

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

WALTZ WITH BASHIR

JANUARY 2009

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

JANUARY 2009 Issue 46
www.therexcinema.com

01442 877759

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

Gallery	4-5
January Evenings	9
Coming Soon	23
January Films at a glance	23
January Matinees	25
Dear Mrs Trellis	38-39
Feature	42-43

SEAT PRICES:

Circle	£8.00
Concessions	£6.50
At Table	£10.00
Concessions	£8.50
Royal Box (seats 6)	£12.00
or for the Box	£66.00
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Mon to Sat	10.30 – 6.00
Sun	4.30 – 6.30

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

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Sally Thorpe In charge

Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)

Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist

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Jacquie Rose Chief Box Office & Bar

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The Rex

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When the place you love, once so familiar is no longer recognizable, it is no longer home. Page 42.

January has no real big block-buster Bonds, Mamma Mias or Christmas films, so won't sell out as madly as December.

We have started to refer to them as 'block-bastards' in the true sense of both words. Block because they block everything; the box office, the phones and the toilets. Bastards, because they are illegitimate.

They're not real films.

They were only ever made for the plexes for that first-release weekend. They're gone within a few weeks. They have no other use up to the next big push for DVD sales. Then they die.

That's when we start showing them, when we think everybody has seen them.

The Rex appeals mainly for those who can wait. Curiously, it is only during these block-bastard runs that mysterious floods occur, stools break, chewing gum gloops the carpet, popcorn is strewn like confetti at a cheap wedding and the worst anxieties over tickets and seats occur. During other non Hollywood sell-outs of which we have at least four a week, there is nothing like the anxiety and stress from the audience, nor the mess.

So why do we bother? I don't want to presume that mass means mess is one reason. Our biggest audiences are mass without mess for the smallest non-Hollywood titles.

What has been created here is deliberately the best in restoration, lighting, seating, sound and projection with the little money we had. But with the best in programming, which if we save the b-bs till last, costs us even less and saves clogging the programme for weeks on end. We search for the best films from across the world and we show the b-bs, real or not, because they cost so much to make, and are so magical and fantastic they need to be seen in the best conditions. We don't pretend to offer service, we care. Neither Hollywood nor the plexes have given a moment to either of these simple things.

The Rex is special when it should be one of thousands. Try some of the small films in a huge crowd and feel serenity over hyped anticipation. There's plenty to choose from in January. Happy New year to all who have enjoyed this special place throughout 2008 and during our first four years.





Of Time and The City

Terence Davies

Terence Davies was welcomed back to The Rex in November. (His first visit was September 2007 for *Distant Voices Still Lives*.) This time he returned as the victor from the old shoes of a displaced 'artist in exile'.

After years of neglect, he was feted as royalty at Cannes 2008. At the Rex he was feted as Terence Davies and the audience loved him. He was inspiring, entertaining, mischievous, witty and talked honestly about everything. *Of Time and the City* is a masterpiece of observation where the once familiar is no longer recognizable as home. (Wednesday 7th at 2.00 & 7.30)



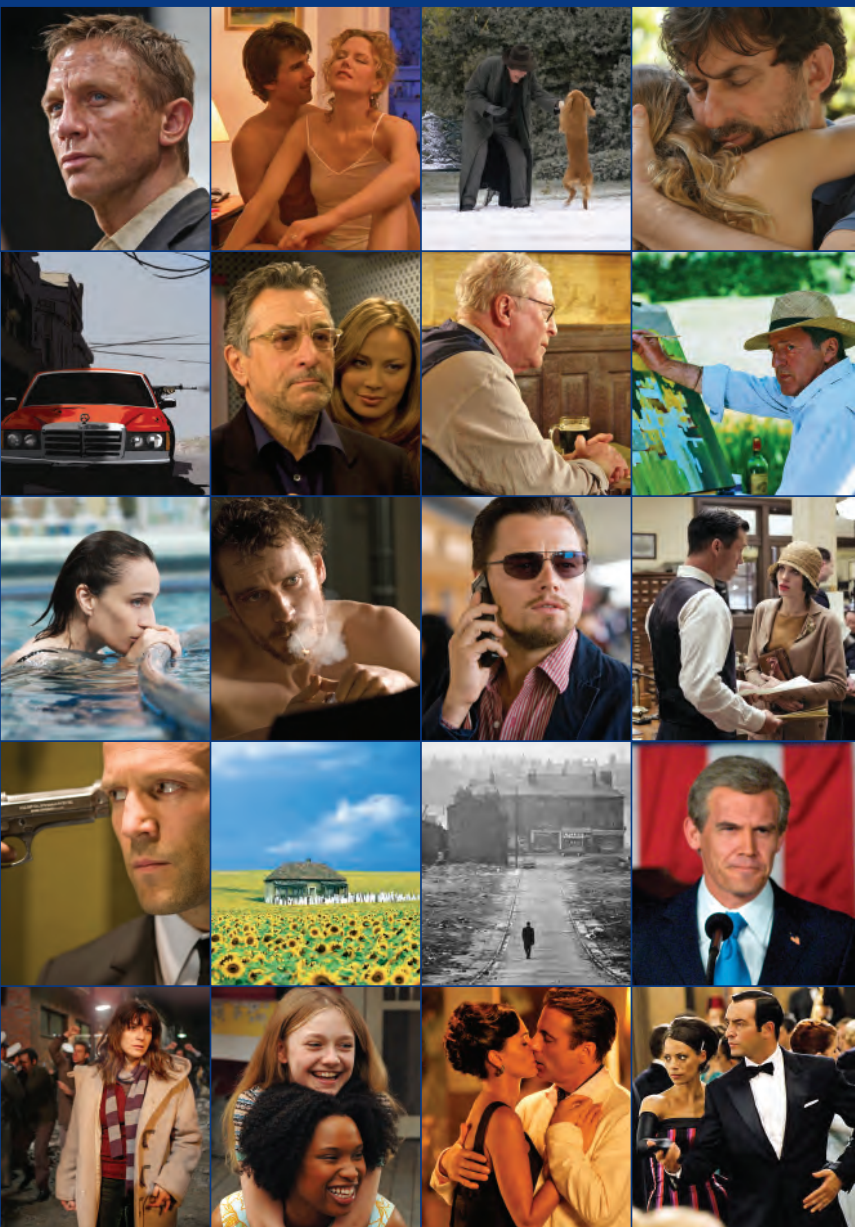
Unrelated

Joanna Hogg

Joanna Hogg was at the Rex on 3rd November to talk about her much praised debut feature *Unrelated*. It was Monday and didn't expect many to stay at the end. Only the few with babysitters and very early starts had to go. On the strength of the film most stayed to hear her speak honestly about its difficult themes – isolation, regret and getting signals wrong. It was beautifully made on a cheap camera, which was cut to look like 35mm. Charming and not in the least precious, here's to her certain fortune...



Joanna Hogg



J A N U A R Y E V E N I N G S

Quantum of Solace

Fri 2 7.30, Sat 3 7.00



“Daniel Craig’s difficult second album in the role of 007 has turned out to be a concept album. And that concept is rage. When we left the agent at the end of *Casino Royale*, the great man was hurting. His love, Vesper Lynd, had apparently betrayed him and his heart was broken. The icy cynicism, the flippant mannerisms and the womanising: it is all to anaesthetise that primal agony.” (*crits?*)

Judi Dench’s maternal M is furious when wee James starts whacking people all over the shop without a note from his mum. (Bernard Lee’s M would be double-f furious with such namby nonsense).

It’s not nearly as smart as Craig’s debut. There is not much storyline or romance - although there is some hotel-suite action with a sexy British agent called Fields (Gemma Arterton) who greets Bond at the airport apparently wearing nothing but a raincoat, rude shoes and a pout. Uh Oh! Daniel - a real pout!

“What it does have is Daniel Craig. No one can deny his charisma, and the effortless way he has inhabited the role. He has some spectacular action sequences and a fair few close-quarter punch-ups à la Bourne. As for athletic rooftop-leaping, earlier Bonds would have found it too much like hard work.” (*Guardian*)

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

What Just Happened

Sun 4 6.00

Director: Barry Levinson
Starring: Robert De Niro, Sean Penn, John Turturro, Catherine Keener
Certificate: 15
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Pathe Distribution

“This is a Hollywood insider whinge from Levinson, with De Niro giving one of his increasingly rare proper performances as a shaky A-list producer having career troubles in the lead up to the Cannes film festival.

