



# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

SAVAGE GRACE

AUGUST...

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

**AUGUST 2008 Issue 41**  
[www.therexcinema.com](http://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)	£11.00
or for the Box	£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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<b>Henry Beardshaw</b>	<b>Louise Ormiston</b>
<b>Julia Childs</b>	<b>Liz Parkin</b>
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**Jacque Rose** Chief Box Office & Bar

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[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)



If I'd have known this was going to happen...

**NEW TICKET PRICES IN SEPTEMBER.**

From 1st Sept, seat prices will go up by £1:00. This is only the second increase in four years. It remains a fraction of what it would be if we tried to recoup all of our VAT on tickets.

We have absorbed all our costs and extra taxes, suppliers increases, inflation and fuel cost inflation from the outset.

We haven't added that 6p drinks tax imposed on us in April. The next day pub prices went up 20p and more. What was that about? The breweries flaccid excuse that 6p will cost a further 14p to administer?

That insane budget rise to 'prevent' binge drinking is as preposterous as prevention and prohibition has always been. It is just an extra tax.

Our drinks prices will stay the same until December. Though we have had a number of requests for more expensive, classic wines to be added to the list.

These will be introduced gradually over the next few months. It will not effect the current list.

**NEW PRICES**

Balcony/circle:	£8.00	cons £6.50
At tables:	£10.00	cons £8.50
'Royal box':	£12.00	(no cons)
Whole box (6 seats)	£66.00	
Matinees will stay at	£5.00 balcony. £6.50 tables.	
	£10 Box	(no cons).

**ADVANCED BOOKING LIST (ABL).**

The Rex year runs from December To November. How to join the ABL will be announced in October and will cost £175.00 for the year. There is no automatic renewal year by year. You must apply again and the list will be limited to 500 names as it has this year.

I hope you agree this has made it easier for everybody to get tickets compared to the early rushes of the first two years. And don't forget we hold back a limited number of seats for the nightly raffle on the door.

We will set aside one Saturday in mid-October for people to join. We don't anticipate a great rush.

The closing date will be near the end of November, to begin in plenty of time for 1st December.

Sorry to make these dry announcements so early, but we want to avoid misunderstanding or disappointment. This will be repeated in September's programme with fixed ABL dates.

## REXY SEXY



Sex and the City certainly brought you all out and your Sunday best. Well done and thank you for a great week. We ran out of everything except steam.

Here's to Mamma Mia over the Bank Holiday weekend starting 22nd August.







AUGUST EVENINGS

# Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

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

**I can't imagine it being better than *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.**

The first story was and will always be the best to tell, read and see. Ask my two.

"Children under ten may be disturbed by the uncompromising battle scenes not to mention the distinctly adult themes of guilt, failure and murderous treachery." (*Mail on Sun: Review* – well done the upright Mail)

The four child heroes from the wardrobe are aghast to find that 1300 years have passed in Narnia (in only one year of their own). It's golden age has come to an end. The malevolent King Miraz rules without mercy, to keep all power in his bloodline, even if that means killing his nephew... Prince Caspian!

Aslan is back, as is Tilda's snow witch, but Mr. Tumnus is too busy atoning for the sins of a Scottish king, to make it in to this sequel.

"We are forced to endure an entirely cuddly Aslan and a souped-up Prince Caspian. The boy is indeed pretty. Pretty vacant, like this expensive, jam packed film." (*Standard*)

"Kids under 12 may just buy into its soppy rites-of-passage homily; everyone else will be checking their watches."

(*Independent*)

As always, come and prove them wrong.



**Director:** Andrew Adamson  
**Starring:** Eddie Izzard, Liam Neeson, Tilda Swinton, Ben Barnes  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 144 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International



## Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (Welcome to the Sticks) **Mon 4 7.30**



**Don't believe anyone or listen to smart-alec criticism – this is a gem of gems.**

Didn't sell out in June nor might it in (silly holiday) August, but it will in Sept when you return tanned and refreshed, to cram the car parks with your 4x4s. Philippe (Merad) runs the post office in a picturesque small town in southern France. He thinks the more glamorous surroundings of the Côte d'Azur might lift his wife's spirits. His attempts to fiddle a transfer fail. Instead, as a punishment, he is sent to Bergues, a village in the 'far north'.

Matters only get worse - the local dialect is a strange bouillabaisse of French, Flemish and Latin!

A heartwarming little comedy which, to general astonishment, has stormed the box office all across France. The gags about the local-yokel habitués of the Pas-de-Calais area, north of Lille all work, thanks in no small part to miraculous sub-titles.

Written and directed (the film not the subtitles) by Boon, the taxi driver in My Best Friend and lovelorn postman in this, it is a tribute to a region apparently treated like our equivalent of Wales or Swindon by the rest of France.

**Director:** Dany Boon  
**Starring:** Anne Marvin, Kad Merad, Dany Boon, Zoe Felix  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Edge of Love **Tue 5 7.30**

**Director:** John Maybury  
**Starring:** Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller, Cillian Murphy, Matthew Rhys  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

**Set during the Second World War, the film follows the lives of two spirited young women in love with Dylan Thomas - childhood sweetheart, Vera and his wife, Caitlin.**

“While the real Dylan Thomas was undoubtedly fascinating, it's a shame the same cannot be said for this film. The screenplay by Kiera's mum Sharman Macdonald teeters somewhere between drama and romance, but lacks the sheer tension or sizzling on-screen chemistry to succeed in either. And anyone whose hoping to see the rumoured raunchy threesome will be very disappointed indeed. Quite frankly, some saucier scenes might have livened things up a little...”

“But it's not all bad. Rhys is especially convincing as he skilfully switches between charming and tormented. Murphy is always a joy to watch and even Sienna manages to shine in places, though occasionally her character's quirky ways become almost as grating as Kiera's Welsh. The real stars are the glorious Welsh landscapes, which exude an aura of brooding passion.” (*Maria Realf, Eye for Film*)

Happily, you ignored all this in July and filled the house three times. Back in August, not to be missed.



## In Bruges

Wed 6 7.30, Sat 9 7.00



**Back by overwhelming demand.... Not to be missed.**

When a job goes wrong, veteran hit man Ken and his rookie partner Ray are sent by Harry to lie low in Bruges and await his call. When it finally comes, their 'holiday' becomes a life-and-death struggle of darkly comic proportions. Signalling the emergence of a useful new filmmaker, this is McDonagh's first feature (his controversial short, *Six Shooter* won an Oscar 2006).

