

THE-REV

M A G A Z I N E



SEX & THE CITY 2
JULY...

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

JULY 2010 Issue 64
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 1.30-6.30pm

Gallery	4-7
July Evenings	9
Coming Soon	23
July Films at a glance	23
July Matinees	25
Rants and Pants	40-43

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
All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)	

BOX OFFICE:	01442 877759
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)

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

Rosie Abbott	Helen Miller
Julia Childs	Malcolm More
Nicola Darvell	Liam Parker
Lindsey Davies	Hannah Pedder
Holly Gilbert	Izzi Robinson
Katie Golder	Amberly Rose
Ollie Gower	Georgia Rose
Beth Hannaway	Diya Sagar
Lucy Hood	Alice Spooner
Natalie Jones	Liam Stephenson
Amelia Kellett	Tina Thorpe
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

Martin Coffill Part-time assistant projectionist

Jacquie Rose Chief Box Office & Bar

Oliver Hicks Best Boy

Becca Ross Best Girl

Jemma Gask Key Grip

Michael Glasheen Gaffer

Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry PR/Marketing/FoH

Andrew Dixon Resident Artist

Darren Flindall Maintenance

Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney Advisors and Investors

Ed Mauger Genius

Demiurge Design Designers 01296 632366

Lynn Hendry Advertising 01442 877999

James Hannaway CEO 01442 877999

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

The Rex

High Street (Three Close Lane)

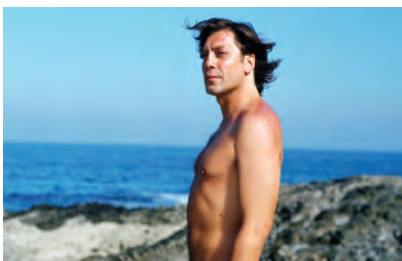
Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

www.therexberkhamsted.com



Our lovely Stephanie Warde died in May. She was only 21. It is heartbreaking for her family and friends. Much of Jason's Obituary on p6 is true for Stephe. Her family's thoughts along with her friends' will be published in August. She is sadly missed by us all at the Rex.

FILMS OF THE MONTH



An early Rex gamble. Still fresh, deep, strong & beautiful. Spain 2005.

The Sea Inside Mon 5 7.30



A new masterpiece gamble certain to pay off...?

Belgium, France, Italy, UK 2009.

The Time That Remains Mon 12 7.30



An Indie US gamble, worth an each-way bet.

Please Give Sun 18 6.00/ Mon 19 7.30

PERCY BIRTCHNELL. QUALITY MENSWEAR. MORNING & EVENING



Tragedy, travesty, it's all the same. Percy Birtchnell's is closing after 80 years? When I first came here in 1977, I was too young to even cross the road near Percy's window. Gradually I was able to approach slowly without my children seeing. Then came that fabulous age, where I dared to casually glance in the window and stroll on. But it was only at the best age I could boldly walk in. Escorted by my youngest, then grown up, she decided it was time for "something that fitted and nobody else had worn". So it has been ever since. Scavengers may buy the last remains. But I have had the best. Thank you Mr. Birtchnell.



STEPHEN POLIAKOFF



After visiting the BFI Archive one bright day in May, Stephen Poliakoff came to see us. To have such a worthy playwright, and director pop-in was very nice. As was he. He looked around, loved the place, twisled his stop-smoking straw, sat in seats up and down, listened, talked, laughed and left. The perfect guest, welcome any time. A lovely moment from nowhere. Below, his *Glorious 39* screened here many times and some celebrated TV films.

Glorious 39



Capturing Mary



Joe's Palace



Gideon's Daughter



NOTHING MAKES SENSE...



JASON CROCKETT – AGED 29
30/01/1981-12/05/2010

Faced with the death of your child, young brother, sister or friend, the notion that ‘Time will heal’ is incomprehensible.

There is a longing that will burn your eyes and catch your breath, stop you walking another step, or leave you staring into space for hours, not caring about another person, place or thing in the whole world.

For the one lost, never forgetting or letting time heal; always saying his name and telling stories, is your only way to stay close.

Dying is for old men and for widows to weep. There should be no other order. But life has no order. Evil, hidden, parasitic cancers and the man-made cancer of war, dictate the order. Hence, such pain in the dying of the young, is not for Time to say...

Though everyday life will start to distract and get in the way again, as it must, each birthday and Christmas, family holiday and Sunday lunch will bring it all back, as it should.

His face will never fade nor eventually become a distant memory. Be it family heartbreak that of first love, there will never be anything to defeat such armour plated strength of memory. You will

remember everything in vivid colour and 3-D. The River, the bluebells, the dogs, the laughter, the films, each other’s smell, the sayings, the music, the silly things that can only ever be yours. Though precious as it is, Time itself has no place in precious memory. You can call anything to mind in your own time and take as long as you like.

Nothing makes sense when the young die young. Time’s job is just to go on and leave us alone to get on with it, until eventually, it catches us up. The rest is none of its business. As for taking those away before their time, it is the most wicked of all clocks.

Through our own child, Beth, this young Jason Crockett has become part of our lives.

She always talked about him, telling us stories and making us laugh. Now we all talk about him. Her first true love, she was with him in and out of hospital. At St Barts, after a day’s work, she would stay at his side late into the night, night after night, until he was able to sleep or she was told to leave. In London one night, I tried to persuade her to come and eat instead. She would have none of it.

I couldn’t think straight when I was first told. My brother said it yesterday; “Nobody should see their children buried”. This is the second death in our immediate family since Charlie Hallifax in 1997. We have lost somebody we hardly knew but Beth’s love for him has made Jason part of our family forever.

In the midst of such heartbreak, loved ones and friends have to find words already impossible to write, then speak them. In a tiny beautiful country May church overlooking the Thames, here are some of those words spoken by his older brother Jonathan; to share a moment in the brief life of such an amazing person.

“Wherever Jason went he made friends easily. He was a good and fiercely loyal friend and had a natural joie de vivre which he displayed in everything he did with great enthusiasm...”

Although a responsible adult, Jason was a child at heart: a Peter Pan who never wanted to grow up.

The way he coped with his illness is something we must all learn from. Jason was diagnosed with cancer in September 2008. He never gave up his fight and took each round of chemotherapy like a true warrior. Gradually he became weaker but he would never admit it. He always had a special twinkle in his bright shining eyes, no matter how he may have appeared otherwise; his eyes were full of life to the end.

He never asked for help even when it was obvious he needed it. He never wanted to bother people. He never took those who helped him for granted. And he never took advantage. He never complained, even when things went wrong. He was always polite, even when he would have been fully entitled to go crazy with someone. He took it all, and still managed to smile.

This was a lesson on how to be brave, on how to be courageous, and on how to never lose hope, even when all the odds are stacked against you. We must never forget this lesson.

Jason, you are missed by us all, and we will cherish our memories of you forever." (*Jonathan Crockett*)

"For a parent to outlive their child is one of the world's great tragedies and to lose a sibling is to lose a part of your identity. Like a piece from the family puzzle is missing and it will never be complete again. That piece is still there. Jason always believed actions spoke louder than words. So it is here that I make my pledge: I promise to cherish life for the gift that it is, to get up each morning and live life to the fullest; just as Jason did.