It opens with an argument over a rewrite to a grim art film. The director wants to end with Sean Penn’s dog getting shot. A funny scene but it’s impossible to care about the self-absorbed protagonist.” (*Times’ Knowledge*)

We come to watch the movies Hollywood makes. While we might take a passing interest in ‘how’ they get made (but without the slightest idea) we have an almost pathological, if not, morbid fascination/obsession with its ‘stars’. Here we are supposed to know that Bruce Willis (as himself) is playing the unwatchable Alec Baldwin who once refused to shave off his beard for a part!!! Art Linson is a big Hollywood producer (*The Untouchables*, *Fight Club*). He wrote this as a spikey swipe at Hollywood without naming names. It should dish the dirt. If not it’ll be just another insider tinseltown tale with metaphors so hidden and disguises so thick we won’t know (or care) who or what he is aiming at. But worth it for big Bob.



Quiet Chaos

Mon 5 7.30



This looks like another of those lucky gems we have found and loved.

Motorcycle Diaries, Bombón: El Perro, The Band's Visit, A Very Long Engagement, Rivers & Tides, World's fastest Indian, Little Miss Sunshine, Breakfast on Pluto, Welcome to The Sticks, I've Loved You So long and Everything Is Illuminated and too many others (all with titles too long?) have come without fanfare but stayed forever. Highly acclaimed at last year's Berlin Film Festival, Antonello Grimaldi's serene drama tells the moving tale of a widower learning to integrate his grief with life as a single parent. Pietro (Moretti) is an executive who finds he cannot grieve for his dead wife in the ways expected of him. Instead, on the day his daughter, Claudia returns to school, Pietro decides to wait in the park across the street until she comes out. So begins his new routine. Finding a sort of peace there, he returns to his bench every day. His friends, family and colleagues visit him to offer condolences and support but eventually each submits to his unflappable composure, unloading their own woes on him. "These episodes are as much a mixed bag for the audience as they are for him. Moretti's stunning central performance carries this film to the end." (*Sunday Times*) A bittersweet parable. Cancel everything.

Director: Antonio Grimaldi
Starring: Nanni Moretti, Valeria Golino, Isabella Ferrari, Alessandro Gassman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: Italy 2008
By: New Wave

Flawless

Tue 6 7.30

Director: Michael Radford
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Demi Moore, Michael Caine
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Luxembourg, UK 2008
By: Metrodome Distributors

"As heist movies go this is about as captivating as watching someone dodge a bus fare" (*Time Out*) It's far from flawless. It's all over the place.

I was a fan at first sight. Spontaneously sparked by his Harry Palmer (making real coffee!?) then lit by his Charlie Croker and his overwhelming and understated Jack Carter on the big screen (1965/69/71). It was reignited for ever by his admission (on a 1980's Parkinson, I think) that as he got older his choice of script depended on climate. For warm, exotic locations with great restaurants, he'd do anything, however bad. Whereas a sure fired Oscar-winner set in a drafty, miserable, grey place wouldn't get a look-in. As a result he's made some absolute pearlers – 'The Swarm' being a particular high point.

"A pinched, unsympathetic Demi Moore blows her chances of a return to leading-lady status in this wobbly 1960s caper, as she bristles against the bosses at her banking firm who have repeatedly passed her over for promotion.

Enter Michael Caine as a janitor with a grudge and a daring plan, setting the scene for mild suspense, a contrived heist set-piece and a bonkers final twist." (*Time Out/Knowledge*)

Didn't check the temperature, script or crits before booking.

This one's for him. So come and see how he does.



Of Time and The City

Wed 7 7.30

Director: Terence Davies
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 72 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: British Film Institute

Terence Davies was welcomed here for a second time in November.

This time he came as a victor from the old shoes of a displaced 'artist in exile'. After years of neglect, he was feted as royalty at Cannes 2008. At the Rex he was feted as Terence Davies and the audience loved him.

While still in limbo and purgatory, he came last year to talk to us about Distant Voices Still Lives. He was inspiring, entertaining, angry, mischievous, witty and talked honestly about everything. When he got fed up he quoted TS Eliot. He seemed murderous toward and murdered by the whole British film industry.

On Thurs 27th Nov he was here as the murdered man who has lived to tell another tale. Still angry, still passionate, still witty, still subversive and still alive. "Screened to unprecedented acclaim at Cannes, Of Time And The City marks the much welcomed return to the screen of Terence Davies, arguably the UK's most distinctive filmmaker." (*Guardian*)

The film will remind all those old enough to forget and might inspire the young to stand in the way of such criminally thoughtless town planning.

His music is perfect, especially Peggy Lee's melting; 'The Folks Who Live on The Hill' set to images of heartbreaking 'slum clearance' making ready for new slums.

He won't be here this time but his film will. Don't miss.



COMEDY NIGHT

Thu 8 7.30



CHRIS ADDISON charms audiences with his polite brand of observational humour. Star of *The Thick Of It*, writer and star of Radio 4's *The Ape Got Lucky* (Sony Award Winner) and BBC2's *Lab Rats* (no awards yet, it's early days).

"Encompasses everything that a comedy show would do. Beautifully constructed, informative, knowingly clever, almost a piece of theatre, with fluidity and spontaneity.

A joy of a show." (*Observer*)

"Downright hilarious... His stories reduced a packed crowd to tears of helpless laughter." (*Sunday Times*)

WILL SMITH is one of Jersey's most popular exports after Bergerac and yellow cream. The sequel to his series the *Tao of Bergerac*, 'Will Smith's Midlife Crisis' is currently on BBC4. He spent most of his life researching for his book: *The Joy of No Sex* (HarperCollins). All ruined when he managed to find a woman who would marry him! Winner of Time Out Comedy Awards 2004. He plays Chris Addison's Tory twin in 'The Thick of It'

"Smith's show is one of the funniest on the Fringe – no argument." (*Independent*)

BENNETT ARRON is an award-winning writer and stand-up comedian. He recently wrote, directed and presented the BAFTA shortlisted documentary 'How To Steal An Identity' for Channel 4 whereupon he was arrested for stealing the identity of Charles Clarke! However Bennett's proudest moment was coming third in the 1982 Boy Scouts Disco Dancing Championship. "Genuinely original and funny" (*Times*) "A Welsh Seinfeld" (*Guardian*)

ROBIN INCE organised, hosted and held together beautifully our first comedy night in November. Since, he has smeared himself across Radio 4, appearing on *The News Quiz*, *Just A Minute*, *Loose Ends* and *4 Stands Up*. Despite this whenever he tries to get his own series they always tell him no one's interested in a series about Nobel prize winning, bongo playing physicists. He has just completed a sell out run of atheist Christmas shows entitled 'Nine Lessons and Carols for Godless People' with Richard Dawkins and Jarvis Cocker. "When they write the history of modern comedy they should make room for Robin Ince" (*Guardian*)

Changeling

Fri 9 7.30, **Sat 10** 7.00, **Sun 11** 6.00

“How does a director who is in his late seventies, and was once known as a sharp shooting film cliché, get better with every film?” (*Times, Knowledge*) Whatever the pen-monkeys say, come for a legendary 78-year-old’s 20-20 eye for detail and understated direction, to which young English ego-trousered directors remain blind.

It is based on real events from 1928. One Saturday morning in a working-class LA suburb, a single mum kisses her son goodbye as she routinely leaves for work. When she gets home he is gone.

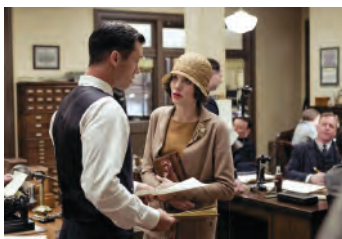
A heartbreaking search ensues and months later a nine-year-old boy is returned to her...? Eastwood turns it into a fascinating, harrowing and remarkable tale beautifully told, if a little too long.

