

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E



PINA

JUNE 2011...

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

JUNE 2011 Issue 75
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

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Helen Miller	Keymea Yazdanian
	Yalda Yazdanian

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Sally Thorpe In charge

Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)

Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist

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The Rex

High Street (Three Close Lane)

Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

www.therexberkhamsted.com

BEST IN JUNE



The best-selling Uncaged Monkeys tour.

Robin Ince Comedy

Thu 9 7.30

FILMS OF THE MONTH



Brilliant French/Algerian thriller.

France 2010

Outside the Law Wed 8 7.30



Magnificent 7 Samurai + six!

Japan 2010

13 Assassins Sun 19 6.00



Gorgeous adventure ripping yarn.

France 2010

Adèle Blanc-Sec Sat 25 7.00

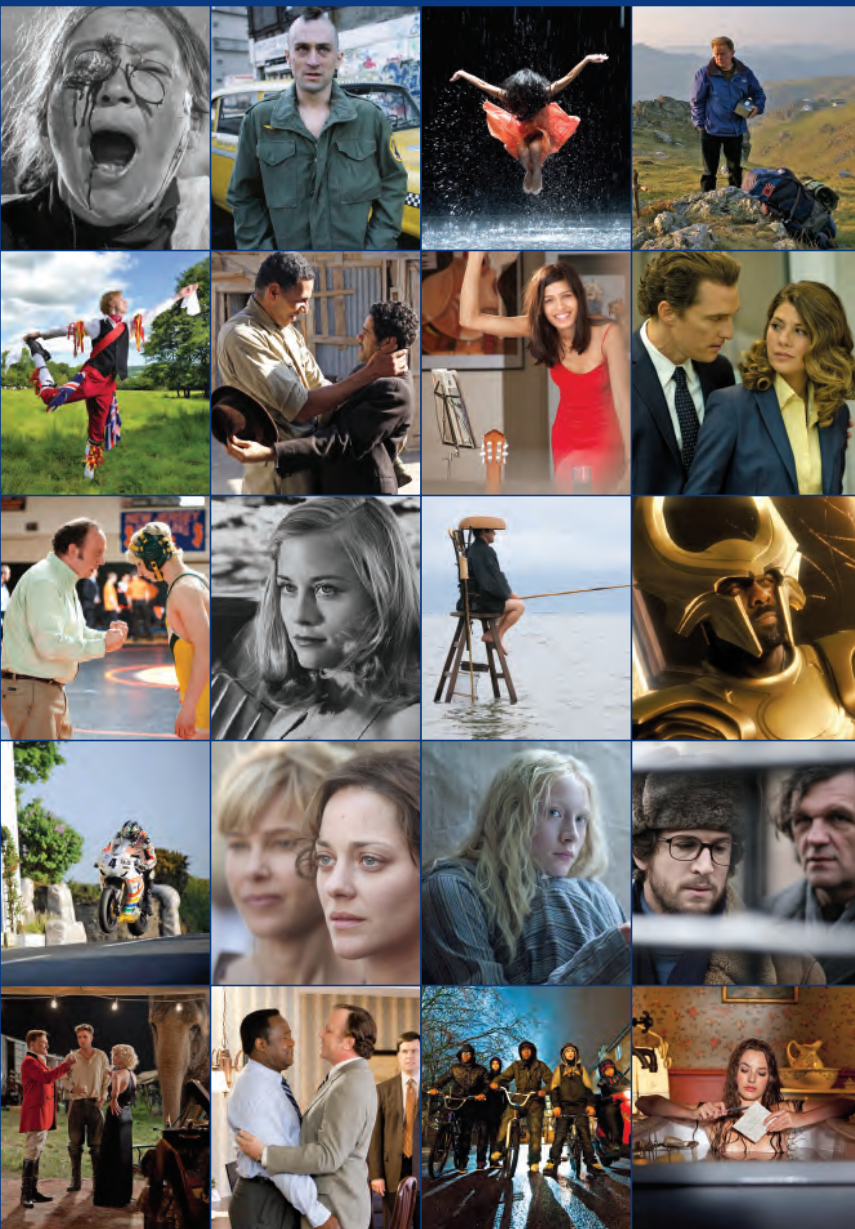
STREET PARTY



It doesn't matter what you thought of the Royal wedding, the gifted bank holiday brought people out in a way I've never seen before. There were crowds but no chanting, neither football nor in protest. London was bulging, as was our little street. There was much drinking but no fights. Even the pubs held on to a remarkably good natured atmosphere right to the last bell into the early hours of Saturday. It made me feel unexpectedly optimistic. Flag waving aside, the day identified another crowd apart from those we're used to and tired of. Ordinary people in their millions out talking and laughing together. Pity (or luckily?) it was only for a day.



Chapel Street Berkhamsted 29 April 2011



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

You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger

Wed 1 7.30



Alfie and Helena (Anthony Hopkins; Gemma Jones) and their daughter Sally and husband Ray (Naomi Watts; Josh Brolin) are two couples for whom things are about to go very, very wrong. Alfie's late onset male-menopause is instilling him with a desire to date younger women, whilst Sally and Ray's marriage is disintegrating, as they begin to find a mutual interest in other people.

Anthony Hopkins is good as an aging, Viagra-popping, lothario, so too is Lucy Punch, as his strumpet girlfriend. It's a reasonably well written affair, with several particularly biting one liners, however, once again, Allen is left grasping for a complete mastery of British-English, exposing some excruciatingly American-sounding dialogue. We get his New York, he doesn't seem to get us?

"There's plenty of ambiguous intellectual heft lurking behind the curtain of mediocrity – so it's a pity it feels like it was dashed off in a few hours one afternoon."

(*Time Out*)

"Again, this is not the longed-for comeback masterpiece. Perhaps Allen is too far out of time ever to give us that. But it's interesting and worthwhile, with creative vitamins that are absent in so much of what fills the cinemas."

(*Guardian*) It's not Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona, but surprisingly enjoyed by a full house 30th April. Worth one more ride. Come and see.

Director: Woody Allen
Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Naomi Watts, Josh Brolin, Antonio Banderas, Pauline Collins, Gemma Jones, Lucy Punch
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA/Spain 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Little White Lies

Thu 2 7.30

Director: Guillaume Canet
Starring: François Cluzet, Marion Cotillard, Benoît Magimel, Jean Dujardin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 154 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Lionsgate

Back by great demand Guillaume Canet's third outing as a director is great big indulgent sprawl of a film about a bunch of friends facing some truths while on holiday together in southern France. His last film was the brilliant *Tell No One*. This one might be brilliant too?

All of the characters harbour secrets and insecurities which slowly emerge as the holiday progresses accompanied by a classic score from Bowie to Gladys Knight. Have these self-obsessed friends have been telling each other lies all these years?

"Nothing will stand between the French middle classes and their hols, though a bunch of friends do pause for thought when their mate's left in a coma after a motorbike spill... It's slightly glib, very glossy and over-long. But there's an overriding sense that Canet knows this territory, and gets the best out of an excellent cast." (*Time Out*)

"Populist fare from across the channel that will amply repay those ready to put in the time. Far from being a downbeat affair, however, is a richly funny, deeply compassionate film that celebrates love and friendship without ever shying away from life's myriad complexities. The scenery, meanwhile, makes you want to run to it." (*Total Film*) You may need a hanky but you will need a strong bladder. Come for the exquisite mlle Cotillard.



Arthur

Fri 3 7.30



Screening this to show off our all-inclusive programming, without prejudice, and to ridicule Brand. Actually I can't be arsed.

You thought you knew the story. This a joyless, unobservant remake of the 1981 hit, which had Dudley Moore as the lovable millionaire drunk in Manhattan, endangering his fortune and lifestyle by falling in love with a penniless woman of whom his family disapproves. This Arthur is a squeaking man-child whose sleazy partying results in his mother (James) forcing him to marry a bitchy businesswoman (Garner) to restore the family's credibility.

Luckily for the 'plot' two women get in the way. His nanny Hobson (Mirren ridiculous in Guilgud's shoes, make that sheets) and Naomi (Gerwig), a love interest lifted from the 'quirky girl' section of the rom-com cliché book (dresses like a five-year-old, likes cartoons).

"Arthur is an endurance – like being the only sober person at the party." (*Total Film*)

Yet some of our Rex children said it was fun. What more do you need to stay in and wash your hair, and listen to Paul Robson.

