

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

VIDAL SASSOON: THE MOVIE
AUGUST 2011...

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

AUGUST 2011 Issue 77
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

Gallery	4-6
August Evenings	13
Coming Soon	28
August Films at a glance	28
August Matinees	29
Rants and Pants	42-45

SEAT PRICES (+ REX DONATION £1.00)
 Circle £8.00+1
 Concessions £6.50+1
 At Table £10.00+1
 Concessions £8.50+1
 Royal Box (seats 6) £12.00+1
 or for the Box £66.00+1
 All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box) +1

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

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

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

Julia Childs	Malcolm More
Nicola Darvell	Liam Parker
Lindsey Davies	Izzi Robinson
Karina Gale	Amberly Rose
Rosa Gilbert	Georgia Rose
Katie Golder	Sid Sagar
Ollie Gower	Liam Stephenson
Beth Hannaway	Tina Thorpe
Lucy Hood	Beth Wallman
Abigail Kellett	James Wallman
Amelia Kellett	Jack Whiting
Lydia Kellett	Olivia Wilson
Simon Messenger	Roz Wilson
Helen Miller	Keymea Yazdanian
	Yalda Yazdanian

Ushers:
 Ally, Amy, Annabel, Billie, Ellie, Ellen,
 Emma, Hannah, Kitty, Luke, Meg

Sally Thorpe In charge
Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)
Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist
Martin Coffill Part-time assistant projectionist
Anna Shepherd Part-time assistant projectionist
Jacquie Rose Chief Admin
Oliver Hicks Best Boy
Becca Ross Best Girl
Michael Glasheen Gaffer
Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry PR/Sales/FoH

Andrew Dixon Resident Artist
Darren Flindall Maintenance
Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney Advisors and Investors
Ed Mauger Genius
Demiurge Design Design 01442 864904
Lynn Hendry Advertising 01442 877999

James Hannaway CEO 01442 877999
Betty Patterson Company Secretary and THE ORIGINAL VISIONARY of The Rex.

The Rex
 High Street (Three Close Lane)
 Berkhamsted HP4 2FG
www.therexberkhamsted.com

BEST IN AUGUST

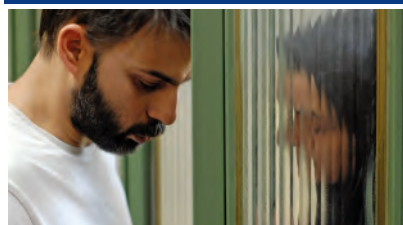


Bad timing turns into an outstanding Spanish thriller.

Cell 211

Fri 12 7.30 / Sat 13 7.00. Spain/France 2011

FILMS OF THE MONTH



How can this be happening to me?
 You'll see how.

A Separation Mon 8 7.30. Iran 2011



What price would you pay for the truth...?
Incendies

Mon 22 7.30. Canada/France 2010



Come for an intensity that defies acting –
 Romain Duris.

The Big Picture Wed 24 7.30. France 2010

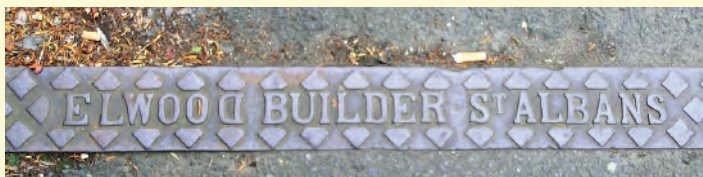
IMAGINE...



The Odyssey has re-created the notion of a night-out. People come for the place itself, sometimes the film is an afterthought. From the outset its reputation has grown for its programme, courtesy and style. It doesn't pander but offers everybody the same chance to see the good, the bad and the trash. Each screening is introduced by a member of staff before the curtains open to pin-drop silence. We sell out most nights, even or especially with obscure titles from across the world. The formula is simple: the repertoire

is diverse, exciting and busy; the surroundings are luxurious and enticing; the atmosphere is warm, the staff are friendly and helpful (mostly) and the ambience unhurried. Kids say it's 'cool'. Many tell us, they had stopped going out until The Odyssey re-opened. Don't miss the excitement and anticipation of seeing a film on a huge screen in an original theatre built for the glamour of 'The Movies'. No you're not dreaming. It's only a matter of when, which is only a matter of money. There is no other obstacle to the dream coming true...

This fabulous painting (above) is a spontaneous water colour and ink on paper by Ann Marie Whitton. She has done it for us and donated it to swell the Odyssey funds. Thank you Ann Marie, you don't get any better than that. However, we would be up against ourselves in the bidding, as we must have it for the foyer when we open. So if anyone would like to bid against us, off you go and good luck. Lets see how high we get. It is mounted and framed, size 52 x 42 cm, light wood frame and the bidding can start anytime you like by emailing contactus@odysseypictures.co.uk.



YES, I REMEMBER...



Yes, I remember Adlestrop —
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his
throat.

No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop — only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

*I was there once, one lovely summer
Sunday years ago. The shiver just riding
into the village returns now in an instant.
I saw the station and Edward Thomas's
poem, engraved in the bus stop. It's the
only thing I remember from school and
have never forgotten it. This poppy field
looking across to Aldbury from near Tring
holds the same stillness of Thomas's
summers day. Adlestrop was written in
June 1914 on his way back to war to be
killed.*



CHILDWICKBURY (+CANAL) 2011 – ART SPACE ODYSSEY



Christiane Kubrick at home with a new painting at Childwickbury Arts Fair 3rd July 2011

Each year, Childwickbury nr Harpenden, the family home of Stanley Kubrick, opens its stables and courtyard to a fabulous explosion of colour, performance, music and fine art. It is an extraordinary three day event, now firmly established on the first full weekend in July. The Kubrick family gave their blessing for old Odeon St Albans to be renamed The Odyssey in honour of their beloved Stanley, on its journey to restoration and new life.



Looking through some photographs I found inside a drawer, I was taken by this bliss. Bridgewater boat yard Grand Union Canal. Berkhamsted 1989



AUGUST EVENINGS

Life In A Day

Mon 1 7.30



Mashed up from more than 4,500 hours of footage sent in by YouTube users, Kevin Macdonald's film creates a stylised collage of human life on earth, as lived and filmed on 24 July 2010.

The 'others' credited as directors alongside Kevin Macdonald are the hundreds of people around the world who shot footage on that July day. Edited to suggest the chronology of a day from dawn to dusk, the quality ranges from the scrappy to polished. It's superficial, insightful, inevitably shallow but also surprisingly probing. "The banal and the extraordinary are equally valid if not revelatory. An intoxicating and sometimes even overwhelming rhythm and power, aided no end by Matthew Herbert's inventive score." (*Time Out*) "An exhilarating, uplifting and profoundly disorienting, multi-lingual, brew around the globe in the blink of an eye, never saying where you are or what you are looking at." (*Total Film*) "Jumpy, chaotic, banal, moving, wry, funny, frightening; the stuff of life itself? A handful of whiz-clips will stick to your brain like flypaper." (*Independent*) "Covering everyday life from birth to death and from extreme poverty to Western decadence, this is mundane, tragic, moving and often very funny." (*Empire*)

The blizzard of images is a bewildering blur. So let it simply let it wash over you. Don't ask but don't miss.

Director: Kevin Macdonald
Starring: Cindy Baer, Matthew Irving, Mo'ica
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: World In a Day Films Ltd.

Bridesmaids

Tue 2 7.30, **Wed 3** 7.30

Director: Paul Feig
Starring: Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Terry Crews
Certificate: 15
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Back by unanticipated demand, Bridesmaids, directed by Paul Feig, and written by and starring Kristen Wiig is a bawdy comedy; perhaps a predictably smutty sister to The Hangover boys.

Wiig plays Annie, a single, unhappy Milwaukeean, whose bakery shop has just gone bust. Desperately trying to convince herself that her purely physical relationship with the arrogant Ted (Jon Hamm spoofing Jon Hamm) is okay, she is wrong-footed when her best friend Lillian (Maya Rudolph) announces she's getting married. Annie is inevitably asked to be maid of honour, and perhaps unsurprisingly, as preparations for the wedding ensue, everything that can go wrong...

"Bridesmaids" is not a tepid "chick flick". It is sharp, witty, and in parts, absolutely revolting. Wiig's strength as a physical comedian comes to the fore, and the excellent supporting cast, the four bridesmaids, augment the hilarious chaos. It is definitely not to everyone's taste, but it's an absolutely perfect response to the Judd Apatow (who served as producer) sweary bromance films of late.

"What seems to have made people laugh about Bridesmaids is its cleverness, the skill with which the social situations have been crafted to give the physical humour something to work against." (*Telegraph*) (*SM*). From all accounts, worth seeing. Come and see for yourself.



Senna

Thu 4 7.30



It left audiences stunned in July. It is only here once in August, but will be back. It can only be seen on the big screen. This one; not your toy screen at home.

It is almost the full story of racing driver Ayrton Senna. Charming, petulant, hungry, enigmatic, outrageously fast and dangerous and outspoken when pushed. This moving biography brims with energy, passion and fun.

