

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

CARAMEL

JUNE...

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

JUNE 2008 Issue 39  
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I don't care how indulgent, this is Humph and me laughing at something in the box office: Summer 2006.

## HUMPHREY LYTTELTON...

**23RD MAY 1921 – 25TH APRIL 2008**

*"As we journey through life, discarding baggage along the way, we should keep an iron grip, to the very end, on the capacity for silliness. It preserves the soul from dessication"* Humphrey Lyttelton

After May's long obituaries, this is one nobody saw coming. At 86, there is that thought, and no doubt his own from time to time. When we last met, he was in a hurry to finish something he was writing. Nevertheless, with his 87th birthday being celebrated here on 24th May and an audience cancelling weddings, births and holidays to get in, it was a million miles from anyone's anticipation. There was no doubt he would be here. It's that 'good-innings' thing again, along with 'how does he keep going?' The will to live is stronger than any tricks parasite cancers and aneurisms can play on us.

We know they will win in the end, but Life's big trick is to outwit them, distract them, beat them at their own game while they're not looking.

A lucky few are able to make them wait until they are ready.

Humph played it and outwitted them with exquisite ease, using the same effortless, beat-perfect timing he used in every split second of his public life.

"He didn't rush into things. He didn't rush into a sentence and he didn't rush into a phrase on the trumpet. He's got time to wait for it and catch it at its most telling beat.

I think it's the same with his comedy too.

There were great similarities there; underplayed... underplayed." (Wally Fawkes ('Trog'), Humph's fellow cartoonist, clarinetist and lifelong friend from their Daily Mail years in the early 1950s).



From Telegraph front page April 26 2008

In November last year we were chuffed that he and the Band would come here to celebrate his 87th birthday in May. Perhaps we shouldn't make plans that far ahead at any age, but being dead or living in Hastings are the only reasons for not making plans.

Of course he would turn up.

The first sign we got was when his long-cherished and "fiercely protective" manager, Susan da Costa, (who could tell how near the interval was by which joke he had just told) rang to say he had to go into hospital. It sounded like one of those operations he had been putting off for



Humph with Duke Ellington

years and after a couple of months under doctor's orders, would be back gigging and telling those jokes again.

Sadly too, after years of wrangling, only last year the BBC finally released I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue into their hands. This meant the show's creators could take the show on the road, and for the first time make a few bob for themselves.

They were playing to packed 3,000 seaters up and down the country. This, alongside his ceaseless gigging with his band – one day in Birmingham, next Devon, next in Edinburgh – was topped by playing every Tuesday night in a pub in Chiswick!

His third visit to the Rex in November last year saw him at his most relaxed. You could see by the way he sat at the 'bus-stop' (that waiting-room settee to the right of the box office), he was at home.

The whole band seemed at home. After truly awful touring digs and windy, run-down theatres, he told us on his first visit in 2005, he had never been treated so well



On the balcony summer 2006





in 60 years of gigging. I asked him to repeat it in case it was flannel. It made it sound true. That was a moment of sadness in itself - a genuine note of gratitude for gala pie and pickles and a few drinks after 60 years non-stop touring?

Playing his beloved trumpet or hosting the most popular radio show in Britain since *The Goons* and *Round The Horne*, might not be heavy lifting, but it takes some doing to put up with such a gruelling timetable for over 60 years. He and all the band would drive themselves and meet at the venue, set up their own gear and carry their own shoes.

**A**mid major world wars and rumours of wars, his 85th birthday in 2006 was front page news in all the quality papers! Grand statesmen and extended royalty don't get such applause. Albeit, he was both.

It all happened so fast, so was too late to do any kind of tribute in May. Instead we'll show *Jazz on A Summer's Day* for him one Sunday in July.

We didn't know him well enough to say grand things (and it was a rubbish joke about Hastings). It was late in his life; he was already 83 when he first came here. So it was an even greater privilege to enjoy a last few fleeting moments in his company and watch him at home on our stage.

"Humph personified the best of English values. He loathed snobbery and made everyone feel special. Despite his dry wit, he was a man of feeling. On mortality, he would say if he died he wouldn't know about it anyway." (*Jeremy Hardy*)

So... "As the vanquished charwoman of time begins to shake n' vac the shagpile of eternity, I notice we've run out of time."



The glorious Humphrey Lyttelton band on stage 10 November 2007



J U N E   E V E N I N G S

21

Sun 1 6.00



**Based on Ben Mezrich's bestseller, it recounts the true story of six MIT (clever, maths-gifted?) students who are painstakingly trained by Spacey's Mickey Rosa to become expert in card counters.**

A memory clean-up in Vegas. The best performance for some time from Kevin this is also a fine addition to the heist genre and more than gives Soderbergh's OCEAN'S 11 series a run for its money. Watch out for young Jim Sturgess. A future Brit star? (yawn)

"Disappointment takes over with the realisation it's all being pitched to a pre-teen audience, smoothing out potentially juicy moral dilemmas and sanitising the grown-up throb of the Vegas experience into anodyne glitz". (*Time Out*)

"The screenplay is dismal, the team's disguises ridiculous and the overall air of smugness insufferable – and we haven't even started on Kevin Spacey.

When, and how, did the suave chameleon of *The Usual Suspects* and *LA Confidential* become the mannered, self-important creep of today?" (*Independent*)

Who cares? Spacey has made *The Old Vic* zing again where all his Brit predecessors fussed, failed and flopped.

Stay smug Kevin. Come and enjoy him on the screen again.