Director: Jason Winer
Starring: Helen Mirren, Jennifer Garner, Russell Brand, Evander Holyfield
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

The Lincoln Lawyer

Sat 4 7.00

Director: Brad Furman
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Marisa Tomei, Josh Lucas, Ryan Phillippe
Certificate: 15
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Entertainment

Based on the novel by Michael Connelly, "The Lincoln Lawyer" is a robust and entertaining, if predictable, courtroom thriller.

Mickey Haller (McConaughey) is an LA hustler, lawyer who operates out of the back of his Lincoln sedan, hence the title. Chauffeured around by a previous client, he does nothing unless he's paid. The case of a lifetime drops into his lap; a rich playboy and real estate mogul Louis Roulet (Phillippe) is accused of violently beating a prostitute. It should be straightforward; a simple case of Roulet's being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, Haller's suspicions are aroused when he begins to suspect Roulet might be withholding something...

It's a pacy drama, with twists aplenty. Refreshing as it is to see Matthew McConaughey in something other than a dreadful rom-com, he plays Haller with every Hollywood lawyer cliché in the book, luckily however strong support from John Leguizamo and William H Macy anchor the piece.

"A smart, savvy script motors along as we see Haller working the system from every angle. It's a world of cynical lawyers cutting deals, careworn cops and cons brooding over sinister secrets." (*Guardian*) A good, solid story worth seeing, if only for Matthew Mc's attempts at Brando 'cool'.





Director: Wim Wenders
Starring: Regina Advento, Malou Airaud, Ruth Amarante
Certificate: U
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Artificial Eye

Pina (2D)

Sun 5 6.00, Mon 9 7.30

Some weeks ago I ran across some recorded interviews with Wim Wenders talking about this remarkable film.

In each he remembered being in Venice over 20 years earlier and being persuaded, reluctantly, by a girlfriend to go to watch a Dance. "I was taken to this dance show. I didn't want to go. Not interested (I wanted Venice). Then I sat there and wept..." It moved him so much that on meeting Pina Bausch backstage, he swore he would find a way to collaborate with her on film. For twenty years they kept in touch, able only to collaborate on his iconic *Wings of Desire* (1987). "I could not think how to film her dance. It did not occur to me that technology would open the door to making Pina's film." When he saw a film of U2's *Vertigo* tour in 3D (2007) that was his answer. (Can't imagine U2 in 3-D. One dimension perhaps).

Pina died in June 2009. Wenders had been shooting the film for over a year. He didn't know "how to replace the big hole that was Pina – missing!"

This is the result. No interviews, just the work. "Pina asks questions but no answers in words, only answers in dance. This is the core of her film" (*WW*) "Dance belongs to people not to athletes" (*Pina Bausch*) Come and belong. Don't miss.



Morris: A Life With Bells On Tue 7 7.30



This first came to our attention a few summers ago. We kept getting asked if it was coming but we didn't know what it was, until we found somebody who was involved and would talk to us, though not for long. Apparently it didn't have a distribution deal (which doesn't bother us – in fact we encourage such screenings) and was only on digital. So that was that.

Now it has a deal and we have a digital projector, so Bob's your uncle!

After a phenomenally successful tour of town and village halls across southwest England at the beginning of 2009, the word-of-mouth sensation that is *Morris: A Life With Bells On* finally comes to the Rex; and on May Day too. How clever is that? A heartwarming feature-length comedy about an avant-garde Morris Dancer, Derecq Twist, and his fight to modernise Morris Dancing. From England to America, from tragedy to love, the film is a celebration of life, eccentricity and what it means to be English. But most important of all, it is just plain funny. A film made from the heart, this has all the makings of a cult classic.

Apart from which it is worth seeing. It is quirky and a bit pleased with itself, but as good as any British comedy since *The Rex* reopened.

Director: Lucy Akhurst
Starring: Charles Thomas Oldham, Derek Jacobi, Harriet Walter, Naomie Harris, Greg Wise
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: UK 2009
By: Twist

Outside The Law Wed 8 7.30

Director: Rachid Bouchareb
Starring: Jamel Debbouze, Roschdy Zem, Sami Bouajila
Certificate: 15
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Independent Cinema Office

Even more sweeping and provocative than his *Days of Glory*, which honoured the contribution of North African troops to the liberation of France in 1944, Bouchareb's latest fictionalises the origins and campaign of Algeria's (FLN) National Liberation Front. The movement waged a campaign of violence in France and Algeria in the run-up to independence in 1962.

We meet three Algerian brothers as kids in the 1920s when they're forcibly evicted from their land. We jump to May 1945 as a conflict breaks out between police and protestors in the Sétif massacre. In the chaos, we meet Saïd (Jamel Debbouze), Messaoud (Roschdy Zem) and Abdelkader (Sami Bouajila) now adults.

Time shifts again: Saïd moves to Paris, living in a shanty town while ducking and diving in Pigalle, Abdelkader is jailed in Algeria and Messaoud fights for the French army in Indochina.

"It's a big, bold film defined by a reserved passion, a stately style and strong performances from its three leads. Bouchareb strives hard to reclaim the work of the FLN as an honourable and necessary political movement." (*Time Out*) "Bouchareb smartly draws parallels between France's own wartime resistance and the response to similar movements in its colonies. It's overlong and a little over-indulgent, but given current events in north Africa, there's an unanticipated resonance to it." (*Guardian*) It's tough but don't miss.



COMEDY NIGHT

Thu 9 7.30



Not quite The Uncaged Monkeys Show

After the sell out Uncaged Monkeys tour in May, Robin Ince, co-host of Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage, comes back to the Rex with a mix of science and comedy. Former magician (but don't let that worry you) Richard Wiseman is the best-selling author of 59 Seconds and Paranormality and leading psychologist, he will be telling you how your brain works and why it sometimes doesn't.

Did you ever want to be an astronaut? So did Helen Keen which is why she wrote and presented her Radio4 series It is Rocket Science. Expect to be wowed by some of the weirder historical moments of man's journey into space.

Simon Singh is the bestselling author of Fermat's Last Theorem and The Code Book. He will show you evidence of how the universe began in the most unusual manner.

Helen Arney is a singer songwriter with an uncanny way with a ukulele and a ruthless rhyme when it comes to Carol Vorderman.

Matt Crosby, founder member of the award winning Pappy's is fresh from touring Nandos.

Profits from the evening will be donated to Sunnyside pre-school, Berkhamsted.

Hanna

Fri 10 7.30, Sat 11 7.00

Joe Wright takes a sabbatical from making frightfully nice Rex-friendly films (Pride and Prejudice, Atonement) to try his hand at a relentless action thriller.

Eric Bana is Erik (spelt with 'k' to trick him into something that sounds just like Eric, so he knows where to look) a rogue ex-CIA man hiding out in the wilds of Finland with his daughter Hanna (Saoirse Ronan). He has trained her from birth as an unremitting killing-machine, isolating her from the outside world. Now fully prepared and ready to kick bottom, she is permitted to activate the tracking device.

This unleashes the fury of Marissa Wiegler's CIA toughies on their Finnish hideaway. (Cate B plays Marissa W in a strange Gillian A-cum-Scully get-up).

What does Erik know that makes him such a wanted man? And why is it so important that Hanna is able to protect herself with such deadly force?

While not in the Bourne Trilogy league, it is entertaining enough.

"While the film may be episodic and wayward, the action sequences are uniformly sharp, inventive and gripping." (*Time Out*)

"After a strongish start, the film doesn't so much sag as utterly collapse. The audience may feel like it has flung itself into a hammock that isn't tied at the ends." (*Guardian*) Take no notice. Joe Wright may delude himself in the God's gift dept, but his camera work is always worth a look. (*research Simon Messenger*)





Director: Joe Wright
Starring: Eric Bana, Olivia Williams, Cate Blanchett, Saoirse Ronan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: Germany, UK, USA 2011
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Taxi Driver

Sun 12 6.00

Director: Martin Scorsese
Starring: Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster, Harvey Keitel, Cybill Shepherd
Certificate: 18
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 1976
By: BFI Touring

Robert De Niro may be heading up this year's Cannes as jury president, but it's here, 35 years ago, on the streets of New York where he really took precedence.

