

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E



NINE

FEBRUARY...

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

FEBRUARY 2010 Issue 59
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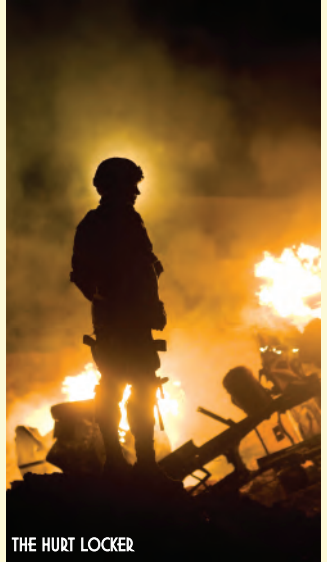
(Top) Ian Dury's New Boots and Panties album cover loyally recreated with the young Baxter finally growing in to those bell-bottoms.
(Bottom) A beautifully shot and underrated big screen thriller. Not to be missed.

FILM OF THE MONTH



A forgotten masterpiece from 2002
The Road to Perdition Tue 9 Feb 7.30

THE GONG GANG...





UP



UP IN THE AIR



INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS



AN EDUCATION



FANTASTIC MR FOX



THE ROAD



A PROPHET



A SINGLE MAN



F E B R U A R Y E V E N I N G S

Nowhere Boy

Mon 1 7.30, **Tue 2** 7.30

Director: Sam Taylor Wood
Starring: Aaron Johnson, Kristin Scott Thomas, David Morrissey, Anne-Marie Duff
Certificate: 15
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

This is a tricky one. Having regarded Lennon (George, Paul and Ringo for that matter) as family since I was fifteen, his antics in the late 60s were all the more tedious. He wasn't as rebellious as he is drawn. If anything he was uncertain and not all that confident. This film portrayal sees him grow into the confrontational cocky 'hero' his legend says is true.

As for Sam Taylor-Wood, all her party friends seem determined to make her the star. From the late summer 2009 you couldn't open a paper without seeing her mugshot fronting articles extolling the virtues of the film and the genius of Ms Wood.

It was all phoney of course. Press favourites are always predictably dull. I was angry when I heard this little party-goer, given to photographing herself in her knickers and A-listers 'crying' or sleeping, was making a film about Lennon. What's wrong with Ringo? Not trendy enough? George, by far the best story of all four, would have no impact. Believing herself to be a rebel, albeit a safe, cosseted one, it had to be big Moondog Johnny. I don't care how good it is. I hope it is dull and insignificant so we can all go home and forget about it. She can go back to her photo-opportunity parties and snapping her pregnant knickers. The best part; none of it is true.



Sherlock Holmes

Wed 3 7.30, **Thu 4** 7.30



The trailer looks good. Robert Downey Jr is perfect as a spoof of all spoof Holmes. He is as straight-faced as Basil Rathbone, without a hint of send-up. His fabulous timing, sheer presence and subtle faces, will render the screen empty when he's not there.

Arthur Conan Doyle's super-sleuth gets a fresh and edgy update with this dynamic adaptation of Lionel Wigram's comic book series by writer/director Guy Ritchie. Robert Downey Jr stars as the razor-sharp, dry, knuckle-fighting Sherlock Holmes alongside a flaccid Jude Law as his formidable ally Dr Watson. In this action adventure mystery set in Victorian London, Holmes must battle as never before to bring down a new adversary, Lord Blackwood (Strong), and thwart a deadly plot that could ruin the country. Rachel McAdams plays Irene Alder, the only woman ever to out-smart him? Then there's the small matter of the tempestuous relationship...

As for the rest of the cast: Eddie Marsan is a gift as the ever hapless, all (but not) knowing, Inspector Lestrade and Kelly Reilly, who can't do a thing wrong from head to toe.

The Victorian London CGI is effortlessly detailed and the action breathtaking. Never thought much of the cocky, unnecessary Mr Ritchie. He's done okay this time.

Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: Australia, UK, USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers



Director: Rob Marshall
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench, Danielle Day-Lewis, aMarion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Nine

**Fri 5 7.30, Sat 6 7.00,
 Sun 7 6.00**

Directed by Rob Marshall (Chicago), *Nine* is an all-star adaptation of a Tony award winning musical, itself loosely based on a play which was inspired by Federico Fellini's 'Eight and a half'.

Each flawed, with the first 1963 celebrated in true Emperor's New Clothes tradition.

Daniel Day-Lewis is Guido Contini, an aging film director in the throws of a mid-life crisis; both personal and creative.

His inability to balance the many, average looking women in his life (wife, mistress, leading lady, dead mother, Judi Dench et al) combines with the imminent shooting of his latest picture. Contini has yet to write the script, resulting in a protracted nervous breakdown of sorts, albeit in musical form.

"Clearly no one in the entire production has asked, at any point, if a paying audience would actually care about the woes of a millionaire film-maker who is having some trouble with a film that obviously doesn't need to be made." (Times)

"Plenty of dubious pseudo-celebration of women, which masks a tacky and fastidious condescension. As for Day-Lewis himself, how could he do this to us? Only by taking the lead in a remake of Sex Lives of the Potato Men could he disillusion us any more..." (Guardian) How could he? Disillusion? How does 'died and gone to heaven' sound? (research Simon Messenger)



Me and Orson Welles

Mon 8 7.30



According to our January audiences, this is not to be missed.

It is New York, 1937 – the brilliant 22 year old theatre protégé Orson Welles (Christian McKay) decides to stage a production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar; intended as a fascist critique on the darkening events in Europe.

The film is told through the eyes of bright youngster, Richard Samuels (Zac Efron), who convinces Welles to give him a part in the play, little knowing what lies in store under the pupillage of the outrageously manipulative young Mr. Welles...

"The show belongs to Christian McKay, the fourth and best actor to play Welles on screen...we think we're in the presence of the arrogant, irresistible young Orson himself, such is the accuracy of the body language, the facial expressions and above all that resonant voice..." (*Guardian*)

"Linklater takes what could have been a rather ossified and back-slapping piece of dramatic history and from it creates a tale of youthful ambition, spurting hope, the seductions and cruelties of the creative process. In other words, he has made a characteristic Richard Linklater film. And Richard Linklater films are characteristically very good indeed."

