

THE-REFX

M A G E



CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

JANUARY 2011...

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

JANUARY Issue 70
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Abbie Knight	Jack Whiting
Bethany McKay	Olivia Wilson
Simon Messenger	Keymea Yazdanian

Ushers:
 Abigail K, Ally, Billie, Charlotte, Ellie, Emma,
 James, Kitty, Lucy, Luisa, Lydia K, Romy, Roz, Sid

Sally Thorpe In charge
Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)
Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist
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Oliver Hicks Best Boy
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Betty Patterson Company Secretary and THE ORIGINAL VISIONARY of The Rex.

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BEST IN JANUARY



"A small miracle of a film" Dont' miss.
 France 2010.

Of Gods and Men Mon 10 /Thu 13 7.30

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Feted as a 'triumph of guerilla film-making'.
 UK 2010.

Monsters Sun 9 6.00



Heartwarming, human and optimistic, with
 some cricket. UK 2010.

Out of the Ashes Wed 9 7.30



Be touched by Roky Roulette, Dirty Martini
 & Amalric himself. France 2010.

On Tour Mon 17 7.30

NICK MORAN. THE KID 21ST NOVEMBER.



In the foyer before the show

Nick Moran came to the Rex with his second film, *The Kid*, following *Telstar* in 2009. As before, he was brilliant on stage, recounting tales of the tough guys and street fighters he met during (filming) night-shoots in scrap yards.

There were the inevitable Harry Potter questions. A car would pick him up, first thing, from his grim night location to whisk him to the refined, beautifully organised HP Set at Leavesden Studios, then drop him back at South Oxhey to continue the fight scene into the next night.

The Q&A lasted over an hour and he continued to regale the (too) many left standing in the bar until the small hours.



As the evil Scabior in Harry Potter



With behind-the-scenes friends... who turned him into the evil Scabior!



Backstage: Malcolm, Oliver-John, Helen & Olly G

A SIXTH SELL-OUT YEAR AT THE REX! RE-OPENED 5TH
DECEMBER 2004



Some family and friends pictured at the Rex to celebrate our 6th anniversary. It felt like a very special occasion, marked by a coveted preview of *The King's Speech* (Thanks to Momentum Pictures). A classically faultless piece of film making, not to be missed in February's programme.



SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THESE...



Now that all dogs are on one big lead and the sheep safe, Pitstone Hill remains protector and haven for all us creatures to breathe long gulps of fresh frosty air at its summit. From there you can see and breathe for miles and miles. The troubled world, though still there, takes a rest for that sacred moment. Our countryside is perhaps the last precious thing we have. We must put it on one big lead and protect it at all costs. (see page 40)



...and down in the valley the Grand Union passes through our wintry 'Latin Quarter'



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

The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest

Sun 2 6.00, Mon 3, Tue 4 7.30



"Handier with a golf club than Tiger Woods' wife and tougher to kill than an armour-plated cockroach, Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander has been one of 2010's most fascinating discoveries." (Tot Film)

Starting immediately where *The Girl/Fire* finished, *Hornet's Nest* kicks off with Salander (Noomi Rapace) under police guard in hospital.

Confining its most forceful character to gurning doesn't initially bode well. But once Noomi is restored to her funky, punky glory, the *Hornet's Nest* buzzes with intrigue.

Co-writers Jonas Frykberg and Ulf Ryberg do a decent job condensing Larsson's door-stopper, while Rapace, seen at one point using a nail gun as a lethal weapon, is once again an indelible screen presence. Though talky and static in places, *The Hornet's Nest* satisfyingly wraps up an engrossing trilogy, setting the bar high for David Fincher's imminent remake(s). As ever, the unique Noomi Rapace and the charismatic Michael Nyqvist are the aces in the pack. We are very happy to begin the new year with this, the last third of the Swedish cliff-hanger. To begin 2011 with the story told is very satisfying.

If you've seen the other two, this is a must. If not, you won't have the foggiest. So get someone to buy you the box set for Christmas and murder suicide week with it. Happy New Year...

Director: Daniel Alfredson
Starring: Lena Endre, Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: Denmark, Germany, Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

My Afternoons with Marguerite

Wed 5 7.30

Director: Jean Becker
Starring: Gérard Depardieu, Gisèle Casadesus
Certificate: 15
Duration: 82 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Picturehouse Entertainment

Directed by Jean Becker (son of Jacques), "My Afternoons With Marguerite" is a sweet natured, heart-over-head French comedy.

Set in a small, warm town, Germain (Gérard Depardieu), a semi-literate, bumbling, fat handyman, strikes up a friendship with ninety-something Marguerite (astonishing, real life nonagenarian, Gisèle Casadesus). Their chance meeting on a park bench sets in motion a whimsical friendship. Marguerite reads Camus to the big man, and slowly sets him on a path to self-improvement... It's unashamedly cosy, inimitably French, set in a leafy town where the sun always shines. The character of Germain is a strange one, a mixture of blustering assurance and low self-esteem, despite having a blonde girlfriend half his age. Such inconsistencies are for Depardieu to pull off with ease. However, Gisèle is the star; an actress since the 1930s, she is grace and charm personified.

"It's charming, sentimental, well-acted, and any readers' group should make an outing to see it." (Observer)

"Nicely acted, feel-good lesson in self-improvement with a portrait of petit bourgeois village life that uses every cliché in the book." (Independent)

It's close to *Conversations with My Gardener* in the sure knowledge that only one of them is in charge and it's not that one. So too, if you loved *Orchestra Seats* you'll love this. If you've yet to see either, start with this.

Digital



The American

Thu 6 7.30, Sat 8 7.00



Brilliantly directed by Anton Corbijn (Control) "The American" is a cracking hit-man yarn with a twist, and gorgeous George.

Jack (Clooney) is a gunsmith and assassin on the run, posing as a photographer, hiding out in the rural Abruzzo mountains in Italy. He is approached by mysterious Mathilde (Thekla Reuten) to build a custom-made, designer rifle for her. After a loving liaison with a gorgeous local prostitute, Clara (Violante Placido: daughter of Simonetta Stefanelli Michael's Sicilian bride, 'Appolonia' from The Godfather), Jack realises his hideout has been discovered. Who is ruthlessly pursuing him? And why? Some pretty sharp shooting is needed if ice cold Jack is to escape unscathed this time...

As a cold blooded killer, Clooney's natural wit and easy charm are surplus to requirements here, and he does an excellent, unsettling job as killer-for-hire. In fact, Corbijn suppresses his leading man's crowd-pleasing tricks. Clooney never smiles. Indeed he hardly speaks. A shocking event in the first five minutes confirms him as utterly ruthless. The director's background as a photographer comes to the fore; the film itself nestled in breathtaking scenery.

"Exquisitely shot, with every frame impeccably composed, The American is essentially a European art-house film, you almost forget the predictability of its implausible plot." (*Telegraph*). Don't miss

Director: Anton Corbijn
Starring: George Clooney, Bruce Altman, Thekla Reuten
Certificate: 15
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: Italy, USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Unstoppable

Fri 7 7.30

Director: Tony Scott
Starring: Rosario Dawson, Denzel Washington, Chris Pine
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox

It's Tony Scott, younger/older brother to Ridley and the one with all the all-action on top of all-action big screeners. This one has been dubbed 'Top Gun on rails'.

