

THE REX

PROGRAMME



GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

"possibly Britain's most beautiful cinema." (BBC)
Britain's Best Cinema - Guardian Film Awards

DECEMBER 2017 • ISSUE 153
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759

Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 16-17

Rants & Pants 26-27

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30

Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle £9.50

Concessions/ABL £8.00

Back Row £8.00

Table £11.50

Concessions/ABL £10.00

Royal Box Seat (Seats 6) £13.00

Whole Royal Box £73.00

Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs £6.50, Royal Box £10

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

Director: James Hannaway
01442 877999

Advertising: Chloe Butler
01442 877999

Artwork: Demiurge Design
01296 668739

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

"Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever.." (STimes Culture)

BEST IN DECEMBER



Mystery Anniversary Film

(Our 13th 'birthday' - 14th Christmas!!) Unknown pre-release feature film. As you have before, take a chance, book and guess with us...? See page 11

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Blade Runner 1 & 2

A fantastical Blade-Sunday double bill. See them back to back then join your own dots....

See page 8



Thor: Ragnarok

The best, funniest, most entertaining Marvel comic mix yet from: Taika Waititi creator of What We Do in The Shadows. See page 9



Love Actually

Tripe actually, but apparently loved by thousands of soppy Christmas film fans everywhere...?

See page 24



Pretty Woman

Goopy too, but a happy ending to send us into the bravest of New Years. The first (ok, second) bad-hair threat to mankind in 80 years.

See page 25



DECEMBER FILMS



Blade Runner 2049 (alone)

It only took about 30 years for Blade Runner to cement itself as one of the greats; largely ignored upon release. No such qualms here, this is an instant classic.

The same number of years has passed in Philip K. Dick's sci-fi future, we follow LAPD Officer K (Ryan Gosling) as he tracks and executes rogue 'replicants', originally designed to serve humankind.

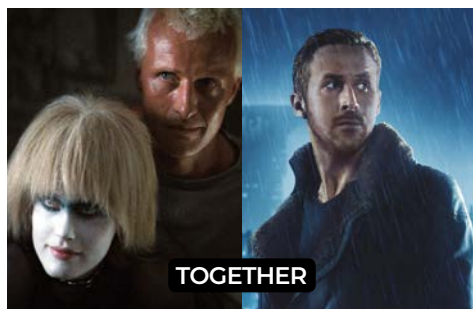
These automata, who have developed their own consciousness, simply want to live as we do.

But K soon uncovers a secret that could plunge society into chaos. All the clues lead to Harrison Ford's... Deckard. Expanding upon the themes of the original including intimacy; our attachment to memories and how it defines our humanity, 2049 is a philosopher's wet dream.

Every frame of this mesmerising, meticulous mindbender is a visual feast to gorge on; the dystopian landscapes stretch out from the screen, piercing your eyeballs; the soundtrack is not so much music as a collection of ambient rumbles that perfectly accompany the slick cinematography.

It's a slow-burn film noir, and one of the great (non) sequels of our time. (*research Jack Whiting*) If you have, this is not the time to miss it twice. If you haven't, you will want that 'wet dream' again. Come.

Director: Denis Villeneuve
Cast: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Ana de Armas, Robin Wright, Jared Leto
Duration: 163 mins
Origin: USA/UK/Canada 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing



Blade Runner: Final Cut & Blade Runner 2049

We're inching closer to 2019, when Blade Runner is set, and yet flying cars and slave androids are still the stuff of electric dreams.

Harrison Ford is Rick Deckard, a bounty hunter tasked with eliminating a group of replicants (androids) who have escaped from servitude and are now residing somewhere in a rain drenched, neo-noir Los Angeles. These replicants, led by a sympathetic Rutger Hauer, have developed their own consciousness, some even believing they are human. It's a theme that has been explored in many sci-fi stories but Blade Runner delivers it with a mature subtlety. Ridley Scott's seminal sci-fi opus was unfairly ignored upon initial release in 1982 but eventually found its feet on home video. It has since filtered through many editions and re-releases until this, the 'final' and finest cut, which Scott himself edited together; removing many unnecessary components such as the narration, and replacing the original's happy ending with an existential one. It is a film rich with texture and atmosphere; Scott's attention to detail and Vangelis' moody score lift Philip K. Dick's novel to new heights and it still looks impossibly gorgeous. (*research Jack Whiting*)

BLADE RUNNER: FINAL CUT

Director: Ridley Scott
Cast: Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Sean Young
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 1982
Certificate: 15
Company: Warner Bros

When...
Fri 1 7.30 **Sat 2 7.00**
Wed 6 2.00

When...
Sun 3 3.00 with 20 minute interval



Thor: Ragnarok

Third time really is the charm. After a couple of misguided attempts to bring Thor to the screen, Marvel has finally given the God of Thunder his due.

The solution? Make it a comedy (one that’s funny). This version hugely benefits from a complete tonal one-eighty, thanks to Taika Waititi – the Kiwi comedian who gave us one of last year’s best surprises (and a Rex favourite) in Hunt for the Wilderpeople and an earlier Rex fave: What We Do in The Shadows.

Chris (triple biceps) Hemsworth once again wields the mighty hammer, Mjölfnir; except he doesn’t. The Goddess of Death, Hela (wonderfully wicked Cate Blanchett) big sister to Thor and Loki (Tom Hiddleston) and all-round harbinger of destruction, obliterates his tool, and sends the pair hurtling into the far reaches of the galaxy, as she plots... It’s Gladiator meets Heavy Metal (minus the breasts) as our hero finds himself captured and forced to fight in a galactic arena run by Jeff Goldblum in vertical blue lipstick.

