

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

QUANTUM OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER...

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

DECEMBER 2008 Issue 45
www.therexcinema.com

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



Gallery	4-5
December Evenings	9
Coming Soon	23
December Films at a glance	23
December Matinees	25
Dear Mrs Trellis	36, 37

SEAT PRICES:

Circle	£8.00
Concessions	£6.50
At Table	£10.00
Concessions	£8.50
Royal Box (seats 6)	£12.00
or for the Box	£66.00
All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)	

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:

Rosie Abbott	Malcolm More
Julia Childs	Izzi Robinson
Nicola Darvell	Amberly Rose
Lindsey Davies	Georgia Rose
Holly Gilbert	Becca Ross
Beth Hannaway	Diya Sagar
Luke Karmali	Liam Stephenson
Amelia Kellett	Tina Thorpe
Jo Littlejohn	Olivia Wilson
Bethany McKay	Ashley Wood
Simon Messenger	Calum Wood
Helen Miller	Keymea Yazdanian

Ushers:

Abigail, Abi F, Billie, Charlotte, Harry, Lydia, Meg, Romy, Sid, Taylor

Sally Thorpe In charge

Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)

Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist

Martin Coffill Part-time assistant projectionist

Jacquie Rose Chief Box Office & Bar

Oliver Hicks Best Boy

Jemma Gask Key Grip

Michael Glasheen Gaffer

Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry PR/Marketing/FoH

Ian Muirhead Accountant

Darren Flindall, Michael Glasheen

Resident creative builders

Andrew Dixon, Paul Rowbottom

Artists

Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney

Advisors and Investors

Ed Mauger Genius

Demiurge Design Designers 01296 632366

Allison Nunn Publisher 07786 540418

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.therexcinema.com



The first Rex comedy night 14th November...

Marcus Brigstock thought he was on for twenty minutes. He did nearly an hour, mostly ranting. It is amazing how serious these young comics are, and how they make it funny. The two fingers are for Berkhamsted four by fours, though he didn't need his fingers to show how he felt about everything, everything else under the sun. The evening was an unanticipated success. In fact I had planned to get out when it started. Glad I didn't. Milton Jones is a treasure.

Thanks to Robin Ince who organised the whole event and kept up the comic momentum seamlessly, between acts.

Thanks too to Jane Clucas who had faith in it from the start and held it together backstage.

The next one is already booked for Thurs 8th January. Don't miss.

Welcome to our fourth birthday and the beginning of our fifth year.

I have never stopped thinking it might all end tomorrow, not from panic or worry, just we know things don't last forever. However, while films from across the world remain so good and give us such choice, it is hard to imagine an end to it. We're here as long you are. So keep forever in mind and let disappointment lie still in our back pockets. Thank you for the past four years. Here's to tomorrow. Good dreams this Christmas from all at the Rex.



Sat 25th Oct, 9.30am – the queue for the 2009 Advanced Booking List



Singalong, clapalong, jigalong, screamalong Mamma Mia, 15th Nov



🔥 Milton Jones on stage for our first stand-up comedy trial. Next one 8th Jan 09

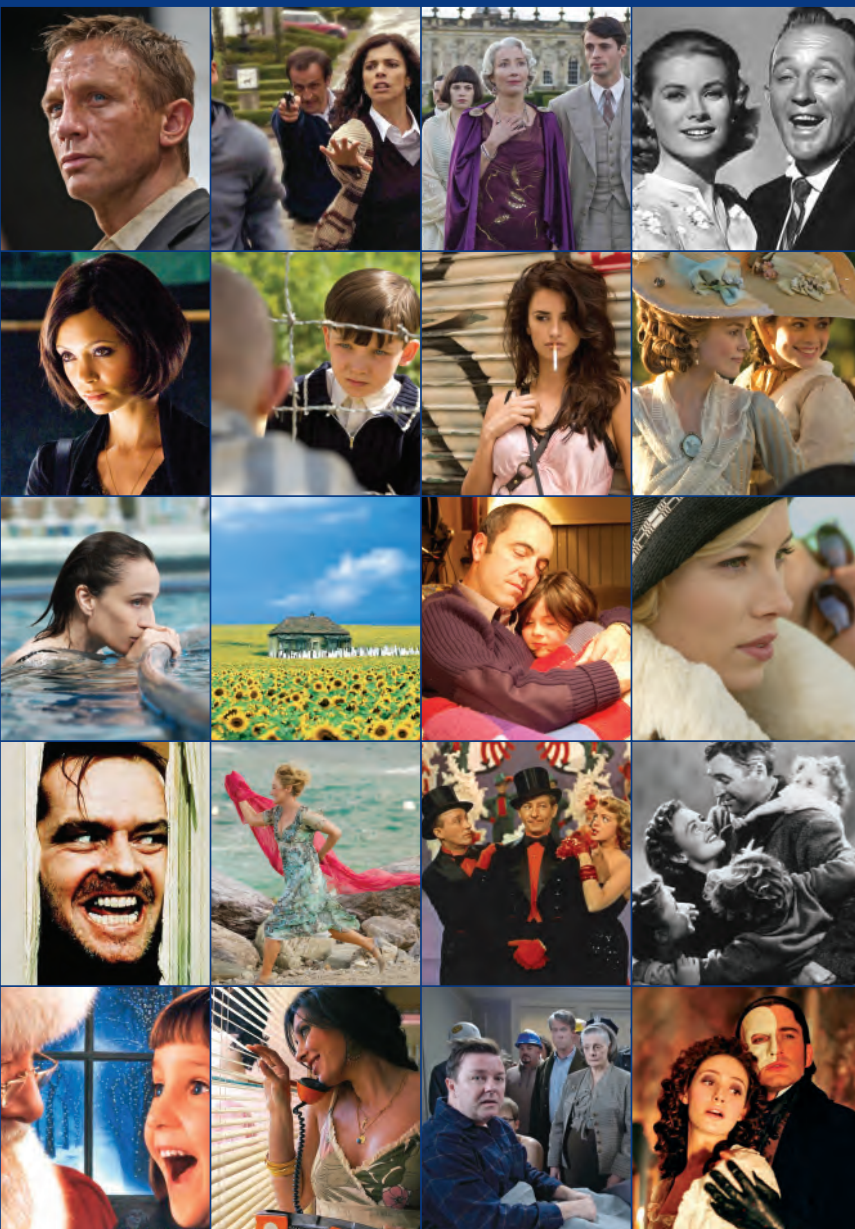


above: Jan Harlan answers questions after opening our Kubrick season with the first screening of 2001 A Space Odyssey. As producer, Jan was responsible for all of Stanley's later films, including The Shining (Sun 14th Dec at 5pm).