Beneath the helmet, Senna was a fascinating, contradictory mix of religious faith, boyish innocence, global celebrity and reckless determination.

"You couldn't have made a film like this about Nigel Mansell." (*Guardian*)

The film's masterstroke is its exclusive use of archive footage, with no visible talking heads or modern-day interruptions.

"Director Asif takes us back to that era with a documentary that roots us in the emotion and feel of the period. No narration. No talking heads. No new footage. And surprisingly little Murray Walker. Those are the rules, and they make for a rousing watch, both sad and uplifting.

Ambitiously constructed, deeply compelling, thrilling and in no way only for those who like watching cars drive in circles. A worthy paean to a truly dangerous talent." (*Empire*)

You don't need to know, or care, about motor racing. Come for his presence. It is remarkable.

Director: Asif Kapadia
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Bad Teacher

Fri 5 7.30

Director: Jake Kasdan
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
Certificate: 15
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Cameron Diaz is Elizabeth, a foul-mouthed, hard-drinking, pot-smoking Chicago teacher who cares more about raising cash for a boob job than passing on knowledge. She can't wait to marry her meal ticket and get out of her bogus day job. When she's dumped by her fiancé, she sets her plan in motion to win over a rich, handsome substitute (Justin Timberlake)...

"Bad Teacher delivers a watchable comic performance from Diaz, including some real laughs." (*Observer*)

"This is a comedy that misjudges the reverse appeal of its central character." (*Independent*)

"A high-school satire that is reasonably funny, though far from sure how badass it really wants to be, and the jury's out on exactly how funny Diaz really is" (*Guardian*)

"It's a basic but amusing farce gifted with enough sharp lines to carry you through the lean patches." (*Time Out*)

Mixed reviews. Some find it hilarious, others fairly pedestrian. Might even be painful to watch? A must for teachers (& 15 yr olds) on holiday with nothing to do? For once gorgeous Ms D is playing a part that suits her face... Try it



Potiche

Sat 6 7.00



Back by glorious demand, “Potiche” (literally ‘vase’ or in this case ‘trophy wife’) is a Franco-Belgian comedy drama directed by François Ozon. It is 1977 in a small provincial French town. Workers at the umbrella factory run by local tyrant Robert Pujol (Fabrice Luchini) go on strike. His nemesis, ex-union boss, now Mayor Maurice Babin, (Gérard Depardieu) is brought in to arbitrate. Circumstances contrive to push Suzanne, (Catherine Deneuve) into demonstrating a hitherto suppressed business acumen. Can she run things better? You bet your sweet derriere! It’s a sly and astute look at class and sexual politics, seemingly outmoded, although Ozon asks whether anything’s really changed over the decades. The whole piece has a deliberate retro feel, adding to its kitch and campy brilliance. “It is a period pastiche executed with brilliant attention to detail and a weird, suppressed passion, like a sitcom in a bad dream.” (*Guardian*) “It’s as light and soft as a pink satin pillow, and a little overstretched, but it’s also packed with bawdy zingers and pointed political barbs.” (*Time Out*) “If a tent were erected at Everest’s peak, on stilts, the overall effect could not be more high camp” This feeble *Guardian* attempt at a gag-line does however conjure the lovely notion of Deneuve and Depardieu at play. Pure indulgence. Don’t miss.

Director: Francois Ozon
Starring: Gerard Depardieu, Catherine Deneuve, Fabrice Luchini
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

The Princess of Montpensier

Sun 7 6.00

Director: Bertrand Tavernier
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Melanie Thierry, Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet
Certificate: 15
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Independent Cinema Office (ICO)

The year is 1562, and France is engulfed by the Holy wars. The beautiful, intelligent Marie de Mézières (Mélanie Thierry), a young aristocrat, has fallen in love with the dashing Henri de Guise (Gaspard Ulliel).

However, her father has decreed that she will marry the Prince of Montpensier (Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet). When all and sundry are called away to war, she is left in the care of tutor and nobleman, Count Chabannes (Lambert Wilson) who, surprise surprise, also harbours a forbidden desire for the Princess... Based on a 1622 novella by Madame de Lafayette, it’s an entertaining and complex, if slightly unsatisfying, historical romp. Thierry is magnetic as the sultry Princess, replete with incessant costume changes. “It gallops along as elegantly and confidently as the horsemen we see in the opening scene - part bodice-ripper, part patrician soap opera, and part romantic tragedy - albeit a sweeping historical epic of no very great resonance or depth.”

(*Guardian*) “Tavernier tells the (potentially confusing) story cleanly and draws committed performances from his predominantly young cast. But it’s his choice not to trade in simple shades of good and evil that keep the actions of his characters so compelling, up to (and beyond) its melancholy kiss-off.” (*Time Out*) (review *Simon Messenger*). Beautifully framed. Come for that.



A Separation

Mon 8 7.30



The film shows a middle-class household under siege. There are unsolved mysteries, angry confrontations and family burdens, an ageing parent and two children from warring camps who appear to make friends?

Farhadi shows how this situation is like a pool of petrol into which any event lands like a lighted match. Everyone is aware of their rights and how angry they feel at injustices and slights, and the women are grimly aware of the double responsibility of finding a working solution and persuading their menfolk to accept it. Yet one thing cannot be bargained away: the children. In the end, young Termeh is the central figure. She sees everything. The adults' pettiness and selfishness is an insidious kind of abuse. With great power and subtlety, Farhadi transforms this ugly quarrel into a contemporary tragedy. "It's lively and suspenseful drama with debate. It employs a tricky moral compass that swings all over the place. It prods gently at how-can-this-be-happening-to-me, but avoids the trap of coming down on any side. If it reserves sympathy for anyone, it's for the old man and the kids, to whom its gaze keeps returning, refusing to forget those outside the eye of the storm but equally bruised by it." (*Time Out*)

Heavy but worth it, if only to see we're all the same.

Director: Asghar Farhadi
Starring: Peyman Moaadi, Leila Hatami, Sareh Bayat, Ali-Asghar Shahbazi, Shahab Hosseini
Certificate: PG
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: Iran 2011
By: Artificial Eye

The Conspirator

Tue 9 7.30

Director: Robert Redford
Starring: Robin Wright, James McAvoy, Tom Wilkinson, Kevin Kline,
Certificate: 15
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

In the wake of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, seven men and one woman are arrested and charged with conspiring to kill the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State. The lone woman charged, Mary Surratt (Wright) owns the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth (Kebbell) and others met to plan the simultaneous attacks. Against the ominous back-drop of post-Civil War Washington, newly-minted lawyer, Frederick Aiken (McAvoy), a 28-year-old Union war-hero, reluctantly agrees to defend Surratt before a military tribunal. But there's something wrong. She may be innocent, and he, in grave danger. Is she hostage and being used as bait to lure the only conspirator to have escaped the manhunt? As the nation turns against her, Surratt is forced to rely on Aiken. "A very stately, bland piece of work, perhaps best shown to high school history classes." (*Guardian*) "Makes you pause and consider, not the fragility of justice and human rights in extreme circumstances, but the fusty and enfeebled condition to which Robert Redford's filmmaking has sunk." (*Telegraph*) "A solid, if tub-thumping, courtroom drama exploring a little-known chapter of US history." (*Mirror*) "A handsome costume drama graced with sensitive performances and a strong central idea." (*Daily Mail*) The only faint praise, and it's from the Mail! Ignore them all. It is a solid courtroom drama. Come, you might learn something.



TT: Closer To The Edge (2D) Wed 10 7.30



First here in June, it was such a moving and powerful screening, it had to come back. Watching these ordinary boys/men with an unassailable passion for racing as fast as light on tiny country lanes is heartstopping. Mike Hailwood set a new lap record of 108.77 mph on the four cylinder Honda 'camel' in his epic battle with Giacomo Agostini on the MV in the 1967, 500cc Senior TT (still considered by many as the greatest ever race on the Island). It stood for eleven years! It was never dreamed possible to go any faster. Guy Martin and Ian Hutchinson now lap at 130mph riding 1000cc monsters on black roads, surfaced like a race-track. In the film one of them is the winner, the other the struggler. Both very fast, it's the struggler who captures your heart. The TT was the British Grand Prix from the 1907 to 1973/74 when it was considered too dangerous to qualify for Grand Prix status. Nothing has been able to stop the TT races continuing on the Island. As you'll see, if anything, the passion is greater than ever; and you'll see why. "Just because you're breathing doesn't mean you're alive" Don't miss.

Director: Richard De Aragues
Starring: Ian Hutchinson, John McGuinness, Guy Martin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Cinemanx

The First Grader Thu 11 7.30

Director: Justin Chadwick
Starring: Naomie Harris, Tony Kgoroge, Oliver Litondo
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Soda Pictures

In a small, remote mountain top primary school in the Kenyan bush, hundreds of children are jostling for a chance for the free education newly promised by the Kenyan government. One new applicant causes astonishment when he knocks on the door of the school. He is Maruge (Oliver Litondo), an old Mau Mau veteran in his eighties, who is desperate to learn to read at this late stage of his life. He fought for the liberation of his country and now feels he must have the chance of an education so long denied - even if it means sitting in a classroom alongside six-year-olds. Moved by his passionate plea, head teacher Jane Obinchi (Naomie Harris), supports his struggle to gain admission and together they face fierce opposition from parents and officials who don't want to waste a precious school place on such an old man.