You, The Living

Mon 2 7.30

**Director:** Roy Andersson  
**Starring:** Elisabeth Helander, Bjorn Englund, Jessika Lundberg  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** Sweden 2008  
**By:** Artificial Eye

**"He is radically different from anyone else, with a technical, compositional rigour that puts other movie-makers and visual artists to shame. He has created a very funny film, though in the darkest possible way."** (*Peter Bradshaw, Guardian*)

"Andersson's impassive, off-the-wall reflections on the human condition do feel unique, and the comedy, even at its bleakest, is oddly mesmerising" (*Independent*)

"Just when you think the only answer to Andersson's view of the world – alcoholic couples; depressed psychiatrists; a girl searching for a disappeared rock star who shows her a modicum of affection – is to throw yourself under one of Stockholm's trams, he unleashes a set-piece that has you marvelling at its choreography or wondering at the sheer ridiculousness of life." (*Time Out*)

"This is a funny, sad, cruel film, both crystalline and puzzling, hypnotic in its intensity." (*Philip French, Observer*) It's always worrying when critics get over excited and worse when they all agree. Best come and see for yourself and hope it's not another 'Don't Touch The Axe'.

**Director:** Robert Luketic  
**Starring:** Kate Bosworth, Kevin Spacey, Laurence Fishburne, Jim Sturgess  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 123 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing



# Persepolis

**Tue 3 7.30, Wed 4 7.30,  
Thu 5 7.30**

Her idols are Bruce Lee, Abba, the Bee Gees and Iron Maiden. She wears the latest sneakers she can find in Tehran and a T shirt with "Punk is not dead" on the back.

This expressionistic animation stunningly drawn in black and white, is a touching coming-of-age story about an intelligent, outspoken girl growing up during the Iranian revolution.

Paronnaud and Satrapi's debut feature tells of how fundamentalists seized power, forced the veil on women and imprisoned thousands of dissidents. The film is based on Satrapi's series of graphic novels and her childhood experiences in Iran, where she survived traumatic encounters with schoolteachers bent on denying her expression, policemen determined to deny her freedom and Iraqi bombs intended to take her life.

Dedicated to the people of Iran, *Persepolis* is a moving, universally appealing story of one woman's struggle against oppression that deservedly shared the jury prize at Cannes in 2007.

"This is not so much a film for kids as about kids- and as such it is one of the best." (*crit*)



**Director:** Marjane Satrapi, Vincent Paronnaud  
**Starring:** Catherine Deneuve, Sean Penn, Chiara Mastroianni, Iggy Pop  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing





## Joy Division

**Fri 6 7.30**

**Director:** Grant Gee  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2007  
**By:** The Works UK Distribution

**I didn't get it then nor see what all the fuss is about, still.**

They were just average kids in an average band typical of its time.

It has become almost evangelical to talk of them in such revered tones.

One committed suicide, the rest went on to form New Order. So what?

It was just another band from the turgid late 1970s and the indulgent, musically-barren 80s.

Who remembers George Harrison's music or what month and year he died?

Joy D wasn't my generation, so I wasn't meant to get it.

But some of you did and still do.

That's only reason it's in the programme.



## Leatherheads

**Sat 7 7.00, Sun 8 6.00,**

**Set in the twenties, when college football drew huge crowds but the professional game was almost non-existent, Clooney is coach Jimmy "Dodge" Connelly, out to promote the Leatherheads as money-makers.**

"This, however, is not a football film. Its real subject is the on-off romance between Clooney, doing a passable imitation of Tracy or even Cary Grant, and Renée Zellweger who tries her best to seem a bit like Hepburn or perhaps Carole Lombard. Clooney relies a little too much on natural charm to convince entirely, but at their best, they strike sparks off each other, delivering Duncan Brantley and Rick Reilly's slick and often witty dialogue with spit and polish.

All this is embellished with excellent production values and music that reminds us of the good old days when a song was really a song and the backing band was great.

But, alas, something happens halfway through to pour lukewarm water on the proceedings... a pastiche rather than a real period rom-com." (*Derek Malcolm, Standard*)

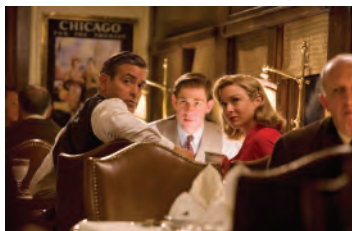
"To his credit, the director-star evokes the early era of pro football with panache, capturing the moment when the game went from a shyster's paradise to a sanctioned industry." (*Time Out*)

"Shot in golden browns and caramels, it looks lovely, and Clooney and Zellweger smooch away pleasantly in their period outfits." (*The Independent*).

And it is very funny, come for this, George and Renée's gorgeous sour-lemon pout.

**Director:** George Clooney  
**Starring:** George Clooney, Renee Zellweger, John Krasinski  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd





## Bandit Queen

**Mon 9 7.30**



**Bandit Queen tells a true story and broke new ground in Indian cinema, with vigorous political and social comment, and a graphic treatment of language, violence and sex.**

Based on the prison testimony of Phoolan Devi, it recounts how a diminutive low-caste girl was sold into bondage as a child bride but escaped to become a feared and revered bandit ruling the ravines surrounding the river Chambal in Uttar Pradesh. In 1981 Phoolan Devi avenged her horrific gang rape by killing 30 men in the infamous Behmai Massacre.

Her eventual surrender was negotiated on her own terms, in front of cheering thousands who dubbed her 'the Queen of Flowers', protector of the untouchables and oppressed.

"Director Shekhar Kapur has never let something as tiresome as historical rigour get in the way of a good yarn, and this lavishly mounted account of the life of Indian feminist, Phoolan Devi, is no exception. Said to be 'riddled with inaccuracies' by Devi herself.

Seema Biswas is excellent in the title role, exuding a total awareness of her character's bruised mentality. Her remarkable performance is physical and threatening..." (*Time Out*)

A tough film but one not to miss.

<b>Director:</b>	Shekhar Kapur
<b>Starring:</b>	Seema Biswas, Nirmal Pandey, Manoj Bajpai, Rajesh Vivek
<b>Certificate:</b>	18
<b>Duration:</b>	120 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	India
<b>By:</b>	Metrodome Distributors

# Jules et Jim

**Tue 10 7.30**

**This special re-release of Truffaut's much-loved new-wave classic celebrates the 80th birthday of Jeanne Moreau, one of the most riveting and risk-taking screen actresses of all time.**

Jules Et Jim sees her at her most ebullient as Catherine, a Parisian beauty caught up in a complex ménage à trois with the two friends of the title, one German (Werner), the other French (Serre).

