

THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

DELICACY

MAY 2012...

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

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

MAY 2012 Issue 86

www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

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 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	Lydia Kellett
Ella Boyd	Helen Miller
Julia Childs	Liam Parker
Ailly Clifton	Amberly Rose
Nicola Darvell	Georgia Rose
Romy Davis	Sid Sagar
Karina Gale	Liam Stephenson
Rosa Gilbert	Tina Thorpe
Ollie Gower	Beth Wallman
Elizabeth Hannaway	Jack Whiting
Billie Hendry-Hughes	Olivia Wilson
Lucy Hood	Roz Wilson
Abigail Kellett	Keymea Yazdanian
Amelia Kellett	Yalda Yazdanian

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

Sally Thorpe 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
Becca Ross Best Girl
Michael Glasheen Gaffer
Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry PR/Sales/FoH

Andrew Dixon Resident Artist
Darren Flindall Maintenance
Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney Advisors and Investors
Ed Mauger Genius
Demiurge Design Programme Design 01442 864904
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 MAY



Q&A with **Dexter Fletcher** following his impressive debut.

Wild Bill Thu 10 7.30. UK 2012

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Stirring, probing and moving portrait of icon.
Marley Tue 8 7.30. USA 2012



A satisfying and distinctively lovable film.
Le Havre Mon 14 7.30. France 2012



Binoche, exudes intelligence at every turn...
Elles
 Mon 21 7.30. France 2012

HARRY POTTER: HERE TO STAY...



I was invited to the opening of the gorgeous permanent Harry Potter exhibition at Leavesden. A bit of a fraud, rather like the Duke of Edinburgh at the Cup Final, but it was pretty fab all the same. They had reconstructed much of the set, including Harry's whole proper semi-detached house, the wobbly bridge and

the great hall at Hogwarts in a huge purpose built hangar of a studio (pictured above the red carpet). Props, costumes, broom sticks were out, full size, to be seen or played with in high vaulted halls. As a guest, I was plied with champagne and pies, shown through the back corridors and saw lots of faces, some pictured: Damien





Lewis, Nick Moran seen here with Oscar nominee, Lisa Tomblin, Eddie Redmayne with Tom Felton. I even got snapped (as Yasser of Edinburgh) on the red carpet! Amazingly, most had heard of The Rex! Tom was particularly nice, thought about offering him an usher's job. Talking about what a great childhood he'd had growing up in the magical world of film-making and the whole exciting business of it all. Over ten years they had all grown up together, and seemed to have come out the other end, with steady heads and nothing of the big-shot about them. Made me wish I'd seen more of the films, from the stairwell.



THE ODEON: MANY HANDS FINISH IT OFF...



The last of the old Odeon's demolition clearance has gone...! The last things still to go are the titanic steel girders (pictured). Then we can start to build the Odyssey.

The best part of it all was that this last rubbish was cleared in two days by two groups of volunteers.

The four screens and structures supporting them have gone, leaving four walls and a balcony. Now we can see precisely what the job is.

I am often sceptical about volunteers, believing they mean well, but not always able to come.

So it came as a great surprise, to see 28 turning up over the two days (with Andy & Hazel both days).

Together under the supervision of Rex restoration hero DF, they did a miraculous job, shifting all that tonnage by hand in only two days.

I thank them all very much for coming, staying the whole distance, and getting their hands very dirty indeed...



**Volunteers from
Tues 10 April**

Sarah Butcher
Nicolette Cobham
Penny Dade
Phil Davis
Richard Derrick
Rosalind Edwards
(great help on
tea/coffee duty etc)
Alison Evans

Mercedes Getino
Naomi Gordon
Clare Henry
Maggie Ireland
Clive Ireland
Andy Larkin
Maki Mahoney (hard
to read first name...)
Chris McIntyre
Roger Miles
Nick Moon (difficult

to read handwriting)
Catrine O'Neill
Colin Owen
Hazel Palmer
Siobhan Palmer

**Volunteers from
Wed 11 April**

Mike Asplin
Ruth Bartholomew
James Glen

Lynn Grover
ANDY LARKIN - also
helped on Tues 10
April
Rachel MacElvogue
Jacquie Nicholson
Hazel Palmer
Candy Whittome
HAZEL PALMER -
also came along on
the Tuesday as well!



The old Odeon looks like a moonscape, as it transforms into the space that will become the Odyssey. These fantastic women and men cleared the last of it in a marathon two days in April. The bank and investment capital is getting closer, but whatever happens and there are bound to be delays, we still need your sponsorship: Seats, Advanced booking places and any part of the building is up for donated money. Whatever you sponsor will get us closer to opening. Thank you.
Denise@odysseypictures.co.uk





M A Y E V E N I N G S

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Tue 1 7.30, Wed 2 7.30



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."

"With so many characters to juggle several end up getting short shrift, and the lessons learned are banal in nature and schematic in execution. At best a Sunday night mini-series. They are all on enjoyable form but none is really challenged." (*mixed tart crits*)

This is perhaps what popular cinema needs right now. There's no need to say 'don't miss' I fear children will be slain and sacrificed. So dismiss the tart critics. 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 shilling.

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 Descendants

Thu 3 7.30

Director: Alexander Payne
Starring: George Clooney, Matthew Lillard, Judy Greer
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Back by demand, Alexander (Sideways) Payne's *The Descendants* is a grown-up adaptation of Kauai Hart Hemmings novel.