"It's a complex scenario, but this movie winds up telling a straightforward, if slightly sacchrine, heartwarming tale." (Guardian)

"Wholesome and uplifting in the classic carpe diem manner." (Observer)

"Ann Peacock's didactic screenplay may be based on a true story, but it's hopelessly unconvincing in the way it manufactures and resolves conflicts." (Mail)

"The First Grader is based on a true story and what a true story it is." (Telegraph)
 It sounds okay. Come and see.



Cell 211

Fri 12 7.30, Sat 13 7.00



Winner of eight Goya awards, Spanish Oscars, this is a sort of reverse Prison Break told from the point of view of a man literally and metaphorically caught on the wrong side of the fence. Writer-director Daniel Monzón, adapting a novel by Francisco Perez Gandul, follows the first rule of suspense and sinks the hero deeper and deeper in trouble as the film progresses, not only in terms of the increasing danger of being found out, but in the possibility that he'll get so undercover that he'll face serious charges if he does get out alive! When Hollywood distilled Roderick Thorpe's novel Nothing Lasts Forever into Die Hard, the first elements to go were the politics, the doubt, the moral complexity of choosing sides when you can't see the bigger picture. One of the best things about Monzón's relentless Iberian action thriller, is that these aspects are pushed to the top but the pace never dips.

"It's arrant melodrama, of course, but it works: the pacing is terrific, and the plotting ingenious. An outstanding thriller, with enough political and character strokes to lift it out of the category but rough and tough enough to keep the knuckles white. (*Empire*) We've got it early, so don't miss it. Paul Haggis has already bought the rights for a Hollywood remake. So press the vest Bruce...

Director: Daniel Monzon
Starring: Luis Tosar, Alberto Ammann, Antonio Resines
Certificate: 18
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: France, Spain 2009
By: Optimum Releasing

Jazz On A Summers Day Sun 14 6.00

Director: Bert Stern
Starring: Louis Armstrong, Dinah Washington, Thelonious Monk, Mahalia Jackson
Certificate: U
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: USA 1959
By: Contemporary Films

This documentary record of the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival is often hailed as one of the first and most influential live concert films, paving the way for later classics like Monterey Pop and Woodstock. The last time we played this was in July 2008 in tribute and celebration of Humphrey Lyttleton's last gig on Tues 15th April at The Bull in Barnes, the night before he went into hospital, where under-stayed his welcome. Moral: going for 'tests' is always your last gig.

So for Humph again, this dazzling array of jazz and early Rollers are captured by Stern's lens as he candidly observes the audience, primarily made up of cool East Coast types (who wouldn't be out of place hanging out in Berkhamsted today). He inter-cuts the performers and the crowd with impressionistic shots of water and boats at play in the nearby harbour. Over all, his artistic improvisational shooting style (with help from editor Aram Avakian) accompanies the jazz so well that once you've seen the film a few times it's hard to separate the two. The extraordinary Mahalia Jackson's soulful renditions will send a shiver down the spine, Chuck Berry might look out of place but Anita O'Day's hat and gloves will make your day. Don't miss.



A Better Life

Mon 15 7.30



Directed by Chris Weitz who couldn't have made more diverse films than *About a Boy* then *Twilight: New Moon*, has come up with a further diversion as if to stamp his name on 'I can make anything'? Let's see. "A Better Life" is most appropriately described, perhaps unfairly, as a modern day, Hispanic, "Bicycle Thieves".

Set in East LA, the film tells the story of Carlos (Demián Bichir), a hardworking, impoverished, illegal immigrant gardener, and his teenage son Luis (José Julián). Luis is inevitably heading towards the city's notorious gang culture, but when Carlos' boss decides to sell his landscaping business, Carlos grabs the opportunity for both of them to make a better life. When Carlos' truck is stolen, they throw caution to the wind and together set about reclaiming it from the mean streets of LA...

It's a well-intentioned, sympathetic look at the marginalised, illegal workforce that comprises an integral part of the city's economy. It's a little predictable, and smacks of Hollywood's "white guilt" but is well put together, conveying harsh truths without sensation.

"An interesting exploration of class struggle which recalls classics like *Bicycle Thieves*, and though it doesn't quite reach it..." (*Empire*), it has a life of its own. (research Simon Messenger) It's a snapshot of ordinary life, struggling to be ordinary on the wrong side of Tinseltown, Well worth seeing.

Director: Chris Weitz
Starring: Demián Bichir, José Julián, Nancy Lenahan, Tim Griffin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: EOne

Vidal Sassoon: The Movie

Tue 16 7.30

Director: Craig Teper
Starring: Vidal Sassoon, Mary Quant, Ronnie Sassoon
Certificate: PG
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Verve

This is by request from fearsome hairdressers. So thank or blame them!

We weren't going to show it if for no other reason than it wasn't a priority. Although, some critic comparing his 'genius' to that of Einstein, didn't help. Never mind, here it is and it provided the winning August cover pic.

This first-time, intimate look into the life of Vidal Sassoon, from his early days in an orphanage, to his time in the army, his beginnings on Bond Street, and ultimately, the 1960's style revolution. Filmed over 3 years it explores his life and legacy. "Millions revere the legend, yet so few know the man." (biog)

Curiously, he was a street fighting boy, often caught scrapping with anti semetic thugs at demonstrations just after the war. "The story of 'the greatest hairdresser who ever lived' isn't given enough historical context: one of his Sixties contemporaries, designer Mary Quant, is on hand to reminisce, but the rest of the decade is merely a blur in the background." (*Telegraph*)

"Yes, it's a feature doc about a hairdresser. And you can wipe that supercilious smirk off your face right now." (*Time Out*) Don't miss. Come for the audience...



Potiche

Wed 17 7.30



Back by glorious demand, “Potiche” (literally ‘vase’ or in this case ‘trophy wife’) is a Franco-Belgian comedy drama directed by François Ozon.

It is 1977 in a small provincial French town. Workers at the umbrella factory run by local tyrant Robert Pujol (Fabrice Luchini) go on strike. His nemesis, ex-union boss, now Mayor Maurice Babin, (Gérard Depardieu) is brought in to arbitrate. Circumstances contrive to push Suzanne, (Catherine Deneuve) into demonstrating a hitherto suppressed business acumen. Can she run things better? You bet your sweet derriere! It’s a sly and astute look at class and sexual politics, seemingly outmoded, although Ozon asks whether anything’s really changed over the decades. The whole piece has a deliberate retro feel, adding to its kitch and campy brilliance. “It is a period pastiche executed with brilliant attention to detail and a weird, suppressed passion, like a sitcom in a bad dream.” (*Guardian*)

“It’s as light and soft as a pink satin pillow, and a little overstretched, but it’s also packed with bawdy zingers and pointed political barbs.” (*Time Out*) “If a tent were erected at Everest’s peak, on stilts, the overall effect could not be more high camp” This feeble *Guardian* attempt at a gag-line does however conjure the lovely notion of Deneuve and Depardieu at play. Pure indulgence. Don’t miss.

Director: Francois Ozon
Starring: Gerard Depardieu, Catherine Deneuve, Fabrice Luchini
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Green Lantern

Thu 18 7.30

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Peter Sarsgaard, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Warner Brothers

The most recent super-hero to fall off of DC’s factory line stars Ryan Reynolds as an American test pilot who stumbles upon an alien ring granting him emerald tinged powers, and a complementary invite into an intergalactic constabulary.

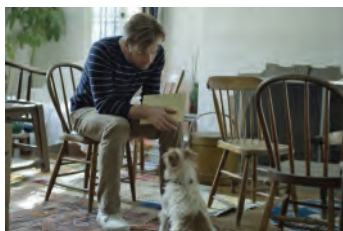
These alien peace-keepers are at threat from a giant, evil cloud named Parallax, who later on possesses Peter Sarsgaard via his forehead. Reynolds, now a new ring bearer, is transported to Green Lantern HQ where he’s told by the other members, including Mark Strong and Geoffrey Rush (as aliens), that he is now a member of the Green Lantern Corps and that they desperately need his help. Several training montages later and Reynolds is ready to kick alien cloud butt.

Meanwhile back on Earth, Sarsgaard’s forehead has grown to Elephant Man proportions and is quick to begin his evil scheming. So Reynolds must fly back to face him, vanquish the evil cloud thing, win over the love interest and save not just humanity, but thousands of other alien worlds. All in a day’s work really. If all this sounds like tripe, it’s because it is. Not all attempts at translating comic to screen are successful, and Green Lantern is an example of something with perhaps too much imagination. There aren’t enough screenwriters or visual effects artists in our known universe to do it justice. (*review Jack Whiting*).





Director: Mike Mills
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Goran Visnjic, Christopher Plummer, Melanie Laurent
Certificate: 15
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Beginners

**Fri 19 7.30, Sat 20 7.00,
 Sun 21 6.00**

“To call Beginners self-indulgent would be unkind, it is often entertaining.” Faint praise indeed. Of course it’s self-indulgent – it’s semi autobiographical, what else is it going to be?