“Great directors have an ability to make any material their own and take risks where the too many also-rans daren’t. Eastwood’s latest film involves themes and elements close to his heart: repressive systems, impossible odds and ‘second-class’ women. Watch his complexity, ironies, rituals and political implications of crime and violence, punishment and revenge.”

(*Time Out, edited*) Phew!

Angelina’s a sure-fire Oscar-nom (but who needs all that ‘acting’?) while Tom Stern’s (Unforgiven) cinematography is sublime.

“I’m always weary of the overused word ‘masterpiece’ but this is one film that deserves it. I urge you to see it if only to be reminded that a cinema doesn’t have to be the artistic equivalent of junk food” (*Daily Mail*) Welcome to The Rex, Mr&Mrs Daily Mail... Don’t dare miss.



Director:	Clint Eastwood
Starring:	Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich
Certificate:	15
Duration:	142 mins
Origin:	USA 2008
By:	Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Hunger

Mon 12 7.30

Michael Fassbender and Liam Cunningham occupy the lead roles in this fascinating exposition of Irish hunger striker Bobby Sands' final weeks inside the infamous Maze H-Blocks in 1981.

Sands and fellow IRA inmates claim the right to be classed as political prisoners, not criminals, first through 'dirty protest' and finally a gruelling hunger strike. *Hunger* is a patient, sparse and dark piece of cinema directed by Turner Prize winner Steve McQueen (is it because he's black or a serious artist that no critic or commentator has dared connect their names?)

"*Hunger* is extreme cinema for an extreme subject. It is outstandingly made; long wordless sequences are composed with judgment and flair with dialogue confidently positioned. It surely confirms McQueen as a real film-maker... raw, powerful, and an urgent reminder of this uniquely ugly, tragic and dysfunctional period in British and Irish history."

(*Guardian*) There is one extraordinary and breathtaking dialogue across a table. One shot, 25 minutes, fourth take.

"McQueen wrenches the external from the internal, the political from the corporeal...bold and powerful, it restores faith in cinema's ability to cover history, free from the bounds of texts and personalities." (*Time Out*)

It might be hard for those who feared the bombings and every daily news bulletin, but like all stories told years later, this tells us the things we were denied by the (*D-Notice*) News.

Director: Steve McQueen
Starring: Liam Cunningham, Michael Fassbender
Certificate: 15
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Pathe Distribution



W

Tue 13 7.30



We know what the last eight years has done to set the world at its own throat. It has all been down to a few people who should never have been left in charge of anything more complex than their own shoelaces. Blair is one, Bush the other. As for the third and fourth, who cares? George Dubya was an unfortunate failure from childhood, desperate to impress his dad. There's nothing (but everything) wrong with that. We've all known one or are one, but on the short-list of qualities and basic bodily functions required to steer a major world power away from war, 'born-failure' is not usually one of them. Curiously the Americans have managed it at an alarming rate, Nixon (crook) LBJ (huge crook) G Ford (idiot) Reagan (idiot) Bush snr (crook) Clinton (distracted) Kennedy (got in the way of the crooks and idiots). What they all have in common is they don't give monkey's about the rest of the world. They own it, can plot its downfall and kill its children. They're certainly not racist - they'll kill anyone.

continued on page 29

Director: Oliver Stone
Starring: Ellen Burstyn, Oliver Stone, James Cromwell, Elizabeth Banks, Josh Brolin, Toby Jones
Certificate: 15
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

I've Loved You So Long

Wed 14 7.30

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

This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters, who rebuild their love after years apart, is immediately halting and deeply moving.

In the three last three months of 2008, it captivated and held audiences in silence long in to the credits. Come in January and feel it for yourself.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel's debut won outstanding prizes at Berlin 2008. It is easy to see why. Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. The sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other...

It is heartbreaking in places but takes you with it in every word and gesture. Again... cancel all manner of things but don't miss.



Secret Life of Bees

Thu 15 7.30



“Like guzzling down a bucketful of honey, the first few mouthfuls of *The Secret Life of Bees* are sweet enough, but pretty soon you start to gag...”

(Times Knowledge)

It is based on the New York Times bestselling novel and set in South Carolina in 1964. It is the moving tale of Lily Owens (Fanning), a 14-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory accidentally shooting her momma when she was a toddler. To escape her lonely life and terrible relationship with a horrible daddy (an unrecognisable Paul Bettany), Lily flees with Rosaleen (Hudson) to a South Carolina town where she will be safe and it might hold the secret to her mother's past?

Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters (Latifah, Okonedo and Keys), Lily about life and love and beekeeping. A great all female cast. Worth seeing for them how they share the screen or not. But best not be taken in by all too pat metaphors about beehives and natural tolerance...

Its lovely to look at with a good soundtrack. It is one that should be seen. Bring tissues.

Lakeview Terrace

Fri 16 7.30

Director: Neil Labute
Starring: Patrick Wilson, Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington
Certificate: 15
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

A young couple Chris (Wilson) and Lisa (Washington) moves into their California dream home. Uh oh, already it doesn't sound like its going to be all sweetness and light? What do you do if the neighbour from hell is a cop? They are young and attractive but he's white and she is black. Abel (S L Jackson) is an angry widower next door who is violently opposed to interracial couples and all things liberal.

On top of this he takes an instant dislike to Chris. (Patrick Wilson has only been in two films at the Rex. In both his character was creepy. In the first – *Hard Candy*, he played a paedophile. In some other terrible thing with Kate Winslet he played a spineless husband, sniffing around free spirited Kate. Clearly casting directors can see he has that kind of face? If so he is perfectly cast yet again).

Abel's tightly wound LAPD officer has appointed himself watchdog over the neighbourhood. His nightly foot patrols and overly watchful eyes bring comfort to some, but he becomes increasingly harassing to the newlyweds.

Abel's persistent persecution ultimately turns to tragedy when the couple start to fight back.

“What'll you do – report me to the Police...?” Come and see what happens.

Director: Gina Prince-Bythewood
Starring: Queen Latifah, Dakota Fanning, Jennifer Hudson, Shondrella Avery
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Body of Lies

Sat 17 7.00



Ever had the feeling your boss doesn't have your best interests at heart?

The stakes are high for DiCaprio's multi-lingual, Arabic fluent, culturally aware CIA man on the ground in the Middle East covertly tracking terror suspects. Meanwhile his chief in Washington (a fat, fab Crowe) has a gung-ho agenda constantly threatening Leonardo's cover, painstakingly built up on a knife edge of trust and mistrust with Jordanian Intelligence.

"It has scope and, as you would expect from Scott, the visuals are impressive – even the dust gleams! But the film limps along in the story dept. It is frustrating that Crowe and DiCaprio spend most of the time on the phone. Their few scenes together in the flesh have more spark. When the plot finally kicks in, well over half way, it doesn't go anywhere interesting. Instead, we default to a nasty modern day take on the heroine tied to the railway tracks! Not bad, but not good enough."

(Times' Knowledge)

"Anchored by a hardworking DiCaprio, it's dense, knotty stuff, convincing in its milieu and offering a deftly pointed study in contrasts between front-line personnel and powerful, insular decision-makers."

(Time Out)

Worth seeing for all that. As always, you decide.

Director:	Ridley Scott
Starring:	Mark Strong, Leonardo Di Caprio, Russell Crowe, Carice Houten
Certificate:	15
Duration:	128 mins
Origin:	USA 2008
By:	Warner Brothers

Stanley Kubricks: Eyes Wide Shut

Sun 18 5.00

Director:	Stanley Kubrick
Starring:	Nicole Kidman, Tom Cruise, Marie Richardson, Vinessa Shaw
Certificate:	18
Duration:	158 mins
Origin:	USA 1999
By:	Warner Brothers

No stranger to controversial film-making throughout his life, Stanley Kubrick's final piece follows William Harford (Cruise) a New York City doctor who embarks on a harrowing and dangerous night of sexual exploration in response to the revelation that his wife (Kidman) had contemplated having an affair a year earlier.

The film burns slowly – it's a mysterious and expressionistic portrayal of torrid lust. The casting of Cruise and Kidman at the zenith of their relationship was a masterstroke – two highly disquieting performances.

Martin Scorsese listed the film amongst one of his favourites of the decade! Yet the film did not open to universal critical acclaim, but which Kubrick film has?

