madden  
**Starring:** Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Tom Wilkinson, Bill Nighy  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

The fabulous cast constitutes a dream team of veteran thespians: Judi Dench is a widow emerging from her shell; Tom Wilkinson is a retired judge revisiting his youth; Penelope Wilton and Bill Nighy are navigating an old marriage; Celia Imrie and Ronald Pickup are randy old goats; and Maggie Smith, as a hip-op patient, offers a fabulous working class variant on her sarky, shrewd *Downton Abbey* gameplayer.

Ol Parker's screenplay is based on Deborah Moggach's novel *These Foolish Things*.

"The film doesn't quite sink to the dewy eyed clichés of Orientalism derided in the book ('oh the poverty, oh the sunsets') But it still presents a superficial take on contemporary India: beaming kids play cricket, wise old men proffer advice and standard issue star-crossed lovers are saddled with corny lines." (*Guardian*)  
 "With so many characters to juggle several end up getting short shrift, and the lessons learned are banal in nature and schematic in execution. They are all on enjoyable form but none is really challenged."

(*mixed tart crits*)

Anything with Dames Judi and Maggie, and the glorious (yet to refuse heraldry) Mr Nighy, and all the other lovely faces, are well worth your time. Refreshing, funny and sad, it is back for matinees in July. Stuff the critics, what need is there to 'challenge' these beautiful faces.



## Two Days In New York **Tue 17** 12.30



**Julie Delpy** writes and directs in this cross-cultural farce; a sequel of sorts to 2007's biting comedy *Two Days in Paris*. Following the not so biting *Before (& After) Sunrise: 2004*.

Delpy reprises her role as Marion; a slightly unstable, intellectual late 30 something photographer. Having moved from Paris to New York, she's happily shackled up with DJ/writer Mingus (Chris Rock) both have children from previous relationships. The 'two days' refer to the hilarious, culture-clashing visit of Marion's family, her mad father (played by her real father, Albert), sister Rose (Alexia Landeau) and her irritating boyfriend Manu (Alexandre Nahon). Whilst it's fair to say the film derives a lot of its humour from poking fun at the French (and what's wrong with that?), Delpy's rapid-fire scripting, and Rock's naturally funny comic presence, make it worthwhile.

"Delpy captures the specifics of bustling New York life, but, more universally, she captures the chaos experienced by everyone who's ever had their in-laws to stay. Meet *The Fockers* would have needed twice the brains and twice the laughs to get anywhere near it." (*Independent*) (research *Simon Messenger*) Though Julie Delpy always seems to write herself in to stories about herself, somehow they don't cloy as either auto biography or over indulgence. You decide.

**Director:** Julie Delpy  
**Starring:** Julie Delpy, Chris Rock, Vincent Gallo  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** France/Germany 2012  
**By:** Network Releasing

## Monsieur Lazhar **Wed 18** 2.00

**Director:** Philippe Falardeau  
**Starring:** Mohamed Fellag, Sophie Nélisse  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** Canada 2011  
**By:** Soda Pictures

Some films have an extra dimension, hard to describe. This is one. Selling out in days in June, *M. Lazhar* is quietly, moving French-Canadian drama, rightly nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Oscars.

A school-teacher is found hanged in a Montreal elementary school, and Algerian immigrant Bachir Lazhar (Mohamed Fellag) is rapidly drafted in as her replacement. Having recently suffered a personal tragedy of his own, the kindly, compassionate Monsieur Lazhar sets about nurturing the children, only to run into trouble with the school's policies on a number of issues. The delicate nature of his refugee status hangs in the balance... The story touches on themes of grief, loss, integration, unity, with the onus on the optimism of youth,

"You could almost describe Monsieur Lazhar as a morality tale, but it's more thought-provoking than debate-provoking. Its strength is the realness of the emotions and authenticity of the detail, although there is a gentle insistence here that integration is a two-way street." (*Time Out*)

"Only the most obstreperous delinquent could fail to be charmed by Monsieur Lazhar..." (*Guardian*) "Life affirming" (*Total Film*) 'Life affirming' have become two of my favourite words, of late. If you loved *The Chorus* here in 2005, you will love this seven years on. Don't miss.