Ewan McGregor’s Oliver discovers his father Hal (Christopher Plummer) has terminal cancer, and after 44 years of marriage has a young male lover! Oddly, this brings the father and son closer, and gives Oliver the will to seize the day.

As the film opens after Hal’s death, the tale unravels in flash back. It explores the hilarity, confusion and surprises of love, and mostly wins on points.

Hip artist-cum-director Mike Mills (who also opened an ice-cream shop called Scoops on the corner of the High Street a year ago) has however put together a really good chemistry of actors. You can see Plummer and McGregor like each other. Unless they’re acting has improved.

“It’s a very personal film with no clear aim for the audience to root to, be it romantic of familial. Still it’s a pleasant watch, given that every scene is well made and believable” (*Empire*)

“Plummer aces it as the kindly, stubborn, outspoken Hal and Ewan does a nice job of being likeable and witty, despite bringing little depth to the part.” (*TO*)

Worth seeing though, if for nothing more than its easy pleasure.

Incendies

Mon 22 7.30



“What price would you pay for the truth...?”

After her sudden death, the last will and testament of Nawal Marwan (Lubna Azabal) an ex-pat woman living in Quebec, reveals startling truths to her twin children Jeanne (Mélima Désormeaux-Poulin) and Simon (Maxim Gaudette) about their father, whom they had presumed dead. He is very much alive, and they have a brother! The pair travel to the Middle East to unearth their history, revealing a brutal tale of civil war, sectarian violence, and dark familial ties... Nominated for Best Foreign Language Picture at the Oscars this year, directed by Denis Villeneuve, and based on a stage play by Wajdi Mouawad, “Incendies” (scorched) is a brilliant piece of storytelling. Although perhaps a little far-fetched, the compelling narrative, coupled with superb performances from Désormeaux-Poulin and Gaudette, the emotional intensity of their roles is immense.

“It is not really believable, and yet if it is not taken literally, but as a cinematic prose-poem, it has undoubted force.” (*Guardian*) “Incendies is no one’s idea of a joyful ride, but it’s a remarkable work, beautifully shot. Its complex story etches itself on the memory.” (*Telegraph*)

“Staggering... feels like a mighty movie in our midst.” (*TO*) It all makes for an unmissable film. (*research Simon M*). So don’t miss.

Director: Denis Villeneuve
Starring: Lubna Azabal, Mélima Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette, Rémy Girard
Certificate: 15
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: Canada, France 2010
By: Trinity Films

Cutter’s Way

Tue 23 7.30

Director: Ivan Passer
Starring: Jeff Bridges, John Heard
Certificate: 15
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: USA 1981
By: Park Circus Films

Cutter’s Way is hard to slot. It’s a delicate blend of thriller, comedy, drama, conspiracy, noir-ish cinematography and one of the most haunting scores in cinema.

It feels like a farewell to the ’70s; to honest political activism, social responsibility, excessive but essentially good-natured drug and alcohol abuse, Vietnam, California and the young Bridges. As Richard Bone, he clings to his fading prime the way his best friend and mentor, crippled war veteran Alex Cutter (John Heard) clings to his walking stick. “Together, they attempt to solve a murder, but that’s window dressing. This is a tale of friendship, endurance and loss, and one of the saddest movies ever made.” (*IMDB*)

“The film moves with an easy uncoerced swing: moment by moment, scene by scene, we are unsure what to think or where we are going. It is a fascinating, organically grown drama.” (*Guardian*) “Ivan Passer’s tense thriller stands as a classy monument to the paranoia of post-Watergate America.” (*Empire*) “Exceptional script, direction and performances make this elliptical neo-noir a forgotten classic.” (*Little White Lies*)

“Czech director Ivan Passer’s use of late-summer light is rich and entrancing, while Bridges and Heard give their all. The result is nothing less than a modern masterpiece ripe for rediscovery.” (*Time Out*) A hidden classic, not to be missed.



The Big Picture

Wed 24 7.30



Less a traditional chase thriller, more a study of self-reinvention, Eric Lartigau's film follows Paul (Romain Duris) a partner in one of Paris's most exclusive law firms, big salary, big house, glamorous wife and two sons straight out of a Gap catalogue.

When he discovers the gorgeous trophy wife, is cheating on him, a rush of rage provokes a fatal error and in that single moment his perfect life evaporates. With echoes of Antonioni's *The Passenger*, and Mr Ripley, Paul takes his chances with a dangerous leap into the unknown, little expecting it would be success that thwarts his successful disappearance.

"Built around a multilayered performance from Duris, it's a film unafraid to pose more questions than it answers. So save for an unsatisfying resolution, this is a confident adaptation of Douglas Kennedy's novel." (*Total Film*)

Beautifully shot, with Romain never putting a foot wrong as a man running on his wits. His ability to absorb complexity with hardly a blink is remarkable.

"Lartigau never quite solves the plot's plausibility, but such is the intensity of Duris' performance that it's easy to suspend all disbelief, as his carefully laid plans unravel. The supporting cast is impeccable, but Duris drives the film." (*Empire*)

Come for an intensity that defies acting. I'd watch him standing still. Don't miss

Director: Eric Lartigau
Starring: Romain Duris, Marina Fois, Niels Arestrup, Branka Katic, Catherine Deneuve
Certificate: 15
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Artificial Eye

The Messenger

Thu 25 7.30, Fri 26 7.30

Director: Oren Moverman
Starring: Ben Foster, Woody Harrelson, Samantha Morton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: The Works UK Distribution

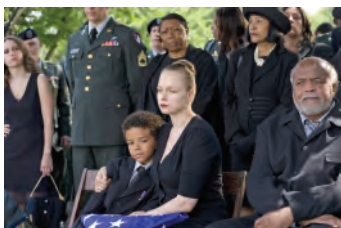
Having survived a brush with death on an Iraqi battlefield, Staff Sgt Will Montgomery (Ben Foster) waiting for the end of his enlistment period, is reassigned to the Casualty Notification Corps. It is their duty to inform the next of kin when soldiers have fallen in combat. Will finds himself under Cpt Tony Stone (Woody Harrelson), who attempts to teach him this draining, emotionally crippling role, one which doesn't get any easier when Will finds himself drawn to grieving widow Olivia (Samantha Morton)...

Directed by Oren Moverman, an Israeli who himself saw active service, it's an intelligent and humane portrayal of the less discussed side of combat, the tragedy which befalls those who remain.

Harrelson particularly shines as a gruff, senior officer, and recovering alcoholic.

"It's a film of quietly assured dramatic clout, a strong and sober reckoning with American conscience." (*Telegraph*)

"(American) people don't want to be reminded that they're living in a country at war...not many were keen to catch *The Hurt Locker* either until it started picking up awards buzz. *The Messenger* presents a challenge, too, but hugely repays the effort. It will rate among the most sharply written and best-acted movies of the year." (*Independent*) (*Simon Messenger*) Definitely not to be missed.





Director: Terrence Malick
Starring: Brad Pitt, Sean Penn
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 138 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Tree Of Life

Sat 27 7.00, Sun 28 6.00

Directed by Terrence Malick whose *Badlands* and *The Thin Red Line* were 24 yrs apart and this a mere fourteen! This Palm D'Or winning feature is a maddening, brilliant meditation on...everything.

Ostensibly, the film narrates the chronology of the O'Brien family. Sean Penn is Jack O'Brien, an architect who, on the anniversary of the death of his brother, begins to dwell on his place in life, the universe and everything – shots of the cosmos, dinosaurs, and bubbling volcanoes, sit alongside Jack's memories of his upbringing in Waco, Texas – memories of his disciplinarian father (Brad Pitt), and of his gentle, forgiving mother (Jessica Chastain).

For the sheer scope of the feature, Malick must be praised. To attempt to quantify a character's place in infinity, is a remarkable, audacious proposal. As many that find beauty in the film's ethereal, existential pondering, will be frustrated by its banality, or apparent obviousness. It's a divisive film which, whatever the outcome for you, is essential viewing.

"While it fascinates as much as it frustrates, the film's saving grace is that it always feels honest and never cynical. It seems both relevant to us and personal to the filmmaker. It doesn't always communicate well, and when it does, it can be trite, but it's a film that's incredibly beautiful and wide open for the taking." (*Time Out*) (review SimonM)

Holy Rollers

Mon 29 7.30



Sam Gold (Jesse Eisenberg) is an Hassidic Jew in his late teens who lives with his family in Brooklyn. His father, Mendel (Mark Ivanir), is losing money on his fabric store. Sam helps out when not on rabbinical studies. But Mendel's uncertain financial future causes his fiancé's parents to call off the couple's wedding. Suffering too from a bit of jealousy toward his best friend, Leon (Jason Fuchs), who seems to have better luck. So when Leon's cool, older brother, Yosef (Justin Bartha), offers Sam some good-paying part-time work, he's more than interested. He is to fly to Amsterdam and pick up a parcel. It's not until he lands in New York, it dawns on him... "A breathless, enjoyable comedy-thriller based on a true story." (*Guardian*) "Jesse Eisenberg, in the main role, enhances the film again and again with his comic timing and ability to nail the part of a sheltered ingénu with an incipient rebel streak." (*Telegraph*) "It's a surprisingly cool little film, not funny but rather seriously torn between the secular and the sacred, a conflict Eisenberg expresses with a neurotic aplomb." (*Observer*) "If ecstasy was as boring as this film about it then the war on drugs would've been over 25 years ago." (*News of the World*) Wont we miss its wit and charm?