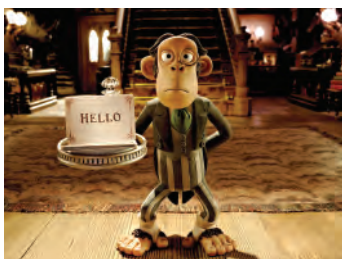
George is Matt King, a lackadaisical husband and father who, in the aftermath of a boating accident, which renders his wife Elizabeth comatose, is forced to confront some uncomfortable home truths. Matt is responsible for the selling of 25,000 acres of his family's land on the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i but, in the wake of Elizabeth's accident, he has an unfamiliar family to look after, and get them through their unfamiliar grief.

Clooney is as lovely as he ever seems, although intriguingly the 'family man' is a role we are unaccustomed to seeing him. Yet he brings the kind of hapless warmth to the part, for which we loved Jack Lemmon.

"*The Descendants* is thoroughly well made, and makes clever use of its glamorous setting by taking it for granted, as those who live there. Payne's interest is the human drama: he's very much the director-as-novelist and the film has all the satisfactions of a story well told. It's involving, funny and thought-provoking." (*Standard*)

When asked how hard it was to play a family man so well, with no children of his own, George used the best actor's line (remembering acting is only pretending) "It's easy, they were great, and I get to give them back at the end." Don't miss.





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



Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists Fri 4 7.30, Sun 6 6.00, Mon 7 7.30

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 (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) to the Pirate of the Year Award. When he and his hapless crew (an all-star batch of 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 (Chicken Run, Wallace & Gromit: Were-Rabbit).

"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*) (*Simon Messenger*) Fab for full-size kids too. Don't miss.

The Kid With A Bike (Le gamin au vélo)

Sat 5 7.00



Written and directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne and though a clumsy translation from *Le gamin au vélo* to *The Kid with a Bike*, it is a compelling film, deservedly winning the Grand Jury prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival. First time (non actor-y) newcomer, Thomas Doret stars as Cyril, a determined 12 year old boy who has escaped from a foster home, having been abandoned by his distant father Guy (Jérémy Renier). His quest, to locate Guy, and his bicycle, the symbol of their relationship, accidentally leads Cyril into the ward of underestimated hairdresser Samantha (Cécile de France) but the young boy's desperate search for father figures doesn't go well...

The Dardenne brothers have created a powerful, realistic exploration of nature's oldest bond, that between parent and child, and deftly navigate the film without needless sentimentality; a remarkable piece of work.

"A wholly gripping, emotionally acute work of humanistic cinema." (*Telegraph*) Ugh?

"See the sheer fear on Renier's face as he confesses he can't cope any longer with looking after his own son. At this point, the power, subtlety, enduring relevance and absolute truthfulness of this Dardennes' story immediately become brilliantly clear." (*Time Out*) (research SM)

No, it happens well before. You judge. Come for the (brand new) kid and the serene command of Cécile de France. Don't miss.

Directors: Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne
Starring: Thomas Doret, Cécile De France
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 88 mins
Origin: Belgium, France 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Marley Tue 8 7.30

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

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, warts and all.

It's even enough to win over those who are not fully paid-up 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*)



La Grande Illusion

Wed 9 7.30



Back on the big screen in a restored version, Jean Renoir's 1937 anti-war masterpiece created a new genre, the POW movie, and with his 1939 *La Règle du jeu* constitutes a diptych of unparalleled excellence.

On their occupation of France, one of the first things the Nazis did was to seize and suppress the print of *La Grande Illusion*, a humane masterpiece by outlawed French maestro Jean Renoir.

Perhaps the only war film to focus on true decency and honour, it sees a class-spanning French trio imprisoned during WW1 and having to confront the passing of the old gentlemanly codes, by which gallant officers had stood for centuries, without flinching.

Eventually they find solace that transcends the petty nationalisms that got them there in the first place

"*La Grande Illusion* is an optimistic, elegiac tragedy, looking at the great war and the crucial changes it wrought. *La Règle du jeu* is a pessimistic comedy, anticipating the second world war and the horrors it was to unleash." (*Guardian*)

"Restored and as relevant as ever, a film about common values and decency. Such sharply political films are rarely so entertaining, natural and humane."

(*Time Out*) This is one the young should not miss, so drag them... humanely of course.

Director: Jean Renoir
Starring: Pierre Fresnay, Erich von Stroheim, Jean Gabin, Dita Parlo
Certificate: U
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: France 1937
By: Independent Cinema Office/ Studio Canal

Wild Bill

Thu 10 7.30

Director: Dexter Fletcher
Starring: Charlie Creed-Miles, Will Poulter, Sammy Williams
Certificate: 15
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: The Works UK Distribution

"Why can't all British crime dramas be so well written and well acted, and have a splash of comedy as confident as this? Who knows? At any rate, in just under a year's time, Fletcher and Creed-Miles had better make sure their dinner jackets are back from the dry-cleaners." (*Guardian*) After 35 years in front of the camera, beginning at just 10 as Babyface in *Bugsy Malone*, Dexter Fletcher has now made his directorial debut with this critically acclaimed comedy gangster yarn, *Wild Bill*. In his long career from child and teen actor, whose lavish spending and drugs etc threatened to derail his life, to mature performer, Fletcher has appeared in films by some of the world's finest directors: *Bugsy's* Alan Parker, *Derek Jarman's Caravaggio* and with *David Lynch (The Elephant Man)*. *Mike Leigh's Topsy-Turvy*, *Matthew Vaughn's Layer Cake* and *Guy Ritchie's Lock Stock...* In his own words: "Hugh Hudson was another great English director I was lucky enough to work with. Conversely, the bad directors you can learn as much from. You think, 'I'm not going to do that!'" (*DF*)

Dexter Fletcher will stay after tonight's screening to talk about his life, career and growing up on screen (cast members too, may attend). So don't miss, and make plans to stay after the film.