right: Stanley's wife, the beautiful Christiane Kubrick, brought her whole family to the opening, including grandchildren. She was serene and gracious in the face of the most banal questions, and wowed the box office children with her jewellery.

below right: Squint and you'll see Penelope Cruz left of Sandra Hebron (who? She organises the London Film Festival in glittery hobnailed slingbacks) awkwardly holding mics on stage at a gala screening of Vicky Cristina Barcelona. A fabulous film, terrible venue. The Odeon 2 in Leicester Square is a cavern of 1200 squashed seats, popcorn foyer with soft chewing gum hidden under cupholders waiting to glob all over your Sunday best. Penelope looks pretty good in real life. I know how hard it was for her to resist me, but she held on to her composure well.





D E C E M B E R E V E N I N G S

Brideshead Revisited

Mon 1 7.30



Brideshead Regurgitated (Stoppard) returns for one show in December. Will be revisited in January.

Charles Ryder arrives at Oxford, only to fall in with one of the “sodomites” he’s been warned about, namely the aristocratic Sebastian Flyte. Becoming close pals, and possibly lovers, Charles is invited to visit Brideshead, where he falls for his pal’s opulent lifestyle, not to mention his beautiful sister Julia. But his hopes of fitting in seemed doomed from the start. Icy and bigoted, Lady Marchmain has driven her son to alcohol, her daughter to the edge of madness and her husband (Michael Gambon) into the arms of a mistress in Venice!

While they’re all played brilliantly, you end up not liking them very much. Waugh’s sandpaper dry wit seems squashed, leaving us with a period romp, all big frocks, quivering upper lips and not much else.

The same tale condensed to 132 minutes can hardly compare with the 1981 extravagantly detailed television epic shown in hour long episodes over eleven weeks, and meticulously faithful to the book.

Beautifully shot and styled throughout, Castle Howard keeps it loyally familiar, but one’s heart yearns to see the exquisite Diana Quick sashaying down that sweeping staircase.

Director: Julian Jarrold
Starring: Michael Gambon, Emma Thompson, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell, Matthew Goode
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 132 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Buena Vista International

Everything is Illuminated

Tue 2 7.30

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

This small film didn’t sell out on its first outing in February 2006. I hope that first audience feels as lucky and privileged as I did. It was such a surprise. 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 film score too is his. That’s his real band playing at the station). Schreiber’s direction is unhurried and priceless – another unexpected surprise.

He clearly understands that the best films are where the direction doesn’t interfere and the actors don’t ‘act’.

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.



I've Loved You So Long

Wed 3 7.30



It has left audiences enraptured and in rags. Come in December if you want to feel the same. If you'd rather wait until January, it will be back then.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel's debut won two prizes at this year's Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why. This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is immediately halting and deeply moving. Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. As the sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Again... cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

Director: Philippe Claudel
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Blessed

Thu 4 7.30

Director: Mark Aldridge
Starring: James Nesbitt, Natascha McElhone, Gary Lewis, Lillian Woods
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Storm Pictures

Previewing here to a packed house in October with little publicity and no hype, the audience loved it.

Written and Directed by award winning filmmaker Mark Aldridge, this moving tale of loss and redemption is visually ravishing.

Shot largely on the Isle of Skye, it stars James Nesbitt in his first leading role in a feature film alongside the ethereally beautiful Natascha McElhone (introducing Lillian Woods as Charlotte). Blessed takes an insightful journey into the priceless value of connection, family and humanity.

It tells the story of Peter a successful city broker, preoccupied by ambition and success whose life screeches to a halt while he's looking the wrong way... Seeking solace and solitude in the isolation of a remote island, he begins a new life in silence until one day his world is turned upside down... again. "A beautifully shot, bitter sweet story of loss and redemption, where cast and material blend to make a powerful piece of drama" (*Commissioning editor, UK Film Council*) "Better than Great" (*Stewart Till, Chair UK Film Council*). Accompanied by a haunting soundtrack, the story gripped its first audience from start to finish. Still negotiating a worldwide theatrical release, this small independent gem with a big heart, returns to The Rex by demand. Don't miss.



REX BIRTHDAY SCREENING

Fri 5 7.30

Our fourth anniversary and we haven't a clue what we're inviting you to.

It's not the first time so you're likely to be as disappointed as happily surprised. I'm holding out for a preview of Vicky Cristina Barcelona. Frost Nixon is a close second (featuring Toby Jones).

But it might be a British classic like The Dambusters for the mischief of how they have dubbed the dog's name into the newly restored dialogue.

Butch and Sundance is withdrawn and 'sent abroad'. But these things have a habit of 'getting lost' in transit.

There are others up our sleeve, but I promise it won't be 'I'm Not There' or 'Don't Touch the Axe', or anything with Gervais or Coogan.

Come for the 'party' and see what happens...



Director:	Don't know
Starring:	No idea
Certificate:	Not sure
Duration:	Anyone's guess
Origin:	Don't know
By:	Sorry I haven't a clue



Mamma Mia

Sat 6 7.00

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

Here we go again...

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F and the acting grade K. The three men 'singing' is fun. Julie W saves it more than once. But the sun shines and the sea sparkles Med-blue the whole time. Everybody leaves unable to stop smiling. Quite ridiculous and painful... and every month since August! So come, laugh, sing along and dance in the aisles, but please... hate it just a little.



Rock n Rolla

Sun 7 6.00



When all fails, which it has for ex Mr. Madonna, then best copy your one hit wonder?

The talented equivalent of Liz H, Sienna M, Pete Doc and Status Quo has tagged a film career onto the conical chest of the world's biggest one-trick pop star by using the same three-chord storyline ten years later – with even less imagination. “Is Ritchie’s latest mockney gangster flick a return to form or a repeat offence? A bit of both to be honest. He has skulked back to the stylized milieu of his splashy 1998 debut ‘Lock Stock...’ He has also recaptured some of the cinematic brio and tongue-in-cheek swagger that made him a darling back then.”

