

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E



PUBLIC ENEMIES

AUGUST...

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

AUGUST 2009 Issue 53  
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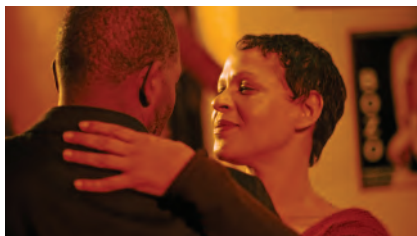
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Rex balcony summer 2009

## FILMS TO WATCH OUT FOR



Heart warming tale from France 2009  
**35 Shots of Rum** Tue 11 Aug 7.30



Funny, heart warming tale from Belgium 2009  
**Rumba** Mon 17 Aug 7.30



Devastaing true story from Poland 2009  
**Katyn** Sun 23 Aug 6.00/Mon 24 Aug 7.30

## BRIEF NON-ENCOUNTER...



I have run into Ken Loach three times, though only one of us noticed. First I was in Cannes 2006 when by chance I wandered into the open sided British tent on the Croisette to catch an assembled press conference chaired by Mark Kermode. It was for *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. Outside of the flimsy ‘studio’ flaps, important minions were busying themselves with film-fest paraphernalia. Everyone looks up at the latest arrival in case it’s a somebody, then look away quickly when it’s nobody. So I stood to the side where I could see and hear him clearly. I was there for good few minutes, put my bag down and settled to stand and watch. There was a welcoming breeze coming off the bright blue sea. I hadn’t gate-crashed. I was all badged up. Except for their faces it felt like I’d almost being invited. After a few minutes I was lost in Ken’s straight, easy answers to overlong questions, when a girl came up behind me.

There were many people standing around, some watching, some busy. It was a throng but I was able to stand with nobody near, with the best view in the place. This was Cannes. It’s cool and easy...

It was four in the afternoon, the sun was shining, the sky was very blue and if I glanced to the right I could see the Mediterranean glinting in all its cote d’azur.

It was an idyllic moment, filled with peace and unexpected pleasure at listening to Ken Loach sitting right there! Then “Excuse me, you can’t stand here” But...

“Sorry, you’ll have to move down there... this is the emergency exit”

I picked up my bag and walked out. Being taken from behind by some poor child with a face on her, who’d been sent to move me on wasn’t my happiest moment. A split second earlier it had been.

Glorious white peaks of international tents line the promenade on the Croisette with a walk through direct from pavement to beach. Whatever the emergency and its hard to imagine one, apart from the sighting of a fat girl, there is more access than tent! Angered and hot I thought of taking up suicide bombing. Instead I stumbled into the nearby Turkish tent to get to the beach and scream. Whereupon, I was greeted like long lost family. Refreshments were thrust at me by the most beautiful women in the world, who smiled and talked like they meant it. There were gorgeous people everywhere and no sign of an emergency exit. All my ‘the-English-abroad’ loathing welled-up. Fish & chips and Newcastle Brown, bellies, bad manners and big mouths, and now... Health and fucking Safety. In Cannes and along the whole Mediterranean coastline, kids ride three-up on scooters weaving through traffic at 50 miles an hour, with no helmets; and I had to miss Ken Loach, all because England can’t go anywhere without taking itself. Still she was only obeying orders. Her face must have been her own idea...

The second time was in Venice 2007 with my daughter. While all the big

stars, were being chauffeured and bodyguarded, Ken Loach (the worlds greatest living film maker!) was walking towards us on the Lido's tree lined Lungomare Marconi just chatting with a few companions. There was no entourage, walkie-talkies, dark glasses, just him walking in casual conversation. We passed each other without incident. Luckily, having your daughter with you gives pause to falling at a strangers feet and licking his ankles.

The last time was early in May this year at Lime Street station in Liverpool. He was alone when I first saw him on a not too busy railway concourse. Nobody bothered him and I thought I shouldn't either, but as I got nearer it seemed more polite to say something than ignore him. As I approached he was joined by a couple of pretty youngsters; scruffy-cool media types. Colleagues, journalists, students or somesuch.

It didn't matter. He'd gone. I decided to drown in a coffee from one of those open fronted BR station multi's, when he passed me in the queue carrying a tray of drinks which clearly, he'd paid for and was taking to their table, where they just sat chatting! In the face of such genuine 'nobody' humility, I would have felt like the wrong end of a pantomime horse going anywhere near him. The moment was gone. I had a Rex programme in my pocket and all. And we were probably getting the same train back to London. I wouldn't have known what to say anyway.

In a radio interview about 'Looking for Eric', he talked about not being in awe of anyone in the film business. "We work together in the same industry. You can't be in awe of somebody you work with..."

But meeting Cantona and sitting with him at Old Trafford, hearing his name chanted by 50,000 loud voices, was different. No film star could engender this kind of spontaneous chorus of respect. Cantona could do something he couldn't. He knows what film stars can do. It's commonplace compared with this.

He's the one who has to pull a performance out of his boots twice a week for a full stadium and sometimes millions around the world!

Ironically on that day, Alex Ferguson was said to have rushed to the VIP box from the touchline to greet Ken Loach as his hero, not Eric sitting beside him. So non-awe works both ways. You can hardly be shouting at player from the touchline one minute and asking for his autograph the next.

With fabulous writing partner Paul Laverty, Ken Loach creates stories about 'real' people without pretending to be one of them. There is nothing autobiographical about his films. There is nothing of him. They are about the people on the screen and their story. Well educated and posh, he has proven for over forty years you 'don't have to come from it to see it'. Noel Clarke/Shane Meadows, listen.





