

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

THE GOLDEN  
COMPASS

JANUARY...

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

THE-REX

JANUARY 2008 Issue 34  
[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

**01442 877759**

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

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**SEAT PRICES:**

<b>Circle</b>	<b>£7.00</b>
Concessions	<b>£5.50</b>
<b>At Table</b>	<b>£9.00</b>
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<b>Royal Box</b> (seats 6)	<b>£11.00</b>
or for the Box	<b>£60.00</b>

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01442 877759

Mon to Sat

10.30 – 6.00

Sun

4.30 – 6.30

(Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

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

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

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<b>Karina Gale</b>	<b>Louise Ormiston</b>
<b>Jemma Gask</b>	<b>Julian Paredes</b>
<b>Holly Gilbert</b>	<b>Amberly Rose</b>
<b>Beth Hannaway</b>	<b>Tina Thorpe</b>
<b>Sarah Holloway</b>	<b>Olivia Wilson</b>
<b>Jo Littlejohn</b>	<b>Keymea Yazdanian</b>
<b>Bethany McKay</b>	

**Sally Thorpe** In charge**Alun Rees** Chief projectionist (Original)**Jon Waugh** 1st assistant projectionist**Martin Coffill** Part-time assistant projectionist**Jacquie Rose** Chief Box Office & Bar**Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry**

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Resident creative builders

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Artists

**Andrew Dixon****Paul Rowbottom**

Advisors and Investors

**Paul Fullagar****Alan Clooney****Ed Mauger** Genius**Demiurge Design** Designers 01296 632366**Allison Nunn** Publisher 07786 540418**James Hannaway** CEO 01442

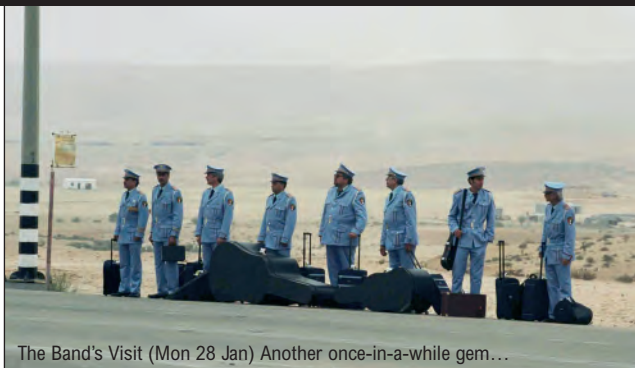
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**Betty Patterson** Company Secretary and  
THE ORIGINAL VISIONARY of The Rex.

**The Rex**

High Street (Three Close Lane)

Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

The Band's Visit (Mon 28 Jan) Another once-in-a-while gem...

## THE REX AND CITY SCREEN...

How can we talk about films we haven't seen, let alone recommend or make fun of them? In December we told you City Screen (CS) sends us synopses and outlines.

We précis them, add reviews, good and bad then comment about the stars, director, hype, etc. But here are the other nine-tenths under the surface... Six years or so ago City Screen executive, Clare Binns, and a colleague came to see the then derelict Rex. They were encouraging and helpful but not hopeful, neither for the project nor the notion of a repertory programme on a single screen.

Three years later in the autumn of 2004 after glancing at various programming options, and the sad loss of The Riverside's Ed Lewis, we asked Clare to help us. By then it was four weeks before opening. The Rex was suddenly real, with freshly laid carpets, projectors being rebuilt, big beautiful curved screen in a glorious gold proscenium arch, perfect sound system and seats delivered - but no films. The short preparation time didn't bother her. Although she still wasn't sure about our repertory programme - a different film every night. Clare had twenty five years experience in the business, she could pull a programme together overnight. We knew nothing. But I didn't understand the one title a week routine. It would have meant four films only in the whole of our opening December!

Ed Mauger our genius engineer joined the discussion but on Clare's side! Before the afternoon was out it was agreed to try repertory. We requested Cinema Paradiso, The Motorcycle Diaries and It's a Wonderful Life; one show a piece. Unhappily, Cinema Paradiso was lost - no 35mm print left in the world! This and some Italian legal stuff meant we couldn't open with it. The other two were made available and three years on they're still showing here. We have all grown better at the repertory game, with City Screen finding the best new releases from across the world.

They view all new releases, offering us the big, the small, the insignificant and the magical. Hence together, we programme everything you see.

City Screen has over twenty cinemas of its own. It also looks after a handful of important independents not part of its 'Picture House' chain: The Electric, Portobello, The Everyman Hampstead, etc. As you can see by the diversity of our programme, over the last three years, CS's designated programmer, Jo Blair has done a fabulous job. That's why we don't need to see anything beforehand... It doesn't stop the remarks however.

As you can see, to put anything current into context a little history is needed. So at long last we are plucking from five and twenty memories, to compile a reliable history from start to finish. It will be completed in a year or so.



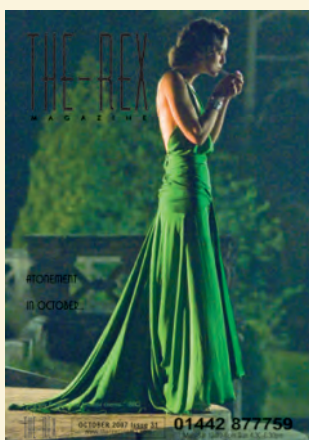
## LOOKING BACK - 2007



Meet Howard Guard Esq, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire. He came with the Mayor of Dacorum and brightened up a dull November day in full regalia. Our first Official visit and a most fabulous and unexpected pleasure. (don't try this at home, children)



The best covers from 2007. Thank you for making it an extraordinary and magical third year. Happy New Year and welcome to 2008...





J A N U A R Y   E V E N I N G S



# The Darjeeling Limited

Wed 2 7.30

Free of the slowly-creaking cogs of his last movie – *The Life Aquatic*, ‘*The Darjeeling Limited*’ is more energetic. It is a road-movie set on a train. Adrien Brody and Jason Schwartzman are brothers cajoled by their domineering older sibling (Owen Wilson) – an unhappy businessman with a mysterious bandage around his head – to take a trip to India a year after their father’s death. It’s time for some serious bonding with escapades, snakes, a little romance and a dose of straight-faced tragedy.

“It doesn’t matter where Anderson travels; he always brings Americans with him for company.

And often the same Americans, mostly men, usually Bill Murray, sometimes Schwartzman, always Wilson...” (*Time Out*)

“Anderson’s stylish approach has earned him praise and opprobrium in almost equal measure – you either love his hipster credentials or hate his whimsy.

A rambling, episodic road trip, *The Darjeeling Limited* looks likely to polarise its audiences just as violently...” (*The Knowledge, The Times*)

As always, you will choose.



**Director:** Wes Anderson

**Starring:** Adrien Brody, Amara Karan, Jason Schwartzman, Owen Wilson

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 106 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## You Kill Me

Thu 3 7.30

**Director:** John Dahl

**Starring:** Luke Wilson, Tea Leoni, Ben Kingsley

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 93 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Revolver Film Distribution

A return to form for Dahl, *You Kill Me* achieves the blackest of romantic comedies, laced with dark humour but held together by a delightfully warm heart.