"When *Eyes Wide Shut* came out a few months after Stanley Kubrick's death in 1999, it was severely misunderstood.

If you go back and look at the contemporary reactions to any Kubrick picture you'll see that all his films were initially misunderstood. Then, after five or ten years came the realisation that "2001" or "Barry Lyndon" or "The Shining" was like nothing else before or since."

(Martin Scorsese)

After the film, Stanley's friend and longtime producer Jan Harlan has agreed to a Q&A. Come and make an informed decision about this legendary director's



Conversations with my Gardener

Mon 19 7.30



"Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few Western countries in which films about the land are still made. They make films about how it sustains and nourishes them... Agrarian nostalgia has become soothing and consoling." (*Sunday morning Herald*)

This finely observed film depicts a poignant friendship between two men from different walks of life. When a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce (Auteuil) returns to his childhood home and places an advert for a gardener to tame the vegetable plot, he realises that the retired railway worker he hires is a former schoolmate. As the garden is nurtured and the painter struggles with his relationships and his work, a warm friendship flourishes between the two men. Sharing a love of the place where they grew up, they try to understand each other's passions and attitudes to life. Ultimately, however, it is the painter who has the most to learn. The 78-year-old Becker perfectly captures the intimacy of the tale, yet avoids sentimentality. The film positively glows with life, even as it paints a tender portrait of men coping, in different ways, with the process of growing old. Not only is it a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English January. Don't think twice, just come.

Director: Jean Becker
Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Jean-Pierre Darroussin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Cinefile

Waltz with Bashir

Tue 20 7.30, Wed 21 7.30

Director: Ari Folman
Starring: Ronny Dayag, Ron Ben-Yishai, Dror Harazi
Certificate: 18
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: France, Germany, Israel 2008
By: Artificial Eye

Ari Folman's Waltz with Bashir is a remarkable animated documentary detailing a stunning autobiographical study of his time in the Israel Defence Forces during the first Lebanon war in 1982.

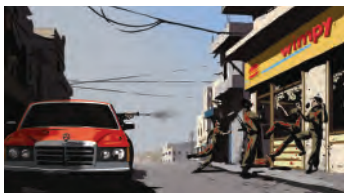
He has no recollection of what happened to him during this period, save for one half remembered dreamscape; he and fellow soldiers emerging from the sea, wading onto a beach in Beirut...

We follow Ari as a 19 year old recruit trying to piece things together through beautifully realised narrative set pieces and astonishing dream sequences garnered from similar nightmare recollections from old friends and comrades, reporters and a psychologist. As he delves deeper, his memory begins to creep back in surreal images.

"Folman's confusion testifies to the fog of war, or perhaps to the fact that this fog is created as a way of not facing up to war-guilt...?" (*Guardian*)

"The result is a mesmerising jumble of flowing graphics illuminating every haunting tale. Its power is the cartoon "shield" between witness and audience. It has the unsettling effect of intensifying the trauma." (*Telegraph*)

An astonishing film. Completely aware of itself as an animation, Waltz with Bashir renders an obscenely ugly conflict as a thing of great beauty, without compromising itself. You will have not seen a film like this before.



Everything is Illuminated **Thu 22 7.30**

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

Back by extraordinary demand, this surprising and beautifully judged tale is about three eccentric characters thrown together on a journey. By the end they will have stolen your heart. Taken from Jonathan Safran Foer best-seller, it reads like a true story. 'Jonfen' (Elijah) is an obsessive collector, who journeys from America in search of the woman he believes saved his grandfather during the Nazi massacre of a lost Ukrainian village. With only a creased photograph he sets off with the unlikely Alex (Eugene Hutz), his grandfather (the brilliant Boris Leskin) and his "seeing-eye" bitch. Alex's passion for the American myth and his butchery of spoken English will win your heart with every word and gesture. Come for his perplexed Ukrainian 'guide' and his beautifully judged narration. (much of the glorious filmscore too is his. That's his real band playing at the station). Schreiber's direction is unhurried and priceless – another unexpected surprise. He clearly understands that the best films are where the direction doesn't interfere and the actors don't 'act'. It is haunting, heartlifting, heartbreaking and funny all at once - and one of the best films of our first four years. It will stay with you.



Dean Spanley **Fri 23 7.30, Sat 24 7.00, Tue 27 7.30**



"While the aroma is of more significance than the flavour – for us humans alas that is the pursuit of the ineffable by the inadequate..." (Sam Neill as Dean Spanley). After a slow start it all comes clear.

O'Toole gives a scorching performance as misanthropic curmudgeon, Horatio Fisk, in this wonderfully eccentric comedy-drama. Set at the start of the twentieth century and based on the novel by Baron Dunsany, it's full of peculiarly English quirks and ticks. Distanced father and son, Horatio and Henslowe (Northam), attend a lecture on the Transmigration of Souls by a visiting Hindu Swami. There, they meet Dean Spanley (Neill), with whom Henslowe strikes up a bizarre friendship. At dinner he plies the Dean with a rare Hungarian wine and in return, Spanley, as if in a trance, tells of a unexpected former life: a pre-existence that may just hold the key to the family heartbreak that Horatio is trying to keep repressed.

"Transmigration: it's almost like a metaphor for acting itself! Enjoyable, wags its tail but perhaps too house-trained" (*FS Film Prog BBC4*)
 "It's amazing how much you can forgive if the last part of a film is right. This one covers itself in glory in the nick of time." (*Standard*) Dog lovers should not miss!

Director: Toa Fraser
Starring: Jeremy Northam, Peter O'Toole, Sam Neill
Certificate: U
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: New Zealand, UK 2008
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

The Baader Meinhof Complex

Sun 25 6.00

Director: Uli Edel
Starring: Bruno Ganz, Moritz Bleibtreu, Martina Gedeck
Certificate: 18
Duration: 149 mins
Origin: Germany 2008
By: Momentum Pictures

This taught political drama documents the formation, development and ultimate demise of the notorious militant left wing group The Red Army Faction (RAF – not our chaps sir!) led by Ulrike Meinhof and Andreas Baader in the late 1960s/70s.

Directed by Uli Edel, written/produced by Bernd Eichinger (*Perfume & Downfall*) the film is controversial, violent and explicit in its portrayal of the group's subversive political campaign, made all the more chilling viewed through today's political lens – kidnappings, the attempted assassination of Rudi Dutschke, arson attacks, bank raids, murder and the hijacking of that Lufthansa Boeing 737!!

"What makes this such a powerful movie is the factual nature of the exposition and the refusal to make easy judgment.

It even risks a scene that invites us to experience the excitement of what it's like to be an urban guerrilla..." (*Observer*)

"Although it flags a little in the last 30 minutes, it manages to make the turbulent era come alive for a new generation who might regard it as prehistoric. The gang's members are shown as raw and idealistic, trapped as much as inspired by the logic of their political beliefs." (*Telegraph*)

Come for Martina Gedeck and bring your (over 18) children – She's gorgeous and this is important stuff.



Lemon Tree

Mon 26 7.30



"Inspired by a real-life incident this captivating Israeli film is both a compelling story of self-determination and an astute evaluation of the current state of a divided territory." (*Time Out*)

A hit at this year's Berlin Film Festival, *Lemon Tree* tells the story of a Palestinian widow living on the Israeli border, whose lemon grove becomes a security risk when the Israeli Defence Minister moves next door. Salma (Hiam Abbass) is determined to fight for the cherished grove tended by generations of her family. She chooses a less than enthusiastic local lawyer to tackle the full might of the Israeli state. Then develops an unlikely friendship with the Minister's wife who, trapped in an unhappy home, becomes increasingly sympathetic to Salma's plight.

Director, Riklis subtly reduces the political deadlock of two nations to a simple human level, ably supported by Hiam Abbass (That gorgeous woman in *The Visitor*), whose portrayal of stoicism and proud defiance becomes an allegory for Palestine and its inhabitants.

The end result is a film in which Israeli and Palestinian differences are treated with an equal measure of pessimism, generosity, anger and hope. Even showing so early, it will be one of the best films of the year. Don't miss.