(*Telegraph*) Wordy but some great understated observations.

Shot almost exclusively in the Gaiety Theatre on the Isle of Man.

(*Research: Simon Messenger*)

Director: Richard Linklater
Starring: Claire Danes, Eddie Marsan, Christian McKay, Zac Efron
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers

The Road to Perdition

Tue 9 7.30

Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Jude Law, Paul Newman, Tom Hanks
Certificate: 15
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA 2002
By: Twentieth Century Fox

This was billboarded at Amsterdam Rai Cine Fair in the summer of 2002 where I was searching for projection, ticketing systems and seats for the Rex. Our ticketing owes nothing to the word 'system', the projectors came second hand from Manchester, but we got the best seats. Road to Perdition was the other good reason for being there. Later critics would pan it for being 'too cinematic'. A description I thought okay for a big cinema screen movie?

Mendes may have been more interested in making a stylish, artfully-shot, Oscar-baiting gangster movie than in the result. But after the Donmar-esque three-walls of American Beauty, this was his first location moment and he grabbed it. Set in 1931, quietly devoted husband and father by day, implacable hit man by night, Michael Sullivan (Hanks) is an enigma to his son, until one night the boy follows him...

Cast against type, Hanks whose haunted eyes speak volumes, is a model of unruffled understatement. In this, his last film, Paul Newman's Irish-mafia godfather John Rooney, is the best of a lifetime. Daniel Craig as his feckless son excels, with the biggest surprise, Jude Law as the scene-stealing grubby photographer, assassin.

Above all, it is about family and the things we do to protect each other.

"Beautifully composed, as is Thomas Newman's score. Don't miss." (*Jack Whiting*)



It's Complicated

Wed 10 7.30, Thu 11 7.30

There's nothing complicated about this. It is not its worst fault. That it was made at all is its worst fault.

However to indulge the conceit, the complication is that Jane (Streep) was married to Jake (Baldwin) – but he left her and the kids ten years earlier for another woman, Agnes (Bell). Now, by the coincidence of same time-same place, we have to witness him sickly sweet-talking his way back into his independent ex-wife's bed. It is common not complicated. Millions of exes are still at it, all over the place.

"It explores female insecurities and doesn't shy away from middle-aged sex: Jake proudly displays his hairy beer belly on several occasions." (nice)

"Streep is as ever, and if laughs count for anything, this is one of the better romantic comedies of the season." (*Time Out*)

"Baldwin and Streep do have that most over-analysed thing, "chemistry", and their marriage and sudden Indian summer of forbidden sex is weirdly believable."

(*Guardian*)

OR "You can't imagine why she would touch him in the first place, never mind go back for second helpings ten years later!" (*Rachel Cook, Front Row R4*)

AND "Writer-director Nancy Meyers has surely established herself as the world's foremost purveyor of gastro-lifestyle fantasy porn to the menopausal classes." (*Guardian*) Don't cancel the menopause.



Director: Nancy Meyers
Starring: Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin,
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Avatar

**Fri 12 7.30, Tue 16 7.30,
Wed 17 7.30**

Avatar translates as 'incarnation'. Taken from Hindu myth that gods take on a blue human form to descend in periods of darkness to neutralise evil and restore peace.

Cameron doesn't do things by half, this includes being a complete I Am. Hence this is possibly the most obscenely expensive film in history.

It is 2154, and paraplegic marine Jake Sully (Worthington) is assigned to a mining colony on the planet Pandora, inhabited by the Na'vi, an elegant, blue skinned race of humanoid aliens. He joins a rabble of scientists intent on establishing 'friendly relations' with these creatures as the mining corporation seeks to drain their planet of a priceless mineral. "An unashamedly bold story with rich and vibrant characters; Avatar is epic in every sense of the word." (*Jack Whiting*)

It's an allegory for all things Native American, and to Cameron's dubious credit, it gets its point across, albeit heavy handedly. Visually, the film is a feast. CGI disneys around with live action sequences seamlessly. It is be understandable why this planet sized ego has waited until SFX was ready for Him. (Hallelueia)

"Avatar...is bold and beautiful. It's almost too rich to take in and appreciate in one viewing..." (*Times*) Bet you won't want to see it twice. 3-D so what? Even in 2-D this is three (dimensional) hours too long.

Isn't life already in 3D? (*research Simon Messenger*)



Director: James Cameron
Starring: Giovanni Ribisi, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Sam Worthington

Certificate: 12A
Duration: 162 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Twentieth Century Fox



VALENTINES WEEKEND

Grease

Sat 13 7.00



Although it is another 70's film which drove us nuts, we have chosen it for Valentine's weekend as an alternative to sloppy romance. It is a love story with a knees-up. Though it feels like we've been suffering that shrill soundtrack for a hundred years, it is ideal for those who still fancy dancing with each other, or whole groups of chicks who've had enough of men and would rather dance without them? It started as an amateur stage show (where it should have stayed) unfortunately it hit Off-Broadway in 1972, then Hollywood. The rest is tone-deaf history.

Travolta can't sing but he can dance. Olivia can't do either. But she looks great in those tight, shiny black kex. I'm probably on my own here. Millions loved the show and the film. Now it is back (to its AmDram beginnings) as one of the most performed village hall/school shows of all time!

So I must bow to the greater good-taste of the millions who love this "Musical celebrating 1950's rock 'n' roll. Lots of colour, fun and surface glitter!"

It starts at 7pm with smoked salmon platters and champagne available during the film, as a starter to the rest of the evening. Better still, you won't have to talk to each other for the first two hours.

Director: Randal Kleiser
Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John
Certificate: PG
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 1978
By: United International Pictures

VALENTINES DAY

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Sun 14 6.00

Director: Blake Edwards
Starring: Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Mickey Rooney
Certificate: PG
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 1961
By: British Film Institute

Oscar winning *Breakfast At Tiffany's* still exerts an enduring charm, not least because of the poise and waif-like beauty of the bewitching Audrey Hepburn's Holly Golightly.