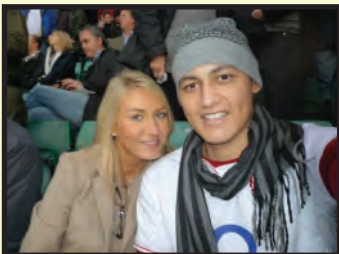
Jason, your story ends in sadness but remains a source of inspiration to those listening. It puts a mandate on all of us to live the life you would have led in the knowledge that you will be watching us, judging us with that cruel, quick wit and fabulously dry sense of humour." (*from a letter by Alex Goldsmith 'Goldie'. Jason's best friend since childhood*)

AN EXTRACT FROM MARY ELIZABETH FRUE'S 'DO NOT STAND...' (1932) READ BY JASON'S BROTHER ANDREW

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.*

AN EXTRACT FROM HENRY SCOTT HOLLAND'S "DEATH IS NOTHING..." A POEM DERIVED FROM HIS SERMON AT ST PAULS IN MAY 1910 UPON THE DEATH OF EDWARD VII

*Death is nothing at all. It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other we are still.
Speak to me in the easy way you always used.
Laugh as we always laughed.
Let my name be ever the household word it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it.
It is the same as it ever was.
I am but waiting for you, somewhere very near...
How we shall laugh when we meet again...*





J U L Y E V E N I N G S

Valhalla Rising

Thu 1 7.30



"Nicholas Winding Refn is the puckish Danish director behind the Pusher trilogy and last year's UK criminal burlesque, Bronson (Thought so- a greased pecs man). With Valhalla Rising, he loses his bearings in the fog of dark-ages Europe; beguiled by barren landscapes and lowering clouds as the brooding visuals stand in for a story." (*Guardian*)

Mads Mikkelsen is the unnamed, unspeaking killing machine who finds himself beset by pagans before hooking up with a band of Christian converts en route to Palestine. Then the mist rolls in and the longboat runs aground on a distant shore that may be the New World, or some hell of Refn's own devising. "It amounts to a series of poses; a stage-managed storm. I'm not sure there's much going on behind this blank, brutish surface, but it's undeniably distinctive and packs a certain primitive punch." (*G*) "Valhalla Rising gets into your mind and stays there. You can argue what, if anything, it's trying to say, but it is impressive cinema." (*Empire*) "All stare-offs and gloom, nightmarish slaughter and low whispers, Nicolas Winding Refn's bloody Viking Odyssey about a mute, one-eyed warrior (Mads Mikkelsen) has a certain grim integrity. Favourite line: "That's not a curse, it's just a mist." (*Telegraph*)

Director: Nicolas Winding Refn
Starring: Gary Lewis, Jamie Sives, Mads Mikkelsen
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: Denmark, UK 2009
By: Vertigo Films

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Fri 2 7.30, Sat 3 7.00,

Director: Niels Oplev
Starring: Michael Nyqvist, Naomi Rapace, Sven-Bertil Taube
Certificate: 18
Duration: 152 mins
Origin: Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

Back by huge demand...The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, aka 'Men Who Hate Women', a blunt but fitting description of this angry, intelligent Swedish thriller.

Racism, patriarchal misogyny, globalization: director Niels Arden Oplev gives all these hefty themes their due in this largely faithful adaptation of the popular trilogy by Stieg Larsson (whose own death is veiled in mystery and rumour).

Facing jail for libelling a wealthy tycoon, left down at heel and in hiding, Mikael Blomkvist (Nyqvist) accepts a job to look into the disappearance of his beloved niece more than 40 years before. Blomkvist is the putative hero, with lived-in face and weary dedication. He is superbly mis-matched with Salander, mesmerizingly played by Rapace, the goth/punk hacker. She's a grim, spectral presence in the opening scenes, until being pushed too far. Revenge doesn't get much better than this. Each actor is all the better for being an unknown face from a cold country.

"Still, wintry photography is consistently atmospheric, the sense of cultural scabs being picked at and Rapace's performance altogether more thrilling than any known star chosen for the promised Hollywood remake." (*Telegraph*)

Beware: Edge of seat, with some ouch, eye-watering moments. But don't miss.



Dialogue Avec Mon Jardinier (Conversations with my Gardener)

Sun 4 6.00



Not only is this a blissful tale beautifully told, it brings a French summer landscape into an English summers evening as it did from January to April 2007. It is one of those rare, small films which will lift you.

A finely observed gem depicts a poignant friendship between two men who seem to be from different worlds but have simply taken different routes. This becomes clear and remains part of the film's magic to the end. It tells of a respected Parisian painter on the brink of divorce as he returns to his childhood home and employs a gardener to tame the vegetable patch.

As the gardener nurtures and the painter daubs, a warm friendship grows between them. Sharing a love of the place, they begin to see things afresh. Naturally, it is the 'dauber' who has most to learn. It is funny, warm and glows with life as it paints a tender portrait of men coping in their own way.

"Perhaps it's their love of food and wine, but France is one of the few countries where films about the land are still made - about how it sustains and nourishes..."

(Critic)

Nothing much happens, except everything. It is beautiful. You will love it.

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

The Sea Inside Mon 5 7.30

Director: Alejandro Amenabar
Starring: Javier Bardem, Belen Rueda, Lola Duenas, Mabel Rivera
Certificate: PG
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: Spain 2005
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

"When you can't escape and you depend on others so much, you learn to cry by smiling". Based on real events, Ramon has lain in bed paralysed from the neck down for 28 years. He wants to end this non-life but he is loved... A diving accident as a fit young man has left him languishing into middle age without moving a finger. The sea has remained inside.

The horror of such imprisonment is unthinkable (for Nelson Mandela it was a mere 27 years). These great faces were first seen at the Rex five years ago. Enter Belén Rueda and you start to melt.

Everyone touches you without force. Javier is astonishing, all the more for being unknown. Belén is gorgeous and real. The whole film creates something intangible and unforgettable... Like all tales of personal tragedy it is interrupted by bright moments of everyday humour.

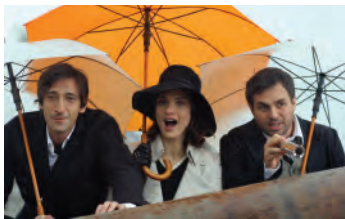
"This is certain to be one of the finest films of the year..." (2004)

PS... "No matter how close to yours another's steps have grown, in the end there is one dance you'll do alone..." (Jackson Browne) You may have seen Bardem since in a very different 'mood' in his recent films, but don't miss him in this.



Brothers Bloom

Tue 6 7.30, Wed 7 7.30



Director of the brilliant off-kilter thriller ‘Brick’, Rian Johnson and his all-star cast offer us this lightweight, entertaining con-man caper.

The Brothers Bloom (Adrian Brody, Mark Ruffalo) are the best con-men in the world, regularly separating millionaires from their fortunes through elaborate scams and schemes. The film follows the duo embarking on their final con to steal the fortune belonging to New Jersey heiress Penelope Stamp (Rachel Weisz). An elaborate car crash sets up the brothers to meet Penelope, who in turn, reveals a truly astonishing array of eccentricities. Despite being warned about the brothers, Penelope decides to follow them to Europe, becoming embroiled in antique smuggling, with delightful ensuing chaos...

It is oddball, fast and visually arresting, even if it seems a little too pleased with itself at times. Nevertheless Rachel Weisz is a delight and as unreliably gorgeous as ever.

“The effect is something like ‘Dirty Rotten Scoundrels’ done by Wes Anderson in a morose mood. He does keep things ticking along with distinctive editing and excellent design. Beatrix Aruna Pasztor’s eclectic, retro-styled costumes are a particular delight with scene-stealing support from Robbie Coltrane as a moustachioed Belgian art dealer.” (*Telegraph*)

“Again and again, it is more quirky than funny, and more baffling than either.”

(*Guardian*) Great fun all the same.

Don’t miss. (*research Simon Messenger*)

Director: Rian Johnson
Starring: Robbie Coltrane, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel Weisz, Adrien Brody
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Robin Hood

Thu 8 7.30

Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, William Hurt, Max Sydow, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Blanchett plays Marion with a kind of elegant exhaustion that occasionally flares into bad temper. The spark between her and Crowe, however, seems as hard to kindle as a stick of damp greenwood. It doesn’t help that she initially threatens him like a testy medieval Lorena Bobbit: ‘If you so much as touch me I will sever your manhood, do you understand?’

Perhaps because of this, Robin’s manhood is kept firmly under wraps throughout, although there are hints that his merry men are making whoopee with the local wenches in off-the-shoulder hessian.

“Crowe, oddly for such a memorable actor, gives a somewhat muted performance. It is none the less brilliantly shot and there are moments – such as when old Sir Walter’s coffin is lowered into the ground – when the visual poem of olde England seems to flicker into life.” (*Telegraph*)

“Scott orchestrates the sound and fury with a seemingly effortless bravura: unfussily pulling off tremendous action scenes and really quite impressive period backdrops including one CGI panorama of medieval London that looks like a Wenceslaus Hollar engraving come to life.” (*Guardian*)

You will have heard the crowing over Russell’s accent and that it’s not the ‘real’ Robin Hood story! It looks fabulous on the big screen. Come for a glimpse of Ashridge, opening and closing shots. Don’t blink.