Director: Eran Riklis
Starring: Hiam Abbass, Doron Tavori, Ali Suliman
Certificate: PG
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: France, Germany, Israel 2008
By: Miracle Communications

Quantum of Solace

Wed 28 7.30



“Daniel Craig’s difficult second album in the role of 007 has turned out to be a concept album. And that concept is rage. When we left the agent at the end of Casino Royale, the great man was hurting. His love, Vesper Lynd, had betrayed him, apparently, and his heart was broken. The icy cynicism, the flippant mannerisms and the womanising: it is all to anaesthetise that primal agony.” (*crit?*)

Judi Dench’s motherly M is furious with wee James as he starts topping and whacking people right, left and centre, without listening to his mum. It’s not nearly as smart as Craig’s debut. There is not much storyline or romance - although there is some hotel-suite action with a sexy British agent called Fields (Gemma Arterton) who greets Bond at the airport apparently wearing nothing but a raincoat, rude shoes and a pout. Uh Oh! Daniel won’t like his pout upstaged “What it does have is Daniel Craig. No one can deny his charisma, and the effortless way he has inhabited the role. He has some spectacular action sequences and a fair few close-quarter punch-ups à la Bourne. Of the athletic rooftop-leaping, earlier Bonds would have been too much like hard work.” (*Guardian*)

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

The Lost City

Thu 29 7.30

Director: Andy Garcia
Starring: Bill Murray, Dustin Hoffman, Andy Garcia
Certificate: 15
Duration: 144 mins
Origin: USA 2005
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Cuban-born Andy Garcia decides its time to take us back us back to the Havana of his childhood. He gets halfway between there and Casablanca, with childhood not even in the running. He directs a potentially good saga about a wealthy family torn apart by the revolution, with pals Dustin Hoffman and Bill Murray, though the script doesn’t do a lot for them. Garcia goes for a wooden Bogart impersonation as Fico the proprietor of a traditional cabaret club shut down by Castro’s thugs. When his brother’s widow, the ridiculously dirty Ines Sastre as Aurora starts working for Che Guevara he heads for the airport. Unlike Bogart’s Rick, there are no great gestures from Fico. The script is bland, but his stab at directing is doing okay until he turns the camera on himself, then uh oh, it never quite gets turned off. For Garcia groupettes this will be a treat. For rest of us Ines Sastre is better than the costumes and the costumes are great, the scenery’s fabulous, but best of all the music is fantastic. Come for that and some nice shots.



OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies **Fri 30** 7.30



For those viewers beginning to suspect that this whole James Bond thing is taking itself far too seriously comes the magnificently titled espionage parody **OSS-117: Cairo, Nest of Spies**. Based on a series of French spy novels that pre-date Bond (and were adapted into movies in the 1960s) this goofy dead-pan thriller somehow channels the spirit of *Top Secret*, *Get Smart* and *Austin Powers* as it follows the globe-trotting adventures of the Gallic superspy Hubert Bonisseur de la Bath (the comedian-turned-actor Jean Dujardin), aka OSS117.

Set in 1955 the narrative hook is that Bonisseur is sent to Cairo to discover the whereabouts of missing Russian weapons, to neutralise the religious extremists and to single-handedly “restore peace to the Middle East”.

“No problem,” he says, before heading directly into a squirmingly embarrassing culture clash. “What stupid religion would forbid alcohol?”

“It must be noted - his initially antagonistic relationship with his local contact, the ravishing yet devout Larmina (Bérénice Bejo) - is more convincing than anything Daniel Craig attempts in *Q of S*. In fact the whole movie, the character work, narrative chicanery and production values (an underwater peril sequence is brilliantly staged) – has impeccable standards, far above anything you’d expect from the parody genre (see the recent *Superhero Movie*, or, actually, don’t).” (*Times*)

Director: Michel Hazanavicius
Starring: Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: France 2006
By: Institute of Contemporary Arts

Transporter 3 **Thu 22** 7.30

Director: Olivier Megaton
Starring: Jason Statham, Robert Knepper, Francois Berleand, Natalya Rudakova
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Don’t ask... It got rave reviews in Time Out, was panned by the usual suspects and given the nod by The S Times Culture?

So here it is on the last Saturday of the month after everyone who wants to will have already seen it.

Jason (one face) Statham returns as former Special Forces mercenary Frank Martin who has relocated to Paris to continue his business of delivering packages without questions. Only this time someone else is making up the rules as Frank faces a race against time to safely deliver his latest consignment.

Much needed assistance is on offer with the return of reluctant side-kick Tarconi, the French Detective played by Francois Berleand.

More hindrance than help comes in the shape of would be love interest, newcomer Natalya Rudakova. Can Frank beat the clock to save his life, outwit Knepper’s ex-Delta Force criminal mastermind and get his shirt back on/off in time to prevent a global catastrophe? From the Riviera to the Baltic Sea, via Stuttgart and Budapest, the explosions are bigger, the stunts are better and the cars are faster than ever before.

Well there you have it. It’s got France, fights, floozies and fast cars – what more is there?