How will he get back home to save his people? A certain angry, green friend might be the key. It’s colourful, daft, and huge fun. (Jack Whiting)
So don’t be sniffy, don’t miss.



Director: Taika Waititi
Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston, Mark Ruffalo
Duration: 130 MINS
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Sat	2	2.00
Fri	15	7.30
Sat	16	2.00, 7.00



Goodbye Christopher Robin

This year's highly-anticipated heritage drama doesn't shy away from depicting the background to the delightful innocence of Winnie-the-Pooh.

After the success of 'Saving Mr Banks', 'Goodbye Christopher Robin' follows, with a similarly raw sadness behind the magic. Domhnall Gleeson's performance as author AA Milne is both charming and heartbreakingly convincing. Struggling with PTSD from the trenches, Milne is determined to publish an anti-war piece upon his return from the horrors of the 1917 battlefield, much to the dismay of his wife Daphne (Margot Robbie). It is well known that it is taken from Milne's son Christopher Robin's innocent imagination. So, one of Britain's best-loved tales was created, though the progression from an idea to an international sensation was hardly the fairy-tale it seemed to be. The newly found popularity of the fictional sensation turns their lives upside down, causing an uncomfortable family dynamic that threatens the innocence of Christopher Robin who fuelled the fiction itself. Who will protect his childhood?

"It's those dusty shafts of optimistic light that endure, bathing the film in a reassuring glow" (*Guardian*) (research Grace Atkins) AA Milne is in the safe hands of Domhnall Gleeson, we're not. It is a sad tale indeed.

Director: Simon Curtis
 Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie, Kelly Macdonald, Will Tilston
 Duration: 107 mins
 Origin: UK 2017
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Mon 4	2.00	Tue 5	2.00
Mon 4	7.30	Tue 12	7.30



Illustrations Mary Casserley

ANNIVERSARY EVENT

13 years in the being and doing and we're wondering what lucky film will be privileged to preview for us at this 2017 Rex anniversary.

It may well be Oscar material, but won't be a freaky Emporer's new-clothes contender.

It might be hard to beat *The King's Speech* (2010) and *Slumdog Millionaire* (2009) (with personal congratulations from Danny Boyle and his Oscar winning Sound Designer, Glen Freemantle here on the night) Then there was *The History Boys* in 2006 when Alan Bennett came as he did again for *The Lady In The Van* two years ago!

Our first sensational preview in 2004 was George Clooney's directorial debut and multi Oscar winner: *Goodnight and Goodluck*, which, in the light (or dark) of Trump et al, we might have to show again. Right now (before going to print) the film is still unknown. Come all the same take a chance with us. The Rex is here all year round and you're welcome always no matter what.

When...

Tue 5 7.30





Director: Armando Iannucci
 Cast: Steve Buscemi, Jeffrey Tambor, Simon Russell Beale, Michael Palin, Jason Isaacs, Andrea Riseborough
 Duration: 107 mins
 Origin: France/UK 2017
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Entertainment One

The Death of Stalin

Writer and director Armando Iannucci returns in impeccable form with his hilariously skewed history lesson, detailing the events leading up to and the chaotic aftermath of the infamous Soviet leader's demise. Steve Buscemi heads up a stellar cast as Nikita Khrushchev, the first secretary of the Communist Party who is granted the daunting task of organising Stalin's state funeral. With every move under fierce scrutiny from Vyacheslav Molotov (of explosive 'cocktail' fame, played by a menacingly Pythonesque Michael Palin) police chief Lavrentiy Beria and Jeffrey Tambor's idiotic George Malenkov, a power struggle emerges within the Kremlin. Those familiar with superb political send-up *The Thick of It* and its feature adaptation *In the Loop* will instantly recognise the hallmarks of Iannucci's writing; tinges of sharp-witted dialogue and streaks of extreme profanity littered throughout, making for a brilliantly bizarre pageant of madness. Smartly drawing parallels between the politics of certain contemporary leaders and those of long-dead oppressive regimes, *The Death of Stalin* entertainingly and successfully argues that once you strip away the banners, badges and bravado, they are hard to tell apart.

"Acted with icy and ruthless force by an A-list lineup who squeeze every gorgeous horrible drop." (*Guardian*) (research Chris Coetsee) Don't miss a drop. Terrifying and delicious.

When... Thu 7 2.00
Wed 6 7.30 Thu 7 7.30



Geostorm

It's getting colder outside, and the long nights are drawing in. Yet that's nothing compared to the struggle with climate change in this absurd disaster schlockfest.

Geostorm - which attempts to be every possible apocalyptic weather-based disaster movie at once - exists in a world where a system of satellites called the 'Dutch Boy' control the globe's weather. What could go wrong? Well, apparently everything. For starters, an Afghani village in the middle of the desert is frozen solid, then Hong Kong is decimated in a firestorm, and hail stones the size of a car level Tokyo. So far, so Roland Emmerich. In a bid to save the planet, the US President (Andy Garcia) must get hold of the only man who can fix the faulty space station - its engineer, Jake Lawson. Trouble is he's played by Gerard Butler, so naturally he's a grizzled, alcoholic, yet caring-for-his-daughter engineer who doesn't take any crap and is reluctant to take orders. The only thing more reliable than bad weather is bad movies, and in that respect, Geostorm is right on forecast. It's on a Friday night - 'so bad it's good' will fit right in. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Dean Devlin
Cast: Gerard Butler, Ed Harris, Zazie Beetz
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 12A
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Fri 8 7.30



Arthur Christmas

Welcome back to Aardman Animations and Sony Pictures Animation teamwork on this whimsical, and fabulous festive tale of the 'Family Christmas'.