Frank Falencyzk (Kingsley) is a hit man for his Polish mob family in Buffalo, New York.

He is also an alcoholic. When his addiction gets in the way of his business his uncle sends him off to California to straighten himself out.

There, Frank takes a job in a mortuary and starts going to AA meetings, where he meets Laurel (Leoni), a woman dangerously free of boundaries who promises to help him settle old scores.

Featuring a nicely judged cameo from Bill Pullman, the film belongs to Kingsley who is back to his *Sexy Beast* best.

A small gem. Don’t miss.



# American Gangster

## Manhattan

Sun 6 6.00

Fri 4 7.30, Sat 5 7.00

**The tale of a Harlem kid whose loathing of oppression and refusal to be anybody's 'boy' made him the drug kingpin of the early 70's.**

The story goes he even smuggled heroin in the coffins of U.S. soldiers killed in Vietnam.

Nobody noticed reserved driver Frank Lucas (Washington), but when his underworld boss dies suddenly, he seizes the opportunity to build his own empire. In the following months Lucas solidifies his status as Harlem's most innovative drug dealer by delivering a product, purer and cheaper than that of his competitors. Enter Russell Crowe's deshevelled, philandering, straight cop (Richie Roberts) and Frank's empire begins to rattle.

"A compelling true story of power and confrontation with stunning performances from the two leads."

Though no Scorsese, this 'true mobster story' is safe in Ridley Scott's powerful unflashy direction - said to be his best for years..

"A storming return to form for director, Scott"

"It has substance aplenty, and the power to entertain, which marks it out as one of the year's most rewarding pictures..."

"A film that deserves attention, if not your full respect." (*mixed crits*)

As always come and see...

**Director:** Ridley Scott  
**Starring:** Cuba Jr, Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Josh Brolin  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 157 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



**This is Woody Allen's rapturous, poignant, romantic comedy about the fretful life of an obsessive TV writer.** In those days Allen put himself at the centre of all his films. Here we find him worrying over his current, ex and future women (Hemingway, Streep and Keaton). His hypochondria and his contemplated switch to serious literature cause no end of inner turmoil.

Above all the film is a declaration of love for the cerebral life and fashion of the gleaming glass Manhattan Island, towering over the Hudson, set to Gershwin and filmed in silvery widescreen monochrome by Gordon Willis.

If you can stand Woody you'll love it. If you can't, you'll admit it is a classic, however indulgent...



**Director:** Woody Allen  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Woody Allen, Diane Keaton  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1979  
**By:** Park Circus Films

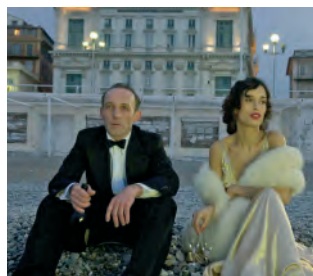
## The Counterfeiters

Mon 7 7.30

**Director:** Stefan Ruzowitzky  
**Starring:** Martin Brambach, August Diehl, Karl Markovics, Devid Striesow  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 99 mins  
**Origin:** Austria, Germany 2006  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors

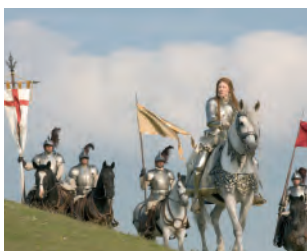
A devastatingly effective wartime thriller based upon real events, *The Counterfeiters* crackles with class and intelligence. In 1936, the Nazis established the largest counterfeiting operation in history, with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. 'Enlisted' were any concentration camp inmates with the required skills. Among them was master forger, gambler, libertine and charismatic rogue Salomon 'Sally' Sorowitsch (brought vividly to life by Karl Markovics' gaunt, haunting face), who is at first energised by his new task.

As the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Sally's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he is on. An incredible true story, written by a camp survivor, clearly told and beautifully shot with extraordinary performances on all sides. Overnight, or certainly in the last three years starting with *Downfall* and *Sophie Scholl*, then taking a 2007 Oscar for *The Lives of Others*, it seems Germany is winning a war at last – film-making! Don't miss.



## Elizabeth: The Golden Age

Tue 8 7.30, Wed 9 7.30



**Director:** Shekhar Kapur  
**Starring:** Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Samantha Morton, Geoffrey Rush  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 115 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

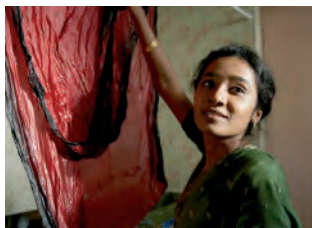
Returning to their roles, Blanchett and Rush play their ruffs off in this captivating, if unreliable, historical thriller laced with treachery and romance. Joining them is ship's plank, Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh. Elizabeth is facing bloodlust over her throne, family betrayal and an open challenge from Philip II of Spain. As she prepares for war and crushes enemies and traitors, she cannot balance her duties with a tantalizing, unexpected and vulnerable urge for Raleigh. Unable to act on her feelings, she encourages her favourite lady-in-waiting to befriend him... "All spectacle, dazzling, over-the-top opulence, fabulous frocks and (ridiculous) hair. Every shot composed like an oil painting (not unlike Zhang Yimou's flying circuses)... you will long for a moment of peace in this visual battering..." (*Times, Knowledge*) Cate Blanchett is a miracle of uncertain beauty and absolute conviction, as always. Geoffrey can do no wrong. Samantha Morton's gorgeous breathing is all too short-lived and Clive's Raleigh is all spud and no tobacco.





## Brick Lane

Thu 10 7.30



**Sarah Gavron's superlative adaptation of Monica Ali's Booker-nominated first novel is a contemporary story of love, cultural difference and the strength of the human spirit.** It is faithful to the book though inevitably, less subtle and wide-ranging.

Its characterisations are simpler, but its focus on the struggles of a young Bangladeshi woman saddled with an arranged marriage in the foreign city of London remains substantially the same. After an arranged marriage to an older man, 17-year-old Nazneen (Chatterjee) exchanges her Bangladeshi village for a block of flats in east London. Pining for her birthplace and her sister, she struggles to make sense of her existence and to do her duty to her husband, who sorely tests her compliance. Nazneen submits, as she must, to fate and devotes her life to raising her family and resisting the demons of discontent. Until, Karim, a hot-headed local man, bursts into her life. Against a background of escalating racial tension, they embark on an affair which finally forces Nazneen to take control of her life. There are no heroes and villains, only people...

"unfashionably gentle, human, optimistic" (*Guardian*).

**Director:** Sarah Gavron  
**Starring:** Satish Kaushik, Christopher Simpson, Tannishtha Chatterjee  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

## Beowulf

Fri 11 7.30, Sat 12 7.00

**Beowulf: the great eponymous, anonymous eight-century Old English epic poem and potentially the most boring tale in the English language.** If the screenplay does one thing decently, it is to make some sort of sense of a most confusing story.