**COMEDY NIGHT...**

Barry Cryer and Robin Ince in the foyer



Earl Okin



Barry and Ronnie Golden

Fabulous Comedy Variety Night, 9th July 2009.  
Watch out for Burlesque and Pluck in September.



Barry and Earl



George Egg



AUGUST EVENINGS

## Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (Welcome to the Sticks) Sat 1 7.00

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

**First screened here June 2008. It didn't sell out then, but by Christmas unruly behaviour broke out and tickets changed hands for four figure sums!**

Philippe runs the post office in a picturesque small town in southern France. He thinks the more glamorous surroundings of the Côte d'Azur will lift his wife's spirits. His attempts to fiddle a transfer fail. Instead, his punishment is to be 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 heart warming film, which last year to general astonishment, stormed the box office across France, beating Titanic's twelve year record. The gags are about the local-yokel habitués of the Pas-de-Calais area, north of Lille. Thanks in no small part to miraculous sub-titles, they all work. It is written and directed by Boon, the taxi driver in My Best Friend and lovelorn postman in this.

This gorgeous low-budget film is a tribute to a region apparently treated to the same casual abuse by the rest of France as our Slough is here. Come for their glorious faces and a script that swims the Channel without getting wet. A rare treasure; not available on DVD. So you'll have to come here.



## Telstar NICK MORAN WILL BE HERE FOR A Q&A AFTER THE FILM Sun 2 6.00



**Former RAF radar boffin, Joe Meek set up a recording 'studio' in his flat above a bag shop (now a kebab house) on Holloway Road. It's 1962, and his career didn't hit the heights for long. Another kind of music was about set the decade alight, while his amphetamine consumption, interest in the occult and troubled gay sexuality added his decision-making.**

"For better or worse, it's an extraordinary piece of British pop history:

The film is at its best when Con O'Neill's full-on Joe Meek has an ensemble to act against in recreating the larkly glitter of Britain's formative pop years. This is partly thanks to jaunty support from James Corden and Ralf Little as musicians, and JJ Feild is spot-on as talent-free 'singing' sensation Heinz Burt while plummy Kevin Spacey is a good sport as Major Banks. However, as the tone darkens and O'Neill's left carrying the story on his own, it is less compelling." (*Time Out*)

"Entertained you will undoubtedly be. Remember Meek was an inspiration for George Martin, Phil Spector and Mickey Most and later influenced Morrissey and Nick Cave" (*Standard*)

Correction: Spector, Most, Cave and that other lightweight perhaps, but he did not influence George Martin in the tiniest crochet. George was busy at the time.

**Director:** Nick Moran  
**Starring:** Kevin Spacey, Pam Ferris  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 119 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Miracle Communications

## Everything is Illuminated **Mon 3 7.30**

**Director:** Liev Schreiber  
**Starring:** Eugene Hutz, Elijah Wood, Boris Leskin  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2005  
**By:** Warner Brothers

**Back by continued extraordinary demand, this surprising and beautifully judged tale is about three eccentric characters thrown together on a journey.** By the end they will have stolen your heart.

Taken from Jonathan Safran Foer best-seller, it reads like a true story.

'Jonfen' (Elijah) is an obsessive collector, who journeys from America in search of the woman he believes saved his grandfather during the Nazi massacre of a lost Ukrainian village. With only a creased photograph he sets off with the unlikely Alex (Eugene Hutz), his grandfather (the brilliant Boris Leskin) and his "seeing-eye" bitch.

Alex's passion for the American myth and his butchery of spoken English will win your heart with every word and gesture. Come for his perplexed Ukranian 'guide' and his beautifully judged narration. (much of the glorious music is his. That's his real band playing at the station). Schreiber's direction is unhurried and priceless – another happy surprise (look him up).

He clearly understands that the best films come when direction lets the story out and frees the actors from acting.

It is haunting, heartlifting, heartbreaking and funny all at once, and one of the best films of our first four years. It will stay with you.



## Last Chance Harvey **Tue 4 7.30**



**Harvey is a divorced musician (lowly jingle writer) who is in London for his daughter's wedding, only to be reminded he an outsider in his own family.** He hasn't turned out to be a memorable father nor turned out a memorable tune in some time, and should he fail to come up with something catchy during this trip, his 'career' is over. Hence, by missing his flight home, leaves his career on the plane. However, while drowning his sorrows at an airport bar... As luck would have it, at the same time, Kate (a delightful Emma Thompson) is on a hopeless date with a younger man... Enter the 'Brief Encounter' moment at Heathrow. "The film's saving grace is Hoffman and Thompson.

Each very enjoyable to watch; he twitchy and self deprecating; she graceful, world-weary and a foot taller.

These performances, coupled with nimble dialogue, a brace of insightful moments and a slightly chocolate-box view of London (a'la Richard Curtis) lend 'Last Chance Harvey' a warmth and wisdom which outshine the more timeworn elements of the screenplay." (*Time Out*)

NB: in true chauvinist tradition, Dustin is 'looking good' while Emma is merely 'well-preserved'.

Come and be delighted.

