

# THE-REX

M A G A

HAPPY GO  
LUCKY

MAY...

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

THE-REX

MAY 2008 Issue 38  
[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

**01442 877759**  
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-6.30pm

<b>Gallery</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>April Evenings</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Coming Soon</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>April Films at a glance</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>April Matinees</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Dear Mrs Trellis</b>	<b>31-33</b>

**SEAT PRICES:**

Circle	£7.00
Concessions	£5.50
At Table	£9.00
Concessions	£7.50
Royal Box (seats 6)	£11.00
or for the Box	£60.00

**BOX OFFICE:**

01442 877759

Mon to Sat

10.30 – 6.00

Sun

4.30 – 6.30

(Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

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

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

<b>Rosie Abbott</b>	<b>Linda Moss</b>
<b>Henry Beardshaw</b>	<b>Louise Ormiston</b>
<b>Julia Childs</b>	<b>Izzi Robinson</b>
<b>Lindsey Davies</b>	<b>Georgia Rose</b>
<b>Holly Gilbert</b>	<b>Diya Sagar</b>
<b>Becky Ginn</b>	<b>Miranda Samson</b>
<b>Tom Glasser</b>	<b>Tina Thorpe</b>
<b>Beth Hannaway</b>	<b>Olivia Wilson</b>
<b>Luke Karmali</b>	<b>Calum Wood</b>
<b>Jo Littlejohn</b>	<b>Keymea Yazdanian</b>
<b>Bethany McKay</b>	

**Sally Thorpe** In charge**Alun Rees** Chief projectionist (Original)**Jon Waugh** 1st assistant projectionist**Martin Coffill** Part-time assistant projectionist**Jacquie Rose** Chief Box Office & Bar**Oliver Hicks** Best Boy**Jemma Gask** Key Grip**Michael Glasheen** Gaffer**Val & Lisa Williams** Set**Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry** PR/Marketing/FoH**Ian Muirhead** Accountant

Resident creative builders

**Darren Flindall, Michael Glasheen**

Artists

**Andrew Dixon, Paul Rowbottom**

Advisors and Investors

**Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney****Ed Mauger** Genius**Demiurge Design** Designers 01296 632366**Allison Nunn** Publisher 07786 540418**James Hannaway** CEO 01442 877999

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

**The Rex**

High Street (Three Close Lane)

Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

*The Sunken Cottages Castle Street dated 1890s – 1910? Anybody? See R&P p31 for their (eventual) award-winning replacement. "Beauty has no place on the gleaming spade of progress" (anon)*

As the picture above shows, May has turned into a nostalgic month. It wasn't planned. Hardly a thought. It was triggered by suddenly realising late in March, that it is 2008. Some pennies take longer to drop than others. For me, and I'm not alone, it is 'what day is it'? I don't like celebrations much and tend to leave excitement and holidays to children. But The Rex is 70 years old on 9th May this year. Hence cause for a little joy.

For anything, a building, an idea, marriage, belief, a life; to last this long in today's hurried, jumbled and dangerous world, is a cause for celebration. See the obituaries on page 32!

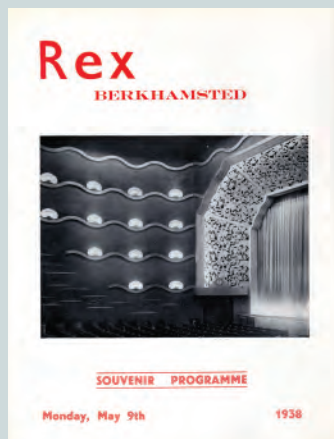
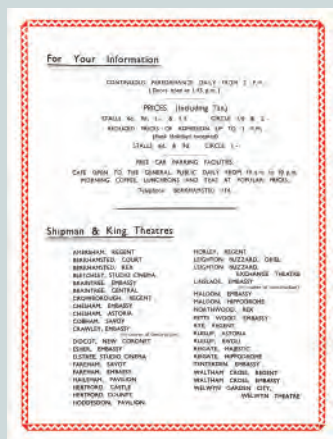
So here's what we're going to do. There will be a low-key surprise or two. Then the film. We tried for the classics we haven't already shown: Brief Encounter, On The Waterfront, To Kill a Mockingbird, Bringing Up Baby (the only 1938 title besides a couple of Marx Bros worth thinking of. Please don't mention Citizen Kane). Gone With The Wind (1939) has gone with itself and of course our first choice for the very first New Rex film – Cinema Paradiso is just coming out of dispute.