Her Givenchy-clad entrance, sashaying down a deserted street before gazing into the Tiffany's window display, is a moment of pure cinematic chic.

The party hip scenes look dated, and it's all rather too sugary for its own good. Then there's Mickey Rooney made-up as a Japanese caricature?? But taken as a shallow fairytale it has lasting curiosity. The key to the transitions between melodrama, humour, bad taste and flaky dialogue is the lush, dreamlike music of Henry Mancini. His 'Moon River' is timeless.

Breakfast at Tiffany's is a prime example of a film that often splits the audience from the critics. While spells magic for many, it leaves itself wide open to So What? Both Hepburn and Peppard display so many character flaws, that most people watching can start to feel quite good about themselves. Perfect for Valentine's night then?

Bring somebody you love in spite of everything.



Treeless Mountain

Mon 15 7.00



Jin and Bin, aged 6 and 3, live in Seoul with their poverty-stricken mother, until she leaves them to pursue some unspecified business involving their father.

Before she goes, she gives them a piggy bank and promises to return when its full. (Heartbroken already? Just wait.) Wait till you see their 'Big Aunt' Kim.

The girls are largely left to fend for themselves, clinging to a promise their mother made. In order to hasten her return, they hit on the idea of catching grasshoppers, roasting them and selling them to local schoolboys. And when the piggy bank is finally full, they stage a vigil by the bus stop, believing she will keep her promise.

What follows is a touching, gentle examination of the giddy rush and sickening sense of dislocation that comes with being left on your own. It presents us with a child's-eye view, with the bigger picture both visually and literally obscured, where food signifies kindness and female self-reliance is quietly championed.

So Yong Kim coaxes natural performances from her two leads, while steering impressively clear of sentimentality throughout. Similarly, the film is beautifully shot by cinematographer Anne Misawa. Her tight close-ups capture every flicker of expression. Things do get better though. It is heartbreaking and lifting. Don't even dream of not coming.

Director: So Kim
Starring: Hee-yeon Kim, Mi-hyang Kim, Song-hee Kim
Certificate: PG
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: Korea (South), USA 2008
By: Soda Pictures

Glorious 39

Thu 18 7.30

Director: Stephen Poliakoff
Starring: Romola Garai, Julie Christie, Bill Nighy
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

Back because so many missed it in the snow, and it is worth repeating!

They say this is a political yarn – sometimes creepy, sometimes daft – in the style of Hitchcock. However it is a good, edge of the seat, claustrophobic drama relating to appeasement (with Hitler) and the aristocracy's place therein. Filmed in beautiful countryside, largely in Norfolk, it is a thriller set on the eve of the Second World War.

The story is pivoted on the upper-class Keyes family, who are determined to preserve their way of life in the midst of all hell breaking loose around them. Head of the family, Alexander (Nighy) is an influential Conservative MP, and son Ralph (Redmayne) works at the Foreign Office. Adopted eldest daughter Anne (Garai) is a budding actress, whose charmed life is disrupted when she stumbles upon secret recordings hidden in the outbuildings of the family home. Trying to work out the source and significance of her discovery, she is drawn into a confusion of secrets and betrayal, the full horror of which is shocking...

Yet Poliakoff manages to leave us guessing, perhaps too much. Nevertheless, a good solid tale not to be missed, beautifully shot with many great acting-dynasty faces, and Romola Garai in the breathtakingly beautiful and easily watchable depts, with no false moves.



The Hurt Locker

Fri 19 7.30



Back because it might win something?

An intense portrait of soldiers (mostly boys) who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. When new Sergeant James (Renner), takes over a highly trained bomb disposal team in an unsettling conflict, he surprises his two subordinates by recklessly plunging them into a deadly game of urban combat. As they struggle to control their wild new leader, the city explodes into chaos and James' true character reveals itself in a way that will change each of them forever. Based on first-hand observation by journalist Mark Boal, who was with a special bomb unit in Iraq, the film couples grippingly realistic action with intimate human drama to portray soldier psychology where men volunteer to face deadly odds. (*IMDB*)

"War is a drug says The Hurt Locker and every addict has a different reason to feel guilty and alone." (*Filmstar*)

Bigelow deliberately uses Renner, an unknown face to take the lead.

By discarding the baggage a star might bring, we can see the human being. Bigelow and Boal plant the viewer directly in to the dizzying heart of the action.

Likely to be one the most moving films of the year (2009/10). Sold out immediately in Sept, Oct and Nov before it was down to win anything!

Director: Kathryn Bigelow
Starring: Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, Guy Pearce
Certificate: 15
Duration: 131 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Optimum Releasing

Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

Sat 20 7.00, Sun 21 6.00

Director: Mat Whitecross
Starring: Olivia Williams, Ray Winstone, Andy Serkis
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

"The spectre of Ian Dury comes kicking back to miraculous life thanks to a galvanic performance from Andy Serkis in this propulsive musical biopic." (*Times*)

Dumping the traditional storylines of Ray and Walk the Line, Whitecross punctuates a Blockheads gig with Dury's story, depicting his childhood polio, his relationship with his father and romantic bouts and battles. It plays like a fantasy music hall. Dury felt more a part of the old London music hall tradition than that of pop. Young Bill Milner (his first part in Son of Rambow at The Rex) is magnificent as Dury's son Baxter.

It is London in the late 1970s. Amidst the sprawling tenement blocks and dingy back-street pubs, an anarchic music scene stirs. Its high priest turns out to be an unlikely provocateur and polio-stricken lead singer of Kilburn and the High Roads and the most inspired lyricist of his generation. More than a standard biopic, this is an involving and emotionally charged family drama. A career-best from Andy Serkis, inspired staging from Mat Whitecross and Peter Blake's pop-art styling, make this a clever and powerful film. "Dury, all rage and redemption, is a tricky central character, but here he is humanised without being tamed." (*Times*) "Dury had a good heart somewhere, but it's hard to find... He's very difficult to be around" (*Andy Serkis*).



Brothers

Mon 22 7.30



This is the original Danish film first shown to a small audience at the Rex in 2005. It was so powerful we repeated it later to a packed house. It is now back ahead of the unnecessary Hollywood remake (released 22nd January and due here for comparison in March). Unlike the remake it is not starry. On the contrary, its unknown faces, cool tones and clean lines make it all the more powerful. When something surprising and shocking happens all their lives will be drawn in to the true horrors and cost of war.

