

THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

THE SOURCE

JUNE 2012...

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

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

JUNE 2012 Issue 87
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

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

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

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

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

Dayna Archer	Liam Parker
Julia Childs	Amberly Rose
Ally Clifton	Georgia Rose
Nicola Darvell	Sid Sagar
Romy Davis	Liam Stephenson
Karina Gale	Tina Thorpe
Ollie Gower	Beth Wallman
Elizabeth Hannaway	Jack Whiting
Billie Hendry-Hughes	Olivia Wilson
Abigail Kellett	Roz Wilson
Amelia Kellett	Keymea Yazdanian
Lydia Kellett	Yalda Yazdanian

Ushers:

Amy, Amy P, Annabel, Ella, Ellie, Ellen W, Hannah, India, James, Kitty, Luke, Meg, Tyree

Sally Rowbotham In charge
Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)
Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist
Martin Coffill Part-time assistant projectionist
Anna Shepherd Part-time assistant projectionist
Jacquie Rose Chief Admin
Oliver Hicks Best Boy
Simon Messenger Writer
Jack Whiting Writer

Andrew Dixon Resident Artist
Darren Flindall Maintenance
Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney Advisors and Investors
Ed Mauger Genius
Demiurge Design Programme Design
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 JUNE



TONY HAWKS comes to show and talk about Playing The Moldovans at Tennis. Don't miss.
Live Event: Tony Hawks Fri 22 7.30

FILMS OF THE MONTH



French kissing...
Goodbye First Love Mon 11 7.30.
 France/Germany 2011



Beautiful blend of comedy and tragedy
The Source Thu 14 7.30.
 Belgium/Italy/France 2011



If you loved The Chorus, you will love this...
Monsieur Lazhar
 Mon 25 7.30. Canada 2011

OPERA STAR JOSEPH CALLEJA AT THE REX IN APRIL



Film sets used to be populated by men in ties with sleeves rolled up and proper overcoats. Now it's a bunch of slack-alices in bad shorts and t-shirts. Who decided men's stringy arms were interesting let alone desirous? Unless of course they are rippled with defined dynamic tension, which is why real men wear long sleeves.

Just like Joseph Calleja the fabulous opera star who wore a decent suit and sang like an angel. Though he mimed a little off-sinc during his two day shoot at the Rex, when he sang out (to himself) his, where-did-that-come-from, voice filled the whole place with a shiver. We wish him well and the crew, despite their t-shirts. As always, the Rex was the star of the show, immaculately dressed. Great to see it used as a location and even better for our kids to see films being made here.



THE PIRATE CAPTAIN AT THE REX



Andrew Ward from Aardman studios in Bristol, was visiting his family here during our Pirates weekend in May. But he didn't just come to watch a film he's seen a hundred times, he brought the Pirate Captain, Polly and Charles Darwin with him. No replicas, they were the real 'people'! The stars of the film, and Andy was letting kids pick them up, move their arms and fingers (not Polly's). Robust and fragile all at once, and tiny as you can see, they left hundreds of kids in awe. How could something less than 20 inches tall fill a thirty foot screen? As if this wasn't enough, he explained how the film took five years to make, moving every lip and eyebrow once, click one frame, then move

it again until it made a simple expression: oops, laughter, surprise etc. One week's work would put only three finished seconds in the can!! What's feet & inches mum?



A TRUE STAR: CHARLIE CREED-MILES IN WILD BILL



Here you can see Nick Moran endearing the audience with his phone. This was the hotline to Dexter Fletcher who was in New York, LA, or somewhere more interesting, which is why he couldn't be here. It rang but it wasn't him. Luckily for us the star of the film Charlie Creed-Miles, came instead. And what a gem he turned out to be. Shy, but giving this Q&A lark a go. He turned it into a great double act with Nick, who has adopted the Rex a favourite hideout. Nick provided the fun tales and the full the story of Dexter's Range Rover! Charlie stayed quietly brilliant, talking about the director and the film, rather than his own 'six-pack'. I had trouble with the film. It looks/

sounds like so many gritty English dramas. There are more stories than eastender bad-ass, sink estate, mock-gangster tales to tell?

I am pleased the audience didn't agree. Everyone I talked to loved it, and the 300 strong, full house, applause rang out loud and long as Wild Bill's credits rolled.

The paper aeroplane was breathtaking. No film trickery, just a magical spontaneous (accidental?) moment caught on film, where a paper plane flew under its own sustained aerobatics, thrown (by Charlie!) from an 18th floor. That aside, the two kids were great, but Charlie was the star, on film and on stage. A treasured Rex Q&A.



ST ALBANS: THE MONEY IS IN. WE CAN START...

Thought of glitzy fluff to fanfare this, but best just say it.

We have the money! Not quite all of it of course, but £1.2million is enough to get on with transforming the old Odeon into The Odyssey. Our quantity survey confirms a finished price of around £1.6m. Therefore, with a renewed fund raising push for the last £400,000 it is realistic we will be showing our first film at the beginning of 2014. [Please note: loans and equity are now closed. This very last fund raising is through sponsorships and the Advanced Booking List – ABL only]

Perhaps a little hooray moment is called

for. So hooray!

On Thursday 30th April, the last in a long line of young bank executives was swamped by a Rex foyer, bursting with a typical full house matinee. He was here to put the finishing touches to Heads of Terms at the closing stages of their Credit Committee's tentative approval. To give them their due, they got closer to lending us money than any of the other banks, including those publicly owned. However, one thing led to another, Terms were found to be unmanageable, and later that day, the answer returned to 'No' once more. Never Mind.

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Our first open day June 2010. Thousands came.



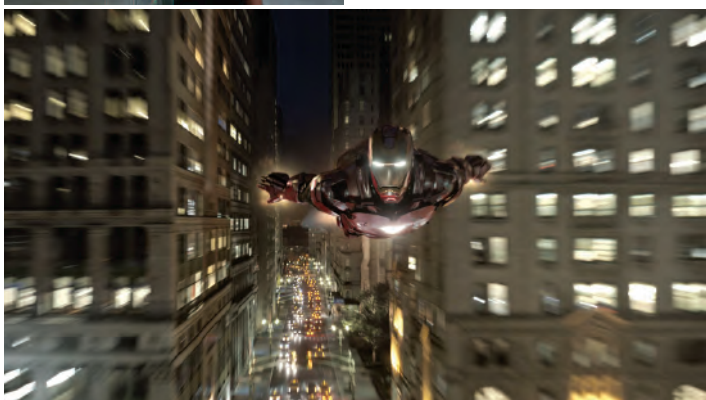
April 2012 first clean view from the balcony of original 'stalls' below. Steel beams to come out.