It's the night before Christmas, and the logistical complexity of Father Christmas' (Jim Broadbent) annual trek is laid bare. How DOES he get all those presents to all those children all over the world? Ah ha... His eldest son, technocrat Steve (Hugh Lawrie), runs the entire operation with military precision and a covert army of elves equipped with much high-tech gadgetry. When one present goes astray, youngest son Arthur (James McAvoy) takes it upon himself to ensure that one little girl will not be left out on Christmas morning...

Masterfully written by Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith, and fantastically rendered, Arthur Christmas has much to delight the tiniest to the eldest.

"It's playful, observant, sentimental without being slushy, and boasts the kind of jokes that will still sound funny when your children quote them in April." *(Telegraph)*

"Aardman films' yuletide offering is both a heartwarmer and a sly dig at the gospel of family togetherness, a witty wonder of invention." *(Independent)*. Watch the elves spring into Mission Impossible stuntmen as a child begins to wake, and make note of Steve Christmas's festive goatee.

Director: Sarah Smith
Voices: James McAvoy, Jim Broadbent
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2011
Certificate: U
Company: Park Circus Films

When...

Sat 9 2.00



Murder On The Orient Express

There are moustaches, and then there is Kenneth Branagh's. His wonderfully distracting, textured facial fluff is the true standout of this flashy, all-star locomotive (and true to Agatha's original narrative).

We're no strangers to Agatha Christie's carriage based mystery; not only TV Poirot's Ronald Suchet has solved the case, but the 1974 Sidney Lumet/ Albert Finney show is no slouch. Branagh brings a fresh lick of 65mm paint to the proceedings.

It is rich in gorgeous colours with a stellar cast that certainly matches Lumet's in its lustre – with Depp and Pfeiffer particularly suspicious – while the likes of ballet superstar Sergei Polunin, and our very own Dame Judi get little opportunity to strut their stuff. They don't make too many whodunits like this anymore. But let's face it, you're here for the moustache; that epic special effect dwarves the grooming efforts of Finney and Suchet combined; his flowering hedge is a thing of such tortured splendour that it should be up for its own award. So when the film begins to lull, just focus your attention on those bristles. *(research Jack Whiting)* Peter Ustinov remains the best Hercule P. (Evil Under The Sun 1982) Same yarn different boat.

Director: Kenneth Branagh
 Cast: Kenneth Branagh, Penélope Cruz, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Josh Gad, Derek Jacobi, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley
 Duration: 114 mins
 Origin: USA/Malta 2017
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Sat 9	7.00	Tue 12	2.00
Sun 10	6.00	Wed 13	2.00
Mon 11	2.00	Thu 14	2.00
Mon 11	7.30	Sat 30	2.00



Call Me By Your Name

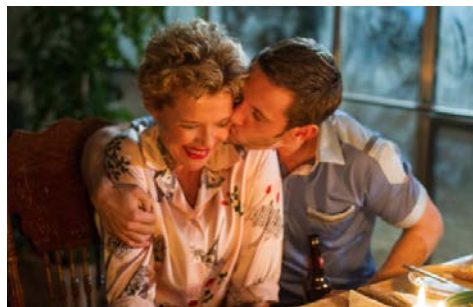
This absolute peach of a film is both casually paced - like the lazy Italian summer it's set in - and ferociously intense. It's rare to find a love story with such sophisticated sensuality.

Based on André Aciman's novel of the same name; Luca Guadagnino, follows *I Am Love*, and *A Bigger Splash* with this story of man meets boy. It's the summer of '83 and Armie Hammer's architectural academic Oliver has landed an internship with avuncular professor Perlman (Michael Stuhlbarg), and even though he keeps his powder dry while undertaking work on this grand estate, his attentions are snatched by his employer's son, the precocious, spindly 17-year-old Elio (Timothée Chalamet). Though the couple are careful to keep their clinches to the shadows, Guadagnino allows his camera a front-row centre seat to the physical blossoming of their burgeoning amour. This is a film about how true love transcends verbal discourse and pulses between star crossed lovers like invisible radio waves. Beautiful scenery, lots of wine and smoking all wrapped in a sumptuous soundtrack, with songs by the softly spoken Sufjan Stevens. Stay for the credits, the real emotional gut punch lies there. *(research Jack Whiting)* So don't leave.

Director: Luca Guadagnino
Cast: Armie Hammer, Timothée Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg
Duration: 132 mins
Origin: Italy/France/Brazil/USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Wed 13 7.30 **Thu 14** 7.30



Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool

Paul McGuigan's enchanting retelling of the true-life romance between a battling young actor and Oscar-winner Gloria Grahame (Annette Bening).