## The Apartment

Thu 19 2.00



**At the Oscars of 1960, The Apartment won Best Film with Billy Wilder taking Best Director.**

Bud Baxter (Lemmon) is a struggling clerk in a huge New York insurance company. He is the archetypal put-upon and only tolerated for a place on the corporate ladder by lending out his apartment to executives for nooky. He often has to deal with the sordid aftermath of their visits but one night he's left with a bigger than usual nuisance on his hands. Enter Shirley MacLaine's fabulous lift attendant Fran Kubelik.

As a comedy, and an early major Hollywood production to play with sex and the abuse of power, The Apartment was years ahead of its time. (Isn't that what comedy does best?)

Middle aged, middle executives headed by slimey big cheese, beautifully played to maximum slime by Fred MacMurray, look upon their insurance company as a huge pick-up joint. (sounds familiar?). Jack Lemmon is at his fumbling best while Shirley MacLaine underplays perfectly. They are a perfect double-act, creating between them a true Hollywood gem.

The script is as timeless as it is priceless. So think like a top insurance salesman, throw away your executive washroom key and cancel the afternoon's golf, shenanigans & lunch so you don't miss this restored crystal clear gem.

**Director:** Billy Wilder  
**Starring:** Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine, Fred Macmurray, Ray Walston,  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1960  
**By:** Park Circus Films

## Winnie The Pooh

Sat 21 2.00

**Directors:** Stephen J. Anderson, Don Hall  
**Starring:** Craig Ferguson, John Cleese  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 73 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2011  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**Poohsticks (throwing sticks in a river and run to watch them appear at the other side of a bridge) originally played by young Christopher Milne (Christopher Robin) on a footbridge over the River Medway Hundred Acre Wood is inspired by Ashdown Forest**

Instead of repeating the story here are some treasured quotes:

'I am a Bear of Very Little Brain, and long words bother me.'

'It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like 'What about lunch?'

'Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.'

'Well,' said Pooh, 'what I like best' and then he had to stop and think. Because although eating hunny was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called

'It is hard to be brave,' said Piglet, sniffing slightly, 'when you're only a Very Small Animal.'

Eeyore: A little Consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.

'One can't complain. I have my friends.

Someone spoke to me only yesterday.'

The whole film looks beautifully hand drawn by EH Shepard himself.

Don't miss a frame. 'ta ta for now' (Tigger)



## A Royal Affair

**Mon 23** 2.00, **Mon 30** 2.00



**Denmark, 1760s.** German doctor **Johann Struensee (Mikkelsen)** is taken on to attend to the questionable sanity of the erratic **King Christian**. The German's eye is quickly caught by the king's beautiful wife, **Queen Caroline (Vikander)**, and the two fall into an affair that threatens to consume them both. The opening scene, where a beautiful woman strokes a horse, and then walks by a river in a rain-soaked landscape, is like one of those paintings where you see a figure, and a face, and a certain kind of light, and glimpse a world. Within moments, she's writing a letter. Within a few more moments, she's back in a sunlit field, in a different country and a different time. In moments, it is clear that this beautiful woman, in this rain-soaked landscape, has an extraordinary story to tell.

Caroline Mathilde is the sister of England's King George III and the central character of this, Nikolaj Arcel's award-winning new film. In that sunlit field, she's fifteen and on the brink of an arranged marriage to the new 17 yr old king of Denmark...

The astonishing thing about this astonishing film is that everything that happens is true (best to handle that word with care).

A Royal Affair is the definition of classy period drama: well acted, intelligently scripted with a small-ish dose of bodice-ripping. (*Time Out*) Don't miss.

**Director:** Nikolaj Arcel  
**Starring:** Mads Mikkelsen, Mikkel Bo Følsgaard, Alicia Vikander, David Dencik  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** Denmark 2012  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors

## Friends With Kids

**Tue 24** 12.30, **Wed 25** 2.00

**Director:** Jennifer Westfeldt  
**Starring:** Jennifer Westfeldt, Adam Scott, Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

**Two best friends decide to have a child together while keeping their relationship platonic, so they can avoid the toll kids can take on romantic relationships.**

Here's a relationship comedy riffing on that drunken 2am conversation between friends of the opposite sex: why don't we have a baby together, never mind sex or marriage.