Michael is a kindly family man, a top army officer about to be called to assist with UN reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Jannick is a surly, frequently drunk waster, jobless and just out of prison.

After Michael is presumed dead, Jannick must grow in responsibility and character to fill the void in the family home.

Sarah's grief is palpable and beautifully underplayed by Connie Nielson. Director Susanne Bier, captures all the nuances of mourning with the even greater subtleties of a slowly developing bond between her and Jannick.

But Michael survives. He is captured by Afghan rebel fighters and shares a cell with a terrified young soldier. Rescued, he returns home... You must see it. Miss the new one but not this.

Director: Susanne Bier
Starring: Connie Nielsen, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Bent Mejding, Ulrich Thomsen
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: Denmark 2005
By: Soda Pictures

Taking Woodstock

Tue 23 7.30

Director: Ang Lee
Starring: Imelda Staunton, Eugene Levy, Henry Goodman, Demetri Martin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Back because not enough people saw it in December.

Ang Lee performs a right-on, right turn after "Brokeback Mountain" and "Lust, Caution" in this Hendrix-less tale of the legendary musical festival.

Comedian Demetri Martin plays Eliot Tiber, a young Jewish lad forced to work in his parents' (Imelda Staunton and Henry Goodman) rundown Catskills motel in upstate New York. Upon hearing that a local music festival is facing opposition, Tiber volunteers the motel as a base for the festival's organisers, inadvertently setting up the first, hence coolest, mud event...

"A loving recreation of a time that holds a special place in the hearts of millions of people all across the world, it is tasteful rather than transcendental, imbued with a nostalgia that Lee doesn't have to feel to tell the story." (*Telegraph-ish*)

Lee has brightened up with this true-ish comic tale of the men behind the world's first big gig. "After some heavy duty movies, I wanted happiness, innocence... It felt right." (*Ang Lee*)

There is no grainy footage of the turgid festival itself. It is about how came about, largely by accident, incompetence and luck.

Come for Imelda's beautifully observed Mrs Tiber and "Everything Is Illuminated" director Schreiber's bone dry performance as a hardcase transvestite. (*research Simon Messenger*)



An Education

Wed 24 7.30



Mostly everybody leaving the film in December, loved this charming, funny, provocative coming-of-age movie reflecting a grey post-war Britain on the uncertain brink of a cultural revolution. I didn't like it much.

The mannered acting and carefully manicured script got in the way of believing it.

Nevertheless, in the hands of Danish director Lone Scherfig, it is a lively Nick Hornby-scripted adaptation of Lynn Barber's memoir concerning her suburban coming-of-age, where that one big 'crush' engulfs that most awkward rite of passage. The Sixties are just beginning. The 'swinging' mid-decade hasn't begun, but there are hints

Barber's schoolgirl alter ego, Jenny (Carey Mulligan, actually 24, so its okay) falls for the glamorous older charmer, who offers her clubs, champagne, drives in the country and sex. It is well done. So, if nothing else, come for a drive in the country. Moreover, its mannered acting and manicured script seems to be the stuff of awards. Let's see what it 'wins'.

Director: Lone Scherfig
Starring: Peter Sarsgaard, Emma Thompson, Alfred Molina, Carey Mulligan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: E1 Films

Just Another Love Story

Thu 25 7.30

Director: Ole Bornedal
Starring: Anders W. Berthelsen, Rebecka Hemse, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Charlotte Fich
Certificate: 18
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: Slovakia 2008
By: Revolver Entertainment

We first showed this in Sept for an audience of seventy or so. It had such an impact on those few, we have brought it back twice now for the many who missed it.

It seems like an overheated romantic thriller but don't take your eyes off it. Contrived excess is rarely as entertaining as this. Jonas is a forensic photographer who spends his days snapping plump corpses and his nights having suburban sex with his wife. Things tick along with quiet desperation until a traffic accident... Touching on Almodóvar's *Talk To Her* (and his 'remake' *Broken Embraces*) but with an edge of a noir thriller, complete with deadpan narration, it is a slowly unravelling thriller which grabs you from the opening shot and keeps you.

'Beautiful women and mystery are a man's incentive to escape the nine-to-five routine, the kids and the Saturday shop' explains Jonas' narration.

"This is an unusually dramatic philosophy for an ordinary guy, one that threatens to disturb the film's credibility. However Berthelsen's excellent low-key acting keeps disbelief suspended. Moreover, ambitious cross cutting and occasional burst of strident music hint at psychological complexity." (*Time Out*) It is an odd melodramatic Danish tale but underplayed and so clearly and beautifully shot in both low key and high tension scenes, it will make you gasp. Don't miss.





Director: John Hillcoat
Starring: Robert Duvall, Viggo Mortenson,
 Charlize Theron, Kodi Smit-McPhee
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

The Road

Fri 26 7.30, **Sat 27** 7.00,
Sun 28 6.00

Inspired casting gives Viggo Mortensen all he needs as the unnamed father (Man), desperately trying to shepherd his son (Boy) to the hope and warmth of the coast. Darkness has spread over the landscape in this unspoken post-apocalyptic America.