Liverpool, 1981. About to take the stage in *The Glass Menagerie*, Grahame is suddenly struck down in pain. Shunning her pride, she calls upon her estranged lover Peter Turner (Jamie Bell) to stay at his family home nearby with his mum Bella (Julie Walters) and husband Joe (Kenneth Cranham) while she recuperates. As Jamie reflects on the memories of their once-vibrant love affair, he grapples not only with the emotions brought up by her struggle for survival, but also his duty to make contact with her family abroad, against Gloria's wishes. Sticking closely to Turner's 1986 memoir, McGuigan uses a series of flashbacks to stitch together a theatrical tale of lost romance, one sure to evoke memories of the old classics and to bring to the fore a filmic tenderness once a staple of Grahame's now distant Hollywood era.

"First rate performances from the two leads, and a fine supporting cast, confirms this as an awards season contender." *(Screen International)* *(research Chris Coetsee)* A published memoir destined for the silver screen, and so it is, but fabulous. Don't miss. You'll see Gloria, glorious in 'Wonderful Life' at Christmas.

Director: Paul McGuigan
Cast: Annette Bening, Jamie Bell
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: UK 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Sun 17 6.00 **Mon 18** 7.30
Mon 18 2.00 **Tue 19** 2.00

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

BLADE RUNNER 2049
PADDINGTON 2
GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER
ROBIN
OUR LAST TANGO
IN BETWEEN

NEW RELEASES

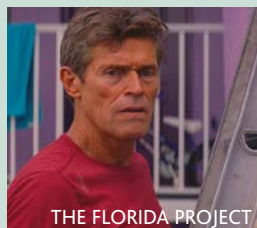
JUSTICE LEAGUE
MOUNTAIN
THE FLORIDA PROJECT
STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI
STRONGER



JUSTICE LEAGUE



STRONGER



THE FLORIDA PROJECT



STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI



THE ODYSSEY

C I N E M A S T A L B A N S

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

DECEMBER	FILM	TIME
1 FRI	THOR: RAGNAROK	7.30
2 SAT	THOR: RAGNAROK	2.00, 7.00
3 SUN	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	1.00
3 SUN	THE DEATH OF STALIN	5.00
4 MON	THE DEATH OF STALIN	2.00, 7.30
5 TUE	VICTORIA & ABDUL	12.00, 7.30
6 WED	A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS	2.00, 7.30
7 THU	THE DEATH OF STALIN	2.00, 7.30
8 FRI	MARSHALL	7.30
9 SAT	FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL	2.00, 7.00
10 SUN	DOUBLE BILL – BLADE RUNNER: FINAL CUT BLADE RUNNER 2049	4.30 8.00
11 MON	LOVING VINCENT	2.00, 7.30
12 TUE	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	12.00, 7.30
13 WED	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00, 7.30
14 THU	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS* (HOH)	2.00
14 THU	THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER	7.30
15 FRI	A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS	7.30
16 SAT	THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL	2.00
16 SAT	PREDATOR	7.00
17 SUN	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	1.00, 5.00
18 MON	CALL ME BY YOUR NAME	2.00, 7.30
19 TUE	LOVE ACTUALLY	2.00
19 TUE	A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS	7.30
20 WED	PADDINGTON 2	11.00
20 WED	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	3.00
20 WED	LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30
21 THU	ELF	11.00
21 THU	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	3.00
21 THU	NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION	7.30
22 FRI	HOME ALONE	3.00
22 FRI	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (1947)	7.30
23 SAT	ELF	2.00
23 SAT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.00
24 SUN	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00
25 MON	CLOSED – MERRY CHRISTMAS!	
26 TUE	CLOSED – BOXING DAY	
27 WED	PADDINGTON 2	3.00, 7.30
28 THU	PADDINGTON 2	11.00
28 THU	MY FAIR LADY	3.00
28 THU	THOR: RAGNAROK	8.15
29 FRI	BATTLE OF THE SEXES	3.00, 7.30
30 SAT	PADDINGTON 2	2.00
30 SAT	BATTLE OF THE SEXES	7.00
31 SUN	THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT	5.00

*Hard of Hearing subtitled screening (HOH) The same format applies but with closed caption subtitles along the bottom of the screen

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

BOX OFFICE:

01442
877759



DECEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 FRI	BLADE RUNNER 2049	7.30	8
2 SAT	THOR: RAGNAROK	2.00	9
2 SAT	BLADE RUNNER 2049	7.00	8
3 SUN	DOUBLE BILL – BLADE RUNNER: FINAL CUT BLADE RUNNER 2049	3.00	8
4 MON	GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN	2.00, 7.30	10
5 TUES	GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN	2.00	10
5 TUES	ANNIVERSARY SURPRISE!	7.30	11
6 WED	BLADE RUNNER 2049	2.00	8
6 WED	THE DEATH OF STALIN	7.30	12
7 THU	THE DEATH OF STALIN	2.00, 7.30	12
8 FRI	GEOSTORM	7.30	13
9 SAT	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	2.00	13
9 SAT	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	7.00	14
10 SUN	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	6.00	14
11 MON	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00, 7.30	14
12 TUES	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00	14
12 TUES	GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN	7.30	10
13 WED	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00	14
13 WED	CALL ME BY YOUR NAME	7.30	15
14 THU	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00	14
14 THU	CALL ME BY YOUR NAME	7.30	15
15 FRI	THOR: RAGNAROK	7.30	9
16 SAT	THOR: RAGNAROK	2.00, 7.00	9
17 SUN	FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL	6.00	15
18 MON	FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL	2.00, 7.30	15
19 TUES	FILM STARS DON'T DIE IN LIVERPOOL	2.00	15
19 TUES	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	7.30	18
20 WED	ELF	2.00	18
20 WED	A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS	7.30	19
21 THU	THE POLAR EXPRESS	2.00	20
21 THU	DIE HARD	7.30	20
22 FRI	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.30	21
23 SAT	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (1994)	2.00	22
23 SAT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.00	21
24 SUN	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	5.00	21
25 MON	CLOSED – MERRY CHRISTMAS!		
26 TUES	CLOSED – BOXING DAY		
27 WED	PADDINGTON 2	2.00	23
27 WED	LOVE ACTUALLY	7.30	24
28 THU	PADDINGTON 2	2.00, 7.30	23
29 FRI	PADDINGTON 2	2.00, 7.30	23
30 SAT	MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS	2.00	14
30 SAT	BABY DRIVER	7.00	24
31 SUN	PRETTY WOMAN	5.00	25