Ray as big B, has been digitally transformed into a chunky he-man who fights stark naked, causing discreet furniture to pop up in front of his battling vitals. Imagine that lot coming at you in 3-D!

Luckily we have the flat 2-D version. The yarn: Beowulf rescues the King from the dragon, falls for the Queen, is tempted by the dragon's mum and goes from boorish thug to soldier of honour.

The poetry of the original text was written largely by monks...

"I don't think, however, they would have sanctioned the line uttered by one of Beowulf's henchmen to a busty Dane: 'Bollocks! Give me a gobble, then!'..."

Of the many miscalculations made in Zemeckis' tediously protracted, misjudged and puerile animated adaptation, the dialogue is the worst..."

The final, kinetic aerial battle scenes are eye-poppingly spectacular but they come way too late to save the film. Sounds great - a 'must see'. (*Standard/ Time Out*).

**Director:** Robert Zemeckis

**Starring:** Angelina Jolie, Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, John Malkovich

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 114 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Warner Brothers





## Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid

Sun 13 6.00



Early in 1970 at a small cinema off Oxford St, just as the final frame caught them, there was a dead silence. Then the clapping started. By the time the screen had turned to sepia the audience was on its feet, applauding loudly through tears. It was the first time I had experienced such an outpouring at the end of a film, and the last, until the Rex reopened. It has stayed with me as the most powerful moment at the end of any performance.

The film was, and remains, faultless and holds up as fresh today as it did forty years ago. It is witty, sharp, a great story and the camera doesn't miss a trick.

"I got vision while the rest of the world wears bi-focals..."

What ever happened to director, George Roy Hill?

Supposed to be a true story of two bandits who made outlaw history in the Wyoming of the late 19th Century. It emerges as a fabulous comedy of errors played beautifully to the last shot by the glorious pairing of Redford and Newman.

"...ahh... For a minute there I thought we were in trouble..."

**Director:** George Roy Hill

**Starring:** Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Katharine Ross, Strother Martin, Henry Jones, Jeff Corey, Cloris Leachman, Ted Cassidy

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 110 mins

**Origin:** USA 1969

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## Silent Light

Mon 14 7.30

**Director:** Carlos Reygadas

**Starring:** Miriam Toews, Cornelio Fehr, Maria Pankratz

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 136 mins

**Origin:** Mexico, France, Netherlands, Germany 2007

**By:** Tartan Films

I desperately want to like this after hearing him talk. I hated his last film – Battle in Heaven.

He spoke with such assurance about using non-actors. "When you put a known face in front of the camera, you'll see the acting not the person... you're contributing to the grand delusion of cinema... I don't like this whole circus, these people (stars) being recycled. Cinema is a fancy dress party... The presense and precision of the camera and a real face is all you need."

The story: A father's faith in God is put to the test when he falls for another woman.

"Slow and long but beautiful and resonant. It is an art movie you will want to leave quite early or hang on till the end with increasing respect." (Time Out)

"This is an unusual film, probably too unusual for many. But it is also an extraordinary exercise which sticks in the mind as well as the eye and somehow imparts a little more faith in humanity than we might otherwise have." (Standard) Come and slow down.



## Air Guitar Nation

Tue 15 7.30



Two likeable and curiously talented nutters are the protagonists in Alexandra Lipsitz's documentary about the World Air Guitar Championships. The annual event had been quietly taking place in Oulu, Finland for eleven years until in 2003 America woke up to the commercial potential in the 'instrument'. Being the US, the preliminary heats are decided appropriately at a West Coast strip joint! Meanwhile Finns are becoming agitated by the prospect of an influx of new blood.

We follow David "C-Diddy" Jung and Dan "Bjorn Turoque" Crane through the competition. Crane is the author of the gloriously entitled To Air Is Human!

In case you've been helping out at an Alpine ski-resort for the last fifty years, air-guitar involves pretending to play an electric guitar to recorded rock standards without actually having anything in one's hands.

"While much of the film affectionately records the sheer folly of grown men pretending to rock out, there emerges a more sublime sense of something mystical: in one minute each contestant has to make his mark and connect with something deep and lost..."

(Standard) Come and smile.

**Director:** Alexandra Lipsitz

**Starring:** Peter Cilella, Dan Crane, Gordon Hintz, David S. Jung

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 81 mins

**Origin:** USA 2006

**By:** Contender Films

## Jane Austen Book Club

Wed 16 7.30



In this rather silly, totally superficial film, a bevy of immaculately dressed and coiffed middle-class American women form a book club devoted to the works of Jane Austen.

They all have emotional problems with partners – largely, one suspects, because they are so far up themselves. But Jane, through her stories, sorts them out.

Read the books and you'll find true love seems to be the message.

Maria Bello, Amy Brenneman, Kathy Baker and Emily Blunt do their best, and so do the equally irritating men in their lives (there's one lesbian pair, too).

"This is a rom-com that tries to be sassy and true but ends up ridiculously unlike any kind of reality at all". (*Standard*)

"However, it is still enjoyable for the uninitiated, as the characters are lively and the many story threads weave into an artful tapestry of love lost and found." (*Synopsis*).

**Director:** Robin Swicord

**Starring:** Maria Bello, Amy Brenneman, Kathy Baker, Emily Blunt

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 105 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Rescue Dawn

Thu 17 7.30, Fri 18 7.30

**Director:** Werner Herzog

**Starring:** Steve Zahn, Christian Bale, Marshall Bell, Zach Grenier

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 125 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Pathe Distribution

Dietrich Dengler is catapulted into the hell of the Indochinese jungles when he's selected for the covert Tonkin Bay operation that sparked the US war in Vietnam.

Miraculously surviving his plane crash, he faces near-starvation, capture and imprisonment with an unstinting belief in his own salvation. Herzog is still fascinated with putting his performers through the mangle; remember Aguirre and Fitzcarraldo?

As always, closely observing mundane procedures such as coaxing fire from bamboo shavings or forging a handcuff key from a rusty nail.

Terrific. The camera stays tight and neutral, sympathetic but not privileging the humans over the environment. Always sceptical Herzog laces his picture with quiet ironies, such as the early training film coaching pilots how to survive the jungle. That, in Herzog's world, is asking for trouble. Method acting insane Bale, literally waists away on camera." (*Time Out*, *Independent*)

"Here we have a director less anxious to show the world what a crazy artistic genius he is. This is the work of a man who is tired of being a legend and wants to make a living."

(*S Times*)



## The Smallest Show on Earth

Sat 19 7.00



This perfectly formed, tiny Ealing gem will be accompanied by some cranky old cutting room floor ads.

The Smallest Show On Earth is a gentle little skit on Britain's post-war, neighbourhood-cinema 'industry'.

Creepily squeaky clean and worse - real-life husband and wife Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna star as the middleclass Spencers who inherit a decrepit movie house in a tiny railroad whistle stop, complete with its doddering employees.