Director: Michael King
Starring: Sarah Parker, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers



Sex & The City 2

Fri 9 7.30, Sat 10 7.00,
Sun 11 6.00

Sex and City 2 (Release the waxworks!) ‘I’m a woman’ shriek the four horsewomen of the menopause... (thanks Total Film)

Alice Eve’s tits and Big’s Chris Noth’s smooth, world-weary bemusement aside, there’s not much here to charm a dragged-along chap, be him a: first-date, husband, old boyfriend or last date? It makes no difference. You’ll never see him again.

Come for the deserts, and the frocks, Penelope Cruz and a couple of good lines and the best dressed audience you’ll see all year, where you will be celebrated at the Rex with cosmopolitans and some nice touches.

Best of all it’s here for the World Cup final. Beat that for devastating girl-power timing...! A friend told me, she went to see it for the outfits, the sex and the city, “but there is no sex or city – there’s Abu Dhabi.” Come for everything but the film...



The Time That Remains **Mon 12** 7.30

Director: Elia Suleiman
Starring: Elia Suleiman, Ali Suliman, Saleh Bakri, Amer Hlehel
Certificate: 15
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: Belgium, France, Italy, UK 2009
By: New Wave

Written, directed and featuring Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman, this semi-autobiographical, blackly comic masterpiece recounts a number of stories set between the creation of the Israeli state in 1948, and the present day. This fascinating episodic journey begins with Suleiman's father, Faud, an arms manufacturer, joining the resistance against Israeli forces; we are witnesses to the occupying power forcefully ejecting Faud's neighbours from their homes. From there, young Elia grows up in the strange, uncomfortable Israel of the 1960s; his mother corresponding eloquently with an exiled family that she will never meet. The years roll by, but tragically, very little changes...

Suleiman's visual flair, so often compared with Jacques Tati, or Buster Keaton, helps to construct a film which is perfectly measured – witty, enraged, and thoroughly engaging.

"It's a cool, controlled minor masterpiece... The Time That Remains is humanist cinema at its finest and the absence of sentimentality, the gentleness of the cynicism and the curbing of rancour are remarkable." (*Guardian*)

"Any new film by Elia Suleiman gives cause for rejoicing... he's a rare and precious artist: a tragedian and a humorist in equal measure." (*Telegraph*)

The Title is a shrug at never having known freedom and independence in his lifetime. "...not merely its breathtaking technique, but its touching moments of wordless compassion." (*Guardian*) Don't Miss (research Simon Messenger)



The Ghost **Tue 13** 7.30



With the hysteria surrounding Roman Polanski's arrest in Switzerland last year, it would have been easy to bury "The Ghost" as a footnote in the director's extraordinary life. However, luckily for us it survived to reach the big screen.

Pierce Brosnan is Adam Lang, a smooth, smug, former Prime Minister living in exile on an island off the perma-drizzly US eastern seaboard. Ewan McGregor plays a journalist, who is sent to continue ghost writing Lang's memoirs, started by the previous writer who becomes a real ghost when his body is washed ashore! As McGregor's hack arrives in the States, news breaks of the former PM's supposed war-crimes on terror suspects whilst at Number 10.

What has the dead man uncovered about the former PM's shadowy links to the CIA? And what secrets lie in the draft manuscript he'd already started? It's Polanski filtered through Hitchcock, and it's fiercely compelling to watch. Clearly Lang bears a striking resemblance to a recently disgraced former PM, adding a hugely enjoyable subtext to what is already a tense thriller.

"Very involving movie... Polanski is far from finished as a film-maker." (*Guardian*) Unless he can tunnel through the Alps, he is.

Despite Ewan's silly Englishy accent, he plays the cheeky character well.

(research Simon Messenger)

Director: Roman Polanski
Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Ewan McGregor, Kim Cattrall
Certificate: 15
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: France, Germany, USA 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Sex & The City 2

Wed 14 7.30, Thu 15 7.30,



It is two years on from the first one. Charlotte and Miranda are happy if stressed moms. Samantha is single and staving off the menopause with weird vitamins, and Carrie is still married to smug Big, but the romance is leaking out of their relationship. The gang have lots of fun at a gay wedding. There are a couple of good jokes and then... Do they do their power-walk down a Manhattan sidewalk...? No. They go to Abu Dhabi!

Forget the story, come for the froth and the frocks... and the cosmopolitans. It was never going to beat the first one. But what ever does...?

Just come and indulge, tomorrow it will make no difference...?

Director: Michael King
Starring: Sarah Parker, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

The Killer Inside Me

Fri 16 7.30

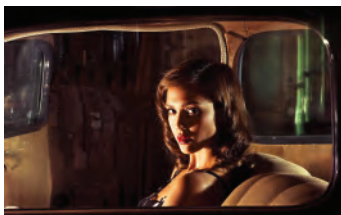
Director: Michael Winterbottom
Starring: Casey Affleck, Jessica Alba, Ned Beatty, Simon Baker, Kate Hudson
Certificate: 18
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Set in 1950s small town Texas, this brutal, unnecessary, glitzy remake of a 1976 low budget Hollywood melodrama, tells the story of Lou Ford (Casey Affleck), an outwardly upstanding deputy sheriff, with an ugly inside.

Ford bears a lethal grudge against pillar of the community Chester Conway, whom he believes had his adopted brother killed, and sets about things... Unfortunately for her, he encounters local prostitute Joyce (a radiant Jessica Alba). A stomach-churning, pseudo-misogynistic sequence (one of two!) leaves Lou desperate to cover up his misdeeds in the only way he knows how... There's some paper-thin back-story about Ford's strange upbringing, and Bill Pullman turns up as one of several (unintentionally amusing) "Suthern gennelmeyn" caricatures.

Affleck is eerily plausible as the softly spoken (aka Robert Ford in "...Jessie James") psychopath. Winterbottom's canvas too is beautiful. An expansive Western desert rolls beyond this desperate tale of small down evil.

However it's a dire shame that anything positive is spoilt by the director's excessive, lingering use of "unglamorous" (his word) violence exerted on the female characters (although full marks to the make-up department). He says it's all in there, page for page of Jim Thompson's ludicrous 1952 pulp-fiction yarn. Who cares? He says it is better than glamourising violence. Who cares? Who elected you Winterbottom?



Sex & The City 2

Sat 17 7.00



It is two years on from the first one. Charlotte and Miranda are happy if stressed moms. Samantha is single and staving off the menopause with weird vitamins, and Carrie is still married to smug Big, but the romance is leaking out of their relationship.

The gang have lots of fun at a gay wedding. There are a couple of good jokes and then... Do they do their power-walk down a Manhattan sidewalk...? No. They go to Abu Dhabi!

Forget the story, come for the froth and the frocks... and the cosmopolitans
It was never going to beat the first one.
But what ever does...?

Just come and indulge, tomorrow it will make no difference...?

Director: Michael King
Starring: Sarah Parker, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Please Give

Sun 18 6.00, Mon 19 7.30

Director: Nicole Holofcener
Starring: Amanda Peet, Catherine Keener, Oliver Platt, Rebecca Hall
Certificate: 15
Duration: 90 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

“A delightfully dry Manhattan comedy; an intelligent and beautifully acted film.

Smart and witty.” (*Daily Mirror*!!!)

Kate is plagued with the guilt of the well-to-do. She looks for volunteer opportunities in the community, but everything just makes her feel sadder and guiltier. This is the basic scenario for a story about imperfect people with self-esteem issues. (Yawn).

“It is often very funny. It’s a movie you’ll like but probably not love. Don’t tell the characters though. Their sense of self-esteem is already under siege.” (*Time Out*) So even psycho ‘doctors’ are making films now! Bring back Hitchcock, back drops and all. These characters who might have been brittle, mockable creations in another writer-director’s hands, gain resonance here. But she has little to say apart from guilt, and its luxury of weight in the idle well off.

“Her writing is unnervingly observant. When it looks like Kate’s husband is chasing after Andrea’s other granddaughter instead of him as a sleaze-ball or her as a man-eater. Here it’s more banal, a shoddy affair of convenience; realistic, just like those X-rayed boobs.” (*mxd reviews*) “LaBute, Baumbach and Solondz could have made this film, but Holofcener’s lighter, less cynical touch will make you glad they didn’t.” (*Empire*)

Sounds like one not to miss, so try not to.





Director: Gary Winick
Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Christopher Egan, Vanessa Redgrave, Gael Garcia Bernal
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: US 2010
By: E1 Films



Letters to Juliet

Tue 20 7.30, Wed 21 7.30

Who would ask Shakespeare's Juliet for advice on anything but skipping ropes?