Unstoppable is based on real news story from 2001, where a train on auto goes out of control. Scott has transformed it into high-tension big screen entertainment. He meticulously storyboards every scene with his own pencil. Tony Scott was an A student at Art college.

So what we have is reluctant hero, Denzel. He is about to be retired when this runaway train needs one last rescue job. With cocky engineer, the fabulous Chris Pine (who should be getting all Shia Lebouf's charisma by-pass face, but that's Hollywood's insane miscasting) Mr. Washington chases against time to stop this nasty train before it kills children..?? It's Von Ryan's Express, Pelham 123 and Polar Express, but with fantastic edge of seat effects. Keaton's The General still takes the whistle for real stunts on real trains doing real speed on real bridges, with no special effects. All this miserable 'so what' put-down aside, it will be fantastic to watch on our massive screen. And Denzel can do no wrong. Come for the thrill of the ride.



Monsters

Sun 9 6.00



Young first-time British film-maker, Gareth Edwards went to Mexico to make a cheap movie that doesn't look cheap. He may have succeeded.

"It would be sad if the story of how Gareth Edwards created his captivating, micro-budget sci-fi film was to obscure its far greater achievement, being as it is a seamless blending of romance, road movie and monster flick. Shot guerrilla-style on location in Guatemala, Belize and Mexico with two proper actors and local distinctly, non-actors (who steal it) improvising dialogue within a loose structure, *Monsters* immerses the audience in a near-future world where the Mexican population has become blasé about the destruction wrought by giant, squid-like alien beings." (*Time Out*)

"We went round Central America in a van picking up people as we go. It is shot in real places with real people, as we found them; just added CGI on top. It is all real. Everyone, apart from the two leads, we met on the way. The ferryman; we met him ten minutes before we filmed the shot. Everyone believes him, he's so convincing. He's from Costa Rica. We never saw him again. Now he's in the trailer, people are asking about him..." (*Gareth Edwards R4 Film Prog*)

Once more, beware the critics are wetting themselves over this "guerrilla film-making".

Director: Gareth Edwards
Starring: Whitney Able, Scoot McNairy
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Vertigo

Of Gods and Men

Mon 10 7.30, Thu 13 7.30

Director: Xavier Beauvois
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Michael Lonsdale, Olivier Rabourdin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Artificial Eye

On a wing and a prayer, Xavier Beauvois' "Of Gods and Men" is a remarkable, deeply moving thriller in a minor key.

Set in a Cistercian monastery in Algeria, it imagines life in the monastery in 1996 as the monks face a threat from Islamic fundamentalists to their serene corner of the Atlas Mountains. A true story dramatised by Beauvois and Etienne Comar, it follows eight monks caught in a dilemma: to flee for their lives or stay and see which side God takes.

The film is much more than "a sort of spiritual Alamo against fundamentalist threats." (*Telegraph*). It is a sombre meditation on faith, courage and fear. They're neither sages nor heroes. They waver and worry.

It is beautifully paced, ebbing and flowing with the natural rhythms of their daily lives, alongside the gentle harmony they share with the local Muslim community. In its restraint and emotional impact, the final sequence gives us some idea why three million flocked to see it when it opened across France in September. "Each time I have watched it, frankly, I have become overwhelmed with an emotion I can't possibly describe." (*PB Guardian*)

"Its celebration of spiritual humility and enduring humanity can hardly fail to move." (*Independent*) As always it's the journey not the destination. Don't miss. (*research Simon Messenger*)



The Secret in Their Eyes Tue 11, Wed 12 7.30



Juan José Campanella's excellent Argentine thriller is genuinely one of the most gripping, absorbing and satisfying films of 2010. Well deserving its Oscar

over another Rex favourite; *A Prophet*.

Set in 1999, but told partly in flashbacks to the 1970s, it centres on a retired legal counsellor, Benjamín Espósito (Ricardo Darín), attempting to seek closure on his career, by writing a crime thriller.

The basis for his novel is his own entanglement in the case of a young woman's brutal rape and murder, some 25 years before. Enlisting the assistance of his former superior, Irene (Soledad Villamil), from whom Espósito has long hidden his feelings, we are drawn in to the ensuing man-hunt, which includes a tense and superbly executed (if far-fetched) chase sequence inside a football stadium. We become steadily implicated in the grim world of the Junta, and los desaparecidos... The Disappeared.

"Argentina in the 1970s is an inspired setting for a film noir, it's a wonder it hasn't been used more before..."

(*Guardian*)

"Triumphs on two fronts simultaneously, as both a love story and a thriller. Since it's rare enough for a film to succeed even in one such category, this can be considered high praise indeed." (*Telegraph*)

Beside which, it has unexpected twists of humour and his alcoholic sidekick is priceless. Don't miss.

Director: Juan Campanella
Starring: Ricardo Darín, Carla Quevedo, Soledad Villamil
Certificate: 18
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: Argentina, Spain 2009
By: Metrodome Distributors

Red Fri 14 7.30

Director: Robert Schwentke
Starring: Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman, Bruce Willis, John Malkovich
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: E1 Films

Pensioner suburbanite Frank Moses (Willis) wakes up to a volley of fire from masked assassins, and as he deals with them one by one, realises his retirement is about to take a detour.

The title stands for 'retired, extremely dangerous', and this knockabout action comedy is a boisterous, getting-the-band-back-together movie as Frank assembles a crew of trigger-happy oldsters to uncover why his distinguished, black-ops past is coming back to haunt him.

It's another geri-actioner in the mould of *The Expendables*. Bruce Willis is the common link, leading retired spooks Freeman, Malkovitch and Mirren on one last hurrah. As if that wasn't enough thespian megatonnage, Brian Cox plays their Russian foe-turned-friend and the brilliant Mary-Louise Parker is Willis's love interest. "The script, loosely based on a graphic novel, allows the stars plenty of room to play off each other; so enjoyably, in fact, that it is disappointing when the joshing stops for yet another bout of bullets, explosions and running pointlessly all over the place." (*Times*)

It's a charming mess, rescued by the knowing gusto of the stars. Beneath its light exterior is not only a neat, political conspiracy theory, but a rebellious streak from Clint-like, credible old spooks.

"It is painting by numbers for people who have trouble with mental arithmetic." (*Guardian*) Come for Helen Mirren's gun-toting tough-guy.





Director: Michael Apted
Starring: Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Will Poulter
Certificate: PG
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Narnia: Dawn Treader

Sat 15 7.00, Sun 16 6.00

This third instalment in the Narnia series is a vast improvement on the dull “Prince Caspian”.

Lucy and Edmund Pevensie (Georgie & Skander), along with their whiny and annoying cousin Eustace Scrubb (Son of Rambow’s Will Poulter), re-enter Narnia through an animated painting of the ship. They find themselves on a mission with, now King Caspian, (Barnes) to save Narnia once more, in this largely sea faring, island-hopping yarn, avoiding all kinds including a mysterious and terrifying green mist...