"In Bruges is packed with rich, edgy humour and dazzling profanity.' Bruges is the best preserved medieval town in Belgium', reads Brendan Gleeson's impressed Ken. 'It's a fucking shithole!' fires back his new, younger room-sharer and fellow hitman-on-the-run Ray (Colin Farrell). The film's real pleasure lies in McDonagh's verbal felicity - the naturalistic dialogue is a breath of fresh air - and while Farrell struggles to juggle his humorous 'thick' persona with romantic pathos, Gleeson excels in his role as the weary gangster pondering the possibilities for his own shot at redemption."

*(Time Out)*

"A double-act with depth seize upon an invigorating script and defy expectations" (Channel 4)

"Olivier-winning playwright Martin McDonagh is like Tarantino with a thesaurus... his dialogue fizzes..."

*(Marie Claire)*

<b>Director:</b>	Martin McDonagh
<b>Starring:</b>	Ciaran Hinds, Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes
<b>Certificate:</b>	18
<b>Duration:</b>	107 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	Belgium, UK 2008
<b>By:</b>	Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Mongol

Thu 7 7.30

<b>Director:</b>	Sergei Bodrov
<b>Starring:</b>	Tadanobu Asano, Odnyam Odsuren, Khulan Chuluun, Honglei Sun
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	125 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	Germany, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russian Federation 2008
<b>By:</b>	The Works UK Distribution

**You couldn't ask for a more magnificent looking historical epic than this, the first part of an intended trilogy about Temudjin, better known as Genghis Khan.**

An illuminating and multi-dimensional portrayal of the legend of Genghis Khan, Bodrov's Academy Award-nominated historical action epic is a powerful account of the conqueror's early life and rise to power. Born in 1162 into a savage culture of feuding tribes and idiosyncratic traditions, the child Genghis becomes prey after his clan leader father is poisoned. Cast as a fugitive into the harsh terrain of the Mongolian steppe, the young warrior endures untold hardships in his attempts to elude death and fulfil his family legacy. Dazzling photography and breathtaking scenes do not diminish the sensitive portrayal by celebrated Japanese actor Tadanobu Asano, of Khan's determined pursuit of his childhood bride, Tarugai.

The film shows Genghis Khan in a different light - as a fearless warrior yet a man among men and by no means the merciless tyrant of legend.

Breathtaking and fantastic on our big screen, it was surprisingly early sell out in July.

So don't miss it in August.



## Teeth

Fri 8 7.30



**“Until I saw this, I thought vagina dentata was a new light opera.”**

*(Cosmo L Times)*

It is taken too literally here, making for a teen horror, initially intriguing but steadily less so with each gory castration. “Dawn (Jess Weixler) is just your average American virgin – except for, well, something unusual down below: going to the gynaecologist is a scream. The vagina dentate legend has a power Mitchell Lichtenstein’s horror-comedy can’t quite handle, which may be why *Teeth* eventually heads into the realms of perverse cartoon, trailing severed members in its wake.

Cult status looks assured”

*(Telegraph)*

“An engrossing premise about a teenage virgin who finds razor-sharp teeth growing inside her vagina. This movie flips uneasily between body horror, social satire and exploitation. Dawn, the unlucky adolescent whose sexual awakening in smalltown USA is soured by her ultimately homicidal pudenda. Though the movie tries to make some grand points about male sexual anxiety and female power, it inevitably overdoses on shots of lopped penises and men clutching their bloody groins.”

*(Times Knowledge)*

It’s a curiosity for the curious. It has been praised and derided in equal measure. Worth seeing...?

**Director:** Mitchell Lichtenstein  
**Starring:** Josh Pais, Jess Weixler, Hale Appleman, John Hensley  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Caramel

Sun 10 6.00

**Director:** Nadine Labaki  
**Starring:** Joanna Moukartzel, Yasmine Elmasri, Nadine Labaki  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France, Lebanon 2007  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

**We have been after this for over a year. Before Cannes 2007? So have you it seems - sold out before in Indiana J in June.**

It is a charming film with echoes of Almodóvar, centred on the everyday lives of five Lebanese women in a Beirut beauty parlour.

Each has her own problem: Loyal (Labaki) has been involved with a married man; Nisrine (al-Masri) is desperate for her fiancé not to find out that she is no longer a virgin; and Rima (Moukartzel) falls for a female client. Meanwhile, regular customer Jamal is simply concerned about growing old. With a cast largely made up of unknown actors, *CARAMEL* is Labaki’s debut feature after years of directing music videos.

Nominated for the *Caméra d’Or* at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, it is a stylish and witty story that vividly portrays modern-day Beirut with all its contradictions.

Don’t ask, just come and be delighted by such disarming, unpretentious filmmaking and fantastic faces. It makes *Sex and the City* look silly... But then so would Noddy.



## Un Secret

Mon 11 7.30

**Director:** Claude Miller  
**Starring:** Ludivine Sagnier, Patrick Bruel, Cecile De France, Julie Depardieu, Mathieu Amalric  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Ian Rattray

Informed that his elderly father has mysteriously disappeared, anxious Parisian François (the gorgeous M. Amalric) recalls his tragic family history in Miller's assured adaptation of the fact-based novel by Philippe Grimbert. As a sickly child, François instinctively knew that he was a disappointment to his champion swimmer mother and gymnast father. While he does find some solace in his friendship with sweet masseuse Louise, his discovery of a strange toy in the attic causes ever more strange behaviour from his parents. Louise has to tell him the horrid truth of a half-brother, and of his parents' violence and strife masquerading as fairytale romance. Slowly but surely a terrible secret is unearthed...

"It's a gripping story, extremely well-acted." (*Observer*)

"A blue-chip cast and handsome staging does little to prevent this French movie being a muddled, pretentious washout. Substantial re-editing might have helped" (*Guardian*)

"This is an affecting, powerful film that deals with the very human response to the inhuman suffering of French Jews in World War Two. Miller has crafted an intelligent, meditative response to a seismic and cruel movement in French history." (*Channel 4*)

As always ignore it all... and don't miss.



## The Escapist

Tue 12 7.30



They are all here in this British take on the grim, macho prisons found in Hollywood popcorn movies.