**Director:** Joel Hopkins  
**Starring:** Emma Thompson, Dustin Hoffman, Eileen Atkins, James Brolin  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures



## Dialogue avec mon jardinier (Conversations with my Gardener)

**Wed 5 7.30**

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

**Not only is this a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English summer afternoon as it did from January to April.** It is one of those rare, small films which lifts an audience. A finely observed gem depicts a poignant friendship between two men who seem to be from different worlds but have simply taken different paths. This becomes clear and remains part of the film's magic to the end. It tells of a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce as he returns to his childhood home and employs a gardener to tame the vegetable patch. As the gardener nurtures and the painter daubs, a warm friendship grows between them. Sharing a love of the place, they begin to see things afresh. Naturally, it is the 'dauber' who has most to learn. It is funny, warm and glows with life as it paints a tender portrait of men coping in their own way. "Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few countries where films about the land are still made - about how it sustains and nourishes them..." (*Crits*) It is beautiful. Don't miss. You will love it.



## Lemon Tree

**Thu 6 7.30**



**Sold out in days in January and February, it glimpses something of the subtleties and complexity of fragile dignity.**

"Inspired by a real-life incident this captivating Israeli film is both a compelling story of self-determination and an astute evaluation of the current state of a divided territory." (*Time Out*) A hit at 2007 Berlin Film Festival, it tells the story of a Palestinian widow living on the Israeli border, whose lemon grove becomes a security risk when the Israeli Defence Minister moves in next door. Salma is determined to fight for the cherished grove tended by generations of her family. She chooses a less than enthusiastic local lawyer to tackle the full might of the Israeli state. Then develops an unlikely friendship with the Minister's wife who becomes increasingly sympathetic to Salma's plight. Director, Riklis subtly reduces the political deadlock of two nations to a simple human level, ably supported by Hiam Abbass (as Salma and the gorgeous wife in *Conversations with my Gardener*) whose portrayal of stoicism and proud defiance becomes an allegory for Palestine and its inhabitants. The end result is a film in which Israeli and Palestinian differences are treated with an equal measure of pessimism, generosity, anger and hope. It won't be back too soon so don't miss now.

**Director:** Eran Riklis  
**Starring:** Hiam Abbass, Doron Tavori, Ali Suliman  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France, Germany, Israel 2008  
**By:** Miracle Communications

# The Hangover

**Fri 7 7.30, Sat 8 7.00**

**“With a clever script and hilarious interplay among the cast, *The Hangover* nails just the right tone of raunchy humor, and the non-stop laughs overshadow any flaw.”** (*TO Ser*)

This frat-boy comedy, high on befuddled charm, pitches four best buddies together after a Vegas stag night so debauched it can only be pieced together the morning-after via a series of tantalising clues.

But without a clue and little time to spare, the trio must attempt to retrace the night before. The more they uncover, the more they see what trouble they're in!

“There's a skeletal plot about finding a missing bridegroom, but mostly this is about the easygoing chemistry between our bleary protagonists.” (*Times*)

“The Hangover is perfect bad-lad comedy. Even for the twats of rude lad comedy, *The Hangover* is back to basics.”

‘What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas’ confides the unusually phlegmatic father of the bride ‘Except for herpes’.

“Like the night in question, *The Hangover* serves up a steady stream of big dumb laughs, but you may feel a gnawing sense of guilt right afterwards.” (*Telegraph*)

Never mind, it'll soon pass and with any luck you lads will copy it for a larf in the beautiful and tragic city of Krakow?

Remember UK/BNP staghitters, this film is as real as *Eastenders*/Cowell/Sir Sugar et al.



**Director:** Todd Phillips  
**Starring:** Heather Graham, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Warner Brothers



## Red Cliff

Sun 9 6.00



**AD 208, Ancient China. Chancellor of the Han Dynasty, Cao Cao, leads his 800,000 strong army into conflict against southern war-lords in an attempt to unite the kingdom.**

The ensuing battle at Red Cliff, a pass on the Yangtze River, is as well known in China as Hastings or Agincourt are here. A real return to form for director John Woo, this is a spectacular re-telling of an historical event which has been handed down for 100 generations as a story in "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms", one of Chinese literature's masterpieces. Central to the story is the friendship between two men: the military adviser and the viceroy. Together they broker an alliance between their two kingdoms to do battle against the forces of the power-crazed prime minister. The military detail is engrossing and the battles breathtaking. "The battle sequences have both military precision and tremendous invention: shields form impromptu labyrinths, ships become arrow-covered porcupines. What elevates this spectacle over the Wolverine and Terminator spin-offs is soul: Woo, a poet of action cinema, is every bit as attentive to the art of tea-making as the art of war..." (*Telegraph*) "...you can't really beat Red Cliff as the classiest and most fabulous blockbuster of the summer." (*Guardian*) Think Braveheart... then rejoice. This is nothing like it (research: Simon Messenger)

**Director:** John Woo  
**Starring:** Tony Leung, Takeshi Kaneshiro  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 148 mins  
**Origin:** China 2009  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

## Soul Power

Mon 10 7.30

**Director:** Jeffrey Levy-Hinte  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Miracle Communications

**The troubled Rumble in the Jungle was hyped as Boxing's fight of the century.**

Ali was 'washed-up' and expected to... "get the biggest beatin' of all times by the baddest man alive (ferocious hardman George Foreman, ten years his junior) They thought he could do it (see him hurt me badly) but they know better now..." (*Mohammed Ali 20 May 1974*)

Across the 'park' the following day after the rains, came a different kind of rumble.

The fight was intended as the centrepiece of a larger celebration of African identity: a three-day festival of music, sport and black pride. A variety of problems delayed the fight by six weeks, but the music was ready.