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



Hunger Games

**Fri 11 7.30, Sat 12 7.00,
 Sun 13 6.00**

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, in which children 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. True, this is oft-covered sci-fi territory – see *Battle Royale*, *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 and Linda Hamilton as iconic leading ladies in science fiction. Pity the *X Factor* doesn't wobble & screech to the death.

Le Havre

Mon 14 7.30



Written and directed by acclaimed Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki, this is a superb dark comedy.

The film 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 has arrived in the port in a shipping container; the boy himself rather hoping he was in London, where his family have found themselves. 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*) (research Simon Messenger) Not to be missed.

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

The Artist

Tue 15 7.30

Director: Michel Hazanavicius
Starring: Malcolm McDowell, John Goodman, Bérénice Bejo, Jean Dujardin
Certificate: PG
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Following its special preview here to mark The Rex 7th anniversary in December, The Artist has become the most talked about film phenomenon for many years, generating new interest in genuine creative innovation and imagination. It makes the industry-manufactured hype of 3-D look like a last preposterous stab at guessing 'what we want'.

We want to be told stories. It's 2million years old. That's all. Everybody has raved about The Artist. It won all the big prizes and has been hyped beyond it's beautiful simplicity. One was for Best Original Screenplay. The media's bitching about best screenplay for a silent film, shows its embarrassing ignorance of 'Screenplay'. "It could have been written by a bright 12-year-old" complains Awards Weekly (are there awards, weekly?) A screenplay is a complex jigsaw of frame by frame, shot by shot, planning and storyboarding. Dialogue/speech is only part of it. The Artist's screenplay is a work of genius, bringing the audience in on every second of the story.

Ignorance made this film bliss for me. By now you have long heard it all. Not to spoil it here, we haven't even shown the gorgeous trailer. It is a film you must see on the big screen (especially ours). It was the only way to watch those first pioneering movies. Then there's the music. It is far from silent. Listen and see...



Delicacy

Wed 16 7.30



After an opening chapter sketches the delirious union of Tautou's Nathalie and her ill-fated hubby (Pio Marmaï), we get to the nub of the drama. She responds to his tragic loss by burying herself in work, remaining determinedly aloof in the process. Until, that is, one fateful day when pent-up feelings manifest themselves in kissing schlumpy Swedish co-worker Markus (François Damiens). He's smitten, of course, but can she really fall for this balding, ungainly, nonentity of a man? Audrey Tautou remains a captivating yet elusive screen presence. That piercing gaze and pouty upper lip give her the air of a woman not easily impressed, suggesting a self-contained strength at odds with the melting romcom roles she plays.

"It never hits the target, but its sincerity is surely preferable to the machine-tooled slickness of Hollywood models."

(*Time Out*)

"Audrey Tautou has made more cute romcoms than Sandra Bullock. Some have been awful, others glucose, few have been actively good. Delicacy, however, might just be a quiet trend-bucker: despite some tonal wobbles, and a vague sense of déjà vu, it's rather charming, and sometimes genuinely sad." (*Guardian*)

"Damiens and Tautou, both appealing in isolation, have a watery sort of non-chemistry together: their romance doesn't grab you by the shoulders so much as pat you on the head." (*Telegraph*)

Directors: David & Stéphane Foenkinos
Starring: Audrey Tautou, François Damiens
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Studiocanal

The Cabin In The Woods

Thu 17 7.30

Director: Drew Goddard
Starring: Bradley Whitford, Richard Jenkins, Chris Hemsworth
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Drew Goddard (writer: Cloverfield, Lost. Uh oh) makes his directorial debut in this fantastic meta-horror comedy co-written by 'Buffy' creator Joss Whedon.

The Cabin in the Woods opens with an intentionally all too familiar scenario. An inevitable group of high school teens; the jock (Chris Hemsworth) the cheerleader type (Anna Hutchison) the stoner (Fran Kranz) the shy girl (Kristen Connolly) and the nerdy guy (Jesse Williams) head off into the remote countryside looking for wild fun at a deserted lakeside cabin...

Initially, it's standard horror fare however it soon becomes apparent that the cabin and the surrounding area are being manipulated by a seemingly omnipotent external force, perhaps think The Truman Show by way of The Evil Dead. Will they get out alive..? What is the evil behind this..? And just how many horror cliches can be turned on their head..?

"Self-aware and irreverent, it's as much a critique of modern horror as it is a love letter to it. There are enough thrills and spills to satisfy horror fans, and enough self-mocking and originality to please the Friday night entertainment crowd."

You'll have to make do with Thursday, in this case! (*Movie Moron*)

"Isn't so much a horror film in itself as a fiendishly clever genre autopsy."

(*Telegraph*) (research Simon Messenger)



Battleship

Fri 18 7.30, Sat 19 7.00



Hollywood has opted to adapt **Battleship**, the popular eighties board game, of all things, into a bloated and noisy action spectacle. Perhaps Backgammon didn't have quite the same ring.

Scientists are sniffing around the galaxy for potential life when they spot a nasty bunch of aliens heading for Earth. Meanwhile we're introduced to the grizzled men who'll be defending our planet from invasion.

Taylor Kitsch, fresh from John Carter: the worst \$300,000m ever spent and lost, plays Alex Hopper, a youthful rapsallion who shows his mettle when he joins the navy, taking on the invaders so Admiral Shane (Liam Neeson) will let him marry his blonde bombshell daughter. There's even room for sexy pop superstar Rihanna to stretch her acting baps, by hollering 'Boom!' from time to time.

