

THE-REX

M A G A

MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS

APRIL...

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

THE-REX

APRIL 2008 Issue 37
www.therexcinema.com

01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-6.30pm

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SEAT PRICES:

Circle	£7.00
Concessions	£5.50
At Table	£9.00
Concessions	£7.50
Royal Box (seats 6) or for the Box	£11.00 £60.00

BOX OFFICE:

01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30 – 6.00

Sun 4.30 – 6.30

(Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

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:

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Henry Beardshaw	Linda Moss
Julia Childs	Louise Ormiston
Lindsey Davies	Izzi Robinson
Holly Gilbert	Georgia Rose
Becky Ginn	Diya Sagar
Tom Glasser	Miranda Samson
Beth Hannaway	Tina Thorpe
Luke Karmali	Olivia Wilson
Jo Littlejohn	Calum Wood
	Keymea Yazdanian

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The Rex

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www.therexcinema.com

Brad Pitt - Las Vegas, 1994. **Photo credit:** Photographs (c) 2007 by Annie Leibovitz from the documentary Annie Leibovitz: Life Through a Lens, Barbara Leibovitz, Director. Mon 28th 7.30. Don't miss.

END OF CREDITS FOR CANCELLATIONS...

On 1st April the 48 hr rule ends. Instead there will be no more credit vouchers at all or refunds on any cancellations. For over two years the box office has been advising me of difficulties arising from this. The girls and boys are well tuned to casual abuses of our generous system.

So it is my decision to stop this quaint practice of giving credit on an unused ticket.

At the outset, I didn't care that no other theatre, cinema, concert venue or football ground in the country (or the world) would dream of it - under any circumstances. Imagine approaching the turnstile at White Hart Lane with a note from your mum!

I enjoyed offering this odd courtesy you can't get, nor dare ask for, anywhere else.

Now, sadly you can't get it here either.

It's all down to sly little tricks; one such is when tables are booked by the same person for every screening during a sell-out run. When the unwanted tables are cancelled just ahead of the 48 hours... You got it? I don't care about the money. I want people to have the same chance to see the film!

It seems that these hedgers/seat blockers have been hanging on to their extra tickets until the last minute, making it too late for anyone else. A very mean and ugly strategy, no doubt applauded as smart thinking in 'good-business' circles. Perhaps we should be flattered by the lengths to which people will go? Being taken for fools by people who are just as likely to hoard toilet paper at Christmas, is neither flattering nor good business. On top of this I am a little bored with: "you're always sold out, we can never get in". Hence no more credits or refunds. That's it, so plan carefully. When you buy a ticket, it is yours.

On this note let me acknowledge those who never ask for a credit, but cheerfully throw their spare tickets back into the raffle. Thank you.

Of course, from time to time, there will be exceptional circumstances - which will be judged by what the note from your mum says...



On Saturday 26th April the gorgeous Attic café will open in the evening for the first time. The menu will be small but exquisite. In fact don't ask, have what you're given and love it. Opens at 7.00 for those who aren't going to the Rex and will stay open for those who are. Pop in to The Home & Colonial to book. You'll need to book now!

TICKET PRICE + VAT...

Unlikely as it is, you may have read in our March programme that as from 1st April we would be passing on to you the VAT on tickets. We've been carrying it all since we opened three years ago. However, after doing the arithmetic, it would nudge a table seat towards eleven pounds and balcony seats inevitably towards nine. As if VAT isn't criminal enough, we can't even pass it on to get it back! So we're NOT doing it. Instead, all seats will go up by 80p on 1st September. This way we share the bastard child of ugly 1970s legislators. They're far from pretty now and remain complete and utter twats but worse, none from any party has attempted to abolish it.

THE VAT MAN COMETH...

While we're here, in February we had our first VAT inspection. He was an amiable man, probably in his 50s with a very nice round smile and pleasant manner. I only met him briefly and asked if he had come because it was all a huge mistake and they owed us thousands. In a polite exchange he chortled: "Afraid not, you're paying what you should and everything is in order". There was no hint of sarcasm or 'seems' to be in order. It could hardly be anything else. Our accountant is Hitler's brother Clive who would happily pay VAT on VAT. That aside, our man from Customs and Excise was very pleased to stay for the matinee. Though tempted to charge him just to give him his VAT back there and then in very loose change, honour took its better place. Thus he was treated to proper Rex hospitality reserved for special guests – a cup of Michael's tea, a bap rub down from the girls and gala pie fit for a king. Hope this doesn't get him into too much deep trouble...

APRIL'S JUMBLE FILMS...

It is funny how some months fall with everything to choose from and others with not so much. April follows an unprecedented glut of new releases over the last six months, climaxing in that mass orgy in the run up to all the toy-parties for the best this's and thats. Nevertheless we have collected a list of beautiful films from our first three years - The Sea Inside, Everything is Illuminated, Breakfast on Pluto, Little Miss Sunshine, Not Here to Be Loved, The World's fastest Indian, Sideways, Bon-Bon El Perro, Leonard Cohen, Pan's Labrynth, Andy Goldsworthy, Molierie, The Band's Visit and The

Motor Cycle Diaries. There are a few more but I can't think of them sitting here. Apart from two, the rest have won nothing.

Some were even panned, but we have found them to be hidden treasures in a world of glistering trinkets. I hope it is right, that The Diving Bell & The Butterfly will be next.

April is a bit of a jumble sale. The same happened in our first September and in the early summer of last year. I've learned to be fooled less by the trick of reading about a film and wanting it there and then, only to find it won't be available for two years. Shut up and Sing, Goodnight and Good Luck, The Three Burials, The Diving Bell... and No Country..., are a few. The best thing about this April jumble is a deliberate lightening of spirit after all the death, natural and otherwise, abortion and blood of March.

There's Passport to Pimlico, Be Kind Rewind, St Trinians (by request, believe it) and Play it Again Sam. The musts are Children of Glory, Annie Liebowitz and Don't Touch The Axe.

The rest you know about. Sorry, Rambo is bloody (but allegedly, NOT bloody awful), but if you've read this far you won't be coming. It would nice to publish a list of Rex 'award' winners. So we'll think up some kind of poll, where you can vote for your gems and stinkers each month – winners and sinners (Swinnners??).

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A P R I L E V E N I N G S

Be Kind, Rewind

Tue 1 7.30

Director: Michel Gondry

Starring: Jack Black, Mia Farrow, Danny Glover, Mos Def

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 100 mins

Origin: USA 2008

By: Pathe Distribution

This is a tale of two friends who find themselves rewriting film history to save their beloved video store from extinction. Heart-warming and absurd, as they attempt to remake their 'lost' shelves with glue and string! The shop's whole video collection is wiped by an accidental reversal in electro-magnetic polarity. (Don't ask. You'll have to see for yourself) "This French celluloid sorcerer delivers his most playful, accessible and sparkling slice of bespoke whimsy, following his stifling 2005 quirk-mire 'The Science of Sleep'. Here he presents us with a film whose simple structure could have tripped off the tongue of any vacuous pony-tailed 80s studio exec. He uses it to flip open the ribcage of cinema."??? (*Time Out*) Lost me pal. "Gondry, once the high priest of bleeding-edge visual experimentation with Bjork and Massive Attack videos, has become a craven convert to the church of the low-tech, backyard film-making with a flair for hand-made special effects using cardboard, foam rubber and furlongs of gaffer tape. It's a sweet premise, rich in nostalgia and goofy charm – ideal for Black's bug-eyed energy and Mos Def's lolloping." (*Times*)



The Diving Bell and The Butterfly

Wed 2 7.30



Schnabel's third feature recounts the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Amalric), charismatic editor of French *Elle* magazine, who at the age of 43 suffered a stroke that rendered his brain stem inactive. He awoke from a coma to find himself a victim of locked-in syndrome: mentally alert but physically paralysed – except for his left eye lid. Terrifyingly, he was left with a fully functioning mind. Bravely side-stepping emotion, he put his memory and imagination to work. He learned a blinking code for each letter of the alphabet and (through devoted and very patient women) painstakingly told this profound story. "Mathieu Amalric as Bauby (once reserved for Johnny Depp!) is absorbing and beautifully honest, even frozen to his bed" (*Standard*) "It's a gorgeously atmospheric and deeply affecting piece of work" (*Times*) "Schnabel treats this amazing real-life story as a testament to the importance of memory and the boundlessness of human imagination" (*Time Out*) The faces, the screenplay, the language, the camera... and that music, will move you further than you want to go. Come and lose yourself, then come and see it again.