J U N E E V E N I N G S



Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Hiddleston
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 143 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount



Avengers Assemble

**Fri 1 7.30, Sat 2 7.00,
 Sun 3 6.00, Wed 6 7.30**

Like Band Aid without the terrible song, and Bono, the formation of the Avengers is a coming together of big personalities and even bigger egos.

The venomous Loki (Hiddleston), still licking his wounds after the defeat at the hands of his heroic brother Thor (Hemsworth) has pinched a mysterious cosmic cube of immense power and sets out for world domination.

Leader of super secret organisation SHIELD, Nick Fury (SL Jackson) gets agitated at the possibility of Earth's imminent destruction, so he unites Iron Man (Downey Jr), Thor, Captain America (Evans), and Hulk (Ruffalo) along with Black Widow (Johansson) and Hawkeye (Renner) in the hope of saving Earth, and more importantly, America.

Buffy creator and Marvel super-fan Joss Whedon writes and directs with confidence, allowing every hero to get a look-in and, surprisingly, it never feels crowded.

"Affectionately, Whedon plays to his characters' weaknesses as well as their strengths as his heroes bounce off each other. And we do mean that literally. Big, brash and very funny, Avengers Assemble is equal to the sum of its parts – and for once, that's no faint praise." *(Total Film)*

To the leagues of Marvel fanatics this is christmas come early, for everyone else it's a fun, witty and incredibly colourful treat. *(Jack Whiting)* And hooray, our Tom Hiddleston's baddy steals it.

Le Havre

Tue 5 7.30



Written and directed by acclaimed Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki, this superbly balanced dark comedy follows an episode in the life of Marcel Marx (André Wilms). He is a struggling bohemian author, now a 'temporary' shoeshine living a simple life with his wife Arletty. Whilst plying for trade, he discovers a young illegal immigrant, Idrissa (Blondin Miguel), who is smuggled in a shipping container; and rather hoping he had docked in London, where his family have made it. Marcel and his neighbours decide to hide him from the authorities: a trench coated, heavily moustachioed Inspector Monet (a brilliant Jean-Pierre Darroussin: Conversations with my Gardener).

They must concoct a way for him to find safe passage to the UK.

A dual narrative, dealing with a sudden and chronic illness befalling Marx' wife, provides a counterweight to the film's deadpan comic leanings, but Kaurismäki's timeless direction makes for a true gem.

"The drollery and deadpan in Kaurismäki's style in no way undermine the emotional force of this tale; they give it a sweetness and an ingenuous, Chaplinesque simplicity. It's a satisfying and distinctively lovable film." (*Guardian*)
 "The movie is a homage to French cinema, shot and acted in the flat, carefully composed style of Bresson" (*Observer*) (rSM) Sold out fast in May. Don't miss.

Director: Aki Kaurismäki
Starring: Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Kati Outinen
Certificate: PG
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Mirror Mirror

Thu 7 7.30

Director: Tarsem Singh
Starring: Lily Collins, Julia Roberts, Armie Hammer, Nathan Lane
Certificate: PG
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: StudioCanal

Julia Roberts' spendthrift ways have plunged her kingdom into debt. Enter the fabulously wealthy Prince Andrew (Armie Hammer) and bingo! A ball in his honour, and the aid of an enchanted mirror, will surely convince him to propose...? But at the ball, the Prince can't tear himself away from Snow White (Lily Collins: daughter of Phil). Furious, the Queen casts Snow White out into the wilderness where she is taken in by the seven dwarfs.

Together, they plot to save the Prince from his impending royal marriage, which puts a fresh, vaguely Hunger Games spin on a familiar story.

"It's a Bros Grimm alright, but far from grim; it radiates gorgeousness and good humour with near-nuclear intensity."

(*Telegraph*)

"It is mostly a spectacular bugging up of the Snow White story by people who can't or won't appreciate the source of the story's power, and can't decide if they want arch comedy or something swooningly serious for the tweenie demographic. It sleepwalks along confidently enough" (*Guardian*)

"So who is the fairest of them all? Not this spin on the Brothers Grimm perennial, clunkily directed, style over substance." (*Total Film*)

"Everybody in it seems to be having the time of their lives. Great, if you're under 10! (*Film4*) Sounds like an antidote to all the Royal palava.



Hunger Games

Fri 8 7.30



So here we are with another adaptation of a series of hugely popular young adult books, this time from author Suzanne Collins. Twilight anyone?

But before you reach for your garlic and silver take note that director Gary Ross (Pleasantville, Seabiscuit) has crafted an intelligent, highly thrilling and faithful reworking.

In a dystopian future we follow young heroine Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) as she is forced to take part in the televised Hunger Games, where youngsters from twelve districts fight to the death in tribute to the ruling Capitol. Whisked off to the big city in the company of fellow pugilist Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), Katniss finds herself completely out of her depth.

“What follows is a gripping satire on social inequality, totalitarian rule and the depths to which the media will plunge for the sake of entertainment (X Factor, Voice, anyone?). True, this is well covered sci-fi territory; The Running Man and Blade Runner. But presenting a society this barbaric from a teenager’s point of view for a teenage audience gives it a fresh twist.” (Film4)

Hunger Games is an exciting start to a promising trilogy and more importantly, Jennifer Lawrence has joined the likes of Sigourney Weaver, Linda Hamilton and now Noomi Rapace as iconic leading ladies in science fiction. Apparently, not to be missed.

Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Donald Sutherland, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci, Lenny Kravitz, Jennifer Lawrence

Certificate: 12A
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Headhunters

Sat 9 7.00, Sun 10 6.00

Director: Morten Tyldum
Starring: Aksel Hennie, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Norway 2012
By: Momentum Pictures

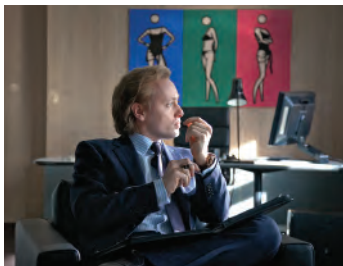
Pause before shouting ‘Dragon Tattoo!’

This Scandinavian thriller lacks the character complexities of Stieg Larsson’s Millennium trilogy, instead opting for an off-beat and condensed format that won’t require any chin-stroking.

Based on the novel by Jo Nesbø, Headhunters pits cocky recruitment consultant Roger Brown (Aksel Hennie) against espionage executive Clas Greve (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). It’s a duel to the death, ostensibly over a stolen painting, while there’s also a moral somewhere about modern capitalism.