Director: Kevin Asch
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Bartha
Certificate: 15
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Independent

In A Better World

Tue 30 7.30

Directed by Susanne Bier (Brothers, After the Wedding) "In a Better World", is an ambitious drama exploring themes of justice and vengeance.

Anton (Mikael Persbrandt) is a doctor working at a refugee camp in Sudan. This traumatic line of work, coupled with the inevitable isolation from his family back in Denmark, is beginning to take its toll. His teenage son, Elias (Markus Rygaard), is a target for bullies at school. Elias strikes up a friendship with Christian (William Jøhnk Nielsen) a new boy who has recently moved to the area after the death of his mother. Christian, alarmed by the bullying of Elias, and looking for ways to vent his grief, suggests a radical, violent plan of revenge...

It's an interesting, if heavy-handed look at forgiveness and retaliation – is it better to turn the other cheek, or take revenge? Controversially, it won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Picture this year, beating – as did last year's "The Secret in Their Eyes" – films of a much better calibre.

"Gripping from start to finish, the script is full of tension and intensity" (*Little White Lies*)

"No doubt the film's noble intentions appealed to the academy voters, but...what does the title suggest? That in a better world there would be less cruelty? True, no doubt." (*Roger Ebert*) (*research SimonM*).

Tough, but don't miss.





Director: Susanne Bier
Starring: Mikael Persbrandt, Wil Johnson, Eddy Kimani, Emily Mulaya
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: Denmark, Sweden 2010
By: Axiom Films



Horrible Bosses

Wed 31 7.30

Director: Seth Gordon
Starring: Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Spacey, Jason Sudeikis
Certificate: 15
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Warner Brothers

Jason Bateman plays Nick, who hates his boss (Kevin Spacey), who is a part of a trio of truly horrible bosses. Nick and his friends Kurt and Dale fantasise one night about dispatching them one by one. What starts as drunken fantasy; with the drink doing all the talking, becomes a full-blown conspiracy to murder. Thus they seek the advice of a murder consultant. A what? The three bosses have distinctive flaws recognisable to most who have harboured fantasies about killing their employers; one is a sadistic micro-manager (Kevin Spacey), one a sexual predator (Jennifer Aniston) and the other is corrupt to the core (Colin Farrell). The bosses are mischievous tormentors of their employees. Kevin Spacey is, as always, excellent as the power-abusing Dave, and Jason Bateman is equally brilliant, if a little typecast at playing the straight-faced everyman. "Vicarious fix for pissed-off wage-slaves everywhere" (*Total Film*) "Frantic, funny and packed full of big names behaving badly" (*TO*) Sounds like the kind of fun no one ever has at work. So if you work for a complete tosspot, or are one, don't miss.



COMING SOON

New releases

Poetry
Super 8
Harry Potter and The
Deathly Hallows 2
The Light Thief

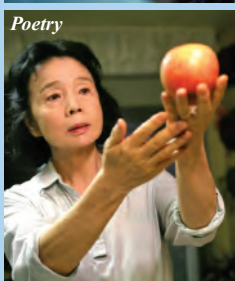
Back by demand

Senna
The Heartbreaker
A Very Long Engagement
Horrible Bosses

Harry Potter



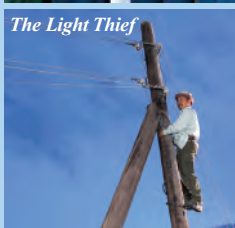
Poetry



Super 8



The Light Thief



AUGUST FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Mon	LIFE IN A DAY	2.00, 7.30
2	Tue	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	12.30
2	Tue	BRIDESMAIDS	7.30
3	Wed	BRIDESMAIDS	2.00, 7.30
4	Thu	SPIRITED AWAY	2.00
4	Thu	SENNA	7.30
5	Fri	BAD TEACHER	7.30
6	Sat	RIO 2D	2.00
6	Sat	POTICHE	7.00
7	Sun	THE PRINCESS OF MONTPENSIER	6.00
8	Mon	ET	2.00
8	Mon	A SEPARATION	7.30
9	Tue	RIO 2D	12.30
9	Tue	THE CONSPIRATOR	7.30
10	Wed	THE CONSPIRATOR	2.00
10	Wed	TT: CLOSER TO THE EDGE	7.30
11	Thu	GREEN LANTERN	2.00
11	Thu	THE FIRST GRADER	7.30
12	Fri	CELL 211	7.30
13	Sat	CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG	2.00
13	Sat	CELL 211	7.00
14	Sun	JAZZ ON A SUMMERS DAY	6.00
15	Mon	KUNG FU PANDA 2	2.00
15	Mon	A BETTER LIFE	7.30
16	Tue	TANGLED	12.30
16	Tue	VIDAL SASSOON: THE MOVIE	7.30
17	Wed	LARRY CROWNE	2.00
17	Wed	POTICHE	7.30
18	Thu	KUNG FU PANDA 2	2.00
18	Thu	GREEN LANTERN	7.30
19	Fri	BEGINNERS	7.30
20	Sat	ARRIETTY	2.00
20	Sat	BEGINNERS	7.00
21	Sun	BEGINNERS	6.00
22	Mon	ARRIETTY	2.00
22	Mon	INCENDIES	7.30
23	Tue	ARRIETTY	12.30
23	Tue	CUTTER'S WAY	7.30
24	Wed	THE MESSENGER	2.00
24	Wed	THE BIG PICTURE	7.30
25	Thu	ARRIETTY	2.00
25	Thu	THE MESSENGER	7.30
26	Fri	THE MESSENGER	7.30
27	Sat	HORRID HENRY	2.00
27	Sat	TREE OF LIFE	7.00
28	Sun	TREE OF LIFE	6.00
29	Mon	HOLY ROLLERS	7.30
30	Tue	HORRID HENRY	12.30
30	Tue	IN A BETTER WORLD	7.30
31	Wed	HORRIBLE BOSSES	2.00, 7.30



AUGUST MATINEES

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

Life In A Day

Mon 1 2.00



Mashed up from more than 4,500 hours of footage sent in by YouTube users, Kevin Macdonald's film creates a stylised collage of human life on earth, as lived and filmed on 24 July 2010.

The 'others' credited as directors alongside Kevin Macdonald are the hundreds of people around the world who shot footage on that July day. Edited to suggest the chronology of a day from dawn to dusk, the quality ranges from the scrappy to polished. It's superficial, insightful, inevitably shallow but also surprisingly probing. "The banal and the extraordinary are equally valid if not revelatory. An intoxicating and sometimes even overwhelming rhythm and power, aided no end by Matthew Herbert's inventive score." (*Time Out*)

"An exhilarating, uplifting and profoundly disorienting, multi-lingual, brew around the globe in the blink of an eye, never saying where you are or what you are looking at." (*Total Film*)

"Jumpy, chaotic, banal, moving, wry, funny, frightening; the stuff of life itself? A handful of whiz-clips will stick to your brain like flypaper." (*Independent*)

"Covering everyday life from birth to death and from extreme poverty to Western decadence, this is mundane, tragic, moving and often very funny." (*Empire*)

The blizzard of images is a bewildering blur. So let it simply let it wash over you. Don't ask but don't miss.

Director: Kevin Macdonald
Starring: Cindy Baer, Matthew Irving, Moica
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: World In a Day Films Ltd.

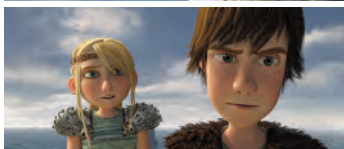
How To Train Your Dragon

Tue 2 12.30

Director: Dean DeBlois
Starring: Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jay Baruchel
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

Avatar like aerial thrills and smart teen comedy add to the appeal of this Viking animation, as a weedy boy gains the approval of his macho village with more empathetic approach to Viking dragon relations.

This Viking romp, wonderfully set on something called the Island of Berk (close), is about a misfit teen called Hiccup. Downtrodden blacksmith's apprentice, he feels far too wimpy to earn his stripes in the hard-living, dragon-slaying environment he's grown up in. Everyone except him is a man-giant with a forest for a beard and a thick Scottish accent. Whereas Hiccup is spindly, pale, boy who sounds nasal and Jewish, and can't do much other than cower during the frequent dragon raids on their village. Hiccup longs to train as a dragon slayer to impress his dad. Or he does until he befriends Toothless and realises that dragons and Vikings need not be enemies. So begins their tentative strides towards the sweetest human-dragon bond in the history of Norse civilisation. (Not until you've read *The Incompetent Dragon* to your kids – It keeps going in and out of print. Search for it). Don't miss.