Making the best of things, the Spencers set up shop, enduring the trials of small-time cinema owners: substandard projection and sound equipment, a dismal selection of films (B-movie Westerns) and sundry mishaps with the audience. Just when they're about to write off the theatre as a loss, their doorman comes up with an ingenious way of making a huge profit...

A masterpiece of comic everything; timing, character, slapstick, sleight-of-hand and gorgeously understated whimsy.

So glad we could get it.

Note: This an industry viewing.

Unhappily it means only the balcony is available this time.

But it will be back for everybody.

**Director:** Basil Dearden

**Starring:** Peter Sellers, Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 82 mins

**Origin:** UK 1957

**By:** Optimum Releasing

# The Golden Compass

Into the Wild  
Wed 23 7.30

Sun 20 6.00, Mon 21 7.30  
Tue 22 7.30

Based on Philip Pullman's award-winning trilogy: *His Dark Materials*, *The Golden Compass* is a fantasy adventure. In a parallel world where people's souls manifest themselves as small animals, where talking bears fight wars and children mysteriously disappear, 12-year-old Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards – an ASBO on the parents) sets out on an extraordinary quest to rescue her friend.

"A beautifully made, spectacularly designed family movie, asks serious questions about good and evil, free will and adolescent sexuality" (Standard)

"It's a convoluted, enjoyable, very mad, deeply conservative and, at one moment, horribly violent extravaganza.... Nicole Kidman steals the show. The bewitching Mrs Coulter is a figure of pure blonde evil... you can hear the faint crackle of her stockings as she sashays threateningly on to the screen – a ridiculous mixture of Darth Vader and Veronica Lake..." (PB Guardian) Fan's of the book say the film is trash... and one review said the kid is embarrassing with the worst accent ever. As for Daniel's school-gates beard.... You'll come anyway.

**Director:** Chris Weitz  
**Starring:** Nicole Kidman, Eva Green, Sam Elliott, Daniel Craig  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution



**"An example of American auteur (think: know-all) cinema at its finest, this latest directorial effort from Penn is adapted from John Krakauer's bestseller."**

It tells the true-ish story of Christopher McCandless, who aged of 22, turned his back on his privileged life and went off. He gave his savings away and abandoned his nice consumer lifestyle.

(The kind of things you can imagine Sean Penn wished he had done, but never quite got round to it – Hollywood, big money, big head... etc. Better to 'write' it than live it, hey Sean?).

On his journey through America leading north to Alaska, McCandless (Hirsch) encountered a series of characters.

From whom he learned a few important lessons and in return, Penn fantasizes, touched theirs.

That said, he makes fine use of the American landscape.

The film's cinematic references incorporate Five Easy Pieces, Easy Rider and the work of Terrence Malick.

"Suffice to say that this expansive and insightful odyssey holds its own amongst such illustrious company." (synops) Definitely worth seeing.



**Director:** Sean Penn  
**Starring:** William Hurt, Vince Vaughn, Emile Hirsch, Catherine Keener  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 148 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures



# Motorcycle Diaries The Assassination of Jessie James by the Coward Robert Ford

Thu 24 7.30



**"This is not a tale of heroic feats... It is about two lives running parallel for a time..."**

A beautiful, moving and heart-lifting film with unexpected comic moments.

I defy you not to fall in love with Alberto. Gael Garcia Bernal's Ernesto 'Che' is beautiful, passionate and as earnest as his name but it is newcomer Rodrigo De La Serna's Alberto who will steal your heart. It tells a true story of their journey from Argentina to Peru on an old 600cc Norton "The Mighty One" and how it changed their lives... and consequently the rest of the world. Not only unmissable but worth not missing again... and again. This remarkable piece of world cinema has had its own momentum. It was screened every month for our first two years. Every show sold out - all by word of mouth.

Over 7,000 people. Perhaps it can add another 300. It doesn't matter, here it is back for one more ride.

**Director:** Walter Salles  
**Exec Producer:** Robert Redford  
**Starring:** Gael Garcia Bernal, Rodrigo De la Serna  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 126 mins  
**Origin:** Argentina, UK 2004  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

Fri 25 7.30, Sat 26 7.00  
Sun 27 6.00

**This silly title, telling the end before it begins, hides a good story.**

Jessie James is tired and hunted; carrying two painful bullet wounds, bad kidneys and manic depression.

He trusts no one and is prone to pathological rages.

He is right to be a tad suspicious, since one of his few friends will eventually kill him.

Yet when he died, he became an instant hero and an enduring legend. Ford received hate mail by the sackful (no emails), and was himself eventually shot by a 'Jack Ruby' stranger/nutter who, like so many fans, contrived to 'forget' the real cold-blooded, monster - Jessie J! Legend has much to answer.

This Oz director's 155-minute slow drawl attempts a "poetic meditation" rather than much action. A great train robbery sequence balances it a bit.

You need some patience to sit through it, particularly since cool mumblings double for correct Missouri accents - who cares?

Dub Noel Coward! If it's worth saying, say it clear. 'Method' mumbling is indulgent toss.

Casey Affleck, Ben's kid brother (hmm), is brilliant as Ford.

Venice thought Brad was pretty good and it looks great on the screen...

Come anyway.

**Director:** Andrew Dominik  
**Starring:** Sam Rockwell, Sam Shepard, Brad Pitt, Casey Affleck  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 160 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Warner Brothers



## The Band's Visit

Mon 28 7.30

**Director:** Eran Kolirin  
**Starring:** Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** France, Israel 2006  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

A truly lovely film which offers a Middle Eastern take on Jarmusch-manners. It was considered the most charming film at Cannes this year (2007).

We join the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Band arriving at Tel Aviv airport to play at the opening of an Arab cultural centre somewhere nearby. Their hosts fail to turn up so they start walking.

After catching a bus to the wrong town, it is late and they are stranded. Hesitantly, they accept the sanctuary of a bar owner Dina (Elkabetz) and resolve to spend a single weird and wonderful night in this desolate place far from home.

From then on, the gentle, slightly scared Egyptians gingerly mingle with their more forthright Israeli hosts "A sweet-natured examination of strangers in a strange land until its moving final scenes..."

Above all, it is almost perfectly formed and by no means just a pleasant work in a minor key. The more you think about it, the more truthful, thus important, it seems.

I cannot imagine anyone not enjoying it..." (Time Out, Standard).  
 Cancel everything.



## Michael Clayton

Tue 29 7.30



**Gorgeous George plays against type but still cool as a debt-ridden fixer for one of New York's largest law firms in this powerful corporate espionage thriller.**

A one-time criminal prosecutor, Michael Clayton is known among his colleagues as "The Janitor" because for 15 years he's worked behind the scenes to clean up high-profile clients' messy personal problems.

As the loan sharks close in, one of the firm's most brilliant lawyers, Arthur Edens (Wilkinson) starts to crack up. Caught between this and that and the desperate need for cash, Clayton takes the assignment to help Edens... uh oh!