Plant life has died, and what's left of human kind has resorted to cannibalism. Shot in locations of real-life catastrophe; in burnt out amusement parks, empty turnpikes, vandalised factories, hunchbacked highways going nowhere and parts of New Orleans ravaged by Katrina, Hillcoat's reluctance to utilise any CGI gives the film an earthy, organic air, making it all the more scary. Even the reluctant McCarthy is said to have proclaimed the film to be exactly as he'd imagined it. "Hillcoat, his designers and Spanish cinematographer, Javier Aguirresarobe, have created a world both abstract and gut-wrenchingly real that exactly matches McCarthy's grim terrain. On the screen, just as on the page, it grips and horrifies because it is so stunningly real..." (*Guardian*)

"Don't expect to walk out smiling." (*Time Out*)

"A very punishing experience – bleak beyond bleak" (*ML Front Row R4*)

"If you think it's cold outside now, then wait till you see *The Road*. Its icy bleakness will seep into your heart and cause your soul to shiver." (*Times*)
 But don't let any of this put you off!
 (research Simon Messenger)



COMING SOON

New releases

A Single Man
A Prophet
Invictus
Up in the Air
The Lovely Bones
Shutter Island
Still Walking

Back by demand

Welcome to Sticks
Its Complicated
Nine
Sex and Drugs



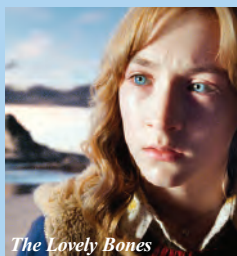
A Single Man



Shutter Island



Invictus



The Lovely Bones

FEBRUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	MON	NOWHERE BOY	2.00, 7.30
2	TUE	NOWHERE BOY	12.30, 7.30
3	WED	SHERLOCK HOLMES	2.00, 7.30
4	THU	SHERLOCK HOLMES	2.00, 7.30
5	FRI	NINE	7.30
6	SAT	PLANET 51	2.00
6	SAT	NINE	7.00
7	SUN	NINE	6.00
8	MON	NINE	2.00
8	MON	ME AND ORSON WELLES	7.30
9	TUE	NINE	12.30
9	TUE	THE ROAD TO PERDITION	7.30
10	WED	IT'S COMPLICATED	2.00, 7.30
11	THU	IT'S COMPLICATED	2.00, 7.30
12	FRI	AVATAR 2D	7.30
13	SAT	ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS II	2.00
13	SAT	GREASE	7.00
14	SUN	BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S	6.00
15	MON	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	2.00
15	MON	TREELESS MOUNTAIN	7.30
16	TUE	ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS II	12.30
16	TUE	AVATAR	7.30
17	WED	GLORIOUS 39	2.00
17	WED	AVATAR	7.30
18	THU	THE FANTASTIC MR FOX	2.00
18	THU	GLORIOUS 39	7.30
19	FRI	THE HURT LOCKER	7.30
20	SAT	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	2.00
20	SAT	SEX & DRUGS & ROCKNROLL	7.00
21	SUN	SEX & DRUGS & ROCKNROLL	6.00
22	MON	ME AND ORSON WELLES	2.00
22	MON	BROTHERS	7.30
23	TUE	TAKING WOODSTOCK	12.30, 7.30
24	WED	AN EDUCATION	2.00, 7.30
25	THU	THE APARTMENT	2.00
25	THU	JUST ANOTHER LOVE STORY	7.30
26	FRI	THE ROAD	7.30
27	SAT	UP	2.00
27	SAT	THE ROAD	7.00
28	SUN	THE ROAD	6.00



F E B R U A R Y 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

Nowhere Boy

Mon 1 2.00, **Tue 2** 12.30

Liverpool, 1955. When teenage rebel **John Lennon (Johnson)** learns that his aunt **Julia (Duff)** is actually his **biological mother**, he finds his **loyalties divided**. He finds an escape from domestic pressures in his growing passion for the growing, world-changing, passionate music, provoked by Rock n'Roll, skiffle and the most overlooked – harmony and melody.

“It is a modest film, not overly ambitious either in story or look that offers a strong turn from lead Aaron Johnson.

Johnson’s Lennon, perhaps unsteady on his feet in the film’s earlier scenes, grows into a fascinating portrait, while Duff and Scott Thomas are the film’s twin pillars. It’s a strong debut that shows clever handling of both a period and a personality.” (*Time Out*)

“Johnson’s Lennon hints at the swagger to come, suggesting bruised sensitivity and an upswell of anger at the parental hand he’s been dealt, yet the film sometimes leaves him as a supporting character in his own story.” (*Sight & Sound*)

“Anchored by a strong central turn, *Nowhere Boy* crafts entertaining, small-scale drama out of Lennon’s huge-sized legend. It just lacks the spark and ambition of its subject.” (*Empire*)

“It is no more than a typical celebrity biopic, the kind you might see on BBC4, without any of the flair you might hope for.” (*Independent*)



Director: Sam Taylor Wood
Starring: Aaron Johnson, Kristin Scott Thomas, David Morrissey, Anne-Marie Duff
Certificate: 15
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd



Sherlock Holmes

Wed 3 2.00, **Thu 4** 2.00



The trailer looks good. Robert Downey Jr is perfect as a spoof of all spoof Holmes. He is as straight-faced as Basil Rathbone, without a hint of send-up. His fabulous timing, sheer presence and subtle faces, will render the screen empty when he's not there.

Arthur Conan Doyle's super-sleuth gets a fresh and edgy update with this dynamic adaptation of Lionel Wigram's comic book series by writer/director Guy Ritchie. Robert Downey Jr stars as the razor-sharp, dry, knuckle-fighting Sherlock Holmes alongside a flaccid Jude Law as his formidable ally Dr Watson. In this action adventure mystery set in Victorian London, Holmes must battle as never before to bring down a new adversary, Lord Blackwood (Strong), and thwart a deadly plot that could ruin the country. Rachel McAdams plays Irene Alder, the only woman ever to out-smart him? Then there's the small matter of the tempestuous relationship...

As for the rest of the cast: Eddie Marsan is a gift as the ever hapless, all (but not) knowing, Inspector Lestrade and Kelly Reilly, who can't do a thing wrong from head to toe.

The Victorian London CGI is effortlessly detailed and the action breathtaking. Never thought much of the cocky, unnecessary Mr Ritchie. He's done okay this time.

Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: Australia, UK, USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers

Planet 51

Sat 6 2.00

Directors: Javier Abad, Jorge Blanco
Starring: Jessica Biel, Dwayne Johnson
Certificate: U
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: Spain, UK 2009
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

A world away from Avatar, this enjoyable sci-fi spoof again reprises the idea of humans as invaders, but a lot more fun.

Written by Joe Stillman (Shrek I), the story chronicles the sleepy town of Glipfong, on Planet 51, which bears a striking resemblance to 1950s America. These little green men are subject to an invasion of their own when NASA astronaut Captain "Chuck" Baker (suitably voiced by Dwane "The Rock" Johnson) lands in someone's back garden. The locals all want him exterminated, except kindly planetarium worker Lem. Can he and Chuck avoid the military and send him packing back to Earth before it's too late..?