After all, she killed herself at 13 over a toy-sword fighting boy she'd known for five minutes.

What follows is just as preposterous. However, the couple in this feather-light romance aren't so much star-crossed as sun-kissed. With their golden hair and perfect, glowing skin, Seyfried and Egan look as if they've been carved out of solidified honey. Unfortunately, their characters have about as much complexity as fake tan. Sophie (Seyfried) is a copy editor at The New Yorker whose restaurateur fiancé Victor (Gael Garcia) spends their pre-wedding trip to Italy at wine auctions and kitchens. She decides to visit the Veronese women who answer letters left at the supposed home of Shakespeare's Juliet Capulet. Sophie answers a 50-year-old note found in a crack in the wall, and before you can say 'Oh dear' Vanessa Redgrave turns up with pretty grandson. The Italian countryside is gorgeous and at least the film doesn't stoop to the broad comedy of most romcoms... too often. It's harmless, pretty and utterly predictable. Therefore not of a waste of time for anyone in the mood for a romantic comedy set in a beautiful location.

Right now, that must be us all.

As travelogue romances go, you could do worse. At least it doesn't end in double suicide. That's for you as the credits roll. Cyanide cocktails available on request.



Read My Lips

Thu 22 7.30



Audiard has introduced three of the most powerful faces to the screen in three equally riveting and edgy films.

Romain Duris in *The Beat that My Heart Skipped*, Tahar Rahim in *a Prophet*. In *Read My Lips* he brings the already growing and menacing Vincent Cassel to the front. Ugly or beautiful? Cassel has the kind of irresistible Gallic face that keeps you guessing. So let's agree, not pretty but compelling. Hence you can't take your eyes off him for 118 minutes in this mixed thriller, occasionally comic, love story.

A resounding success in its native France, where it triumphed at the Césars (scooping the Best Actress award for Emmanuelle Devos from right under the nose of Amélie's Audrey Tautou), *Sur Mes Lèvres* is further evidence of Audiard's unique directorial vision. The tale of the increasingly daring relationship between a mute secretary Carla Bhém (Devos) and charismatic, petty-thief Paul Angeli "is a beautifully composed genre-hopping affair which runs the gamut from film noir to incisive social comedy..."

The chemistry between the two leads is palpable and charged with a simmering undercurrent of eroticism and violence..." (*Guardian*)

With Matthieu Vadepied's sensuous and sensational cinematography, it is French cinema at its very best gripping from start to finish. Don't miss.

Director:	Jacques Audiard
Starring:	Vincent Cassel, Emmanuelle Devos
Certificate:	15
Duration:	118 mins
Origin:	France 2001
By:	Pathe Distribution

Prince of Persia

Fri 23 7.30

Director:	Mike Newell
Starring:	Jake Gyllenhaal, Alfred Molina, Ben Kingsley, Gemma Arterton
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	115 mins
Origin:	USA 2010
By:	Buena Vista International

Tell me their not really making films from video games. It's just a bad dream? Luckily you can only dream about things you know.

Equipped with a chunked-up physique and a surprisingly accurate English accent, Jake Gyllenhaal makes a play for the family blockbuster market, as the lead actor in an expensive-looking film based, inevitably, on a video game. He plays a prince called Dastan in some nebulous region of medieval-era Middle East, who via a series of painfully complicated events, finds himself in possession of a mean-looking dagger that, via the sand grains in its hilt, can stop time and enable its operator to change things to his or her satisfaction.

"Gemma Arterton glowing like a premier-league film star, but yapping like a Britcom third-rater, is the princess of the holy city." (*Guardian*)

"Gyllenhaal makes a likeable lead and pulls off a passable (if unnecessary) British accent, while Arterton is on appealingly feisty form as Tamina; there's also a decent amount of chemistry between them, which, unfortunately, the script largely fails to exploit."

"The Sands of Time is never less than watchable, thanks to likeable performances from Gyllenhaal and Arterton, but it's a bit of a letdown in the action department and not as much fun as it should have been." (*reviews*)





Director: Woody Allen
Starring: Larry David, Evan Rachel Wood,
 Michael McKean, Clifford Lee
 Dickson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: USA 2009
By: Warner Brothers

Whatever Works

Sat 24 7.00, Sun 25 6.00

A newly rejuvenated Woody Allen, after lifting himself out of the mediocre and the dire with Vicky Cristina Barcelona, returns with his latest picture about life, love and unsuitable relationships.

The incomparable Larry David is Boris Yelnikoff, a misanthropic physics lecturer and part-time chess teacher; recently divorced, he spends much of his time ranting about the world with his friends in a below-par restaurant in Downtown's Little Italy. Boris' life changes one night, when he comes home to find simple 21 year old dropout Melodie (Evan Rachel Wood) lying on his doorstep.

The two strike up an unlikely relationship, until Melodie's mother Marietta (Patricia Clarkson) arrives...

Boris is part Larry David, part Woody, and it works to great effect. David's characteristic self-aggrandising is perfectly complimented by Allen's wry observations and need for reassurance. Manhattan is once again elevated to its rightful supporting role – it feels more like a Woody Allen film than anything since Hannah and her Sisters.

"The return to home turf seems to have paid off, yielding a consistently energetic, engaging and funny picture... if Allen doesn't break much new ground here in terms of tone, story or setting, there's certainly novelty value in the casting of the lead role, a new kind of vehicle for Allen's sensibility." (*Guardian*) Come, it works. (research Simon Messenger)



Lebanon

Mon 26 7.30



Set inside an Israeli tank during a war-is-hell offensive in 1982 Lebanon, director Samuel Moaz (himself a tank gunner during the conflict) paints a truly claustrophobic picture.

It's a film of set pieces; driven by fear rather than any sense of personal heroism, the tank's four occupants, Shmulik, Hertzal and Yigal under the command of Assi, encounter armed hostages and refugees running through bombed out debris. It treads similar territory to 2008's masterful "Waltz With Bashir" in terms of a personal response to a questionable conflict, although these faces and fears are real. Moaz employs a more conventional narrative; it might be less lucid, but there's a real story here.

"His aim is admirable, his project intriguing and his film a fair testament to the nightmare of war, but it never feels as convincing or as suffocating as it should." (*Time Out*)

"Inevitably it lays itself open to charges of political partiality. It is cinema from the heart, without doubt, but follows in some very well-worn war-movie footprints." (*Guardian*)

OR "Maoz's film finds a fresh way of showing us things we've seen before. This hurts with nerve-jarring effect, but savoured the pressure-cooker intensity until the end." (*Times*)

Come for the (too) young recruits who don't want to be there nor know why they are. War should always be portrayed like this. Hopeless, sweltering, confusing, terrifying and useless. Come. (*research Simon Messenger*)

Director: Samuel Maoz
Starring: Michael Moshonov, Yoav Donat, Zohar Shtrauss, Oshri Cohen
Certificate: 15
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: France, Germany, Israel, Lebanon 2009
By: Metrodome Distributors

Wild Target

Tue 27 7.30, Wed 28 7.30, Thu 29 7.30

Director: Jonathan Lynn
Starring: Bill Nighy, Rupert Everett, Emily Blunt, Martin Freeman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: France, UK 2009
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Wild Target is a comedy about uptight Victor Maynard (Bill Nighy), a middle-aged, solitary assassin, who lives to please his formidable mother Louisa (Eileen Atkins), despite his own peerless reputation for lethal efficiency.

His professional routine is interrupted when he finds himself drawn to one of his intended victims, Rose (Emily Blunt). He spares her life, unexpectedly acquiring a young apprentice in the process, Tony (Rupert Grint). Believing Victor to be a private detective, his two new companions tag along, while he attempts to thwart the murderous attentions of his unhappy client (Rupert Everett). (Sounds familiar)

Bill Nighy is in splendidly oddball form as a pernickety assassin drawn to a freewheeling art thief (Blunt). Rupert Grint gets his shirt off, Freeman is a rival assassin and Everett is the crook. It is an old-fashioned British comedy that moves at a cracking pace (lots of chases around London in a battered Mini) before settling down and losing some of its charm and momentum. "Nighy and Blunt are a great double-act and there are laughs to be had. No masterpiece - but diverting and entertaining." (*reviews*) Said to be the Brit comedy of the summer, but don't let that put you off. Sounds like fun though. Mr. Nighy is always worth a try.