Set just before the outbreak of the first World War, it is a poignant, romantic roller-coaster of a movie; fast, funny, stylish and affecting.

This much requested title is a must for those fans of thoughtful, understated, daring and exciting early sixties French films.

<b>Director:</b>	Francois Truffaut
<b>Starring:</b>	Jeanne Moreau, Oskar Werner, Henri Serre, Marie Dubois
<b>Certificate:</b>	PG
<b>Duration:</b>	106 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	France 1962
<b>By:</b>	British Film Institute



## Happy-Go-Lucky

Wed 11 7.30

**Director:** Mike Leigh  
**Starring:** Eddie Marsan, Sally Hawkins  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

**“At 65, it seems, British film’s Mr Grumpy has finally lightened up.** Mike Leigh’s *Happy-Go-Lucky* is a wonderful film, even though hardly anything happens.”

Poppy (Hawkins) is an irrepressible, chirpy, upbeat London primary school teacher enjoying her life in Camden. Out on her bike, preparing lessons, doing flamenco, helping lost causes or in the pub with her friends, she has a smile on her face. Sounds like one to avoid? “Yet the cumulative portrait of Poppy by Sally Hawkins (Best Actress at Berlin) is so rich and accomplished with such charm, that it is hugely uplifting and life-affirming.” (*Eve Standard*)

When her bike is stolen, she takes up driving lessons. Hence brings her face-to-face with a driving instructor whose view, demeanor, attitude and unflinching straight face couldn’t be further from hers.

Compared with Leigh’s previous works, *HAPPY-GO-LUCKY* presents a calmer, more optimistic take on contemporary Britain, where individualism and the pursuit of happiness define the lives of a generation, but where old-fashioned notions of community and selflessness still exist.

Don’t listen to the critics, come.



## In Bruges

Thu 12 7.30



**When a job goes wrong, veteran hit man Ken and his rookie partner Ray are sent by Harry to lie low in Bruges and await his call.** When it finally comes, their ‘holiday’ becomes a life-and-death struggle of darkly comic proportions. Signalling the emergence of a useful new filmmaker, this is playwright McDonagh’s first feature (his controversial short, *Six Shooter* won an Oscar).

*In Bruges* is packed with rich, edgy humour and dazzling profanity.

“Bruges is the best preserved medieval town in Belgium,” reads Brendan Gleeson’s impressed Ken. ‘It’s a fucking shithole!’ fires back his new, younger room-sharer and fellow hitman-on-the-run Ray (Colin Farrell).

Thus begins the running joke of ex-theatre wunderkind Martin McDonagh’s clever, savvy and enjoyable revamp of the odd couple/gangster caper...

The film’s real pleasure lies in McDonagh’s verbal felicity – the naturalistic dialogue is a breath of fresh air – and while Farrell struggles to juggle his humorous ‘thick’ persona with romantic pathos, Gleeson excels in his role as the weary gangster pondering the possibilities for his own shot at redemption.”

(*Wally Hammond, Time Out*)

**Director:** Martin McDonagh  
**Starring:** Ciaran Hinds, Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** Belgium, UK 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

# Indiana Jones

**Fri 13** 7.30, **Sat 14** 7.00, **Sun 15** 6.00, **Mon 16** 7.30,  
**Tue 17** 7.30, **Wed 18** 7.30, **Thu 19** 7.30

Lucas, Speilberg and Paramount - in fact the whole Hollywood machine, is so jittery about piracy, they make Health Safety look like free-speech. This is not only blind panic and paranoia, it is way out of proportion.

So together with the pre-hype hype mock-tease secrecy, it means there's no synopsis to read to you.

So come for the 61 year old hero, the wisecracks and the explosions.

Unfortunately, it is on for a whole week so there's no rush.



**Director:** Steven Spielberg  
**Starring:** Ray Winstone, Cate Blanchett,  
Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 135 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures





## Shine A Light

Fri 20 7.30, Sat 21 7.00

**Director:** Martin Scorsese  
**Starring:** The Stones, Bill Clinton  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 122 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Sold out in no time in May. It's nice to see the critics, who dissed it, did no damage to the box office.**

It is the Rolling Stones playing over two nights at a big New York concert in 2006. Come for their faces. Come for the music. Come for the backroom stuff. Come for old men in their stolen prime moving beautifully without embarrassing their grandchildren.

They might wear silly clothes and tight kex, while kids a third their age in safe tee-shirts can only muster a shuffle with jeans around their ankles.

But don't come for Martin Scorsese.

He will make you wonder how he made all those startling films.

Just come for Charlie, Keith and Mick and the other fella. It would have been nice to see Bill Wyman.



## The Oxford Murders

Sun 22 6.00



**In a sleepy Oxford town, someone's picking off victims and leaving a series of mathematical symbols as their trademark.** Can American maths grad Martin (Wood) and olde English Professor, Arthur Seldom (Hurt) solve the crimes and unmask a centuries-old cover-up by the Catholic Church... sorry, wrong film. In fairness to *The Oxford Murders*, based on Argentine Guillermo Martinez's 2003 novel, there's a lot more between the ears than in anything Dan Brown has typed. In effect, what we have here is a battle of academic ideals, between mathematician Martin, who believes that every problem has a solution, and Prof Seldom, who answers the eternal question 'can we know the truth?' with a Wittgenstein-inspired 'probably not.'

Aside from our detecting duo, other suspects include a frustrated cellist, a rival Russian student vying for Seldom's attention and of course a sexy nurse, who gives the yank a solution to ponder in his trousers.

Perhaps it's a good old fashioned Murder-mystery set in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside... sorry, wrong programme. But for good measure we scheduled it for a Sunday!