John Cleese, Gary Oldman and Alan Marriott all lend their considerable vocal talents to this pleasing, if perhaps slightly trite, animation; full of nudging references to a million sci-fi films past. "A charming spoof of cold-war alien paranoia, this is visually inventive and full of action, but could do with more humour." (*Times*)

"...no threat to the similarly themed and infinitely superior 'Battle for Terra' (at The Rex in March), but there's enough of a storyline here to keep younger space cadets moderately settled." (*Time Out*) Sounds like a gentle lesson in role-reversal for children. The Americans as cute, accidental aliens!?

(research Simon Messenger)





Director: Rob Marshall
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench, Danielle Day-Lewis, aMarion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Nine

Mon 8 2.00, Tue 9 12.30

Directed by Rob Marshall (Chicago), *Nine* is an all-star adaptation of a Tony award winning musical, itself loosely based on a play which was inspired by Federico Fellini's 'Eight and a half'. Each flawed, with the first 1963 celebrated in true Emperor's New Clothes tradition. Daniel Day-Lewis is Guido Contini, an aging film director in the throws of a mid-life crisis; both personal and creative. His inability to balance the many, average looking women in his life (wife, mistress, leading lady, dead mother, Judi Dench et al) combines with the imminent shooting of his latest picture. Contini has yet to write the script, resulting in a protracted nervous breakdown of sorts, albeit in musical form.

"Clearly no one in the entire production has asked, at any point, if a paying audience would actually care about the woes of a millionaire film-maker who is having some trouble with a film that obviously doesn't need to be made." (Times)

"Plenty of dubious pseudo-celebration of women, which masks a tacky and fastidious condescension. As for Day-Lewis himself, how could he do this to us? Only by taking the lead in a remake of Sex Lives of the Potato Men could he disillusion us any more..." (Guardian) How could he? Disillusion? How does 'died and gone to heaven' sound? (research Simon Messenger)



It's Complicated

Wed 10 2.00, Thu 11 2.00

There's nothing complicated about this. It is not its worst fault. That it was made at all is its worst fault.

However to indulge the conceit, the complication is that Jane (Streep) was married to Jake (Baldwin) – but he left her and the kids ten years earlier for another woman, Agnes (Bell). Now, by the coincidence of same time-same place, we have to witness him sickly sweet-talking his way back into his independent ex-wife's bed. It is common not complicated. Millions of exes are still at it, all over the place.

"It explores female insecurities and doesn't shy away from middle-aged sex: Jake proudly displays his hairy beer belly on several occasions." (nice)

"Streep is as ever, and if laughs count for anything, this is one of the better romantic comedies of the season."

(*Time Out*)

"Baldwin and Streep do have that most over-analysed thing, "chemistry", and their marriage and sudden Indian summer of forbidden sex is weirdly believable."

(*Guardian*)

OR "You can't imagine why she would touch him in the first place, never mind go back for second helpings ten years later!" (*Rachel Cook, Front Row R4*)

AND "Writer-director Nancy Meyers has surely established herself as the world's foremost purveyor of gastro-lifestyle fantasy porn to the menopausal classes." (*Guardian*) Don't cancel the menopause.



Director:	Nancy Meyers
Starring:	Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin,
Certificate:	15
Duration:	120 mins
Origin:	USA 2010
By:	Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel

Sat 13 2.00, Tue 16 12.30

“It’s hard to resist any film with such a silly subtitle. But even without it this is superior, cutesy fare for anyone who can’t get enough of ‘Surprised Kitty’ on YouTube. The chipmunks, though capable of selling out stadia all over the world, find themselves forced to attend high school. They’re also confronted by a bullying ex-manager who manufactures an all-girl trio - The Chipettes - that threatens to rival them in popularity. The film never tries too hard to be cool, features adorable rodents in fetching knitwear, and includes helium-voices shaking their tushes as they cover Beyonce songs. Just great.” (*Telegraph*)

“Given that Alvin and chums originally started out in 1958 as a trio of high-pitched recording artists, it’s only right that this live-action ‘squeakquel’ should begin with the furry little CG blighters wooing a concert crowd with a raucous Kinks cover. Unfortunately, it’s the film’s only highlight – if the sight of three annoying furballs murdering ‘You Really Got Me’ can be considered a highlight.

Instead, what we’re offered is a succession of lifeless scenes punctuated by pratfalls that only a handful of kids in the audience found funny. Next.” (*Time Out*)

And that’s two people watching the same film! But they’re only critics, so don’t count. It sounds fab. You decide.



Director:	Betty Thomas
Starring:	Justin Long, Anna Faris
Certificate:	U
Duration:	88 mins
Origin:	USA 2009
By:	Twentieth Century Fox



Where The Wild Things Are

Mon 15 2.00,
Sat 20 2.00



Maurice Sendak's Where The Wild Things Are is a classic among bedtime-story books. With its minimal plot, lush, cross-hatched illustrations, menagerie of monsters and the odd, compelling cadence of its poetry.

The story follows Max, a young boy who wears his wolf suit, behaves badly and is sent to bed without any supper.

Once there, he 'escapes' to a forest where he is joined by the monstrous-yet-cuddly wild things for a wild rumpus.

He sails to a remote land occupied by these huge gloomy, clumsy, quarrelsome beasts, who after some discord accept him as their king.

Jonze wanted a real kid and real, big wild things set in a real location with minimal special effects. They are real people in big furry suits, traversing huge landscapes, with only their facial expressions in CGI.

"I wanted Max to take himself there.

Not to the letter of the book, where everything takes place in his own bedroom." (*SJ The Film prog R4*)

"It is not so much a children's film as an adult's film about childhood and all its confusions. You walk out of the cinema feeling three feet taller and three feet shorter at the same time...Just don't take the kids!" (*Standard*)

Director: Spike Jonze
Starring: Catherine Keener, Steve Mouzakis, Max Records
Certificate: PG
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers

Glorious 39

Wed 17 2.00

Director: Stephen Poliakoff
Starring: Romola Garai, Julie Christie, Bill Nighy
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

Back because so many missed it in the snow, and it is worth repeating!