“Though Roger is scarcely likable, the film does get caught up in his escalating troubles as his perfect, amoral life is ripped apart piece by piece and he is hunted across the open country by cops and killers. There’s a decent enough puzzle inside the survival/endurance test plot, and director Morten Tyldum manages to cope with a great deal of the business involving complicated clues which can clutter up adaptations of crime novels” (Empire)
 “A nice blend of Scandinavian sophistication and Hollywood slickness, Headhunters is an entertaining Nordic noir achievement.” (Total Film)

Enjoy every blistering second before an inevitable Mark Wahlberg remake rears its ugly head. (JW) Beware, there’s some interesting sexy shenanigans too, so don’t sit next to your mum. Sold out in no time in May. So don’t miss it in June.



Goodbye First Love

Mon 11 7.30



The motto of writer/director Mia Hensen-Love's triangular romantic essay in this often striking film is from philosopher, Kierkegaard: "Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forwards"

She returns following her critically acclaimed *Father of My Children* with this equally impressive next tale. Loosely auto-biographical (uh oh) in style, the film deals with what Hansen-Løve has described as the 'defining and central' part of her adolescence.

Paris, winter 1999, Camille is fifteen, Sullivan is nineteen. They fall in love, BUT Sullivan wants to go travelling for a year. By the end of the summer, he is gone and a few months later, the letters stop. Camille's longing drives her to despair. Fast forward four years and Camille is fully devoted to her architectural studies. She meets Lorenz, a distinguished architect, who restores her self-confidence and they too fall in love. This is when Sullivan reappears...

"HensenLove tells what is hardly an original story in an entirely original way, leaving gaps for us to mull over and refusing obvious romantic cliché. This is serious stuff about the perils of young love, without the usual tumbling sex scenes and Hollywood over-cooking." (*Standard*) Might get on your nerves in the 'okay silly arse, get on with it' dept. Try it and see.

Director: Mia Hansen-Løve
Starring: Lola Créton, Sebastian Urzendowsky
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: France/ Germany 2011
By: Artificial Eye

Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Tues 12 7.30, Wed 13 7.30

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 drama.

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 and 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*) If not 'Don't miss' it may well be worthy of your curiosity for an hour or so...





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



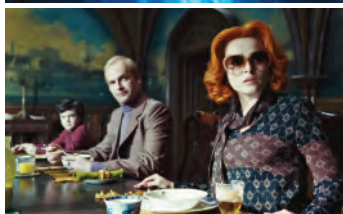
The Source

Thu 14 7.30

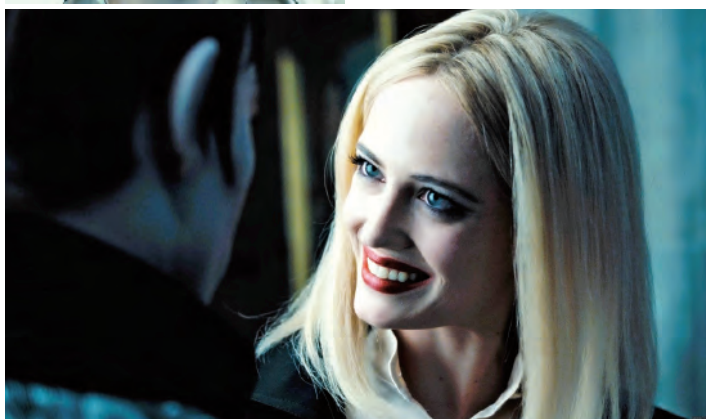
Romanian-born filmmaker Radu Mihaileanu (*The Concert*) offers up another certifiably crowd-pleasing slice of world cinema in *La Source des Femmes*, a modern-day fable exploring female empowerment in the Arab world.

Set in an unnamed contemporary Maghreb village, the women decide they no longer want to fetch water from a nearby well 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 more 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 gem from across the world's oceans and deserts. Not to be missed





Director: Tim Burton
Starring: Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Eva Green, Jonny Lee Miller
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers



Dark Shadows

Fri 15 7.30, Sat 16 7.00

Director Tim Burton partners with his muse, Johnny Depp, for the eighth time in this lavish and deliriously camp reworking of a '60s gothic soap opera.

“Depp plays Barnabas, a playboy lord of Collinsport, Maine, circa 1750, he spurns the advances of local witch Angelique (Eva Green) in favour of Josette (Bella Heathcote). It's not, as it turns out, the wisest of moves: Josette ends up dead and unburied, Barnabas undead and buried!

Fast-forward to 1972 and we meet Victoria, as she applies for a job as governess at the Collins' run-down mansion. Here, matriarch Elizabeth (Michelle Pfeiffer) oversees the remaining rabble as they run the family fishing business into the ground, to the delight of their centuries-old rival.

Into this uneasy mix wanders Barnabas, freed from his underground prison by construction workers and looking to raise the family back to prominence without biting too many innocents.

Dark Shadows is a lot of fun, and its beautiful sets, costumes and quirky atmosphere will thrill, but gone are the macabre glory-days of Edward Scissorhands and Ed Wood. After Charlie & the Choc, Alice, and now Dark Shadows, Burton and Depp might need to re-think their future relationship? (*Jack Whiting*) Not so fast Jack, they still know how to share their fun with an audience.

Marley

Sun 17 6.00



Tracing 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 Trench Town slum, all the way to his death from cancer at 36, Marley doesn't stray from the familiar rags-to-riches music doc format.

Marley is less exhaustive than Scorsese's recent George Harrison documentary, but this follows much the same template, mixing interviews, archive material, concert broadcasts and new footage of key locations in the story.

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 homefront 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 even 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*) Back by huge demand.

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

Breathing

Mon 18 7.30

Director: Karl Markovics
Starring: Thomas Schubert, Karin Lischka, Georg Friedrich, Gerhard Liebmann
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: Austria 2011
By: Verve

Written and directed by Karl Markovics, who is best known as the lead and overriding presence in Stefan Ruzowitzky's masterly *The Counterfeiters*, *Breathing* is an extraordinary debut film.

Roman Kogler (an impressive Thomas Schubert) is an orphaned, juvenile offender who is up for parole. One condition of his parole dictates that he must hold down a job on day release, and as such, the insular, vulnerable young man is found work at a mortuary in Vienna. Initially he is silently repulsed by the job, and teased by his colleagues for his reluctance to handle the bodies, however as time passes, he begins to ingratiate himself into a new world - one of humanity and of compassion.

"There's no superficial flash here, just patient and compassionate storytelling gradually immersing us in this young man's world, as first-timer Schubert's vulnerable adolescent grows up before our very eyes." (*Time Out*)

"Markovics's script circles around the themes of death and life in thoughtful and elegant ways: it is a well-carpentered screenplay which bears every sign of having been a labour of love, worked on fruitfully over many years." (*Guardian*) Affecting and unsentimental; don't miss. (*Simon Messenger*)



Hunger Games

Tue 19 7.30



So here we are with another adaptation of a series of hugely popular young adult books, this time from author Suzanne Collins. *Twilight* anyone?