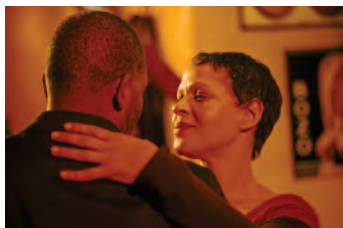
"Levy-Hinte's long overdue documentary was culled from the same footage of 1996's 'When We Were Kings', but with no present-day commentators, dishing background dirt. It is more than just a companion piece to that Oscar-winner. As an historical document it is riveting, both as a peek into the heart of dusty, restless 1970s Africa and into the lives of a group of legendary musicians embarking on an uncertain mission. As a concert film it is unparalleled: a stunningly photographed, soul-stirring celebration." (*Time Out*)

Contrast BB King, James Brown and Bill Withers et al, with the idioms of glorious African musicians like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. The footage is captivating. Don't miss



## 35 Shots of Rum

Tue 11 7.30



**“French director Claire Denis returns with an exquisite meditation on love, longing and loss.** At the heart of the story is the bond between a father and his daughter who is about to start her own life...

“Denis’s understated 35 Shots of Rum feels like a cool hand on a fevered brow. Its slow- burning warmth and humanity provide a much needed contrast to recent blockbusters. The film is a study of a father and his daughter. There’s a wordless self-sufficiency in their relationship, a tacit interdependency that feels more like the easy companionship of an old married couple than father and daughter. The dialogue is sparse but the eloquent performances tell us everything...”(*Wendy Ide Times*)

The story is a simple collection of beautifully painted scenes from the life of a small family who live in a flat in the Rue de la Guadeloupe. A little nest where Lionel escapes from the loneliness of his train and the memory of his losses. And from which his daughter, will soon fly. Somehow Denis captures a sweet unity which “magically evokes a liberal meditation on family, harmony and loyalty, sitting alongside their natural consequences of loss, loneliness and separation.” (*Time Out*)

Already said to be “adored for its richness and warmth.”

It is worth coming to find out.

**Director:** Claire Denis  
**Starring:** Mati Diop, Alex Descas  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** New Wave

## Looking for Eric

Wed 12 7.30, Thu 13 7.30

**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Starring:** Eric Cantona, Stephanie Bishop, John Henshaw, Steve Evets  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** Belgium, France, Italy, UK 2009  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

**Ken Loach tells of being a guest at Old Trafford. Sitting next to the big man, the crowd got wind that Eric was in there midst.** The spontaneous roar from the huge crowd was phenomenal... Ooh ahh Cantona. Ken was unable to describe the excitement this giant hero caused 12 years after his last game in 1997.

Eric Bishop (Steve Evets) is a postman fanatically obsessed with Manchester United.

His life is descending into crisis – his son is hoarding a gun for a local gangster, and to see his granddaughter brings him into undesired contact with his ex-wife. At his lowest suicidal ebb, Bishop begins to hallucinate that his idol, footballer and philosopher Eric Cantona (played to great comedic effect by the man himself) is giving him spiritual advice... Correction: “I am not a man. I am Cantona...”

Typical of Loach, the piece has a darker edge, but overall it’s a fabulous tale for fans and non-fans of football, Cantona and Loach alike.

“This is the nearest he might get to a feel-good movie, and may well become one of his most successful. At Cannes it was received with acclamation... probably because Loach is adored here as a world-class talent not always appreciated on home territory.” (*Standard*)

Come for the fresh Cantona-isms. Our favourite proverb; impossible to articulate in even your best Gallic accent – “he that sows thistles shall reap prickles”. Genius. (*research: Simon Messenger*)





# Public Enemies

**Fri 14 7.30, Sat 15 7.00,  
Sun 16 6.00, Wed 19 7.30**

**This action-packed gangster biopic, explores the last fugitive year in the life of outlaw, John Dillinger.** Set in Indiana during America's 1930s Depression, the film twists and turns through a series of failed ambushes, bank robberies and exhilarating shoot-outs. Depp is characteristically Johnny D, but unusually tender in scenes with Dillinger's love interest, Billie Frechette (Piaf's Cotillard). "It's a fascinating moment in history, Mann captures the cars, the guns and the buildings with painstaking, immersive authenticity... we're right there on the running board as the getaway cars screech down the streets..." (*Time Out*)

"There is a great deal to enjoy: the performances, the dialogue, the action, but the central figure of Dillinger makes no sense..." (*Standard*)

"Johnny Depp in a guns-blazing action romp by Mann; what could go wrong? A fair bit as it turns out. It should roll along with an outlaw's bold swagger, instead... We end up knowing more about the social and political context for the crime spree than we do about the motivations of the key players." (*Times*) Perfect. Who cares why?

Christian Bale is the implacable FBI man Melvin Purvis. Perfectly casting for the cat's-arse Method man. Melvin by name Purvis by nature.

Tries to be "more Bonnie and Clyde than Morecambe and Wise". (*SM*) You decide. I'm rooting for Morecambe and Wise. Definitely don't miss.

(research: Simon Messenger)



<b>Director:</b>	Michael Mann
<b>Starring:</b>	Johnny Depp, Marion Cotillard, Christian Bale, Billy Crudup
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	140 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	USA 2009
<b>By:</b>	Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## Rumba

Mon 17 7.30



**On the surface, this sounds like an odd film, which it is.** It must have been a joy to make. Another Rex gem in the making? “The spirit of Jacques Tati is joyfully evoked in this bijou slice of Belgian physical comedy from writing directing team Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon and Bruno Romy.” (*Time Out*)

Contented French Provencal primary school teachers Dom and Abel (get it?) compete enthusiastically on the Latin-American dance circuit after school. On the way home one night from such an all-sparkling sequined dance-a-thon, something happens which forces them to re-evaluate their future on the dance circuit. This near-silent comedy wrings laughs from the most unexpected of places; its jet black and very clever, relying almost entirely on sight gags derived from Dom and Abel’s newly discovered afflictions. A sleeper hit at last year’s Cannes Film Festival, it may sound in poor taste. However, it’s brilliantly executed, thoughtful and a genuinely amusing little gem of a film... made in enviably wicked poor taste.