Bran Cox is Frank, the ageing 'lifer' who has to get out quick. The muscled up Fiennes is the hooded Lenny and the always reliable Liam Cunningham is a resourceful Brodie. Then there's the vulnerable new kid (Cooper). Throw in the menacing wing king Rizza (Lewis) and his sexually predatory drug addicted brother (Mackintosh) and you've got all you need.

Hence it might have been a standard prison escape yarn but for a good British and Irish cast, an impressive new director in Rupert Wyatt and a complex narrative to keep you on your toes from the outset. "The vaguest hint of subtlety or restraint is quickly smuggled out the back door in favour of another tooth spitting punch up or a swift, sharp shanking in the showers. Borrowing the characters from 'Porridge' and dropping them in the 'Shawshank Redemption'... Nicely directed and making the most of a rock bottom budget."

(*Time Out*)

"This is Cox's film, anchored by a marvellously clapped-out performance." (*Times*)

"A British film that is, for once, both stylish and substantial". (*Independent*)  
 As always you decide...

**Director:** Rupert Wyatt  
**Starring:** Brian Cox, Joseph Fiennes, Liam Cunningham, Damian Lewis  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 102 mins  
**Origin:** Ireland, UK 2008  
**By:** Vertigo Films

## Sex and The City

Wed 13 7.30, Thu 14 7.30

**Director:** Michael King  
**Starring:** Sarah Parker, Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattral  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 145 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

**You poured into see it in July, poured into some nice little numbers... So in case you're the only one who missed it, here it is again.**

"If you're expecting surprises – don't. However, I liked it quite a lot..."

*(Standard)*

"For all its contrivances, it's brand-name silliness and its problems afflicting the comfortably-off metropolitan classes, I can't help thinking this is still a cut. It is still unusual to see a film that features women as the leading characters of their own lives, and which attempts to imagine life after marriage. Like some glutinous pudding, Sex And The City isn't exactly wholesome, but it won't do you much harm this once." *(Guardian)*

"There may be a problem with stretching Sex and the City into a two hour and twenty minute film - it can feel like a never ending dinner party: however pleasant the courses, after a while you can hardly speak, never mind eat" *(Times)*

"But one thing's for sure: fans of the series will lap it up.

It is coarse, sentimental, and outrageously materialistic - just as we hoped..."

*(Telegraph Online)*



## Hancock

Fri 15 7.30, Sat 16 7.00



**"Turns out to be a lightweight bit of summer hokum that would surely die a box office death were it not for the always considerable presence of Will Smith.** Thanks to his comic talents, it's just about the right side of adequate. Just."

Smith plays Hancock, a superhero in modern Los Angeles who causes chaos everywhere he crash-lands. He drinks so much he can barely fly straight and favours the quick fix over the right thing to do. So, if there is a stranded whale on the beach he tosses it out to sea without checking the horizon.

His life, however is changed when he rescues public-relations executive Ray Embrey (Jason Bateman)...

No more drinking, a spell in prison and an intro to Ray's beautiful wife Mary (Charlize Theron). Have they met before?

"An amusing first half owes significant debt to The Incredibles, while the very different second half smacks of being written – even possibly rewritten – once Theron climbed on board.

It's contrived and struggles to convince, but park your brain in neutral and it might just do the trick.

That said, it should carry a 15 certificate; 12A is a mistake."

*(Mail on Sun)*

Best come and see for yourself.

**Director:** Peter Berg  
**Starring:** Will Smith, Eddie Marsan, Charlize Theron, Jason Bateman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Priceless

Sun 17 6.00

**Director:** Pierre Salvadori  
**Starring:** Gad Elmaleh, Audrey Tautou  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2006  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

**Jean (Elmaleh), a shy young bartender, is mistaken for a millionaire by a beautiful gold-digging seductress named Irène (Tautou).**

When she discovers his true identity, she abandons him, only to find that the love-struck Jean has no intention of letting her get away. Jean's comical attempts to gain her affections gradually evolve into setting himself up as a gigolo at a luxury hotel, until Irène finally starts to warm to her persistent, persuasive suitor.

Against the sumptuous, seductive, atmospheric backdrop of the Cote d'Azur, Pierre Salvadori directs this sexy and thoroughly charming romantic comedy, which is a fresh look at the classic *Breakfast At Tiffany's*.

It is quite a different role for the bright eyed Audrey Tautou. I don't think she's played downright dirty before, and she does it very well!

## Manufactured Landscapes

Mon 18 7.30

**In MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES, acclaimed filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal follows internationally celebrated photographer Edward Burtynsky to China and Bangladesh.**

The result is a beautifully shot and edited film, exploring the aesthetics and social and spiritual dimensions of globalisation around the world today and presenting a truly unsettling look at contemporary existence.

"A magnificently handsome documentary, worth watching alone for the re-creation of massive-scale works by Edward Burtynsky, who specialises in the depiction of gigantic industrial landscapes...A stunning, intelligent film." (*Guardian*)

"This eerie visual essay by Jennifer Baichwal speaks eloquent volumes." (*Times*)

"What the film mercilessly captures...is the stunning degree to which poor countries have become the source and cesspit for the West's addiction to consumer crap". (*Time Out*)  
 Startling and breathtaking, and absolutely not to be missed.





**Director:** Jennifer Baichwal  
**Starring:** Gad Elmaleh, Audrey Tautou  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Origin:** Canada 2007  
**By:** British Film Institute (BFI)

## Killer of Sheep

Tue 19 7.30

**Director:** Charles Burnett  
**Starring:** Henry G. Sanders, Kaycee Moore  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 81 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1977  
**By:** British Film Institute

**Blocked from public screenings for 30 years because of some dispute over music rights, it is now free to be shown.**

The first feature film from acclaimed independent African-American filmmaker Charles Burnett, this intensely emotional drama concerns a man who makes his living at a slaughterhouse as he struggles for economic and emotional survival and tries to patch up the often-strained relationship with his family.

Shot on weekends over a period of several years and first shown publicly in 1977, slowly but surely it began to develop a potent reputation among film enthusiasts; in 1981, it won honors at Berlin and an enthusiastic reception at Sundance.

"Burnett, photographs Watts district in striking monochrome - all steep inclined and staircases: everything's a downward slope or an uphill struggle.