Bridesmaids

Wed 3 2.00



Back by unanticipated demand, Bridesmaids, directed by Paul Feig, and written by and starring Kristen Wiig is a bawdy comedy; perhaps a predictably smutty sister to The Hangover boys.

Wiig plays Annie, a single, unhappy Milwaukeean, whose bakery shop has just gone bust. Desperately trying to convince herself that her purely physical relationship with the arrogant Ted (Jon Hamm spoofing Jon Hamm) is okay, she is wrong-footed when her best friend Lillian (Maya Rudolph) announces she's getting married. Annie is inevitably asked to be maid of honour, and perhaps unsurprisingly, as preparations for the wedding ensue, everything that can go wrong...

"Bridesmaids" is not a tepid "chick flick". It is sharp, witty, and in parts, absolutely revolting. Wiig's strength as a physical comedian comes to the fore, and the excellent supporting cast, the four bridesmaids, augment the hilarious chaos. It is definitely not to everyone's taste, but it's an absolutely perfect response to the Judd Apatow (who served as producer) sweary bromance films of late.

"What seems to have made people laugh about Bridesmaids is its cleverness, the skill with which the social situations have been crafted to give the physical humour something to work against." (*Telegraph*) (SM). From all accounts, worth seeing. Come and see for yourself.

Director: Paul Feig
Starring: Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Terry Crews
Certificate: 15
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Spirited Away

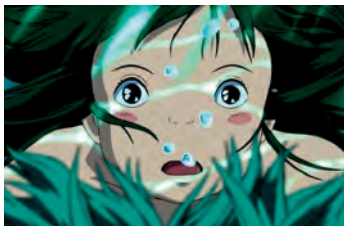
Thu 4 2.00

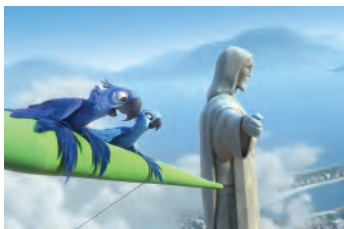
Director: Hayao Miyazaki
Starring: Rumi Hiragi, Miyu Irino, Mari Natsuki
Certificate: PG
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: Japan 2002
By: Optimum Releasing

This is a very weird story - not for children under twelve. I'm still scared.

Weird parents are scarier than any monster. This kid's parents are terrifying.

It is a surreal Alice in Wonderland-like tale about a lost little girl. The film opens with ten-year-old Chihiro on a family outing. Her father is nuts and her mother fluffy. Not what a child needs. When they pass through a tunnel, they discover an abandoned amusement park. As Chihiro's bad vibes continue, her parents discover an empty diner. It smells of fresh food. After her mother and father help themselves. She knows it's wrong and tries to stop them. She is right. But too late. They turn into giant pigs. Chihiro flees. It is a holiday resort for supernatural beings after their exhausting times frightening humans. Luckily, a street boy, Haku finds her and looks after her. She learns the rules of the land. The first; she must work. Laziness is not tolerated. Secondly, she must take on the new name of Sen. But she must never forget her real name... A fantastical story so unusual and gripping, bigger kids will love it's suspense. Little ones will be lost, and as scared as me.



Rio (2D)**Sat 6 2.00, Tue 9 12.30**

Jesse Eisenberg plays Blu, a rare blue macaw, kept as a much-loved pet in Minnesota, is taken to his home territory of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to breed with feisty female Jewel (Anne Hathaway) the last remaining female of the species. Their shy romance is interrupted when they are kidnapped by criminals hoping to sell them to heartless rich folk.

Carlos Saldanha, director of the Ice Age cartoons, sets the movie in and around his Brazilian home and the scenery could hardly be more accurate and lushly detailed. The city's criminal underworld, for the purposes of this family film, have diverted all their attentions to bird theft.

The director has made a fine fist of capturing the city's landscape with its colourful favelas, lush vegetation, sunny beaches and that most iconic of landmarks, Sugarloaf Mountain.

It's a simple story with a message and breathtaking graphics. So bring your grandparents.

Director: Carlos Saldanha
Voices: Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, Leslie Mann, Jamie Foxx
Certificate: U
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: Brazil/Canada/USA 2011
By: Paramount International Pictures

E.T.**Mon 8 2.00**

Director: Steven Spielberg
Starring: Dee Wallace, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote, Drew Barrymore
Certificate: U
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 1982
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

There was a queue around the block outside the Rex for eleven weeks when this first appeared in 1982. Alun Rees our chief projectionist to this day remembers being shoved by the crowd telling him to get to the back, as he pushed his way through to unlock the doors for them. Imagine, there were no mobile phones and the CD hadn't been invented!

Steven Spielberg's magical sci-fi classic about a lost little visitor from another planet who is befriended and protected by a kindly young boy. The film remains a perennial favourite for children and adults of all ages, who are entranced by the legendary moments such as the moonlit bike ride, and the unbelievably moving finale for which there won't be a dry eye in the house. Whether seen for the first time or the hundredth, many of you won't have seen it on the big screen. It is a big screen treat you mustn't miss. It's an August afternoon in 2011; what else are you going to do, go on holiday? Come instead to ET's most exciting (cycling) holiday on earth.



The Conspirator

Wed 10 2.00



In the wake of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, seven men and one woman are arrested and charged with conspiring to kill the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State. The lone woman charged, Mary Surratt (Wright) owns the boarding house where John Wilkes Booth (Kebbell) and others met to plan the simultaneous attacks. Against the ominous back-drop of post-Civil War Washington, newly-minted lawyer, Frederick Aiken (McAvoy), a 28-year-old Union war-hero, reluctantly agrees to defend Surratt before a military tribunal. But there's something wrong. She may be innocent, and he, in grave danger. Is she hostage and being used as bait to lure the only conspirator to have escaped the manhunt? As the nation turns against her, Surratt is forced to rely on Aiken.

"A very stately, bland piece of work, perhaps best shown to high school history classes." (*Guardian*)

"Makes you pause and consider, not the fragility of justice and human rights in extreme circumstances, but the fusty and enfeebled condition to which Robert Redford's filmmaking has sunk."

(*Telegraph*)

"A solid, if tub-thumping, courtroom drama exploring a little-known chapter of US history." (*Mirror*)

"A handsome costume drama graced with sensitive performances and a strong central idea." (*Daily Mail*) The only faint praise, and it's from the Mail! Ignore them all. It is a solid courtroom drama. Come, you might learn something.

Director: Robert Redford
Starring: Robin Wright, James McAvoy, Tom Wilkinson, Kevin Kline
Certificate: 15
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Green Lantern

Thu 11 2.00

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Peter Sarsgaard, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Warner Brothers

The most recent super-hero to fall off of DC's factory line stars Ryan Reynolds as an American test pilot who stumbles upon an alien ring granting him emerald tinged powers, and a complementary invite into an intergalactic constabulary.

These alien peace-keepers are at threat from a giant, evil cloud named Parallax, who later on possesses Peter Sarsgaard via his forehead. Reynolds, now a new ring bearer, is transported to Green Lantern HQ where he's told by the other members, including Mark Strong and Geoffrey Rush (as aliens), that he is now a member of the Green Lantern Corps and that they desperately need his help. Several training montages later and Reynolds is ready to kick alien cloud butt.

Meanwhile back on Earth, Sarsgaard's forehead has grown to Elephant Man proportions and is quick to begin his evil scheming. So Reynolds must fly back to face him, vanquish the evil cloud thing, win over the love interest and save not just humanity, but thousands of other alien worlds. All in a day's work really. If all this sounds like tripe, it's because it is. Not all attempts at translating comic to screen are successful, and Green Lantern is an example of something with perhaps too much imagination. There aren't enough screenwriters or visual effects artists in our known universe to do it justice. (*review Jack Whiting*).



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Sat 13 2.00



This classic children's tale is always in demand, largely by grown-ups who first saw it as children. Hence may well make up the greater audience?

So you're only allowed in with a child!

Bring your own or find some.

Is this Dick Van Dyke's other 'cockney' film?

Of all people, 007's creator Ian Fleming wrote this. Must be an old Etonian thing; spies and cars that fly etc.

However it remains one of the most popular children's films ever, it is a magical musical whimsy about an eccentric inventor and his wonderful eponymous car capable of skimming the waves and sprouting wings. Following its spectacular success in the West End thirty-odd years on, it is more than a guess that "CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG can boast... we still love you!" If for nothing else, come for Benny Hill.

Director: Ken Hughes
Starring: Dick Van Dyke, Sally Ann Howes, Lionel Jeffries, Benny Hill
Certificate: U
Duration: 144 mins
Origin: UK 1968
By: Blue Dolphin

Kung Fu Panda 2

Mon 15 2.00, Thu 18 2.00

Director: Jennifer Yuh
Starring: Angelina Jolie, Gary Oldman, Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Jackie Chan, Seth Rogen
Certificate: PG
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Paramount International Pictures

The pudgy Kung Fu master is back: Jack Black voices the panda Po in this sequel to the hit animation. He is now an acknowledged warrior and local hero, while retaining an essential cuddliness and rotundity.