“Like an episode of “Sesame Street” scripted by Luis Bunuel and helmed by Jacques Tati...” (*Variety*)

“Whimsical, colourful...full of exquisite visual gags and charmingly cheap special-effects, with an edge of melancholy to stop things getting too cute...” (*ICA*)

It is Belgian and not to be missed.

(research: Simon Messenger)

**Directors:** Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon, Bruno Romy

**Starring:** Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon, Bruno Romy, Philippe Martz

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 77 mins

**Origin:** Belgium, France 2008

**By:** Miracle Communications

## Frozen River

Tue 18 7.30

**Director:** Courtney Hunt  
**Starring:** Melissa Leo, Misty Upham  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 97 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Axiom Films

**This Represents one of the best examples of the new trend for austerity and social realism in American indie cinema.** That might sound worthy to the point of torpor, but this study of desperation and acute poverty is as tightly wound as any thriller.

Melissa Leo dominates the film as Ray, a careworn mother of two. When her husband runs off with all they have, she and her kids are destitute.

At her wits end and not thinking straight, she finds herself drawn into cahoots with Mohawk Lila Littlewolf (Upham) smuggling illegal immigrants into upstate New York, bordering Quebec across the treacherous ice of the Saint Lawrence. It’s a lucrative operation, but fraught with more than one peril. Each time they go, the ice is thinner. Cracks ring out like gunshots under their wheels. Time is running out.

Think *Thelma & Louise* in parkas, on ice. While debut writer and director Courtney Hunt overdoes the symbolism occasionally she builds an almost unbearable tension, which looms over Ray’s precarious plans for a better life like a gathering storm. Leo was nominated and should have won 2009 Oscar for this. Only drawback; this is a freezing film set on bleak ice with Christmas mentioned more than once. It is August here! (*thanks: Empire, Time Out, mostly Wendy Ide, Times*)



# Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

**Thu 20** 7.30, **Fri 21** 7.30,  
**Sat 22** 7.00

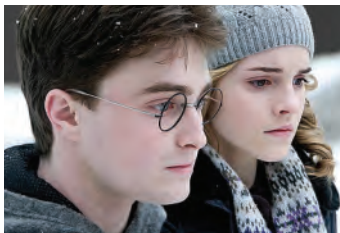
**An outbreak of snogging in the school vestibules... Whatever next? Pig flu probably.**

"We are now nearing the end of the most extraordinary epic in popular storytelling. Harry Potter, played by an increasingly rangy and grown-up Daniel Radcliffe, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts, and though he is now captain of the Quidditch team, the young wizard is suffering various romantic agonies and tensions relating to a certain book of spells."

(*Guardian*)

Voldemort is tightening his grip and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle. Dumbledore is in grave danger but must prepare Harry for the final battle he knows is fast approaching. Meanwhile, teenage hormones rage across the ramparts. Harry finds himself increasingly drawn to Ginny, but so is Dean Thomas. And Lavender Brown has decided that Ron is the one, but she hadn't counted on Romilda Vane's chocolates! And then there's Hermione, simmering (simpering) with jealousy but adamant that she won't show her feelings. As romance blossoms, one student remains aloof. He is determined to make his mark, albeit a dark one. Love is in the air but tragedy lies ahead and Hogwarts may never be the same again...

Dear heavens! Enid's Secret Seven would never hear of such trouser interference.



**Director:** David Yates  
**Starring:** Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Jim Broadbent  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 153 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2009  
**By:** Warner Brothers



# Katyn

Sun 23 6.00, Mon 24 7.30

One of the darkest moments in Polish history is chillingly examined by acclaimed director 83 year old Andrzej Wajda (pronounced Vider). The Katyn Forest massacre, which occurred in 1940, was the execution of 22,000 Polish prisoners of war by Soviet soldiers under direct orders from Stalin, amongst them Wajda's own father.

After the war, when Poland fell under Soviet influence, the massacre was blamed on Nazi forces (who initially used to massacre as propaganda for their own ends), and this lamentable cover up was only brought to light decades later...

Scored by the brilliant Krzysztof Penderecki, the fragmented, vignette-like narrative style may not suit all tastes, however one cannot fail to be moved, and angered, by Wajda's remarkable memorial. "In its deeply felt sense of outrage, its unblinking seriousness, this riveting and hugely important memorial-movie puts labour-camp tourism like "The Reader" to shame..." (*Telegraph*)

"It is a movie that grows out of not only the Polish film tradition but a Polish hunger for truth: Katyn is told in full psychological colour, in a local, human, emotional accent, with the pressure of history bleeding into every scene and through every character...it carries the DNA of a national ordeal on to the screen" (*Standard*) Unmissable. So please don't. (JH) (review: Simon Messenger)



<b>Director:</b>	Andrzej Wajda
<b>Starring:</b>	Jan Englert, Artur Zmijewski, Andrzej Chyra, Maja Ostaszewska
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	118 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	Poland 2007
<b>By:</b>	Artificial Eye