The long and short is that none is available in a decent print right now. Some are blocked by ownership and 'rights', others have disappeared or been swallowed up in digital arguments. However, some of our requests will be in print within the next year or so, but not right now.

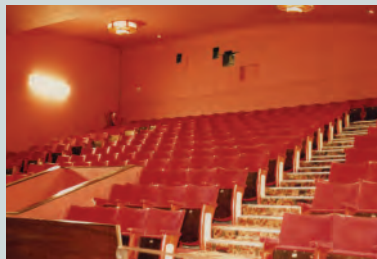
So we're going to show Robert Altman's last film: A Prairie Home Companion. It is pleasing but no small responsibility that many of you have already signed up to the 9th trusting whatever it is we choose. A Prairie Home Companion is about a theatre closing down. This is a 70th anniversary celebration of an opening. We were closed and derelict for sixteen years. So there's a parallel. Plus it's an era caught in time, underplaying low-key so low-key you can imagine joining in the conversation with any of them from where you're sitting. You've never heard the songs, but can sing them and guess the next line. It feels like the Rex might have done in its Bingo years. You'll leave smiling and we'll be happy to see you for this and the next seventy years.



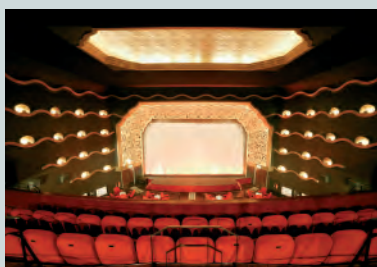
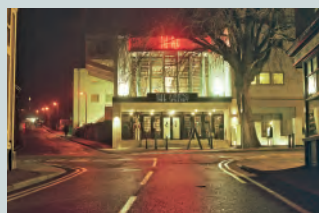
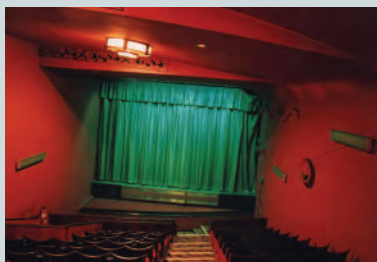
*This precious original souvenir programme celebrating the opening of The Rex on 9th May 1938 was donated to us in 2005, shortly after we reopened. The café's 'popular luncheons' and 'dainty afternoon teas' are a speciality. The functional "For Your Information" tells us without fuss, the opening times, prices (inc tax) and reminds us the menu is at 'popular prices'. Forthcoming attractions includes films at The Court (now Tescos). Saddest of all is the proud list of S&K art deco 'Theatres'. The Rex is the only one left.*







*Pictures by Alun Rees (Chief Projectionist since 1977: seen in the 'box' below left) Above and below: Screens 1&2. Notice the vomitory entrance to the bigger screen (340 seats). Compare it to where the smaller entrance sits (140 seats) then get your bearings. The whole balcony now seats 194! Left: the same 'box'. Bottom middle: Our front door being cut into the side wall.*





M A Y E V E N I N G S

## The Diving Bell and The Butterfly

Thu 1 7.30



**This is the best film of the year so far. Please don't come for that, my favourites have enjoyed disagreement and walkouts.**

However, this is beautiful in every way, from the way it is shot to the faces and the non-acting. Unfortunately the best piece of music (Tom Waits' I'm Still Here) is in the trailer but doesn't make the final edit.