For all that, the film contains more poetry than suffering, more good cheer than degradation. The younger performers are tremendously expressive, while Stan himself now looks like one of American film's truly heroic characters: a decent man trying to raise his children on the limited means available to him.

Despite, or perhaps because of, its roughness and authenticating textures, this is unforgettable cinema." (*Telegraph*) Don't miss.



## The Visitor

Wed 20 7.30



McCarthy's belated follow up to his low-key indie gem 'The Station Agent' takes as it's inspiration the lives of illegal immigrants in America, creating a stark political drama.

A lonely misanthrope; a disheartened economics professor and all-round miserable old sod - Walter Vale is forced into contact with other human beings and finds himself opening up. It is about a tentative, wary friendship where ownership is blurred, belonging tested and loyalty stretched.

Because of what happens, which I'm not telling you, Walter is forced to make a choice: "The characters have real depth and there are lovely moments of tenderness and intimate self-discovery but the political story is far less convincing. McCarthy's figures are essentially perfect, model citizens pitted against a faceless, repressive state. While elements of this may ring true, it drowns the subtle dialogue and incisive character development in right thinking, left-leaning platitudes." (*Time Out*)

"Like *The Station Agent*, the story is told in a very direct way and can seem a trifle naïve. The immigrants are impossibly nice. The authorities are less impossibly cruel. The whole cast is good but Jenkins, never overplaying and refusing to act for sympathy, could not be better." (*Standard*)  
Cancel work, come.

**Director:** Thomas McCarthy  
**Starring:** Hiam Abbas, Danai Gurira, Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 103 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Miracle Communications

## Wanted

Thu 21 7.30

**Director:** Timur Bekmambetov  
**Starring:** James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie, Terence Stamp, Morgan Freeman  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

It won't take long to notice this is from yet another 'graphic novel' or comic as they were better known. This one is by Matrix fan, Mark Millar's and directed by another, Bekmambetov.

It spins the yarn of an apathetic nobody's transformation into an unparalleled enforcer of justice.

A metropolitan loser escapes white-collar drudgery when a mystery vamp and her philosophising boss help him develop an undiscovered talent for bending time, wearing leather and firing guns in slow motion. Or as the film likes to think – by unlocking his dormant powers.

"The Matrix has of course influenced all kinds but no film has lifted its plot and style so hamfistedly as this one."

In his first Hollywood action role, James McAvoy oozes geek chic as an accountant inducted into a guild of super assassins. "But Morgan Freeman has played the role of the magisterial string-puller too many times, and Angelina Jolie is little more than a piece of pouting, ultra-violent window-dressing..."

Although some of the stunts are breathtaking, this kind of preposterous sci-fi must have the outlandish fizz of novelty to work?" (*Times 'Knowledge'*)  
You will have to decide. Well, no you don't have to.



# Mamma Mia

**Fri 22 7.30, Sat 23 7.00,  
Sun 24 6.00, Mon 25 7.30,  
Tue 26 7.30**

**I can see it all now... Mamma Mia - here we go again - for five long nights!**

The Eurovision Song Contest and 'Glam Rock' deserved each other.

In 1974 the two came together in the jolly conception of 'Waterloo' - a sure-fired snap-crackle-pop-bang-a-bang Euro hit. Hey presto Abba has been part of beige life ever since. I'll bet they can whistle 'Dancing Queen' in Uzbekistan today (but secretly and only in closed single-sex rooms. The Taliban's taste in suppression isn't all bad.

Bet they're not into Morrissey, Robbie Williams, Madonna or rap either.

Getting to the wireless to stop their opening riffs repeating all day like street van hot dog onions is a fete of Olympic endeavour).

If Dubya had thought sideways before inventing those weapons of mass destruction, he could have white-noised the known map (with nav-sat) from Iraq to Pakistan with a loop of all the above's greatest hits at full tilt. Add Slade's Christmas anthem for assured mass excruciation and - a bloodless surrender - guaranteed in minutes.

"Veering between so-bad-it's-good campfest, frantic farce and tearjerking melodrama, the film is more exhausting than amusing" (*Screen Int*) Lightweight! Come, laugh and dance in the aisles.



**Director:** Phyllida Lloyd  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Christine Baranski, Julie Walters  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## Savage Grace

Wed 27 7.30

**Director:** Tom Kalin  
**Starring:** Julianne Moore, Stephen Dillane  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 97 mins  
**Origin:** France, Spain, USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**Kalin's long-awaited new feature is based on the award-winning book of the same name, and like his earlier and influential *Swoon*, it draws on a real-life crime story with forbidden sex.**

Beginning in 1946, and spanning almost 30 years and the jet-set locations of New York and Europe, it tells the incredible story of Barbara Daly (Moore) an aspiring socialite who marries 'above her class' to Brooks Baekeland (Dillane), heir to the Bakelite plastics fortune.

Theirs is an unsteady match, and the friction between them is compounded by their son, Tony (the brilliant Redmayne), who develops an unnaturally close relationship with his mother.

Sexually confused, mocked by his father, Tony's mental health begins to deteriorate after his father runs off with the boy's girlfriend and his mother's neediness begins to suffocate.

"Such an emotionally and psychologically complex story needs rather more than Kalin's cool, non-judgemental approach if it is to be entirely successful, and at the end there are more questions to be asked than answered by the film.

Though it remains intensely watchable, you may want to rush to the book for further enlightenment." (*Standard*)  
 Cancel Wednesday's incest – don't miss.



## Lou Reed's Berlin

Thu 28 7.30



**A searing song cycle about two lovers going to pieces in the shadow of the Berlin Wall, Lou Reed's Berlin was greeted by a chorus of rebuke upon its release in 1973.**

Crushed, Reed left the record to gather dust in the archives. But it was recently rediscovered and anointed a misunderstood masterpiece.

In 2006, artist and filmmaker Julian Schnabel's *Diving Bell And The Butterfly*, on the other hand was an immediately understood and undisputed masterpiece. Here, he takes a concert, 33 years in the making and being played live for the first time at St Ann's Warehouse, Brooklyn, and films Lou Reed's *Berlin* over five-night stands.

"It revels in the hypnotic majesty of dark, orchestral songs, which include 'How Do You Think it Feels' and 'The Kids'."

As much as we loved what Schnabel did with *The Diving Bell*, here he might be just a fan?