The adversaries in question are your run-of-the-mill ETs in giant Transformers, facing off against US naval fleets. Still, if you like your entertainment blaring, superficial and insulting to everyone's intelligence (listen to Rihanna) or, you just want to enjoy two hours of CGI explosions, then jump aboard. (*research Jack Whiting*)

The best yarn: Liam Neeson looked so commanding in his US Admiral whites, the real, tough marines used as extras (on board a real naval ship) saluted him and stood to attention whenever he came and went from the deck... True. Don't rush.

Director: Peter Berg
Starring: Liam Neeson, Alexander Skarsgard, Brooklyn Decker
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 131 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Sun 20 6.00

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."

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Elles

Mon 21 7.30



Directed by Magorzata Szumowska (co-producer of Lar von Trier's *Antichrist*. oh dear) this seamy French drama ingratiates us into the world's oldest profession.

Juliette Binoche stars as Anne, a Parisian journalist at French Elle magazine. Researching an article about student prostitution, she encounters Alicja (Joanna Kulig) - a Polish emigre, and Charlotte (Anaïs Demoustier), a classe préparatoire student. As Anne learns more about the girls exploits, she begins to question her comfortable life, her routine domestic existence, and even her sexuality...

Binoche is superb as ever in what is a trying role; so too are the up and coming Kulig and Demoustier, but the film is unsure of itself. Part social-commentary/feminist critique and part glossy exposé, with neither establishing itself particularly successfully?

"Szumowska offers a plausible, intimate account of her writer character's life; she doesn't offer anything nearly so forthcoming for the sketchily-imagined prostitutes. Binoche's unambiguous charisma holds things together on its own; I can't help thinking she's wasting her time." (*Guardian*)

"Binoche, who exudes intelligence at every turn, may well be incapable of appearing ashamed on camera, although Elles challenges the actor's integrity to an unprecedented degree." (*Variety*) Whatever that means? Come and see (*research Simon Messenger*)

Director: Małgorzata Szumowska
Starring: Juliette Binoche, Anaïs Demoustier
Certificate: 18
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Cinema Paradiso

Tue 22 7.30

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore
Starring: Philippe Noiret, Jacques Perrin
Certificate: PG
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: Italy/France 1988
By: Arrow

This was the only film to re-open the Rex in December 2004. It has taken over seven years get here...

So now we will be showing it for ever. In a romantic parallel, we can think of the Rex as Cinema Paradiso. It is a tale of joy, tragedy, friendship and love... All through the joy of crowding into picture palace and sheer energy a small cinema can bring to the eccentric inhabitants of a small sleepy town... The most beautiful film about film ever made. Don't worry if you miss it now, it's not going anywhere this time...





Director: Mateo Gil
Starring: Sam Shepard, Eduardo Noriega, Stephen Rea, Magaly Solier, Dominique McElligott
Certificate: 15
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Spain/ USA/ Bolivia/ France 2012
By: Artificial Eye



Blackthorn

Wed 23 7.30

Turns out Butch Cassidy actually escaped that Bolivian shoot out and is now living in the mountains of 1920's South America, under the guise of **James Blackthorn (Sam Shepard)** in **Mateo Gil's poetic western.**

Now in his grizzled mid-60s, Blackthorn is living a simple, contented life with his devoted Indian peasant lover, Yana (Magaly Solier)

After being bushwhacked by a young Spaniard and losing all his money, the two are left stranded when their horses flee, leaving them no choice but to team up.

Eduardo is on his way to recover a large sum of money he's stashed. Predictably, the cash belonged to a crooked bigshot who sends a 14-man posse after him.

So to recover his fortunes Blackthorn accompanies him on a painful journey through mines, across giant salt flats and up snow-covered mountains, pursued first by the posse and the Bolivian army.

In contrast to the 1969 George Roy Hill classic, and one of the best films ever made, *Blackthorn* is very much a psychological, sombre affair. But one that will reward you with its unique take on the Western.

More *Unforgiven* than *True Grit*, *Blackthorn* eschews fun and adventure for brooding, weathered conflicts. What it lacks in coherency it makes up for in sweeping Bolivian vistas. "Small price to pay for beauty." (opening shot Butch & Sundance) (*well done, Jack Whiting*)



Director: Morten Tyldum
Starring: Aksel Hennie, Synnøve Macody Lund, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Julie R. Ølgaard
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Norway 2012
By: Momentum Pictures



Headhunters

Thu 24 7.30, Fri 25 7.30

Pause for thought before you shout ‘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. (*Jack Whiting*) Beware, there’s some blistering sexy shenanigans too, so don’t sit next to your mum.





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



Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Sat 26 7.00, **Sun 27** 6.00,
Wed 30 7.30, **Thu 31** 7.30

Based on Paul Torday's wildly successful novel, and directed by Lasse Hallström (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*, *Chocolat*), *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* is a faintly 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 the potential lure of furthering UK/Arab relations, in light of recent conflicts in the Middle East, proves too great, and Jones is pressured into spearheading the project. Can the three of them realise the sheikh's absurd dream? Is it even 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 with aplomb.

"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*) (*Simon Messenger*) If not 'Don't miss' it may well be worthy of your curiosity for 107 minutes...?

Once Upon A Time In Anatolia Mon 28 7.30



Directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (*Climates, Three Monkeys*) **Once Upon a Time in Anatolia is a remarkable film; a genre defying drama.**

Set on the Anatolian steppe in Turkey, a small group of men; a team of police officers, the gendarmerie, the chief prosecutor, a doctor and two homicide suspects, traverse rural roads in search of a buried body. As the enquiry over-runs long into the night, the suspect claims he was intoxicated when he disposed of the body, and now has little recollection where it lies. The tensions within the group become exposed, and the petty squabbles and digressed conversation reveal deeply hidden truths...