It’s a cracking tale – the series feels revitalised after the mis-firing of the second film. Liam Neeson, Simon Pegg and Tilda Swinton all crop up to lend gravitas to the proceedings, but it is ultimately the introduction of Poulter’s Eustace which gives the film its added dimension.

“The veteran British director Michael Apted knows how to pace such a vast story, and succeeds in finding dramatic light and shade in its quieter moments without being overwhelmed by its special effects.” (*Telegraph*)

“Slave traders, magical maps, cockney minotaurs, one-legged hobbit things, a simpering dragon and a terrifying sea serpent. Mission accomplished!” (*Total Film*)

(research Simon Messenger)

On Tour

Mon 17 7.30



Before ‘Burlesque’ thuds into cinemas, you’d do well to catch actor filmmaker Mathieu Amalric’s smarter and sexier take on the form.

Initially inspired by Colette’s memoir of her music-hall days, Amalric researched his subject, cast from life, brought his American troupe on a real-life tour of provincial venues and shot the film in a naturalistic style. The result, delivered in a mix of English and French, feels lived in, charming, touching and spiky, if somewhat rambling. It has a keen sense of the France we rarely get to see on screen: a limbo-land of trading estates, petrol stations and chain hotels. All of which add to the air of footloose melancholia.

“If anything, Amalric focuses on the troupe’s everyday experience at the expense of the frisson of scandalous novelty they bring to their small-town audiences and the pleasures of watching them perform: combining defiant sexuality, wit and shock value, these are among the scene’s strongest acts and they’re seldom allowed simply to do their thing from beginning to end. Even so, there’s an infinitely greater thrill to be had from ten seconds of Dirty Martini’s ample moneymaker than two hours of high-gloss Hollywood pap.” (*Time Out*) Won the film Critics award at Cannes and best director for Mathieu. Don’t miss.

Director: Mathieu Amalric
Starring: Mathieu Amalric, Miranda Colclasure, Suzanne Ramsey, Alexander Craven
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Artificial Eye

Another Year

Tue 18 7.30

Director: Mike Leigh
Starring: Lesley Manville, Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Momentum Pictures

Mike Leigh returns, at the top of his game for another year, with another intimate, engaging drama, musing on family, friends, and the nature of contentment.

“Another Year” is set over a single year, with the seasons providing the chapters. Retired couple Tom (Jim Broadbent) and Gerri (Ruth Sheen) tend to their allotment as the seasons pass. Reasonably fulfilled by their careers and their relationship, their steady home attracts family and friends for whom life hasn’t been so kind; Tom’s friend Ken, an alcoholic; Gerri’s NHS colleague - lonely, divorcee Mary (Lesley Manville). As the film progresses with Tom and Gerri’s year burdened with the weight of these family friends, the passive-aggression builds...

“Leigh and his cast have created a network of relationships that is more complex than it first appears...perhaps it is that there is a quantum-economy of happiness in any group of people: the happiness of some means unhappiness in others.” (*Guardian*)
 “Broadbent and Sheen are exquisite in tandem, making Tom and Gerri’s brand of coupledness, which is both welcoming and insidiously exclusive, into a blunt fact, something hardened and immutable, like old turf.” (*Telegraph*)

“My objective is to make you feel as though you are there, it is really happening and you are inescapably locked in to it.” (*Mike Leigh*)

A slow burning, perfectly weighted film. (*research SM*)



Out of the Ashes

Wed 19 7.30



This remarkable documentary, produced by Sam Mendes, chronicles the attempts of the Afghan cricket team to qualify for the 2010 World Cup.

The players learned to play in refugee camps in nearby Pakistan. Upon returning to Afghanistan, and the rubble pitches of Kabul, the determination of coach Taj Malik Alam, and his extraordinary team, sees them from the qualifying matches in the Channel Islands (their first match on grass) Argentina and South Africa (destinations miles from home and a million more from their dared, wildest dreams) to the 'Twenty20' finals in St. Lucia.

A fabulous documentary full of warmth and humour. Everything is here. At its core, the film has little to do with cricket. As a story of life on the road, it's beautifully measured, with the culture shocks, genuinely felt and shared. Not to mention the thrills on the field.

"In Buenos Aires, one player is so shocked seeing the tango danced, he grows a beard and retreats to his room with the Koran." (*Guardian*)

"Documentaries that dwell on misery and abjection are ten-a-penny. It's rare to find one that, for all the difficulties and struggles this one portrays, leaves you upbeat about humanity." (*Telegraph*) Their slogan "Religion then Cricket" This film suggests it might be the other way round. A rare gem. Don't miss. (research Simon Messenger)

Directors: Tim Albone, Lucy Martens
Certificate: 15
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Independent Cinema Office

Airplane Thu 20 7.30

Directors: David Zucker, Jim Abrahams
Starring: Robert Hays, Leslie Nielsen
Certificate: PG
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 1980
By: Paramount International Pictures

Roger Murdock: Flight 2-zero-9'er, you are cleared for take-off.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: L.A. departure frequency, 123 point 9'er.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Victor Basta: Request vector, over.

Captain Oveur: What?

Tower voice: Flight 2-zero-9'er cleared for vector 324.

Roger Murdock: We have clearance, Clarence.

Captain Oveur: Roger, Roger. What's our vector, Victor?

Tower voice: Tower's radio clearance, over!

Captain Oveur: That's Clarence Oveur. Over.

Tower voice: Over.

Captain Oveur: Roger.

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: Roger, over!

Roger Murdock: What?

Captain Oveur: Huh?

Victor Basta: Who?

"Joey... ever seen a grown man naked?" Don't miss. (No impro. Every word and sight-gag scripted).





Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
Starring: Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie, Paul Bettany, Rufus Sewell, Timothy Dalton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA/France 2010
By: Optimum Releasing



The Tourist

**Fri 21 7.30, Sat 22 7.00,
 Sun 23 6.00**

Two of the world's most 'beautiful people' star with each in one of the world's most beautiful cities and the only European city dating from the 13th century, to be built on water.

Hence this thriller should sell itself...

However, it too is built on water, which is not quite the same thing.

Depp plays Frank, a curiously droopy, heartbroken, maths teacher who, whilst holidaying in Venice, becomes attached to the mysterious Elise (Jolie), and finds himself embroiled in an improbable Interpol plot to flush out a shady criminal gang.

It's pretty silly stuff. Director, von Donnersmarck (also responsible for the brilliant *The Lives of Others*) has Depp clambering over Venetian rooftops in his pyjamas for as much time as he spends at Ferrero Rocher ambassador parties.

"Like two Persian cats who have been drugged and somehow trained to walk side by side down the street, those exotic A-listers Johnny and Angelina make a curious spectacle..." (*Guardian*)

"The pairing of Angelina Jolie with Johnny Depp in *The Tourist* represents the latest step in the apparent campaign by Jolie, like some cinematic vampire, to drain her leading men of all charisma." (*Telegraph*) Apparently Johnny has fancied playing somebody 'normal' for ages. Having studied maths and other teachers, he finds 'normal' much more weird than Jack Sparrow.

Come for him and Venice, and ignore the crits. It will be fun. (*review SM*)



An Ordinary Execution **Mon 24** 7.30



Marc Dugain, whose first world war novel *The Officers' Ward* was made into a film almost a decade ago, here adapts/directs his own 2007 novel.