They say this is a political yarn – sometimes creepy, sometimes daft – in the style of Hitchcock. However it is a good, edge of the seat, claustrophobic drama relating to appeasement (with Hitler) and the aristocracy's place therein. Filmed in beautiful countryside, largely in Norfolk, it is a thriller set on the eve of the Second World War.

The story is pivoted on the upper-class Keyes family, who are determined to preserve their way of life in the midst of all hell breaking loose around them. Head of the family, Alexander (Nighy) is an influential Conservative MP, and son Ralph (Redmayne) works at the Foreign Office. Adopted eldest daughter Anne (Garai) is a budding actress, whose charmed life is disrupted when she stumbles upon secret recordings hidden in the outbuildings of the family home. Trying to work out the source and significance of her discovery, she is drawn into a confusion of secrets and betrayal, the full horror of which is shocking...

Yet Poliakoff manages to leave us guessing, perhaps too much.

Nevertheless, a good solid tale not to be missed, beautifully shot with many great acting-dynasty faces, and Romola Garai in the breathtakingly beautiful and easily watchable depts, with no false moves.



The Fantastic Mr Fox

Thu 18 2.00



Back in February by demand and the Oscars. Based on Roald Dahl's seminal children's mischief, directed by perennial hipster Wes Anderson and co-written by Noah Baumbach, it tells the story of the Fox family's fight for survival.

After narrowly avoiding an ambush by the farmers from whom Mr. Fox (the fantastic Mr Clooney) steals his meals, he must find a way to get his family and friends out from the foxhole.

Voiced by an all star, if very American, cast including Meryl Streep, Bill Murray and Adrian Brody, the film is terrific. Beautifully animated in painstaking stop-frame miniature animation, the piece is a joy to behold – Anderson reportedly spent some considerable time in Great Missenden ensuring that Dahl's Chiltern home village was strongly represented in the film. So watch out for familiar street corners.

"In a world where kids' movies are generally presented in hi-tech 3D digital wonderment, Anderson defiantly presents this one in old-school stop-motion animation, making it into a drawing come to life; smart and well-written" (*Guardian*) Fantastic indeed. Being entirely hand made, so it will be for children, spoilt by Pixar, to decide. (*research Simon Messenger*)

Note: The goodie animals are American, the baddie farmers, English? Listen out for Michael Gambon, Helen McCrory and Jarvis Cocker.

Director: Wes Anderson
Starring: Bill Murray, George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Willem Dafoe
Certificate: PG
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Me and Orson Welles

Mon 22 2.00

Director: Richard Linklater
Starring: Claire Danes, Eddie Marsan, Christian McKay, Zac Efron
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: Warner Brothers

According to our January audiences, this is not to be missed.

It is New York, 1937 – the brilliant 22 year old theatre protégé Orson Welles (Christian McKay) decides to stage a production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar; intended as a fascist critique on the darkening events in Europe.

The film is told through the eyes of bright youngster, Richard Samuels (Zac Efron), who convinces Welles to give him a part in the play, little knowing what lies in store under the pupilage of the outrageously manipulative young Mr. Welles...

"The show belongs to Christian McKay, the fourth and best actor to play Welles on screen...we think we're in the presence of the arrogant, irresistible young Orson himself, such is the accuracy of the body language, the facial expressions and above all that resonant voice..." (*Guardian*)

"Linklater takes what could have been a rather ossified and back-slapping piece of dramatic history and from it creates a tale of youthful ambition, spurring hope, the seductions and cruelties of the creative process. In other words, he has made a characteristic Richard Linklater film. And Richard Linklater films are characteristically very good indeed."

(*Telegraph*) Wordy but some great understated observations.

Shot almost exclusively in the Gaiety Theatre on the Isle of Man.

(*Research: Simon Messenger*)



Taking Woodstock

Tue 23 12.30



Back because not enough people saw it in December.

Ang Lee performs a right-on, right turn after “Brokeback Mountain” and “Lust, Caution” in this Hendrix-less tale of the legendary musical festival.

Comedian Demetri Martin plays Eliot Tiber, a young Jewish lad forced to work in his parents’ (Imelda Staunton and Henry Goodman) rundown Catskills motel in upstate New York. Upon hearing that a local music festival is facing opposition, Tiber volunteers the motel as a base for the festival’s organisers, inadvertently setting up the first, hence coolest, mud event...

“A loving recreation of a time that holds a special place in the hearts of millions of people all across the world, it is tasteful rather than transcendental, imbued with a nostalgia that Lee doesn’t have to feel to tell the story.” (*Telegraph-ish*)

Lee has brightened up with this true-ish comic tale of the men behind the world’s first big gig. “After some heavy duty movies, I wanted happiness, innocence... It felt right.” (*Ang Lee*)

There is no grainy footage of the turgid festival itself. It is about how came about, largely by accident, incompetence and luck. Come for Imelda’s beautifully observed Mrs Tiber and “Everything Is Illuminated” director Schreiber’s bone dry performance as a hardcase transvestite. (*research Simon Messenger*)

Director: Ang Lee
Starring: Imelda Staunton, Eugene Levy, Henry Goodman, Demetri Martin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

An Education

Wed 24 2.00



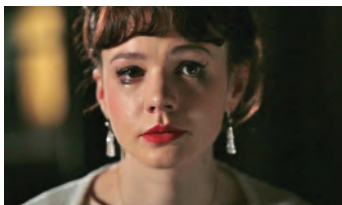
Director: Lone Scherfig
Starring: Peter Sarsgard, Emma Thompson, Alfred Molina, Carey Mulligan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: E1 Films

Mostly everybody leaving the film in December, loved this charming, funny, provocative coming-of-age movie reflecting a grey post-war Britain on the uncertain brink of a cultural revolution. I didn’t like it much.

The mannered acting and carefully manicured script got in the way of believing it.