COMING SOON

New releases

Frost Nixon
 Vicky Christina Barcelona
 The Wrestler
 Milk
 The Man from London

Back by demand

The list is now so long.
 To be confirmed



The Wrestler



Vicky Christina Barcelona



Milk

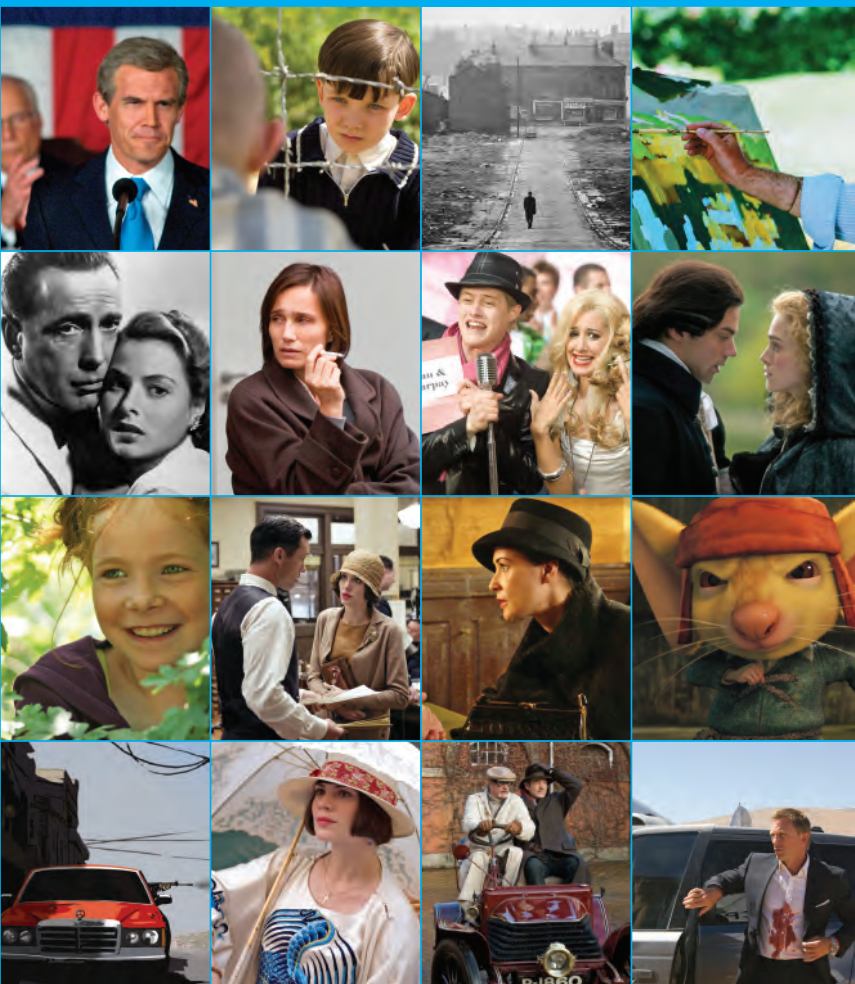


The Man from London

JANUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	THU	CINEMA CLOSED	
2	FRI	HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3	2.00
2	FRI	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7.30
3	SAT	HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3	2.00
3	SAT	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	7.00
4	SUN	WHAT JUST HAPPENED	6.00
5	MON	THE DUCHESS	2.00
5	MON	QUIET CHAOS	7.30
6	TUE	FLAWLESS	12.30, 7.30
7	WED	OF TIME AND THE CITY	2.00, 7.30
8	THU	CHANGELING	2.00
8	THU	LIVE COMEDY	7.30
9	FRI	CHANGELING	7.30
10	SAT	THE BOY IN STRIPED PYJAMAS	2.00
10	SAT	CHANGELING	7.00
11	SUN	CHANGELING	6.00
12	MON	CHANGELING	2.00
12	MON	HUNGER	7.30
13	TUE	W	12.30, 7.30
14	WED	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	2.00, 7.30
15	THU	CASABLANCA	2.00
15	THU	THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES	7.30
16	FRI	LAKEVIEW TERRACE	7.30
17	SAT	THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX	2.00
17	SAT	BODY OF LIES	7.00
18	SUN	KUBRICK: EYES WIDE SHUT	5.00
19	MON	CONVERS.. WITH GARDENER	2.00, 7.30
20	TUE	WALTZ WITH BASHIR	12.30, 7.30
21	WED	THE BOY IN STRIPED PYJAMAS	2.00
21	WED	WALTZ WITH BASHIR	7.30
22	THU	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	2.00
22	THU	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	7.30
23	FRI	DEAN SPANLEY	7.30
24	SAT	CALAMITY JANE	2.00
24	SAT	DEAN SPANLEY	7.00
25	SUN	THE BAADER MEINHOF COMPLEX	6.00
26	MON	DEAN SPANLEY	2.00
26	MON	LEMON TREE	7.30
27	TUE	DEAN SPANLEY	12.30, 7.30
28	WED	QUANTUM OF SOLACE	2.00, 7.30
29	THU	MAMMA MIA	2.00
29	THU	THE LOST CITY	7.30
30	FRI	OSS CAIRO	7.30
31	SAT	THE FOX AND THE CHILD	2.00
31	SAT	TRANSPORTER 3	7.00



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
Matinee Warning: May contain babies

High School Musical

Fri 2 2.00, Sat 3 2.00



This high-energy teen treasure was chosen by our overexcited box office children. There is nothing more to say, but here is the storyline in case Mrs Wadsen (our longest and most revered guest) might want to see it.

“High School Musical 3 continues the tune-filled love story between basketball player Troy Bolton (Efron) and brainy beauty Gabriella Montez (Hudgens). As they head toward high-school graduation, the couple realise that they’ll be separated when they go to different colleges in the fall (autumn), so they join with their friends to produce a spring musical that will help them express their hopes and fears about the future.” Got it...?

Bring somebody you don’t like.

Director: Kenny Ortega
Starring: Vanessa Anne Hudgens, Zac Efron
Certificate: U
Duration: 112 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Buena Vista International

The Duchess

Mon 5 2.00

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

Surprisingly good with achingly beautiful cinematography, it chronicles the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Keira Knightley shines as the beautiful 18th century pseudo-royal whose life was tragically cut short in a Parisian underpass in 1997! Saul Dibb’s marketing campaign doesn’t quite go that far, but it sniffs. Georgiana is an intelligent, fashionable aristocrat trapped in a loveless, contractual marriage to William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The film details Georgiana’s complex ménage à trois with William and her best friend, Lady Bess (Hayley Atwell).

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

“It’s not perfect – bends over backwards to be sympathetic to her, to making her almost flawless...” (*crits*) but with a starry cast, clever script, big costumes and bigger hair, and more stately homes than at which one can shake a National Trust stick, it looks breathtakingly sumptuous and gorgeous. Every outdoor shot and indoor scene shimmers on the big screen. Come for it all on an English January afternoon and love it.



Flawless

Tue 6 12.30



"As heist movies go this is about as captivating as watching someone dodge a bus fare" (Time Out) It's far from flawless. It's all over the place.

I was a fan at first sight. Spontaneously sparked by his Harry Palmer (making real coffee!?) then lit by his Charlie Croker and his overwhelming and understated Jack Carter on the big screen (1965/69/71). It was reignited for ever by his admission (on a 1980's Parkinson, I think) that as he got older his choice of script depended on climate. For warm, exotic locations with great restaurants, he'd do anything, however bad. Whereas a sure fired Oscar-winner set in a drafty, miserable, grey place wouldn't get a look-in. As a result he's made some absolute pearls – 'The Swarm' being a particular high point.

"A pinched, unsympathetic Demi Moore blows her chances of a return to leading-lady status in this wobbly 1960s caper, as she bristles against the bosses at her banking firm who have repeatedly passed her over for promotion.

Enter Michael Caine as a janitor with a grudge and a daring plan, setting the scene for mild suspense, a contrived heist set-piece and a bonkers final twist."

(Time Out/Knowledge)

Didn't check the temperature, script or crits before booking.

This one's for him. So come and see how he does.

Director: Michael Radford
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Demi Moore, Michael Caine
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Luxembourg, UK 2008
By: Metrodome Distributors

Of Time and The City

Wed 7 2.00

Director: Terence Davies
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 72 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: British Film Institute

Terence Davies was welcomed for a here second time in November.

This time he came as a victor from the old shoes of a displaced 'artist in exile'. After years of neglect, he was feted as royalty at Cannes 2008. At the Rex he was feted as Terence Davies and the audience loved him.

While still in limbo and purgatory, he came last year to talk to us about Distant Voices Still Lives. He was inspiring, entertaining, angry, mischievous, witty and talked honestly about everything. When he got fed up he quoted TS Eliot. He seemed murderous toward and murdered by the whole British film industry.

On Thurs 27th Nov he was here as the murdered man who has lived to tell another tale. Still angry, still passionate, still witty, still subversive and still alive. "Screened to unprecedented acclaim at Cannes, Of Time And The City marks the much welcomed return to the screen of Terence Davies, arguably the UK's most distinctive filmmaker." (Guardian) The film will remind all those old enough to forget and might inspire the young to stand in the way of such criminally thoughtless town planning.

His music is perfect, especially Peggy Lee's melting; 'The Folks Who Live on The Hill' set to images of heartbreaking 'slum clearance' making ready for new slums.

He won't be here this time but his film will. Don't miss.



Changeling

Thu 8 2.00, Mon 12 2.00

Director: Clint Eastwood
Starring: Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich
Certificate: 15
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

“How does a director who is in his late seventies, and was once known as a sharp shooting film cliché, get better with every film?” (*Times, Knowledge*)

Whatever the pen-monkeys say, come for a legendary 78-year-old's 20-20 eye for detail and understated direction, to which young English ego-trousered directors remain blind.

It is based on real events from 1928. One Saturday morning in a working-class LA suburb, a single mum kisses her son goodbye as she routinely leaves for work. When she gets home he is gone.

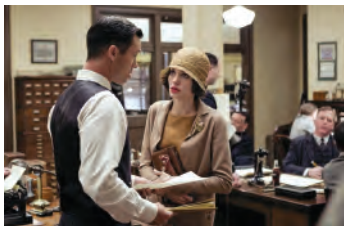
A heartbreaking search ensues and months later a nine-year-old boy is returned to her...? Eastwood turns it into a fascinating, harrowing and remarkable tale beautifully told, if a little too long.

“Great directors have an ability to make any material their own and take risks where the too many also-rans aren't. Eastwood's latest film involves themes and elements close to his heart: repressive systems, impossible odds and ‘second-class’ women. Watch his complexity, ironies, rituals and political implications of crime and violence, punishment and revenge.”

(*Time Out*, edited) Phew!

Angelina's a sure-fire Oscar-nom (but who needs all that ‘acting’?) while Tom Stern's (Unforgiven) cinematography is sublime.

“Im always weary of the overused word ‘masterpiece’ but this is one film that deserves it. I urge you to see it if only to be reminded that a cinema doesn't have to be the artistic equivalent of junk food” (*Daily Mail*) Welcome to The Rex, Mr&Mrs Daily Mail... Don't dare miss.