Director: Julian Schnabel

Starring: Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Emmanuelle Seigner, Mathieu Amalric

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 112 mins

Origin: France 2008

By: Pathe Distribution

Once

Thu 3 7.30

Director: John Carney

Starring: Markéta Irglová, Gerard Hendrick, Hugh Walsh, Glen Hansard

Certificate: 15

Duration: 87 mins

Origin: Ireland 2007

By: Entertainment Film Distribution

From nothing and nowhere it has won this year's Oscar for Best Song. A rock-bottom budget, nil to start but eventually made for £80,000 with no pay for anyone, this Irish charmer stole the heart of the Audience Award at Sundance 2007. On Grafton Street in Dublin, a careworn busker (Hansard) strikes up a friendship with a sparky young Czech immigrant (Irglová). Hansard's heart searing songs weave themselves into the narrative so naturally you hardly notice you are watching a musical. Anchored by simple narrative, real and lovely faces and easy non-acting this film is so rare - perhaps unique - with a warm but gutsy grace all of its own. No subplots, no narrative twists, and little else. "Shows what you can do with a decent story." "A sublime, visual album of unassuming and self-assured eloquence" (*mixed crits*) It is real rags-to-riches. From a scraggy kid, banging out Dylan covers on the streets of Dublin, to the real Bob calling and uncle Oscar applauding. Who'd have thought it? Wish them well and hope they don't believe a word.



The Kite Runner

Fri 4 7.30, Sat 5 7.00



Back by overwhelming demand and though it might run and run it won't be back in May. Here in April for three evenings and two matinees, please make the most of it.

A glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are filled with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fear and the other's courage, triggers a terrible lie and complete act of betrayal which will mark two lives forever and set in motion an epic and perilous quest for redemption...

With much of Kabul destroyed, Forster used a region of China to stand in for Amir's childhood Kabul "The [Afghan] people felt it was a love letter to Afghanistan"? (*Marc Forster*)

The elder's language is beautiful and their philosophy gentle and reassuring; borne from religion but not lost to it. Amir's father is majestic, Hassan as boy and man, brave and noble. Each is a great example of absolute integrity and true courage in the face of all hell. Amir carries the story... His redemption is for you to decide.

Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Zekeria Ebrahimi, Khalid Abdalla, Ahmad Mahmidzada

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 128 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Paramount International Pictures

Don't Touch The Axe

Sun 6 6.00

An adaptation of Balzac's novella *La Duchesse de Langeais*, Rivette's masterful film tells the tale of a Parisienne socialite, lustily pursued by a Napoleonic war hero.

The story opens with a grieving General Armand de Montriveau (Depardieu Jr) journeying to a closed-order Majorcan church.

There he seeks French nun Antoinette de Langeais (Balibar). As they are meet under the watchful eyes of the Mother Superior, their past slowly unfolds... It was five years earlier, when bored socialite Antoinette first became moist at the sight of de Montriveau's wounded soldier.

Though married, she melted before him. Watching her drip under his spell, he vowed that very night he would take her and have her as his own forever. (this was no one-night stand). A tense, atmospheric 19th century melodrama, it unfolds with all the moral treachery and deceit you would hope for and get from a production of seduction in a repressed, superstitious time – from the French. Only France knows how to make these films. As the tension builds you know it will end in tears – real ones not cardboard tears.

Hollywood's *The Other Boleyn Girl* sucks all the labels off the boxes. Don't miss.

Director: Jacques Rivette

Starring: Jeanne Balibar, Michel Piccoli, Guillaume Depardieu, Bulle Ogier

Certificate: PG

Duration: 137 mins

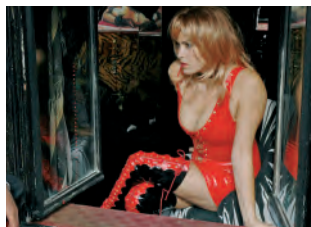
Origin: France, Italy 2007

By: Artificial Eye



The Edge of Heaven

Mon 7 7.30



"Billed as the second installment in the director's 'Love, Death & the Devil' trilogy, it offers an accomplished and deeply compassionate mediation on loss and consolation, as its mosaic narrative follows the intersecting lives of six characters travelling between Istanbul and Hamburg.

As in Akin's earlier works, the many instances of intercultural exchange offer an insight into the subtleties of east-west relationships. For the most part these are observational and incidental bumps rather than clashes of culture.

Criticism has been levelled at its somewhat contrived plot twists and conventional melodrama. In a film which sees a homeless Turk ask a stranger for cash and receive not only a meal but board and bed (to share!) it is clear that authenticity matters less than optimism – The Edge of Heaven is no worse for that." (*Sight & Sound*) "Best screenplay winner at Cannes 2007... this is gentler than his Head On (at the Rex May 05) a beautiful meditation on themes of loss and reconciliation" (*Standard*)

A story of today where home for many is not as sweet as ours and where "Everything is illuminated by the light of the past". A perfect Monday night film. Come.

Director: Fatih Akin
Starring: Tuncel Kurtiz, Baki Davrak, Nurgül Yesilcay
Certificate: 18
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: Germany, Turkey 2007
By: Artificial Eye

Closing The Ring

Tue 8 7.30

Director: Richard Attenborough
Starring: Christopher Plummer, Shirley Maclaine, Mischa Barton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: Canada, UK, USA 2007
By: The Works UK Distribution

Tested at a February matinee, uncertain of its appeal against the onslaught of fat awards titles saturating the beginning of the year, it was applauded. So here it is for an April evening.

All-round national treasure, Sir Attenborough brings a great eye to this heart warming epic romance spanning 50 years of love, loss and reconciliation across two continents. All-time treasure Shirley MacLaine plays Ethel Ann, a woman whose first love Teddy is killed in the war. He charges his friend Chuck (Plummer, never better) to look after her 'should anything happen'. Inevitably she marries him, burying her heartache until a chance discovery across oceans of miles and time... Romantic without shame, it serves as a timely reminder that war and conflict wounds us all one way or another. It runs perfectly from past to present and back without a jolt. "Closing the Ring is well-acted throughout and it has a romantic appeal that is not to be sneered at" (*Derek Malcolm*) This mealy, apologetic review can be sneered at. He's right about the performances though, not to mention a seemingly insignificant story beautifully told. Don't miss this hidden gem.



The Counterfeiters

Wed 9 7.30



Still showing here after four months, beating off fierce competition from 'Kites' and '...Old Men' - and still collecting awards.