It doesn't matter. The film is stronger. It is clear, real, totally absorbing and takes you with it in every moment. There is no hint of manipulation. Schnabel recounts the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Amalric), horny, charismatic editor of French *Elle* magazine, who at only 43 awoke from a coma to find himself a victim of locked-in syndrome: mentally alert but physically paralysed – except for his left eye lid.

Terrifyingly, his mind was fully functioning with wit, memory and imagination intact! Through four devoted, beautiful and unceasingly patient faces, he 'blinks' this profound story.

"It's a gorgeously atmospheric and deeply affecting piece of work" (*Times*)

The faces, the screenplay, the language, the camera... and that music, will move you further than you want to go. Come and lose yourself, then come again.

**Director:** Julian Schnabel  
**Starring:** Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Emmanuelle Seigner, Mathieu Amalric  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 112 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## 27 Dresses

Fri 2 7.30

**Director:** Anne Fletcher  
**Starring:** Katherine Heigl, Edward Burns, James Marsden, Malin Akerman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**This is a romantic comedy (read 'vehicle') made to carry the continued rise of Katherine Heigl.**

She might even deserve it after playing the unfortunate in that hateful trash: *Knocked Up*. Here she's a different kind of unfortunate.

As Jane, she takes on the family (and anyone in her orbit) after her mum dies, to become mother to all.

Her tireless, chronic selflessness makes her the perfect mug. Meet the eternal bridesmaid. Her sister walks off with the man she wants. She is passed over by every man – old and boy. Nobody looks at her twice – What???

Suspend disbelief its on a Friday and Saturday. Frothy, funny, easy and delightful. Come... and 'drag' him with you.

"You might groan at the thought of yet another nuptial-frenzied rom-com. But if you are dragged to it, you may be pleasantly surprised. Still, the film has plenty to make you grumpy. Scripted by Aline Brosh McKenna it shows little of her edgy screenplay for *The Devil Wears Prada*. Verbal sparring is presented as a virtue and anger as energy, but Heigl and Marsden are definitely something to watch." (*Time Out New York*)



## Vantage Point

Sat 3 7.00



**Salamanca, Spain and crowds jostle in the main square as secret service agents usher in the President (William Hurt) to make an address before an international conference negotiate a new accord on the war on terror.**

As a TV news director (Sigourney Weaver) marshals cameras, a shot rings out and the "leader of the free world" crumples to the ground. Forest Whitaker turns up with his camera and hey presto – another angle. Unfortunately none of it is true but it's a fantastic ride and mercifully short.

"Vantage Point crams into its 89 minutes the double whammy of two terrorist bombs and an assassinated president, told from the perspective of five different observers. Each segment is pure action-on-speed. It grips, pummels and then releases the audience on yet another cliffhanger, before rewinding back to start us sweating all over again. While Thomas saves the president our everyday hero Howard (think fireman) whisks a little girl to safety and the stars and stripes are safe again.

For all its posturing to the contrary, this is just another replay."

(*Isobel Stevens, Sight & Sound.*)

**Director:** Pete Travis  
**Starring:** William Hurt, Sigourney Weaver, Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker, Matthew Fox  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 89 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing



## The Band's Visit

Sun 4 6.00

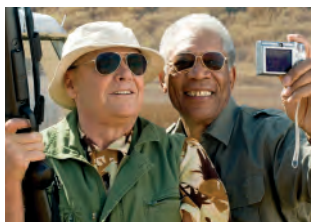
**Director:** Eran Kolirin  
**Starring:** Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** France, Israel 2006  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

**This charming debut feature has won the hearts of audiences everywhere.** It has played twice here at the Rex and is very welcome back. 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 of Petach Tikva. When no one turns up to meet them they find their own way, but wind up stranded in Beitha Tikva 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, everyone comes to realise there's more to each other than being on opposite sides. But 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 just a pleasant work in a minor key. The more you think about it, the more truthful, and thus important, it seems. I cannot imagine anyone not enjoying it." (*Standard* 8 Nov 07) Cancel church.