**Director:** Alex De La Iglesia  
**Starring:** John Hurt, Elijah Wood  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Contender Films

# Caramel

**Mon 23** 7.30

**We have been after this for over a year. Before Cannes I think?**

It is a charming comedy drama with echoes of Almodóvar, centred on the everyday lives of five Lebanese women in a Beirut beauty parlour.

Each has her own problem: Loyal (Labaki) has been involved with a married man; Nisrine (al-Masri) is desperate for her fiancé not to find out that she is no longer a virgin; and Rima (Moukarzel) falls for a female client.

Meanwhile, regular customer Jamal is simply concerned about growing old. With a cast largely made up of unknown actors, CAMEL is Labaki's debut feature after years of directing music videos. Nominated for the Caméra d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, it is a stylish and witty story that vividly portrays modern-day Beirut with all its contradictions.

Don't ask, just come and be delighted by such disarming, unpretentious filmmaking and some great faces.



**Director:** Nadine Labaki  
**Starring:** Joanna Moukarzel, Yasmine Elmasri, Nadine Labaki  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France, Lebanon 2007  
**By:** Momentum Pictures



## Flashbacks Of A Fool

Tue 24 7.30

**Director:** Baillie Walsh  
**Starring:** Olivia Williams, Daniel Craig, Harry Eden, Jodhi May  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International

The death of his best friend from his English seaside childhood brings Joe back home for the funeral, and prompts flashbacks to his teenage experiences, including the tragedy that forced him to flee for a new life.

"In a scene reminiscent of the ending of Robert Altman's 'The Long Goodbye' – Where Sterling Hayden's suicidal writer strolls out into the sea from his Malibu house – Daniel Craig's washed out forty something Hollywood star, Joe Scott, takes a similarly despairing swim into the Pacific and remembers – in lengthy flashback – his fateful sexual and emotional rites of passage 30 years earlier in the glam-rock-soundtracked 1970s, in a small seaside town in the south-west of England.

But it's hard to read the meaning of his fateful escapades in this world of gaming arcades and rundown beach huts, viewed as they are through the distorting lens of the older Joe's memory." (*Wally Hammond, Time Out*)

Definitely worth seeing for Craig between Bonds.



## My Brother Is An Only Child

Wed 25 7.30



A fabulous title: subtle, witty and apparently not even close to the original **Italian!** Never mind, unlike the Jesse James title which told us the middle and end before we ever bought a ticket, this tells us just enough to intrigue us before we sit down – Perfect.

Growing up in small-town Italy during the '60s and '70s, brothers Accio (Germano) and Manrico (Scamacchio) are as opposite as can be.

Not only are they emotionally and physically diametrically opposed, they are it seems, in every way. What is left? Come and see.

Predictably too, their lives take completely different paths. The anchor is of course an inevitable brotherly love, which stops them from breaking contact altogether.

As they get older, however, the polarisation of their political opinions (one becomes a fascist, the other an extreme left-wing activist with connections to terrorist circles) tests their familial bonds to the very limit...

"Set against the ever-shifting backdrop of Italy's tumultuous socio-political history, Luchetti's film is a subtle and potent human drama about blood ties that bind people together against all odds."

(*Synopsis*)

Cancel Italian classes. Not to be missed...

**Director:** Daniele Luchetti  
**Starring:** Elio Germano, Riccardo Scamacchio, Diane Fleri  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 104 mins  
**Origin:** Italy 2007  
**By:** Revolver Film Distribution

# Iron Man

**Thu 26** 7.30, **Fri 27** 7.30,  
**Sat 28** 7.00

**Playboy weapons magnate Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) is a greased amalgam of Howard Hughes, Hugh Hefner and C-3PO, complete with an enviable battery of glib banter and a goatee you could set your watch by.**

On a routine sales trip to the Middle East, his Humvee is ambushed by a terrorist cell and he is dragged away to a cave, where he is forced to reproduce one of his high-powered missiles with some scrap metal and a soldering iron.

Instead, Stark uses those materials to construct a suit of robotic body armour and flee from the extremists' clutches. Once free, Stark discovers a deadly conspiracy that could destabilise the entire globe, and dons his powerful suit on a mission to stop the villains and save the world.

Actor-turned-director Favreau has proven with his past directorial efforts he has a keen eye for character and can spin a decent yarn ('Made', 'Elf' and 'Zathura'). Sadly, these two qualities are rarely apparent here, replaced instead by quick-fix one-liners and predictable set-piece gags. Like Iron Man's suit, Favreau's film feels like it has been meticulously assembled rather than lovingly formed.

*(D Jenkins, Time Out)*

Take no notice. Come for the non-stop thrill, Robert's wit and face and a surprisingly sexy Ms Paltrow.



**Director:** Jon Favreau  
**Starring:** Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 126 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures



## Welcome to the Sticks Sun 29 6.00



**"... is as far as it will probably go. What is hysterically funny to French audiences doesn't cross over quite so well despite some heroic efforts at translating language-based slapstick."** (*Guardian*)

Philippe Abrams (Merad) helps to run the post office in a picturesque small town in the south of France. His wife Julie (Félix) is down in the dumps. He thinks the more glamorous surroundings of the Côte d'Azur might lift her spirits, and her skirt? His attempts to fiddle a transfer fail, and he ends up being sent to Bergues, a village in northern France.

Matters only get worse - the local dialect is a strange bouillabaisse of French, Flemish and Latin!

A nice, heartwarming little comedy which, to general astonishment, has stormed the box office all across France.

Let's see how many gags about the local-yokel habitués of the Pas-de-Calais area, north of Lille, cross the Channel.

Written and directed by Boon, a popular stage comic who takes a secondary role of a lovelorn mail carrier, has made a tribute to a region apparently deemed semi-alien by the rest of France.