A precise, beautiful and, in parts, exceedingly amusing film with much to offer the patient viewer.

"Long and difficult, and perhaps not for everyone, but I can only say it is a kind of masterpiece: audacious, uncompromising and possessed of a mysterious grandeur in its wintry pessimism." (*Guardian*)

"Intrigues almost more in retrospect than it does when you're watching it, as enigmas and emotions around the case are teased out, and the oblique power of a remarkable ending sneaks up and stuns you." (*Telegraph*) (*Simon Messenger*) Thanks *Telegraph*!! Not to be missed.

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Starring: Muhammet Uzuner, Yilmaz Erdogan, Taner Birsal
Certificate: 15
Duration: 157 mins
Origin: Turkey 2012
By: Verve

Damsels In Distress Tue 29 7.30

Director: Whit Stillman
Starring: Greta Gerwig, Adam Brody
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Writer-director Whit Stillman returns with a campus comedy full of unabashed joy and wonderfully wonky characters.

An exhilarating comedy gift about college, the female intellect, the limitless male ego, inventing a new dance, and suicide prevention.

Greta Gerwig leads the all-aces cast as Violet, a sophomore who yearns to make Seven Oaks Uni, a more congenial place for her and cohorts Rose (Megalyne Echikunwoke), Heather (Carrie MacLemore) and Lily (Analeigh Tipton). Affronted by dorms that reek of sweaty socks, the girls seek to honour the best in a liberal-arts education, and perfumed soap.

Their good works extend to helping depressed students. Violet herself fights the old ennui after being dumped by Frank (Ryan Metcalf), a frat boy whose dimness is rivalled only by his roommate Thor.

"No wonder she takes up with Charlie (Adam Brody), who longs for days of gay sublimation and aspiring to something higher than muscle-bound morons running around in T-shirts." (*Rolling Stone*)

"This is down to Stillman's tone, spiky and sweet, affectionate and satiric, flitting from the highbrow to the risqué to the plain daft, aided by a perfectly attuned cast. It is a sharp, daffy, eccentric delight. Stillman may be an acquired taste, but no-one else is making films like this. Cherish it."

(*Empire*) Sounds gross, you decide.



COMING SOON

New releases

How I Spent My Summer Vacation
 Angèle & Tony
 Wrath of the Titans
 North Sea Texas
 Mirror Mirror

Back by demand

Headhunters
 Marigold
 Salmon Fishing
 Hunger Games
 Blackthorn



Angèle & Tony



How I Spent My Summer Vacation



North Sea Texas



Mirror Mirror

MAY FILMS AT A GLANCE

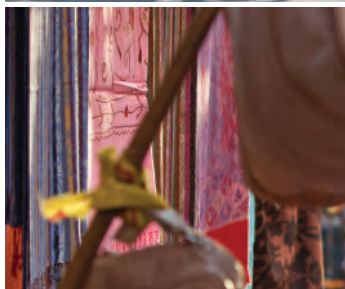
Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Tue	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	12.30, 7.30
2	Wed	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00, 7.30
3	Thur	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
3	Thur	THE DESCENDANTS	7.30
4	Fri	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE WITH SCIENTISTS	7.30
5	Sat	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	2.00
5	Sat	THE KID WITH A BIKE	7.00
6	Sun	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	6.00
7	Mon	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	7.30
8	Tue	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	12.30
8	Tue	MARLEY	7.30
9	Wed	CONVERSATIONS WITH MY GARDENER	2.00
9	Wed	LA GRANDE ILLUSION	7.30
10	Thur	CINEMA PARADISO	2.00
10	Thur	WILD BILL +Q&A WITH DIRECTOR	7.30
11	Fri	HUNGER GAMES	7.30
12	Sat	PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE...	2.00
12	Sat	HUNGER GAMES	7.00
13	Sun	HUNGER GAMES	6.00
14	Mon	THE ARTIST	2.00
14	Mon	LE HAVRE	7.30
15	Tue	HUNGER GAMES	12.30
15	Tue	THE ARTIST	7.30
16	Wed	DELICACY	2.00, 7.30
17	Thur	DELICACY	2.00
17	Thur	THE CABIN IN THE WOODS	7.30
18	Fri	BATTLESHIP	7.30
19	Sat	THE ARTIST	2.00
19	Sat	BATTLESHIP	7.00
20	Sun	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	6.00
21	Mon	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
21	Mon	ELLES	7.30
22	Tue	DELICACY	12.30
22	Tue	CINEMA PARADISO	7.30
23	Wed	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
23	Wed	BLACKTHORN	7.30
24	Thur	BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	2.00
24	Thur	HEADHUNTERS	7.30
25	Fri	HEADHUNTERS	7.30
26	Sat	AFRICAN CATS	2.00
26	Sat	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	7.00
27	Sun	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	6.00
28	Mon	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00
28	Mon	ONCE UPON A TIME IN ANATOLIA	7.30
29	Tue	DAMSELS IN DISTRESS	12.30, 7.30
30	Wed	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00, 7.30
31	Thu	SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN	2.00, 7.30



M A Y M A T I N E E S

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



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

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Tue 1 12.30, **Wed 2** 2.00, **Thu 3** 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."

"With so many characters to juggle several end up getting short shrift, and the lessons learned are banal in nature and schematic in execution. At best a Sunday night mini-series. They are all on enjoyable form but none is really challenged." (*mixed tart crits*)

This is perhaps what popular cinema needs right now. There's no need to say 'don't miss' I fear children will be slain and sacrificed. So dismiss the tart critics. 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 shilling.





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



Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists Sat 5 2.00, Tue 8 12.30, Sat 12 2.00

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 (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) to the Pirate of the Year Award. When he and his hapless crew (an all-star batch of 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 (Chicken Run, Wallace & Gromit: Were-Rabbit).