A devastatingly effective wartime thriller based upon real events, The Counterfeiters crackles with class and intelligence. In 1936, the Nazis established the largest counterfeiting operation in history, with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. 'Enlisted' were any concentration camp inmates with the required skills. Among them was master forger, gambler, libertine and charismatic rogue Salomon 'Salli' Sorowitsch (brought vividly to life by Karl Markovics' gaunt, haunting face), who is at first energised by his new task. As the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Salli's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he is on. An incredible true story, written by a camp survivor, clearly told and beautifully shot with extraordinary performances – and faces - on all sides. Funny thing this zeitgeist phenomenon... Overnight, it seems Germany is back at its story-telling best. See (Edge of Heaven Mon 7th)

Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
Starring: Martin Brambach, August Diehl, Karl Markovics, David Striesow
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: Austria, Germany 2006
By: Metrodome Distributors

The Bank Job

Thu 10 7.30

Director: Roger Donaldson
Starring: Saffron Burrows, Jason Statham, Daniel Mays
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

It was inspired by an extraordinary real-life robbery in London more than 35 years ago. A highly-charged ride ("a combination of heist movie and conspiracy thriller" *Obsvr*) interweaving intrigue, scandal and danger. In September 1971, thieves tunnelled into a bank vault on Baker Street and robbed millions worth of cash and jewellery... and some photographs! None of the loot was recovered and nobody was arrested. It made headlines for a few days then disappeared. It is thought now, the government gagged the press. (D-Notice). Allegedly the cover-up involved murder, corruption and a sex scandal with links to the Royal Family. This is a bank-job where the thieves are the most innocent. Cor blimey gov! There are links with big names in politics, black-power and pop music across the world, and it may have been an inside job? None of it is entirely plausible and it shows. Scripted by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, creators of *The Likely Lads* and *Porridge* (BBC 60s & 70s) it has all their hallmarks of storyline and humour with a light touch. Luckily Saffron is in 3-D to complement one-face Jason's cardboard cut-out.



No Country for Old Men

Fri 11 7.30, Sat 12 7.00,
 Sun 13 6.00



From the first shot you know you're in safe, and dangerous hands - business as usual from the Coen's.

It's 1970s small-town Texas. A Vietnam vet stumbles across a bag of middle-of-nowhere cash. Enter Javier Bardem's bad-hair, coin-tossing killer in cold pursuit...

"Harrelson delivers an icy cameo as the corrupt private dick. Tommy Lee plays weary seen-it-all sheriff who doesn't miss a trick... even one step behind" (*Times*)

(Joel and Ethan talking on a BBC *The World Service* interview Jan 2008): "It is Cormac's words throughout... A great story teller... it doesn't go in the extemp... Faithful to the book plus the highest level of acting..."

Are we going to change Cormac McCarthy??? (No jokes). Its his words, they don't need to be changed. The dialogue is right from the book... as are the descriptions of the scenes. The garroting scene is straight from the book..."

"Preparations - storyboard most important - everything is prepared to the frame... but (serious-ish) always open to change on set...? 'We were just following instructions'" The tension and edge they create is phenomenal, all with little movement and very big silence. Do not miss.

Director: Coen Brothers
Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Woody Harrelson, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Paramount International Pictures

Margot at The Wedding

Mon 14 7.30

Director: Noah Baumbach
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jack Black, Ciaran Hinds, John Turturro
Certificate: 15
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Paramount International Pictures

Great cast a gritty script - a potential explosion of wit, wisecracks and self-effacing, ensemble banter by actors at the top of their trees (or out of them)...

Baumbach's follow-up to the awful *The Squid And The Whale* (loved only by women who wet at the sound of their own voices revving up for wailing in 'crisis') is said to be inspired by Eric Rohmer. Whatever, it is a... "multilayered delight that again focuses on sibling rivalry. Margot (Kidman), a successful and neurotic writer, has been estranged from her sister Pauline (Jason Leigh) for some time." (*Synopsis*) Pauline's impending marriage to Malcolm (Black), however, spurs Margot accompanied by spotty son Claude, to visit the old family house. It is through his eyes we see the unburred sisterly combat unfold. Margot's drive to judge everything and everyone alienates her from the world and inspires the family to mischief.

The ensuing trouble threatens to unravel the emotional bonds so carefully maintained before Margot turned up. You must come, if only to be grateful for that accident of birth which dropped us here and not there.



The Other Boleyn Girl

Tue 15 7.30, Wed 16 7.30,
Thu 17 7.30

Director: Justin Chadwick

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Eric Bana, Kristin Scott Thomas

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 115 mins

Origin: UK 2008

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

"A sumptuous and sensual tale of intrigue, romance and betrayal, *The Other Boleyn Girl* is set against the backdrop of a defining moment in European history. Based on a best-seller by Philippa Gregory, it tells the tale of two beautiful sisters, Anne (Portman) and Mary (Johansson) Boleyn whom, driven by their family's blind ambition, compete for the love of Henry VIII (Bana: forever the Incredible Hulk & Bananaman). The film is beautifully scripted by The Queen's Peter Morgan." (*synopsis*) All well and good but is it any good? Like *The Queen*, the guessing becomes the story. It doesn't matter what the guessing is, as long as it makes us believe the story rather than want to believe it. Writing about an Elizabeth we all 'know', doesn't mean he (and Philippa G) can play the same game with the first one, 500 hundred years before the Daily Express (still selling its front page with a dead princess). That's it, if the Express had typed it, it would have been the truth-absolute; no guessing required... Ms Gregory seems more like a Mail-on-Sunday gal? You'll come anyway.



Rambo IV

Fri 18 7.30



"With nothing as superfluous as narrative, complexity and character development to trouble it, the movie mainly consists of luckless Burmese (tribespeople or soldiers – it hardly matters) being blown or sliced to bits until Rambo finally takes control and shoots anything with a pulse. An ugly flashback." (*Kevin Maher, Times*)

"When you're pushed, killing's as easy as breathing, mumbles John Rambo (Stallone at 61). That this film contains a record-breaking 236 on-screen kills suggests that breathing is a complex quadratic equation in comparison. The opening real footage of real atrocities in Burma is a false start, as it has no connection to reality and nothing to say about current atrocities. It is 90 minutes of violence. No more, no less." (*Jenkins, Time Out*)

"It is bloody and brutal, but raises some interesting questions: how do we right terrible wrongs of the world – do we all take up arms? Rambo embraces moral relativism.

Still, Stallone gives a superb performance as this great solitary man, misunderstood by all and loved by none. I know exactly how he feels."

(*Cosmo L, Sun Times*)

It might give hope to 61-year olds cornered by crazed 16-year olds, but doubtful.

Let's see who comes.

Director: Sylvester Stallone

Starring: Sylvester Stallone

Certificate: 18

Duration: 91 mins

Origin: USA 2008

By: Sony Pictures Releasing

St Trinians

Sat 19 7.00

Directors: Oliver Parker, Barnaby Thompson

Starring: Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Stephen Fry, Mischa Barton

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 101 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Stephen Fry, Mischa Barton

The uniformed but rebellious students of a distinguished all-girls school get an unexpected chance to raise a little hell as Parker and Thompson lig off the characters created by comic artist Ronald Searle. It all began at Ealing with 1954's *The Belles Of St Trinian's*. When their beloved school is broke and threatened with closure the girls set out to raise the urgent funds with a scheme to steal a priceless painting and use the profits to save their school. Said by the makers to be a smart and sassy update, but by the rest; a lame excuse for something or other. Rupert is clearly having a ball as Miss Fritton with Colin Firth as a great straight man.

Between them they manage to pull some of it off but it's a long haul and they're out on their own. Funny and predictably smutty, it's no 'Carry-On'.

Why that TV worm, motormouth Russell Brand? His 'Flash Harry' stinks, a role made gorgeously seedy by George Cole. You can hear them: 'Oh must have Russell on board' Apart from that, its trash.



The Lady Vanishes

Sun 20 6.00



This film brought Hitchcock to Hollywood's attention. So came big budgets to play with, but he hated location work, favouring cosy control of parkbench, crops, snow, sea, rain and light on the studio stage. Hence the lazy backdrops where the car, here the train, is so obviously standing still against a window of fast moving hedgerows. He managed to make North by North West unwatchable. What should have been a fabulous big screen thriller was turned by terrible edits into anticlimax. The famous 'crop-duster' scene is unforgivable for a filmmaker. Think about it? He was already on location. Cary Grant was already there, running. It was all set up, real sky, real crops, real plane. He only had to stay an extra couple of days. Twelve years old, and I've hated Hitchcock ever since.

However, "The Lady Vanishes is a masterful comedy thriller, which for many nestles comfortably amongst the director's very finest works."

(synopsis)

On the train, Iris Henderson (Lockwood) befriends a kindly Miss Froy (Dame May Whitty). Iris falls asleep (great company, that Miss Froy). When she wakes a stranger is there in the old dear's clothes... Uh oh! Come for the backdrops.