But before you reach for your garlic and silver take note that director Gary Ross (*Pleasantville*, *Seabiscuit*) has crafted an intelligent, highly thrilling and faithful reworking.

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"What follows is a gripping satire on social inequality, totalitarian rule and the depths to which the media will plunge for the sake of entertainment (*X Factor*, *Voice*, anyone?). True, this is well covered sci-fi territory; *The Running Man* and *Blade Runner*. But presenting a society this barbaric from a teenager's point of view for a teenage audience gives it a fresh twist." (*Film4*)

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Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Donald Sutherland, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci, Lenny Kravitz, Jennifer Lawrence

Certificate: 12A
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Wed 20 7.30

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

The cast constitutes a dream team of veteran thespians: Judi Dench is a widow emerging from her shell; Tom Wilkinson is a judge revisiting his youthful home; 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 only one day in June, so book early.



Café De Flore

Thu 21 7.30



Written and directed by Jean-Marc Vallée (*The Young Victoria*), *Café de Flore* is a flawed, if emotionally compelling drama.

The film follows two apparently unrelated narratives: firstly, that of present-day Québécois DJ Antoine (Parent) violently torn between his young, beautiful girlfriend Rosa (Brochu), and his heartbroken first wife Carole (Hélène Florent). Secondly, that of Parisian single mother Jacqueline (Paradis), with a Down's syndrome son, at the end of the Sixties.

The relationship between the two stories is intriguing, however much of the film's emotional resonance is provided by a persuasive star turn from Paradis.

"A narcissistic and fundamentally unpersuasive mosaic-film, shuffling around scene fragments, dreams and flashbacks while heading towards what will almost certainly prove to be the most stupid movie twist of the decade." (*Guardian*)

"*Café de Flore* is intoxicating, romantic, pretty damn mad, and it just doesn't care. There are all sorts of questions to be asked about the final reel, which (to say the least) demands a massive leap of faith from the viewer, but whether or not you buy it, it's hard not to be thrilled by a movie which takes risks and sticks to its own out-there logic." (*Time Out*)

Café de Flore, or *Café de Flawed*? You decide. (*research SM*) Sounds French enough to be worth your time.

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Starring: Vanessa Paradis, Kevin Parent, Hélène Florent, Evelyne Brochu
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: Canada/France 2011
By: Momentum

Tony Hawks: LIVE Playing the Moldovans at Tennis Fri 22 7.30

Directors: Tony Hawks, Mikolaj Jaroszewicz
Starring: Tony Hawks, Stephen Frost, Anatol Durbala
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 90 mins (tbc)
Origin: UK 2011
By: Tony Hawks Productions

September 1997. Tony Hawks and Arthur Smith are watching the football round at Tony's house. England are playing Moldova in the World Cup qualifiers and winning easily. The conversation, oddly, turns to tennis, which Arthur has always asserted is a 'crap game' especially after Tony beat him (hands down) on holiday in Majorca. A pedantic argument ensues, Tony believing that even a 'natural sportsman or sportswoman' couldn't be good at tennis without the proper tuition. Arthur vowing that most natural sportsmen (like the footballers on the telly) could pick up a racket and, without too much bother, beat Tony (ex-Sussex junior champion etc). So the childish bet was proffered that Tony couldn't play all of the Moldovan national football team at tennis and beat them all. "I could, I could beat them all." said Tony. "Not every single one of them." taunted Arthur. "One of them is bound to be very good...?" A further carrot was clearly needed. Arthur: "Look if you beat them all then I'll stand naked on Balham High Street and sing the Moldovan National Anthem, with a pixie hat on." Tony: "On your head?" Arthur: "Alright as long as you supply the hat."

The bet was on.

"Not only funny but surprisingly illuminating and moving" (*Daily Mail... Yes, you heard*)



The Raid

Sat 23 7.00



An aggressive blend of Die Hard, Assault on Precinct 13, and Ong Bak; The Raid is an incredibly violent, incredibly exciting balls-to-the-wall Indonesian sensation.

Welsh director Gareth Evans' love of an ancient fighting style known as Silat fuels the set pieces as the narrative takes a back seat to the on-screen chaos. And what brilliantly choreographed chaos it is. The Raid opens in a cacophony of machine gun fire as an elite police force, including rookie cop Rama (Iko Uwais), work their way up the apartment building that has fallen under the clutches of a feared drug lord, but when the ammo dries up the fists, feet and machetes start flying.

"There are moments when The Raid doesn't feel like an action movie so much as pure action itself, delivered in strong, undiluted doses and with the sort of creative one-upmanship capable of rejuvenating a stale, seen-it-all genre." (*Time Out*)

"Hot off the festival circuit, the buzz on this one is well-earned and genuine. It's been a while, but here's an unabashed, unironic Friday-night movie; a noisy, bloodlust crowdpleaser that's like a kickback to the grindhouse." (*Empire*) The Raid's tagline boasts 'One Ruthless Crime Lord, 20 Elite Cops, 30 Floors of Hell'. For action fans, that's a hundred minutes of heaven. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Gareth Evans
Starring: Iko Uwais, Ray Sahetapy, Joe Taslim, Doni Alamsyah
Certificate: 18
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: Indonesia/USA 2011
By: Momentum

In Darkness

Sun 24 6.00

Director: Agnieszka Holland
Starring: Robert Wiekiewicz, Benno Fürmann, Agnieszka Grochowska, Maria Schrader
Certificate: 15
Duration: 144 mins
Origin: Poland/Germany/France/Canada 2011
By: Metrodome

What's distinctive and worthwhile about Agnieszka Holland's film is how it sees the diverse shades within that humanity, eschewing the moral absolutes which, for understandable reasons, have dominated this cinematic territory.

So, when the Nazis send in brutal Ukrainian special forces to exterminate Lvov's Jews, Socha (Robert Wiekiewicz, spot-on throughout), a sewer inspector with a pragmatic sideline in burglary, at first stands idly by. Indeed, when desperate Jewish fugitives seek refuge in the sewers, he extorts a fee from them to keep it secret. Their horrendous living conditions in turn do little to heal the class divisions limiting their unity. All of this is grimly believable, so that when the green shoots of decency do spring, they do so in a way that is far from hackneyed, slightly mysterious, and thus all the more affecting. "Convincing in its detail, nail-chewing in its mounting suspense, 'In Darkness' is illuminating, provocative and bracingly unsentimental. It positively clamours for your attention." (*Time Out*) "The film takes place mostly in the dank and fetid darkness of the sewers and is superbly shot by Jolanta Dylewska. It also has the merit of allowing us to see that the survivors, like Socha himself, were flawed characters, not heroes." (*Standard*)

It's no easy ride, but shouldn't be missed.