**Director:** Dany Boon  
**Starring:** Anne Marvin, Kad Merad, Dany Boon, Zoe Felix  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Honeydripper Mon 30 7.30

**Director:** John Sayles  
**Starring:** Charles Dutton, Danny Glover, Gary Clark Jr  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Axiom Films

**"They said 'you have a blue guitar/ you do not play things as they are / they're changed upon the blue guitar.'"**

So wrote the poet Wallace Stevens. Change "blue" to "electric" and his lines sum up the revolutionary juncture fictionally captured in John Sayles film about the moment when the guitar - that soft spoken instrument easily outgunned by honking sax or rattling drums, plugged itself into the mains, boosted its voice and grabbed centre stage." (*Guardian*) It is a typically intelligent and beautifully crafted tale covering the birth of this terrifying negro music bringing with it the damnable electric guitar to the American South of the 1950s

Tyrone (Glover) is the proprietor of the Honeydripper juke-box joint. When business begins to tail off, Tyrone hires unpredictable electric guitarist Sonny (guitar protégé Gary Clark Jr) against his better judgment.

This is his last-ditch bid to draw in the big crowds at harvest time... Come and see what happens.

Beware: This warm, sweet natured film might have you dancing on the ceiling on a Monday night!



## COMING SOON

## New releases

Sex and The City

Shotgun Stories

Cous Cous

Un Secret

Batman

Nim's Island

Charlie Bartlett

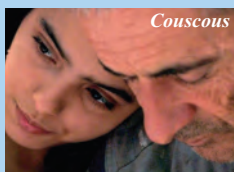
## Back by demand

The Painted Veil

Son of Rambow

Shine a Light

Happy-Go-Lucky



## JUNE FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

Sun	1	21	6.00
Mon	2	21	2.00
Mon	2	You, The Living	7.30
Tue	3	2 Days In Paris	12.30
Tue	3	Persepolis	7.30
Wed	4	Persepolis	2.00, 7.30
Thu	5	Kiterunner	2.00
Thu	5	Persepolis	7.30
Fri	6	Joy Division	7.30
Sat	7	Horton Hears A Who	2.00
Sat	7	Leatherheads	7.00
Sun	8	Leatherheads	6.00
Mon	9	Leatherheads	2.00
Mon	9	Bandit Queen	7.30
Tue	10	Leatherheads	12.30
Tue	10	Jules et Jim	7.30
Wed	11	Happy-Go-Lucky	2.00, 7.30
Thu	12	In Bruges	2.00, 7.30
Fri	13	Indiana Jones	7.30
Sat	14	Indiana Jones	2.00, 7.00
Sun	15	Indiana Jones	6.00
Mon	16	Indiana Jones	2.00, 7.30
Tue	17	Indiana Jones	12.30, 7.30
Wed	18	Indiana Jones	2.00, 7.30
Thu	19	Indiana Jones	2.00, 7.30
Fri	20	Shine A Light	7.30
Sat	21	Son Of Rambow	2.00
Sat	21	Shine A Light	7.00
Sun	22	The Oxford Murders	6.00
Mon	23	Caramel	2.00, 7.30
Tue	24	Orchestra Seats	12.30
Tue	24	Flashbacks of a Fool	7.30
Wed	25	My Brother Is An Only Child	2.00, 7.30
Thu	26	The Band's Visit	2.00
Thu	26	Iron Man	7.30
Fri	27	Iron Man	7.30
Sat	28	Iron Man	2.00, 7.00
Sun	29	Welcome To The Sticks	6.00
Mon	30	Iron Man	2.00
Mon	30	Honeydripper	7.30



# J U N E   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*

## 21

### Mon 2 2.00

**Director:** Robert Luketic  
**Starring:** Kate Bosworth, Kevin Spacey, Laurence Fishburne, Jim Sturgess  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 123 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

**Based on Ben Mezrich's bestseller, it recounts the true story of six MIT (clever, maths-gifted?) students who are painstakingly trained by Spacey's Mickey Rosa to become expert in card counters.** A memory clean-up in Vegas. The best performance for some time from Kevin this is also a fine addition to the heist genre and more than gives Soderbergh's OCEAN'S 11 series a run for its money. Watch out for young Jim Sturgess. A future Brit star? (yawn) "Disappointment takes over with the realisation it's all being pitched to a pre-teen audience, smoothing out potentially juicy moral dilemmas and sanitising the grown-up throb of the Vegas experience into anodyne glitz". (*Time Out*) "The screenplay is dismal, the team's disguises ridiculous and the overall air of smugness insufferable – and we haven't even started on Kevin Spacey. When, and how, did the suave chameleon of *The Usual Suspects* and *LA Confidential* become the mannered, self-important creep of today?" (*Independent*) Who cares? Spacey has made *The Old Vic* zing again where all his Brit predecessors fussed, failed and flopped. Stay smug Kevin. Come and enjoy him on the screen again.



## 2 Days In Paris

### Tue 3 12.30



**Julie Delpy: seemingly lightweight poppet, writes, directs and stars in her own movie.**

Hasn't she has taken the ultra-lightweight vehicle: Before *Sunrise/Sunset* and created something worth seeing? Clearly she was plotting the whole time while facing Ethan Hawke's turgid face, take after take. They say this one "sparkles very brightly indeed". It does.

"News that the 38-year-old gamine has not only directed *Two Days in Paris* but produced, written, edited, scored the music and starred in it might be slightly terrifying... But it's great." (*Times*)

"Two Days in Paris turns out to be a very likable, smart, offbeat film. The time has come to stop patronisingly thinking of Julie Delpy as a blonde actress, and start giving her some respect as an auteur" (*Peter Bradshaw Guardian*) Patronising??? Don't listen. It is one of their 2% stabs at getting it right.

However, here's hoping she's getting her own back on poor wooden Ethan by proving in *Adam Goldberg* she can hold her own against an equally unwatchable, but animated dork.

It's Paris on a June afternoon. Come for that.