“A tale of lovable wide-boys with daft nicknames, spouting patter and attitude until they’re given a short, sharp slap by bigger, nastier crims” (*Guardian*).

“It’s funny, stylized with an undeniable zing” (*Standard*)

There’s a missing painting, a ludicrously glamorous accountant, a few likely lads, a junkie, an old-style crime-lord, a Russian oligarch, a scouser, an over-stuffed plot and a housing boom – oops! Come in case there’s a fourth chord but don’t start whistling yet.

Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Gerard Butler, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Strong, Thandie Newton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2008
By: Warner Brothers

I've Loved You So Long **Mon 8 7.30**



It has left audiences enraptured and in rags. Come in December if you want to feel the same. If you'd rather wait until January, it will be back then.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel's debut won two prizes at this year's Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why. This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is immediately halting and deeply moving. Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. As the sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Again... cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

Director: Philippe Claudel
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Easy Virtue **Tue 9 7.30, Wed 10 7.30**

Kristen Scott Thomas and Colin Firth lead in Noel Coward's bitinglly witty and acutely observed social comedy directed by Stephan Elliot (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert).

Set in the roaring Twenties, John (Barnes) an aristocratic young Englishman, marries a glamorous American racing driver Larita (Jessica-gorgeous) after a whirlwind romance on the Cote du sur. How will Ben's snooty mother (Thomas) and put-upon father (Firth) take to their new daughter-in-law? And is she quite all she seems?

"Firth is shabbily charming in a role that requires him to slope around in the background looking unkempt... Thomas is more than up to her task...every comment dripping with acidic disdain and repressed fury.

Biel – an Art Deco dream in her costumes – is missing the fire that could have ignited this battle of wills..." (Times)

"If you can cope with the excruciating soundtrack medley, (a jazz cover of Sex Bomb?) it's a perfectly jolly bauble." (Telegraph)

Just what is needed in the run up to Christmas before the real family bickering fun kicks off.

Also of note - Easy Virtue has been shot for the screen once before – in 1928 by a certain A.Hitchcock.



Director: Stephan Elliott
Starring: Jessica Biel, Colin Firth, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ben Barnes
Certificate: PG
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Pathe Distribution



Taken

Thu 11 7.30



Directed by Pierre Morel and co-scripted by the irrepressible Luc Besson, Taken follows Neeson's former CIA agent as he sets out to find his missing daughter.

Upon learning she may have been kidnapped by a prostitution racket, Bryan flies out to Paris where he 'utilises' his considerable Bondian/Bourneian skills to track her down...

"After a careful build-up in Los Angeles, the picture moves at the speed of a high velocity bullet, preposterous, yet logically developed... By the time Neeson has dealt with the Albanians, bent French coppers assisting them and murderous Arabs taking possession of the girls on behalf of lecherous sheikhs, he's killed something like 50 ne'r-do-wells and maimed as many more." (*Guardian*) "This queasy, violent revenge fantasy becomes more preposterous as the body count rises. Taken is notable mainly for its racist stereotyping of Arabs and eastern Europeans..." (*Telegraph*). Preposterous and racist? A gritty performance from Neeson and a strong narrative ensure Taken is nothing less than it intended – a solid, exciting, entertaining action flick.

Also, watch out for yet another career defining performance from Holly Valance as the imaginatively named pop diva, "Diva". One for the 'boys' and Liam fans alike.

Director: Pierre Morel
Starring: Famke Janssen, Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Certificate: 15
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Twentieth Century Fox

White Christmas

Fri 12 7.30



This stunning restoration from Park Circus is a reminder that amid the (false) gloom that digital is taking over projection rooms, there's a company restoring old film stock into brand new prints.

White Christmas is a treasure trove of Irving Berlin classics: 'Count Your Blessings', 'Sisters', 'Blue Skies', and the evergreen 'White Christmas'. Two song-and-dance men (Crosby and Kaye) team up after the war to become one of the hottest acts in show business. One winter, they join forces with a sister act (Clooney and Vera Ellen) and travel to Vermont for Christmas.

The real adventure starts when Crosby and Kaye discover that the inn they're staying at is run by their old army general who has fallen on hard times. The result is the stuff of American dreams.

Shmaltzy, and unashamedly sentimental it is a perennial Christmas favourite with a longevity unlikely to fade.

The 1950s was America's boom decade. It must have been a fabulous time to live there: Doris Day, the cars, the romance, the Technicolor, and Sinatra at his best... and every home (in the movies) had a fridge while we were still rationing carrots and living in black and white.

Ghost Town

Sat 13 7.00

"A warm and witty little tale, nicely seasoned with a mixture of comedy and human wisdom, and starring a Manhattan lightly sprinkled with fairy dust." (*Telegraph*)

Bertram Pincus (Gervais) is a man whose people skills leave much to be desired. (He's playing himself then).

When he dies unexpectedly but is miraculously revived after seven minutes, he wakes up to discover that he can now see ghosts. Even worse, they all want something from him, particularly Frank (Kinnear), who pesters him to break up the impending marriage of his widow Gwen (Leoni).

"Ghost Town is not without panache; it's just that it's the wrong kind of panache for Gervais. It is a sleek factory product, and its American actors have the snappy confidence that makes such products work. The moment Kinnear walks on, breezy and abrasive, giving it the old Jack Lemmon chin, you know you're safe." (*Independent*)

"While Gervais is not your traditional leading man. Not a punchline comic but a master of the comedy of embarrassment." (*Times*) Hmmm.

Along with his mates J Ross, R Brand and S Coogan, hopefully he too has enjoyed his embarrassment and will take the J Vaughan (who?) route into local radio.

Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Ellen
Certificate: U
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 1954
By: Park Circus Films





Director: David Koepf
Starring: Tea Leoni, Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Paramount International Pictures



Stanley Kubricks: The Shining

Sun 14 5.00



As our December listings are always particularly cheery, it was going to be a challenge to find a lightweight and festive Kubrick. Why then *The Shining* this Yuletide? "...Because it's got snow in it." (*Anon - Rex Box Office*)

Very loosely based on Stephen King's novel of the same name, *The Shining* stars Jack Nicholson as writer Jack Torrance who, after accepting a job as its seasonal caretaker, moves his family up to the monstrous Overlook Hotel for the winter...