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

Starring: Michael Redgrave, Cecil Parker

Certificate: U

Duration: 97 mins

Origin: UK 1938

By: Park Circus Films

Mister Lonely

Mon 21 7.30

Director: Harmony Korine

Starring: Diego Luna, Samantha Morton, Werner Herzog, Denis Lavant

Certificate: 15

Duration: 112 mins

Origin: France, Ireland, UK, USA 2007

By: Tartan Films

"Korine's first feature since *Julien Donkey-Boy* finds him in a playful and mischievous mood. Set amidst the world of star impersonators, it is also a film of darker moments.

Michael Jackson (Luna) moonwalks, high kicks and yelps in the streets of Paris. Marilyn Monroe (Morton) teeters by, and tells him about a haven for look-alikes in the Scottish Highlands, a commune where Charlie Chaplin, Shirley Temple, Queen Elizabeth II and others work together and entertain each other in glorious seclusion, away from the misunderstandings and judgment of the outside world. Michael can't resist seeing the place for himself. Meanwhile, in the jungle, a drunken missionary (Jungle Jim himself – W.Herzog) leads some nuns on a high-flying adventure.

A film for which the term 'audacious' could have been invented, this is a bravura delight."

Whatever else it is, it is imaginative, funny, sad and an idea so rare and strange, it is worth it for that.

Moreover it is beautifully constructed, acted and completely unconscious.

Come.



Pastport to Pimlico

Tue 22 7.30



The residents of Pimlico unearth an ancient document that decrees the area as part of Burgundy, and set about establishing an independent state in the middle of London.

One of the most loved of all the Ealing Comedies. Margaret Rutherford leads the way in a procession of lovely faces in a story from a very innocent time.

Imagine Pimlico a no-go area ruled by decent people who challenge the government in the proper manner with all courtesy and hardly a cross word. Great scenes of London accompany this eccentric comedy which will make you laugh and yearn for the simple gentility of a time when caps were doffed, policemen were jolly and children were tolerated but 'seen and not heard'.

Perfect, even down to the director's name – Henry Cornelius!

I could happily live there again.

Bring the whole street.

Director: Henry Cornelius

Starring: Stanley Holloway, Betty Warren

Certificate: U

Duration: 81 mins

Origin: UK 1949

By: Optimum Releasing

La Vie En Rose

Wed 23 7.30

Director: Olivier Dahan

Starring: Sylvie Testud, Marion Cotillard, Pascal Greggory

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 140 mins

Origin: Czech Republic, France, UK 2007

By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

A huge sell-out since August, *La Vie En Rose* is back to celebrate Marion Cotillard's Oscar as the diminutive 'Little Sparrow' and more, her fantastic theory that 9/11 was an all-American job to rid New York of some jerry-built towers, simultaneously finding the excuse it needed to make the world a freer, happier, safer place.

It's a long-shot but what a girl...

"Cotillard is little short of genius".

She elevates this tragic tale of one huge, tiny life. This little girl's magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above expectations. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love.

'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable she would burn her wings in bravado, brilliance and self-destruction. "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation....a great performance" (*PB Guardian*)

Don't listen to them. Come for a heartbreaking story, beautifully played and photographed right to the last heartrending teardrop... with no regrets.



My Blueberry Nights

Thu 24 7.30



After The Mood For Love and the hard-going 2049 in his own language comes:

"A poignantly beautiful, stirring scored road movie, is Hong Kong auteur Wong Kar Wai's English-language debut." (Which is like letting Sean Penn make a movie in the Far East with a talentedly-challenged ex-wife).

"After a rough break-up, Elizabeth (singer Jones) embarks on a journey across America, leaving behind memories, a dream and a soulful new friend (Law), in search of something to mend her broken heart.

Waitressing her way across the country, she befriends others whose yearnings are greater than hers, and she witnesses the true depths of loneliness and emptiness. She begins to understand her journey is part of a greater exploration within herself.

Continued on page 26

Director: Wong Kar-Wai

Starring: Jude Law, Rachel Weisz, David Strathairn, Norah Jones

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 95 mins

Origin: China, France, Hong Kong 2007

By: Optimum Releasing

There Will Be Blood

Fri 25 7.30, Sat 26 7.00,
Sun 27 6.00

A sprawling epic about family, faith, power, love, hope, community, belief, ambition and father-son bonding, all imperilled by corruption, deception and oil. Nothing too important.

"I don't know why I am drawn irrevocably into a life that isn't mine".

(*DD-L*)

It seems he is intrigued by people beyond his own experience and beyond the threshold required to 'play' them? He even researched drilling equipment! As indeed for the Last of The Mohicans he lived naked in the forest for months, weeks or an hour or two. Who cares?

Using *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) as inspiration if not a template, both Anderson and DD-L have taken its essence of treachery and mistrust. "I could watch Walter Huston all day long" (*DD-L*)

He listened to recordings of John Huston – For the language not phrasing "but didn't mean to copy him". So listen to: "I bless you all. Amen" then watch *Chinatown!* Didn't mean to copy? It's Mike Yarwood c.1973. (John H directed his father Walter in *Sierra Madre*. They all sound the same).

Johnny Greenwood's music is so atmospheric (including Popcorn Superhead Receiver – first composed for *Radio 3*) "This nasty noise that he made was perfect for this nasty movie" (*PT Anderson*)

(All above taken from *The Film Prog* with the unflappable Francine Stock *R4*)

"thrillingly original, a visionary passion... against which all directors, and all moviegoers, will want to measure themselves. Anderson is doing something new with cinema" (*P Bradshaw, Guardian*) No we won't & No he's not.

"Is this America's best film-maker?" (*Standard*) No.

Director: Paul Anderson
Starring: Daniel Day Lewis, Kevin O'Connor, Ciaran Hinds, Paul Dano
Certificate: 15
Duration: 158 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Buena Vista International



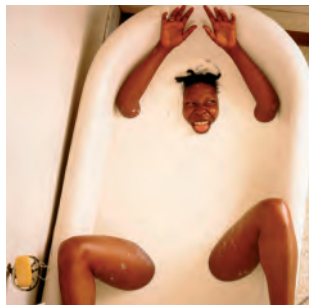
Annie Leibovitz: Life Through a Lens Mon 28 7.30

"Though she cries while discussing Susan Sontag's death in 2004, Leibovitz doesn't exactly open up.

Even when it comes to discussing iconic photos such as the one of John and Yoko in bed hours before his death – she stays shtum." (*Standard*) Annie Leibovitz has produced some of the most memorable and iconic images of the last 30 years, from Rolling Stone magazine through to her Hollywood cover portraits at Vanity Fair; from the horrors of war in Rwanda and Sarajevo to intimate shots of her friends and family. Directed by her sister, this is a fascinating portrait of a great talent, featuring vintage footage of her in action during the 1960s and contributions from Schwarzenegger, Clinton, Jagger and gorgeous George. Her eye misses nothing.

"As a royal photographer, Annie infamously took pictures of the Queen last year. On the other hand, she makes Hollywood's elite look born to rule. It is why A-list stars want to be in her pictures? It also delves into the (much more interesting) stuff she used to get up to!

It's a life worth shedding light on... a shame Barbara's lens is not as probing as hers." (*Standard*) Don't miss.



Director: Barbara Leibovitz
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 83 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Institute of Contemporary Arts

Play It Again Sam

Tue 29 7.30

Director: Herbert Ross

Starring: Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Tony Roberts, Jerry Lacy

Certificate: 15

Duration: 85 mins

Origin: USA 1972

By: Paramount

Written by Woody Allen but directed by Herbert Ross **PLAY IT AGAIN SAM** is Allen's hilarious, affectionate parody of old Humphrey Bogart movies in which Woody plays a film buff whose obsession with **CASABLANCA** leads him to unsuccessfully try to emulate his hero.