COMING SOON TO THE REX

BACK BY DEMAND

BLADE RUNNER 2049
PADDINGTON 2
GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER
ROBIN
OUR LAST TANGO
IN BETWEEN

NEW RELEASES

BATTLE OF THE SEXES
JUSTICE LEAGUE
MOUNTAIN
THE FLORIDA PROJECT
STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI



THE FLORIDA PROJECT



STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI



MOUNTAIN



JUSTICE LEAGUE



Buena Vista Social Club

When a handful of veteran musicians assembled in the run-down Egrem Studio in central Havana in 1998, no one foresaw that they would introduce a global phenomenon, which has now sold over eight million copies worldwide! A group of legendary

Cuban musicians, some as old as their nineties, were brought together by Ry Cooder to create 'Buena Vista Social Club', an anthology of songs written by the artists themselves that has gone on to become the biggest-selling Cuban album ever. In 1998, infatuated by the Cuban music scene, Cooder invited renowned German director Wim Wenders to film the recording sessions of band member Ibrahim Ferrer, with the help of cinematographer Robert Müller. This led to interviews with artists across Havana, and moving moments capturing the performers in New York for the first time.

A box office hit, the feature won best documentary at the European film awards, as well as an Academy Award nomination and several other accolades. "Infectious, intoxicating joy is conveyed in every frame of this ravishing, exuberant documentary." (*New Times LA*)

In places the camera waves out of control, and the constant featuring of Ry Cooder grows tedious, but come and fall in love with Buena Vista's irresistible faces.

Director: Wim Wenders
Cast: Ry Cooder, Compay Segundo, Ibrahim Ferrer, Rubén González
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: Germany/USA/UK/France/Cuba 1999 (Subtitled)
Certificate: U
Company: Axiom Films

When...

Tue 19 7.30



Elf

One Christmas Eve a small baby at an orphanage crawls into Santa's bag of toys, only to be accidentally carried back to Santa's workshop at the North Pole. Although he is raised to be an elf, as he

grows to be ten times bigger than everyone else it becomes clear that Buddy (Ferrell) will never truly fit into the elf world. One Christmas, Buddy finally decides to find his real family, and sets off for New York City to track down his roots, but soon finds himself as much an outsider there as back at the North Pole. In fact, everyone in New York seems to have forgotten the true spirit of Christmas.

So Buddy takes it upon himself to win over his family, realise his destiny, and save Christmas.

Another family delight with Will Ferrell gangling in every direction to make the whole film into fabulous chaos. Very silly and very funny, and somehow his antics get funnier with every year.

Don't dare miss this fabulously silly Christmas treat, this year, at both the Rex and Odyssey.

Director: Jon Favreau
Cast: Will Ferrell, James Caan
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2003
Certificate: PG
Company: Entertainment Film Distributors

When...

Wed 20 2.00



A Bad Moms Christmas

Deck the halls with boughs of mischief. The *Bad Moms* team are back, and they've brought with them their own mothers.

Just like the first one, *Bad Moms Christmas* is about ridiculously appealing actresses doing all they can to wring jokes from predictably raucous situations. The woefully inadequate parents Amy, Kiki and Carla, played by Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn have returned. Now their own terrifying mothers are coming to stay for Christmas, played by Christine Baranski, Cheryl Hines and Susan Sarandon. They are respectively named Ruth, Sandy and Isis, which she helpfully qualifies; "...like the terrorists".

Ruth makes it clear that she wants to take over. She invites over a hundred people to a grotesquely expensive catered event at Amy's house and has even booked Kenny G in person – "less expensive than you might think". She also insists that Amy take part in some absurdly middle class American 'carolling' competition, in which she will have to dress in Dickensian costume. It's very silly and more than a little sentimental, but you'll be chortling frequently enough. (*Jack Whiting*). So if you think it's worth the chortle, come. But *Paddington 2*, it ain't.



Directors: John Lucas, Scott Moore

Cast: Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, Susan Sarandon

Duration: 104 mins

Origin: USA/China 2017

Certificate: 15

Company: Entertainment Film Distributors

When...

Wed 20 7.30



The Polar Express

At its best, Polar Express is a heart-in-the-mouth, fantastical spooky adventure (as Christmas ghostly tales often tell). Spectacular on the big screen, with a happy ending.

At its worst, little ones (under 8s) will be thrilled here and there, but a little frightened by the clever but weird realistic detail of the animation, and other spooky stuff.