Rather, adapted just the first part of an ambitious, episodic fiction about the nature and history of Russian political power.

The result is a pungently atmospheric chamber piece, set in the paranoid Soviet era of purges and disappearances;

Director Marc Dugain imagines an encounter between Stalin and a young doctor, Anna. Tales of her healing touch have spread and one night she is taken away, not to the infamous Lubyanka prison, but to the Kremlin to attend the ailing Comrade Stalin himself.

Stalin imperiously makes Anna his top-secret personal physician, an intimacy which he decrees is so important that it supersedes and invalidates every other relationship in her life – especially her marriage

This dark French psychodrama set during the last days of Stalin's reign. Marina Hands (superb) plays the doctor trying to go unnoticed in a society of mutual dread where a neighbour or colleague might "denounce" you to the authorities at any moment.

"Always mesmerising, Dussollier's Stalin is a portrait of a leader whose frailties are matched only by his capacity for evil."

(*Empire*) Don't miss

Director: Marc Dugain
Starring: André Dussollier, Marina Hands, Edouard Baer, Denis Podalydès, Tom Novembre
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Independent Cinema Office

Narnia: Dawn Treader **Tue 25** 7.30

Director: Michael Apted
Starring: Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Will Poulter
Certificate: PG
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox

This third instalment in the Narnia series is a vast improvement on the dull "Prince Caspian".

Lucy and Edmund Pevensie (Georgie & Skander), along with their whiny and annoying cousin Eustace Scrubb (Son of Rambow's Will Poulter), re-enter Narnia through an animated painting of the ship. They find themselves on a mission with, now King Caspian, (Barnes) to save Narnia once more, in this largely sea faring, island-hopping yarn, avoiding all kinds including a mysterious and terrifying green mist...

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"The veteran British director Michael Apted knows how to pace such a vast story, and succeeds in finding dramatic light and shade in its quieter moments without being overwhelmed by its special effects." (*Telegraph*)

"Slave traders, magical maps, cockney minotaurs, one-legged hobbit things, a simpering dragon and a terrifying sea serpent. Mission accomplished!"

(*Total Film*)

(research Simon Messenger)



Secretariat

Wed 26 7.30



Just when we thought John Malkovich didn't have another deranged performance left in him, up he comes with another wierd turn. This time he's mercurial racehorse trainer, Lucien Laurin complete with unreliable French Canadian accent ("spoken as if through a mouthful of Toblerone" *PB Guardian*) in this true heartwarming tale of the super-fast 1970's world beater Secretariat.

"It doesn't boast the most imaginative script and is too businesslike for non-horsey kids, yet it still produces a lump in the throat." (*Time Out*)

Owner, Penny Chenery (Diane Lane) is a no-nonsense housewife who against all advice takes charge of her late-father's failing stud farm. When one of her mares produces the foal that will become the 'greatest race horse of all time' they're both off. Clearly the yanks haven't heard of Seabiscuit, Red Rum, Shergar or Desert Orchid?

But, to give the horse its due, Secretariat's heart weighed almost 22 lbs! As a two year old, in his first season (1972) he won eight on the trot. In 1973 A Triple Crown and the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths set a new world record, time and distance. It has never been beaten. So too the one he set at the Kentucky Derby still stands. So it's all true. Come for the flutter and warm your heart in January.

Director: Randall Wallace
Starring: Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh, Margo Martindale
Certificate: U
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Disney

Top Hat

Thu 27 7.30

Director: Mark Sandrich
Starring: Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers
Certificate: U
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 1935
By: British Film Institute

"Can't act, can't sing. Can dance a little..." (legend - Fred's first screen test)

Perhaps the best known of his film partnerships with Ginger Rogers, TOP HAT is loved for its wonderful Irving Berlin score and breathtaking dance routines set against stunning white modern sets. "There are two numbers in TOP HAT where the dancing on the screen reaches such perfection... Isn't This a Lovely Day? and Cheek to Cheek. Astaire believed that movie dance numbers should be shot in unbroken takes. It is artistry through endurance. Where many dancers would be gasping for breath, Astaire and Rogers are smiling. It is watching hard work elevated to effortless joy: He knows they can do no better than this, and nor can anyone else." (*Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times*). It is also corny very funny. The sub-double act of Edward Everett-Horton's manager and Eric Bore's snobby butler is comic perfection. Even for twelve year olds watching on a crackly b&w television, every gag and routine worked. Don't miss it on the big screen, no matter how many times you've seen it on the little one.





Director: David Yates
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes, Jason Isaacs, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter

Certificate: 12A
Duration: 146 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers



Harry Potter

and the Deathly Hallows

Fri 28 7.30, **Sat 29** 7.00,
Sun 30 6.00

Another year... Spanning almost ten, Harry Potter is one of the most cherished film events of all time. This final instalment of the series has been conjured into two films, and as if by wizardry, this is the first half...

You probably know what it's about, but for the benefit of those who've spent the last decade under a (chosen) rock, or deliberately looked the other way: Harry, Hermione and Ron; Daniel, Emma & Rupert have left Hogwarts, embarking on a bleak, dangerous and daring quest across the countryside to find a series of artefacts including the sword of Gryffindor, and shards of the Dark Lord Voldemort's soul.?

I have no idea what any of this means, however be assured, it's sharp, dark, and utterly terrifying, and that's just Bill Nighy's suit. As you'd expect, the film's well made, and laden with breath-taking special effects that'll leave Potter fans yearning for the second half, released this summer.

"The film's succession of remarkable state-of-the-art special effects resembles a fabulous firework display put on by rather spoilt children at a dull party where the adults have all slipped off inside for a drink." (Observer)

It's not as bad as all that, it's just a shame it goes on longer than Emma's old Hermione, hair and stretches thinner than Dumbledore's beard. Fans will not feel cheated. (review *Simon Messenger SM*)



Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives

Mon 31 7.30

Uncle Boonmee, played by non-actor Thanapat Saisaymar, is dying of kidney failure and has returned to the forests of north-eastern Thailand to settle his affairs and see out his days in the company of his loved ones. He tends to his bees and gazes at all that surrounds him. "We accompany him on his journey, which veers from the absurd (those unfortunate monkey men) to moments of spine-tingling insight and back again." (*Wendy Ide Times*)

The elemental and spiritually consoling films of surprisingly young Thai director, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, demolish the boundaries between life and death, man and beast, pain and happiness.

His new film is more of an anthology of spry, interlocking episodes which trace the meandering journey of one man's spirit through various times and bodies.

(Hmmm)

"It's the most persuasive and beguiling account of mysticism and religion that I've seen recently, or perhaps ever. And is one of those rare films that contribute to the sum of human happiness." (*PB Guardian*)

"They're experimental films, not made to be fully understood." (*Sandhu Telegraph*) That's sold it.

Apparently it is worth letting the first half in to weave its spell. It is slow but beguiling, and promises a reward for your patience? Just reading about it has tested mine. Beware too, the critics are wetting themselves. 1hr 53m. It shouldn't hurt too much.