"Yet another in a long line of fine performances from Clooney" (Channel 4)

"Clooney's a damaged man, a weak man, a defeated man, an arresting performance...muscular and pain-racked at once." (PB Guardian)  
 This is a fantastic and powerful corporate espionage thriller, with everybody on top form.

Tilda is the best. Come for her and on the way, catch George and Tom doing pretty well.

**Director:** Tony Gilroy  
**Starring:** George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton, Sydney Pollack  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 120 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## I'm Not There

Wed 30 7.30, Thu 31 7.30

**Director:** Todd Haynes  
**Starring:** Heath Ledger, Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Richard Gere, Ben Whishaw  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 136 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

**Bob Dylan – icon, musician, poet – is the subject of a second major film in two years.** While Martin Scorsese's 'No Direction Home' was a conventional, albeit monumental, documentary, Todd Haynes's vanity is to imagine his fictional allegory tells it better.

Haynes suggests Dylan was never comfortable in one role. Robert Zimmerman assumed multiple personalities. He indulges his chameleon-like subject, with this "lyrical, poetic, highly stylized portrait of a man determined to possess his own identity and not let anyone - media, public, industry - control it." Hence this montage of famous faces being his face, but not his name. We hear his voice twice over the opening and closing credits. The astonishing Cate Blanchett gets closest, the rest just make up the numbers.

"Irreverent, playful yet deeply rooted in a knowledge of Dylan's biography, this is cinema at its most sublime." (mixed crits) I don't think we were watching the same film. Be prepared not only for Him not being there, but by the end, you might find you're not there either! Come empty of expectations. 'Chronicles' it is not.



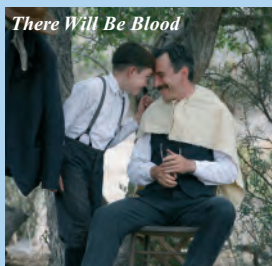
## Coming Soon

### New releases

Enchanted  
Bee Movie  
There Will Be Blood  
My Kid Could Paint That

### Back by demand

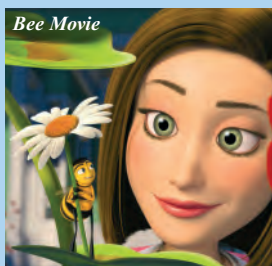
Once  
The Golden Compass



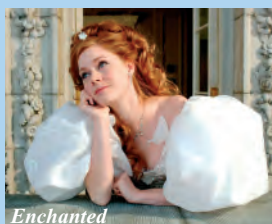
*There Will Be Blood*



*My Kid Could Paint That*



*Bee Movie*



*Enchanted*

## JANUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

WED	2	THE DARJEELING LIMITED	2.00, 7.30
THU	3	NANNY DIARIES	2.00
THU	3	YOU KILL ME	7.30
FRI	4	AMERICAN GANGSTER	7.30
SAT	5	NANNY MCPHEE	2.00
SAT	5	AMERICAN GANGSTER	7.00
SUN	6	MANHATTAN	6.00
MON	7	THE COUNTERFEITERS	2.00, 7.30
TUE	8	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	12.30, 7.30
WED	9	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	2.00, 7.30
THU	10	BRICK LANE	2.00, 7.30
FRI	11	BEOWULF	7.30
SAT	12	RATATOUILLE	2.00
SAT	12	BEOWULF	7.00
SUN	13	BUTCH CASSIDY AND SUNDANCE KID	6.00
MON	14	BUTCH CASSIDY AND SUNDANCE KID	2.00
MON	14	SILENT LIGHT	7.30
TUE	15	SILK	12.30
TUE	15	AIR GUITAR NATION	7.30
WED	16	JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB	2.00, 7.30
THU	17	JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB	2.00
THU	17	RESCUE DAWN	7.30
FRI	18	RESCUE DAWN	7.30
SAT	19	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2.00
SAT	19	THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH	7.00
SUN	20	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	6.00
MON	21	THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH	2.00
MON	21	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	7.30
TUE	22	LA VIE EN ROSE	12.30
TUE	22	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	7.30
WED	23	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2.00
WED	23	INTO THE WILD	7.30
THU	24	THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2.00
THU	24	THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES	7.30
FRI	25	THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES	7.30
SAT	26	THE THIEF OF BAGDAD	2.00
SAT	26	THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES	7.00
SUN	27	THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES	6.00
MON	28	THE BAND'S VISIT	2.00, 7.30
TUE	29	MICHAEL CLAYTON	12.30, 7.30
WED	30	MRS HENDERSON PRESENTS	2.00
WED	30	I'M NOT THERE	7.30
THU	31	TWO DAYS IN PARIS	2.00
THU	31	I'M NOT THERE	7.30





# J A N 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

## The Darjeeling Limited

Wed 2 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Wes Anderson

**Starring:** Adrien Brody, Amara Karan, Jason Schwartzman, Owen Wilson

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 106 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

Free of the slowly-creaking cogs of his last movie – *The Life Aquatic*, ‘*The Darjeeling Limited*’ is more energetic. It is a road-movie set on a train. Adrien Brody and Jason Schwartzman are brothers cajoled by their domineering older sibling (Owen Wilson) – an unhappy businessman with a mysterious bandage around his head – to take a trip to India a year after their father’s death. It’s time for some serious bonding with escapades, snakes, a little romance and a dose of straight-faced tragedy.

“It doesn’t matter where Anderson travels; he always brings Americans with him for company. And often the same Americans, mostly men, usually Bill Murray, sometimes Schwartzman, always Wilson...” (*Time Out*)

“Anderson’s stylish approach has earned him praise and opprobrium in almost equal measure – you either love his hipster credentials or hate his whimsy.

A rambling, episodic road trip, *The Darjeeling Limited* looks likely to polarise its audiences just as violently...” (*The Knowledge, The Times*) As always, you will choose.



## Nanny Diaries

Thu 3 2.00



This whimsical, heartwarming comedy concerns Annie Braddock (Scarlett Johansson), a recent graduate from New Jersey whose nurse-mother fails to push her into a white-collared business career.

Sidestepping Mom’s ambitions, she opts for more colorful pursuits. Annie accepts a job as nanny and domestic servant for a wealthy couple (the X’s) on NY’s Upper East Side.

She has her first real taste of servant life when she arrives and promptly sinks into Mrs. X’s luxury tub, only to be shuttled off to her own bare-bones room.

Face to face, for the first time, with vast social differences, Annie spends her days catering to Mrs. X’s every whim. Navigating the emotional landmines set by the domineering Mr X, whilst tending to the demands of the brat son – Grayer.

The situation grows a bit more awkward and sticky when Annie falls for the ‘boy next door’- nicknamed Harvard Hottie...

The usual American navel gazing porridge, but harmless and perfect for a January afternoon.

**Director:** Shari Berman

**Starring:** Scarlett Johansson, Laura Linney, Chris Evans

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 104 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Nanny McPhee

Sat 5 2.00

**Director:** Kirk Jones

**Starring:** Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury, Imelda Staunton

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 98 mins

**Origin:** UK 2005

**By:** United International Pictures

NANNY MCPHEE tells the enchanting story of a governess who uses magic to adjust the behaviour of seven ne’er do well children in her charge.