Not long after moving in, Jack's son Danny begins to have telepathic premonitions, and ghostly figures begin to appear in the hotel. What is the significance of Danny's newfound imaginary friend? And why has he been warned away from Room 237? And for that matter, what exactly is that man in the bear suit doing to the bartender...? That opening sequence, those little girls, that elevator flood, that phrase on Jack's typewriter, that axe-welding moment; almost every shot of the film is iconic – *The Shining* is a classic of the horror genre and a hugely unsettling one at that. Sheer brilliance. Come and see it on the big screen where Kubrick's exquisite Steadicam belongs.

Director: Stanley Kubrick
Starring: Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duavall, Danny Lloyd, Scatman Crothers
Certificate: 18
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: USA 1980
By: Warner Brothers

La Zona

Mon 15 7.30

Director: Rodrigo Plá
Starring: Maribel Verdú, Daniel Tovar
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: Mexico 2007
By: Soda Pictures

Mexico City – the present day. December 2008. So ‘now’ is the word you should take home with you! The dangerously poor eke an existence out of the slums; the rich live scared but safe inside heavily fortified gates – The Zone (La Zona). This contemporary satirical thriller directed by Roberto Plá follows three young delinquent shanty dwellers who break into La Zona. When a woman is murdered, the zone residents seek brutal vigilante justice/revenge. As always the police are corrupt, not interested and dangerous. “Rodrigo Plá has an eye for contrasts: his camera salivates over the posh houses of the zone before rising above barbed wire to reveal shanty towns beyond... More than a chase movie with a conscience, La Zona is a slick, serious-minded tale of upper-crust vigilantes protecting their gated community at any cost... a nihilistic but thoughtful portrait of a divided country...” (Time Out) “A shrewd study in group pathology...dramatically lean, mean, exciting and often shocking.” (Guardian) It never lets up or lets anyone off the hook. Expect to be angry” (Observer) Is this taut, claustrophobic thriller another masterpiece of modern Mexican cinema? Or yet more inglorious favela chic? As always, you decide, but don’t miss.



The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

Tue 16 7.30



Chronicling the forbidden friendship between Bruno, the son of a concentration camp commandant and young Jewish inmate Shmuel, this is a heartbreaking exploration of the innocence of childhood.

Enjoying his comfortable life having fun in his city house in Berlin, Bruno doesn’t like his new home in the country. A small boy, bored and curious, he decides to explore the neighbouring farm where everyone wears ‘pyjamas’. And why isn’t he allowed to talk to his new friend Shmuel...?

“The acting is heartfelt, but the film carries a heaped cargo of conceits... were camp inmates really able to slope off for a casual chat with passers-by?” (Guardian) “It’s a beautifully balanced chamber piece. The cast is terrific...and despite moments of improbable whimsy, this is a hugely affecting film.” (Times) Holocaust fiction always treads a fine line between horrifying power and mawkish sentimentality; this is no exception. For every individual marked by the more Ashridge-than-Auschwitz accents (deliberately scripted so not to distract with ridiculous ‘ve vill’ voices) many more will be moved to anger by the all too human voice of an unspeakable evil. Judge for yourself.

Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Rupert Friend, Vera Farmiga, David Thewlis, David Heyman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2008
By: Buena Vista International

The Duchess

Wed 17 7.30

Director: Saul Dibb
Starring: Keira Knightley, Charlotte Rampling, Ralph Fiennes
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Pathe Distribution

Surprisingly good with achingly beautiful cinematography, it chronicles the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Keira Knightley shines as the beautiful 18th century pseudo-royal whose life was tragically cut short in a Parisian underpass in 1997! Saul Dibb's marketing campaign doesn't quite go that far, but it sniffs.

Georgiana is an intelligent, fashionable aristocrat trapped in a loveless, contractual marriage to William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The film details Georgiana's complex ménage a trois with William and her best friend, Lady Bess (Hayley Atwell).

With some cracking lines, Ralph is surprisingly good as the dour and boorish, Charles-like Duke. Love or hate her, Keira fills those massive close-ups without a single false move from stare to bottom lip, an extraordinary show of presence.

It's not perfect – bends over backwards to be sympathetic to her, to making her almost flawless...” (*crit*) but with a starry cast, clever script, big costumes and bigger hair, and more stately homes than at which one can shake a National Trust twig, it looks – very nice. Come for it all



Miracle on 34th Street

Thu 18 7.30



This is the film twenty-somethings long for at Christmas.

Perhaps as little kids they watched it on telly and were lucky enough to be wrapped in warm snuggly jim-jams and tucked into each other, scoffing chocolates.

Today you are transported back to that one moment when the whole world stopped for a tiny euphoric hour or so. Enough to catch your breath in that remembered joy of a child's Christmas. You can't come in your jimmy-jams but you are welcome to snuggle up together.

Very loyal to the original, with few changes, the 1947 classic is transplanted to 1990s 34th Street.

Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) is chief executive of New York's world famous Macy's. Neither her nor her petulant daughter Susan (Mara Wilson) believe in the spirit of Christmas... until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all? My daughters swear he IS Father Christmas!) He does such a convincing job at the store... Uh oh, watch out!

Those who love the original will prefer Edmund Gwenn's 1947 b&w Kris Kringle (perhaps next year?). Nevertheless, this remake upholds enough of its spirit to suggest there is a Father Christmas after all...

Director: Les Mayfield
Starring: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott, Mara Wilson, Robert Prosky,
Certificate: U
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 1994
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Quantum of Solace

Fri 19 7.30, **Sat 20** 7.00,
Sun 21 6.00, **Sat 27** 7.00

They're telling us this is the most exciting action-packed Bond of all his twenty two films. It is also the worst title. One word would have done. Quantum sounds tough, sexy and mysterious on its own. Solace evokes the lone hero against the world. Of the three, I like 'Of' best. It seems this follow-up to Casino R comes from "a bad draft". The Broccoli's worrying about the Bourne trilogy, commissioned lightweight mediocre lines and heavyweights to make them work – then brought in Paul Haggis to rewrite. It appears, Marc Forster's attempt to lure arthouse audiences and make it relevant, falls flat. It takes away the gadgets and replaces them with issues. "It seems here Bond is on some global anger management course." (*BBC R4 Front Row*) Apparently, one good line comes from the baddies when they ask to be paid in euros: "because the dollar isn't what it used to be". Sounds like a barrel of laughs. Critics were sworn not to give away the ending. One said he couldn't find it and added "neither could they" (its producers). See if you can. If nothing else come for the pecs and the pout...