There's often good reason for a flop - nobody wants it or it's no good or both. Lou Reed might have been too far ahead of his time or it was/is just no good. From '73 to 2006 should make no difference to the music. Let's see.

**Director:** Julian Schnabel  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 81 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Artificial Eye

## The Mist

**Fri 29** 7.30, **Sat 30** 7.00

**Director:** Frank Darabont  
**Starring:** Thomas Jane, Marcia Harden,  
 Alexa Davalos  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 126 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

**“The Mist is one of the most downbeat, serious-minded dramas ever to feature gigantic tentacled aliens from another dimension....It’s nice to see a monster movie that’s got some meat as well as blood.”** (*Independent*)

Three-times Oscar nominee Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*) reunited with horror master Stephen King to write and direct this chilling adaptation of the author’s original short story.

Following a violent thunderstorm, artist David Drayton (Jane) and a small town community come under vicious attack from creatures prowling in a thick and unnatural mist. Local rumours point to an experiment called ‘The Arrowhead Project’ conducted at a nearby top-secret military base, but questions about the origins of the deadly vapour are immaterial compared with the group’s chances of survival. Retreating to a local supermarket, Drayton and the other survivors must face-off against each other before taking a united stand against an enemy they can’t see.

It looks like hokum disguised as serious, but most reviewers liked it...

**“A ruthless horror movie that is unusually harrowing and relentless in its apocalyptic pessimism.”** (*Observer*)

**“Smart, modestly budgeted chiller with an awe-inspiring ending.”** (*Guardian*)

## Brief Encounter

**Sun 31** 6.00



**Lean’s international reputation was established with this study of unfulfilled passion and guilt – themes that were to recur in his later work and all but taboo at the time of filming.** If not ‘unheard of’ infidelity was deafeningly not talked about during the war years.

Critically debated, mocked, referenced and remade, this account of an unconsummated affair between a middleclass housewife and a doctor, forced to meet at a railway station, retains a tight emotional grip on contemporary audiences.

Earlier in the year, Kneehigh Theatre Co set it in a West End cinema to packed houses and rave reviews.

It is its quintessentially polite, awkward Englishness which sets it apart.

Where else would you find such passion engendered in... “just one last cup of tea...?”



**Director:** David Lean  
**Starring:** Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 86 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1945  
**By:** Park Circus Films

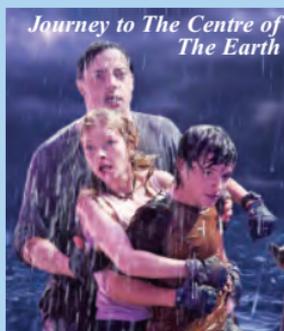
## COMING SOON

## New releases

Cous Cous  
 Batman: The Dark Knight  
 Journey to The Centre of  
 The Earth  
 WALL-E

## Back by demand

Mamma Mia  
 Sex and the City  
 Caramel  
 Garbage warrior  
 Priceless  
 Everything is Illuminated  
 The Visitor  
 Persepolis



Batman - The Dark Knight



Cous Cous

## AUGUST FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	FRI	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	7.30
2	SAT	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00, 7.00
3	SUN	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6.00
4	MON	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00
4	MON	WELCOME TO THE STICKS	7.30
5	TUE	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	12.30
5	TUE	EDGE OF LOVE	7.30
6	WED	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00
6	WED	IN BRUGES	7.30
7	THU	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00
7	THU	MONGOL	7.30
8	FRI	TEETH	7.30
9	SAT	NIM'S ISLAND	2.00
9	SAT	IN BRUGES	7.00
10	SUN	CAMEL	6.00
11	MON	THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2.00
11	MON	UN SECRET	7.30
12	TUE	KING KONG	12.30
12	TUE	THE ESCAPIST	7.30
13	WED	ATONEMENT	2.00
13	WED	SEX AND THE CITY	7.30
14	THU	THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2.00
14	THU	SEX AND THE CITY	7.30
15	FRI	HANCOCK	7.30
16	SAT	THE RAILWAY CHILDREN	2.00
16	SAT	HANCOCK	7.00
17	SUN	PRICELESS	6.00
18	MON	SON OF RAMBOW	2.00
18	MON	MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES	7.30
19	TUE	HARRY POTTER	12.30
19	TUE	KILLER OF SHEEP	7.30
20	WED	HAPPY-GO-LUCKY	2.00
20	WED	THE VISITOR	7.30
21	THU	SON OF RAMBOW	2.00
21	THU	WANTED	7.30
22	FRI	MAMMA MIA	7.30
23	SAT	KUNG FU PANDA	2.00
23	SAT	MAMMA MIA	7.00
24	SUN	MAMMA MIA	6.00
25	MON	MAMMA MIA	7.30
26	TUE	KUNG FU PANDA	12.30
26	TUE	MAMMA MIA	7.30
27	WED	MAMMA MIA	2.00
27	WED	SAVAGE GRACE	7.30
28	THU	KUNG FU PANDA	2.00
28	THU	LOU REED'S BERLIN	7.30
29	FRI	THE MIST	7.30
30	SAT	KIDS FILM: M HULOT'S HOLIDAY	2.00
30	SAT	THE MIST	7.00
31	SUN	BRIEF ENCOUNTER	6.00



# AUGUST MATINEES

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

## Chronicles of Narnia

**Sat 2** 2.00, **Mon 4** 2.00,  
**Tue 5** 12.30, **Wed 6** 2.00,  
**Thu 7** 2.00

**Director:** Andrew Adamson  
**Starring:** Eddie Izzard, Liam Neeson, Tilda Swinton, Ben Barnes  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 144 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International

**I can't imagine it being better than *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.**

The first story was and will always be the best to tell, read and see. Ask my two.

"Children under ten may be disturbed by the uncompromising battle scenes not to mention the distinctly adult themes of guilt, failure and murderous treachery." (*Mail on Sun: Review* – well done the upright Mail)

The four child heroes from the wardrobe are aghast to find that 1300 years have passed in Narnia (in only one year of their own). It's golden age has come to an end. The malevolent King Miraz rules without mercy, to keep all power in his bloodline, even if that means killing his nephew... Prince Caspian!

Aslan is back, as is Tilda's snow witch, but Mr. Tumnus is too busy atoning for the sins of a Scottish king, to make it in to this sequel.