In this dark and witty fable, Thompson portrays a person of unsettling appearance and magical powers who enters the household of the recently widowed

Mr. Brown and attempts to tame his seven exceedingly ill-behaved children. The children have managed to drive away 17 previous nannies and are certain they will have no trouble with this one.

But as Nanny McPhee takes control, they begin to notice their vile behaviour leads swiftly and magically to rather disagreeable consequences. As they soften, so too Nanny McPhee’s wanted features appear to change, creating even more questions about this mysterious stranger whom the children and their father will come to love.

A fabulous tale, worth seeing again by any family with more than two kids, a nanny, and an interfering rich aunt... and the rest of us.



## The Counterfeiters

Mon 7 2.00



A devastatingly effective wartime thriller based upon real events, *The Counterfeiters* crackles with class and intelligence. In 1936, the Nazis established the largest counterfeiting operation in history, with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. 'Enlisted' were any concentration camp inmates with the required skills. Among them was master forger, gambler, libertine and charismatic rogue Salomon 'Sally' Sorowitsch (brought vividly to life by Karl Markovics' gaunt, haunting face), who is at first energised by his new task.

As the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Sally's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he is on. An incredible true story, written by a camp survivor, clearly told and beautifully shot with extraordinary performances on all sides. Overnight, or certainly in the last three years starting with *Downfall* and *Sophie Scholl*, then taking a 2007 Oscar for *The Lives of Others*, it seems Germany is winning a war at last – film-making! Don't miss.

**Director:** Stefan Ruzowitzky  
**Starring:** Martin Brambach, August Diehl, Karl Markovics, Devid Striesow  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 99 mins  
**Origin:** Austria, Germany 2006  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors

## Elizabeth: The Golden Age

Tue 8 12.30, Wed 9 2.00

Wed Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Shekhar Kapur  
**Starring:** Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Samantha Morton, Geoffrey Rush  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 115 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Returning to their roles, Blanchett and Rush play their ruffs off in this captivating, if unreliable, historical thriller laced with treachery and romance. Joining them is ship's plank, Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh. Elizabeth is facing bloodlust over her throne, family betrayal and an open challenge from Philip II of Spain. As she prepares for war and crushes enemies and traitors, she cannot balance her duties with a tantalizing, unexpected and vulnerable urge for Raleigh. Unable to act on her feelings, she encourages her favourite lady-in-waiting to befriend him... "All spectacle, dazzling, over-the-top opulence, fabulous frocks and (ridiculous) hair. Every shot composed like an oil painting (not unlike Zhang Yimou's flying circuses)... you will long for a moment of peace in this visual battering..." (*Times*, *Knowledge*) Cate Blanchett is a miracle of uncertain beauty and absolute conviction, as always. Geoffrey can do no wrong. Samantha Morton's gorgeous breathing is all too short-lived and Clive's Raleigh is all spud and no tobacco.



## Brick Lane

Thu 10 2.00



Sarah Gavron's superlative adaptation of Monica Ali's Booker-nominated first novel is a contemporary story of love, cultural difference and the strength of the human spirit. It is faithful to the book though inevitably, less subtle and wide-ranging. Its characterisations are simpler, but its focus on the struggles of a young Bangladeshi woman saddled with an arranged marriage in the foreign city of London remains substantially the same. After an arranged marriage to an older man, 17-year-old Nazneen (Chatterjee) exchanges her Bangladeshi village for a block of flats in east London. Pining for her birthplace and her sister, she struggles to make sense of her existence and to do her duty to her husband, who sorely tests her compliance. Nazneen submits, as she must, to fate and devotes her life to raising her family and resisting the demons of discontent. Until, Karim, a hot-headed local man, bursts into her life. Against a background of escalating racial tension, they embark on an affair which finally forces Nazneen to take control of her life. There are no heroes and villains, only people... "unfashionably gentle, human, optimistic" (*Guardian*).

**Director:** Sarah Gavron  
**Starring:** Sattish Kaushik, Christopher Simpson, Tannishtha Chatterjee  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing



## Ratatouille

Sat 12 2.00



It's hard being a rat with aspirations to be a star chef, but Remy (Oswalt) is convinced he can break the stereotype and make it in the world of haute cuisine.

He teams up with a no-talent chef, Linguini (Romano), who works in the Paris restaurant above Remy's home in the sewer. Together they create some fabulous dishes, but they live in fear of discovery. When his cooking turns the haughty world of French cuisine upside down, Remy questions whether he should pursue his dream or go back to the sewer.

With its abundant verbal and visual wit and a soupçon of Gallic sophistication, Ratatouille is the perfect pudding.

"One of the most witty, clever, gently moral, dramatically convincing and visually stimulating family entertainments of the year.

The animation is extraordinary too, and occasionally breathtaking...

A test for tiny tots and a mite nostalgic but a delightful" (*Time Out*)

"Among its many, myriad delights, Ratatouille is a film to make you love the rat" (*Guardian*).

**Director:** Brad Bird

**Starring:** Patton Oswalt, Peter O'Toole, Lou Romano, Brad Garrett

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 111 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Buena Vista International

Butch Cassidy and  
The Sundance Kid

Mon 14 2.00

**Director:** George Roy Hill

**Starring:** Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Katharine Ross, Strother Martin, Henry Jones, Jeff Corey, Cloris Leachman, Ted Cassidy

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 110 mins

**Origin:** USA 1969

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

Early in 1970 at a small cinema off Oxford St, just as the final frame caught them, there was a dead silence. Then the clapping started.

By the time the screen had turned to sepia the audience was on its feet, applauding loudly through tears. It was the first time I had experienced such an outpouring at the end of a film, and the last, until the Rex reopened. It has stayed with me as the most powerful moment at the end of any performance.

The film was, and remains, faultless and holds up as fresh today as it did forty years ago. It is witty, sharp, a great story and the camera doesn't miss a trick.

"I got vision while the rest of the world wears bi-focals..."

What ever happened to director, George Roy Hill?

Supposed to be a true story of two bandits who made outlaw history in the Wyoming of the late 19th Century. It emerges as a fabulous comedy of errors played beautifully to the last shot by the glorious pairing of Redford and Newman.

"...ahh... For a minute there I thought we were in trouble..."



## Silk

Tue 15 12.30



Based on the beloved, bestselling novel by Alessandro Baricco, *SILK* is the beguiling story of Hervé Joncour (Pitt), a 19th-Century French silkworm merchant who travels to Japan.

Far from his loving wife (Keira) and whilst trading with a powerful and feared local baron for the precious silkworm eggs, Joncour becomes entranced by the baron's concubine, and embarks on a doomed, obsessive love affair that transcends language. A film of painterly beauty and ravishing nuance, Girard's ambitious work is a rapturous historical epic. It's a bit daft but beautiful to watch. Come and wallow in big red seats on one more incidental January afternoon... and forget what's outside for 109 minutes.