In a dream, a doubting boy boards an extraordinary train on his doorstep, to find Father Christmas.

Is it a journey of self-discovery, is it a dream...?

Polar Express, with its eye-popping animated photo-realism (one of those spooky bits) tells a story, based on Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks is the voice (and unfortunate straight face and chief spook) of 'The Conductor' who stays in charge, keeps it safe but lets the children make up their own minds about each other. It is an odd, quasi-religious tale of tolerance, discovery and redemption.

Hold little ones tight and they'll be alright.

You might need somebody to hold you too!

Remember: every fairy tale takes its beloved heroes on crazy adventures, gets them into deep trouble, then gets them out of it again to... happily ever after. Take a deep breath and come for the fabulous heart leaping ride.

Director: Robert Zemeckis
 Voices: Tom Hanks, Andrew Ableson
 Duration: 99 mins
 Origin: USA 2004
 Certificate: U
 Company: Warner Brothers

When...

Thu 21 2.00



Die Hard

Is there a better way to approach Christmas than to sit in a big comfy Rex chair, with a glass of this and that in the company of badass Bruce Willis?

Yes there is but this year it's Bruce's turn.

He plays NYPD off duty cop John McClane at a Christmas party in the Nakatomi skyscraper headquarters. The party's over early when a bunch of 'terrorists' led by mastermind Hans Gruber (the truly magnificent scene-thief Alan Rickman) takes them all hostage, apart from Bruce of course, who manages to escape, in little more than a vest, grubbier by the frame, and confounds the baddies body by body.

Considered to be one of Hollywood's great action movies, Die Hard in 1988 turned Bruce Willis into the action hero he remains today 30 years later, at 62. Try this: Arnie, Clint and Burt Reynolds where offered the role, after Frank Sinatra turned it down! Frank was a renowned scrapper and wise guy, but Ol' Blue Eyes' wrestling, leaping and hitting the deck hard - in a vest? When 'they' finally decided a balding, chunky, upstart might just be save-the-world material, they didn't like the vest...!

Hey, what do they know Harvey.

Director: John McTiernan
 Cast: Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, Alan Rickman, Reginald Veljohnson
 Duration: 133 mins
 Origin: USA 1988
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Thu 21 7.30



It's A Wonderful Life

Welcome to our 13th anniversary Christmas, with the same old irresistible film we've been showing since the Rex re-opened in December 2004.

It was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946. After the war, the USA celebrated the brave new world with fashion, cars and fridges. We had bomb-sites, functional clothes, cold water, rations, war debts and the grey 1950's but with essential, fabulous and much missed city trams.

It became essential TV viewing in the UK during the mid 70s, so a new part of Christmas itself. You couldn't see it at the cinema until independents got it re-released eighteen years ago. Now thanks to the BFI, this beautifully restored digital copy, is here again at the beautiful mechanically restored Rex and Odyssey for Christmas 2017.

Our cinema Christmas would not now be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how terrible life would be in Bedford Falls, had he not been born.

The simplest universal message: without that One, life is diminished.

Happy Christmas from The Rex and Odyssey. Have fun, go easy and here's to a George Bailey future for our grandchildren.



Director: Frank Capra

Cast: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Ward Bond and Clarence (angel 2nd class)

Duration: 130 mins

Origin: USA 1946

Certificate: U

Company: Park Circus Films

When...	Sat	23	7.00
Fri	22	7.30	Sun 24 5.00



Miracle on 34th Street

This is the film twenty-somethings, now 30-ish, long for at Christmas.

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

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 precious joy of a child's Christmas. You might not come in your onesies but you are welcome to snuggle up together.

Very loyal to the original the 1947 classic with few changes, it 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 Christmas nonsense. That is until the store hires Kriss Kringle as Santa (Richard Attenborough as the most Father Christmas of all Santas. My daughters, even now, believe he IS Father Christmas!) Sir Richard does a convincing job... watch out. Those who remember the original may prefer Edmund Gwenn's 1947 b&w Kris Kringle (at the Odyssey). This has enough spirit of its own to suggest there might well be a Father Christmas afterall... xxx

Director: Les Mayfield
 Cast: Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott
 Duration: 114 mins
 Origin: USA 1994
 Certificate: U
 Company: Twentieth Century Fox

When...

Sat 23 2.00





Paddington 2

Windsor Gardens' most famous resident returns in roaring fashion in this delightful seasonal sequel.

Paddington is now living happily as a member of the Brown Family and is adored by nearly everyone in the community. With his dear Aunt's 100th birthday fast approaching, he decides to get her something extra special: a unique pop-up book of London. Unfortunately, he is not the only one looking to get their sticky paws on the valuable book and when it is mysteriously stolen, Paddington innocently falls afoul of a dastardly scheme and is framed for the theft. Accused of a crime he didn't commit and facing jail, the unwaveringly optimistic bear must clear his name.

A magnificent cast, from it's loveable leads right down to one villainous and brilliantly narcissistic Hugh Grant, truly bring this story to life, ensuring a wonderful tribute to Paddington's creator Michael Bond, who sadly passed away in June.

Utterly sweet and fantastically funny, Paddington and his pals are sure to steal a heart or two this Christmas. Come in from the cold and bask in its warmth. Marmalade sandwiches all round. (*research Chris Coetsee*) Fantastic Chris. Great too, to see a sequel getting past the gaisayers.