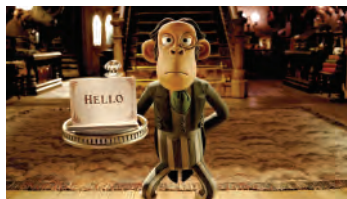
Their solution to friends who have kids? Have kids with a friend, much to the bemusement of the other couples in their circle.

Friends with Kids takes an unusual romantic premise and explores it in satisfying and perceptive depth. She should also be congratulated for avoiding the sad spinster stereotype by giving equal screen time to Jason's struggles with ageing and fatherhood. It's only a shame that after several interesting diversions, the plot eventually settles in such a predictable place.

"Yet there are two major obstacles to appreciating the film's achievements: First, the persistent feeling that you'd rather be watching Wiig in *Bridesmaids 2*, and second, Westfeldt's Hollywood cheekbones, which rather give the lie to the notion that she's just an ordinary gal looking for love. Luckily, she offers a performance that's heartfelt enough to emote through several layers of Botox." (*Guardian*) Sounds okay for, over-talkie with over-friendly friends, American pap?



## Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists Sat 28 2.00



From everybody's favourite animation studios, Aardman, comes a brilliant, clever, hilarious tale of swashbuckling adventure and 'Ham Nite'.

Hugh Grant is perfectly nuanced as the voice of the Pirate Captain whose ambition lies in beating his bitter rivals to the Pirate of the Year Award. When he and his hapless crew (an all-star barnacle of silly sea dogs: Martin Freeman, Brendan Gleeson, Russell Tovey, and Ashley Jensen) encounter HMS Beagle and Charles Darwin on the high seas, Darwin notices something rather special about (heavy-boned) Polly, the Captain's parrot, leading the crew on a frantic journey to Victorian London...

Technically brilliant and beautifully & faultlessly observed from Peter Lord, David Sproxton and Co (Wallace & Gromit, Chicken Run etc).

"I think you could treble the IQ of any child, or indeed adult, by putting them in front of an Aardman product like this."

(*Guardian*)

"Every scene has been embellished with sight gags, funny signs and dizzying amounts of background detail, all enhanced, not obscured, by judicious use of 3D (glorious 2D at The Rex). It would take multiple viewings to drink it all in, but The Pirates! more than justifies it."

(*Telegraph*) (SM) Taking a mere five years to make, it's the funniest, cleverest and wittiest animation you'll see in the next five. Sheer (ham-nite) joy.

**Directors:** Peter Lord, Jeff Newitt  
**Voices:** Hugh Grant, Salma Hayek, Brendan Gleeson, Lenny Henry,  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 88 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2012  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Prometheus Tue 31 12.30

**Director:** Ridley Scott  
**Starring:** Idris Elba, Guy Pearce, Charlize Theron, Michael Fassbender, Noomi Rapace  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2012  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Directed by Ridley Scott (Blade Runner, Gladiator) "Prometheus" is a beautiful, epic, if slightly messy prequel to his original "Alien".**

Guided by an ancient star map - interpreted as an invitation to visit humanity's forerunners, the "Engineers" - Drs. Shaw and Holloway (Noomi Rapace, Logan Marshall-Green) are invited by Peter Weyland, elderly CEO of Weyland Corporation (Guy Pearce) on a mission to visit a distant planet to discover more about these beings. Joined by an assorted crew including icy Meredith Vickers (Charlize Theron) and exquisitely mannered android David (a superb Michael Fassbender channelling the best of Bowie) to help the expedition along, what could possibly go wrong..?

Common complaints appear to be the narrative messiness of the ending, the bombastic score, and Scott's apparent desire for spookiness in preference to any utterly terrifying, gruesome, prolonged Alien encounters; however he displays guts in attempting to address the genesis of HR Giger's magnificent creatures, and indeed, life itself. Adjust your expectations, and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

"It is a muddled, intricate, spectacular film, but more or less in control of all its craziness and is very watchable."

(*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*)



# SOULFISH FOR THE ODYSSEY

ST ALBANS ARENA FRI 14TH SEPT – DON'T MISS.