"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) (Simon Messenger) Fab for full-size kids too. Don't miss.



Dialogue Avec Mon Jardinier (Conversations With My Gardener)

Wed 9 2.00



Not only is this a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English May afternoon as it did for the winter in January 2007, when it first came here.

It is one of those rare, small films, to will lift you miles from here and everywhere. A finely observed telling of a poignant friendship between two men who seem to be from different worlds but have merely taken different routes from the same place. This remains part of the film's magic to the end. It tells of a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce as he returns to his childhood home and employs a gardener to tame the vegetable patch...

As the gardener nurtures and the painter 'daubs', a warm friendship grows. Sharing a love of the same place, they begin to see things... Who has most to learn?

It is funny, warm, sad and glows all by itself, as it paints a tender portrait of people coping in their own way. "Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few countries where films about the land are still made - about how it sustains and nourishes..." (*Crits?*)

Nothing much happens, but everything. It is beautiful. You will love it, and even more, will see it in the listening...

Director: Jean Becker
Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Jean-Pierre Darroussin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Cinefile

Cinema Paradiso

Thu 10 2.00

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore
Starring: Philippe Noiret, Jacques Perrin
Certificate: PG
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: Italy/France 1988
By: Arrow

This was the only film to re-open the Rex in December 2004. It has taken over seven years get here...

So now we will be showing it for ever. In a romantic parallel, we can think of the Rex as Cinema Paradiso. It is a tale of joy, tragedy, friendship and love... All through the joy of crowding into picture palace and sheer energy a small cinema can bring to the eccentric inhabitants of a small sleepy town... The most beautiful film about film ever made. Don't worry if you miss it now, it's not going anywhere this time...



The Artist

Mon 14 2.00



Following its special preview here to mark The Rex 7th anniversary in December, *The Artist* has become the most talked about film phenomenon for many years, generating new interest in genuine creative innovation and imagination. It makes the industry-manufactured hype of 3-D look like a last preposterous stab at guessing 'what we want'.

We want to be told stories. It's 2million years old. That's all. Everybody has raved about *The Artist*. It won all the big prizes and has been hyped beyond its beautiful simplicity. One was for Best Original Screenplay. The media's bitching about best screenplay for a silent film, shows its embarrassing ignorance of 'Screenplay'. "It could have been written by a bright 12-year-old" complains Awards Weekly (are there awards, weekly?) A screenplay is a complex jigsaw of frame by frame, shot by shot, planning and storyboarding. Dialogue/speech is only part of it. The Artist's screenplay is a work of genius, bringing the audience in on every second of the story.

Ignorance made this film bliss for me. By now you have long heard it all. Not to spoil it here, we haven't even shown the gorgeous trailer. It is a film you must see on the big screen (especially ours). It was the only way to watch those first pioneering movies.

Then there's the music. It is far from silent. Listen and see...

Director: Michel Hazanavicius
Starring: Malcolm McDowell, John Goodman, Bérénice Bejo, Jean Dujardin
Certificate: PG
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Hunger Games

Tue 15 12.30

Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Lenny Kravitz, Jennifer Lawrence
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate Films UK

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, in which children 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. True, this is oft-covered sci-fi territory – see *Battle Royale*, *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 and Linda Hamilton as iconic leading ladies in science fiction. Pity the X Factor doesn't wobble & screech to the death.





Directors: David & Stéphane Foenkinos
Starring: Audrey Tautou, François Damiens
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Studiocanal

Delicacy

Wed 16 2.00, Thu 17 2.00

After an opening chapter sketches the delirious union of Tautou's Nathalie and her ill-fated hubby (Pio Marmaï), we get to the nub of the drama. She responds to his tragic loss by burying herself in work, remaining determinedly aloof in the process. Until, that is, one fateful day when pent-up feelings manifest themselves in kissing schlumpy Swedish co-worker Markus (François Damiens). He's smitten, of course, but can she really fall for this balding, ungainly, nonentity of a man? Audrey Tautou remains a captivating yet elusive screen presence. That piercing gaze and pouty upper lip give her the air of a woman not easily impressed, suggesting a self-contained strength at odds with the melting romcom roles she plays. "It never hits the target, but its sincerity is surely preferable to the machine-tooled slickness of Hollywood models." (*Time Out*)

"Audrey Tautou has made more cute romcoms than Sandra Bullock. Some have been awful, others glucose, few have been actively good. *Delicacy*, however, might just be a quiet trend-bucker: despite some tonal wobbles, and a vague sense of déjà vu, it's rather charming, and sometimes genuinely sad." (*Guardian*)

"Damiens and Tautou, both appealing in isolation, have a watery sort of non-chemistry together: their romance doesn't grab you by the shoulders so much as pat you on the head." (*Telegraph*)



The Artist

Sat 19 2.00



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Certificate: PG
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Mon 21 2.00, Wed 23 2.00,
 Thu 24 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 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."

"With so many characters to juggle several end up getting short shrift, and the lessons learned are banal in nature and schematic in execution. At best a Sunday night mini-series. 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 shilling.



Delicacy

Tue 22 12.30



After an opening chapter sketches the delirious union of Tautou's Nathalie and her ill-fated hubby (Pio Marmaï), we get to the nub of the drama. She responds to his tragic loss by burying herself in work, remaining determinedly aloof in the process.

Until, that is, one fateful day when pent-up feelings manifest themselves in kissing schlumpy Swedish co-worker Markus (François Damiens). He's smitten, of course, but can she really fall for this balding, ungainly, nonentity of a man? Audrey Tautou remains a captivating yet elusive screen presence. That piercing gaze and pouty upper lip give her the air of a woman not easily impressed, suggesting a self-contained strength at odds with the melting romcom roles she plays.