## The Bucket List

Mon 5 7.30



**It's too old men playing. I wanted to like it, thought I'd hate it, but loved it.**

Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as two terminally ill cancer patients who decide to break out of the hospital and live their last days to the fullest in this 'serio-comic' road movie. Billionaire Edward (Nicholson) and mechanic Carter (Freeman) are sharing a hospital room. Though initially they seem to have nothing in common, conversation gradually reveals they both have things to do before they 'kick the bucket'. When they make a break for it with their list: gambling in Monte Carlo, women, fast cars, exploring the world they've so far missed, etc "the two men also forge a truly remarkable friendship." No no no. It is an all-expenses-paid Jack romp with expensive locations, girls (on & off-set) and a few drinks... Come just for these and laugh as much as it makes you. It takes the sadness of it all and plays with it. It is corny, buddy and sentimental... but they're too clever to be embarrassing. Come for Morgan beating Jack at his own game – stealing the screen.

**Director:** Rob Reiner  
**Starring:** Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 97 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Warner Brothers

## Funny Games

Tue 6 7.30

**Director:** Michael Haneke  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Tim Roth, Michael Pitt  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** France, UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Tartan Films

**Why do they remake things. Do they think they can do it better?**

Or is it simply, they don't they have a spark of an idea between them? Clearly Haneke has, but when asked about an American remake of his provocative Austrian thriller (1997), he agreed on two conditions – it is frame for frame, shot for shot as the original and that he directs it. No egocentric worries here then? Clearly he knows about Studio tampering. After all the whole idea was inspired largely by American violence on American screens and its effect on our immunity. An affluent family arrive at their lakeside summerhouse, to find themselves terrorised by two polite psychopaths. Little is explained, either to victims or audience. Direct eye to camera from time to time, challenges us as the viewer to take part in the debate. Haneke has always considered *Funny Games* to be an American story – re: the violence. A horrid concept but a brilliantly conceived story. The cast is outstanding especially Pitt (Last Days) and Brady Corbet as the malevolent youngsters. Not an easy ride but definitely worth seeing, as was his infuriating *Hidden* (Cache).



## The Other Boleyn Girl

Wed 7 7.30

**Director:** Justin Chadwick  
**Starring:** Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Eric Bana, Kristin Scott Thomas  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 115 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

**"A sumptuous and sensual tale of intrigue, romance and betrayal, The Other Boleyn Girl is set against the backdrop of a defining moment in European history. Based on a best-seller by Philippa Gregory, it tells the tale of two beautiful sisters, Anne (Portman) and Mary (Johansson) Boleyn whom, driven by their family's blind ambition, compete for the love of Henry VIII (Bana: forever the Incredible Hulk & Bananaman). The film is beautifully scripted by The Queen's Peter Morgan."** (*synopsis*)

All well and good but is it any good? Like *The Queen*, the guessing becomes the story. It doesn't matter what the guessing is, as long as it makes us believe the story rather than want to believe it. Writing about an Elizabeth we all 'know', doesn't mean he (and Philippa G) can play the same game with the first one, 500 hundred years before the Daily Express (still selling its front page with a dead princess). That's it, if the Express had typed it, it would have been the truth-absolute; no guessing required... You've already been and demanded more. So here it is.



## There Will Be Blood

Thu 8 7.30



**A sprawling epic about family, faith, power, love, hope, community, belief, ambition and father-son bonding, all imperilled by corruption, deception and oil. Nothing too important.**

"I don't know why I am drawn irrevocably into a life that isn't mine". (DD-L)

He even researched drilling equipment! As indeed for the Last of The Mohicans he lived naked in the forest for months, weeks or an hour or two. Who cares?