Monsieur Lazhar

Mon 25 7.30



Monsieur Lazhar is a 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... Touching on themes of grief, loss, integration, unity, and also the onus we should place on the optimism of youth, "Monsieur Lazhar" is highly recommended.

"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*) (research Simon Messenger). '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.

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

What To Expect When You're Expecting

Tue 26 7.30, **Wed 27** 7.30

Director: Kirk Jones
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks, Dennis Quaid,
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA, 2012
By: Lionsgate

'Inspired' by America's bestselling pregnancy handbook, this is the latest in slick packaging in the vein of **Bridesmaids**: Take a popular, high-concept title, weave together a tapestry from loosely connected narrative strands, and embellish it with a bunch of star names, and this what you get.

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez (surprisingly good), Chris Rock, Anna Kendrick, Dennis Quaid and oops, Cheryl Cole all fight for the screen, the laughs and all too few pregnant pauses.

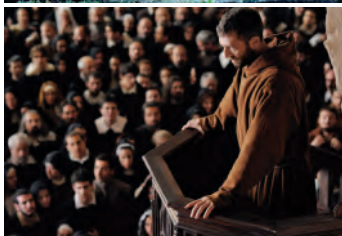
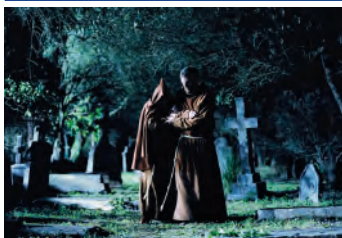
It revolves around five couples enduring the highs and lows of pregnancy. TV fitness guru Jules and dance show star Evan find that their high-octane celebrity lives don't stand a chance against the surprise demands of pregnancy. Baby-crazy author and advocate Wendy gets a taste of her own militant mummy advice when pregnancy hormones go on the rampage. While husband, Gary, struggles not to be outdone. Then there's trophy wife, Skyler expecting twins, and rival chefs Rosie and Marco's surprise quandary: what to do when your first child comes before your first date?

"We, of course, learn valuable lessons from this. Babies are miracles, pregnancy can be quite tricky and men and women sometimes think different things! Expect crying, laughing, learning, growing, hugging, jogging, lattes and shouts of Breathe!" (*Time Out*) (research Jane Lucas) Sounds like a bucket of slush.





Director: Dominik Moll
Starring: Vincent Cassel, Déborah François, Joséphine Japy, Sergi López, Catherine Mouchet, Jordi Dauder
Certificate: 15
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: Spain/ France 2011
By: Metrodome



The Monk

Thu 28 7.30

With brooding French actor Vincent Cassel playing a monk, you can be sure his character's chastity and sanctity are not fully guaranteed. And so it turns out in this French-language adaptation of Matthew Lewis's 1796 gothic novel about Ambrosio (Cassel), a revered friar in early seventeenth-century Spain who is increasingly drawn to sins of the flesh after being corrupted by the devil. "After offering succour to a strange, shapely masked pilgrim, Ambrosio gets bitten by an insect in his rose garden, you can probably sense a metaphor brewing here, with the succour passionately and feverishly returned!" (*Total Film*) "This cautionary French tale and feverishly intense movie has a tablespoon of 1970s art-porn; director Dominik Moll could well be a fan of *The Omen*... Vincent Cassel gives good glower in this French thriller" (*Guardian*) It's interesting and unsettling, with a charismatic lead performance, but nowhere near as shocking as it should be. (*Empire*) "Leaden with doom and swollen with symbolism, Moll's slow, sultry romantic horror is every bit as overblown, dense and utterly immersive as the novel." (*Little White Lies*) "What a very strange film this is, so controlled and precise yet utterly outlandish in its conjuring of evil. Dan Brown should take a look, and ponder." (*Independent*) Come for Vincent, whatever he's in.



Director: Larry Charles
Starring: Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris, John C. Reilly, Megan Fox, Ben Kingsley
Certificate: 15
Duration: 83 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount



The Dictator

Fri 29 7.30, Sat 30 7.00

This gleefully immature, fish-out-of-water farce sees Sacha Baron-Cohen back in his satirical comfort zone as a Gadaffi and Saddam inspired tyrant, let lose upon American culture.

"Baron Cohen plays General Aladeen, the tyrannical ruler of the oil-rich north African rogue state Wadiya, who is intensely irritated by the West's infatuation with the Arab spring.

An invasion threat from the US forces Aladeen's hand. He is compelled to visit New York to explain himself to the UN and, like Borat before him, finds himself stunned in various ways by the strange and exotic world of New York

But the general's duplicitous brother (Ben Kingsley) turns out to have a treasonous plan in mind and Aladeen finds himself anonymous and penniless on the Manhattan streets, dependent on the charity of a feminist vegetarian cafe manager (Anna Faris).

Unlike Borat and Brüno's excruciating street-prank style, *The Dictator* opts for a more traditional, wholly fictitious structure.

Still throwing punches in the name of bad taste, though, with jokes involving 9/11 (the Porsche variety), the size of his missile and his personal videogame entitled "Munich Olympics" the former wannabe gangsta from Staines has lost none of his potency, or lack of subtlety. (*Jack Whiting*) It is everything you expect, so if you're not a SBC fan, steer clear.

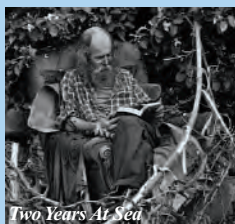
COMING SOON

New releases

Prometheus
The Angel's Share
Casa de mi Padre
Two Years At Sea

Back by demand

Monsieur Lazhar
Marvel's Avengers
Dark Shadows
Marley
The Raid...?
And: some old favourites

*The Angel's Share**Casa de mi Padre**Prometheus**Two Years At Sea*

JUNE FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Fri	AVENGERS ASSEMBLE	7.30
2	Sat	AVENGERS ASSEMBLE	2.00, 7.00
3	Sun	AVENGERS ASSEMBLE	6.00
4	Mon	CLOSED	
5	Tue	AVENGERS ASSEMBLE	2.00
5	Tue	LE HAVRE	7.30
6	Wed	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	2.00
6	Wed	AVENGERS ASSEMBLE	7.30
7	Thu	MIRROR MIRROR	2.00, 7.30
8	Fri	THE HUNGER GAMES	7.30
9	Sat	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	2.00
9	Sat	HEADHUNTERS	7.00
10	Sun	HEADHUNTERS	6.00
11	Mon	HEADHUNTERS	2.00
11	Mon	GOODBYE FIRST LOVE	7.30
12	Tue	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	12.30, 7.30
13	Wed	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00, 7.30
14	Thu	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00
14	Thu	THE SOURCE	7.30
15	Fri	DARK SHADOWS	7.30
16	Sat	TALES OF THE NIGHT	2.00
16	Sat	DARK SHADOWS	7.00
17	Sun	MARLEY	6.00
18	Mon	THE SOURCE	2.00
18	Mon	BREATHING	7.30
19	Tue	DARK SHADOWS	12.30
19	Tue	HUNGER GAMES	7.30
20	Wed	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00, 7.30
21	Thu	CAFÉ DE FLORE	2.00, 7.30
22	Fri	TONY HAWKES: PLAYING THE MOLDOVANS AT TENNIS	7.30
23	Sat	BEAUTY & THE BEAST	2.00
23	Sat	THE RAID	7.00
24	Sun	IN DARKNESS	6.00
25	Mon	MONSIEUR LAZHAR	2.00, 7.30
26	Tue	WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING	12.30, 7.30
27	Wed	WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING	2.00, 7.30
28	Thu	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00
28	Thu	THE MONK	7.30
29	Fri	THE DICTATOR	7.30
30	Sat	TOP CAT: THE MOVIE	2.00
30	Sat	THE DICTATOR	7.00