Martin Scorsese's urban masterpiece, itself a Palme d'Or winner, remains one of the defining American films of that decade, perhaps for the way it points to the troubled mood of those times, by locating Travis Bickle's psychotic rage in his ill-concealed racism, misogyny and impotence.

Yet he is our anti-hero, we root for him, and amid his mental chaos, his attention turns to Iris, a 14-year-old prostitute (Jodie Foster). He makes it his mission to save her.

"Bickle, is a nasty but also oddly charming time-bomb of alienation and loneliness. One minute, we give him the time of day; the next, we recoil at his violence. Later on, we might think he's dangerous, especially around women like Betsy (Cybill Shepherd), and yet we watch him in a café with Iris and he seems less vile than the gangsters and pushers of her world. Bickle is complex, intriguing and never one-note." (*Timeout*) Don't dare miss it, in all its high-definition glory. Tell your friends, and your friends' friends that the real De Niro is back. Then when it's all over, you too can utter the immortal line... "You talkin' to me?", in conceited knowledge that you were there to witness it first hand.



Battleship Potemkin

Mon 13 7.30



A revolutionary film in form, in political purpose and in subject matter, Eisenstein's 1925 Soviet classic focuses on a naval mutiny in the Black Sea during the abortive 1905 first revolution.

Unlike the peaceful resolution posited in Lang's *Metropolis*, this Russian film incites righteous indignation by portraying the true story of a sailors' revolt on board the Battleship Potemkin, and the subsequent massacre of the Odessa citizens who had given their support.

The film's 75 minute duration is composed of 1,400 takes and is the precise model of its innovatory director's theory of montage. Its virtuoso technique remains dazzling and is at the service of a revolutionary fervour we can still experience.

This re-release is a Deutsche Kinemathek-restored print, with restored original censor cuts, title cards and graphics and a revised version of Brecht-collaborator Edmund Meisel's rousing score.

"Few films rival its ability to capture the danger, drama, uncertainty and energy of civil war." (*WH Time Out*)

"The soldiers descend like automata, the tram begins its roll down the steps – nearly 90 years on, Eisenstein's masterpiece is still guaranteed to set the pulse racing." (*Total Film*)

"If you are at all interested in the history of cinema, or the influence of 20th century politics on the medium, then this film is a must-see" (*BBC*) Don't miss.

Director: Sergei Eisenstein
Starring: Alexandr Antonov, Vladimir Barsky, Grigori Alexandrow, Midhail Gomorov
Certificate: PG
Duration: 75 mins
Origin: Russia 1925
By: British Film Institute

TT: Closer To The Edge (2D) Tue 14

7.30

Director: Richard De Aragues
Starring: Ian Hutchinson, John McGuinness, Guy Martin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Cinemanx

Were you there in '67...? If you were one of the lucky 'few', you will never forget 1967 and that epic of all epic races on the Island between Hailwood and Agostini. Mike on the four cylinder Honda 'camel' and Ago' the red 500 MV. It was neck and neck for all six laps of the 37.5 mile (one lap) circuit. The bikes were the fastest then, but rudimentary, even experimental, and the roads tarmaced like any road in Britain. Mike set a new lap record of 108mph.

Guy Martin and Ian Hutchinson now lap at 130mph riding 1000cc monsters on black roads, surfaced like a race-track. In the film one of them is the big winner, the other the struggler. Both passionate and very fast. The TT was the British Grand Prix from the early 20th Century to 1973/74 when it was considered too dangerous to qualify for Grand Prix status. But they couldn't ban it. Nothing has been able to stop the TT races continuing on the Island. As you'll see, if anything, the passion is greater than ever; and you'll see why. "Just because you're breathing doesn't mean you're alive" Don't



The Way

Wed 15 7.30, Thu 16 7.30,



This is a family affair, directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen. However, "The Way" is said to be a life-affirming drama.

Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor. Upon learning of his son's death in a storm whilst trekking the Camino de Santiago, a Christian pilgrimage route, Tom decides to mount the same journey in order to confront his grief, and better understand his late son. As he travels, he meets other pilgrims, also looking to gain some sense of fulfilment from the trip. The role of Tom was written by Estevez specifically for his father, and their familial bond is evidenced throughout the film. An excellent supporting cast, including James Nesbitt as a writer suffering from a lack of inspiration, prevent the film from becoming too introverted. Shot entirely on location in France and Spain, (apparently Sheen would continually stop to talk to real pilgrims between shots), "The Way" is a simple, deeply moving film.

"Beautifully and elegantly shot, The Way is a straightforward and moving tale of the bond between father and son, a reconciliation between the generations." (*Telegraph*)

"Sheen remains a commanding presence who holds our attention throughout every stage of his seemingly endless trek." (*Total Film*) (research Simon Messenger). I'm not so sure, but it seems everybody else is? So come and see.

Director: Emilio Estevez
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, James Nesbitt, Deborah Kara Unger
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Thor (2D)

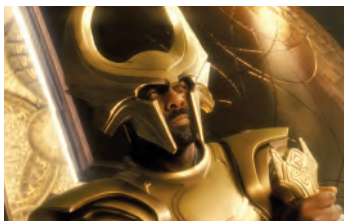
Fri 17 7.30, Sat 18 7.00

Director: Kenneth Branagh
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins, Natalie Portman, Idris Elba
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Paramount International Pictures

Truly, all must praise the mighty Kenneth Branagh. For the actor/director has left Shakespeare behind in favour of pure Hollywood hokum. And surprisingly, it ain't all bad.

Aussie hunk Chris Hemsworth plays the God of Thunder, Thor, with his father Odin (Hopkins) and brother, the seductively evil Loki (a criminally underused Tom Hiddleston) making up one dysfunctional family of deities. If you're not up to date on your Norse mythology; they live in a place called Asgard; one which is at an unsteady truce with Jotunheim, their neighbouring world inhabited by mean looking monsters. Brave but arrogant Thor threatens this truce, and as a result he is banished to Earth to learn the errors of his ways. There he encounters Jane Foster, an unsuspecting scientist played by flavour of the month, Natalie Portman. It doesn't take long for Jane to be smitten with the blond hulk and an awkward romance ensues.

Thor's time on Earth follows the 'fish out of water' set-up and as such, the humour is as subtle as a hammer to the face, yet Branagh flips it back and forth between Asgard, unravelling Loki's betrayal and it allows Hiddleston to deliver raw emotion to an otherwise soulless affair. The script is silly and the costumes sillier, yet everyone puts on a brave face, and somehow, it just about works. (*Jack*



13 Assassins

Sun 19 6.00



"Likely to tan the high-concept hides of every Hollywood action flick this year, this majestically violent film from ultra-prolific Japanese maestro Takashi Miike is probably the closest modern cinema has come to Akira Kurosawa's mud-and-blood-caked Samurai showdowns.

The first hour is a pure, slowburn tease. One plot strain demonstrates the outlandish barbarism of a feudal lord, while another has a select unit of fighters hatching a grand plan to take him down. The film is built as a long crescendo, opening at a level of considered, Zen-like reflection and ending with a prolonged cacophony of elaborate, town-wide annihilation.

There are occasional dashes of CGI for elements that couldn't be staged for the camera (cue rampaging herds of burning bulls), but Miike's film is all the more triumphant for offering elaborate, tangible sets, elegant period attire, hardboiled dialogue and rolling oceans of glorious, rosy red blood. Pure joy."

(*Timeout*)

The subtitles move as quickly as their blades, but stay with it, and you'll be gloriously rewarded with one of the most frenetic and mind-blowing action sequences committed to film. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: Takashi Miike
Starring: Koji Yakusho
Certificate: 15
Duration: 126 mins
Origin: Japan 2010
By: Artificial Eye

L'Affair Farewell

Mon 20 7.30

Director: Christian Carion
Starring: Emir Kusturica, Willem Dafoe, Guillaume Canet, Alexandra Maria Lara
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: France 2009
By: The Works UK Distribution

Emir Kusturica, the flamboyant Serbian director, is perfectly cast in this true cold-war thriller, as a disillusioned Soviet colonel who funnelled KGB secrets to the West in early 1980s Moscow. A tired old lion and world-weary bon vivant, he grandiosely believes that his leaks can start a new revolution. Unsurprisingly, he is irritated when the French, who have given him the codename Farewell, send along an amateur to be his handler: a beakish bespectacled engineer (Guillaume Canet) selected precisely because he doesn't register on the KGB's radar.