Bogart fans will love it as will Woody Allen's. His attention to detail of the originals is meticulous, even anal. But his sense of everything else; comic, ironic and pathetic not only makes the whole thing work but the main plot line quite plausible. His instinct of where to place it all to make it work is ingenious. Some fun in the 'jumble sale' that is April after all the murder, mayhem, death by natural causes and abortion that was an award filled March... Come and see Woody at the very top of his tree.

A must for all film students.

If you can see how this is edited, you'll do alright.



Children of Glory

Wed 30 7.30

It is the spring of 1956. While Hungary is only a small slave nation to the massive Soviet Block, it is sovereign with its own proud identity. Moreover its national water polo team is invincible!

Even locked behind the Iron Curtain, the players feel like kings. Thriving on success and enjoying the attention of every girl in the country, they stand self-assured and unified.

The team had 'lost' only one game. This was in 1955 against the USSR in Moscow. It is well known the match was rigged.

Military power however, rigs everything. So as revolution breaks out on the streets of Budapest during that summer, the Soviet tanks roll in. Young polo star Karcsi (Iván Fenyő) and his friend, Tibi (Sándor Csányi) get embroiled in it. At first out for adventure, he is caught up with a beautiful and fiery student, Viki Falk (Kata Dobó), so finds himself at the heart of the uprising. It is no longer a game.

The revolution sweeps him off his feet and he sacrifices all to fight. By the end of October, it is all over. The Russians are back in control. Prisoners are taken never to be seen again. It has all been for nothing. Karcsi goes back to the pool.

This is how he arrives at the Melbourne Olympic Games Water Polo semi-finals on 6th December 1956. While Soviet army T-34 tanks are tearing into his hometown, the team sets out to lift Hungary's head out of the water, in what would be one of the most brutal exchanges ever seen on the sports-field (not counting every weekend in the 21 Century Premier League) It is simply told but avoids 'boy own' slush. It is a story of love and loyalty set against the backdrop of revolution and (as the USSR must never be seen to lose on the World's stage) driven by the fire of revenge by humiliation. Cancel April, swimming, divorce - don't miss.



Director: Krisztina Goda

Starring: Kata Dobó, Iván Fenyő

Certificate: 15

Duration: 123 mins

Origin: Hungary 2008

By: Lionsgate Films UK

APRIL LISTINGS AND COMING SOON

Coming Soon

New releases

Love In The Time Of
Cholera
Happy Go Lucky
4 Minutes
Garage
Water Lillies

Back by demand

There Will Be Blood
Kite Runner
The Sea Inside

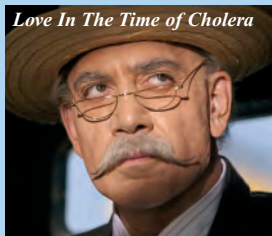
Water Lillies



Four Minutes



Love In The Time of Cholera



Happy Go Lucky



APRIL FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

TUES	1	CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR	12.30
TUES	1	BE KIND, REWIND	7.30
WED	2	DIVING BELL & BUTTERFLY	2.00, 7.30
THU	3	THE KITE RUNNER	2.00
THU	3	ONCE	7.30
FRI	4	THE KITE RUNNER	7.30
SAT	5	DEEP BLUE	2.00
SAT	5	THE KITE RUNNER	7.00
SUN	6	DON'T TOUCH THE AXE	6.00
MON	7	THE KITE RUNNER	2.00
MON	7	THE EDGE OF HEAVEN	7.30
TUE	8	BRICK LANE	12.30
TUE	8	CLOSING THE RING	7.30
WED	9	THE BUCKET LIST	2.00
WED	9	THE COUNTERFEITERS	7.30
THU	10	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	2.00
THU	10	THE BANK JOB	7.30
FRI	11	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	7.30
SAT	12	NATIONAL TREASURE 2	2.00
SAT	12	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	7.00
SUN	13	NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN	6.00
MON	14	MARGOT AT THE WEDDING	2.00, 7.30
TUE	15	SWEENEY TODD	12.30
TUE	15	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	7.30
WED	16	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	2.00, 7.30
THU	17	3:10 TO YUMA	2.00
THU	17	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	7.30
FRI	18	RAMBO	7.30
SAT	19	ST TRINIANS	2.00, 7.00
SUN	20	THE LADY VANISHES	6.00
MON	21	MOULIN ROUGE	2.00
MON	21	MR LONELY	7.30
TUE	22	PASSPORT TO PIMLICO	12.30, 7.30
WED	23	LA VIE EN ROSE	2.00, 7.30
THU	24	MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS	2.00, 7.30
FRI	25	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	7.30
SAT	26	RED BALLOON & WHITE MANE	2.00
SAT	26	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	7.00
SUN	27	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	6.00
MON	28	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	2.00
MON	28	ANNIE LIEBOWITZ DOCUMENTARY	7.30
TUE	29	PLAY IT AGAIN SAM	12.30, 7.30
WED	30	CHILDREN OF GLORY	2.00, 7.30



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

ALL MATINEES: Balcony £5.00 • Table seats £6.50 • Royal Box seats £10.00

Charlie Wilson's War

Tue 1 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Mike Nichols

Starring: Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Tom Hanks

Certificate: 15

Duration: 102 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

This tells the remarkable true-ish story of the Texas congressman whose efforts to prevent the Red Army from overtaking Afghanistan eventually led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and fuelled the rise of radical Islam! (Thanks Charlie from Texas). In the early 1980s, a hastily assembled army of Afghan 'freedom fighters' achieved the remarkable feat of fending off Soviet invaders against overwhelming odds. Wilson spearheaded an effort to provide hundreds of millions of dollars in weapons and training to the Mujahadeen with more than a little help from a very suspect CIA man Gust Avrokotos (Hoffman) and rich, republican, nutter, widow (Julia Glorious Roberts).

"This is intelligent political film-making of the highest class." "Aaron Sorkin's masterful script combines insight, wit and political nous but never forgets its own underlying seriousness." (*Channel 4*) "Hanks and Roberts have fun harnessing their screen personas to these juicy roles; Hoffman's feverish ranting is yet another glowing testament to his skills at playing charismatic ass-holes" (*Time Out*) Come, laugh and be quite scared.



The Diving Bell and The Butterfly

Wed 2 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Schnabel's third feature recounts the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Amalric), charismatic editor of French *Elle* magazine, who at the age of 43 suffered a stroke that rendered his brain stem inactive. He awoke from a coma to find himself a victim of locked-in syndrome: mentally alert but physically paralysed – except for his left eye lid. Terrifyingly, he was left with a fully functioning mind. Bravely side-stepping emotion, he put his memory and imagination to work. He learned a blinking code for each letter of the alphabet and (through devoted and very patient women) painstakingly told this profound story. "Mathieu Amalric as Bauby (once reserved for Johnny Depp!) is absorbing and beautifully honest, even frozen to his bed" (*Standard*) "It's a gorgeously atmospheric and deeply affecting piece of work" (*Times*)

"Schnabel treats this amazing real-life story as a testament to the importance of memory and the boundlessness of human imagination" (*Time Out*) The faces, the screenplay, the language, the camera... and that music, will move you further than you want to go. Come and lose yourself, then come and see it again

Director: Julian Schnabel

Starring: Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Emmanuelle Seigner, Mathieu Amalric

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 112 mins

Origin: France 2008

By: Pathe Distribution

The Kite Runner

Thu 3 2.00, **Mon 7** 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Marc Forster

Starring: Zekeria Ebrahimi, Khalid Abdalla, Ahmad Mahmidezada

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 128 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Paramount International Pictures

Back by overwhelming demand and though it might run and run it won't be back in May. Here in April for three evenings and two matinees, please make the most of it.

A glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are filled with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fear and the other's courage, triggers a terrible lie and complete act of betrayal which will mark two lives forever and set in motion an epic and perilous quest for redemption... With much of Kabul destroyed, Forster used a region of China to stand in for Amir's childhood Kabul "The [Afghan] people felt it was a love letter to Afghanistan"? (*Marc Forster*)

The elder's language is beautiful and their philosophy gentle and reassuring; borne from religion but not lost to it. Amir's father is majestic, Hassan as boy and man, brave and noble. Each is a great example of absolute integrity and true courage in the face of all hell.

Amir carries the story... His redemption is for you to decide.



Deep Blue

Sat 5 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



First shown in our fledgling Feb 2005 programme, this big screen fantasia is shot by the same BBC Natural History Unit behind *The Blue Planet*. It is an epic cinematic rollercoaster with images so breath-catching and unerringly beautiful they will mesmerise you by their sheer scale and photographic audacity. Remember there's a camera (held by real people) in the water with those 'fish'!

The sea is two-thirds of the planet, yet we know more about the surface of the moon than we do about our deepest oceans.

Now, for the first time, we can explore a world few have seen. From the familiar to the unknown, the film reveals the sea with all its faces: enchanting, alluring and fierce. 20 specialist cinematographers, over 7,000 hours, over 200 locations, over 5 years in 5,000 metres (three miles down!!!) of dark, icy water.

Though silence might have been best, it is scored by five-times Oscar nom George Fenton and the Berlin Philharmonic, and narrated by the irrepressible, irreverent arch joker - Michael Gambon.

Bring your grandparents and fish paste butties, but don't miss.

Director: Andy Byatt, Alastair Fothergill

Starring: Fish, water, Michael Gambon

Certificate: PG

Duration: 90 mins

Origin: UK 2004

By: Optimum Releasing

Brick Lane

Tue 8 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Sarah Gavron
Starring: Satish Kaushik, Christopher Simpson, Tannishtha Chatterjee
Certificate: 15
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: UK 2007
By: Optimum Releasing

This is Sarah Gavron's adaptation of Monica Ali's Booker-nominated first novel.

It is faithful to the book though inevitably, less subtle and wide-ranging. Its characterisations are simpler, but its focus on the struggles of a young Bangladeshi woman saddled with an arranged marriage in a foreign land remains the same. She, Nazneen (Chatterjee) is seventeen and beautiful. He is neither. From a sunny Bangladeshi village childhood to a block of flats in east London with a grown man she has never met.

Pining for her birthplace and her sister, she struggles to make sense of it all. Worse, the terrifying duty to an unknown husband, who sorely tests her compliance. Nazneen submits as she must, devoting her life to raising her family and resisting the demons of discontent. Until Karim, a hot-headed local man, bursts into her life. Against a background of escalating racial tension, they embark on an affair which finally forces Nazneen to take control of her life. There are no heroes or villains, just people... "unfashionably gentle, human, optimistic" (*Guardian*).



The Bucket List

Wed 9 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as two terminally ill cancer patients who decide to break out of the hospital and live their last days to the fullest in Reiner's 'serio-comic' road movie. Billionaire Edward (Nicholson) and mechanic Carter (Freeman) are sharing a hospital room.

Though initially they seem to have nothing in common, conversation gradually reveals that they both have a long list of things to do before they 'kick the bucket'.

When they make a break for it with their checklist: gambling in Monte Carlo, women, fast cars, exploring the world they've so far missed, etc. It is an all-expenses-paid Jack romp with expensive locations, pretty girls (on & off-set) and a few drinks...

Come for these and laugh as much as it makes you.

Who cares if it's irritating, that didn't stop Atonement.

Director: Rob Reiner

Starring: Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 97 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Warner Brothers

No Country for Old Men

Thu 10 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



From the first shot you know you're in safe, and dangerous hands - business as usual from the Coen's. It's 1970s small-town Texas. A Vietnam vet stumbles across a bag of middle-of-nowhere cash. Enter Javier Bardem's bad-hair, coin-tossing killer in cold pursuit...

"Harrelson delivers an icy cameo as the corrupt private dick. Tommy Lee plays weary seen-it-all sheriff who doesn't miss a trick... even one step behind" (*Times*)

(Joel and Ethan talking on a BBC The World Service interview Jan 2008):

"It is Cormac's words throughout..."

A great story teller... it doesn't go in the extemp... Faithful to the book plus the highest level of acting...

Are we going to change Cormac McCarthy??? (No jokes). Its his words, they don't need to be changed. The dialogue is right from the book... as are the descriptions of the scenes. The garroting scene is straight from the book..."

"Preparations - storyboard most important - everything is prepared to the frame... but (serious-ish) always open to change on set...? 'We were just following instructions'"

The tension and edge they create is phenomenal, all with little movement and very big silence. Do not miss.

Director: Coen Brothers

Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Woody Harrelson, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin

Certificate: 15

Duration: 122 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Paramount International Pictures

National Treasure 2

Sat 12 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Starring: Diane Kruger, Nicolas Cage, Helen Mirren

Certificate: PG

Duration: 124 mins

Origin: USA 2008

By: Buena Vista International

In this adventure-packed sequel to the 2004 Nat Treas blockbuster, the unwatchable Nicolas Cage revives his role as artefact hunter and archaeologist extraordinaire Ben Gates. In this new adventure, Gates learns of his own family's implication in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth.

He must then locate the 18 missing pages to Booth's diary, not only to clear his family's name, but to unearth and connect several secrets buried within the book, which point to a massive global conspiracy.

A charabanc of Tinseltown giants co-star, including Jon Voight, Harvey Keitel and Helen Mirren as Ben's mother. Dame Helen - our queen, is Nicholas one-face Cage's mum? Outrageous.

It sounds quite good but...

Warning: probably not for little kids under 6 or 8. They will be lost or very bored by a lengthy (2hrs) conspiracy plot about the man who shot Abraham Lincoln!

As always it's up to you.



Margot at The Wedding

Mon 14 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Great cast a gritty script - a potential explosion of wit, wisecracks and self-effacing, ensemble banter by actors at the top of their trees (or out of them)...

Baumbach's follow-up to the awful The Squid And The Whale (loved only by women who wet at the sound of their own voices revving up for wailing in 'crisis') is said to be inspired by Eric Rohmer. Whatever, it is a... "multilayered delight that again focuses on sibling rivalry. Margot (Kidman), a successful and neurotic writer, has been estranged from her sister Pauline (Jason Leigh) for some time." (*Synopsis*) Pauline's impending marriage to Malcolm (Black), however, spurs Margot accompanied by spotty son Claude, to visit the old family house.

It is through his eyes we see the unbred sisterly combat unfold. Margot's drive to judge everything and everyone alienates her from the world and inspires the family to mischief.

The ensuing trouble threatens to unravel the emotional bonds so carefully maintained before Margot turned up. You must come, if only to be grateful for that accident of birth which dropped us here and not there.

Director: Noah Baumbach

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jack Black, Ciaran Hinds, John Turturro

Certificate: 15

Duration: 93 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Paramount International Pictures

Sweeney Todd

Tue 15 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Tim Burton**Starring:** Johnny Depp, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall**Certificate:** 18**Duration:** 116 mins**Origin:** UK/USA 2007**By:** Warner Brothers

Take a Victorian tuppenny-melodrama, let Sondheim turn into a musical thriller. Simmer for thirty years. Enter Tim Burton and hey presto 120 years later its on the big screen. So what is all the fuss about? You'll have to come and see. Embittered for being wrongly imprisoned and determined to avenge the grim fate that befell his wife and daughter, Johnny returns home, changes his name and opens a barbers shop. However a quick trim will leave you nothing for the weekend, sir! So he became known as 'The Demon Barber of Fleet Street' by the terrified locals, whom nevertheless loved Mrs Lovett's (Bonham Carter) succulent 'meat' pies...