**Director:** Julie Delpy  
**Starring:** Adam Goldberg, Julie Delpy  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 101 mins  
**Origin:** France, Germany 2007  
**By:** The Works UK Distribution



## Persepolis

Wed 4 2.00

**Director:** Marjane Satrapi, Vincent Paronnaud  
**Starring:** Catherine Deneuve, Sean Penn, Chiara Mastroianni, Iggy Pop  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**Her idols are Bruce Lee, Abba, the Bee Gees and Iron Maiden. She wears the latest sneakers she can find in Tehran and a T shirt with "Punk is not dead" on the back.**

This expressionistic animation stunningly drawn in black and white, is a touching coming-of-age story about an intelligent, outspoken girl growing up during the Iranian revolution.

Paronnaud and Satrapi's debut feature tells of how fundamentalists seized power, forced the veil on women and imprisoned thousands of dissidents. The film is based on Satrapi's series of graphic novels and her childhood experiences in Iran, where she survived traumatic encounters with schoolteachers bent on denying her expression, policemen determined to deny her freedom and Iraqi bombs intended to take her life.

Dedicated to the people of Iran, *Persepolis* is a moving, universally appealing story of one woman's struggle against oppression that deservedly shared the jury prize at Cannes in 2007.

"This is not so much a film for kids as about kids- and as such it is one of the best." (*crit*)



## Kite Runner

Thu 5 2.00



**Back by overwhelming demand and will run and run in the matinee programme, hence it is back in June.**

A glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are filled with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fear and the other's courage, triggers a terrible lie and complete act of betrayal which will mark two lives forever and set in motion an epic and perilous quest for redemption...

With much of Kabul destroyed, Forster used a region of China to stand in for Amir's childhood Kabul "The [Afghan] people felt it was a love letter to Afghanistan"? (*Marc Forster*)

The elder's language is beautiful and their philosophy gentle and reassuring; borne from religion but not lost to it.

Amir's father is majestic, Hassan as boy and man, brave and noble.

Each is a great example of absolute integrity and true courage in the face of all hell. Amir carries the story...

His redemption is for you to decide.

**Director:** Marc Forster  
**Starring:** Zekeria Ebrahimi, Khalid Abdalla, Ahmad Mahmidzada  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 128 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Horton Hears A Who

Sat 7 2.00

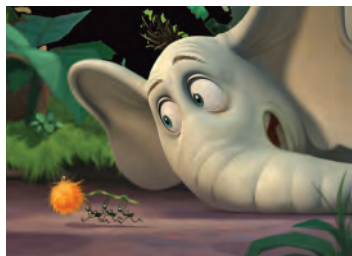
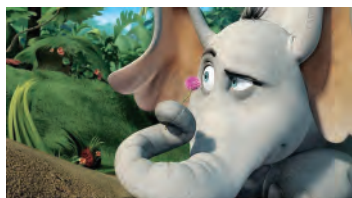
**Director:** Steve Martino, Jimmy Hayward  
**Starring:** Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Dane Cook, Seth Rogen  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Reuniting Bruce Almighty co-stars Jim Carrey and Steve Carell, Horton Hears A Who! is a magical and mischievous animated adaptation of the much-loved 1954 Dr Seuss classic.**

When a kindly elephant hears a faint cry for help from a floating speck of dust, his attempts to protect the tiny particle cause his neighbours to question his sanity.

The voices of Carrey and Carell feature as the eponymous elephant and the mayor of Who-ville respectively.

This is the kind of gorgeous little film made for Saturday morning pictures, albeit in the afternoon, come and bring the whole family.



## Leatherheads

Mon 9 2.00, Tue 10 12.30

**Set in the twenties, when college football drew huge crowds but the professional game was almost non-existent, Clooney is coach Jimmy "Dodge" Connelly, out to promote the Leatherheads as money-makers.**

"This, however, is not a football film. Its real subject is the on-off romance between Clooney, doing a passable imitation of Tracy or even Cary Grant, and Renée Zellweger who tries her best to seem a bit like Hepburn or perhaps Carole Lombard. Clooney relies a little too much on natural charm to convince entirely, but at their best, they strike sparks off each other, delivering Duncan Brantley and Rick Reilly's slick and often witty dialogue with spit and polish.

All this is embellished with excellent production values and music that reminds us of the good old days when a song was really a song and the backing band was great.

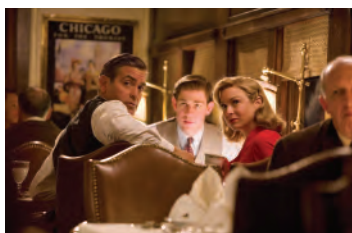
But, alas, something happens halfway through to pour lukewarm water on the proceedings...a pastiche rather than a real period rom-com." (*Derek Malcolm, Standard*)

"To his credit, the director-star evokes the early era of pro football with panache, capturing the moment when the game went from a shyster's paradise to a sanctioned industry." (*Time Out*)

"Shot in golden browns and caramels, it looks lovely, and Clooney and Zellweger smooch away pleasantly in their period outfits." (*The Independent*).

And it is very funny, come for this, George and Renée's gorgeous sour-lemon pout.

**Director:** George Clooney  
**Starring:** George Clooney, Renee Zellweger, John Krasinski  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## Happy-Go-Lucky

Wed 11 2.00



**“At 65, it seems, British film’s Mr Grumpy has finally lightened up.** Mike Leigh’s *Happy-Go-Lucky* is a wonderful film, even though hardly anything happens.”

Poppy (Hawkins) is an irrepressible, chirpy, upbeat London primary school teacher enjoying her life in Camden. Out on her bike, preparing lessons, doing flamenco, helping lost causes or in the pub with her friends, she has a smile on her face. Sounds like one to avoid? “Yet the cumulative portrait of Poppy by Sally Hawkins (Best Actress at Berlin) is so rich and accomplished with such charm, that it is hugely uplifting and life-affirming.”

*(Eve Standard)*

When her bike is stolen, she takes up driving lessons. Hence brings her face-to-face with a driving instructor whose view, demeanor, attitude and unflinching straight face couldn’t be further from hers.