The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

Sat 10 2.00, Wed 21 2.00



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

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

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

(*Guardian*)

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

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

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

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

W

Tue 13 12.30

Director: Oliver Stone
Starring: Ellen Burstyn, Oliver Stone, James Cromwell, Elizabeth Banks, Josh Brolin, Toby Jones
Certificate: 15
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

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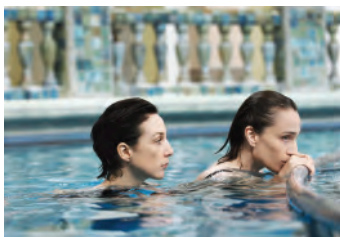
Barack Obama will need Mafia bodyguards, French, Italian and Russian, day and night. CIA/FBI/MI5 hefties will carelessly let him be killed. They have terrorists to blame now for all that lone-gunman bollocks.

Stone sees Dub-ya's rise to power as a great, almost Capra-esque story: how did a onetime reprobate and black sheep of his esteemed family rise to become Leader of the Free World? Dubya shifts back and forth between Bush's hard-partying younger years and his first term in office. Josh Brolin, continues his excellent run. Thandie Newton does an okay Condoleezza, Scott Glenn is Rumsfeld, Richard Dreyfuss chilling as the evil Dick Cheney our own Toby Jones weasels well as chief weasel and insipid fixer Karl Rove. Come if only to see what all the fuss is about. Showing just one week before he leaves office.



I've Loved You So Long

Wed 14 2.00



This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters, who rebuild their love after years apart, is immediately halting and deeply moving.

In the three last three months of 2008, it captivated and held audiences in silence long in to the credits. Come in January and feel it for yourself.

This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told, as it seems, only the French can. Claudel's debut won outstanding prizes at Berlin 2008. It is easy to see why. Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (the equally brilliant Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. The sisters gradually rediscover one another and a way of reaching each other...

It is heartbreaking in places but takes you with it in every word and gesture.

Again... cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

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

Casablanca

Thu 15 2.00

Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Sydney Greenstreet, Claude Rains, Peter Lorre, Conrad Veidt
Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1942
By: Park Circus Films

“Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world she walks into...” possibly Britains’ most beautiful cinema?

On a shortlist of all-time classic screen love stories, Casablanca must be close to the top. Come and enjoy every second of every line you’ve heard a million times. You know the story but just in case: Bogart plays his greatest-type, the seen-it-all, battered, laconic, tired, wisecracking nightclub owner Richard (Rick) Blane. The etherial Bergman who left him waiting on that rainy Parisienne platform years before, walks into his bar and back into his life – cue: “moonlight and love songs never out of date, hearts full of passion jealousy and hate, woman needs man and man must have his mate, that no one can deny...”

We dedicate this screening of Casablanca to Peter Clark who played Capt Renault (Claude Reins) in the Boxmoor Arts Centre’s live theatrical production in black n’white n’grey on the Edinburgh Fringe 1983. When he replaced his vast collection of vinyl with CDs, he gave me his precious LP turn-table and amp on permanent-loan (it is now) and still in use. Peter died Aug 2002 aged 55. Here’s looking at you kid...



The Tale of Despereaux

Sat 17 2.00



Isn’t it fantastic that all these big Hollywood stars are ‘helping out’ the animated film world... but can you tell who’s who, and does it really matter? And do you think they get into character by listening to The Archers?

A diminutive mouse strives to make a mammoth change in his troubled kingdom in this adaptation of Kate DiCamillo’s Medal-winning children’s book.

A long time ago, in the distant kingdom of Dor, a horrible accident broke the heart of the king, left a beautiful princess crestfallen, and filled the townspeople with despair.

Tiny mouse Despereaux Tilling (Broderick) was born into this world. An unlikely hero with oversized ears and a discernible wheeze, Despereaux was taken with tales of chivalry, and longed to one day become a noble figure among his people. But when he fails to adhere to the rigid rules of his society, he is banished from the kingdom. Sounds perfect for a January children’s matinee. Bring the street.

Director: Robert Stevenhagen
Starring: Emma Watson, Matthew Broderick, Sigourney Weaver, Dustin Hoffman
Certificate: U
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Conversations with my Gardener

Mon 19 2.00

Director: Jean Becker
Starring: Daniel Auteuil, Jean-Pierre Darroussin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Cinefile

"Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few Western countries in which films about the land are still made. They make films about how it sustains and nourishes them... Agrarian nostalgia has become soothing and consoling." (*Sunday morning Herald*)

This finely observed film depicts a poignant friendship between two men from different walks of life. When a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce (Auteuil) returns to his childhood home and places an advert for a gardener to tame the vegetable plot, he realises that the retired railway worker he hires is a former schoolmate. As the garden is nurtured and the painter struggles with his relationships and his work, a warm friendship flourishes between the two men. Sharing a love of the place where they grew up, they try to understand each other's passions and attitudes to life. Ultimately, however, it is the painter who has the most to learn. The 78-year-old Becker perfectly captures the intimacy of the tale, yet avoids sentimentality. The film positively glows with life, even as it paints a tender portrait of men coping, in different ways, with the process of growing old. Not only is it a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English January. Don't think twice, just come.



Waltz with Bashir

Tue 20 12.30



Ari Folman's Waltz with Bashir is a remarkable animated documentary detailing a stunning autobiographical study of his time in the Israel Defence Forces during the first Lebanon war in 1982.

He has no recollection of what happened to him during this period, save for one half remembered dreamscape; he and fellow soldiers emerging from the sea, wading onto a beach in Beirut...

We follow Ari as a 19 year old recruit trying to piece things together through beautifully realised narrative set pieces and astonishing dream sequences garnered from similar nightmare recollections from old friends and comrades, reporters and a psychologist. As he delves deeper, his memory begins to creep back in surreal images.

"Folman's confusion testifies to the fog of war, or perhaps to the fact that this fog is created as a way of not facing up to war-guilt..." (*Guardian*)

"The result is a mesmerising jumble of flowing graphics illuminating every haunting tale. Its power is the cartoon "shield" between witness and audience. It has the unsettling effect of intensifying the trauma." (*Telegraph*)

An astonishing film. Completely aware of itself as an animation, Waltz with Bashir renders an obscenely ugly conflict as a thing of great beauty, without compromising itself. You will have not seen a film like this before.

Director: Ari Folman
Starring: Ronny Dayag, Ron Ben-Yishai, Dror Harazi
Certificate: 18
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: France, Germany, Israel 2008
By: Artificial Eye

Brideshead Revisited

Thu 22 2.00

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

Brideshead returns again in January and will be revisited again and again throughout the this brave new year.

Charles Ryder arrives at Oxford, only to fall in with one of the “sodomites” he’s been warned about, namely the aristocratic Sebastian Flyte. Becoming close pals, and possibly lovers, Charles is invited to visit Brideshead, where he falls for his pal’s opulent lifestyle, and his beautiful sister Julia.

But his hopes of fitting in seemed doomed from the start. Icy and bigoted, Lady Marchmain has driven her son to alcohol, her daughter to the edge of madness and her husband (Michael Gambon) into the arms of a mistress in Venice!

While they’re all played brilliantly, you end up not liking them very much.

Waugh’s sandpaper dry wit seems squashed, leaving us with big frocks, quivering upper lips and not much else. The same tale condensed to 132 minutes can hardly compare with the 1981 extravagantly detailed television epic shown in hour long episodes over eleven weeks, and meticulously faithful to the book.

Beautifully shot and styled throughout, Castle Howard keeps it loyal familiar, and although Hayley Atwell is smouldering in all the right places, one’s heart yearns for the exquisite Diana Quick sashaying into every backlit room. Come, and be lifted from January for a couple of hours.



Calamity Jane

Sat 24 2.00



Jessie took us to The Sunhall to see this. Have never forgotten it. We were six and the colours were brighter than sweets and the songs joyful and louder shouting.

As for Doris Day, the crush will last forever.

Apparently the real Calamity Jane looked more like Micky Rourke and Wild Bill Hickock didn’t wash much and had few teeth, but reality wasn’t a big deal in 1953.

We had enough of that in bucket-loads. This was Hollywood’s rebirth. Post war films carried on with uplifting fantasy as they had in the depression of the thirties, through the forties and out the other side of the war. It wasn’t keeping the masses passive so they wouldn’t revolt. It was commercial Hollywood, the stuff of dreams. From these movies we knew there was another, far different world out there (even though I thought The Blackhills of Dakota were in Derby Park, against Fernhill Road railings, till I was about 35). Doris’s freckled ‘Calaam’ is a’rootn, tootn shootn in Deadwood. When she isn’t tearing up the town, she spends her time cussing out Wild Bill Hickok (Howard Keel).