"It never hits the target, but its sincerity is surely preferable to the machine-tooled slickness of Hollywood models." (*Time Out*)

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Directors: David & Stéphane Foenkinos
Starring: Audrey Tautou, François Damiens
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2012
By: Studiocanal

African Cats

Sat 26 2.00

Director: Alastair Fothergill
Certificate: U
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Walt Disney Studio INTL

Must have been Morgan Freeman's day off as the often imitated but never duplicated Samuel L. Jackson fills the narrator's shoes in the imaginatively titled *African Cats*.

This appealing but overly sentimental tale follows two prides of lions and a coalition of cheetahs as they fight for their right to live and hunt in south west Kenya's Masai Mara wildlife reserve.

Disney's obsession with anthropomorphising (now now Jack) the entire animal kingdom blurs the line between fact and fiction. Cutting out the nasty bits such BBC documentaries would happily show, gives *African Cats* a level of ignorance children and adults could do without. After all, isn't the purpose to educate as much as to entertain?

Still, what an eye opener. Let *African Cats* wash over you like a hazy sunset and you'll forget to nitpick at barmy decisions such as labelling a cheetah as a 'single mother'.

You'd be content enough with sticking a David Attenborough DVD on at home, but you'd be missing out on some jaw dropping panoramas. (*Jack Whiting*)





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



Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Mon 28 2.00, **Wed 30** 2.00,
Thu 31 2.00

Based on Paul Torday's wildly successful novel, and directed by Lasse Hallström (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*, *Chocolat*), *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* is a faintly 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 the potential lure of furthering UK/Arab relations, in light of recent conflicts in the Middle East, proves too great, and Jones is pressured into spearheading the project. Can the three of them realise the sheikh's absurd dream? Is it even 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 with aplomb. "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*) (*Simon Messenger*) If not 'Don't miss' it may well be worthy of your curiosity for 107 minutes...?



Director: Whit Stillman
Starring: Greta Gerwig, Adam Brody
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Sony Pictures Releasing



Damsels In Distress

Tue 29 12.30

Writer-director Whit Stillman returns with a campus comedy full of unabashed joy and wonderfully wonky characters.

An exhilarating comedy gift about college, the female intellect, the limitless male ego, inventing a new dance, and suicide prevention.

Greta Gerwig leads the all-aces cast as Violet, a sophomore who yearns to make Seven Oaks Uni, a more congenial place for her and cohorts Rose (Megalyne Echikunwoke), Heather (Carrie MacLemore) and Lily (Analeigh Tipton). Affronted by dorms that reek of sweaty socks, the girls seek to honour the best in a liberal-arts education, and perfumed soap.

Their good works extend to helping depressed students. Violet herself fights the old ennui after being dumped by Frank (Ryan Metcalf), a frat boy whose dimness is rivalled only by his roommate Thor.

"No wonder she takes up with Charlie (Adam Brody), who longs for days of gay sublimation and aspiring to something higher than muscle-bound morons running around in T-shirts." (*Rolling Stone*)

"This is down to Stillman's tone, spiky and sweet, affectionate and satiric, flitting from the highbrow to the risqué to the plain daft, aided by a perfectly attuned cast. It is a sharp, daffy, eccentric delight. Stillman may be an acquired taste, but no-one else is making films like this. Cherish it." (*Empire*) Sounds gross, you decide.

PRIVACY IS FOR PAEDOS: PAUL McMULLEN...

“P”rivacy is for Paedos...” Of course it is. You wouldn’t want them doing it in public, and certainly not in front of the children. Before (if) you bother to read further, remember pulp journos, developers and governments don’t care if we live or die. Respectively, they only care about their story, money and control. They all cite ‘in the public interest’ to justify their decisions to print, build or spy on a whole nation. In fact, they couldn’t care less about the public or their interest. The then NOTW features editor Paul McMullen was giving evidence to the Leveson Enquiry in November, when he made this ‘paedo’ and other similar remarks about privacy and freedom. Unfortunately, he is an annoyingly likeable 2nd hand car journalist. I ‘googled’ (yes I just said I googled) last years TV interviews only to find he wasn’t some fat arsed obnoxious Kelvin MacKenzie or creamy obnoxious Piers Morgan. Instead, in his crumpled suit, and honest, understated manner, he seemed okay. All of which hides the salesman, who couldn’t care less who lives or dies, as long as he gets his sale (in his case, story).

Clearly a career smut-man, enjoying grubbing around for a mucky truth, which is as much in the public interest as the tits on page three belonging to someone barely out of puberty, but “eighteen and wholesome from Leighton Buzzard who likes ponies and scrabble” while the front page bristles with paedo/poptart/celeb/footballer/threesome/Brit-is-Best hysterical ranting. Then find it fun picking on a distinguished actor’s daughter for weeks on end, until she commits suicide.

Casual charm is deceiving. Which always gets me about Hitler, Stalin and Thatcher, who were neither casual nor charming, but each in their retentive way stirred nations into passionate divide. While that’s another story, it came to mind because the News of The World, Sun etc (along with their X Factor dummy) provide precisely the kind of ‘opium of the masses’ these previous despots used to manipulate favour.