"We are forced to endure an entirely cuddly Aslan and a souped-up Prince Caspian. The boy is indeed pretty. Pretty vacant, like this expensive, jam packed film." (*Standard*)

"Kids under 12 may just buy into its soppy rites-of-passage homily; everyone else will be checking their watches." (*Independent*)

As always, come and prove them wrong.



## Nim's Island

**Sat 9** 2.00



**Taken from Wendy Orr's childrens book, a young girl living on a tropical island with her scientist father (Gerard Butler) is left to fend for herself after her dad's boat leaves him stranded, while careless tour companies wreak havoc on the secluded paradise.**

Realising that she will need adult assistance if she truly hopes to save her home, the resourceful youngster (the forever Little Miss Sunshine, Abigail Breslin,) soon begins exchanging emails with the author of a book she has been reading.

The writer Alexandra Rover (Jodie Foster) decides she must rescue the girl. Foster is said to offer little to the comedy acting dept, but old greased-pecs, Butler is on hand to provide the requisite romance, being both Nim's dad and the image of the author's imagined hero, Alex! It's all very silly but a charming adventure.

**Director:** Mark Levin, Jennifer Flackett  
**Starring:** Gerard Butler, Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## The Incredible Hulk

Mon 11 2.00, Thu 14 2.00

**Director:** Louis Leterrier  
**Starring:** William Hurt, Tim Roth, Edward Norton, Liv Tyler  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 112 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**“The first thing to say about Louis Leterrier’s blockbuster monster movie is that it’s a more stripped down rerun of Ang Lee’s 2003 outing than a sequel to it, and all the better for it.**

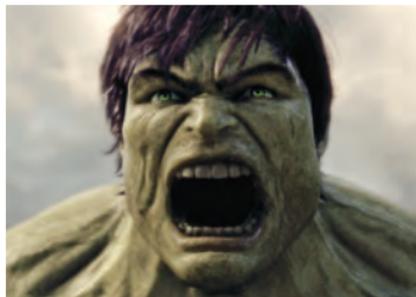
If Leterrier has done a re-think, it is only to simplify and streamline.

This short, learner, less psychologically fixated action adventure, on the whole, makes for a more satisfactory adaptation of the spirit of Stan Lee’s Marvel character.”

Bruce Banner (Norton) has been turned into an angry green creature in military experiments with gamma rays, injured his scientist lover Bette (Liv Tyler) and is on the run from ex-colleague General Ross (William Hurt). He is also pursued by a new villain: the English-educated KGB agent, Blonsky – The Abomination (Tim Roth). While the Hulk may be formidable, The Abomination is decidedly more powerful, and determined to destroy him. Created when Blonsky exposed himself (I say..!) to a higher dose of the same radiation that transformed Bruce so is unable to change back into human form, so he’s very, very cross.

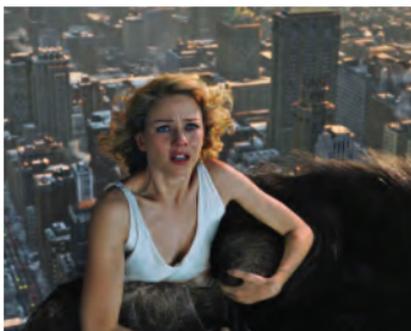
“Leterrier covers all the important, if low-key emotional bases and finally, and most importantly, kicks ass in the big action sequences.” (*Time Out*)

Come, you’ll love it.



## King Kong

Tue 12 12.30



**A surprise re-run of the big monkey adventure epic especially for the kids holidays.**

Picture a down-at-heel actress, a con-man film-maker, a boat journey, an odd cabin sub-plot ‘love’ story – first hour.

Skull Island, agitated natives, a big gorilla, prehistoric monsters, dodgy foliage – second hour. Mayhem in New York, the Empire State Building and a truly moving love story between beauty and Beast – hour three... The original (1933) was 100 minutes (already ten mins too long). This is a 180 – thus two hours too long! However, on a wet August afternoon it is worth every minute.

Jackson fleshes out the characters and introduces very scary giant cockroaches and deathly plant life, with unbelievable realism from his special effects department. For me the New York rumble at the end beats all the jungle scenes.

“Peter Jackson’s remake of the Goliath of monster movies, KING KONG, is a triumph of visual effects that gives the original 1933 masterpiece a run for its money” (*City Screen*) It was never a masterpiece then or now, but is fantastic to watch for a fiver any afternoon - on our screen... and you believe in Naomi Watts right to the end...

**Director:** Peter Jackson  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Andy Serkis  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 187 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2005  
**By:** Paramount

## Atonement

Wed 13 2.00



### Back for a special non-children's Wednesday matinee in the summer...

On a similar summers day in 1935, but probably warmer, 13-year-old Briony (the brilliant Saoirse Ronan) sees her older sister Cecilia (Knightley) strip off and plunge into the garden fountain.

Standing waiting for her to surface is Robbie (McAvoy). By nightfall the lives of all three will have changed for ever. Robbie and Cecilia will have crossed that irretrievable kissing line, so become the victims of the younger girl's vengeful jealousy. As she ages (through Romola Garai and later Vanessa Redgrave), she can't find forgiveness in anything she does.

Beautifully adapted (by Christopher Hampton), shot and played by everyone, it leaves you longing for it all to have been so different.

Apparently the 'c' word has a lot to answer for. Because of it some walked out on our opening night. McEwan has used the notion of 'what if' to terrifying effect, where one tiny word on a moment's whim, when aided by spite and lies, can destroy lives and turn worlds upside down forever.

**Director:** Joe Wright  
**Starring:** James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Romola Garai  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 125 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2007  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## The Railway Children

Sat 16 2.00

**Director:** Lionel Jeffries  
**Starring:** Jenny Agater  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 109 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1970  
**By:** British Film Institute

### A rare treat for the whole family in the summer holidays

This the gorgeous original with the gorgeous Jenny Agutter, the gorgeous Bernard Cribbins and a gorgeous script. It perfectly captures the English landscape at a time when children waved at steam trains. It is an innocent tale about innocence, pride and good manners; about hardship, adversity and the once lovely friendships between children and grown-ups. Is it sentimental? I can't tell and don't care. Watched again and again as a family, it had all the ingredients of a great adventure story where we believed every word and willed a happy ending – every time!