Greenberg Fri 30 7.30



Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and The Whale*, *Margot at the Wedding*; *be warned*) returns with a likeable set piece on the pitfalls of midlife angst?

Ben Stiller is Roger Greenberg, a former musician turned carpenter who has just emerged from hospital following a breakdown. He's been asked to house-sit for his successful younger/older brother? So Greenberg begins living like a student. He finds himself falling for his brother's twenty-something PA, Florence (next big-thing Greta Gerwig)

Stiller wears the character well. His gaunt vacancy cries out for such a role. Gerwig too, star of several "mumblecore" bored adolescence movies, comes into her own. "She doesn't have to steal her scenes; they are hers already" (*crits*) Even Rhys Ifans shows up and isn't that bad.

"Eloquent...this is about the awful shock of early middle age, the sudden realisation that you are not one of the young any more. A wasp-sharp sting of sadness."

(*Guardian*)

Now there's an original thought.

"Lurching between comedy and agony; it's hysterically, deeply uncomfortable."

(*Times*)

Baumbach's 'work' is always autobiographical. (So he's learned nothing). He has "rediscovered that sophisticated music of disillusion and emotional vulnerability in a tale of modern Los Angeles" (*Guardian*) Come and 'learn' from LA or stay in and wash your hair. Everybody's raving about it. So come with wet hair (*research Simon Messenger*)

Director: Noah Baumbach
Starring: Jennifer Jason Leigh, Rhys Ifans, Ben Stiller, Greta Gerwig
Certificate: 15
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Tetro Sat 31 7.00

Director: Francis Coppola
Starring: Vincent Gallo, Alden Ehrenreich, Maribel Verdú, Klaus Maria Brandauer
Certificate: 15
Duration: 127 mins
Origin: Argentina, Italy, Spain 2009
By: Soda Pictures

Godfather of American filmmaking Francis Ford Coppola returns with his first original screenplay since 1974's *The Conversation*. This monochromatic masterpiece about secrets, lies and sibling rivalry, is said to be more than a little autobiographical. Vincent Gallo stars as the eponymous tortured soul Angelo Tetrocini – Tetro. Bennie (Alden Ehrenreich) a fresh-faced 17-year-old cruise ship waiter who turns up in Buenos Aires one day in search of his estranged older brother. Bennie has always idealized Tetro as a successful bohemian artist, but the scruffy malcontent destroys that image quickly, rebuffing Bennie's familial overtures and refusing to answer his many questions. Tetro seems so overwhelmed by resentment, regret and anger, mostly concerning his illustrious orchestra-conductor father Carlo (Klaus Maria Brandauer), that the most he can do is scribble notes on scraps of paper he shows to no one. It's not long before the impassioned brothers collide and the secrets that have plagued their family begin to surface.

"A melodramatic family drama set in a Buenos Aires where even innocent passers-by seem consumed by jealousy and passion, Tetro offers glimpses of a golden-age Francis Ford Coppola" (*Screen Int*) Tetro has the stateliness of silent films, just as the use of glistening or sepulchral black-and-white brings some of the glamour of classic Hollywood. But Coppola fans will want more. Come and see.



COMING SOON

New releases

Girl on the Train

Leaving

Heartbreaker

Wild Grass

Inception

Gainsbourg

Back by demand

Welcome to The Sticks

Everything Is

Illuminated

The Time That Remains



JULY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	THU	GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	2.00
1	THU	VALHALLA RISING	7.30
2	FRI	GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	7.30
3	SAT	SPACE CHIMPS 2	2.00
3	SAT	GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	7.00
4	SUN	CONVERS. WITH MY GARDENER	6.00
5	MON	CASABLANCA	2.00
5	MON	THE SEA INSIDE	7.30
6	TUE	BROTHERS BLOOM	12.30, 7.30
7	WED	BROTHERS BLOOM	2.00
7	WED	BROTHERS BLOOM	7.30
8	THU	ROBIN HOOD	2.00, 7.30
9	FRI	SEX & THE CITY 2	7.30
10	SAT	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	2.00
10	SAT	SEX & THE CITY 2	7.00
11	SUN	SEX & THE CITY 2	6.00
12	MON	SEX & THE CITY 2	2.00
12	MON	THE TIME THAT REMAINS	7.30
13	TUE	SEX & THE CITY 2	12.30
13	TUE	THE GHOST	7.30
14	WED	SEX & THE CITY 2	2.00, 7.30
15	THU	THE GHOST	2.00
15	THU	SEX & THE CITY 2	7.30
16	FRI	THE KILLER INSIDE ME	7.30
17	SAT	MONSIEUR HULOT'S HOLIDAY	2.00
17	SAT	SEX & THE CITY 2	7.00
18	SUN	PLEASE GIVE	6.00
19	MON	SEX & THE CITY 2	2.00
19	MON	PLEASE GIVE	7.30
20	TUE	LETTERS TO JULIET	12.30, 7.30
21	WED	LETTERS TO JULIET	2.00, 7.30
22	THU	ROBIN HOOD	2.00
22	THU	READ MY LIPS	7.30
23	FRI	PRINCE OF PERSIA	7.30
24	SAT	PRINCE OF PERSIA	2.00
24	SAT	WHATEVER WORKS	7.00
25	SUN	WHATEVER WORKS	6.00
26	MON	STREETDANCE 2D	2.00
26	MON	LEBANON	7.30
27	TUE	PRINCE OF PERSIA	12.30
27	TUE	WILD TARGET	7.30
28	WED	WILD TARGET	2.00, 7.30
29	THU	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON	2.00
29	THU	WILD TARGET	7.30
30	FRI	GREENBERG	7.30
31	SAT	THE BORROWERS	2.00
31	SAT	TETRO	7.00



J U L 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 With The Dragon Tattoo

Thu 1 2.00



Back by huge demand...The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, aka 'Men Who Hate Women', a blunt but fitting description of this angry, intelligent Swedish thriller.

Racism, patriarchal misogyny, globalization: director Niels Arden Opley gives all these hefty themes their due in this largely faithful adaptation of the popular trilogy by Stieg Larsson (whose own death is veiled in mystery and rumour).

Facing jail for libelling a wealthy tycoon, left down at heel and in hiding, Mikael Blomkvist (Nyqvist) accepts a job to look into the disappearance of his beloved niece more than 40 years before.

Blomkvist is the putative hero, with lived-in face and weary dedication. He is superbly mis-matched with Salander, mesmerizingly played by Rapace, the goth/punk hacker. She's a grim, spectral presence in the opening scenes, until being pushed too far. Revenge doesn't get much better than this. Each actor is all the better for being an unknown face from a cold country.

"Still, wintry photography is consistently atmospheric, the sense of cultural scabs being picked at and Rapace's performance altogether more thrilling than any known star chosen for the promised Hollywood remake." (*Telegraph*)

Beware: Edge of seat, with some ouch, eye-watering moments. But don't miss.

Director: Niels Opley
Starring: Michael Nyqvist, Naomi Rapace, Sven-Bertil Taube
Certificate: 18
Duration: 152 mins
Origin: Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

Space Chimps 2

Sat 3 2.00

Director: John H. Williams
Starring: Zack Shada, Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Patrick Warburton, Stanley Tucci
Certificate: U
Duration: 80 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

We rejoin the crew with young mission controller Comet (the brainy one) determined to join his heroic colleagues Ham (the cocky one), Luna (the female one) and Captain Titan (the big, stupid one) on the next mission to Planet Malgor.

But while disappointedly telling his Malgorian friend Kilowatt (the one resembling a squeaky lightbulb) that he's about to be left behind again, he somehow initiates the countdown and finds himself heading for Malgor.

Back on Earth, meanwhile, the blast has released the deposed dictator Zartog from his position as a deep-frozen garden statue, and he is blue in the face with rage.

The situation is thus ripe for more fly-swallowing, falling off treadmills, random dancy bits, stumbling across human/chimp/alien language barriers, and much whizzing around on jet-packs.

"The first film did at least throw in the odd wry tit-bit for grown-ups, but writer Rob Moreland's mostly photocopied follow-up has all the wit and sophistication of the Teletubbies."