"Kusturica's KGB agent and hapless handler, Canet's growing friendship anchors the film." (*Total Film*)

Refreshingly, director Christian Carion grounds it in the real world; suspense hinging on chance, human failings and bunglings rather than breakneck Jason Bourne escapes. Everyone is sullied, ideals compromised. "This is a satisfyingly sober thriller, almost melancholy in tone, and as morally complex as a John Le Carré novel." (*Guardian*)

"As a thriller, it only takes off in the last 25 minutes or so when the focus tightens. Before then, momentum is slowed by awkward, unclear details of this complex plot." (*Time Out*)

"Superpower sequences (Fred Ward as Ronald Reagan) feel crowded but Carion delivers a tight, tense and tragic package of the personal and political entwined, with Kusturica's huge presence at its soul." (*Total Film*) Sounds like one not to miss.





Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: James Frain, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Pattinson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Water For Elephants

Tue 21 7.30, Wed 22 7.30

Directed by Francis (I Am Legend) Lawrence, in a radical departure from his usual subject matter, “**Water for Elephants**” is a watchable, if slightly bland, romantic melodrama starring two stars with too much face between them. (Their definite features takes suspension of disbelief a little longer to suspend).

Upon learning of the death of his parents, Jacob Jankowski (Pattinson) drops out of Cornell University to run off to the circus. Bernie Ecclestone-like Ring master, August (Christoph Waltz) does not tolerate stowaways. But on learning of Jankowski’s useful, if interrupted final qualifications, he agrees to let him stay on as the circus’ in-house (in-tent?) vet. Predictably, it’s not long before Jankowski becomes a bigger draw back than an elephant’s foreskin. He and August’s young wife, and star performer, Marlena (Witherspoon)... It’s a visual feast, rendered beautifully in lush hues and tones, capturing a bygone era of early twentieth century travelling shows. Unfortunately, Pattinson and Witherspoon’s on-screen chemistry is not quite as captivating, nor is Waltz allowed to truly revel in his characters’ malevolent side, as he did so well in *Inglorious Basterds*.

“Inert as a watercolour illustration in a yellowing old storybook” (*Guardian*)
 “Vapidly pleasurable, the film works within a simple and well-worn groove, but does so almost in spite of itself.” (*Telegraph*) (research Simon Messenger)
 With young Twilight face on screen there

Cedar Rapids

Thu 23 7.30



Fans of *The US Office* or *The Hangover* (are there such people?) will already be well acquainted with the comic genius that is Ed Helms.

But while those are ensembles, Miguel Arteta's *Cedar Rapids* gives him the full-on lead. Whether he deserves it is for you to say.

"Comedy seldom comes as good-natured as *Cedar Rapids*, a fish-out-of-water story in which a Midwestern innocent discovers sex, drugs and cream sherry in the big city." (*Independent*)

"Insurance greenhorn Tim Lippe (Helms) is ordered by his boss to head to the town of Cedar Rapids, where a crucial award is up for grabs. But his good intentions start to slip once he meets a trio of veteran salesmen, who lure him into a heady world of sherry." (*Empire*)

"This trio of absolutely spot-on comic performances kick in as the movie's hilarious mid-section rocks Helms's straight insuranceman's world, opening new horizons of intoxication, social interaction and commitment-free fornication.

Its compliment of zingy dialogue and memorable hang-loose characters undoubtedly sends us out smiling." (*Time Out*)

"Not exactly laugh-aminute, *Cedar Rapids*' mix of crude and sweet is an acquired taste. But all hail the mighty Ed Helms for yet another masterclass in comedy and pathos." (*Total Film*) All crits agreeing? Sounds too good to be true.

Director: Miguel Arteta
Starring: Ed Helms, John C Reilly, Anne Heche
Certificate: 15
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Attack The Block

Fri 24 7.30

Director: Joe Cornish
Starring: Nick Frost, Luke Treadaway, Jodie Whittaker
Certificate: 15
Duration: 88 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Optimum Releasing

Set on a South London estate on Bonfire Night, a gang is distracted from mugging a nurse (Jodie Whittaker) by a strange object falling from the sky, and crashing into the estate. Upon inspection, it's revealed to be a marauding alien.

Using their usual dirty, street tactics, they bloodily manage to give it what-for. But they haven't anticipated a more vengeful, more cunning game than anything their usual feeble, cowardly, me-me-me, revenge mentality can conjure...

Despite Nick Frost's appearance to give this C list-movie some credibility, it manages watchable; packed with gory moments, knowing quips, and obligatory references to sub-John Carpenter B-movies. Frenetic, fast-paced, it's almost "District 9" by way of Shane Meadows.

(A good enough reason to be washing your hair tonight – do girls still use that excuse? For any Meadows self indulgence, knitting will do)

"There's something disappointing about *Attack the Block*: it fizzles and sparks, but sputters too much to really catch light." (*Guardian*)

"It's not perfect; the aliens are a tad unremarkable and the final blow-out never hits the frenzied peak it might, but it's hard to imagine British audiences having more fun in a cinema this year." (*Time Out*) (research SM) It's hard to imagine a current British film making any fun at all. Up itself, me me me is not enough. It is time to stop gobbing and listen. Simple.



Adèle Blanc-Sec

Sat 25 7.00



Paris, 1912. There's a pterodactyl swooping low over the Jardin du Luxembourg and a gaggle of mummies outside the Louvre.

Enter intrepid tomb raider Adèle Blanc-Sec (Bourgoin), resplendent beneath an array of flamboyant bonnets that she only discards in order to disguise herself as a nurse or a moustachioed jailer, or to lounge at length in a bathtub.

The lunatic plot finds her in Egypt, raiding tombs to find the mummy of a famed ancient Egyptian doctor.

If Adèle's scientist friend can bring him back to life, this mummy may just be able to cure her sister – languishing in a coma after a freak accident. As well as outrunning balls of fire, Adèle must evade her arch nemesis (Mathieu Amalric, virtually unrecognisable in prosthetics).

"Here is Luc Besson with a slick multiplex adventure fantasy featuring a gutsy Indiana Jones-style heroine in turn-of-the-century Paris; proving once again that anything Hollywood can do, he can do with buckets more visual flair. Played with a breezy, almost klutzy charm by Bourgoin, Adèle is a feisty, unflappable and brilliantly caustic heroine." (*Time Out*)

"Luc Besson's ripping romp magnifique, with enough thrills, giggles and pretty pictures to reward adventure-lovers who wouldn't normally entertain of such a treat with subtitles." (*Empire*) Besson said he'd only make ten films. This is 11th. Don't miss.

Director: Luc Besson
Starring: Mathieu Amalric, Gilles Lellouche
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Optimum Releasing

Lawrence Of Arabia

Sun 26 5.00

STARTS ON TIME, NO TRAILERS

Director: David Lean
Starring: Omar Shariff, Claude Rains, Peter O'Toole, Jack Hawkins, Anthony Quayle, Anthony Quinn, Jose Ferrer
Certificate: PG
Duration: 222 mins
Origin: USA 1962
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

At 3 hours 36 minutes plus interval you'll need a packed lunch, and a nap.

I'd forgotten how long it is. Yet it remains one of the most exciting, engrossing and unforgettable films of all time.

Moreover, its depiction of the tribal nature of the whole middle Eastern region goes some way to 'explaining' the futility of today's intervention by the West into Arab affairs, though there's been a lot of oil under the bridge since 1914.



Louise-Michel

Mon 27 7.30



Picardy, Northern France. Provincial coat-hanger factory staff arrive at work to find the place empty. Their boss has embraced the notion of outsourcing, and as a result, they find themselves redundant. Feeling understandably piqued, Louise (Yolande Moreau), convinces her fellow co-workers to pool their redundancy pay to hire a hit-man to bump off their boss. Would-be assassin Michel (Bouli Lanners) is of course completely unsuitable, and things begin to go horribly wrong...

Yolande Moreau (of the magical *Seraphine*, and sublimely nutty *MicMac*s) is brilliant in another daft, if darker, role displaying a masterly understanding of comic timing. This batty, gender-bending (don't ask) gem of a black comedy has been dividing audiences in Europe. For some, a wickedly funny, un-pc vent at capitalist mores, for others, crass nonsense. You know which side we fall at *The Rex*...