Now is your chance to choke back a new tear on the big screen, and give new children the chance to be lost in the simple beauty of the original Railway Children ... And being the father of girls, "Daddy ... my daddy!" as the steam clears on the platform and Bobby sees her dad again for the first time, is heartbreaking – even still!



## Son of Rambow

Mon 18 2.00, Thu 21 2.00



Set in Hertfordshire in the early 1980's, it's a great little film filled with energy and surprise, not to mention beautifully unself-conscious performance by the two boys – and by all the kids in fact.

A fine example of light-touch, low-key directing, letting them shine without 'acting'. If you haven't seen it, you've possibly missed seeing your children, houses, roads and cinema!

The big boys Garth Jennings and Nick Goldsmith kept their promise to show it here first (14 March) in a preview for all the children involved.

"It avoids sentimentality and triumphalism... and ends in the same cinema where it began." - The Rex! (*Observer*)

"It may be that there has not been a UK film that captures the sights and sounds of British childhood this accurately since *The Go-Between*." (*Daily Mail*) Huh! Perhaps the *Daily Mail* missed *Kes* and *The Railway Children* while busily chasing Princess Diana. It is a fabulous little film with genuine warmth.

It is rare to see something this good, made where we live.

Better, it is universal and even the worst critics loved it, which of course is no recommendation.

**Director:** Garth Jennings  
**Starring:** Jessica Hynes, Tallulah Evans, Neil Dudgeon, Zofia Brooks  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France, UK 2008  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

## Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone

Tue 19 12.30

**Director:** Chris Columbus  
**Starring:** Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Richard Griffiths  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 152 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2001  
**By:** Warner Brothers

Another children's 'oldie' gem for the summer at the Rex.

This is the first Harry Potter film (and the best?) when Harry meets Julie Walters and finds his way to platform nine and three quarters. It sets us up for sequels following year after year where we see the same characters growing up and getting entangled in ever more danger and phenomenal adventure.

The Carry On series of English comedies made two or three film a year with the same faces playing different characters. Harry P started a rash of films to-be-continued.

Based on the central character in a series of books by J. K. Rowling, the story follows the exploits of Harry, a boy who learns on his eleventh birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards, possessing unique magical powers of his own.

He is summoned from his life as an unwanted child to become a student at Hogwarts, a boarding school for wizards. There, Harry meets a close circle of friends that will become his new family.



## Happy-Go-Lucky

Wed 20 2.00

**Director:** Mike Leigh  
**Starring:** Eddie Marsan, Sally Hawkins  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

**Has at 65, "British film's Mr Grumpy" finally lightened up? Mike Leigh's Happy-Go-Lucky is an odd little film.**

Poppy (Hawkins) is an irrepressible, chirpy, upbeat London primary school teacher enjoying her life in Camden.

Out on her bike, preparing lessons, doing flamenco, helping lost causes or in the pub with her friends, she has a smile on her face. Sounds like one to avoid? "Yet the cumulative portrait of Poppy by Sally Hawkins (Best Actress at Berlin) is so rich and accomplished with such charm, that it is hugely uplifting and life-affirming." (*Eve Standard*)

When her bike is stolen, she takes up driving lessons. Hence brings her face-to-face with a driving instructor whose view, demeanor, attitude and unflinching straight face couldn't be further from hers. Compared with Leigh's previous works, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY presents a calmer, more optimistic take on contemporary Britain, where individualism and the pursuit of happiness define the lives of a generation. Alongside the old-fashioned notions of community and selflessness, Leigh as always, captures an undercurrent of something unpleasant.

Come and see for yourself.



## Kung Fu Panda

Sat 23 2.00, Tue 26 12.30,  
 Thu 28 2.00



**More starry voiceovers grace this latest madcap feature length cartoon from behind the curtain.**

No doubt it will be fab to watch this newest display of techno wizardry on our big screen.

Enthusiastic, big and a little clumsy, panda Po (Black) is the biggest fan of Kung Fu... which doesn't exactly come in handy when working every day in his family's noodle shop.

Unexpectedly chosen to fulfil an ancient prophecy, Po finds his dreams becoming reality when he joins his idols - the legendary fighters Tigress, Crane, Mantis, Viper and Monkey - to study Kung Fu under Master Shifu.

But before they know it, the vengeful and treacherous snow leopard Tai Lung is headed their way, and it's up to Po to defend everyone from the oncoming threat.

Po puts his heart and his girth into rising to the challenge, and finds that his greatest weaknesses may just also be his greatest strengths...

Sounds like a great family film. Come and see.

**Director:** Mark Osborne  
**Starring:** Angelina Jolie, Lucy Liu, Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Jackie Chan  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Mamma Mia

Wed 27 2.00

**Director:** Phyllida Lloyd  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Christine Baranski, Julie Walters  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**You know the story. It is contrived and irrelevant. Who cares? Clearly not Phyllida-thank-you-for-the-gullible-Lloyd? You will come anyway. Why? ABBA!**

The Eurovision Song Contest was as irrelevant as 'Glam Rock' was contrived. In 1974 the two came together in the hapless conception of 'Waterloo' – a sure-fired snap-crackle-pop-bang-a-bang Euro hit. Hey presto Abba has been part of beige life ever since. I'll bet they can whistle 'Dancing Queen' in Uzbekistan today (but secretly

and only behind closed single-sex doors. The Taliban's taste in suppression isn't all bad. I might even consider their suicide dept if it includes Morrissey, Robbie Williams, Madonna and rap. I've nearly done it shaving, to get to the wireless before the intro gives way to their rancid voices and the riff repeats all day like street van hot dog onions).

If Dubya had thought sideways before contriving those weapons of mass destruction, he could have white-noised the known map (with nav-sat) from Iraq to Pakistan with a loop of all the above's greatest hits at full tilt (add Slade's Christmas anthem for assured mass destruction). A bloodless surrender - guaranteed in hours...

"Veering between so-bad-it's-good campfest, frantic farce and tearjerking melodrama, the film is more exhausting than amusing" (*Screen Int*)

Never mind, come and dance in the aisles.



## Mr Hulot's Holiday

Sat 30 2.00



**This is Tati's most enduring comedy, a portrait of the gentle, clumsy, well-meaning Hulot on holiday in a provincial seaside resort.** The quiet, delicately observed sight gags hit more than miss.