He is still hanging out with the Furious Five, led by the sleek and formidable Tigress, voiced by Angelina Jolie. We find Po still honing his martial arts skills under the direction of diminutive Yoda wannabe Master Shifu (Hoffman), but his quest to find inner peace is interrupted. He must now save China from a new enemy, the evil peacock Lord Shen (Gary Oldman).

The setting, once again, is a lost kingdom of medieval China mysteriously colonised by a global menagerie of random animals with Californian accents.

"Bigger and better than the original, Panda 2 skilfully avoids the curse of the sequel with wit and flair." (*Total Film*) "A richer plot, life lessons and loving Chinese cultural references rendered by turns sweet, scary and charming, with yet more fantastical kung fu, make this an engaging winner." (*Empire*)

"The smaller characters are often underdeveloped, particularly Po's karate compadres. And while Po is a sympathetic hero, Black's freewheeling vocal mannerisms do begin to grate." (*Time Out*) Sounds fab. Don't miss on a wet or dry summer holiday afternoon.



Tangled

Tue 16 12.30



“Despite the title, Rapunzel’s hair stays as lustrous and untroubled as something from a head n’shoulders ad; extreme girliness is of course the order of the day” (*Guardian*)

Disney has been leaning a little too hard on Pixar’s shoulders over the last decade or so, but with *Tangled*, the classic Repunzel tale, as with *The Princess and the Frog* in 2010, the studio is taking audacious steps to reclaim the torch it once proudly shone. They say the story telling isn’t quite up to *Toy Story* standards but who cares.

Erstwhile popstrel Mandy Moore voices Rapunzel, whose lonely existence imprisoned in a tall tower with only a cheeky chameleon for company is enlivened when she meets brash outlaw Flynn Rider (Levi), and sets out to discover her true identity.

Tangled adopts a humour palette akin to *Shrek*; combining fluid and captivating animation (the colossal \$160 million budget helps) with ironic jokes to keep kids mesmerized and adults in on it. Thankfully, a generous helping of sing-alongs keep everything breezy.

“Hero Flynn is cut-out but Broadway star Donna Murphy’s vain, villainous fake-matriarch is marvelous – catch her rendition of *Mother Knows Best*.” (*Telegraph*)

It’s just great fun. Bring the street.

Directors: Byron Howard, Nathan Greno
Starring: Mandy Moore
Certificate: PG
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Walt Disney Studio INTL

Larry Crowne

Wed 17 2.00

Directors: Tom Hanks
Starring: Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 198 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Optimum Releasing

Soaked in affable, artificial sunlight and dripping with the ‘can-do’ this is a vapid wish-fulfilment fantasy masquerading as a comedy-drama about the value of adult education?

It is a \$5million indie movie featuring two A-list stars, director and co-writer Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. It is also further proof that Hollywood should never let a major player anywhere near his or her long-cherished pet project. Never at any point does this movie touch upon reality. Ex-Navy cook turned U-Mart employee of the month gets the sack, swaps his gas-guzzling 4x4 for a secondhand scooter and signs up for community college, where his public-speaking teacher turns out to be Julia Roberts, who self-medicates with cocktails while her self-published loser husband surfs porn.

Being an all-round good guy, fish out of water, innocent, hard-working chap, he is instantly embraced by his young fellow students, receiving a sartorial and tonsorial makeover from the free-spirited Talia (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) and her scooter-riding pals, before catching the eye of his equally lovely teacher.

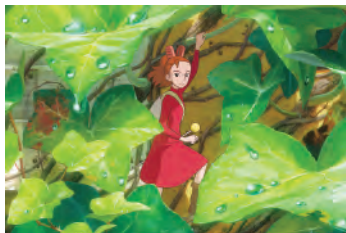
“Hanks and Roberts? Edward Heath and Julie Andrews would have more chemistry.” (*Guardian*)

“As lightweight as a salad and about as filling, amiable and predictable. Tom and Julia are as solid as ever but they won’t be winning any awards” (*Total Film*)
 Let’s hope it’s raining this afternoon.



Arrietty

Sat 20 2.00, **Mon 22** 2.00,
Tue 23 12.30, **Thu 25** 2.00



This is a Japanese animated fantasy based on *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton. Re-created here by Studio Ghibli co-founder and genius, Hayao Miyazaki. It makes a change from Disney kids films where female protagonists are princesses, peddling the corporate mould of heroines throughout its catalogue. Neither does it shy away from difficult subjects, where Disney might gloss-up versions of traditional fairytales.

Miyazaki films depart from traditional visions of heroism. Many are led by strong, intelligent, independent-minded girls. Exciting, fantastical, and beautifully animated, with the hero a girl, forsaking all macho qualities.

Arrietty is a miniature 14 year old who lives under the floorboards in a rural Japanese home. She yearns for adventures beyond the four walls, whilst her parents, Pod and Homily Clock, try to temper her sense of adventure. One of the most visually inventive aspects of the *Borrowers* tale, used here too, is its use of everyday household items; a pin becomes her sword, and cotton thread, a heavy rope. The Clock family are supposed to keep themselves out of sight of the humans, but Arrietty is spotted and strikes up a relationship with the human boy. This might change the borrowers way of life...?

"The animation is enchanting, it all makes *Cars 2* look like very primitive" (*Guardian*) (ROSA GILBERT) Don't miss.

Director: Nick Moore
Starring: David Henrie, Will Arnett, Amy Poehler
Certificate: U
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: Japan 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

The Messenger

Wed 24 2.00

Director: Oren Moverman
Starring: Ben Foster, Woody Harrelson, Samantha Morton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: The Works UK Distribution

Having survived a brush with death on an Iraqi battlefield, Staff Sgt Will Montgomery (Ben Foster) waiting for the end of his enlistment period, is reassigned to the Casualty Notification Corps. It is their duty to inform the next of kin when soldiers have fallen in combat. Will finds himself under Cpt Tony Stone (Woody Harrelson), who attempts to teach him this draining, emotionally crippling role, one which doesn't get any easier when Will finds himself drawn to grieving widow Olivia (Samantha Morton)...

Directed by Oren Moverman, an Israeli who himself saw active service, it's an intelligent and humane portrayal of the less discussed side of combat, the tragedy which befalls those who remain.

Harrelson particularly shines as a gruff, senior officer, and recovering alcoholic.

"It's a film of quietly assured dramatic clout, a strong and sober reckoning with American conscience." (*Telegraph*)

"(American) people don't want to be reminded that they're living in a country at war...not many were keen to catch *The Hurt Locker* either until it started picking up awards buzz. *The Messenger* presents a challenge, too, but hugely repays the effort. It will rate among the most sharply written and best-acted movies of the year." (*Independent*) (Simon Messenger) Definitely not to be missed.



Horrid Henry

Sat 27 2.00, Tue 30 12.30



The first ever British kid's movie to be filmed in 3D, shown here in glorious 2D.

Horrid Henry stars Anjelica Huston as Miss Battle-Axe, alongside, Rebecca Front as headmistress Ms Oddbod and Richard E Grant as rival head Vic Van Wrinkle, with Parminder Nagra as Miss Lovely, Noel Fielding (unfortunately) appears as Killer Boy Rats' frontman Ed Banger, joining Jo Brand as the Demon Dinner Lady. And introducing a whole bunch of spoilt-brat new young 'stars', including Scarlett Stitt, Ross Marron and Theo Stevenson as Horrid Henry.

All-in-all, this film hasn't been made for you or I but it is a pretty safe bet to entertain a younger relative on a classic, rainy summers day." (*PyroMag*)

"A wild, colourful and inexplicably musical romp which kids will love and parents will survive." (*Best for Film*)

"The young leads have disarmingly spot-on comic timing, and the grown-ups are obviously having a great time arsing about in stupid wigs." (*Best for Film*)

This was clearly researched by a horrid young person, but don't be put off.

Director: Nick Moore
Starring: Anjelica Huston, Rebecca Front, Jo Brand
Certificate: 15
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Vertigo Films

Horrible Bosses

Wed 31 2.00

Director: Seth Gordon
Starring: Jason Bateman, Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Spacey, Jason Sudeikis
Certificate: 15
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Warner Brothers

Jason Bateman plays Nick, who hates his boss (Kevin Spacey), who is a part of a trio of truly horrible bosses. Nick and his friends Kurt and Dale fantasise one night about dispatching them one by one. What starts as drunken fantasy; with the drink doing all the talking, becomes a full-blown conspiracy to murder. Thus they seek the advice of a murder consultant. A what? The three bosses have distinctive flaws recognisable to most who have harboured fantasies about killing their employers; one is a sadistic micro-manager (Kevin Spacey), one a sexual predator (Jennifer Aniston) and the other is corrupt to the core (Colin Farrell). The bosses are mischievous tormentors of their employees. Kevin Spacey is, as always, excellent as the power-abusing Dave, and Jason Bateman is equally brilliant, if a little typecast at playing the straight-faced everyman. "Vicarious fix for pissed-off wage-slaves everywhere" (*Total Film*) "Frantic, funny and packed full of big names behaving badly" (*TO*) Sounds like the kind of fun no one ever has at work. So if you work for a complete tosspot, or are one, don't miss.



"SOUTH BERKHAMSTED - ENCOURAGING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY"?