# Coco Before Chanel

**Tue 25** 7.30, **Wed 26** 7.30,  
**Thu 27** 7.30

**Directed by Anne Fontaine, *Coco Avant Chanel*, tells the story of the young Chanel, who works as a seamstress by day, sings for a rowdy crowd at night and dreams of stardom and life in Paris.**

It follows almost exclusively Coco's relationships with two men. First the French aristocrat Balsan (played by Benoît Poelvoorde), who befriends her in the bars where she sings and accepts her as his lodger, introducing her to high society, and second, the Englishman Arthur "Boy" Capel (Alessandro Nivola), her real true love and the man who urges her to follow her dream. "Audrey Tautou gets a chance to deepen and broaden her gamine image, wittily suggesting that Coco's childhood in a Catholic orphanage later influenced her simple designs. Tautou has won much praise for this film, depicting Chanel's hectic, glamorous life as an adult in 20s Paris - but the film stops short of the second world war..." (*Guardian*)

"All well and good if the omitted years didn't happen to be Coco's most controversial. When she shacked up with a Nazi officer, became involved in the Operation Modellhut plot and fled to Switzerland following war-crime accusations!" (*Time Out*)

Now now, we can't all be perfect. Besides she looks gorgeous, as does the film. Come for that.



<b>Director:</b>	Anne Fontaine
<b>Starring:</b>	Audrey Tautou, Benoit Poelvoorde, Emmanuelle Devos, Alessandro Nivola
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	110 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	France 2009
<b>By:</b>	Optimum Releasing



## Bruno

Fri 28 7.30, Sat 29 7.00



**Fired from his Austrian television show, “Funkyzeit Mit Bruno”, after causing havoc at a fashion show in a suit made entirely from Velcro, Brüno (SB Cohen) travels to the United States with the aim of becoming “the biggest gay movie star since Schwarzenegger”. Along the way, he attempts to make a sex tape with Texan Congressman Ron Paul, stalks Harrison Ford, mimes sex acts at a séance, adopts an African baby... The runaway success of 2006’s “Borat” ensured that a Brüno movie would always cause a stir upon its release, and no doubt you’ve already made up your mind if this is for you. It’s grossly offensive, stomach churningly embarrassing, funny but in the end it’s Borat in hotpants.**

**“It has some really extraordinary, confrontational moments that live on in my traumatised mind in a continuous loop...”** (*Guardian*)

**“Some might bristle at bitchy Brüno as a stereotype of a gay man obsessed with sex, clothes and fame. But most viewers won’t have the time or energy to dwell on such worries: they’ll be watching with one eye closed from embarrassment and the other welling up with tears of laughter.”** (*Time Out*)

Don’t say we didn’t warn you.  
(review: *Simon Messenger*)

**Director:** Larry Charles  
**Starring:** Sacha Cohen  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 81 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Sun 30 6.00

**Director:** David Yates  
**Starring:** Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Jim Broadbent  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 153 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2009  
**By:** Warner Brothers

**An outbreak of snogging in the school vestibules... Whatever next? Pig flu probably.**

**“We are now nearing the end of the most extraordinary epic in popular storytelling. Harry Potter, played by an increasingly rangy and grown-up Daniel Radcliffe, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts, and though he is now captain of the Quidditch team, the young wizard is suffering various romantic agonies and tensions relating to a certain book of spells.”** (*Guardian*)

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## COMING SOON

## New releases

Cloud Nine  
 The Private Lives of Pippa Lee  
 Antichrist  
 The Proposal  
 Mesrine: Killer Instinct  
 Burlesque (LIVE) The Cheek of it  
 Pluck (LIVE) Musical Arson

## Back by demand

Looking for Eric  
 Harry Potter  
 Public Enemies  
 O' Horton  
 The Grocer's Son



Mesrine: Killer Instinct



The Proposal



The Private Lives of Pippa Lee

## AUGUST FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	SAT	ICE AGE 3	2.00
1	SAT	WELCOME TO THE STICKS	7.00
2	SUN	TELSTAR PLUS Q&A	6.00
3	MON	ICE AGE 3	2.00
3	MON	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	7.30
4	TUE	ICE AGE 3	12.30
4	TUE	LAST CHANCE HARVEY	7.30
5	WED	CONVER. WITH MY GARDENER 2.00,	7.30
6	THU	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	2.00
6	THU	LEMON TREE	7.30
7	FRI	THE HANGOVER	7.30
8	SAT	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2	2.00
8	SAT	THE HANGOVER	7.00
9	SUN	RED CLIFF	6.00
10	MON	MONSTERS V ALIENS	2.00
10	MON	SOUL POWER	7.30
11	TUE	MONSTERS V ALIENS	12.30
11	TUE	35 SHOTS OF RUM	7.30
12	WED	LOOKING FOR ERIC	2.00, 7.30
13	THU	THE FOX AND THE CHILD	2.00
13	THU	LOOKING FOR ERIC	7.30
14	FRI	PUBLIC ENEMIES	7.30
15	SAT	CORALINE	2.00
15	SAT	PUBLIC ENEMIES	7.00
16	SUN	PUBLIC ENEMIES	6.00
17	MON	CORALINE	2.00
17	MON	RUMBA	7.30
18	TUE	MONSIEUR HULOT'S HOLIDAY	12.30
18	TUE	FROZEN RIVER	7.30
19	WED	PUBLIC ENEMIES	2.00, 7.30
20	THU	HARRY POTTER	2.00, 7.30
21	FRI	HARRY POTTER	7.30
22	SAT	HARRY POTTER	2.00, 7.00
23	SUN	KATYN	6.00
24	MON	HARRY POTTER	2.00
24	MON	KATYN	7.30
25	TUE	HARRY POTTER	12.30
25	TUE	COCO BEFORE CHANEL	7.30
26	WED	COCO BEFORE CHANEL	2.00, 7.30
27	THU	HARRY POTTER	2.00
27	THU	COCO BEFORE CHANEL	7.30
28	FRI	BRUNO	7.30
29	SAT	HARRY POTTER	2.00
29	SAT	BRUNO	7.00
30	SUN	HARRY POTTER	6.00
31	MON	CINEMA CLOSED	