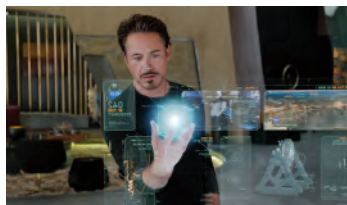


J U N E M A T I N E E S

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

Avengers Assemble

Sat 2 2.00, Tue 5 **2.00**



Like Band Aid without the terrible song, and Bono, the formation of the Avengers is a coming together of big personalities and even bigger egos.

The venomous Loki (Hiddleston), still licking his wounds after the defeat at the hands of his heroic brother Thor (Hemsworth) has pinched a mysterious cosmic cube of immense power and sets out for world domination.

Leader of super secret organisation SHIELD, Nick Fury (SL Jackson) gets agitated at the possibility of Earth's imminent destruction, so he unites Iron Man (Downey Jr), Thor, Captain America (Evans), and Hulk (Ruffalo) along with Black Widow (Johansson) and Hawkeye (Renner) in the hope of saving Earth, and more importantly, America.

Buffy creator and Marvel super-fan Joss Whedon writes and directs with confidence, allowing every hero to get a look-in and, surprisingly, it never feels crowded.

"Affectionately, Whedon plays to his characters' weaknesses as well as their strengths as his heroes bounce off each other. And we do mean that literally. Big, brash and very funny, Avengers Assemble is equal to the sum of its parts – and for once, that's no faint praise."

(*Total Film*)

To the leagues of Marvel fanatics this is christmas come early, for everyone else it's a fun, witty and incredibly colourful treat. (*Jack Whiting*) And hooray, our Tom Hiddleston's baddy steals it.

Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Mark Ruffalo, Tom Hiddleston
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 143 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Paramount

Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists

Wed 6 2.00, Sat 9 2.00

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

From everybody's favourite animation studios, Aardman, comes a smart, hilarious tale of swashbuckling adventure in this family friendly pirate caper.

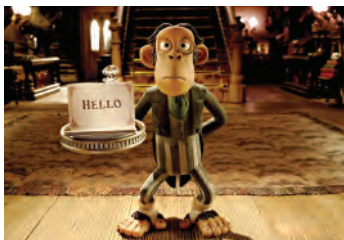
Hugh Grant brilliantly voices the Pirate Captain whose ambition lies in beating his bitter rivals Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz to the Pirate of the Year Award. When he and his hapless crew (an all-star barnacle of silly sea dogs: Martin Freeman, Brendan Gleeson, Russell Tovey, and Ashley Jensen) encounter HMS Beagle and Charles Darwin on the high seas, Darwin notices something rather special about Polly, the Captain's parrot, leading the crew on a frantic trip to Victorian London and to the Royal Society itself!

It's a technically brilliant film, as we have come to expect 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*) And... it's the best, cleverest and wittiest film you'll see all year. Sheer joy.



Mirror Mirror

Thu 7 2.00



Julia Roberts' spendthrift ways have plunged her kingdom into debt. Enter the fabulously wealthy Prince Andrew (Armie Hammer) and bingo! A ball in his honour, and the aid of an enchanted mirror, will surely convince him to propose...? But at the ball, the Prince can't tear himself away from Snow White (Lily Collins: daughter of Phil). Furious, the Queen casts Snow White out into the wilderness where she is taken in by the seven dwarfs.

Together, they plot to save the Prince from his impending royal marriage, which puts a fresh, vaguely Hunger Games spin on a familiar story. "It's a Bros Grimm alright, but far from grim; it radiates gorgeousness and good humour with near-nuclear intensity." (*Telegraph*)

"It is mostly a spectacular bugging up of the Snow White story by people who can't or won't appreciate the source of the story's power, and can't decide if they want arch comedy or something swooningly serious for the tweenie demographic. It sleepwalks along confidently enough" (*Guardian*)

"So who is the fairest of them all? Not this spin on the Brothers Grimm perennial, clunkily directed, style over substance." (*Total Film*)

"Everybody in it seems to be having the time of their lives. Great, if you're under 10! (*Film4*) Sounds like an antidote to all the Royal palava.

Director: Tarsem Singh
Starring: Lily Collins, Julia Roberts, Armie Hammer, Nathan Lane
Certificate: PG
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: StudioCanal

Headhunters

Mon 11 2.00

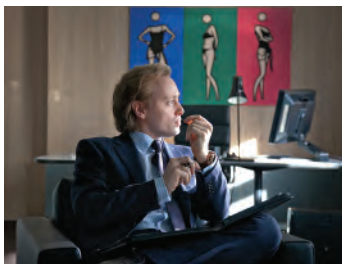
Director: Morten Tyldum
Starring: Aksel Hennie, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Norway 2012
By: Momentum Pictures

Pause before shouting 'Dragon Tattoo!'
 This Scandinavian thriller lacks the character complexities of Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, instead opting for an off-beat and condensed format that won't require any chin-stroking.

Based on the novel by Jo Nesbø, Headhunters pits cocky recruitment consultant Roger Brown (Aksel Hennie) against espionage executive Clas Greve (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). It's a duel to the death, ostensibly over a stolen painting, while there's also a moral somewhere about modern capitalism.

"Though Roger is scarcely likable, the film does get caught up in his escalating troubles as his perfect, amoral life is ripped apart piece by piece and he is hunted across the open country by cops and killers. There's a decent enough puzzle inside the survival/endurance test plot, and director Morten Tyldum manages to cope with a great deal of the business involving complicated clues which can clutter up adaptations of crime novels" (*Empire*)
 "A nice blend of Scandinavian sophistication and Hollywood slickness, Headhunters is an entertaining Nordic noir achievement." (*Total Film*)

Enjoy every blistering second before an inevitable Mark Wahlberg remake rears its ugly head. (*JW*) Beware, there's some interesting sexy shenanigans too, so don't sit next to your mum. Sold out in no time in May. So don't miss it in June.



Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Tue 12 12.30, **Wed 13** 2.00,
Thu 14 2.00



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 drama.

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 and 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) If not 'Don't miss' it may well be worthy of your curiosity for an hour or so...

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

Tales Of The Night

Sat 16 2.00

Director: Michel Ocelot
Voices: Julien Beramès, Marine Grisct, Michel Elias, Olivier Claverie
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Soda Pictures

At night, in an old cinema, three friends select tales from around the world and bring them to life, with the help of animation, acting and a liberal dose of magic.

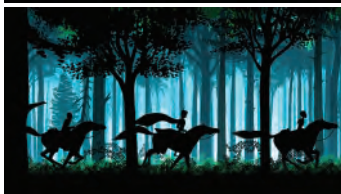
Tales of the Night is a collection of animations by noted French animator Michel Ocelot (*Kirikou and the Sorceress*), whose work has the crafty, handmade appearance of cut-outs and silhouettes. There are six tales here, all of them framed by the idea of youngsters sneaking into a cinema at night, in cahoots with an inspired lighting technician.

"From Africa to Tibet, werewolves to cities of gold, each setting is gorgeously rendered and the backgrounds and colours are stunning. At the same time, the approach deprives us of the wonderful expressivity most commonly associated with animation, and requires audiences to use imagination to fill in the expressions that silhouettes alone cannot capture"

(*Variety*)

Fairytales from the Middle Ages wrapped morality up in nasty little fables (with a sprinkle of dry humour). and the more sinister they are, the more kids seem to love them. (*Film4*)

An overlooked gem. (*Little White Lies*)



The Source

Mon 18 2.00



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 from a nearby well 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 more 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 gem from across the world's oceans and deserts. Not to be missed

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

Dark Shadows

Tue 19 12.30

Director: Tim Burton
Starring: Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Eva Green, Jonny Lee Miller
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers

Director Tim Burton partners with his muse, Johnny Depp, for the eighth time in this lavish and deliriously camp reworking of a '60s gothic soap opera.

"Depp plays Barnabas, a playboy lord of Collinsport, Maine, circa 1750, he spurns the advances of local witch Angelique (Eva Green) in favour of Josette (Bella Heathcote). It's not, as it turns out, the wisest of moves: Josette ends up dead and unburied, Barnabas undead and buried! Fast-forward to 1972 and we meet Victoria, as she applies for a job as governess at the Collins' run-down mansion. Here, matriarch Elizabeth (Michelle Pfeiffer) oversees the remaining rabble as they run the family fishing business into the ground, to the delight of their centuries-old rival.

Into this uneasy mix wanders Barnabas, freed from his underground prison by construction workers and looking to raise the family back to prominence without biting too many innocents.

Dark Shadows is a lot of fun, and its beautiful sets, costumes and quirky atmosphere will thrill, but gone are the macabre glory-days of Edward Scissorhands and Ed Wood. After Charlie & the Choc, Alice, and now Dark Shadows, Burton and Depp might need to re-think their future relationship? (*Jack Whiting*) Not so fast Jack, they still know how to share their fun with an audience.



The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Wed 20 2.00



The cast constitutes a dream team of veteran thespians: Judi Dench is a widow emerging from her shell; Tom Wilkinson is a judge revisiting his youthful home; 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 only one day in June, so book early.

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

Café De Flore

Thu 21 2.00

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée
Starring: Vanessa Paradis, Kevin Parent, Hélène Florent, Evelyne Brochu
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: Canada/France 2011
By: Momentum

Written and directed by Jean-Marc Vallée (*The Young Victoria*), *Café de Flore* is a flawed, if emotionally compelling drama.

The film follows two apparently unrelated narratives: firstly, that of present-day Québécois DJ Antoine (Parent) violently torn between his young, beautiful girlfriend Rosa (Brochu), and his heartbroken first wife Carole (Hélène Florent). Secondly, that of Parisian single mother Jacqueline (Paradis), with a Down's syndrome son, at the end of the Sixties.

The relationship between the two stories is intriguing, however much of the film's emotional resonance is provided by a persuasive star turn from Paradis.

"A narcissistic and fundamentally unpersuasive mosaic-film, shuffling around scene fragments, dreams and flashbacks while heading towards what will almost certainly prove to be the most stupid movie twist of the decade."

(*Guardian*)

"*Café de Flore* is intoxicating, romantic, pretty damn mad, and it just doesn't care.

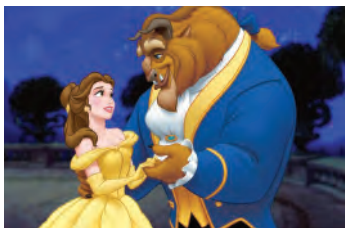
There are all sorts of questions to be asked about the final reel, which (to say the least) demands a massive leap of faith from the viewer, but whether or not you buy it, it's hard not to be thrilled by a movie which takes risks and sticks to its own out-there logic." (*Time Out*)

Café de Flore, or *Café de Flawed*? You decide. (*research SM*) Sounds French enough to be worth your time.



Beauty & The Beast

Sat 23 2.00



This was the first cartoon to be nominated for a best picture Oscar (1991)

Its charm and energy are quite undimmed: it's a minor classic of the genre.

The fairytale has been tweaked a little, so that Beauty is now a feisty, bookish lass named Belle and the Beast looks like the Lion King crossed with a warthog.

Once the story switches to the Beast's castle and the delightfully eccentric serving staff the film takes wing, kept aloft by a stunning visual wit and a handful of fine songs (by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken).

"What a treat it is to see 'Beauty and the Beast' again.

Delivering a rush of sunnily confident, cockle-warming innocence. 'Be nice and nice things will happen' is the message, as plucky heroine Belle dodges salivating wolves to rescue her dad from the Beast's castle.

And for sheer inventiveness you can't beat the talking objects in the castle: Mrs Potts, the cockney teapot and her chinaware brood; a stagecoach that scuttles like a spider; the footstool dog wagging his tassels. Magic." (*Time Out*)

Director: Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise
Voices: Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson
Certificate: U
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: USA 1991
By: Disney

Monsieur Lazhar

Mon 25 2.00

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

Monsieur Lazhar is a 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...

Touching on themes of grief, loss, integration, unity, and also the onus we should place on the optimism of youth, "Monsieur Lazhar" is highly recommended.

"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*) (research Simon Messenger). '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.





Director: Kirk Jones
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Elizabeth Banks, Dennis Quaid,
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA, 2012
By: Lionsgate



What To Expect When You're Expecting

Tue 26 12.30, Wed 27 2.00

'Inspired' by America's bestselling pregnancy handbook, this is the latest in slick packaging in the vein of Bridesmaids: Take a popular, high-concept title, weave together a tapestry from loosely connected narrative strands, and embellish it with a bunch of star names, and this what you get.

Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez (surprisingly good), Chris Rock, Anna Kendrick, Dennis Quaid and oops, Cheryl Cole all fight for the screen, the laughs and all too few pregnant pauses.

It revolves around five couples enduring the highs and lows of pregnancy. TV fitness guru Jules and dance show star Evan find that their high-octane celebrity lives don't stand a chance against the surprise demands of pregnancy. Baby-crazy author and advocate Wendy gets a taste of her own militant mummy advice when pregnancy hormones go on the rampage. While husband, Gary, struggles not to be outdone. Then there's trophy wife, Skyler expecting twins, and rival chefs Rosie and Marco's surprise quandary: what to do when your first child comes before your first date?

"We, of course, learn valuable lessons from this. Babies are miracles, pregnancy can be quite tricky and men and women sometimes think different things! Expect crying, laughing, learning, growing, hugging, jogging, lattes and shouts of Breathe!" (*Time Out*) (research Jane Lucas) Sounds like a bucket of slush.

Salmon Fishing In The Yemen **Thu 28** 2.00



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 drama.

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 and 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) If not 'Don't miss' it may well be worthy of your curiosity for an hour or so....?

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

Top Cat: The Movie **Sat 30** 2.00

Director: Alberto Mar
Voices: Jason Harris, Chris Edgerly, Melissa Disney
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: Mexico/Argentina/UK 2011
By: Vertigo

The cannibalisation of classic Hanna-Barbera cartoons continues (unholy updates of Yogi Bear and The Flintstones spring to mind) with a new take on the short lived '60s cartoon.

Top Cat and the gang - Benny the Ball, Fancy Fancy, Choo Choo, Spook and Brains are in hot water. Chief Strickland, New York's new head of police, is a nasty piece of work and has the feline friends and their hapless nemesis Office Dibble in his sights.

Determined to rid 'his city' of these nuisances, Strickland has TC thrown in jail on trumped up charges and locks the others out of their alley. Will the cats be able to rescue TC and save the city from Strickland and his new robot police force?

Happily Top Cat opts for nostalgia over pleasing the new generation of kids by retaining the look and feel of the original show (no horrid live-action and CGI melding to be seen here).

It's nice to see TC given a new, if slight, lease of life to keep purists happy and remind everyone else that the cheeky cat and his double entendres are still worth the walk up the hill to see it at the Rex. (*Jack Whiting*) Besides, new kids (on the block) should see something fabulous, their parents loved.



ST ALBANS: THE MONEY IS IN. WE CAN START...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

By 9.45 on Friday morning (1st May) the word 'Yes' came from one man, whom along with his family, agreed to step in to the bank's pockets, without a second thought. After two solid years (almost to the day) of endless talks, emails, meetings, tasks and questions answered, re-answered and repeated, it was all over in two days! Suddenly every hoop and tedious question seemed worth it. One odyssey over; the best to come.

In turn, the banks (seven to be precise) venture capitalists and a number of speculators couldn't 'get it'. 136 people had sponsored seats at £1000 each; £30,000 came in pure donations. Ordinary people raised a million in just eight weeks to buy the site. 580 individuals willingly paid £285 for some future uncertain ticket, at the height of the worst recession since 1929, and all for an old derelict cinema! This was anathema to banks and others, but crystal clear to everybody else.



Happy days on St Albans market, fundraising June 2011



April 2012 first clean view from the balcony of original 'stalls' below. Steel beams to come out.



2011 before the screen 2 ceiling was taken down

All the young bank executive were very keen and excited, until submitting to their anonymous credit committees. It is not the mechanics of lending/borrowing that confounds, it's the hoops they invent to refuse.

Among the many things we've learned, credit committees in Manchester or Birmingham are not fit to make decisions about another community's well-being.

So, it took one decent individual, fed up with them, to find the loan funds by himself. A virtual repeat of how the Rex was won. More of this later. Names etc and the longer story will follow over the summer months.

For now, this is all you need to know. We will start rebuilding the Odyssey from the inside. Quietly, much of the work to satisfy the fire brigade's and Council's prohibition notice last September (which halted the Grease event and following Open Sunday) has been completed, and all four screen pits have been demolished and removed.

Investors and our 'banking angel' have put up the required £1.2m to match the £1.2m already raised to buy the site, and complete preparatory work.

But money is still tight. With the budget we have set, there is very little slack, and no room for fees on top of the actual work to be done... Hence a friendly architect to do some early drawings, would be very handy right now.

New sponsorships are needed now. This year will be your last chance to buy an ABL, sponsor a seat and/or all the other things listed on pages 44 and 45.

Not a pretty sight right now, but it will be...



In the meantime, I thank you for your patience. I haven't heard a moan, direct complaint or ugly rumour in the whole two years. Your support and good faith has been extraordinary and

undiminished. So now, it is my turn to get the Odyssey dressed for opening with a full and glorious programme of films from across the world.
A million thanks (£1.2 in fact).

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A view up to the roof from the screen.

SPONSORSHIP OF ESSENTIAL CINEMA FEATURES



SCREEN: MASKING & CURTAINS
(inc baffle wall) **£40,000**

Sponsorship
minimum: **£40 per unit**

Total sponsored
units required **1000**



PROJECTION
35mm **£40,000**

DIGITAL
SYSTEMS **£120,000**

TOTAL **£160,000**

Sponsorship
minimum: **£80 per unit**

Total units required **2000**



SOUND SYSTEM
inc surround speakers
£70,000

Sponsorship
minimum: **£70 per unit**

Total sponsored
units required **1000**



PROSCENIUM ARCH
inc design and build
£30,000

Sponsorship
minimum: **£30 per unit**

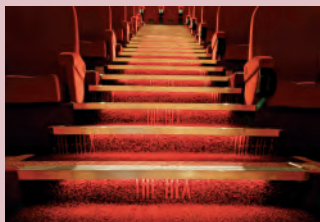
Total sponsored
units required **1000**



FAÇADE (FRONT WALL)
render, paint,
motifs & signs **£20,000**
Sponsorship
minimum: **£20 per unit**
Total sponsored
units required **1000**



CARPETS: ODYSSEY MOTIF
Throughout **£70,000**
Sponsorship
minimum: **£70 per unit**
Total sponsored
units required **1000**



STAIRS & LIGHTING
 £40,000
Sponsorship
minimum: **£40 per unit**
Total sponsored
units required **1000**



AUDITORIUM:
ACOUSTIC TREATMENT
(soft walls & ceiling)
 £60,000
Sponsorship
minimum: **£60 per unit**
Total sponsored
units required **1000**