Nevertheless, in the hands of Danish director Lone Scherfig, it is a lively Nick Hornby-scripted adaptation of Lynn Barber’s memoir concerning her suburban coming-of-age, where that one big ‘crush’ engulfs that most awkward rite of passage. The Sixties are just beginning. The ‘swinging’ mid-decade hasn’t begun, but there are hints

Barber’s schoolgirl alter ego, Jenny (Carey Mulligan, actually 24, so its okay) falls for the glamorous older charmer, who offers her clubs, champagne, drives in the country and sex. It is well done. So, if nothing else, come for a drive in the country. Moreover, its mannered acting and manicured script seems to be the stuff of awards. Let’s see what it ‘wins’.



The Apartment

Thu 25 2.00



The Apartment won the Oscar for Best Film of 1960 with Billy Wilder taking Best Director.

Bud Baxter (Lemmon) is a struggling clerk in a huge New York insurance company. He is the archetypal put-upon and only tolerated for a place on the corporate ladder by lending out his apartment to executives for nook. He often has to deal with the sordid aftermath of their visits but one night he's left with a bigger than usual nuisance on his hands. Enter Shirley MacLain's fabulous lift attendant Fran Kubelik. The Apartment was years ahead of its time in that it was one of the first (albeit comically) major films to deal with sexual harassment. The whole floor of middle aged, middle executives headed by slimey big cheese beautifully played for maximum slime by Fred MacMurray, look upon their insurance company as a huge pick-up joint. (sound familiar boys). Jack Lemmon is at his fumbling best while Shirley MacLain underplays everything. They are the perfect double-act creating between them a Hollywood gem.

In a new print it is chosen deliberately to brighten a February afternoon. So think like an insurance executive, lose your key to the executive washroom and cancel the afternoon. Work up a cold from Tuesday. Don't miss.

Directors: Billy Wilder
Starring: Jack Lemmon
Certificate: PG
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: USA 1960
By: Park Circus Films

Up

Sat 27 2.00



Directors: Peter Docter, Bob Peterson
Starring: Christopher Plummer, Edward Asner
Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: Buena Vista International

From Disney Pixar, behind Toy Story, Monster's Inc. and Wall-E, comes this fabulous masterpiece of animation and storytelling.

In an attempt to evade greedy property developers, construction workers, and the nursing home, 78 year old widower Carl decides it's time to move house – quite literally.

Tying thousands of balloons to the roof, Carl, accompanied by eight year old stowaway Russell, flies off in search of adventure...

"Utterly delightful, certain to appeal to audiences young, old and all points in between. The film, in its aerial beauty and its melancholic undertow, recalls Albert Lamorisse's *The Red Balloon* and Hiyo Miyazaki's *Howl's Moving Castle*...delicious sound design and the emotional punch it packs makes this one of Pixar's finest achievements."

(*Telegraph*)

"This short, sharp and sweet fantasy still manages to reaffirm its makers as world leaders in the kind of popular animation that embraces ideas and the real world alongside fun and fantasy." (*Time Out*) It is up for awards, and for once you can see why. (research Simon Messenger)





THE ALPHA CINEMA ST ALBANS...

This is our working title taken from the site's original name – Alpha Cinematograph Works. It may well stick, with the newly restored cinema taking on the name. This will be thrown open to a St Albans vote nearer the time (2012)

The new bank account is: The Alpha Cinema Ltd or The Alpha St Albans Ltd. If the Rex is anything to go by, cheques are cleared with just 'The Rex' and even just 'Rex'! But best stick to either whole title for the time being.

Things are flying. Since The New Year it has taken on a momentum all of its own. Your cheques are coming in fast and at the time of writing (19.1.10) we're over the £100,000 mark – IN JUST TWO WEEKS from announcing the bank account details.

Now we've had to think hard about how to keep you up to date. We put things on the Rex website but your main source of information should now be www.allaboutstalbans.com. Philip and Lis at All About St Albans have set up a page devoted to keeping you informed. There'll be a link. It won't be updated every minute but only when there's something new to say, which could be most days. However a weekly bulletin will be the best thing to look out for. Saturday seems the best day. The same information will be posted on the Rex website.

The latest funding ideas have grown from your requests.

To overcome the small investments delay we are offering 250 5yr ABL memberships for £2000.

This means you will have the first five years from the opening on the ABL (Advanced Booking List).

Quick arithmetic will show you that this is over the £285 per annum already set for one year. What do you get?

The relief/privilege/joy of knowing you are on the list without re-applying for five years. Hence the inflated cost.

This is taken from the notion of season-seat holders at football clubs (debentures). I'm not quite sure how it works, but even if it slightly appeals, please send an email to the Rex at

therexberkhamsted@hotmail.co.uk marking it 'FIVE YEAR ABL'.

OTHER IDEAS ABOUT LOANS.

Here we are considering five and ten year loans, repayable with interest at the end of each term.

Again, please email therexberkhamsted@hotmail.co.uk marking it 'LOAN ENQUIRIES'

With each of these we will come back to you by the end of January with a clear proposal and details of how things will work.

In the meantime, those twins of mischief, Exchange and Completion, are looming. Again we will keep you informed.

The main thing is we need to move quickly. The easy things that require no quango interference are Chair sponsorship.

ABL membership (One or five years)

Donations and loans. So send your cheques for Chair Sponsorship (380 left of 500 at £1000)

Annual ABL (over 300 already at £285 – only 350 left if we save 250 places for five year buyers)

Donations. This are up to you, BUT please don't send anything you haven't got. It is a business, albeit not profit-driven, its not a charity.

Loans. Please instruct by email therexberkhamsted@hotmail.co.uk

Investment. Already there are over 12 investors willing to commit £25,000 and over.

We will talk you through the pros and cons before the end of January. On a (very) high note, one such investor has already sent a cheque, with one line saying please find enclosed... and asking us to acknowledge receipt.

While I wouldn't dream of asking for such trust without some detail, I must acknowledge and applaud such a breathtaking leap of faith. Thank you. That said, ask us anything on

therexberkhamsted@hotmail.co.uk and go to www.allaboutstalbens.com on Saturday to hear about where we are and what plans are afoot.

In the meantime, keep talking about the new Alpha. Already there are pubs and organisations planning fund-raising events for the summer.

Again we'll be in touch in good time.



allaboutstalbens.com