Director:	Apichatpong Weerasethakul
Starring:	Sakda Kaewbuadee
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	114 mins
Origin:	Thailand 2010
By:	New Wave



Digital

COMING SOON

- New releases
- Tron Legacy
- Love and Other Drugs
- True Grit
- 127 hours
- Back by demand
- Made In Dagenhm
- The American
- The Girl Who Kicked The
- Hornet's Nest

Love and Other Drugs



True Grit



127 Hours



Tron Legacy

JANUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Sat	CINEMA CLOSED	
2	Sun	THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST	6.00
3	Mon	THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST	2.00, 7.30
4	Tue	THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST	12.30, 7.30
5	Wed	MY AFTERNOONS WITH MARGUERITE	2.00, 7.30
6	Thu	THE AMERICAN	2.00, 7.30
7	Fri	UNSTOPPABLE	7.30
8	Sat	THE SECRET OF THE KELLS	2.00
8	Sat	THE AMERICAN	7.00
9	Sun	MONSTERS	6.00
10	Mon	THE AMERICAN	2.00
10	Mon	OF GODS AND MEN	7.30
11	Tue	OF GODS AND MEN	12.30
11	Tue	THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES	7.30
12	Wed	THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES	2.00, 7.30
13	Thu	OF GODS AND MEN	2.00, 7.30
14	Fri	RED	7.30
15	Sat	MEGAMIND	2.00
15	Sat	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	7.00
16	Sun	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6.00
17	Mon	ON TOUR	2.00, 7.30
18	Tue	ANOTHER YEAR	12.30, 7.30
19	Wed	ANOTHER YEAR	2.00
19	Wed	OUT OF THE ASHES	7.30
20	Thu	AIRPLANE!	2.00, 7.30
21	Fri	THE TOURIST	7.30
22	Sat	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00
22	Sat	THE TOURIST	7.00
23	Sun	THE TOURIST	6.00
24	Mon	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2.00
24	Mon	AN ORDINARY EXECUTION	7.30
25	Tue	THE TOURIST	12.30
25	Tue	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	7.30
26	Wed	SECRETARIAT	2.00, 7.30
27	Thu	TOP HAT	2.00, 7.30
28	Fri	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1	7.30
29	Sat	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1	2.00, 7.00
30	Sun	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1	6.00
31	Mon	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1	2.00
31	Mon	UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES	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
Matinee Warning: May contain babies

The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest

Mon 3 2.00, Tue 4 12.30



"Handier with a golf club than Tiger Woods' wife and tougher to kill than an armour-plated cockroach, Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander has been one of 2010's most fascinating discoveries." (Tot Film)

Starting immediately where *The Girl on the Train* finished, *Hornet's Nest* kicks off with Salander (Noomi Rapace) under police guard in hospital.

Confining its most forceful character to gurning doesn't initially bode well. But once Noomi is restored to her funky, punky glory, the *Hornet's Nest* buzzes with intrigue.

Co-writers Jonas Frykberg and Ulf Ryberg do a decent job condensing Larsson's door-stopper, while Rapace, seen at one point using a nail gun as a lethal weapon, is once again an indelible screen presence. Though talky and static in places, *The Hornet's Nest* satisfyingly wraps up an engrossing trilogy, setting the bar high for David Fincher's imminent remake(s). As ever, the unique Noomi Rapace and the charismatic Michael Nyqvist are the aces in the pack. We are very happy to begin the new year with this, the last third of the Swedish cliff-hanger. To begin 2011 with the story told is very satisfying.

If you've seen the other two, this is a must. If not, you won't have the foggiest. So get someone to buy you the box set for Christmas and murder suicide week with it. Happy New Year...

Director: Daniel Alfredson
Starring: Lena Endre, Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: Denmark, Germany, Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

My Afternoons with Marguerite

Wed 5 2.00

Director: Jean Becker
Starring: Gérard Depardieu, Gisèle Casadesus
Certificate: 15
Duration: 82 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Picturehouse Entertainment

Directed by Jean Becker (son of Jacques), "My Afternoons With Marguerite" is a sweet natured, heart-over-head French comedy.

Set in a small, warm town, Germain (Gérard Depardieu), a semi-literate, bumbling, fat handyman, strikes up a friendship with ninety-something Marguerite (astonishing, real life nonagenarian, Gisèle Casadesus). Their chance meeting on a park bench sets in motion a whimsical friendship. Marguerite reads Camus to the big man, and slowly sets him on a path to self-improvement... It's unashamedly cosy, inimitable French, set in a leafy town where the sun always shines. The character of Germain is a strange one, a mixture of blustering assurance and low self-esteem, despite having a blonde girlfriend half his age. Such inconsistencies are for Depardieu to pull off with ease. However, Gisèle is the star; an actress since the 1930s, she is grace and charm personified.

"It's charming, sentimental, well-acted, and any readers' group should make an outing to see it." (*Observer*)

"Nicely acted, feel-good lesson in self-improvement with a portrait of petit bourgeois village life that uses every cliché in the book." (*Independent*)

It's close to *Conversations with My Gardener* in the sure knowledge that only one of them is in charge and it's not that one. So too, if you loved *Orchestra Seats* you'll love this. If you've yet to see either, start with this.

Digital



The American

Thu 6 2.00, Mon 10 2.00



Brilliantly directed by Anton Corbijn (Control) "The American" is a cracking hit-man yarn with a twist, and gorgeous George.

Jack (Clooney) is a gunsmith and assassin on the run, posing as a photographer, hiding out in the rural Abruzzo mountains in Italy. He is approached by mysterious Mathilde (Thekla Reuten) to build a custom-made, designer rifle for her. After a loving liaison with a gorgeous local prostitute, Clara (Violante Placido: daughter of Simonetta Stefanelli Michael's Sicilian bride, 'Appolonia' from The Godfather), Jack realises his hideout has been discovered. Who is ruthlessly pursuing him? And why? Some pretty sharp shooting is needed if ice cold Jack is to escape unscathed this time...

As a cold blooded killer, Clooney's natural wit and easy charm are surplus to requirements here, and he does an excellent, unsettling job as killer-for-hire. In fact, Corbijn suppresses his leading man's crowd-pleasing tricks. Clooney never smiles. Indeed he hardly speaks. A shocking event in the first five minutes confirms him as utterly ruthless. The director's background as a photographer comes to the fore; the film itself nestled in breathtaking scenery.

"Exquisitely shot, with every frame impeccably composed, The American is essentially a European art-house film, you almost forget the predictability of its implausible plot." (*Telegraph*). Don't miss

Director: Anton Corbijn
Starring: George Clooney, Bruce Altman, Thekla Reuten
Certificate: 15
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: Italy, USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

The Secret of the Kells Sat 8 2.00

Directors: Tomm Moore, Nora Twomey
Voices: Evan McGuire, Venise du Bois du Roy, Brendan Gleeson, Mick Lally
Certificate: PG
Duration: 79 mins
Origin: France/Belgium/Ireland 2009
By: Optimum

Brendan (McGuire) is a young acolyte at an Irish monastery in medieval times. Under constant of Viking raids, the Abbot (Gleeson) is preoccupied with building a wall to safeguard the Abbey. But Brendan is more interested in the illuminated manuscript that Brother Aidan (Lally) is creating.