Compared with Leigh’s previous works, *HAPPY-GO-LUCKY* presents a calmer, more optimistic take on contemporary Britain, where individualism and the pursuit of happiness define the lives of a generation, but where old-fashioned notions of community and selflessness still exist.

Don’t listen to the critics, come.

<b>Director:</b>	Mike Leigh
<b>Starring:</b>	Eddie Marsan, Sally Hawkins
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	118 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	UK 2008
<b>By:</b>	Momentum Pictures

## In Bruges

Thu 12 2.00



When a job goes wrong, veteran hit man Ken and his rookie partner Ray are sent by Harry to lie low in Bruges and await his call. When it finally comes, their 'holiday' becomes a life-and-death struggle of darkly comic proportions. Signalling the emergence of a useful new filmmaker, this is playwright McDonagh's first feature (his controversial short, *Six Shooter* won an Oscar).

In Bruges is packed with rich, edgy humour and dazzling profanity.

"Bruges is the best preserved medieval town in Belgium," reads Brendan Gleeson's impressed Ken. 'It's a fucking shithole!' fires back his new, younger room-sharer and fellow hitman-on-the-run Ray (Colin Farrell).

Thus begins the running joke of ex-theatre wunderkind Martin McDonagh's clever, savvy and enjoyable revamp of the odd couple/gangster caper...

The film's real pleasure lies in McDonagh's verbal felicity – the naturalistic dialogue is a breath of fresh air – and while Farrell struggles to juggle his humorous 'thick' persona with romantic pathos, Gleeson excels in his role as the weary gangster pondering the possibilities for his own shot at redemption."

(Wally Hammond, *Time Out*)

**Director:** Martin McDonagh  
**Starring:** Ciaran Hinds, Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** Belgium, UK 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Indiana Jones

Sat 14 2.00, Mon 16 2.00,  
 Tue 17 12.30, Wed 18 2.00,  
 Thu 19 2.00

**Director:** Steven Spielberg  
**Starring:** Ray Winstone, Cate Blanchett, Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 135 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

Lucas, Spielberg and Paramount - in fact the whole Hollywood machine, is so jittery about piracy, they make *Health Safety* look like free-speech. This is not only blind panic and paranoia, it is way out of proportion.

So together with the pre-hype hype mock-tease secrecy, it means there's no synopsis to read to you.

So come for the 61 year old hero, the wisecracks and the explosions.

Unfortunately, it is on for a whole week so there's no rush.







## Son of Rambow

Sat 21 2.00



Set in Hertfordshire in the early 1980's, it's a great little film filled with energy and surprise, not to mention beautifully unself-conscious performance by the two boys – and in fact by all the kids. A fine example of light-touch, low-key directing, letting them shine without 'acting'.

You'll all come because its here ... and your children (houses, roads and cinema) are in it!

The big boys Garth Jennings and Nick Goldsmith kept their promise to show it here first (14 March) in a preview for all the children involved.

"It avoids sentimentality and triumphalism... and ends in the same cinema where it began." - The Rex! (*Observer*)

"It may be that there has not been a UK film that captures the sights and sounds of British childhood this accurately since *The Go-Between*." (*Daily Mail*) Huh!

Perhaps the *Daily Mail* missed *Kes* and *The Railway Children* while busily chasing Princess Diana and knitting patterns.

It is a fabulous little film with genuine warmth.

It is rare to see something this good, made where we live. Better it is universal and even the worst critics loved it, which of course is no recommendation.

<b>Director:</b>	Garth Jennings
<b>Starring:</b>	Jessica Hynes, Tallulah Evans, Neil Dudgeon, Zofia Brooks
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	95 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	France, UK 2008
<b>By:</b>	Optimum Releasing

## Caramel

Mon 23 2.00



**We have been after this for over a year. Before Cannes I think?**

It is a charming comedy drama with echoes of Almodóvar, centred on the everyday lives of five Lebanese women in a Beirut beauty parlour.

Each has her own problem: Loyal (Labaki) has been involved with a married man; Nisrine (al-Masri) is desperate for her fiancé not to find out that she is no longer a virgin; and Rima (Moukarzel) falls for a female client.

Meanwhile, regular customer Jamal is simply concerned about growing old. With a cast largely made up of unknown actors, CAMEL is Labaki's debut feature after years of directing music videos. Nominated for the Caméra d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, it is a stylish and witty story that vividly portrays modern-day Beirut with all its contradictions.

Don't ask, just come and be delighted by such disarming, unpretentious film-making and some great faces.

**Director:** Nadine Labaki  
**Starring:** Joanna Moukarzel, Yasmine Elmasri, Nadine Labaki  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France, Lebanon 2007  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Orchestra Seats

Tue 24 12.30

**Director:** Daniele Thompson  
**Starring:** Claude Brasseur, Cecile De France, Albert Dupontel, Valérie Lemerrier  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**Back because everyone left smiling, except one, the first time around in May.**

The cheerfulness of this assured comedy is infectious as it moves between three storylines in an upscale Paris neighbourhood at the intersection of Life, Love and Art. Jessica (De France), new in town, becomes a waitress at the chic Bar des Theatres as three major events are about to occur on the same street. Soap-opera star Catherine (Lemerrier) will open in a Feydeau farce at the theatre next door, celebrated pianist Jean-François (Dupontel) will perform a Beethoven concert and financier Jacques (Brasseur) will auction off his renowned art collection. Jessica floats between them, becoming part of everyone's life, listening and being there for them, even though she has nowhere to live.

"...there's much to enjoy in esteemed screenwriter Daniele Thompson's latest directorial feature... Charming, if you're in the mood" (*Time Out*)

Come for a bit of *Amelie* with added *Chocolat* – sweet, easy and perfectly French.



## My Brother Is An Only Child **Wed 25** 2.00



**A fabulous title: subtle, witty and apparently not even close to the original Italian!** Never mind, unlike the Jesse James title which told us the middle and end before we ever bought a ticket, this tells us just enough to intrigue us before we sit down – Perfect.