"The jocular, bad-taste comic set-pieces and wittily caricatured side-players mount up...a rousing reminder of the power (and eccentricities) of the pissed-off proletariat" (*Time Out*)

"Gustave de Kervern and Benoît Delépine have created a black comedy with the courage of its bad-taste convictions, partly sending up big-hearted Anglo-Saxon films such as *The Full Monty* and *Calendar Girls*. There are some nicely bizarre moments...and much laughter."

(*Guardian*) Don't hesitate, don't miss. (research Simon Messenger)

Director: Benoît Delepine
Starring: Benoît Poelvoorde, Bouli Lanners, Yolande Moreau, Mathieu Kassovitz
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Axiom Films

The Last Picture Show

Show Tue 28 7.30

Director: Peter Bogdanovich
Starring: Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd, Ben Johnson
Certificate: 15
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 1971
By: Park Circus Films

Back because you must see it. Peter Bogdanovich's sparkling monochrome masterpiece from 1971, is taken from Larry McMurtry's, nostalgic semi-autobiographical novel set in small town Texas at the time of nothing much. The Korean war is rumbling a million miles away.

The young Timothy Bottoms and Jeff Bridges play Sonny and Duane, boys who share a coming-of-age lust for the stunning, all knowing, manipulative teenage Jacy, Cybill Shepherd. (all three were first-timers)

Set in the early 1950s it takes on the never ending themes of frustration and longing, youth and old age, memory and mortality. All understated in such a quiet modesty, its humility becomes extraordinarily affecting. A rarity for any film of any age. The boys are uninspired high-school athletes who loaf about their dusty windblown, one-horse town wondering about their future. The only fun to be had is in the decrepit pool hall and the old cinema (not to mention the joys of the swimming baths) each run by the benign, mysterious Sam 'the Lion' (Oscar winning Ben Johnson) whose haunting presence is the film's beating heart. Then there's the kid whose only affirmation of belonging is to have his hat turned round by the bigger boys.

I saw it first time round and have never forgotten it. It stands up today alongside anything that thinks its better. Don't miss.





Director: Thomas McCarthy
Starring: Jeffrey Tambor, Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Win Win

Wed 29 7.30, Thu 30 7.30

Written and directed by Thomas McCarthy, “Win Win” is a solidly entertaining comedy drama.

Moonlighting as the local high school wrestling coach, burdened New Jersey attorney and family man Mike Flaherty (Paul Giamatti) is not only struggling to keep his family together, he’s struggling to improve New Providence High’s terrible losing streak. He’s struggling, struggling. Mike is appointed as dementia care guardian for an elderly client, Leo Poplar, in order to pocket the support dollar from the state. When Poplar’s teenage grandson Kyle (Alex Shaffer) arrives in town looking for a place to stay, Flaherty is initially reluctant to house him on top of a house-full. When Kyle is revealed to be a wrestling prodigy, there’s a change of tune. Things begin to pick up, until Kyle’s mother, fresh out of rehab, appears...

Paul Giamatti is excellent in this made to measure role – perhaps his best since “Sideways”. Amy Adams, and first-time actor, Shaffer provide support, keeping the whole thing on the right side of heartfelt. It’s a warm, genuinely amusing film, accompanied by an unusual soundtrack.

“A master class in offbeat comic brilliance... It’s a good movie about trying to be good.” (*NY Times*)

Nobody currently plays struggling and failing quite so well as Giamatti. (research Simon Messenger)



COMING SOON

New releases

Priest
Senna
Point Blank
Bridesmaids

Back by demand

TT: Closer to the Edge
Lemon Tree
World's Fastest Indian
Norwegian Wood



Bridesmaids

The Priest
(Still coming soon)

Senna

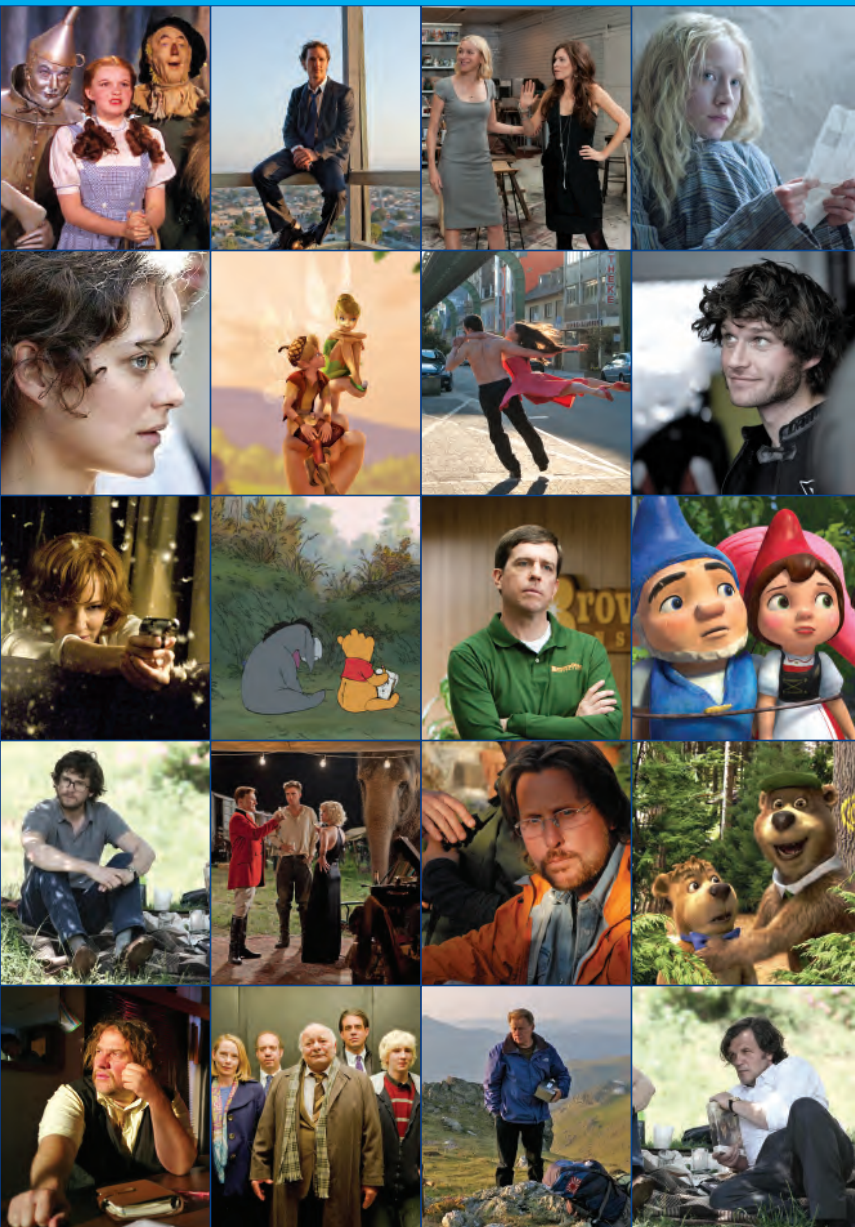


Point Blank

JUNE FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Wed	LITTLE WHITE LIES	2.00
1	Wed	YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER	7.30
2	Thu	WINNIE THE POOH	2.00
2	Thu	LITTLE WHITE LIES	7.30
3	Fri	ARTHUR	7.30
4	Sat	TINKERBELL & THE GREAT FAIRY RESCUE	2.00
4	Sat	THE LINCOLN LAWYER	7.00
5	Sun	PINA (2D)	6.00
6	Mon	PINA (2D)	2.00, 7.30
7	Tue	THE LINCOLN LAWYER	12.30
7	Tue	MORRIS: A LIFE WITH BELLS ON	7.30
8	Wed	YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER	2.00
8	Wed	OUTSIDE THE LAW	7.30
9	Thu	YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER	2.00
9	Thu	ROBIN INCE: SCIENCE, WONDER AND NONSENSE	7.30
10	Fri	HANNA	7.30
11	Sat	GNOMEO & JULIET	2.00
11	Sat	HANNA	7.00
12	Sun	TAXI DRIVER	6.00
13	Mon	TT: CLOSER TO THE EDGE (2D)	2.00
13	Mon	BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN	7.30
14	Tue	HANNA	12.30
14	Tue	TT: CLOSER TO THE EDGE (2D)	7.30
15	Wed	THE WAY	2.00, 7.30
16	Thu	THE WAY	2.00, 7.30
17	Fri	THOR (2D)	7.30
18	Sat	WIZARD OF OZ	2.00
18	Sat	THOR (2D)	7.00
19	Sun	13 ASSASSINS	6.00
20	Mon	L'AFFAIR FARWELL	2.00, 7.30
21	Tue	WATER FOR ELEPHANTS	12.30, 7.30
22	Wed	WATER FOR ELEPHANTS	2.00, 7.30
23	Thu	CEDAR RAPIDS	2.00, 7.30
24	Fri	ATTACK THE BLOCK	7.30
25	Sat	YOGI BEAR	2.00
25	Sat	ADELE BLANC SEC	7.00
26	Sun	LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (Note time)	5.00
27	Mon	LOUISE MICHEL	2.00, 7.30
28	Tue	WIN WIN	12.30
28	Tue	THE LAST PICTURE SHOW	7.30
29	Wed	WIN WIN	2.00, 7.30
30	Thu	WIN WIN	2.00, 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