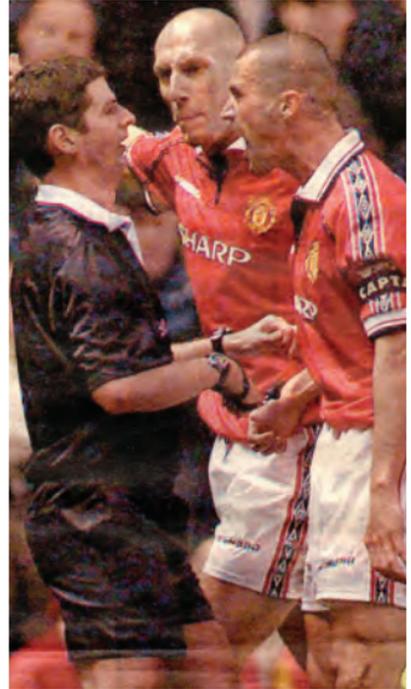
So with a mixture of perversity (in its whole meaning) and curiosity, it is programmed as a children's matinee. Let them decide. The humour is visual and simple and perfect for children of any age. They laughed out loud when we first showed it here in 2006.

Hulot comes from the tradition of clowning, where everyone he encounters is straight-man to his bumbling mayhem and always comes off worse as walks off unscathed and oblivious to the chaos he has caused.

An added bonus is of course the beautiful little French villages, empty roads and the seaside of the 1950s.

**Director:** Jacques Tati  
**Starring:** Jacques Tati  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 91 mins  
**Origin:** France 1952  
**By:** British Film Institute

## RANTS AND PANTS



Clearing the shed, I found these press cuttings. You'll see from the faces (except for one) they are a few years old. I had cut them out to use them for some comment about how sport can be as ugly as the loathing in the faces of war – especially given that its only ninety minutes, 22 men and a ball!

I am struck now, not only by their grotesque gurning, but from this recent image of a UK tennis player celebrating victory (thankfully, short-lived) - we can see that the joy of winning pulls the same face as centuries of abject hatred – and all in less than 20 years of shouting at the ref.

To be bleak and at the risk of upsetting you further by what we already see in the daily headlines, there is a link here; one that should not be overlooked. Fourteen year old kids are hacking each other to death – along with any grown up who stands in their way. These pictures show the kind of last ugly look on bulging eyed screaming faces that some petrified kid, chased, cornered and bleeding, will see. Then comes that terrible, cackling laughter fading in his

dying ears as they saunter away. There is something else these 'sports' faces and the knifings have in common? They are only a few years in the making! There's something more - the Police are useless and street cameras only record your death, not save you. The ugly killers don't even run. They know they can't lose. This doesn't happen to 'innocents' on this scale anywhere else in Europe – unless it's football – and the English are present. That all-English Cup match in Moscow in the Spring; they weren't 'well behaved'. They were shit-scared of the





windows. There were no flags, no car horns, no brawls, no ugly screeching voices, no gaping. Engerland was nowhere to be seen and England was all the better for it.

I was part of that 1960s revolution. I believed there was a new world being formed where freedom and enlightenment was all, poverty was at an end and there would be no more wars.

We were on the way to living happily ever after.

How feeble all that seems now. We lost. Shouting at Political referees is useless. They are corrupt in every sense. They haven't a clue and they're deaf anyway. Oh to have had Roy Keane wrenching in to Blair's face in March 2003 when he had stopped even pretending to listen, instead of wasting such anger on some poor hapless referee.

Losing is fine. It is winning that fails us. If you can't lose... you have already lost.

Russian riot police. While here at pub-closing in Fulham, the usual cowards were out taunting the ever more timid (health and safety, paper-worked, strapped) coppers.

Tell me if I've missed something in the mists of action-reply-time, but I can't remember Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney, John Charles, Mike Hailwood, Len Hutton, Gary Sobers, Henry Cooper alongside non-Brit icon Bjorn Borg pulling such gargoye faces in triumph – or defeat.

It was laughable when John McEnroe screamed. He was derided and made ridiculous. Now gaping is a serious business where everybody must take part. Ugly gaping faces, intolerance, victory at all costs, unacceptable losing etc, are all just a few years old, but it's hard to remember an acknowledging wave, a smile, a handshake. When winning and losing has the same face, if it's not a smile, it is the end of dignity. Fair play has long been laughed off every kind of pith.

This summer of Euro football – civilized handclapping could be heard from pub



Top: Stuart Pearce gaping at after his redeeming penalty '96?

Above: ???

Below: Stanley Matthews greets the crowd, Stoke 1958? Look at their faces.



## RANTS AND PANTS



In June The Titanic was refloated, this time on the Grand Union, to avoid mishap. Alongside lapped a regatta of fantastical craft. They were made and floated by children at 'Recreate' behind the old Town Hall. Call Rose: 01442 879602

**T**his is a short extract from a long letter. From it you should be able to imagine the rest...

Here's my point. If you dislike a film – don't show it. It's not as if Sex and the City's not being shown anywhere else. The Rex has a leaning to art-house cinema, so show Fitzcarraldo, Battleship Potemkin, or have an evening of Eric Rohmer films and leave SATC to the pop-corn munching cinema-goers. Or, if as I suspect you have to show mainstream films to make a profit, then show the film without an intro from yourself, or, if you really want to play the critic, do a better job without insulting the audience.

As my Nan always said, if you've got nothing good to say then shut up. And show some respect for your audience who pay good money for an evening at The Rex.

As a wiser man than both of us once said *'The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge'*.

Regards,  
Rich Kisutuntary

You don't get it do you Mr. Scunthorpe?

4th July 08

A woman rang the box office to redeem a gift voucher issued in 2005. On being told it was too late, this is roughly how it went...

Woman: Well. I have tried for 3 years to get into your exclusive members only cinema and I haven't been able to.

Box office: I am sorry, I have just spoken to James and gift vouchers issued in 2005 are no longer valid. And it's not a members only cinema.

Woman: Well! YOU can tell JAMES that he is making a BIG mistake because these tickets were bought by the Chief Reporting Editor of the Gazette!

Silence...

**Our first (not very well hidden) closing quote from Humph...**

"And so... as the fluff-ball of time pops out of the navel of destiny, and the nylon underpants of fate ride uncomfortably up the cleft of despair, I notice it's the end of the show..."

(Liverpool 16 November 1996)