The Secret of Kells has at its heart the true story of the Book of Kells; an illuminated manuscript created more than a millennium ago in a remote Irish Abbey. The monks working on it lived under the threat of Viking invasion, and in his narrative, director Tomm Moore imagines the life of this 12-year-old boy, who joins the community's desperate attempts to improve its inadequate defences.

However, Brendan's life is transformed by the arrival of the mysterious Brother Aidan, a master illuminator, who initiates him in the art and uncovers a hitherto uncharted talent.

When Aidan needs a fresh supply of berries to make ink, he dispatches the boy to the nearby dangerous, forbidden forest beyond the Abbey walls, where scary things lurk in the shadows, but where he befriends Aisling, a mysterious sylvan waif who can change shape.

"The result is a story unlike anything you may have seen, and very much worth seeking out. This mostly hand-drawn animation is a unique and beautiful creation." (*Empire*) (research Jack Whiting) Don't miss.



Of Gods and Men

Tue 11 12.30, Thu 13 2.00



On a wing and a prayer, Xavier Beauvois' "Of Gods and Men" is a remarkable, deeply moving thriller in a minor key.

Set in a Cistercian monastery in Algeria, it imagines life in the monastery in 1996 as the monks face a threat from Islamic fundamentalists to their serene corner of the Atlas Mountains. A true story dramatised by Beauvois and Etienne Comar, it follows eight monks caught in a dilemma: to flee for their lives or stay and see which side God takes.

The film is much more than "a sort of spiritual Alamo against fundamentalist threats." (*Telegraph*). It is a sombre meditation on faith, courage and fear. They're neither sages nor heroes. They waver and worry.

It is beautifully paced, ebbing and flowing with the natural rhythms of their daily lives, alongside the gentle harmony they share with the local Muslim community. In its restraint and emotional impact, the final sequence gives us some idea why three million flocked to see it when it opened across France in September.

"Each time I have watched it, frankly, I have become overwhelmed with an emotion I can't possibly describe." (*PB Guardian*)

"Its celebration of spiritual humility and enduring humanity can hardly fail to move." (*Independent*) As always it's the journey not the destination. Don't miss. (research Simon Messenger)

Director: Xavier Beauvois
Starring: Lambert Wilson, Michael Lonsdale, Olivier Rabourdin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 122 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Artificial Eye

The Secret in Their Eyes

Wed 12 2.00

Director: Juan Campanella
Starring: Ricardo Darín, Carla Quevedo, Soledad Villamil
Certificate: 18
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: Argentina, Spain 2009
By: Metrodome Distributors

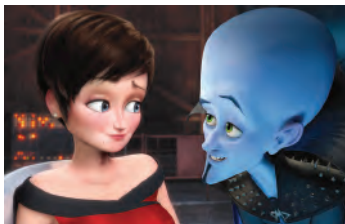
Juan José Campanella's excellent Argentine thriller is genuinely one of the most gripping, absorbing and satisfying films of 2010. Well deserving its Oscar over another Rex favourite; *A Prophet*. Set in 1999, but told partly in flashbacks to the 1970s, it centres on a retired legal counsellor, Benjamín Espósito (Ricardo Darín), attempting to seek closure on his career, by writing a crime thriller. The basis for his novel is his own entanglement in the case of a young woman's brutal rape and murder, some 25 years before. Enlisting the assistance of his former superior, Irene (Soledad Villamil), from whom Espósito has long hidden his feelings, we are drawn in to the ensuing man-hunt, which includes a tense and superbly executed (if far-fetched) chase sequence inside a football stadium. We become steadily implicated in the grim world of the Junta, and los desaparecidos... *The Disappeared*. "Argentina in the 1970s is an inspired setting for a film noir, it's a wonder it hasn't been used more before..." (*Guardian*)

"Triumphs on two fronts simultaneously, as both a love story and a thriller. Since it's rare enough for a film to succeed even in one such category, this can be considered high praise indeed." (*Telegraph*) Beside which, it has unexpected twists of humour and his alcoholic sidekick is priceless. Don't miss.



Megamind

Sat 15 2.00



It's not easy being mean and villainous.

Just ask Megamind (Ferrell). After graduating from the Prison for the Criminally Gifted with a thirst for destruction and a lowly sidekick, aptly named Minion (Cross) in tow, Megamind embraces his inner supervillain to face-off against his archrival, chiseled man-of-the-people, Metro Man (Pitt). Using a news reporter named Roxanne Ritchi (Fey) as bait, Megamind lures his nemesis into the city observatory, where he hopes to thwart Metro Man once and for all. Without a hero to fight, however, how will Megamind cope with living a purposeless existence?

Following up from his success with the MADAGASCAR series, director McGrath takes the animated superhero comedy into a new dimension. If this sounds a little like the recent Despicable Me, it's because it is the same idea, albeit appreciably funnier and more visually exciting.

"Like his plans, Megamind verges on greatness but has flaws. But it's fun, energetic and at times dazzling." (*Empire*) A retro-stylised fantasy-satire that balances knowingness with affection, winning kids and olds over in the process. Wry, sly and very funny. (*Total Film*) Don't miss and watch out for 'typhoon cheese'. (*research Jack Whiting*)

Director: Tom McGrath
Starring: Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill, David Cross, Ben Stiller
Certificate: PG
Duration: 96 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Paramount

On Tour

Mon 17 2.00

Director: Mathieu Amalric
Starring: Mathieu Amalric, Miranda Colclasure, Suzanne Ramsey,
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Artificial Eye

Before 'Burlesque' thuds into cinemas, you'd do well to catch actor filmmaker Mathieu Amalric's smarter and sexier take on the form.

Initially inspired by Colette's memoir of her music-hall days, Amalric researched his subject, cast from life, brought his American troupe on a real-life tour of provincial venues and shot the film in a naturalistic style. The result, delivered in a mix of English and French, feels lived in, charming, touching and spiky, if somewhat rambling. It has a keen sense of the France we rarely get to see on screen: a limbo-land of trading estates, petrol stations and chain hotels. All of which add to the air of footloose melancholia.

"If anything, Amalric focuses on the troupe's everyday experience at the expense of the frisson of scandalous novelty they bring to their small-town audiences and the pleasures of watching them perform: combining defiant sexuality, wit and shock value, these are among the scene's strongest acts and they're seldom allowed simply to do their thing from beginning to end. Even so, there's an infinitely greater thrill to be had from ten seconds of Dirty Martini's ample moneymaker than two hours of high-gloss Hollywood pap." (*Time Out*) Won the film Critics award at Cannes and best director for Mathieu. Don't miss



Another Year

Tue 18 12.30, Wed 19 2.00



Mike Leigh returns, at the top of his game for another year, with another intimate, engaging drama, musing on family, friends, and the nature of contentment.

"Another Year" is set over a single year, with the seasons providing the chapters. Retired couple Tom (Jim Broadbent) and Gerri (Ruth Sheen) tend to their allotment as the seasons pass. Reasonably fulfilled by their careers and their relationship, their steady home attracts family and friends for whom life hasn't been so kind; Tom's friend Ken, an alcoholic; Gerri's NHS colleague - lonely, divorcee Mary (Lesley Manville). As the film progresses with Tom and Gerri's year burdened with the weight of these family friends, the passive-aggression builds...