"This macabre musical, their sixth partnership, has Depp's demon barber wielding razors (like extensions of his arms). "Shocking but exhilarating, is this the first 18 certificate musical?" (*Observer*)

A flat middle section contrasts with the atmospheric opening and spectacular finale but mostly this is grand-scale studio-work at its most beguiling... A great deal bloodier than most musicals, Burton's beautifully crafted direction feels like a kids' film – not for children! The Hulk, meets Fred West!" (*Time Out*)



The Other Boleyn Girl

Wed 16 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



A sumptuous and sensual tale of intrigue, romance and betrayal, *The Other Boleyn Girl* is set against the backdrop of a defining moment in European history. Based on a best-seller by Philippa Gregory, it tells the tale of two beautiful sisters, Anne (Portman) and Mary (Johansson) Boleyn whom, driven by their family's blind ambition, compete for the love of Henry VIII (Bana: forever the Incredible Hulk & Bananaman). The film is beautifully scripted by The Queen's Peter Morgan." (*synopsis*) All well and good but is it any good? Like *The Queen*, the guessing becomes the story. It doesn't matter what the guessing is, as long as it makes us believe the story rather than want to believe it. Writing about an Elizabeth we all 'know', doesn't mean he (and Philippa G) can play the same game with the first one, 500 hundred years before the Daily Express (still selling its front page with a dead princess). That's it, if the Express had typed it, it would have been the truth-absolute; no guessing required... Ms Gregory seems more like a Mail-on-Sunday gal? You'll come anyway

Director: Justin Chadwick**Starring:** Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Eric Bana, Kristin Scott Thomas**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 115 mins**Origin:** UK 2008**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

3:10 to Yuma

Thu 17 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Directors: James Mangold**Starring:** Peter Fonda, Ben Foster, Christian Bale, Gretchen Mol, Russell Crowe**Certificate:** 15**Duration:** 123 mins**Origin:** USA 2007**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

Even a railway timetable wouldn't call itself this. Nevertheless, this superb remake of the 1957 psychological Western classic "breathes life into a dying art". It has already signalled a revival of the cowboy – not counting the tedious Jessie James in January. Like *High Noon*, 3:10 hangs its tale and fate on the railroad – what will it bring...?

In Arizona in the late nineteenth century, infamous outlaw Ben Wade (Crowe) and his vicious gang have been terrorising the Southern Railroad. When Wade is captured, Civil War veteran Dan Evans (Bale), struggling to survive on his drought-plagued ranch, volunteers to deliver him alive for trial by catching that train on time – thus the terrible title. Along they way, Evans and Wade, each from a very different world, begin to earn each other's respect. But with Wade's gang on their trail – and dangers at every turn – the mission soon becomes an impossible journey toward each man's destiny. Definitely worth seeing, especially for those who think of the Western as all spurs and chaps and black and white hats.



St Trinians

Sat 19 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

The uniformed but rebellious students of a distinguished all-girls school get an unexpected chance to raise a little hell as Parker and Thompson lig off the characters created by comic artist Ronald Searle. It all began at Ealing with 1954's *The Belles Of St Trinian's*. When their beloved school is broke and threatened with closure the girls set out to raise the urgent funds with a scheme to steal a priceless painting and use the profits to save their school. Said by the makers to be a smart and sassy update, but by the rest; a lame excuse for something or other. Rupert is clearly having a ball as Miss Fritton with Colin Firth as a great straight man. Between them they manage to pull some of it off but it's a long haul and they're out on their own. Funny and predictably smutty, it's no 'Carry-On'.

Why that TV worm, motormouth Russell Brand? His 'Flash Harry' stinks, a role made gorgeously seedy by George Cole. You can hear them: 'Oh must have Russell on board' Apart from that, its trash.

Directors: Oliver Parker, Barnaby Thompson

Starring: Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Stephen Fry, Mischa Barton

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 101 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Colin Firth, Rupert Everett, Stephen Fry, Mischa Barton

Moulin Rouge

Mon 21 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Directors: Baz Luhrmann

Starring: Nicole Kidman, John Leguizamo, David Wenham, Ewan McGregor, Garry McDonald, Kylie Minogue, Richard Roxburgh, Jim Broadbent

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 126 mins

Origin: Australia 2001

By: Twentieth Century Fox

Here in our first month – December 2004, now aired three years later because we discourage excitement, fun or music in the afternoons.

Set in 1899, this extravagance has Ewan McGregor as a young poet who defies his father by moving to 'the absinthe-soaked, amoral, bohemian' neighbourhood of Montmartre. It is here he meets Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (John Leguizamo) and is drafted to write a nightclub spectacular. In this seedy world of sex, drugs and rollick & rouge he begins a passionate, doom laden affair with gay Paree's most famous courtesan (Nicole Kidman). Baz Luhrmann, explodes the story with pop-pap in a period setting, where big cheeses mingle with the young, beautiful, penniless cheeses in a debauched world: "It is really an investigation of what it is like to move from 1899 to 2000, a period of great change. And I wanted to celebrate everything that was great during this time, particularly music." (*Baz L*) What in Argyle's name is he on about. Music? Elton John? A travesty of 'great' and a huge contradiction in terms. I rest my deaf-aid. As for Ewan and Nicole wailing? Case rested.



Pastport to Pimlico

Tue 22 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

The residents of Pimlico unearth an ancient document that decrees the area as part of Burgundy, and set about establishing an independent state in the middle of London.

One of the most loved of all the Ealing Comedies. Margaret Rutherford leads the way in a procession of lovely faces in a story from a very innocent time. Imagine Pimlico a no-go area ruled by decent people who challenge the government in the proper manner with all courtesy and hardly a cross word. Great scenes of London accompany this eccentric comedy which will make you laugh and yearn for the simple gentility of a time when caps were doffed, policemen were jolly and children were tolerated but 'seen and not heard'. Perfect, even down to the director's name – Henry Cornelius! I could happily live there again. Bring the whole street.

Director: Henry Cornelius

Starring: Stanley Holloway, Betty Warren

Certificate: U

Duration: 81 mins

Origin: UK 1949

By: Optimum Releasing

La Vie En Rose

Wed 23 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Olivier Dahan**Starring:** Sylvie Testud, Marion Cotillard, Pascal Greggory**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 140 mins**Origin:** Czech Republic, France, UK 2007**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

A huge sell-out since August, *La Vie En Rose* is back to celebrate Marion Cotillard's Oscar as the diminutive 'Little Sparrow' and more, her fantastic theory that 9/11 was an all-American job to rid New York of some jerry-built towers, simultaneously finding the excuse it needed to make the world a freer, happier, safer place.

It's a long-shot but what a girl...

"Cotillard is little short of genius".

She elevates this tragic tale of one huge, tiny life. This little girl's magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above expectations. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love.

'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable she would burn her wings in bravado, brilliance and self-destruction. "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation....a great performance" (*PB Guardian*)

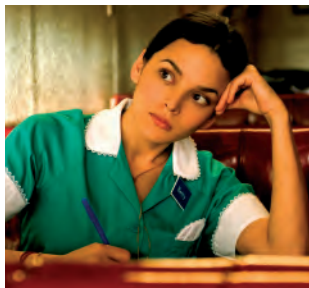
Don't listen to them. Come for a heartbreaking story, beautifully played and photographed right to the last heartrending teardrop... with no regrets



My Blueberry Nights

Thu 24 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Continued from page 16

As technically brilliant as one would expect, the film also packs an emotional punch, hinting at the distances, sometimes small, sometimes great, between two people"

(Distributor's synopsis - verbatim!)

"Wong Kar Wai persuaded to make an English speaking film; has made "In the Mood for Clichés"

Nobody acts badly, the film looks very good in a swishy sort of way, in hopelessly gooeey slow motion and seems to encapsulate every thing that doesn't work in a film fashioned to seduce the eye, if not the ear and mind..."