“All the truth in the world adds up to one



big lie” (Dylan) This is their tool. Hacking into footballers phones for sordid details or hounding a Princess, or paying tarts (twice! So who’s the ‘trick’?) to ‘confess’ to shagging Arthur Wardrobe; or getting somebody on shaky footage taking a drug/bribe, is easy and might all be true, but the lie is in bringing it to our attention for no other reason than to bring it (what?) to our attention. Do you understand? This reasoning spawns the big lie: “In The Public Interest”. They are merely pandering to public curiosity. Smut-mongers know what’s in someone’s pants is marginally more interesting than what is in their minds. They rely on the idle masses, to read NOTW/Sun comics, talk half-speak to each other and believe Eastenders is real. Forget Divide and Rule (which works remarkably well for them still). They have now added Distract and Rule to their arsenal of open hypocrisy. No wonder Thatcher, Blair and Cameron had to suck up to Murdoch. Bribing the police with tax-free cash for information. Now that’s something worth reporting, but they can’t, because it is they who are doing it. It would be like reporting themselves? I’ll bet a pretty penny, you will see Mr crumpled smooth in-the-public-interest McMullen, with his own show on prime-time TV any time soon.

Sorry I’m tired of this, it hurts. “Privacy is only for people with something to hide.” (McMullen) Tell that to Nelson Mandela and Aung San Su Ky. Between them, they endured over 50 years of ‘privacy’.

HOME THOUGHTS FROM HOME...



April's general release queue (24th March). Saturday daffodils in the High Street and a dried up river Bulbourne near St Johns Well. Each a pretty picture of Berkhamsted in the early spring 2012? Life goes on, while this tiny lagoon should be swollen with busy water, teeming with wildlife and nesting birds. There is nothing and nothing we can do, except wait for that warning sign to come true.



CIGGIES & SIGNS...



A white P on a blue sign means parking. It has become a universally understood invitation to park.

I asked the (far too) young pink-faced traffic warden what the sign meant, if it wasn't the welcome-to-park symbol we all know? It was difficult. He told me it meant 'you can't park there'. He couldn't understand or explain my dilemma at reading a sign, I thought invited me to park at 11am. He lost me with words I knew but not in any order I recognised. He talked in rote-speak. I tried him with "tickle my arse with a feather", and got "I can't help you sir, the sign says you can't park here".

Why have we become so hopeless at talking to each other? The rest of the sign is in hieroglyphics with cave drawings: an arrow, shield and zone K. What does that mean to a relative stranger to St Albans parking rituals. What's wrong with 'No Parking between...?' or a P with a line through it?

As for cigarette packets, they're covered in signs of death. They shout unequivocally: 'smoking kills'. Then continue in glaring colours: 'Smoking is highly addictive, don't start' printed on the packet you've just bought...!?

Now we are told to cover up shop

displays, so not to tempt people with bright colours. (There's not even a slit for her eyes...) They're right of course, it's worked with drugs. No one but a sniffer dog knows where they are. That's why those nice Colombian drugs gangs armed to the teeth, are hiding them from us. I knew those chaps were on our side all along. Care, my arse... they can keep the feather.



FROM PRAISES TO PUCKERS...

7TH APRIL 2012

Dear James and all the most incredibly helpful staff, I had booked to see the Iron Lady last week. I turned up on the Thursday with my carer and neighbour we duly went to our table downstairs when we discovered I had booked for the day before!

Your very, very helpful staff found another table for us all. I am very disabled and you found another table without making a song and dance for which I am very grateful.

My helping dog Flora attends with me whenever I come to the Rex and she too was accommodated, you all made what could have been a disastrous moment for me comfortable and reasonably easy.

James you then came and spoke to me to make sure we were okay. You were all so lovely and wonderful. I felt okay about having made what could have been a major error reasonably okay.

I am a great fan of the Rex and will come at least once a month if not two or three times in the month.

On another subject, your facilities for disabled people are second to none. Other theatres and cinemas should take note!

Thank you everyone. You have always gone out of your way to make it easy for me to attend such a wonderfully comfortable and stylish art deco cinema. Thank you for making a disabled person feel normal.

("Yes... and normal people, feel disabled" was the waggish wee comment from the box office).

Kindest Regards,
Sian Idris-Evans... and Flora!

Thank you Sian and Flora. It is heart warming indeed to have such thanks in writing. And whether they deserve it or not, it is lovely to hear genuine praise lavished on our terminally distracted children. Can we go back to beating them now...?

PUCKER UP...

I get bulletins (spam) from Red Carpet Ents Group on something called **Linkedin**; it's a facebook thing for commerce. Clearly I pushed the wrong button somewhere. However, it has already

come in handy for St Albans.

The Red Carpet Group is there to promote on-line discussions between media/ents/events management etc. In (too) regular bulletins you will be asked to consider such things as: Free People "Festival Fashion" Lookbook (by a franchise opportunities magazine). Needless to say I neither understand a word they're saying or ever respond. Just recently I got invites to two new discussions: "Listen to Mysta Choo on djchoo.com" (a free casting agency news bulletin). Then, neither a request nor an invitation, just this: "Anal Resilience Pucker Cream" (from Tammy M. President & CEO at Ask Tammy Manners.com Tammy turns out to be a man in a blonde wig!). Please be my guest. A spokesman for the Home Office "expects pucker resilience cream to be an essential part of school meals by September."



After the furore of last month's pictures, which saw Kate in various states of flimsy drapery across unlikely locations at the Rex, we thought it time to clean things up with pictures less likely to corrupt the young and the feeble. Daffodils and lampposts, happy high-viz volunteers cheering, and this lovely photo of the wholesome Frances Pardell. A great supporter and regular visitor to the Rex from the other side of Bedfordshire, Frances (renowned and well respected PR company) arranged Bryan Appleyard's interview and Sunday Times 'Culture' spread on 26th February. She brings new people to the Rex often and remains a great fan of the St Albans project. She has many hot connections, so you might even see Kate Winslet here one day? We should invite her during fire drill. Well done Frances and thank you.