# AUGUST MATINEES

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



# Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

**Sat 1** 2.00, **Mon 3** 2.00,  
**Tue 4** 12.30

**“As a threequel this zippy summer diversion will do more than nicely - in fact, it’s comfortably the best of the series. I find it hard to remember anything much from the first two, except a lot of amiable milling around and lessons about friendship.”** (*Telegraph*)  
**OR**

**“This is the mix as before – decent digital animation, decent but by now familiar stunts (ice slides, spurting lava), a zany squirrel chasing an acorn, and a flimsy story in which our lovable heroes (grouchy mammoth, menacing but soft-centred sabre-tooth and wacky, annoying sloth) confront danger and discover some truth about the importance of family. This time, they crash through the ice to discover a hidden world of dinosaurs, plus a perky piratical weasel (voiced by Simon Pegg). It’s not nearly as funny or as cute as it needs to be, but it will do as holiday entertainment for children who liked the first two and have reasonably short memories, and for adults it’s more or less bearable.”** (*Independent*)  
Wasn’t global warming kicking in during ‘Ice Age 2: The Meltdown’?

No matter: when the story hits a trough, Scrut, the acorn-chasing squirrel-rat thing will deliver mad daredevilry chasing that said acorn. Fabulous on the big screen.



**Director:** Carlos Saldanha  
**Starring:** John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, Ray Romano  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## Dialogue avec mon jardinier (Conversations with my Gardener)

**Wed 5** 2.00

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

**Not only is this a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English summer afternoon as it did from January to April.** It is one of those rare, small films which lifts an audience. A finely observed gem depicts a poignant friendship between two men who seem to be from different worlds but have simply taken different paths. This becomes clear and remains part of the film's magic to the end. It tells of a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce as he returns to his childhood home and employs a gardener to tame the vegetable patch.

As the gardener nurtures and the painter daubs, a warm friendship grows between them. Sharing a love of the place, they begin to see things afresh. Naturally, it is the 'dauber' who has most to learn. It is funny, warm and glows with life as it paints a tender portrait of men coping in their own way.

"Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few countries where films about the land are still made - about how it sustains and nourishes them..." (*Crits*) It is beautiful. Don't miss. You will love it.



## Night At The Museum II

**Thu 6** 2.00, **Sat 8** 2.00



**Films by director and producer Shawn Levy are loathed by critics but adored by Hollywood film studio accountants.**

His films make big money! Ah that's the difference. For a moment there I thought they were telling us something we didn't know. "Levy true to form has come up with another turkey, albeit one that will no doubt lay another golden egg for those money counters."

He's stuffed it with special effects, star names and big numbers, but it has none of the exuberance needed to lift us out of our seats and take us on a thrilling ride." (*Sunday Times*) Scats – now that's more like it.

But actually this entertaining rumbustious, next-please, sequel is pretty good.

Stiller is Larry, the heroic night guard who has since made his fortune as the inventor of the glow-in-the dark torch. But when visiting New York to catch up with his animated museum buddies, he finds them being packed off to the huge Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. So to the rescue!

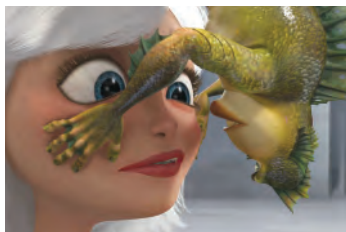
"Kids will revel in the riot of effects as Larry leads his barmy army against evil villains, ranging from Napoleon to Al Capone! Grown ups will value the sassy script and in-jokes" (*Times*)

Bring your grandparents. They'll know who the exhibits are.

**Director:** Shawn Levy  
**Starring:** Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Ricky Gervais, Owen Wilson  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** Canada, USA 2008  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## Monsters v Aliens

**Mon 10** 2.00, **Tue 11** 12.30



**“Some stuff works – I liked the dim President greeting Earth’s visitors by playing the five notes from Close Encounters on a synth.**

A wobbly one-eyed blob called B.O.B. has a stream of random gags about being thick and falling in love with a plate of jelly.”

(Why call the 50-foot-woman ‘Ginormica’, when they could have stuck with the original 1958 scary name: Susan?)

“The movie never grows a heart, which doesn’t stop it trying to tattoo one onto its chest. By the whizz-bang climax... I was fidgeting like a four-year-old at Cosi fan tutte.” (*Telegraph*)

This the first big saviour-film of the digital CGI blockbuster revival in big 3-D. The Rex probably won’t have a 3-D print. It would be fun with the cardboard glasses and all, but I think they are playing a new techno game none of us will grasp until they have stopped playing.

We are not part of that game yet. So this will be the fun print where the film has to work all by itself. Anyway, you don’t come here just for the film. Bring your grandparents, friends and people you love to laugh with. I nearly watched it all the way through and loved it! It made me laugh out loud a lot...