Director:	Marc Forster
Starring:	Judi Dench, Daniel Craig, Mathieu Amalric
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	106 mins
Origin:	UK, USA 2008
By:	Sony Pictures Releasing



It's a Wonderful Life

Mon 22 7.30, **Tue 23** 7.30,
Wed 24 6.00

Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Ward Bond, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore
Certificate: U
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
By: The Works UK Distribution



Welcome to a fifth Christmas at The Rex with the same old irresistible film.

It was a newly re-mastered print last year with no crackles or jumps. Let's hope it's the same this year. The film was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946, but became essential TV viewing in the late 70's, when Christmas chart hits were at their most christmassy.

You couldn't see it at the pictures until the independents flirted with getting it released a few years ago. Now thanks to Park Circus' beautifully restored print, we have it again as the essential build up to Christmas.

Already, it seems the Rex wouldn't be the same in the build up to Christmas Eve without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how awful Bedford Falls would be had he not been born. The simplest and best of all messages... Remember, without you and each other, things would be very different (probably better!).

As Christmas is the time for sloppy stories, come for this, the sloppiest of sloppy stories.

A very warm, safe and happy Christmas to you... from all of us at the Rex.



The Phantom of the Opera

Sun 28 5.00



I swore Andrew Lloyd-Webber would never darken this door. So much for swearing. OpAmDram groups and lovers of musical theatre will love this even more on the big screen. Then two unknown leads – Butler has gone on to show his torso and gums in 300 (that Spartan semi-cartoon epic depicting beefy men with their curtains open) As for Emmy Rossum, don't know. Sumptuous sets. Vast chorus line stuff, a few good songs, fab camera work and it's the first real day, albeit Sunday, after two days of Christmas trappings with family, turkey (same thing), telly and the latest 'gameboy'. And where only Tesco and Waitrose are only open till 4pm for more food and restocked toilet rolls. Worth it for all that. (first shown here 24 Feb 05). I'd say don't miss but wouldn't mean it. The main thing is to come out and don't miss the opportunity of not talking to each other for a couple of tedious hours in the Rex where you can't see each other.

Director: Joel Schumacher
Starring: Gerard Butler, Ciaran Hinds, Patrick Wilson, Minnie Driver, Miranda Richardson, Simon Callow, Emmy Rossum
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 143 mins
Origin: USA 2004
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Caramel

Mon 29 7.00



I think we last showed this in June when it sold out before Indiana Jones. Again it is one of those lovely surprises you get from small films about big things.

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

Layal (Labaki) has been involved with a married man; Nisrine (al-Masri) is desperate for her fiancé not to find out that she is no longer a virgin; and Rima (Moukartzel) falls for a female client. Meanwhile, regular customer Jamal is simply concerned about growing old. With a cast largely made up of unknowns, Caramel is Labaki's debut feature after years of directing music videos. Nominated for the Caméra d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, it is a stylish and witty story that vividly portrays modern-day Beirut with all its contradictions.

Don't ask, just come and be delighted by such disarming, unpretentious filmmaking and fantastic faces.

It makes Sex and the City look silly...

But then so would Noddy.

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

High Society

Tue 30 7.00

Director: Charles Walters
Starring: Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Grace Kelly
Certificate: U
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: USA 1956
By: British Film Institute

All ages must come and see this first 'pop-promo-video' on the big screen.

Just to see how old – a proper age – you had to be to be 'A film star'. And just how really cool you had to be to do LIVE music routines to camera. You might even notice it wasn't you who invented sex!

A musical remake of the screwball comedy The Philadelphia Story, starring Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart; made ten or so years earlier.

The rest is not important.

Think Louis Armstrong, Think 1940/50's innocence. Think Grace Kelly – her beauty still yet to be matched.

Think Frank and Bing. Think of a life so far outside your own, you won't recognise it as real life at all, where style is all and men's trousers cover their bottoms! Bing as the romantic lead is hard to swallow but he's cool and croons. Frank is skinny and naïve here. He has a couple of the best duets since Fred and Ginger. One classic with Bing and the other with the fabulous Celeste Holm (who has all the best lines).

Well, did you ever? What a swell party this is for the middle of suicide week.

Don't miss.



COMING SOON

New releases

Cairo, Nest of Spies
 The Hunger
 Frost/Nixon
 The Baader Meinhof
 Complex
 Changeling
 Waltz with Bashir
 Dean Spanley

Back by demand

Of Time and City
 I've Loved You So Long
 Appaloosa
 The Duchess
 Quantum of Solace

Live Comedy Night



Cairo, Nest of Spies



Changeling



Hunger

DECEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	MON	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	2.00, 7.30
2	TUE	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	12.30
2	TUE	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	7.30
3	WED	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	2.00, 7.30
4	THU	BLESSED	2.00, 7.30
5	FRI	ANNIVERSARY PREVIEW TBC	7.30
6	SAT	CITY OF EMBER	2.00
6	SAT	MAMMA MIA	7.00
7	SUN	ROCK N ROLLA	6.00
8	MON	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	2.00, 7.30
9	TUE	EASY VIRTUE	12.30, 7.30
10	WED	EASY VIRTUE	2.00, 7.30
11	THU	EASY VIRTUE	2.00
11	THU	TAKEN	7.30
12	FRI	WHITE CHRISTMAS	7.30
13	SAT	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	2.00
13	SAT	GHOST TOWN	7.00
14	SUN	KUBRICK: THE SHINING	5.00
15	MON	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	2.00
15	MON	LA ZONA	7.30
16	TUE	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	12.30, 7.30
17	WED	THE DUCHESS	2.00, 7.30
18	THU	THE DUCHESS	2.00
18	THU	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	7.30
19	FRI	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7.30
20	SAT	POLAR EXPRESS	2.00
20	SAT	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7.00
21	SUN	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	6.00
22	MON	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	2.00, 7.30
23	TUE	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	12.30, 7.30
24	WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	6.00
25	THU	CINEMA CLOSED	
26	FRI	CINEMA CLOSED	
27	SAT	HAIRSPRAY	2.00
27	SAT	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7.00
28	SUN	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	5.00
29	MON	SINGING IN THE RAIN	2.00
29	MON	CARAMEL	7.00
30	TUE	ET	2.00
30	TUE	HIGH SOCIETY	7.00
31	WED	CINEMA CLOSED	