(*some webby film geek*)

It's only a kids cartoon not Star Wars (sorry that was a kids cartoon too)

Don't listen to film geeks, come enjoy a children's cartoon at the 'Saturday pictures'



Casablanca

Mon 5 2.00



"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 to 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..."

Casablanca is dedicated to Peter Clark who played Capt Renault (Claude Reins) in Boxmoor Arts Centre's live theatrical production set 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 turntable and amp on permanent-loan. It still works perfectly. Peter died in August 2002 aged 55.

Here's looking at you kid...

Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Conrad Veidt, Paul Henreid, Sydney Greenstreet, Claude Rains

Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1942
By: Hollywood Classics

Brothers Bloom

Tue 6 12.30, Wed 7 2.00

Director: Rian Johnson
Starring: Robbie Coltrane, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel Weisz, Adrien Brody
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Director of the brilliant off-kilter thriller 'Brick', Rian Johnson and his all-star cast offer us this lightweight, entertaining con-man caper.

The *Brothers Bloom* (Adrian Brody, Mark Ruffalo) are the best con-men in the world, regularly separating millionaires from their fortunes through elaborate scams and schemes. The film follows the duo embarking on their final con to steal the fortune belonging to New Jersey heiress Penelope Stamp (Rachel Weisz). An elaborate car crash sets up the brothers to meet Penelope, who in turn, reveals a truly astonishing array of eccentricities. Despite being warned about the brothers, Penelope decides to follow them to Europe, becoming embroiled in antique smuggling, with delightful ensuing chaos...

It is oddball, fast and visually arresting, even if it seems a little too pleased with itself at times. Nevertheless Rachel Weisz is a delight and as unreliably gorgeous as ever.

"The effect is something like 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' done by Wes Anderson in a morose mood. He does keep things ticking along with distinctive editing and excellent design. Beatrix Aruna Pasztor's eclectic, retro-styled costumes are a particular delight with scene-stealing support from Robbie Coltrane as a moustachioed Belgian art dealer." (*Telegraph*)

"Again and again, it is more quirky than funny, and more baffling than either." (*Guardian*) Great fun all the same.

Don't miss. (*research Simon Messenger*)



Robin Hood

Thu 8 2.00



Blanchett plays Marion with a kind of elegant exhaustion that occasionally flares into bad temper. The spark between her and Crowe, however, seems as hard to kindle as a stick of damp greenwood. It doesn't help that she initially threatens him like a testy medieval Lorena Bobbit: 'If you so much as touch me I will sever your manhood, do you understand?'

Perhaps because of this, Robin's manhood is kept firmly under wraps throughout, although there are hints that his merry men are making whoopee with the local wenches in off-the-shoulder hessian.

"Crowe, oddly for such a memorable actor, gives a somewhat muted performance. It is none the less brilliantly shot and there are moments – such as when old Sir Walter's coffin is lowered into the ground – when the visual poem of olde England seems to flicker into life." (*Telegraph*)

"Scott orchestrates the sound and fury with a seemingly effortless bravura: unfussily pulling off tremendous action scenes and really quite impressive period backdrops including one CGI panorama of medieval London that looks like a Wenceslaus Hollar engraving come to life." (*Guardian*)

You will have heard the crowing over Russell's accent and that it's not the 'real' Robin Hood story! It looks fabulous on the big screen. Come for a glimpse of Ashridge, opening and closing shots. Don't blink.

Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, William Hurt, Max Sydow, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

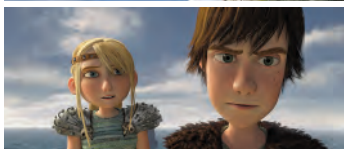
How To Train Your Dragon

Sat 10 2.00

Director: Dean DeBlois
Starring: Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jay Baruchel
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

Avatar like aerial thrills and smart teen comedy add to the appeal of this Viking animation, as a weedy boy gains the approval of his macho village with more empathetic approach to Viking dragon relations.

This Viking romp, wonderfully set on something called the Island of Berk (close), is about a misfit teen called Hiccup. Downtrodden blacksmith's apprentice, he feels far too wimpy to earn his stripes in the hard-living, dragon-slaying environment he's grown up in. Everyone except him is a man-giant with a forest for a beard and a thick Scottish accent. Whereas Hiccup is a spindly loser who sounds nasal and Jewish, and can't do much other than cower during the frequent dragon raids on their village. Hiccup longs to train as a dragon slayer to impress his dad. Or he does until he befriends Toothless and realises that dragons and Vikings need not be enemies. So begins their tentative strides towards the sweetest human-dragon bond in the history of Norse civilisation. (Not until you've read *The Incompetent Dragon* to your kids – It keeps going in and out of print. Search for it). Don't miss.





Sex & The City 2

**Mon 12 2.00, Tue 13 12.30,
Wed 14 2.00, Mon 19 2.00**

It is two years on from the first one. Charlotte and Miranda are happy if stressed moms. Samantha is single and staving off the menopause with weird vitamins, and Carrie is still married to smug Big, but the romance is leaking out of their relationship.

The gang have lots of fun at a gay wedding. There are a couple of good jokes and then... Do they do their power-walk down a Manhattan sidewalk...? No. They go to Abu Dhabi!

Director: Michael King
Starring: Sarah Parker, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth
Certificate: 15
Duration: 148 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Forget the story, come for the froth and the frocks... and the heels
It was never going beat the first one. But what ever does...?

Just come and indulge in the afternoon.
Bring some knitting. Tomorrow it will make no difference and you'll have a full length cardigan.



The Ghost

Thu 15 2.00



With the hysteria surrounding Roman Polanski's arrest in Switzerland last year, it would have been easy to bury "The Ghost" as a footnote in the director's extraordinary life. However, luckily for us it survived to reach the big screen.

Pierce Brosnan is Adam Lang, a smooth, smug, former Prime Minister living in exile on an island off the perma-drizzly US eastern seaboard. Ewan McGregor plays a journalist, who is sent to continue ghost writing Lang's memoirs, started by the previous writer who becomes a real ghost when his body is washed ashore! As McGregor's hack arrives in the States, news breaks of the former PM's supposed war-crimes on terror suspects whilst at Number 10.

What has the dead man uncovered about the former PM's shadowy links to the CIA? And what secrets lie in the draft manuscript he'd already started? It's Polanski filtered through Hitchcock, and it's fiercely compelling to watch. Clearly Lang bears a striking resemblance to a recently disgraced former PM, adding a hugely enjoyable subtext to what is already a tense thriller.

"Very involving movie...Polanski is far from finished as a film-maker." (*Guardian*) Unless he can tunnel through the Alps, he is.

Despite Ewan's silly English accent, he plays the cheeky character well.

(research Simon Messenger)

Director: Roman Polanski
Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Ewan McGregor, Kim Cattrall
Certificate: 15
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: France, Germany, USA 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Mr Hulot's Holiday

Sat 17 2.00

Director: Jacques Tati
Starring: Jacques Tati
Certificate: U
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: France 1952
By: British Film Institute

This is Tati's most enduring comedy, a portrait of the gentle, clumsy, well-meaning Hulot on holiday in a provincial seaside resort. The quiet, delicately observed sight gags hit more than miss.

So out of curiosity we have programmed it as a children's matinee. Let them decide. Though black and white, the humour is visual and simple and works for children of any age. They laughed out loud when we first showed it here in 2006. Hulot comes from the tradition of clowning, where everyone he encounters is straight-man to his bumbling mayhem and always comes off worse as he walks off unscathed and oblivious to the chaos he has caused.

An added bonus is of course the beautiful little French villages, empty roads and the seaside of the 1950s. Unmissable.





Director: Gary Winick
Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Christopher Egan, Vanessa Redgrave, Gael García Bernal
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: US 2010
By: E1 Films



Letters to Juliet

Tue 20 12.30, Wed 21 2.00

Who would ask Shakespeare's Juliet for advice on anything but skipping ropes?

After all, she killed herself at 13 over a toy-sword fighting boy she'd known for five minutes.

What follows is just as preposterous. However, the couple in this feather-light romance aren't so much star-crossed as sun-kissed. With their golden hair and perfect, glowing skin, Seyfried and Egan look as if they've been carved out of solidified honey. Unfortunately, their characters have about as much complexity as fake tan. Sophie (Seyfried) is a copy editor at The New Yorker whose restaurateur fiancé Victor (Gael Garcia) spends their pre-wedding trip to Italy at wine auctions and kitchens. She decides to visit the Veronese women who answer letters left at the supposed home of Shakespeare's Juliet Capulet. Sophie answers a 50-year-old note found in a crack in the wall, and before you can say 'Oh dear' Vanessa Redgrave turns up with pretty grandson.