**T**here's ten quid on this to sell out. I'm betting it won't! A lovely, clever, charming woman who should know better, has single-handedly set about this fundraiser. So far Jill Leslie from St Albans has sold over 300 tickets already (up to June!!). It all goes into the essential last cash pot the Odyssey needs to open by Spring 2014. Happily, it looks like I might lose the bet, and you'll have a great time.

Soulfish are The muso-connoisseur's 10 piece soul band. If you love an authentic blend of Motown Stax and Atlantic then Soulfish are a wish come true. Renowned as the band that delivers its classic brand of high-energy soul with total commitment to the audience. Phenomenal energy in performance.

For the past 15 years Soulfish have bossed the North London soul scene. They've opened Proms in the Park & The

Queen's Silver Jubilee party, been the house band on Channel 5s' 'Night Fever' backing Suggs & Kim Mazell, & even funk'd Greg Dyke at the BBC Radio Awards.

The line-up includes members of The Selector, Supertramp, The Cuban Brothers, Secret Affair, as well as cast members from huge (and ever more ridiculous) West End shows: Dancin' in the Streets, Mamma Mia & Sweeney Todd.

Soulfish aside, you'll have a great time being at The St Albans Arena supporting a woman who has taken on the challenge of raising £2000 clear, for the Odyssey. So come for her, come for the Odyssey, come to boogie...

Ps Anybody who fancies a lone fundraising adventure, you have our blessing and support, so please carry on...!



# SOULFISH

**Fri 14 Sept 8pm**  
**Alban Arena**

**All profits in aid of**  
**The Odyssey Cinema**

Tickets £15 from  
Jill 07710 105148  
Jo 07760 166000  
jill.leslie1@btopenworld.com

OR  
Alban Arena St Albans AL1 3LD  
www.alban-arena.co.uk  
Box Office: 01727 844 488

## COMMENTS FROM THE BOOK...

**No Date Anonymous 'Regular'**  
Fed up with the old bald guy telling his paying customers his opinion of films that we want to be allowed to enjoy.

"Fed up" carries no wit. To hold it all the way through the film, then come into the foyer and write it at the end, is more unfortunate than enduring a two minute diatribe. No annoyance should last through a whole film. Seriously, anything that spoils the film for you, please tell us immediately. It's too late at the end.

I stand up, say something inaudible, get off and it's over. If I dared to think before, I would never do it again. So Mr Mrs Miss Ms Regular, you're right, I too notice the irrelevance and impertinence, and the more I think about it, the more I think it should stop. But I find it best not to think about it, before, during or after, and only do when one of our kids repeats what I've just said, or worse, forgotten!

So, to stem your discomfort, and my pleasure, it is best to wait until the elderly, but perfectly formed pate, reappears in the foyer, so you might take your seat, in peace.

### 23/3 Anonymous

I'm so hot for James Hannaway! Yum!

So take that and a pound a week!

### 2/5 Sue Dyson

Sorry James – but the munchers and rustlers have arrived; Exotic Marigold Hotel potentially ruined by endless eating throughout – please introduce a "quieter area"

Thank you Sue Dyson, if only for your name and a hint of wit. The sound of someone else's eating can carry over the noisiest car chase and induce fantasies of their slow death.

We do our utmost to keep wrappings rustle-free. However, we have no power over dentures, mastication or saliva; heavy breathing or snoring (you should come for the babies on Tuesdays!). The

whole auditorium and our carefully judged sound levels are designed for least audience interference. The seats are well spaced and the speakers set at whispering level ie a screen whisper is a whisper not a shriek, and just loud enough to encourage silence. Our sound does not bombard, hurt or numb.

Therefore it will never drown ambient noise.

The trick is to keep it at a level where listening is essential. So the thought of crunching during a heightened moment is unthinkable. That is unless you're sitting next to someone who is enjoying the crisp more than the moment. In which case, please inject them with the deadly Russian nerve gas provided, and carry on enjoying the film. (You will find the correct health & safety procedure [form DBI-F26] under your seat).