Everything grows then stops, sooner or later, usually when it's finished; trees, mountains etc, and of course - us.

Hair, fingernails and girth apart, we stop growing after puberty. However, in the unnatural man-made sense, we keep on growing. That's how we've screwed the earth for everything it's got. It is that simple; Man thinks the earth is there for him to play with and we consent. Mankind believes in growth while all around him has stopped naturally when it reaches its full height. Man is completely out of control and doesn't believe any of it is his fault. Business people talk in glib shorthand about 'growing the business'. Town planners use the same term to 'grow' our small towns into sprawls. In early July suited, studded, open-necked shirted, 'Quattro Consults' consultants representing prospective developers, rode into town very quietly, with a proposal for South Berkhamsted. It is already Berkhamsted. Just Berkhamsted. Suddenly it has grown a compass point.

This is their opening statement pinned on a board at their three day, whirlwind 'public consultation' roadshow.

"Berkhamsted is at a crucial time in its history. The forthcoming publication of Dacorum's Core Strategy will set out how Berkhamsted deals with a range of housing and planning issues over the

next 20 years. Right now there are a range of issues affecting the town including an under provision of schools, congested roads, a lack of green open space, sporadic infill development and a lack of community and leisure facilities. If Berkhamsted does not find a viable and sustainable strategy to address these issues it may find they get more and more difficult to deal with as the town continues to grow as it has over the past 100 years."

Please read it again and notice the authoritative tone, the talking down, the warm, threatening sense of inevitability. All beautifully loaded with the onus on us to make the right decision. Not forgetting that word – grow (and three uses of 'issues', that other most loaded of all weasel words).

Why would anyone think we were being manipulated by walking in the hall? I despaired as people, like good citizens, filled in their loaded and deadly questionnaires. Once you start to answer questions (with no question marks) like "A 'village centre' inc village green, providing community and leisure facilities, convenient shop, doctors, a pub, a café and flexible office space" with five tick boxes loaded from 'very supportive' to 'very concerned', you're part of their legitimate 'consultation' game. Because some of you fell for it, they've won the first crucial round.



ONLY YESTERDAY...



This was Bridgewater Rd in June 1938 (thanks to Sarah Casserley from her grandfather's collection) and below late summer 1995/6 (Berkhamsted & Tring Times archive). One shows a picnic in the fields as the new road is cut parallel to the railway line in the first throes of pre-war development. You can just see the Castle wall in the distance. The second looking up the hill from the Castle shows the road clean of humps, bollards, roundabout and parked cars. It is tree lined as far as the eye can see. It must have been sad to see this green meadow lost to houses. Following the railway line would have been a natural place to build in those days? As you can see it was finished with generous verges with a footpath between the tree-lined avenue. Cramming wasn't the first thought then, but there were less people and the fast buck not part of village thought. Fast was not an overused word in

1938. In fact it was probably a silly, unnecessary word then. I was reminded (unreliably) when the latest UK population figures were released earlier this year that in 1960/61 it was announced in our school that the population had just tipped from 49million to 50m. Having no idea, except that it was very big, we were quite chuffed. Why? Because we were kids I suppose and that was Wow! Now it's at 63million. It took 47,000 years or so to reach 50m and just fifty years to add the other thirteen. Along with hair, nails and girth, I forgot to mention earlier, the birth rate in the growth dept. Some wag once suggested human libido should only become active for two weeks over Christmas. Then all the kids would be born around the same time, go to school together and be handy for the shops; and the News of The World wouldn't exist. Never mind, one out of four! But I am growing fonder of 'fast' being a very silly word.



VAT – THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES OR STARK NAKED...?

It seems silly now over half a year on, to be complaining and protesting about the rise in VAT to 20% (from an already crippling 17.5%) but I won't stop. It is as hateful as it preposterous. A tax on something you buy when you've already paid tax on your wages? Hang on, I've earned this money, paid full income tax, now I have to pay 20% again to spend it...? Be a Martian for a second, just landed, then get your funny shaped, one eyed, head around that one. It is nuts but nobody seems to mind? (Apologies in advance for casual racism to Martians, but not to Friday night gargoyles whose resemblance is uncanny, they could be brothers and sisters).

As cuts go, to sack the whole VAT dept would save tens of millions. Like traffic wardens and Sun reporters, they wouldn't be missed. I wouldn't care if they had to find work in sewerage. They've had the apprenticeship, shame to waste it.

VAT is included in your tickets. Until January we never mentioned it or made a fuss. So before it went up, we paid 17.5% on every one of your tickets. Perhaps insanely (according to my closest advisors) I have refused to add it to the price you pay at the bar also.

However, drinks etc will go up in September, if only to stop short of giving it away. (I got a small glass of wine in the Boat on Saturday for £5.75. Foolishly, I had loose change ready. Glad I don't get out more).

I will resist increasing our seat prices, for reasons other than our own; increased overheads etc. I refuse to take the extra 2.5% VAT from you just to give it to them. But we need to do something now, so...

To remind you how it works, and it is ingenious. You pay us. We pay them 20% of what you've just paid. Here is how it goes.

You pay £5.00 for a matinee ticket.

We pay them £1.00 in VAT.

We put this money to one side. Then at their behest, send it to them.

It is your VAT from your ticket multiplied by thousands of your tickets.

We collect it from you, for them. Truly ingenious. You don't notice, and we didn't tell you, properly, until now.

Hence, we pay administration, staff and an accountant to calculate the VAT we owe

on behalf Customs & Excise before we can pay it. Thus we pay them extra to 'collect' their blood, sweat & tears money on every ticket you buy.

In reverse we reclaim VAT on things we buy; the bar, works, repairs, upkeep, new equipment, etc. Tickets cost pennies, so the reclaimed VAT is buttons.

Not even Kafka could have foreseen this dangerous absurdity.

Are you still there?

If so or not, I'm asking you take part in this soberly considered scheme whereby you are invited to pay 50p to £1 extra as a free-will donation (donations are exempt from VAT). This will save further ticket price rises, and will give us a very important income exempt from VAT.

Please only take part if your conscience is clear you are not robbing the government. Make no mistake, if I could find a way of not paying the bastards, and avoid jail, I'd do it. "If they paid me what they're paying Them to stop me robbing them, I'd stop robbing them" (Butch Cameron/David Cassidy)

We had a surprise VAT inspection once. Satisfied we were as good as gold (theirs) he asked to stay for the matinee (skiver). Outside our normal courtesy, we made him pay his own VAT. A mean little victory, but satisfying.

There is a very attractive piggie bank and polar bear (with scarf and muff) standing on the box office counter for your secret donations. Please choose.

We'll keep a running tally and publish it from time to time.

"If you have been, thank you for listening..." (this announcement closed each episode of 'Beyond Our Ken' later 'Round The Horne' circa 1959/60/61).



WE HAVE ONLY UNTIL 29TH JULY. DO IT, SAY IT, STOP IT - NOW!

The Dft consultation Ends: 29th July
To stop this spineless High Speed
railway cutting into the heart of the
Chilterns please follow the official
HS2 protest instructions here

1. Write to you MP

This can be done electronically at www.writetothem.com type in your postcode and complete online or you can write by post to "House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA" Details of your MP can be found at Parliament website Your response should be in your own words but information and ideas can be sourced from <http://stophs2.org/facts>

2. Complete the HS2 Consultation

Consultation can be found at <https://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/have-your-say> and must be completed **before** 29th July 2011

Here is a summary of the questions you will be asked, <http://stophs2.org/hs2-consultation> Once again make sure you use your own words but **please be careful when answering, especially Question 1**

The Consultation can be completed by multiple people in a household but must be completed with a different email address (for example johnsmith@email.co.uk is different to



Fantastic protest on Sun 10th July on Combe Hill overlooking Chequers. It reads £33 bn? 80ft high.

The Dft consultation Ends: 29th July
<https://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/have-your-say>

janetsmith@email.co.uk), if you have more than one person in your household make sure that everyone completes the consultation using their own email address, or by sending by post.

3. Sign the petition

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-hs2.html>

COMMENT FROM THE BOOK June 2011 "Didn't think much of the panto – who played Widow Twanky and introduced the show...? Didn't think much of their outfit."
 (Signed: Mrs Trellis from North Wales) **Evening not specified and clearly an imposter.**
 The real Mrs Trellis is 'of' North Wales not 'from'.

**NEWS
OF
THE
WORLD**

All the hookers have been paid, twice!
 Once for the trick then again to squeal for you.
 All the charly bought (illegal, oops) to trick minor celebs, has been snorted.
 All the marriage break-ups, suicides, devastated lives you enjoyed, is yesterday's news.
 All that hot sensation masquerading as care when you couldn't care less, is gone.
 All the phones have been tapped. So now you are today's

news, and it's not going away.
 How does it feel to be hounded and doorstepped. You don't like it do you?
 One cocky little trick too far, and you're all arrested. How does it feel?
 You might even bring down your back-pocket Prime Minister, even the Met.
 And all those poor readers have lost one of their comics. They might graduate to the Sport.
 No spelling test req'd. Do they still have the vote?