The Italian countryside is gorgeous and at least the film doesn't stoop to the broad comedy of most romcoms... too often. It's harmless, pretty and utterly predictable. Therefore not of a waste of time for anyone in the mood for a romantic comedy set in a beautiful location.

Right now, that must be us all.

As travelogue romances go, you could do worse. At least it doesn't end in double suicide. That's for you as the credits roll. Cyanide cocktails available on request.



Robin Hood

Thu 22 2.00



Blanchett plays Marion with a kind of elegant exhaustion that occasionally flares into bad temper. The spark between her and Crowe, however, seems as hard to kindle as a stick of damp greenwood. It doesn't help that she initially threatens him like a testy medieval Lorena Bobbit: 'If you so much as touch me I will sever your manhood, do you understand?'

Perhaps because of this, Robin's manhood is kept firmly under wraps throughout, although there are hints that his merry men are making whoopee with the local wenches in off-the-shoulder hessian.

"Crowe, oddly for such a memorable actor, gives a somewhat muted performance. It is none the less brilliantly shot and there are moments – such as when old Sir Walter's coffin is lowered into the ground – when the visual poem of olde England seems to flicker into life." (*Telegraph*)

"Scott orchestrates the sound and fury with a seemingly effortless bravura: unfussily pulling off tremendous action scenes and really quite impressive period backdrops including one CGI panorama of medieval London that looks like a Wenceslaus Hollar engraving come to life." (*Guardian*)

You will have heard the crowing over Russell's accent and that it's not the 'real' Robin Hood story! It looks fabulous on the big screen. Come for a glimpse of Ashridge, opening and closing shots. Don't blink.

Director: Ridley Scott
Starring: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, William Hurt, Max Sydow, Mark Strong
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Prince of Persia

Sat 24 2.00, Tue 27 12.30

Director: Mike Newell
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Alfred Molina, Ben Kingsley, Gemma Arterton
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Buena Vista International

Tell me their not really making films from video games. It's just a bad dream? Luckily you can only dream about things you know.

Equipped with a chunked-up physique and a surprisingly accurate English accent, Jake Gyllenhaal makes a play for the family blockbuster market, as the lead actor in an expensive-looking film based, inevitably, on a video game. He plays a prince called Dastan in some nebulous region of medieval-era Middle East, who via a series of painfully complicated events, finds himself in possession of a mean-looking dagger that, via the sand grains in its hilt, can stop time and enable its operator to change things to his or her satisfaction.

"Gemma Arterton glowing like a premier-league film star, but yapping like a Bricom third-rater, is the princess of the holy city." (*Guardian*)

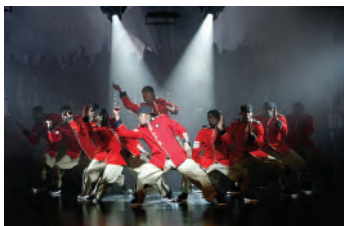
"Gyllenhaal makes a likeable lead and pulls off a passable (if unnecessary) British accent, while Arterton is on appealingly feisty form as Tamina; there's also a decent amount of chemistry between them, which, unfortunately, the script largely fails to exploit."

"The Sands of Time is never less than watchable, thanks to likeable performances from Gyllenhaal and Arterton, but it's a bit of a letdown in the action department and not as much fun as it should have been." (*reviews*)



StreetDance 2D

Mon 26 2.00



This bright and enjoyable family-friendly dance film is a bold and breezy British move to break into the 3D arena as yet untapped in terms of the successful street dance genre. The film is likely to be a big hit with the kids. The script follows the tried and trusted format (refined in films such as Step Up, How She Move, Step Up 2 and Make It Happen) of rough'n'ready street dancers coming up alongside classically trained performers and having to learn a few life lessons before realising the two styles can mesh. Plus adding in a little romance along the way.

Cue the expected clash of cultures as the two dance styles face off against each other. Naturally after a few minor conflicts the two sides grudgingly come to respect each other's own ability to perform spectacular moves...

The young cast are all relative newcomers and are all suitably nimble-footed, but not great actors. Britain's Got Talent winner George Sampson, role as a wannabe dancer was especially written for him.

keep the film fresh, bright and frothy, making good use of the London locations and delivering a film that is non-aggressive. Unfortunately, all of the effort has gone into the dance routines and effects neglecting the script and performances. Nevertheless its feel-good nature is uplifting.

Director: Max & Dania
Starring: Flawless, Diversity, Charlotte Rampling, Nichola Burley
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Vertigo Films

Wild Target

Wed 28 2.00

Director: Jonathan Lynn
Starring: Bill Nighy, Rupert Everett, Emily Blunt, Martin Freeman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: France, UK 2009
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Wild Target is a comedy about uptight Victor Maynard (Bill Nighy), a middle-aged, solitary assassin, who lives to please his formidable mother Louisa (Eileen Atkins), despite his own peerless reputation for lethal efficiency. His professional routine is interrupted when he finds himself drawn to one of his intended victims, Rose (Emily Blunt). He spares her life, unexpectedly acquiring a young apprentice in the process, Tony (Rupert Grint). Believing Victor to be a private detective, his two new companions tag along, while he attempts to thwart the murderous attentions of his unhappy client (Rupert Everett). (Sounds familiar)

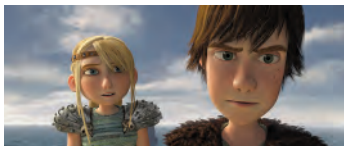
Bill Nighy is in splendidly oddball form as a pernickety assassin drawn to a freewheeling art thief (Blunt). Rupert Grint gets his shirt off, Freeman is a rival assassin and Everett is the crook. It is an old-fashioned British comedy that moves at a cracking pace (lots of chases around London in a battered Mini) before settling down and losing some of its charm and momentum. "Nighy and Blunt are a great double-act and there are laughs to be had. No masterpiece - but diverting and entertaining." (reviews)

Said to be the Brit comedy of the summer, but don't let that put you off. Sounds like fun though. Mr. Nighy is always worth a try.



How To Train Your Dragon

Thu 29 2.00



Avatar like aerial thrills and smart teen comedy add to the appeal of this Viking animation, as a weedy boy gains the approval of his macho village with more empathetic approach to Viking dragon relations.

This Viking romp, wonderfully set on something called the Island of Berk (close), is about a misfit teen called Hiccup. Downtrodden blacksmith's apprentice, he feels far too wimpy to earn his stripes in the hard-living, dragon-slaying environment he's grown up in. Everyone except him is a man-giant with a forest for a beard and a thick Scottish accent. Whereas Hiccup is a spindly loser who sounds nasal and Jewish, and can't do much other than cower during the frequent dragon raids on their village. Hiccup longs to train as a dragon slayer to impress his dad. Or he does until he befriends Toothless and realises that dragons and Vikings need not be enemies.

So begins their tentative strides towards the sweetest human-dragon bond in the history of Norse civilisation. (Not until you've read *The Incompetent Dragon* to your kids – It keeps going in and out of print. Search for it). Don't miss.

Director: Dean DeBlois
Starring: Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jay Baruchel
Certificate: PG
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

The Borrowers

Sat 31 2.00

Director: Peter Hewitt
Starring: Celia Imrie, Flora Newbigin, Jim Broadbent, John Goodman
Certificate: U
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: UK, USA 1997
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Based on a series of children's books by Marty Norton, this tells of the adventures of a family of little people, only inches tall, who live under the floorboards of an English country house. Their existence is disturbed by an eight-year-old boy from the 'human bean' family.

The human's home, hence theirs, is under threat of demolition from a horrid developer (familiar?).

The eight year old and the tiny collectors of small everyday, human items which they re-cycle and use to ingenious effect, team up to thwart the horrid bulldozers. A fabulous story, beautifully filmed with a brilliant cast and some great laugh-out-loud scenes. The Fast Show's Williams steals all his scenes as the 'rantokil' man. Bring your grandparents.

You will all love it.



USA: 4% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION CONSUMES 23% OF ITS OIL.