**2/5 In response to Ms Dyson (again anon) was added in capitals:**  
"GET A LIFE YOU BORE."

Again witless but largely condemned for its dull use of a tired cliché. This ranks as one of the worst among other tedious phrases/clichés, examples: "...on the planet" serves as the decade's equivalent of 1980's "no way". "I'm good" (no you're not. You might be 'fine' or even 'well' or neither. It is for the enquirer to decide if you're any good) "Can I get...?" (Barman. 'No, you can have [a diet bungo-bomb] but I, will get it for you') etc.

Only "no problem" has surpassed most others for longevity (except of course for 'body language' which remains the chief ammunition of the gossip, slanderer, centre of attention seeker. Always used against someone not present to persuade anyone – who will take their side).

No problem used at the end of a transaction, is used in place of thank you, or yes I will see to that. Of course there's no poxy problem, it's a pair of shoelaces! Particularly irritating when sung. You'll have heard its lingering pitch. Next time you hear it. Thank them and ask do they know Ol' Man River.

## BERKOFEST 2012

SAT 15TH SEPTEMBER 11AM – 10PM, BERKHAMSTED SPORTS CLUB

**S**hame about the name, but the event promises to be extraordinary. There are more names than you could shake an old denim shirt at, alongside local young bloods. Here's to the sun shining – the day after the Soulfish/ ODYSSEY gig in St Albans...

New to the Berkhamsted Calendar of annual events, BerkoFest 2012 is designed to bring a genuine mix of quality music and comedy to people in and around the Berkhamsted area. To be set in the stunning eight acre location of Berkhamsted Sports Club, BerkoFest will provide an array of entertainment for all, with four stages encompassing high profile acts on main stage, an acoustic stage, an original comedy show, and an improvised 'Open Mic' set up, along with a whole host of other attractions! The inspiration to create the BerkoFest is driven by a team of volunteers with a passion to bring together, natural talented musicians, for the enjoyment of everyone, whilst being able to contribute monies to local organisations. Donations to Berkhamsted Sports Club, Swan Youth Centre and the Rotary club.

### A FANTASTIC FULL-LINE UP OF CONFIRMED ACTS

**Seth Lakeman**, the English folk singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with raw talent. His recent album "Tales from the Barrel House" on national release this April 2012.

**Showaddywaddy**, renowned for their retro-inspired rock & roll, and 'truly live and kicking' performance, that brings your dancing feet alive!

**Glenn Tilbrook**, part of the successful band "Squeeze", a superb singer-songwriter, who immerses music with the audience, by regularly performing requests, encouraging a relaxed, impromptu feel.

**Rowland Rivron** as main stage compare, his charisma as British comedian and musician, recently won him the Let's Dance for Sport Relief title with a lively routine performed to Fatboy Slim's Weapon of Choice.

**The Crookes**, the indie band from Sheffield, with musical genius and flare, rated highly amongst teenagers and students, for their fresh approach to music.

Also **JonPaul Palombo**, a singer-songwriter with a special blend of indie pop music.

**Mitch Benn**, comparing for BerkoFest, with his hilarious stand-up comedy, famous for his "humorous" songs performed on BBC radio.

Local musicians to thrill the audience will include: Shane Lamont, hosting the 'Open Mic' stage: Tom Billington and Henry Parker.

The full running order is available on [www.berkofest.com](http://www.berkofest.com) with UK

With families, primarily in mind, BerkoFest has arranged an interesting mix of child entertainment and parent pampering including: Panic Circus, a family-friendly, traditional, (no animal) circus with a varied programme of fun performances, workshops, and activities.

For a relaxing time out, BerkoFest has organised a team of professional therapists, who specialise in luxury treatments, to indulge your mind, body and well being. Ideal for some mellow space away from the hubbub of activity going on elsewhere!

Local Fayre will cater for a selection of tastes, with good quality food choices for everyone. All drinks **MUST** be purchased at the event and there will be a "fully licensed bar", as well as a selection of local ales, cocktails, along with soft and hot drink options.

Please embrace the BerkoFest! Set to be a special day and evening for the whole community to enjoy!

**Tickets available from Home & Colonial and the Kings Arms also online, all information available at [www.berkofest.com](http://www.berkofest.com)**