"Leigh and his cast have created a network of relationships that is more complex than it first appears...perhaps it is that there is a quantum-economy of happiness in any group of people: the happiness of some means unhappiness in others." (*Guardian*) "Broadbent and Sheen are exquisite in tandem, making Tom and Gerri's brand of coupledness, which is both welcoming and insidiously exclusive, into a blunt fact, something hardened and immutable, like old turf." (*Telegraph*)

"My objective is to make you feel as though you are there, it is really happening and you are inescapably locked in to it." (Mike Leigh)

A slow burning, perfectly weighted film. (research SM)

Director: Mike Leigh
Starring: Lesley Manville, Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Momentum Pictures

Airplane

Thu 20 2.00

Directors: David Zucker, Jim Abrahams
Starring: Robert Hays, Leslie Nielsen
Certificate: PG
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 1980
By: Paramount International Pictures

Roger Murdock: Flight 2-zero-9'er, you are cleared for take-off.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: L.A. departure frequency, 123 point 9'er.

Captain Oveur: Roger!

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Victor Basta: Request vector, over.

Captain Oveur: What?

Tower voice: Flight 2-zero-9'er cleared for vector 324.

Roger Murdock: We have clearance, Clarence.

Captain Oveur: Roger, Roger. What's our vector, Victor?

Tower voice: Tower's radio clearance, over!

Captain Oveur: That's Clarence Oveur. Over.

Tower voice: Over.

Captain Oveur: Roger.

Roger Murdock: Huh?

Tower voice: Roger, over!

Roger Murdock: What?

Captain Oveur: Huh?

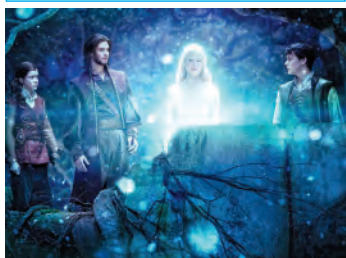
Victor Basta: Who?

"Joey... ever seen a grown man naked?" Don't miss. (No impro. Every word and sight-gag scripted).





Director: Michael Apted
Starring: Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Will Poulter
Certificate: PG
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Narnia: Dawn Treader

Sat 22 2.00, Mon 24 2.00

This third instalment in the Narnia series is a vast improvement on the dull “Prince Caspian”.

Lucy and Edmund Pevensie (Georgie & Skander), along with their whiny and annoying cousin Eustace Scrubb (Son of Rambow’s Will Poulter), re-enter Narnia through an animated painting of the ship. They find themselves on a mission with, now King Caspian, (Barnes) to save Narnia once more, in this largely sea faring, island-hopping yarn, avoiding all kinds including a mysterious and terrifying green mist...

It’s a cracking tale – the series feels revitalised after the mis-firing of the second film. Liam Neeson, Simon Pegg and Tilda Swinton all crop up to lend gravitas to the proceedings, but it is ultimately the introduction of Poulter’s Eustace which gives the film its added dimension.

“The veteran British director Michael Apted knows how to pace such a vast story, and succeeds in finding dramatic light and shade in its quieter moments without being overwhelmed by its special effects.” (*Telegraph*)

“Slave traders, magical maps, cockney minotaurs, one-legged hobbit things, a simpering dragon and a terrifying sea serpent. Mission accomplished!”

(*Total Film*)

(research Simon Messenger)



The Tourist

Tue 25 12.30



Two of the world's most 'beautiful people' star with each in one of the world's most beautiful cities and the only European city dating from the 13th century, to be built on water.

Hence this thriller should sell itself...

However, it too is built on water, which is not quite the same thing.

Depp plays Frank, a curiously droopy, heartbroken, maths teacher who, whilst holidaying in Venice, becomes attached to the mysterious Elise (Jolie), and finds himself embroiled in an improbable Interpol plot to flush out a shady criminal gang.

It's pretty silly stuff. Director, von Donnermarck (also responsible for the brilliant *The Lives of Others*) has Depp clambering over Venetian rooftops in his pyjamas for as much time as he spends at Ferrero Rocher ambassador parties. "Like two Persian cats who have been drugged and somehow trained to walk side by side down the street, those exotic Alisters Johnny and Angelina make a curious spectacle..." (*Guardian*)

"The pairing of Angelina Jolie with Johnny Depp in *The Tourist* represents the latest step in the apparent campaign by Jolie, like some cinematic vampire, to drain her leading men of all charisma." (*Telegraph*) Apparently Johnny has fancied playing somebody 'normal' for ages. Having studied maths and other teachers, he finds 'normal' much more weird than Jack Sparrow.

Come for him and Venice, and ignore the crits. It will be fun. (review SM)

Director: Florian Henckel von Donnermarck
Starring: Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie, Paul Bettany, Rufus Sewell, Timothy Dalton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA/France 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Secretariat

Wed 26 2.00

Director: Randall Wallace
Starring: Diane Lane, John Malkovich, Dylan Walsh, Margo Martindale
Certificate: U
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Disney

Just when we thought John Malkovich didn't have another deranged

performance left in him, up he comes with another wierd turn.

This time he's mercurial racehorse trainer, Lucien Laurin complete with unreliable French Canadian accent ("spoken as if through a mouthful of Toblerone" *PB Guardian*) in this true heartwarming tale of the super-fast 1970's world beater *Secretariat*.

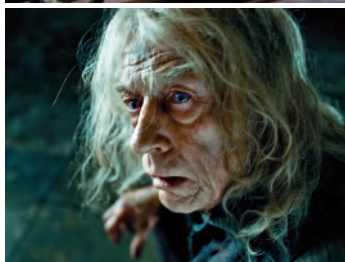
"It doesn't boast the most imaginative script and is too businesslike for non-horsey kids, yet it still produces a lump in the throat." (*Time Out*)

Owner, Penny Chenery (Diane Lane) is a no-nonsense housewife who against all advice takes charge of her late-father's failing stud farm. When one of her mares produces the foal that will become the 'greatest race horse of all time' they're both off. Clearly the yanks haven't heard of Seabiscuit, Red Rum, Shergar or Desert Orchid?

But, to give the horse its due, *Secretariat's* heart weighed almost 22 lbs!

As a two year old, in his first season (1972) he won eight on the trot. In 1973 A Triple Crown and the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths set a new world record, time and distance. It has never been beaten. So too the one he set at the Kentucky Derby still stands. So it's all true. Come for the flutter and warm your heart in January.





Director: David Yates
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes, Jason Isaacs, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 146 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Sat 29 2.00, Mon 31 2.00

Another year... Spanning almost ten, Harry Potter is one of the most cherished film events of all time. This final instalment of the series has been conjured into two films, and as if by wizardry, this is the first half...

You probably know what it's about, but for the benefit of those who've spent the last decade under a (chosen) rock, or deliberately looked the other way: Harry, Hermione and Ron; Daniel, Emma & Rupert have left Hogwarts, embarking on a bleak, dangerous and daring quest across the countryside to find a series of artefacts including the sword of Gryffindor, and shards of the Dark Lord Voldemort's soul..?