D E C E M B E R M A T I N E E S

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

Brideshead Revisited

Mon 1 2.00

Director: Julian Jarrold
Starring: Michael Gambon, Emma Thompson, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell, Matthew Goode
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 132 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Buena Vista International

Brideshead Regurgitated (Stoppard) returns for one show in December. Will be revisited in January.

Charles Ryder arrives at Oxford, only to fall in with one of the “sodomites” he’s been warned about, namely the aristocratic Sebastian Flyte. Becoming close pals, and possibly lovers, Charles is invited to visit Brideshead, where he falls for his pal’s opulent lifestyle, not to mention his beautiful sister Julia. But his hopes of fitting in seemed doomed from the start. Icy and bigoted, Lady Marchmain has driven her son to alcohol, her daughter to the edge of madness and her husband (Michael Gambon) into the arms of a mistress in Venice!

While they’re all played brilliantly, you end up not liking them very much. Waugh’s sandpaper dry wit seems squashed, leaving us with a period romp, all big frocks, quivering upper lips and not much else.

The same tale condensed to 132 minutes can hardly compare with the 1981 extravagantly detailed television epic shown in hour long episodes over eleven weeks, and meticulously faithful to the book.

Beautifully shot and styled throughout, Castle Howard keeps it loyally familiar, but one’s heart yearns to see the exquisite Diana Quick sashaying down that sweeping staircase.



I've Loved You So Long

Tue 2 12.30, **Wed 3** 2.00



It has left audiences enraptured and in rags. Come in December if you want to feel the same. If you’d rather wait until January, it will be back then.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel’s debut won two prizes at this year’s Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why. This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is immediately halting and deeply moving. Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling’s close-knit world. As the sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Again... cancel all manner of things but don’t miss.

Director: Philippe Claudel
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Blessed

Thu 4 2.00

Director: Mark Aldridge
Starring: James Nesbitt, Natascha McElhone, Gary Lewis, Lillian Woods
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Storm Pictures

Previewing here to a packed house in October with little publicity and no hype, the audience loved it.

Written and Directed by award winning filmmaker Mark Aldridge, this moving tale of loss and redemption is visually ravishing.

Shot largely on the Isle of Skye, it stars James Nesbitt in his first leading role in a feature film alongside the ethereally beautiful Natascha McElhone (introducing Lillian Woods as Charlotte). Blessed takes an insightful journey into the priceless value of connection, family and humanity.

It tells the story of Peter a successful city broker, preoccupied by ambition and success whose life screeches to a halt while he's looking the wrong way...

Seeking solace and solitude in the isolation of a remote island, he begins a new life in silence until one day his world is turned upside down... again.

"A beautifully shot, bitter sweet story of loss and redemption, where cast and material blend to make a powerful piece of drama" (*Commissioning editor, UK Film Council*) "Better than Great" (*Stewart Till, Chair UK Film Council*).

Accompanied by a haunting soundtrack, the story gripped its first audience from start to finish. Still negotiating a worldwide theatrical release, this small independent gem with a big heart, returns to The Rex by demand. Don't miss.



City of Ember

Sat 6 2.00



Bill Murray, Tim Robbins and our own Toby Jones as the gloriously named Barton Snode, star alongside the fabulous Saoirse Ronan (you might remember her as the best thing in Atonement) in this intelligent and stylish children's sci-fi adventure.

Adapted from the epic book by Jeanne Duprau, the second feature from Monster House director Gil Kenan is an astonishing adventure.

Ember is a city that flourished for generations as an amazing world of glittering lights. But its once-powerful generator is failing, and the great lamps that illuminate the city are starting to flicker.

Now, two teenagers must search Ember for the clues that will unlock the ancient mystery of the city's existence and help the citizens escape before the lights go out forever.

Don't miss and bring your grandparents.

Director: Gil Kenan
Starring: Saoirse Ronan Bill Murray, Tim Robbins, Toby Jones
Certificate: PG
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

I've Loved You So Long

Mon 8 2.00



It has left audiences enraptured and in rags. Come in December if you want to feel the same. If you'd rather wait until January, it will be back then.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel's debut won two prizes at this year's Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why. This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is immediately halting and deeply moving. Kristin Scott-Thomson is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. As the sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Again... cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

Director: Philippe Claudel
Starring: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Easy Virtue

Tue 9 12.30, **Wed 10** 2.00,
Thu 11 2.00

Director: Stephan Elliott
Starring: Jessica Biel, Colin Firth, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ben Barnes
Certificate: PG
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Pathe Distribution

Kristen Scott Thomas and Colin Firth lead in Noel Coward's biting witty and acutely observed social comedy directed by Stephan Elliot (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert).

Set in the roaring Twenties, John (Barnes) an aristocratic young Englishman, marries a glamorous American racing driver Larita (Jessica-gorgeous) after a whirlwind romance on the Cote du sur. How will Ben's snooty mother (Thomas) and put-upon father (Firth) take to their new daughter-in-law? And is she quite all she seems?

"Firth is shabbily charming in a role that requires him to slope around in the background looking unkempt... Thomas is more than up to her task...every comment dripping with acidic disdain and repressed fury.

Biel – an Art Deco dream in her costumes – is missing the fire that could have ignited this battle of wills..."

(*Times*)

"If you can cope with the excruciating soundtrack medley, (a jazz cover of Sex Bomb?) it's a perfectly jolly bauble."

(*Telegraph*)

Just what is needed in the run up to Christmas before the real family bickering fun kicks off.