**Director:** Francois Girard

**Starring:** Alfred Molina, Sei Ashina, Michael Pitt, Keira Knightley

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 109 mins

**Origin:** Canada, France, Italy, Japan, UK 2007

**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

## Jane Austen Book Club

Wed 16 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Thu 17 2.00

**Director:** Robin Swicord

**Starring:** Maria Bello, Amy Brenneman, Kathy Baker, Emily Blunt

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 105 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

In this rather silly, totally superficial film, a bevy of immaculately dressed and coiffed middle-class American women form a book club devoted to the works of Jane Austen.

They all have emotional problems with partners – largely, one suspects, because they are so far up themselves. But Jane, through her stories, sorts them out.

Read the books and you'll find true love seems to be the message.

Maria Bello, Amy Brenneman, Kathy Baker and Emily Blunt do their best, and so do the equally irritating men in their lives (there's one lesbian pair, too).

"This is a rom-com that tries to be sassy and true but ends up ridiculously unlike any kind of reality at all". (*Standard*)

"However, it is still enjoyable for the uninitiated, as the characters are lively and the many story threads weave into an artful tapestry of love lost and found." (*Synopsis*).

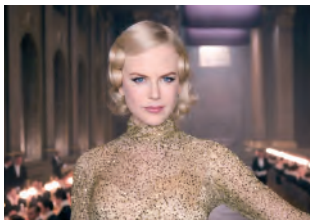


## The Golden Compass

Sat 19 2.00, Wed 23 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Thu 24 2.00



Based on Philip Pullman's award-winning trilogy: *His Dark Materials*, *The Golden Compass* is a fantasy adventure. In a parallel world where people's souls manifest themselves as small animals, where talking bears fight wars and children mysteriously disappear, 12-year-old Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards – an ASBO on the parents) sets out on an extraordinary quest to rescue her friend.

"A beautifully made, spectacularly designed family movie, asks serious questions about good and evil, free will and adolescent sexuality" (*Standard*)

"It's a convoluted, enjoyable, very mad, deeply conservative and, at one moment, horribly violent extravaganza.... Nicole Kidman steals the show. The bewitching Mrs Coulter is a figure of pure blonde evil... you can hear the faint crackle of her stockings as she sashays threateningly on to the screen – a ridiculous mixture of Darth Vader and Veronica Lake..." (*PB Guardian*) Fan's of the book say the film is trash... and one review said the kid is embarrassing with the worst accent ever. As for Daniel's school-gates beard.... You'll come anyway.

**Director:** Chris Weitz

**Starring:** Nicole Kidman, Eva Green, Sam Elliott, Daniel Craig

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 114 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

## The Smallest Show on Earth

Mon 21 2.00

**Director:** Basil Dearden

**Starring:** Peter Sellers, Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 82 mins

**Origin:** UK 1957

**By:** Optimum Releasing

This perfectly formed, tiny Ealing gem will be accompanied by some cranky old cutting room floor ads.

The Smallest Show On Earth is a gentle little skit on Britain's post-war, neighbourhood-cinema 'industry'.

Creepily squeaky clean and worse – real-life husband and wife Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna star as the middleclass Spencers who inherit a decrepit movie house in a tiny railroad whistle stop, complete with its doddering employees.

Making the best of things, the Spencers set up shop, enduring the trials of small-time cinema owners: substandard projection and sound equipment, a dismal selection of films (B-movie Westerns) and sundry mishaps with the audience. Just when they're about to write off the theatre as a loss, their doorman comes up with an ingenious way of making a huge profit...

A masterpiece of comic everything; timing, character, slapstick, sleight-of-hand and gorgeously understated whimsy.

So glad we could get it.



## La Vie En Rose

Tue 22 12.30

**Director:** Olivier Dahan

**Starring:** Sylvie Testud, Marion Cotillard, Pascal Greggory

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 140 mins

**Origin:** Czech Republic, France, UK 2007

**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

After a huge sell-out run of five months, *La Vie En Rose* is back for one December afternoon. It will be back again and again in the New Year.

"Cotillard is little short of genius". She elevates this tragic tale of one huge, tiny life. This little girl's magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above expectations. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love. 'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable she would burn her wings in bravado, brilliance and self-destruction. "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation....a great performance" (*PB Guardian*)

Don't listen to them. Come for a heartbreaking story, beautifully told and photographed right to the last teardrop of the closing scene.



## The Thief of Bagdad

Sat 26 2.00



This could be the 1940s technicolour/B/W innocent epic starring Sabu the elephant boy, or worse the early sixties greased pees remake (equally innocent, pees and all).

Either will thrill children of all ages. It is based on an ancient Persian story of good triumphing over evil.

A boy is caught by slavers, escapes, is chased all over the place, saves the girl, entrusts the treasure with the poor, the evil baddies are crushed, nobody gets killed and it all ends happily ever after.

There are genies, magic carpets, camels, half-naked boys – something for everyone.

Not sure what we're getting but it will be worth seeing on the big screen, so come and be surprised with us.

**Director:** Michael Powell / Arthur Lubin

**Starring:** Conrad Veidt, Sabu and June Duprez / Steve Reeves, Georgia Moll, Arturo Dominici

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 106 mins / 89 mins

**Origin:** UK 1940 / Italy, USA 1961

**By:** Park Circus Films / Titanus

## The Band's Visit

Mon 28 2.00

**Director:** Eran Kolerin

**Starring:** Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 87 mins

**Origin:** France, Israel 2006

**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

A truly lovely film which offers a Middle Eastern take on Jarmuschion manners. It was considered the most charming film at Cannes this year (2007).

We join the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Band arriving at Tel Aviv airport to play at the opening of an Arab cultural centre somewhere nearby. Their hosts fail to turn up so they start walking.

After catching a bus to the wrong town, it is late and they are stranded. Hesitantly, they accept the sanctuary of a bar owner Dina (Elkabetz) and resolve to spend a single weird and wonderful night in this desolate place far from home.

From then on, the gentle, slightly scared Egyptians gingerly mingle with their more forthright Israeli hosts "A sweet-natured examination of strangers in a strange land until its moving final scenes...

Above all, it is almost perfectly formed and by no means just a pleasant work in a minor key. The more you think about it, the more truthful, thus important, it seems.

I cannot imagine anyone not enjoying it..." (*Time Out, Standard*). Cancel everything.





# Michael Clayton

Tue 29 12.30



**Gorgeous George plays against type but still cool as a debt-ridden fixer for one of New York's largest law firms in this powerful corporate espionage thriller.**

A one-time criminal prosecutor, Michael Clayton is known among his colleagues as "The Janitor" because for 15 years he's worked behind the scenes to clean up high-profile clients' messy personal problems.

As the loan sharks close in, one of the firm's most brilliant lawyers, Arthur Edens (Wilkinson) starts to crack up. Caught between this and that and the desperate need for cash, Clayton takes the assignment to help Eden... uh oh!

"Yet another in a long line of fine performances from Clooney" (*Channel 4*)

"Clooney's a damaged man, a weak man, a defeated man, an arresting performance... muscular and pain-racked at once." (*PB Guardian*) This is a fantastic and powerful corporate espionage thriller, with everybody on top form.