Growing up in small-town Italy during the '60s and '70s, brothers Accio (Germano) and Manrico (Scamarcio) are as opposite as can be.

Not only are they emotionally and physically diametrically opposed, they are it seems, in every way. What is left? Come and see.

Predictably too, their lives take completely different paths. The anchor is of course an inevitable brotherly love, which stops them from breaking contact altogether.

As they get older, however, the polarisation of their political opinions (one becomes a fascist, the other an extreme left-wing activist with connections to terrorist circles) tests their familial bonds to the very limit...

"Set against the ever-shifting backdrop of Italy's tumultuous socio-political history, Luchetti's film is a subtle and potent human drama about blood ties that bind people together against all odds."

*(Synopsis)*

Cancel Italian classes. Not to be missed...

**Director:** Daniele Luchetti  
**Starring:** Elio Germano, Riccardo Scamarcio, Diane Fleri  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 104 mins  
**Origin:** Italy 2007  
**By:** Revolver Film Distribution

## The Band's Visit **Thu 26** 2.00

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

**This charming debut feature has won the hearts of audiences everywhere.**

This is its fourth visit here. I loved it instantly. It tells the story of a small Egyptian police band during the early 1990s 'truce'. They have come to perform in the small Israeli border town.

When no one turns up to meet them they find their own way, but wind up stranded in wrong town on the night of the Shabbat with no transport expected until the following day. Grudgingly they accept refuge at Dina's café. During this long night, each comes to see there are no opposite sides, only the same one.

This is too simple. There's much more. The captain's pride and Dina's savvy are central but it is their faces, all their faces that will steal your heart

"This may be a small film but it is almost perfectly formed and by no means a pleasant work in a minor key.

The more you think about it, the more truthful, and thus important, it seems."

*(Standard 8 Nov 07)*

It will come again here and there, but don't wait, cancel a sunny afternoon and come



# Iron Man

**Sat 28 2.00, Mon 30 2.00**

**Playboy weapons magnate Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) is a greased amalgam of Howard Hughes, Hugh Hefner and C-3PO, complete with an enviable battery of glib banter and a goatee you could set your watch by.**

On a routine sales trip to the Middle East, his Humvee is ambushed by a terrorist cell and he is dragged away to a cave, where he is forced to reproduce one of his high-powered missiles with some scrap metal and a soldering iron.

Instead, Stark uses those materials to construct a suit of robotic body armour and flee from the extremists' clutches. Once free, Stark discovers a deadly conspiracy that could destabilise the entire globe, and dons his powerful suit on a mission to stop the villains and save the world.

Actor-turned-director Favreau has proven with his past directorial efforts he has a keen eye for character and can spin a decent yarn ('Made', 'Elf' and 'Zathura'). Sadly, these two qualities are rarely apparent here, replaced instead by quick-fix one-liners and predictable set-piece gags. Like Iron Man's suit, Favreau's film feels like it has been meticulously assembled rather than lovingly formed.

*(D Jenkins, Time Out)*

Take no notice. Come for the non-stop thrill, Robert's wit and face and a surprisingly sexy Ms Paltrow.



**Director:** Jon Favreau  
**Starring:** Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 126 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures



THE USHERS



The ushers have never been properly acknowledged. They are merely grunted at for slouching or torch abuse. In true Dickensian fashion, they hardly see daylight. Yet they never complain and are the most functional part of the Rex family. Well done and thank you.



## RANTS AND PANTS



You should just be able to make out the fading blue line (foreground, pavement bottom left). This means the blue arrow squirting engineer has been, approximately four million gallons ago? If you ring a Thames Water call-centre you'll need a postcode for this pedestrian crossing... and the cyclist.



Tommy Lee Jones sends his apologies. He was expecting to be in London early in May. Part of his itinerary was to come to The Rex with his family and friends. Unfortunately he had to postpone the trip. Thanks to all those who took part in the lottery. He may come another time, if you're up for it.

Hansard records show a debate at The House of Lords on 7th May 2008, where The Rex was mentioned. One Lord Lloyd Webber introduced a debate about commercial West End theatres restricted by Heritage buildings listings. It reads like a pantomime, where Betjeman was recited, Baroness Valentine 'sang' from the musical Oliver. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (isn't he already embalmed in cordite?) talked of The Shaftesbury closing in 1973 after the ceiling fell in during a performance of Hair! And Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury told the House "The Rex cinema in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire is now a thriving enterprise and a boon to the local economy..." Now there's a thing...

## RANTS AND PANTS

If it was you who was in row G at the “Children of Glory” and spent the entire performance opening and closing your mobile phone and texting throughout would you kindly find another cinema because you obviously don’t get the “point” of the rex.

ps Are you the same person who wrote the “rant” about James’ introductions because then you DEFINITELY don’t get the point of the Rex!!!  
Xxx Gaye & Margaret

Thank you Gaye and very Margaret. I watched you make for the book ready for that rant. You were determined. “We’ve got a rant for you.” “No its more like a Pant, isn’t it Margaret?” It’s not against you... (together) its for you... we’re on your side.” It was very funny...

They were trying to be serious, elbows out and having a go, but were laughing at me laughing at them. They wouldn’t

tell me what it was about.

I got busy and forgot. Somebody read it out the next day.

Thank you Gaye and Margaret, everybody was up for your message.

I make a point of never mentioning mobile phones or preaching about anything.

There are no signs in the any part of the building saying “don’t”.

Why? You don’t need to be told.

We should never need to be told.

We already know.

If something is bothering you, tell us your seat number after the show.

We’ll do the rest.

If it is intolerable come to the foyer during the film and tell us. We will decide what to do. I think we’ve had three or four small incidents in three years or so. We will never make a big thing of it or disturb the show.

We will deal with it quietly.

And now you’ve seen the ushers...

## The Court Cinema, Berkhamsted

Taken from Cinemas in Hertfordshire by Allen Eyles with Keith Skone



The Court after 1934 reconstruction



Thomas Grosch at the Christie organ 1935



The Court 1917