Also of note - Easy Virtue has been shot for the screen once before – in 1928 by a certain A.Hitchcock.



Miracle on 34th Street

Sat 13 2.00



This is the film twenty-somethings long for at Christmas.

Perhaps as little kids they watched it on telly and were lucky enough to be wrapped in warm snuggly jim-jams and tucked into each other, scoffing chocolates.

Today you are transported back to that one moment when the whole world stopped for a tiny euphoric hour or so. Enough to catch your breath in that remembered joy of a child's Christmas. You can't come in your jimmy-jams but you are welcome to snuggle up together.

Very loyal to the original, with few changes, the 1947 classic is transplanted to 1990s 34th Street.

Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) is chief executive of New York's world famous Macy's. Neither her nor her petulant daughter Susan (Mara Wilson) believe in the spirit of Christmas... until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all? My daughters swear he IS Father Christmas!) He does such a convincing job at the store...

Uh oh, watch out!

Those who love the original will prefer Edmund Gwenn's 1947 b&w Kris Kringle (perhaps next year?). Nevertheless, this remake upholds enough of its spirit to suggest there is a Father Christmas after all...

Director: Les Mayfield
Starring: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott, Mara Wilson, Robert Prosky,
Certificate: U
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 1994
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

Mon 15 2.00, Tue 16 12.30

Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Rupert Friend, Vera Farmiga, David Thewlis, David Heyman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2008
By: Buena Vista International

Chronicling the forbidden friendship between Bruno, the son of a concentration camp commandant and young Jewish inmate Shmuel, this is a heartbreaking exploration of the innocence of childhood.

Enjoying his comfortable life having fun in his city house in Berlin, Bruno doesn't like his new home in the country. A small boy, bored and curious, he decides to explore the neighbouring farm where everyone wears 'pyjamas'. And why isn't he allowed to talk to his new friend Shmuel...?

"The acting is heartfelt, but the film carries a heaped cargo of conceits... were camp inmates really able to slope off for a casual chat with passers-by?"

(*Guardian*)

"It's a beautifully balanced chamber piece. The cast is terrific...and despite moments of improbable whimsy, this is a hugely affecting film." (*Times*)

Holocaust fiction always treads a fine line between horrifying power and mawkish sentimentality; this is no exception.

For every individual marked by the more Ashridge-than-Auschwitz accents (deliberately scripted so not to distract with ridiculous 've vill' voices) many more will be moved to anger by the all too human voice of an unspeakable evil. Judge for yourself.



The Duchess

Wed 17 2.00, Thu 18 2.00

Director: Saul Dibb
Starring: Keira Knightley, Charlotte Rampling, Ralph Fiennes
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Pathe Distribution

Surprisingly good with achingly beautiful cinematography, it chronicles the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Keira Knightley shines as the beautiful 18th century pseudo-royal whose life was tragically cut short in a Parisian underpass in 1997! Saul Dibb's marketing campaign doesn't quite go that far, but it sniffs.

Georgiana is an intelligent, fashionable aristocrat trapped in a loveless, contractual marriage to William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The film details Georgiana's complex ménage à trois with William and her best friend, Lady Bess (Hayley Atwell).

With some cracking lines, Ralph is surprisingly good as the dour and boorish, Charles-like Duke. Love or hate her, Kiera fills those massive close-ups without a single false move from stare to bottom lip, an extraordinary show of presence.

It's not perfect – bends over backwards to be sympathetic to her, to making her almost flawless...” (*crit*) but with a starry cast, clever script, big costumes and bigger hair, and more stately homes than at which one can shake a National Trust twig, it looks – very nice. Come for it all



Polar Express

Sat 20 2.00



When a doubting young boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole to discover the reality of Santa Claus, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery... “the wonder of life never fades for those who believe...”

Never mind all that tosh, come for the heartstopping ride to find Father Christmas.

Polar Express, with its eye-popping, animated photo-realism, tells a touching family story, based upon Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks reunites with his Castaway director to voice (and be) the character of The Conductor – who stays in charge and never betrays trust. It is a weird, quasi educational, tale about tolerance, discovery and redemption (think American). It is odd and at times a little spooky for little ones. But hold them tight and they'll be alright. You'll need somebody to hold you tight too!

The best is, it is an extraordinarily, fantastic adventure from start to finish, unbelievably spectacular on the big screen, with a very happy ending. In four short years it has become an essential part of the Christmas programme at the Rex.

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Starring: Tom Hanks, Andrew Aleson
Certificate: U
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2004
By: Warner Brothers



It's a Wonderful Life

Mon 22 2.00, **Tue 23** 12.30

Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Ward Bond, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore
Certificate: U
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
By: The Works UK Distribution



Welcome to a fifth Christmas at The Rex with the same old irresistible film.

It was a newly re-mastered print last year with no crackles or jumps. Let's hope it's the same this year. The film was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946, but became essential TV viewing in the late 70's, when Christmas chart hits were at their most christmassy.

You couldn't see it at the pictures until the independents flirted with getting it released a few years ago. Now thanks to Park Circus' beautifully restored print, we have it again as the essential build up to Christmas.

Already, it seems the Rex wouldn't be the same in the build up to Christmas Eve without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how awful Bedford Falls would be had he not been born. The simplest and best of all messages... Remember, without you and each other, things would be very different (probably better!).

As Christmas is the time for sloppy stories, come for this, the sloppiest of sloppy stories.

A very warm, safe and happy Christmas to you... from all of us at the Rex.



Hairspray

Sat 27 2.00



A little nostalgia – Hairspray was our big Christmas film last year! Where did that go?

The fat girl dances, makes good and gets the boy in this remake of John Waters' 1988 sparky, dirty and edgy original. This is not edgy in the slightest but sparky it is.

Taken more from the hit musical than his original screenplay, it zings from start to finish, with only a dull preachy bit in the middle. (The West End opened it again – last year and it runs to rave audiences). Forget the West End, our seats are better and the film has no terrible English/American accents only terrible American ones.

“Though not as scabrous, as sharp or even as musically memorable as John Waters' original, it retains much of his big-hearted sensibility (he cameos as the happy flasher)” (*Time Out*)

They're all fabulous, Nikki Blonsky wins on points but doesn't steal it from Travolta in chunky, old wife drag.