**Directors:** Rob Letterman, Conrad Vernon  
**Starring:** Hugh Laurie, Reese Witherspoon, Seth Rogen  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Looking for Eric

**Wed 12** 2.00

**Director:** Ken Loach  
**Starring:** Eric Cantona, Stephanie Bishop, John Henshaw, Steve Evets  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** Belgium, France, Italy, UK 2009  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

**Ken Loach tells of being a guest at Old Trafford. Sitting next to the big man, the crowd got wind that Eric was in there midst.** The spontaneous roar from the huge crowd was phenomenal... Ooh ahh Cantona. Ken was unable to describe the excitement this giant hero caused 12 years after his last game in 1997. Eric Bishop (Steve Evets) is a postman fanatically obsessed with Manchester United.

His life is descending into crisis – his son is hoarding a gun for a local gangster, and to see his granddaughter brings him into undesired contact with his ex-wife. At his lowest suicidal ebb, Bishop begins to hallucinate that his idol, footballer and philosopher Eric Cantona (played to great comedic effect by the man himself) is giving him spiritual advice... Correction: “I am not a man. I am Cantona...” Typical of Loach, the piece has a darker edge, but overall it’s a fabulous tale for fans and non-fans of football, Cantona and Loach alike.

“This is the nearest he might get to a feel-good movie, and may well become one of his most successful. At Cannes it was received with acclamation... probably because Loach is adored here as a world-class talent not always appreciated on home territory.” (*Standard*)

Come for the fresh Cantona-isms. Our favourite proverb; impossible to articulate in even your best Gallic accent – “he that sows thistles shall reap prickles”. Genius. (*research: Simon Messenger*)



## The Fox and the Child

Thu 13 2.00



**This French film from Luc Jacquet, narrated by Kate Winslet in its English version, is set on the mountainsides of Ain.** Like *March of the Penguins*, the director's first feature-length film, it is ravishingly shot.

It tells a simple tale about a little girl who makes friends with a fox but finally realizes that to love doesn't necessarily mean to possess. Children will undoubtedly adore the film, and the local tourist board will probably have to take its phones off the hook.

"The Alpine scenery steals the picture as we go through the season before concentrating on a gloriously-hued autumn. I hope it wasn't tarted up with CG effects – it doesn't look like it."

(Standard) It's a bitter sweet tale of a child's near obsession with a beautiful animal. And they do make friends, but she has to let go. The photography is nothing short of miraculous. Bring all the kids in your street.

**Director:** Luc Jacquet  
**Starring:** Isabelle Carré, Thomas Laliberté, Bertille Noël-Bruneau  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Coraline

Sat 15 2.00, Mon 17 2.00

**Director:** Henry Selick  
**Starring:** Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher, Ian McShane, Dawn French  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

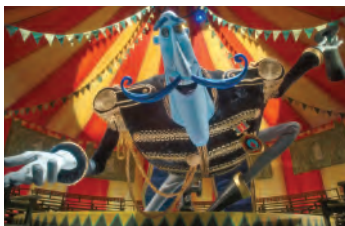
**When inquisitive pre-teen Coraline discovers a secret door in her family home, she stumbles into universe of apparent perfection but with underlying danger.**

The film is made painstakingly with real puppets on real sets. There are no computers. It is called stop-frame animation. It means you move the puppet, take a picture, move it again, take another and keep going until it really is talking, running, falling, climbing, etc.

Ask Wallace and Grommit.

"A uniquely terrifying villain. This dark edge will be the biggest test of the film as a commercial prospect: it may be too terrifying for the target audience. But for the braver kids and parents this is a ride." (*Time Out*) Be warned: it's visually fabulous but under 9s might have nightmares.

I did and I only saw the first twenty minutes! The parents, all four of them, were the most scary





## Mr Hulot's Holiday

Tue 18 12.30



**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 out of curiosity we have programmed it as a children's matinee. Let them decide. Though black and white, the humour is visual and simple and works 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 he 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. Unmissable.

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

## Public Enemies

Wed 19 2.00

**Director:** Michael Mann  
**Starring:** Johnny Depp, Marion Cotillard, Christian Bale, Billy Crudup  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 140 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2009  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**This action-packed gangster biopic, explores the last fugitive year in the life of outlaw, John Dillinger.** Set in Indiana during America's 1930s Depression, the film twists and turns through a series of failed ambushes, bank robberies and exhilarating shoot-outs. Depp is characteristically Johnny D, but unusually tender in scenes with Dillinger's love interest, Billie Frechette (Piaf's Cotillard). "It's a fascinating moment in history, Mann captures the cars, the guns and the buildings with painstaking, immersive authenticity...we're right there on the running board as the getaway cars screech down the streets..." (*Time Out*) "There is a great deal to enjoy: the performances, the dialogue, the action, but the central figure of Dillinger makes no sense..." (*Standard*) "Johnny Depp in a guns-blazing action romp by Mann; what could go wrong? A fair bit as it turns out. It should roll along with an outlaw's bold swagger, instead... We end up knowing more about the social and political context for the crime spree than we do about the motivations of the key players." (*Times*) Perfect. Who cares why? Christian Bale is the implacable FBI man Melvin Purvis. Perfectly casting for the cat's-arse Method man. Melvin by name Purvis by nature. Tries to be "more Bonnie and Clyde than Morecambe and Wise". (*SM*) You decide. I'm rooting for Morecambe and Wise. Definitely don't miss. (research: Simon Messenger)



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**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 153 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2009  
**By:** Warner Brothers



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**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** France 2009  
**By:** Optimum Releasing



*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*