(Derek Malcolm *Guardian*)

Director: Wong Kar-Wai**Starring:** Jude Law, Rachel Weisz, David Strathairn, Norah Jones**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 95 mins**Origin:** China, France, Hong Kong 2007**By:** Optimum Releasing

Red Balloon and White Mane

Sat 26 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Albert Lamorisse**Starring:** Pascal Lamorisse, Georges Sellier, Alain Emery, Jean-Pierre Grenier**Certificate:** U**Duration:** 34 + 47 mins**Origin:** France 1956/1953**By:** Park Circus

"The Red Balloon (1956) is one of the most famous short films ever made; a childhood fantasy with appeal for every age. Pascal is a lonely boy who befriends a wondrous red balloon which follows him everywhere; to school, to church and even hovers outside his window when he is in his room. Filmed entirely in the picturesque back streets and narrow alleys of the Old Menilmotant neighbourhood of Paris, The Red Balloon has been acclaimed throughout the world as an immortal masterpiece of lyrical poetry..."

White Mane (1953) A young boy named Folco observes and later tames the unwieldy White Mane, a wild stallion who is the leader of a herd of an ancient breed of small Camargue horses, who roam in the marshes of Southern France. Together they defy the group of ranchers who are out to capture the horses." (*Synopsis*)

A magical and beautiful double treat for children of this century and your entire family from the last.



There Will Be Blood

Mon 28 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Paul Anderson

Starring: Daniel Day Lewis, Kevin O'Connor, Ciaran Hinds, Paul Dano

Certificate: 15

Duration: 158 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Buena Vista International

A sprawling epic about family, faith, power, love, hope, community, belief, ambition and father-son bonding, all imperilled by corruption, deception and oil. Nothing too important.

"I don't know why I am drawn irrevocably into a life that isn't mine". (DD-L)

He even researched drilling equipment! As indeed for the Last of The Mohicans he lived naked in the forest for months, weeks or an hour or two. Who cares? Using The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) as inspiration if not a template, both Anderson and DD-L have taken its essence of treachery and mistrust. "I could watch Walter Huston all day long" (DD-L)

Johnny Greenwood's music is so atmospheric (including Popcorn Superhead Receiver – first composed for Radio3) "This nasty noise that he made was perfect for this nasty movie" (PT Anderson)

(taken from *The Film Prog with the unflappable Francine Stock R4*) "thrillingly original, a visionary passion... against which all directors, and all moviegoers, will want to measure themselves. Anderson is doing something new with cinema" (P Bradshaw; *Guardian*) No we won't & No he's not.

"Is this America's best film-maker?" (Standard) No.



Play It Again Sam

Tue 29 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Written by Woody Allen but directed by Herbert Ross **PLAY IT AGAIN SAM** is Allen's hilarious, affectionate parody of old Humphrey Bogart movies in which Woody plays a film buff whose obsession with **CASABLANCA** leads him to unsuccessfully try to emulate his hero.

Bogart fans will love it as will Woody Allen's. His attention to detail of the originals is meticulous, even anal. But his sense of everything else; comic, ironic and pathetic not only makes the whole thing work but the main plot line quite plausible.

His instinct of where to place it all to make it work is ingenious.

Some fun in the 'jumble sale' that is April after all the murder, mayhem, death by natural causes and abortion that was an award filled March... Come and see Woody at the very top of his tree.

A must for all film students.

If you can see how this is edited, you'll do alright

Director: Herbert Ross

Starring: Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Tony Roberts, Jerry Lacy

Certificate: 15

Duration: 85 mins

Origin: USA 1972

By: Paramount

Children of Glory

Wed 30 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Krisztina Goda

Starring: Kata Dobó, Iván Fenyő

Certificate: 15

Duration: 123 mins

Origin: Hungary 2008

By: Lionsgate Films UK

It is the spring of 1956. While Hungary is only a small slave nation to the massive Soviet Block, it is sovereign with its own proud identity. Moreover its national water polo team is invincible!

Even locked behind the Iron Curtain, the players feel like kings. The team had 'lost' only one game. This was in 1955 against the USSR in Moscow. So as revolution breaks out on the streets of Budapest during that summer, the Soviet tanks roll in. Young polo star Karcsi (Iván Fenyő) and his friend, Tibi (Sándor Csányi) get embroiled in it. By the end of October, it is all over. The Russians are back in control. Prisoners are taken never to be seen again. It has all been for nothing. Karcsi goes back to the pool.

This is how he arrives at the Melbourne Olympic Games Water Polo semi-finals on 6th December 1956. While Soviet army T-34 tanks are tearing into his hometown, the team sets out to lift Hungary's head out of the water, in what would be one of the most brutal exchanges ever seen on the sports-field (not counting every weekend in the 21 Century Premier League) It is simply told but avoids 'boy own' slush. It is a story of love and loyalty set against the backdrop of revolution and (as the USSR must never be seen to lose on the World's stage) driven by the fire of revenge by humiliation. Cancel April, swimming, divorce - don't miss.



RANTS AND PANTS

NO PAVEMENTS FOR OLD MEN...

Or for young things, prams, toddlers, etc. We all hate traffic wardens and time strangling tickets. There is no need for them. Parking was free a short year or so ago. Now we pay for it and nobody stood up and made a peep. Those black stumpy towers we've all got used to running to and from. Why doesn't Osama bin Gossoms End fly planes into them?

Or Friday night pubescent uglies daub bright yellow paint all over them and cut their heads off with industrial pipe cutters, and end up on a chain gang behind the Swan? But they're more interested peeing on your front door.

Then cowards and panickers that we are – no yellow line, I'll park here and I'll take up the whole pavement so nobody hits my wing mirror.

Nobody can walk on the pavement. There is no pavement, my car's on it. But they can't give me a ticket.

We're all snivelling drivers even when we get out of the car. Without yellow lines, we don't know simple courtesy until someone in a car tries to run us over, then its "I'M WALKING HERE... you *!*&+*!

It's all nuts. Taking pictures of it is nuts.



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Bulbs are looking
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OPEN 10-5 EVERY DAY

RANTS AND PANTS

OUR FIRST HOUSE ADVERT ON P28...

Marks a new stride towards our meglamaniacal rise to world domination. This is our first venture into private, no estate agent-in-sight, house sales. Good luck to seller and buyer. Over 30,000 readers a month. Try it. No commission, just the cost of the ad. We'll sell your bijou, south facing, courtyard garden (cramped, sweaty, back yard) for you... And you can say whatever you like about The Rex.

RANT-LINE...

The box office children have suggested a 'Rant-line' for people who normally take hours on the phone telling you they can't get through, after they've got through.

"Where customers could vent their phone rage and we wouldn't have to listen..." (*box office*) This would mean we could answer the phones quicker and everyone will be happier.

PS we are sorry about the answerphone message. We have tried all ways to delete it. The robot says 'message deleted' then it's still there.

It's my daughter's voice under the duress of taking very loose instructions from me. "Make it easy for people. Don't say timetable things or sound like the speaking clock..."

What a lovely surprise to learn of the re-opening of 'The Rex' cinema in Berkhamsted.

We got to know of this through watching Monday's programme of BBC's 'Working Lunch'. My wife and I are reaching our 50th wedding anniversary in March this year.

Whilst on a week's honeymoon in 1958 in Hemel Hempstead, we spent an evening at 'The Rex'; the film at the time was 'The Bridge on the River Kwai'

We have a nostalgic feeling for the 'The Rex' after fifty years and were sad to read some time ago that it had been turned into flats.

I was born in Hemel in 1934 and came down to these parts (Wokingham) with my parents at the age of six. I still have many relatives living in Hemel.

Seeing how beautiful the Rex now looks I'm sure my wife and I will have to pay another visit in the not too distant future.

Thank you for bringing it back to life.

Best wishes. Mr and Mrs McNally

Happy anniversary Mr and Mrs McNally. You're made of greater stuff than we younger ones, and 1958 was a wonderful time in small rural towns, no traffic and nice houses with shops side by side. Hemel would have been a lovely place for your honeymoon. Come and find us and we'll find a copy of 'The Bridge on the River Kwai' for you. Best wishes from all of us at The Rex, James



RAILINGS?

Can anyone say or imagine what this is all about? It doesn't matter. The redundant, lumpen, terrifyingly unnecessary but so powerful, Health & Safety police will know.