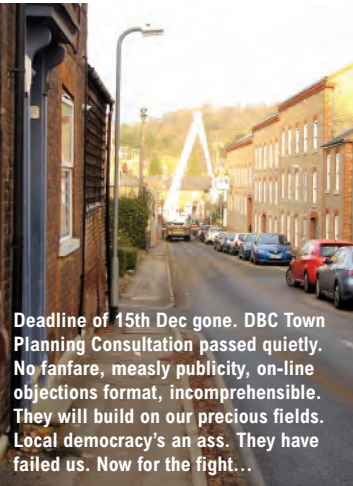
I have no idea what any of this means, however be assured, it's sharp, dark, and utterly terrifying, and that's just Bill Nighy's suit. As you'd expect, the film's well made, and laden with breath-taking special effects that'll leave Potter fans yearning for the second half, released this summer.

"The film's succession of remarkable state-of-the-art special effects resembles a fabulous firework display put on by rather spoilt children at a dull party where the adults have all slipped off inside for a drink." (Observer)

It's not as bad as all that, it's just a shame it goes on longer than Emma's old Hermione, hair and stretches thinner than Dumbledore's beard. Fans will not feel cheated. (review *Simon Messenger SM*)

RAIL STEAM & SPEED... AND LIES

A landscape raped to reach Birmingham half an hour early? Britain is no longer an International force. London's money markets maybe, but that's all phone and net. The rest of us don't need to go anywhere that fast.



Deadline of 15th Dec gone. DBC Town Planning Consultation passed quietly. No fanfare, measly publicity, on-line objections format, incomprehensible. They will build on our precious fields. Local democracy's an ass. They have failed us. Now for the fight...

The old petrol station, Great Missenden High Street



Don't think for a moment the track will look like this. There'll be 250 mtr clearance on both sides of two tracks with all the concrete banking needed to make it 'safe'.

AIRPLANE! 30 YEARS LATER AND STILL LAUGHING...



Jonathan Wakeham, Robert Hays, Jerry Zucker, Denise Hicks & David Zucker

Happily, the Zucker Brothers and 'Striker' saw off the Heat interviewer. Like a scene from the film itself, they floored questions looking for meaningful answers. Their shared bang-bang banter, and with Robert Hays (Striker) made it easy to understand how the script came about. The 30th anniversary screening was greeted by cheers, anticipating every big line, from a cool audience in pullovers, hardly crawling thirty years ago. Hence a brilliant coup and first step for the not quite walking, new-born London Comedy Film Festival.



John-Henry Butterworth (screenwriter Fair Game) Jerry Zucker (Airplane) and legend: Doug Liman (Director/Producer Bourne Identity/Trilogy. Dir Mr Mrs Smith)



Here to celebrate 30 years of Airplane Robert Hays (Ted Striker) the Zucker brothers with a lame turkey off 'Heat' (r)

TICKETS: £1 POUND EXTRA IF YOU WISH...

VAT goes up to a criminal 20% on 1st January. Why have I never heard anybody ask what VAT is and how it is spent on our behalf? It is potentially crippling for everybody. Those at the end of the chain, ordinary people (the ugly 'consumer') will pay it and that's the end of it - gone. Businesses can reclaim VAT on what they spend, but must repay it on their income. So all businesses will be putting up their prices to absorb some of the pain of extra 2.5% VAT. Hence you at the end of the chain, will pay it all and more of it. Businesses will pay more, thus reducing what they hope to gain from their price increases. The greedy ones will hike it, the honest ones will put it up 2.5% to absorb and stay the same. (Not quite. They will pay an extra 2.5% on the 2.5% increase, so to stay the same will need to increase the rise. Hence inflation. Which simply means paying more for the same item with no extra benefit. Hopefully, the greedy will fall victim to boycotts. So we at the Rex will do none of it. Instead, from 2nd January 2011 we will ask you for a voluntary payment of £1 extra per ticket, as a donation towards our general wellbeing, for which you will see no direct personal benefit. As such, it will be free of VAT. Therefore, the ticket prices will stay the



same and you can choose to pay the extra £1.00. The Rex will take on the extra 2.5% VAT.

NB. We have never passed inflation on to you nor VAT or any other price/tax rises or scams.



"ALWAYS AND UNFLINCHINGLY..."

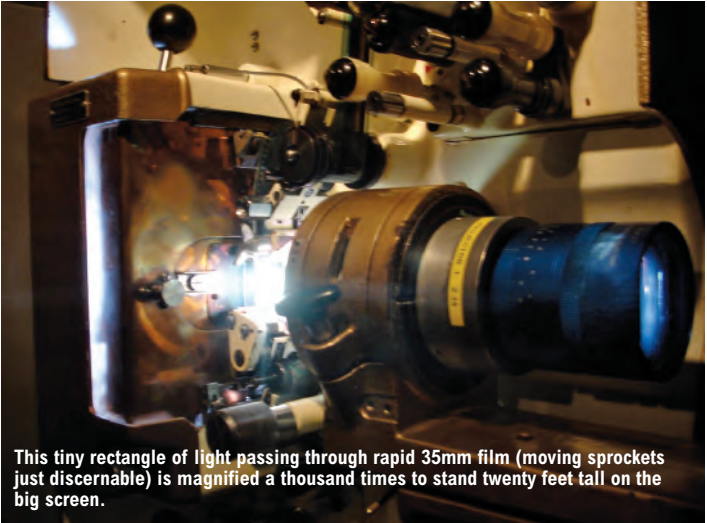
"The function of propaganda is not to make an objective study of the truth. Its task is to serve our own right, always and unflinchingly." This is as American as apple pie and seems to be at the heart of both Islamic and Christian political rhetoric. It's from Adolf Hitler (Mein Kampf).

The indignant US in this Assange affair is serving "its own right" by shamelessly setting up a bogus charge in a friendly Country across whose borders, deportation is easier. The US is the same 'Superpower' who asked the world to believe it was a lone gunman who killed JFK and another, his brother Bobby, and another Martin Luther King and another John Lennon. The US administration has made an "objective study of the truth" and thought "Naw tell 'em shit they'll believe it" Feel free to translate into any language/culture/religion.



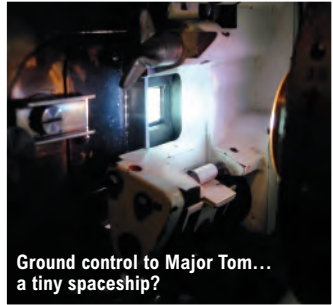
Happy New Year.

DIGITAL SHMIDGITAL...



This tiny rectangle of light passing through rapid 35mm film (moving sprockets just discernable) is magnified a thousand times to stand twenty feet tall on the big screen.

Time is catching us up, or rather we're keeping up with the inevitable. But like everything here, it will move slowly. At first, only films with no available 35mm print will be screened digitally. This opens up many titles from across the world; some we have already missed. Be assured, until this hurried tech' can be trusted, everything else will be projected from our "Rolls Royces".



Ground control to Major Tom... a tiny spaceship?



Mr Rees making tentative friends with the new world.