You’ll love The Deadwood Stage and ‘Blackhills’ and the Windy City. Bring any child who gets in your way.

Director: David Butler
Starring: Doris Day, Howard Keel
Certificate: U
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 1953
By: Park Circus Films

Dean Spanley

Mon 26 2.00, Tue 27 12.30

Director: Toa Fraser
Starring: Jeremy Northam, Peter O'Toole, Sam Neill
Certificate: U
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: New Zealand, UK 2008
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

“While the aroma is of more significance than the flavour – for us humans alas that is the pursuit of the ineffable by the inadequate...” (Sam Neill as Dean Spanley). After a slow start it all comes clear.

O'Toole gives a scorching performance as misanthropic curmudgeon, Horatio Fisk, in this wonderfully eccentric comedy-drama. Set at the start of the twentieth century and based on the novel by Baron Dunsany, it's full of peculiarly English quirks and ticks. Distanced father and son, Horatio and Henslowe (Northam), attend a lecture on the Transmigration of Souls by a visiting Hindu Swami. There, they meet Dean Spanley (Neill), with whom Henslowe strikes up a bizarre friendship. At dinner he plies the Dean with a rare Hungarian wine and in return, Spanley, as if in a trance, tells of a unexpected former life:

a pre-existence that may just hold the key to the family heartbreak that Horatio is trying to keep repressed.

“Transmigration: it's almost like a metaphor for acting itself! Enjoyable, wags its tail but perhaps too house-trained” (*FS Film Prog BBCR4*)

“It's amazing how much you can forgive if the last part of a film is right. This one covers itself in glory in the nick of time.” (*Standard*) Dog lovers should not miss!

Quantum of Solace

Wed 28 2.00



“Daniel Craig's difficult second album in the role of 007 has turned out to be a concept album. And that concept is rage. When we left the agent at the end of Casino Royale, the great man was hurting. His love, Vesper Lynd, had apparently betrayed him and his heart was broken. The icy cynicism, the flippant mannerisms and the womanising: it is all to anaesthetise that primal agony.” (*crits?*)

Judi Dench's maternal M is furious when wee James starts whacking people all over the shop without a note from his mum. (Bernard Lee's M would be double-f furious with such namby nonsense). It's not nearly as smart as Craig's debut. There is not much storyline or romance - although there is some hotel-suite action with a sexy British agent called Fields (Gemma Arterton) who greets Bond at the airport apparently wearing nothing but a raincoat, rude shoes and a pout. Uh Oh! Daniel - a real pout!

“What it does have is Daniel Craig. No one can deny his charisma, and the effortless way he has inhabited the role. He has some spectacular action sequences and a fair few close-quarter punch-ups à la Bourne. As for athletic rooftop-leaping, earlier Bonds would have found it too much like hard work.” (*Guardian*)



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

Mamma Mia

Thu 29 2.00

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

Here we go again...

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F and the acting grade K. The three men 'singing' is fun. Julie W saves it more than once. But the sun shines and the sea sparkles Med-blue the whole time.

Everybody leaves unable to stop smiling. Quite ridiculous and painful... and every month since August!

So come, laugh, sing and dance in the aisles, but please... hate it just a little.



The Fox and the Child

Sat 31 2.00



This French film from Luc Jacquet, narrated by Kate Winslet in its English version, is set on the mountainsides of Ain. Like March of the Penguins, the director's first feature-length film, it is ravishingly shot.

It tells a simple tale about a little girl who makes friends with a fox but finally realized that to love doesn't necessarily mean to possess. Children will undoubtedly adore the film, and the local tourist board will probably have to take its phones off the hook.

"The Alpine scenery steals the picture as we go through the season before concentrating on a gloriously-hued autumn. I hope it wasn't tarted up with CG effects – it doesn't look like it." (Standard)

It sounds too good to miss, so bring all the children in your street.

Director: Luc Jacquet
Starring: Isabelle Carré, Thomas Laliberté, Bertille Noël-Bruneau
Certificate: U
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Pathe Distribution

FILM ANNUAL DONATED TO OUR LIBRARY



On a jungle set at Elstree Studios, Jeanne Crain and Dana Andrews, stars of the Associated British Marcel Hellman Technicolour film 'Duel in the Jungle', show the souvenir elephants tusks they brought from Africa to ABC Minor Margaret Watston and Granadier Ian MacKay. (Courtesy of the The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual 1954)

Here is a perfectly innocent picture of a family admiring father's new elephant's tusks. Like Morecombe and Wise in bed together twenty years later, there was no sense of oddity or outrage. In the fifties animal trophies; heads, horns and skins culled from brave wild game safaris into dark savage lands were nothing out of the ordinary. As for innuendo, clearly it wasn't even considered. In the face of

such glowing innocence how could anyone stoop so low as to taint it with smut? Now is your chance. The cleverest and wittiest caption will win a free burial at sea with a woman of your own choice (Milligan) or tickets for an obscure Eastern European film depicting poverty in the Urals or even a Morecombe and Wise collection. Post, drop at box office or email your captions to therex@hotmail.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS TREE MESSAGES 2008

Thanks for all the messages left on our Christmas tree. Here are just a few of them.

"I love the view of the Rex, I loved city of ember, I like the swirling chairs"
Finley banks aged 7

"Great cinema but please please please...no more speeches"
Mike and Lisa

Sorry Lisa, didn't you know about Val...?

"Best thing to happen to Berkhamsted"
Val and Mike

"Merry Christmas, we love the rex, so great for the town"

"Hey the Rex, I love your cinema, soooo pretty, have a great Christmas!" love Amy

"The Blaneys say the Rex rocks!"

"This cinema is amazing" Lucy aged 10

"Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year"

"The Rex is the best place to bring the best mum..." Paula

"Despite how wonderful the Rex is, nothing makes up for sitting through Mamma Mia....keep up the good work"

"Invite Fred Astaire more often"

"Now I've lost my Rex virginity"

"Nobody loves a fairy when she's forty"
Terence Davis

"Where do you find such beautiful and efficient staff?" **(Don't trust this one)**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL
AT THE REX**



Colours caught in an Attic Café window.

HUMPH QUOTES

Not quite Humph quotes but those made by the teams of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, across three decades, at his behest...

"Now teams, I would like you to provide definitions for the following..."
Here are a few of the best from a-c...

Aperitif: Cockney dentures

Archery: Lying under oath and at all other times

Arsenic: Having sat on a razor

Biro: Property developer

Bollocks: Unsuccessful botox

Buttercup: Face down

Cenotaph: A welsh laxative

Chairs: A toast to the Queen

Circumspect: Spotted dick

Coincidental: Having matching teeth

Copulate: The time it takes the police to show up in an emergency

Countryside: To kill Piers Morgan

*Courtesy of Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Willy Rushton, Jon Naismith & Iain Pattinson with Humph setting some of them to questions.
(The Uxbridge English Dictionary 17th Ed)
Thanks to the Williams's.*



Bourne Valley



Bourne Valley



Bourne Valley



Bourne Valley



Bank Mill

They took all the trees,
Put 'em in a tree museum
And charged all the people
a dollar and a half just to see 'em...

Don't it always seem to go
You don't what you've got till its gone
They paved paradise
Put up a parking lot (*Joni Mitchell*)

This may have seemed once like a catchy 70s hippy tune with right-on lyrics but if it had a hint of pessimistic truth then, what has it now? Of course it's true. If 'they' had their way, insurance companies alone would uproot all trees lining roads and on windy corners.

The land you see in these pictures is owned by Legal & General. They have made it available for development. This is some of the most unspoiled and beautiful countryside in Britain. It borders the edge of a town, already big enough.

To build on it would not only remove and destroy this land forever, it will sprawl Berkhamsted into Bourne End. Now that it is in the open, they will do anything to speed up the paving of paradise. It is up to us to stop them. Ask how.

The full story can be found on
www.berkhamstedtowncouncil.gov.uk

(pictures by Kelly Cantlon from Dec 2008. Commissioned by The Rex)



The Bourne Gutter (2007)



Bourne Valley



Bourne Valley