Tilda is the best. Come for her and on the way, catch George and Tom doing pretty well.

**Director:** Tony Gilroy

**Starring:** George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton, Sydney Pollack

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 120 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Pathe Distribution

# Mrs Henderson Presents

Wed 30 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Director:** Stephen Frears

**Starring:** Dame Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Christopher Guest

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 102 mins

**Origin:** UK 2005

**By:** Pathe Distribution

**Inhabiting a role she was born to play, Judi Dench is the certifiably eccentric, tart-tongued Laura Henderson, a woman of considerable wealth and social standing who refuses to go gently into widowhood.** Bored with drab 1930's Britain, she buys a rundown, Soho theatre – The Windmill.

In response to failing audiences and in an effort to shake up the staid British establishment (and for one good reason she saves for a rousing and moving speech towards the end), she introduces nudity into her ever increasingly risqué shows.

Stephen Frears, effortlessly turns pitch-perfect performances into a feast of witty and quotable acerbic dialogue.

The stage routines are daring and stunning. Bob Hoskins plays posh (somebody should have told him), Judi is flawless and Kelly Reilly is stunning, gorgeous and brilliant. It has already sold out here umpteen times, but is a must for these new rainy day matinees.

Judi as Mrs Henderson, or anybody she wants to be, is a must on any screen. Watch out for Aylesbury Vale from Coombe Hill in the opening shot.



# Two Days in Paris

Thu 31 2.00



**This must be the surprise of the year. Julie Delpy: lightweight poppet, writes, directs and stars in her own movie.** It can't get much worse...? She has taken the ultra-lightweight *Before Sunrise/Sunset* and played with them until she created something worth watching. Clearly she was plotting it the whole time while having to face Ethan Hawke, take after tergid take. They say this one "sparkles very brightly indeed". We'll see.

"...news that the 38-year-old gamine has not only directed *Two Days in Paris* but produced, written, edited, scored the music for and starred in it might be slightly terrifying...

But it's great." (*Times*)

"*Two Days in Paris* turns out to be a very likable, smart, offbeat film.... the time has come to stop patronisingly thinking of Julie Delpy as a blonde actress, and start giving her some respect as an auteur" (*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian*)

"Julie Delpy's second feature as a writer-director is a smart and spiky self-reflective comedy" (*Time Out*) If they're all going ga-ga, it must be worth a look.

**Director:** Julie Delpy

**Starring:** Adam Goldberg, Julie Delpy

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 101 mins

**Origin:** France, Germany 2007

**By:** The Works UK Distribution

# RANTS AND PANTS



Dressing up for Rocky Horror, Grease, even Shortbus is expected, but these beauties came as the little red-hooded monsterette from Don't Look Now! (Nov). Well done...

## BLOOD ON THE CURTAINS...

The big curtains got stuck closed at the start of Ratatouille on the Saturday matinee 15th December. I wasn't there. Young Rosie bravely announced the film and birthdays, then had to go back on to explain the unexpected curtain failure. I was told of boos and shouting. I can't remember being more angry. This is not a football stadium. This is the last place on Earth where courtesy matters over profit. When something goes wrong, we always take it in our stride. If you dare boo and shout - you do it to me - not some little girl. When I'm not there and even when I am, you will treat my girls and boys with the utmost respect or don't come. Listen carefully: I don't care who you are - if you booed or shouted at Rosie, I never want to see you here again. James Hannaway.  
01442 877999 & 07799 834529

Customer: Can I collect tickets for Monday, please?  
Box Office: Certainly. This Monday?  
Customer: No, Monday's my name!

## Overheard (and seen)...

Man and woman approaching the loos, chatting. As they open their respective doors... one said to the other: "Hope to see you before Christmas

## From the book:

November Mag loved it, love short headed paragraphs far better than usual long ramblings. (anon)

Funky seats! Cool Decorations!  
(Patricia Jones Nov 2007)

Happy Birthday thanks to all for so many happy evenings here.  
(Sue Dyson 5 Dec)

## THIS, OUR FIRST SOUNDTRACKS CD,

IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES OR THOSE SPECIAL NIGHTS ALONE WITH VALIUM, CIDER AND A RAZOR... THEY ARE (NOT QUITE) REX SOUNDTRACKS - BUT ORIGINAL IN SPIRIT WITH A GREAT SLEEVE.



That special gift for that special someone you hope you will never see again...

**From the book continued:**

‘Once’ - lovely ...and I didn’t fall asleep (10 Dec)

Emperor’s New Groove. The finest Disney ever. WOULD you make a 31 year old kid very happy. Will bully everyone I know to ensure a sell out for this lesser known Disney film.  
(anon)

It is wonderful to see a beautiful old cinema being so well used. We have nothing like this in Basildon (shocking I know!) I love this place, please never close! (or change!).  
(anon)

Happy Birthday! Wine, snacks and a string quartet... and the 70s adverts were great, shame about the film... the film was rubbish!!!!!!  
(Martin Rickett 05 Dec)

I think you should pay the box office staff double for today. They remained as cheerful and helpful as ever despite crashed computer and massive queue!  
(Ruth Adams 20 Oct)

Popped back from Pinner to proudly talk about the pleasant perspective I have on the perfect cinema you have protected. (P.S Sorry my about the fact my falandricals caused problems through out the performance tah tah)  
(Percy Proudfoot)

Beeeeeeautiful!!!!!!  
(Dawn Streets 08 Feb)

They say the Rex was an experience.  
It IS when you have to queue for 5 hours  
(M.Walker 17 Feb)

My name is Ellen Meadows and I think The Rex is a very posh place and extraordinarily clean. Keep up the good work.. (Age 10).

**ALLAN POPE**

It was the best of all funerals. There must have been 500 there. We all knew every face. It was a proper pub funeral, where anyone who had ever had a drink there, turned up to say goodbye. They came back to Berkhamsted from across the world. Allan and Nick, ran the Rising Sun for nearly twelve years. Between them they welcomed all the comings and goings along George Street’s ‘latin quarter’ - and the most of the rest of the town! Together they initiated and celebrated the best fun-times, played host to spontaneous party-time and lit the best water side fireworks. Their packed houses for matches are legendary. To watch England lose, Arsenal, or Man U, do much the same, on a tiny TV was creative anarchy, with the most imaginative compliments saved for referees.

His, calm manner, effortless courtesy and sharp wit came to the rescue of all of us from time to time.

He help to bandage many trials and tribulations in and around his much loved canal side - with Nick winning on points for the most bandages!

Allan was that rare lovely man with a heart as big as himself.

There are ten thousand stories, here’s one I wish I didn’t remember...

He had to throw me out once, but so gently I didn’t even notice I’d been ‘asked to leave’ till half-way down the tow path. Trying to apologise the next day...

“What? I don’t remember...

you’re welcome as always, you know that...”

Thanks Allan. All very the best to Nick and Allan’s family.