Director: Paul King
Cast: Ben Wishaw, Sally Hawkins, Hugh Bonneville, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Brendon Gleeson
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK/France 2017
Certificate: PG
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Wed 27	2.00
Thu 28	2.00, 7.30
Fri 29	2.00, 7.30



Love Actually

This very silly tale has been requested by our own very silly young staff. So here it is; one more nail in the Christmas tree. Don't call the Samaritans yet. If this film doesn't tip you over the edge, you'll be safe for another year.

Richard Curtis has dragged all his old pals plus a few new faces into this award winning farce. Hugh Grant would never have been Prime Minister in Harold Wilson's day. Here, Hugh is in love with No10's tea lady, while Harold allegedly preferred the designer of his mac. I'm with Mr Wilson. Anyone can make tea, but a woman who knows her Ganex from her Burberry wins hands down! With a cast of near Spartacus proportions, this flimsy tale boasts intrigue, 'embroiled in various overlapping tales of love and woe'. With the emphasis on the lurve, not the actually and with just enough woe to inject a spark of conflict without depth, we bring you 'Love Actually'. You can escape the family just after Christmas, or bring them with you to sit in the dark for an hour or so.

Director: Richard Curtis
Cast: Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Bill Nighy
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: UK 2003
Certificate: 15
Company: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

When...

Wed 27 7.30



Baby Driver

To miss this thrill-ride on our screen is to miss a pure, imaginative and adrenalin fuelled film making at its most observant.

Edgar Wright, one of the few true, and the only British, auteurs in cinema, has fine-tuned his passion project to within an inch of its lense. Every edit, every stunt, every rhythmically timed sequence is meticulously planned and executed. His visual flair is his trademark and his eschewing digital to shoot on 35/70mm film stock is his weapon of choice. Baby-faced Ansel Elgort is behind the wheel as Baby, the getaway driver working for Kevin Spacey. His struggle with tinnitus means he's plugged into his iPod 24/7. For him that means chauffeuring crooks (including Jon Hamm and Jamie Foxx) to and from banks to hi-octane backdrop of classic pop. For us this means car chases and shootouts to the beat of the music.

It's a unique big screen experience indeed. Wright has taken 1978's The Driver, Blues Brothers and, funnily enough, La La Land and put them in the grinder. This slick motor is the result. (*research Jack Whiting*) Welcome to the last showing this year of this extraordinary big screen ride, and the Rex's film of the Summer.

Director: Edgar Wright
Cast: Ansel Elgort, Lily James, Kevin Spacey
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: USA 2017
Certificate: 15
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Sat 30 7.00



Pretty Woman

In Gary Marshall's take on Pymalion, she (Julia) discovers a sense of self worth, while he (Rick) discovers his own "core of emotional vulnerability". Well never mind all that.

You know the story, and it's back here to brighten the prospects of a brave new 2018 unlikely to be filled with too many. Landing in Los Angeles for a week of tortuous negotiation, ruthless self-confident corporate tycoon Edward (Richard Gere) hires eccentric hooker Kit (Julia Roberts) as his disarming escort, wining and dining his opponents while grooming and schooling her in the finer points of a 'better' life.

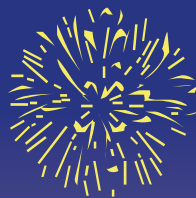
It was the 'sleeper' hit of 1989 and the film which at a stroke restored Richard Gere to the major league and made Julia into a mega-star. He's looking very young while Julia looks better now 27 years on, or is that just my new glasses.

An unashamed family-chick-flick to start New Years eve with happy tears. Save those others for midnight. But let's defy it all and have a Happy New Year.

Director: Gary Marshall
Cast: Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Hector Elizondo, Laura San Giacomo
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 1989
Certificate: 15
Company: Buena Vista International (BVI)

When...

Sun 31 5.00



A
VERY
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
FROM
US ALL
AT
THE-REX

Lost to the foyer in 2017...



MARION RICKETT

30th March 2017

Since the early 80's at the Arts Centre in Boxmoor HH, the Rickett family have been part of my life. Two of Marion and Philip's children, Joel in particular with the younger Chloe following on, would become an integral part of the place. Joel was involved in many madcap productions, a real talent from an early age, first as performer, later at only 12 or 13? would be running our drama workshops for kids, first as apprentice then on his own. Marion and Phil would always be there, with Marion supporting shambolic rehearsals and shows. She was sharp, charming and witty, never afraid to tell it straight. We all liked a drink in those days, so discussions would be lively. Years later her and Phil regularly brought friends to the Rex, and loved it here too. They were the closest family I knew and with Marion gone, there remains a huge hole. A truly fabulous woman. Missed is a word as big as those long remembered, much loved shambolic days.

"... great Mother, wife and life partner, increasingly missed, the pain never goes..."
(Phil 20th Nov)



PAUL DYER

3rd September 2017

I met Paul in the early days of the restoration of the Rex. He was part of a group of friends, family men, who'd been meeting together for years, often in the Lamb, to talk football and the rest. I would join them from time to time, for a regular six or seven pints or so! A lightweight, but I was warmly accepted at the bar. One pint after another appearing without a word, meant leaving was tricky. I would have to make out like I had a date. Paul would quip and chuckle like Sydney Greenstreet in 'Casablanca'. A thoroughbred member he was always welcoming, I was even invited to his 50th birthday in 2009. Seeing them all at the funeral felt like standing at the bar again. One by one they have been to the Rex, but Paul and his wife, Chris, were such regulars that without favour, would often manage the same seats. He was a keen fan of the Rex's film programme, sharp, quick-witted and bone dry with an easy quiet unhurried delivery, particularly when offering comic observations for me to lose five minutes later in delivery, timing and wit. Paul was a contender right to the end. Caught by that parasite cancer, he never shrank in good humour, stature or presence.