So why is BP and all other energy giants still digging for oil? £1.6 bln losses already, plus cleaning up the Atlantic, could have advanced alternative power research a millionfold. Why haven't they spent their billions over the last 20 years, on bright, inevitable new energy ideas instead of losing it ALL to old oil? Digital projection is hurrying to throw out film's past, while these oil hungry savages are hanging on to the 'old-way' for grim-death. OURS. How come 'progress' pretends we normal people haven't 'noticed' such blatant opposites? New digital; Old oil. Ugly shite-money has a lot to answer for, but never will. "It is an assault on the shores of the people of the United States" (Obama 16.6.10)
 "The US invades countries for oil. Now it's being delivered free to their shores, they're complaining" (Mark Steel)



HOW DID HE EVER MAKE 74...?

Dennis Hopper was a B-movie star who fancied being a director, but never made it. Easy Rider wasn't directed. It was 'tripped', so a cult forever. It will only ever be a hippy indulgence, with some great rock tunes and Jack Nicholson's grin. We, hip friends, knew it didn't ring true in 1969. A mediocre talent, lucky to be at the zeitgeist of those early days. His more famous 'friend', James Dean, died young with all guns blazing. He too was on his way to being very bad indeed...?

Hopper should "have died ten times over" (his words). He would later boast, in his junked haze, he "can't remember any of it". I don't begrudge him his life or his insignificant, hell-raising ego, but in the light of the 'good dying young', his is a life squandered, theirs didn't have time to be fulfilled or squandered. Too soon is their waste. At 74 he couldn't remember any of his. What a waste. The young dead have no more memories to forget.

Never mind, for all his long 'Lost Weekend' of a life, he looked like a respected elder statesman by the end, silver haired and dignified. Compared to this sad, spaced-out psycho stare from Apocalypse Now, he held out pretty well.



LATEST ON ST ALBANS

Phase One of the project to restore and re-open The Odeon/Alpha was literally completed on 9th April. Since then we have been doing three things:

1. Giving you in St Albans a well-earned rest after raising the first £1 million in just eight weeks, before coming back to you with fresh ideas for your help with the next £2 million.
2. Opening negotiations with banks and banking agents. Approaching (and being approached by) and listening to individual potential investors.
3. Using the core of our original Rex team, we have started early clearance work. Turning on the water and lighting the whole Odeon labyrinth. Making it safe (or safer) over the next few weeks.

Over the Summer we will open the doors, so you can see it for yourself. Invitations will go first to those who have contributed. Then everyone is welcome on the door. Please watch out for a poster on the front of the building and keep an eye on the allaboutstalbans website.

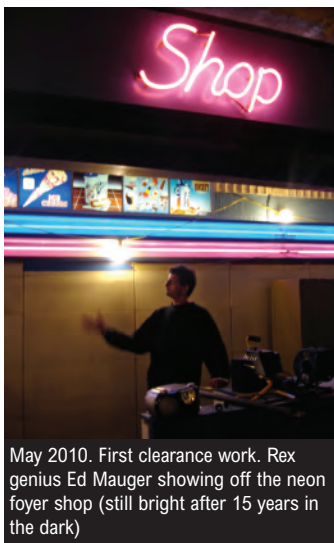
Clearly without the first million none of this would be happening. Thank you.

SUMMARY

As you know, we raised that first million through a combination of advanced membership (ABL), donations, seat sponsorships, shares and loans. Work has already begun on the gigantic task of repairing the building. We are confident that if everything goes smoothly, with the fewest hitches, we should be rolling the first film before the end of 2012. What can possibly go wrong...?

Our objectives during these first viewings are as follows:

- A) To show you the state of the building. So you can see the task in hand.
- B) To talk you through the 'dream'. How



May 2010. First clearance work. Rex genius Ed Mauger showing off the neon foyer shop (still bright after 15 years in the dark)

it will look etc; listen to your comments and answer what questions we can.

- C) To ask you what you might like to do in the next funding push.

PS. Bring loose change. You won't have to pay to get in but we'll charge you to get out...!

Simply, there will be buckets dotted around the place for your (voluntarily) loose change.

There will be a chance to take up the remaining advanced booking memberships (ABL), make a donation or sponsor the remaining 370 seats. We also welcome your sponsorship of other things you might wish to consider – bricks, curtains, projection; even toilets or the whole building...!

Clearly we will be very happy to discuss further personal loans and investments. We may have to seek commercial loans and/or investments. Already we are talking to banks and negotiating with serious individual investors, but would like to raise as many small amounts locally before we can determine how much we need from the commercial market.

15th June 2010



We? Why? The Daily Mail should outlive the cockroach. But the cockroach is a tad funnier and more 'talented' than it, Cowell & Waterman (who came Euro last). You hope there's irony in this headline. But no, it's the Daily Mail.

The Beatles were real. Eurovision is manufactured. The Beatles had nothing to do with 'We' 'British'. They were never a commodity of the Empire. They came from the street and let you steal.

Even then you failed. Couldn't hear the notes in the right order.

Cowell and Waterman are the "hit that stinks" pedalling chuka chuka phone tunes. Their talent by-pass 'we' is welcome in Eurovision. They and the Mail deserve each other. They are vacuous and have wearily spewed their empty sac across the rest of the world. They needed second hand 'Opportunity Knocks' television to come last in phoney Eurovision. The Beatles had a few chords.

Childwickbury Arts presents

The Burning Bush

Friday 2nd July 7.30pm
Childwickbury Stables,
St. Albans

An evening of traditional Jewish songs, music and dancing. **For more information visit www.childwickbury-arts-fair.com or telephone 07976 439850**

THE INDEPENDENT

'What The Burning Bush offers is, in a sense, the original World Music where Europe, Africa and the Orient freely mingle'

Held over three days, inside the beautiful private grounds of Childwickbury Stables, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, you will find a mix of demonstration, workshops and free children's entertainment.

2, 3 & 4 July 2010

www.childwickbury-arts-fair.com

CHILDWICKBURY
**ARTS
FAIR**



Tesco boss rocks the City with shock exit

MORE than £750million was wiped off the Tesco market value yesterday after the news that chief

By Sean Poulter
Consumer Affairs Editor



Sir Terry Leahy is retiring at 54. After fourteen years in charge of Tesco, the papers boast, "he achieved a staggering growth of £1 in every £3 spent on groceries" in UK alone. Well done. This nice quiet Sir Terry is not like that lad Lord Sugar or the crinkly half-haired never smarmy, Sir Philip Green. No, he is responsible for 200 new stores last year, alone. You can't hate a chap for that can you? What's wrong with Tesco's buying up every square inch of prime brown/green land?

The city share prices fell £750million at the announcement. How can one faceless man,

cause FTSE jitters by leaving the head shebangship of the most hated shop in the country and come out smiling? I guess that's a silly Georgie Best question. Tesco is the chief robber of every town's well-being. Cripples farmers and suppliers. Swallows up any land to stop rivals or to build itself, or waits until land value soars. We all shop there!

Please, make no mistake, Tesco has been the biggest gangster on the street for at least 14 years thanks to this quiet retiree. Enjoy your golf Sir Terry and your place in the coalition Cabinet. And oh yeah, remember where you 'come from'.

Childwickbury Arts presents

The Burning Bush

Friday 2nd July 7.30pm
Childwickbury Stables,
St. Albans

An evening of traditional Jewish songs, music and dancing. **For more information visit www.childwickbury-arts-fair.com or telephone 07976 439850**

THE INDEPENDENT

'What The Burning Bush offers is, in a sense, the original World Music where Europe, Africa and the Orient freely mingle'

Held over three days, inside the beautiful private grounds of Childwickbury Stables, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, you will find a mix of demonstration, workshops and free children's entertainment.

2, 3 & 4 July 2010

www.childwickbury-arts-fair.com

**CHILDWICKBURY
ARTS
FAIR**



Come early
or miss the
party!

COSMOPOLITANS AT THE REX

OKAY...
WE'RE MAKING
A FUSS...
MAKE THE MOST
OF IT...

- 6 GLAMOUROUS SHOWINGS
- FREE COSMOPOLITAN
- ICED CHAMPAGNE
- PHOTO-OPS
- FUN PRIZES
- FOYER PARTIES

CARRIE ON

**Fri 9, Sat 10,
Sun 11, Wed 14,
Thu 15, Sat 17**

HBO

PLANE SCREENED PRESENTS