Little White Lies

Wed 1 2.00



Back by great demand Guillaume Canet's third outing as a director is great big indulgent sprawl of a film about a bunch of friends facing some truths while on holiday together in southern France. His last film was the brilliant *Tell No One*. This one might be brilliant too?

All of the characters harbour secrets and insecurities which slowly emerge as the holiday progresses accompanied by a classic score from Bowie to Gladys Knight. Have these self-obsessed friends have been telling each other lies all these years?

"Nothing will stand between the French middle classes and their hols, though a bunch of friends do pause for thought when their mate's left in a coma after a motorbike spill... It's slightly glib, very glossy and over-long. But there's an overriding sense that Canet knows this territory, and gets the best out of an excellent cast." (*Time Out*)

"Populist fare from across the channel that will amply repay those ready to put in the time. Far from being a downbeat affair, however, is a richly funny, deeply compassionate film that celebrates love and friendship without ever shying away from life's myriad complexities. The scenery, meanwhile, makes you want to run to it." (*Total Film*) You may need a hanky but you will need a strong bladder. Come for the exquisite mlle Cotillard.

Director: Guillaume Canet
Starring: François Cluzet, Marion Cotillard, Benoît Magimel, Jean Dujardin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 154 mins
Origin: France 2010
By: Lionsgate

Winnie The Pooh

Thu 2 2.00

Directors: Stephen J. Anderson, Don Hall
Voices: Jim Cummings, Craig Ferguson, John Cleese, Bud Luckey
Certificate: U
Duration: 73 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Walt Disney Studio INTL

Poohsticks (throwing sticks in a river and watching them appear under the other side of a bridge) originally played by Christopher Milne (Christopher Robin) on a footbridge over the River Medway Hundred Acre Wood inspired by Ashdown Forest.

Instead of repeating the story here are some treasured quotes:

'I am a Bear of Very Little Brain, and long words bother me.'

'It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like 'What about lunch?'

'Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.'

'Well,' said Pooh, 'what I like best' and then he had to stop and think. Because although eating hunny was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called

'It is hard to be brave,' said Piglet, sniffing slightly, 'when you're only a Very Small Animal.'

Eeyore: A little Consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.

'One can't complain. I have my friends. Someone spoke to me only yesterday.'

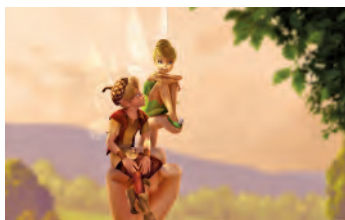
The whole film looks beautifully hand drawn by EH Shepard himself.

Don't miss a frame. TTFN: ta ta for now (*Tigger*).



Tinkerbell & The Great Fairy Rescue

Plus Short **Sat 4** 2.00



Tinkerbell (Whitman) and her friends are visiting the mainland when they meet a little girl called Lizzie (Lauren Mote) and Tinkerbell is captured.

While she and the girl bond, her friends launch a rescue mission.

The idea is that before she met Peter Pan and the Lost Boys, Tinkerbell, makes friends with a human girl called Lizzy. This friendship has to be kept secret from Lizzy's stern scientist father (Michael Sheen) a rationalist and lepidopterist who might want to pin Tinkerbell to a card and present her to the Royal Society.

Tinker is part of a 'Mean Girls'-style bratpack who spend summercamp in Ye Olde England, near a cottage inhabited by fairy-loving Lizzy and the father.

"Silly, glittery, efficient entertainment for the tweenie demographic. Fun for little girls who like dressing up in pink tutus..." (*Guardian*)

By adult standards, it's pretty bad. For the under-10s, however, it has enough pixie dust and fairy wings to make it a must-see. (*Empire*)

Directors: Bradley Raymond
Voices: Lucy Liu, Mae Whitman, Michael Sheen, Lauren Mote
Certificate: U
Duration: 76 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Walt Disney Studio INTL

Pina (2D)

Mon 6 2.00

Director: Wim Wenders
Starring: Regina Advento, Malou Airaud, Ruth Amarante
Certificate: U
Duration: 104 mins
Origin: France 2011
By: Artificial Eye

Some weeks ago I ran across some recorded interviews with Wim Wenders talking about this remarkable film.

In each he remembered being in Venice over 20 years earlier and being persuaded, reluctantly, by a girlfriend to go to watch a Dance. "I was taken to this dance show.

I didn't want to go. Not interested (I wanted Venice). Then I sat there and wept..." It moved him so much that on meeting Pina Bausch backstage, he swore he would find a way to collaborate with her on film. For twenty years they kept in touch, able only to collaborate on his iconic *Wings of Desire* (1987). "I could not think how to film her dance. It did not occur to me that technology would open the door to making Pina's film."

When he saw a film of U2's *Vertigo* tour in 3D (2007) that was his answer.

(Can't imagine U2 in 3-D. One dimension perhaps).

Pina died in June 2009. Wenders had been shooting the film for over a year. He didn't know "how to replace the big hole that was Pina – missing!" This is the result. No interviews, just the work. "Pina asks questions but no answers in words, only answers in dance. This is the core of her film" (*WW*)

"Dance belongs to people not to athletes" (*Pina Bausch*) Come and belong. Don't



Lincoln Lawyer

Tue 7 12.30



Based on the novel by Michael Connelly, “The Lincoln Lawyer” is a robust and entertaining, if predictable, courtroom thriller.

Mickey Haller (McConaughey) is an LA hustler, lawyer who operates out of the back of his Lincoln sedan, hence the title. Chauffeured around by a previous client, he does nothing unless he’s paid. The case of a lifetime drops into his lap; a rich playboy and real estate mogul Louis Roulet (Phillippe) is accused of violently beating a prostitute. It should be straightforward; a simple case of Roulet’s being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, Haller’s suspicions are aroused when he begins to suspect Roulet might be withholding something...

It’s a pacy drama, with twists aplenty. Refreshing as it is to see Matthew McConaughey in something other than a dreadful rom-com, he plays Haller with every Hollywood lawyer cliché in the book, luckily however strong support from John Leguizamo and William H Macy anchor the piece.

“A smart, savvy script motors along as we see Haller working the system from every angle. It’s a world of cynical lawyers cutting deals, careworn cops and cons brooding over sinister secrets.” (*Guardian*) A good, solid story worth seeing, if only for Matthew Mc’s attempts at Brando ‘cool’.

Director: Brad Furman
Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Marisa Tomei, Josh Lucas, Ryan Phillippe
Certificate: 15
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Entertainment

You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger

Wed 8 2.00, Thu 9 2.00

Director: Woody Allen
Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Naomi Watts, Josh Brolin, Antonio Banderas, Pauline Collins, Gemma Jones, Lucy Punch
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA/Spain 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Alfie and Helena (Anthony Hopkins; Gemma Jones) and their daughter Sally and husband Ray (Naomi Watts; Josh Brolin) are two couples for whom things are about to go very, very wrong. Alfie’s late onset male-menopause is instilling him with a desire to date younger women, whilst Sally and Ray’s marriage is disintegrating, as they begin to find a mutual interest in other people.