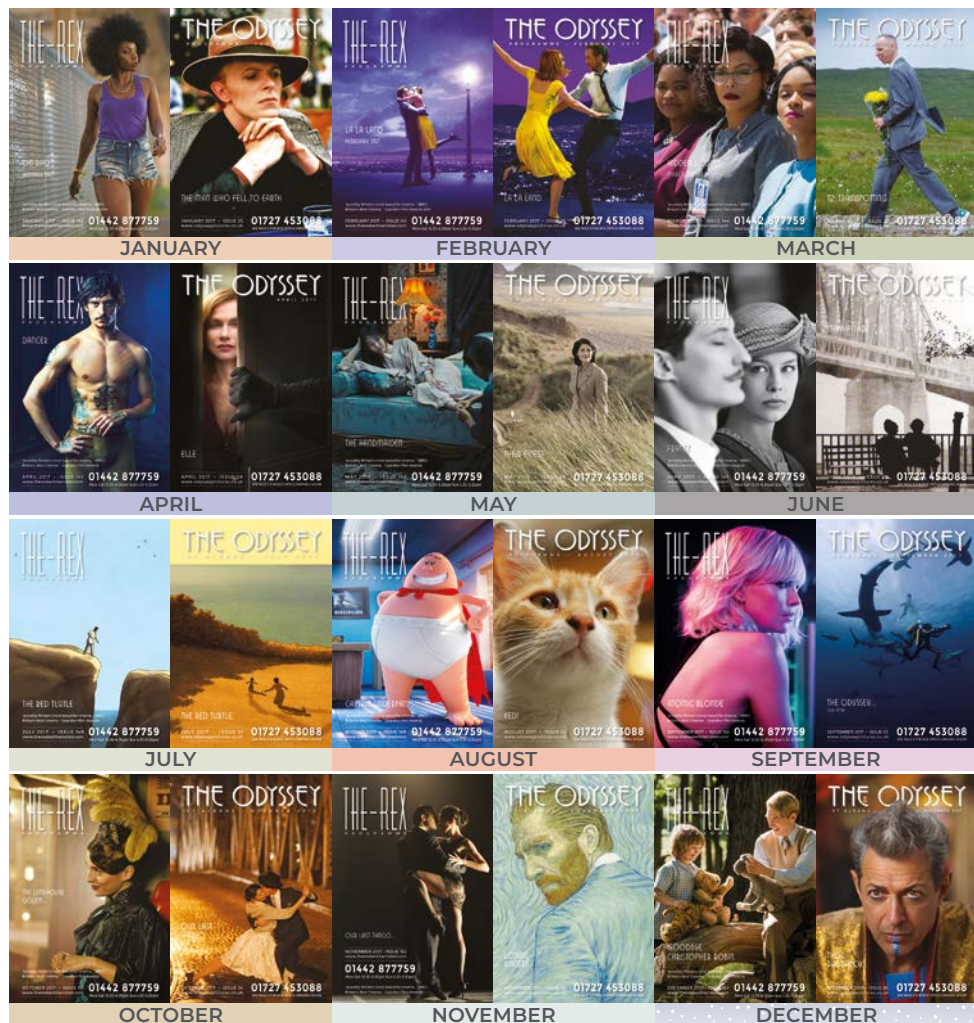


MARY SMITH

11th September 2017

Mary Smith... now there's a name to lose in the post. And we did more - than once. The Saturday market stall outside WH Smiths was set up in January 2002 to promote the restoration of the Rex. It was a haphazard affair. There was no real paperwork except for clip boards and Smiths receipt book. It was run largely by the first vertebrae of the Rex: Lynn and Jane, a unique double act lost in translation, who stood for two years in all weathers, selling the dream. Right at the start in that first cold January, Mary Smith appeared inquisitive and mischievous. Membership for year 1 was £60 and seat sponsorship £300. Mary bought membership and two seats - 660 quid in one go. Wow! Then we lost her address! Her forgiving good nature, ease to laugh, her trust and refusal to apportion blame or complain along with that mischief, endeared her to me to the end. Her easy presence is truly missed from the foyer. In a note from her husband Tony: "Mary believed in your Rex project right from the start. I thought she was mad. Thank god you both proved me wrong!"

Front Covers 2017...



Deadlines come and go, but somehow we always manage to get the magazines out in time, if not quite dry. The choice of cover pictures depends on ownership and pixels. The tired old story of rights meets the not-so-brave new digi-world. Each is designed to prevent or obstruct and both interfere with individual progress and certain freedoms. So without excuse or wish to please, we choose the best pictures available for the shape and size of our front covers. Ownership is standard, mean and protective. However, it is the way images are stored that is tedious. It too is designed to protect. Pixels and available digital image size determine which images will convert to a front cover. So the covers you see may not be our first choice, nor out to sell the film of the month, although sometimes they do. They are the best of the rest, and I love the challenge of thumbing through to find the one that might create a mood rather than sell a film. Hence our beautiful collection of Rex and Odyssey programmes from 2017.