Walken's unrivalled weirdness makes it all the better to watch him dance, and the ever gorgeous Ms Pfff is not scared to act the goat.

Drop the ironing and leave the kids with a stranger...

Director: Adam Shankman
Starring: Nikki Blonsky, John Travolta, Michele Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken

Certificate: PG
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Singing in the Rain

Mon 29 2.00

Director: Gene Kelly
Starring: Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Gene Kelly
Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1952
By: British Film Institute

Its 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent silver screen.

Off screen, Don, aided by his happy-go-lucky friend and piano accompanist, Cosmo Brown (the brilliant Donald O'), has to dodge Lina's romantic overtures, especially when he falls for chorus girl Kathy Selden (saccharin Debbie Reynolds). With the advent of the 'talkies', Don and Lina's new film will be all singing, dancing and talking! Unfortunately, Lina's voice could scrape a blackboard. Kathy is brought in to secretly dub her voice – seemed like a good idea at the time. Don goes off splashing policemen (one for the gay corner there)... But uh oh when Lina finds out...! Come for her (she's the best in it) and of course Gene's big dance, for which they had to use milk with the rain so the cameras could pick the detail of the downpour. Hope it was only one take? Most of all come for the warm innocence of it all and of course, Donald O'Connor's unsurpassed show-biz masterpiece – 'Make 'em Laugh'. What better thing for all the family on this first Monday afternoon after Christmas. Don't hesitate - bring the street.



E.T.

Tue 30 2.00



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 Tues 30th December in the afternoon – what else are you going to do...?

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

OBITUARY


RICHARD WILLIAM (RICK) WRIGHT
28 JULY 1943 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

by CJH

Rick Wright was the most private member of possibly the world's most secretive rock band. For this reason his recent death from cancer was never likely to attract the media space of more mainstream celebrities – even those with a fraction of his talent and influence. And true enough, it didn't.

Wright was a founder member and keyboard player in super group Pink Floyd – a band that has enjoyed phenomenal success over five decades, selling more than 200 million albums worldwide. Despite their popularity, 'Floyd' have all too often been misunderstood and misrepresented outside of their huge fan base.

However they are perceived, there is simply no denying that their 1973 classic *Dark Side of the Moon* is one of the greatest and most influential albums of all time. It was in this era that Rick Wright was at his best – writing the haunting 'Us And Them' and 'Great Gig In The Sky.' He remained a subtle driving force throughout the 1970s and his innovative skills were vital to the success of *Wish You Were Here* (1975), *Animals*

(1977) and 1979 rock opera *The Wall*. The band endured a public split with front man Roger Waters during the 1980s, before casting aside their differences for an emotional re-union during the 2006 Live 8 event. For twenty-odd magical minutes four great musicians and once friends were back together, sharing their personal forgiveness with the world. Apparently Waters and Gilmore kept away from each other and after the gig vowed never to do it again.

David Gilmour paid tribute to his close friend: "Rick's enormous input was frequently forgotten. He was gentle, unassuming and private, but his soulful voice and playing were vital, magical components of our most recognised Pink Floyd sound. Like Rick, I don't find it easy to express my feelings in words, but I loved him and miss him enormously."

The simple way to remember a musician is to play his music. In that sense they never die. Listen to *Dark Side of the Moon* again. Rick has the best two tunes and unlike the rest of us, the album has hardly dated in 35 years... Not one for messages in song lyrics, but as they go Rick Wright's still hold true today.

(Thank you to Christopher Hannaway for sending this remembrance)

Please note: Anyone can send in contributions to the Rex Magazine, you don't have to be a relative and unless it's too long, it will stay as written – more or less. Any topic relating to film, cinema, music or the dead, is welcome.



RANTS & PANTS



QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Some lad's mag recently gave the fragrant Miss Jenkins (pictured), the off-the-shoulder routine. It was taken up by the Daily Mail in a spread with nothing to say, except that when sweet Katherine was younger she was less than fragrant?

For GQ, über twonk Piers Morgan, went in-depth to discover she stayed up past eleven some nights and fell in with a bad London crowd. Look at her. What bad crowd wouldn't enjoy her less-fragrance after eleven - or before?

This is what he said she said:

"As a naïve teenager I had fallen in with a bad crowd in (new) London... but when I signed a million pound record deal with Universal, I knew in that moment that I had to stop taking drugs... I couldn't mess it up for the sake of cocaine or ecstasy!"

Stop taking drugs for a record deal...???

FROM THE BOOK:

1 Nov 2008

To the person who nicked my umbrella on the wettest night of the year –
THANKS VERY MUCH!

P Gore, Piccotts End

27 Oct

Sod the film! Being here was the best experience EVER! Thank you! It was Truly Special!

Anon

... Not if you lose your umbrella on the wettest day of the year!

Thanks for these. It would seem we owe P Gore a gamp.

Not to dwell on the Brand/Ross dept, but from all of its flaccid topshopenanigans one thing sticks out – who is at the top, why are they and how did they get there? Some woman resigned can't remember her name. She was head of Radio2. Why does Radio2 need a Head-of? It just runs. Everyday is the same. The same is fabulous. It is a reassurance that tomorrow will come and that voice will say things between records whatever state we're in.

Mrs Head-of resigned in a northern holier-than-thou bluster standing by her pride.

In an interview when it all blew up I heard her say how proud she was to have brought R2 into the 21st century. What the ross does that mean? Nothing needs bringing into this or any century. Things make their own way in their own time. We don't need to be brought in or up to date or pandered to by 'yoof programming'. The old aren't old, they are there because they can speak and talk to anybody on any level. The ambitious brash will find its own way. There's no need to make way for it. Who gives a basil brush what they think? They couldn't give a flying russell what we think as long as they bring us up to their date. My antn'dec winterbottom to all of you!

Anyone so obscenely overpaid for doing ross-all to please the lowest common dykeominator is a complete brander, an ecclestone of the lowest order and deserves every tamsin bernie, davina coming to them. Happy ricky Christmas.

HUMPH'S YULETIDE QUOTE...

"... As the buttocks of time clamber on to the photocopier of destiny and the secretary of fate returns to the annual two-minute broom cupboard of eternity.... I notice it's the end of the year."