Anthony Hopkins is good as an aging, Viagra-popping, lothario, so too is Lucy Punch, as his strumpet girlfriend. It’s a reasonably well written affair, with several particularly biting one liners, however, once again, Allen is left grasping for a complete mastery of British-English, exposing some excruciatingly American-sounding dialogue. We get his New York, he doesn’t seem to get us?

“There’s plenty of ambiguous intellectual heft lurking behind the curtain of mediocrity – so it’s a pity it feels like it was dashed off in a few hours one afternoon.”

(*Time Out*)

“Again, this is not the longed-for comeback masterpiece. Perhaps Allen is too far out of time ever to give us that. But it’s interesting and worthwhile, with creative vitamins that are absent in so much of what fills the cinemas.” (*Guardian*) It’s not Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona, but surprisingly enjoyed by a full house 30th April. Worth one more ride. Come and see.



Gnomeo and Juliet

Sat 11 2.00



Gnomeo (McAvoy) and Juliet (Blunt) have as many obstacles to overcome as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbours. But with plastic pink flamingos and lawnmower races in the mix, can these two find lasting happiness?

A very loose reading of the Bard's tragic tale, with garden gnomes and Elton John's schmaltzy soundtrack. What can go wrong? "Kelly Asbury's plucky little film is an easy target but even if it doesn't quite gel, it's admirable that a film made of such weird ingredients is even vaguely palatable." (*Time Out*) This 'new fathers' Sir Elton and Daddy Furnish's vanity production, works in spite of itself. Blue and red Montague and Capulet gnomes fight it out in the adjoining gardens of a London suburban terrace. Casting ranges from Jason Statham as Tybalt to Patrick Stewart as Shakespeare (in his case a statue). "Much thought, love and hard work (on the part of the animators) has gone into this. It even has a happy ending, though what Shakespeare himself sees, to his evident pleasure, is an atomic mushroom in the far distance." (*Guardian*) but soft, what fun from yonder window breaks? Bring your grandparents.

Director: Kelly Asbury
Voices: James McAvoy, Emily Blunt, Jason Statham, Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Julie Walters
Certificate: U
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2011
By: Entertainment One UK

TT: Closer To The Edge (2D)

Mon 13 2.00

Director: Richard De Aragues
Starring: Ian Hutchinson, John McGuinness, Guy Martin
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK 2011
By: Cinemanx

Were you there in '67...? If you were one of the lucky 'few', you will never forget 1967 and that epic of all epic races on the Island between Hailwood and Agostini. Mike on the four cylinder Honda 'camel' and Ago' the red 500 MV. It was neck and neck for all six laps of the 37.5 mile (one lap) circuit. The bikes were the fastest then, but rudimentary, even experimental, and the roads tarmaced like any road in Britain. Mike set a new lap record of 108mph.

Guy Martin and Ian Hutchinson now lap at 130mph riding 1000cc monsters on black roads, surfaced like a race-track. In the film one of them is the big winner, the other the struggler. Both passionate and very fast. The TT was the British Grand Prix from the early 20th Century to 1973/74 when it was considered too dangerous to qualify for Grand Prix status. But they couldn't ban it. Nothing has been able to stop the TT races continuing on the Island. As you'll see, if anything, the passion is greater than ever; and you'll see why. "Just because you're breathing doesn't mean you're alive" Don't





Director: Joe Wright
Starring: Eric Bana, Olivia Williams, Cate Blanchett, Saoirse Ronan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: Germany, UK, USA 2011
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Hanna

Tue 14 12.30

Joe Wright takes a sabbatical from making frightfully nice Rex-friendly films (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Atonement*) to try his hand at a relentless action thriller.

Eric Bana is Erik (spelt with 'k' to trick him into something that sounds just like Eric, so he knows where to look) a rogue ex-CIA man hiding out in the wilds of Finland with his daughter Hanna (Saoirse Ronan). He has trained her from birth as an unrelenting killing-machine, isolating her from the outside world. Now fully prepared and ready to kick bottom, she is permitted to activate the tracking device. This unleashes the fury of Marissa Wiegler's CIA toughies on their Finnish hideaway. (Cate B plays Marissa W in a strange Gillian A-cum-Scully get-up). What does Erik know that makes him such a wanted man? And why is it so important that Hanna is able to protect herself with such deadly force?

While not in the Bourne Trilogy league, it is entertaining enough.

"While the film may be episodic and wayward, the action sequences are uniformly sharp, inventive and gripping." (*Time Out*)

"After a strongish start, the film doesn't so much sag as utterly collapse. The audience may feel like it has flung itself into a hammock that isn't tied at the ends." (*Guardian*) Take no notice. Joe Wright may delude himself in the God's gift dept, but his camera work is always worth a look. (*research Simon Messenger*)



Director: Emilio Estevez
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, James Nesbitt, Deborah Kara Unger
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd



The Way

Wed 15 2.00, Thu 16 2.00

This is a family affair, directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father, Martin Sheen. However, “The Way” is said to be a life-affirming drama. Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor. Upon learning of his son’s death in a storm whilst trekking the Camino de Santiago, a Christian pilgrimage route, Tom decides to mount the same journey in order to confront his grief, and better understand his late son. As he travels, he meets other pilgrims, also looking to gain some sense of fulfilment from the trip. The role of Tom was written by Estevez specifically for his father, and their familial bond is evidenced throughout the film. An excellent supporting cast, including James Nesbitt as a writer suffering from a lack of inspiration, prevent the film from becoming too introverted. Shot entirely on location in France and Spain, (apparently Sheen would continually stop to talk to real pilgrims between shots), “The Way” is a simple, deeply moving film. “Beautifully and elegantly shot, The Way is a straightforward and moving tale of the bond between father and son, a reconciliation between the generations.” (*Telegraph*) “Sheen remains a commanding presence who holds our attention throughout every stage of his seemingly endless trek.” (*Total Film*) (*research Simon Messenger*). I’m not so sure, but it seems everybody else is? So come and see.



Wizard Of Oz

Sat 18 2.00



It's the original 'Wizard of Oz' cleaned up for the big screen. Not only, don't miss it, bring every child in the street, if only to frighten the life out them.

Made in 1939, just a year after the Rex first opened; it must have been shown here.

It tells the story of Dorothy and her new friends on a huge, surreal adventure. I didn't get it as a kid and hated it at Christmas ever since. But don't let that put you off. Every child must be subjected to it, like cod-liver oil from a spoon and goose-grease rubbed into your chest every winter until you are 32. The best is the fade from black and white into spectacular technicolour.

The film's big homespun, American message is 'There's no place like home': Dorothy's mythic journey seems to reveal that to find one's heart's desire, one need not look further than one's own backyard. Never mind, come for the history. Forget the witch, Judy Garland still frightens me.

Director: Victor Fleming
Starring: Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Ray Bolger, Margaret Hamilton, Billie Burke
Certificate: U
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 1939
By: British Film Institute

L'Affair Farewell

Mon 20 2.00

Director: Christian Carion
Starring: Emir Kusturica, Willem Dafoe, Guillaume Canet, Alexandra Maria Lara
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: France 2009
By: The Works UK Distribution

Emir Kusturica, the flamboyant Serbian director, is perfectly cast in this true cold-war thriller, as a disillusioned Soviet colonel who funnelled KGB secrets to the West in early 1980s Moscow.

A tired old lion and world-weary bon vivant, he grandiosely believes that his leaks can start a new revolution. Unsurprisingly, he is irritated when the French, who have given him the codename Farewell, send along an amateur to be his handler: a beakish bespectacled engineer (Guillaume Canet) selected precisely because he doesn't register on the KGB's radar.

"Kusturica's KGB agent and hapless handler, Canet's growing friendship anchors the film." (*Total Film*)

Refreshingly, director Christian Carion grounds it in the real world; suspense hinging on chance, human failings and bunglings rather than breakneck Jason Bourne escapes. Everyone is sullied, ideals compromised. "This is a satisfyingly sober thriller, almost melancholy in tone, and as morally complex as a John Le Carré novel." (*Guardian*)

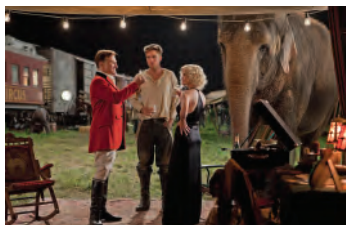
"As a thriller, it only takes off in the last 25 minutes or so when the focus tightens. Before then, momentum is slowed by awkward, unclear details of this complex plot." (*Time Out*)

"Superpower sequences (Fred Ward as Ronald Reagan) feel crowded but Carion delivers a tight, tense and tragic package of the personal and political entwined, with Kusturica's huge presence at its soul." (*Total Film*) Sounds like one not to miss.





Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: James Frain, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Pattinson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox



Water For Elephants

Tue 21 12.30, Wed 22 2.00

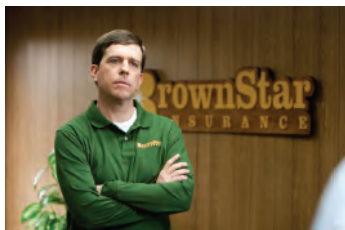
Directed by Francis (I Am Legend) Lawrence, in a radical departure from his usual subject matter, “Water for Elephants” is a watchable, if slightly bland, romantic melodrama starring two stars with too much face between them. (Their definite features takes suspension of disbelief a little longer to suspend).

Upon learning of the death of his parents, Jacob Jankowski (Pattinson) drops out of Cornell University to run off to the circus. Bernie Ecclestone-like Ring master, August (Christoph Waltz) does not tolerate stowaways. But on learning of Jankowski's useful, if interrupted final qualifications, he agrees to let him stay on as the circus' in-house (in-tent?) vet. Predictably, it's not long before Jankowski becomes a bigger draw back than an elephant's foreskin. He and August's young wife, and star performer, Marlena (Witherspoon)... It's a visual feast, rendered beautifully in lush hues and tones, capturing a bygone era of early twentieth century travelling shows. Unfortunately, Pattinson and Witherspoon's on-screen chemistry is not quite as captivating, nor is Waltz allowed to truly revel in his characters' malevolent side, as he did so well in *Inglorious Basterds*.

“Inert as a watercolour illustration in a yellowing old storybook” (*Guardian*)
 “Vapidly pleasurable, the film works within a simple and well-worn groove, but does so almost in spite of itself.” (*Telegraph*) (research Simon Messenger)
 With young Twilight face on screen there

Cedar Rapids

Thu 23 2.00



Fans of *The US Office* or *The Hangover* (are there such people?) will already be well acquainted with the comic genius that is Ed Helms.

But while those are ensembles, Miguel Arteta's *Cedar Rapids* gives him the full-on lead. Whether he deserves it is for you to say.

"Comedy seldom comes as good-natured as *Cedar Rapids*, a fish-out-of-water story in which a Midwestern innocent discovers sex, drugs and cream sherry in the big city." (*Independent*)

"Insurance greenhorn Tim Lippe (Helms) is ordered by his boss to head to the town of Cedar Rapids, where a crucial award is up for grabs. But his good intentions start to slip once he meets a trio of veteran salesmen, who lure him into a heady world of sherry." (*Empire*)

"This trio of absolutely spot-on comic performances kick in as the movie's hilarious mid-section rocks Helms's straight insurance man's world, opening new horizons of intoxication, social interaction and commitment-free fornication.

Its compliment of zingy dialogue and memorable hang-loose characters undoubtedly sends us out smiling." (*Time Out*)

"Not exactly laugh-a-minute, *Cedar Rapids*' mix of crude and sweet is an acquired taste. But all hail the mighty Ed Helms for yet another masterclass in comedy and pathos." (*Total Film*) All critics agreeing? Sounds too good to be true.

Director: Miguel Arteta
Starring: Ed Helms, John C Reilly, Anne Heche
Certificate: 15
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Yogi Bear

Sat 25 2.00

Director: Eric Brevig
Starring: Dan Aykroyd, Anna Faris, Justin Timberlake
Certificate: U
Duration: 80 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

This is *Yogi's* first feature length outing since 1964's "Hey There, It's Yogi Bear".

With the city treasury in dire straits thanks to Mayor Brown's (Andrew Daly) profligate spending, Jellystone National Park, is to be shut down, sold off to loggers. It's up to Jellystone's most famous heroes, the pic-a-nic basket stealing Yogi Bear (Dan Aykroyd), and his diminutive pal Boo Boo (a surprisingly authentic sounding Justin Timberlake) to save the park! But how...?

Smarter than the average film of it's kind, but sadly lacking the charm and easy wit of the original Hanna-Barbera television show. This live action/digital effects rendition feels a little clunky and overlong. Reliant on slapstick, there's not much to amuse parents apart from nostalgia, however there's enough here to keep a younger audience amused.

"It's pretty grim for anyone over six." (*Independent*)

"Tots may giggle at the bears, but this is no crossover film for parents. Highlighted by the witty Road Runner short before it. Maybe some animals should be seen and not heard." (*Time Out*)

Why don't they all shut up? Of course nothing is better than the original of anything. We were all sixish when we giggled in our pyjamas at Yogi and Boo Boo.

So bring your kids for that warmly



Louise-Michel

Mon 27 2.00



Picardy, Northern France. Provincial coat-hanger factory staff arrive at work to find the place empty. Their boss has embraced the notion of outsourcing, and as a result, they find themselves redundant.

Feeling understandably piqued, Louise (Yolande Moreau), convinces her fellow co-workers to pool their redundancy pay to hire a hit-man to bump off their boss.

Would-be assassin Michel (Bouli Lanners) is of course completely unsuitable, and things begin to go horribly wrong...

Yolande Moreau (of the magical *Seraphine*, and sublimely nutty *MicMacs*) is brilliant in another daft, if darker, role displaying a masterly understanding of comic timing.

This batty, gender-bending (don't ask) gem of a black comedy has been dividing audiences in Europe. For some, a wickedly funny, un-pc vent at capitalist mores, for others, crass nonsense. You know which side we fall at The Rex...

"The jocular, bad-taste comic set-pieces and wittily caricatured side-players mount up...a rousing reminder of the power (and eccentricities) of the pissed-off proletariat" (*Time Out*)

"Gustave de Kervern and Benoît Delépine have created a black comedy with the courage of its bad-taste convictions, partly sending up big-hearted Anglo-Saxon films such as *The Full Monty* and *Calendar Girls*. There are some nicely bizarre moments...and much laughter." (*Guardian*) Don't hesitate, don't miss. (research Simon Messenger)

Director: Benoit Delepine
Starring: Benoit Poelvoorde, Bouli Lanners, Yolande Moreau, Mathieu Kassovitz
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: France 2008
By: Axiom Films

Win Win

Tue 28 12.30, **Wed 29** 2.00,
Thu 30 2.00

Director: Thomas McCarthy
Starring: Jeffrey Tambor, Paul Giamatti, Amy Ryan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Written and directed by Thomas McCarthy, "Win Win" is a solidly entertaining comedy drama.

Moonlighting as the local high school wrestling coach, burdened New Jersey attorney and family man Mike Flaherty (Paul Giamatti) is not only struggling to keep his family together, he's struggling to improve New Providence High's terrible losing streak. He's struggling, struggling.

Mike is appointed as dementia care guardian for an elderly client, Leo Poplar, in order to pocket the support dollar from the state. When Poplar's teenage grandson Kyle (Alex Shaffer) arrives in town looking for a place to stay, Flaherty is initially reluctant to house him on top of a house-full.

When Kyle is revealed to be a wrestling prodigy, there's a change of tune. Things begin to pick up, until Kyle's mother, fresh out of rehab, appears...

Paul Giamatti is excellent in this made to measure role – perhaps his best since "Sideways". Amy Adams, and first-time actor, Shaffer provide support, keeping the whole thing on the right side of heartfelt. It's a warm, genuinely amusing film, accompanied by an unusual soundtrack. "A master class in offbeat comic brilliance...It's a good movie about trying to be good." (*NY Times*)

Nobody currently plays struggling and failing quite so well as Giamatti. (research Simon Messenger)



NO RANTS & PANTS SORRY. MIGHT EXPLAIN NEXT TIME



KITCHENER'S FIELD DEVELOPMENT

Top: Existing view

Below: Proposed view

Right: Site plan



This is the countryside. This is David Gauke MP, who now says the High Speed Rail is good for the country(side). More of this and the other things on this page next month. SORRY NO FULL RANTS due to deadline, computer break down.