Using *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) as inspiration if not a template, both Anderson and DD-L have taken its essence of treachery and mistrust. "I could watch Walter Huston all day long" (DD-L) Johnny Greenwood's music is so atmospheric (including Popcorn Superhead Receiver – first composed for Radio3) "This nasty noise that he made was perfect for this nasty movie" (PT Anderson) (*extract: The Film Prog with the unflappable Francine Stock R4*). "Thrillingly original, a visionary passion... against which all directors, and all moviegoers, will want to measure themselves. Anderson is doing something new with cinema" (*P Bradshaw, Guardian*) No we won't and No he's not. "Is this America's best film-maker?" (*Standard*) No.

**Director:** Paul Anderson  
**Starring:** Daniel Day Lewis, Kevin O'Connor, Ciaran Hinds, Paul Dano  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 158 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Buena Vista International

## THE REX: 70TH ANNIVERSARY A Prairie Home Companion

Fri 9 7.30

**Director:** Robert Altman  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Woody Harrelson, Lily Tomlin, John C. Reilly, Virginia Madsen  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** The Works UK Distribution

**This beautifully played whimsical tale of live entertainment on the radio is a fitting end to Robert Altman's maverick and prolific career spanning 56 years.** He knew he was dying when he was making it. Come and see how he handles it. He died 20.11.06 aged 81. We first showed it shortly after, then a couple of times since, to ever growing, happy audiences. As a celebration of a living theatre it fits perfectly with the Rex in its 70th year – caught in time. As always he coerces a star-studded ensemble to play for him - this one last time. It is an intricately woven, backstage fable imagining the antics of the last show at the old Fitzgerald before the final curtain falls. On the radio Garrison Keillor's real 'A Prairie Home Companion' somehow managed to survive the television age to reach a colossal audience every Saturday night, live from the stage of the historic Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota. Come, if only for Kevin Kline's description of the girl in the Mount Rushmore T-shirt. Leave the children in the bath with the babysitter.





## The Spiderwick Chronicles

Sat 10 7.00



The story revolves around the three Grace children Jared and his twin brother Simon (both played by Freddie Highmore) and their older sister; Mallory (Sarah Bolger). They and their recently separated mother; Helen (Mary-Louise Parker) move into the isolated Spiderwick estate the former home of their great great uncle Arthur. You guessed it; creepy things start to happen.

At first there is just the house 'brownie' (voiced by Martin Short) who seems reasonably harmless but when the kids open the forbidden: Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastic World Around You; things get scarier. If the hidden fairy world falls into the wrong hands, it will open a Pandora's Box of terror – and lots of CGI effects! Enter Mr. Beastly as the nasty 'wrong hands'. From here on its heart-stopping adventure all the way. "What we see in Mark Waters's film is attractive colourful and slightly weird. Parents taking the kids will have a better time than the recent Golden Compass" (*DM Standard*) Its on Saturday Matinee and Evening so that you can bring the kids to either or leave them at home and come on your own to both!

**Director:** Mark Waters  
**Starring:** Mary-Louise Parker, Freddie Highmore, David Strathairn, Joan Plowright  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## IN MEMORY OF PAUL SCOFIELD A Man For All Seasons Sun 11 6.00

**Director:** Fred Zinneman  
**Starring:** Paul Scofield, Wendy Hiller, Orson Welles, John Hurt, Susannah York  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 120 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1966  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

This is the closest Paul Scofield wanted to get to a knighthood. As Sir Thomas More he must endorse the divine right of the Pope over his King. All the finest 1960's theatrical heavyweights are here. Leo McKern is nasty Thomas Cromwell; Robert Shaw as Henry VIII and Wendy Hiller as More's worried wife. Plus the gorgeously breathy Susannah York, Nigel Davenport and a very young John Hurt. Orson Welles is in too, as Wolsey in classic cameo. It is a real thriller-cum-courtroom drama, with the language as the star. As Chancellor and Henry's closest friend and advisor in matters of (Catholic) Faith, More cannot sanction Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. The King cannot proceed without Thomas's public approval. Desperate to find a way to appease the King and carry on living, there's an unforgettable moment when, elated, he asks if he can consent to the final wording of a late document: "Can I say the words?" He won an Oscar for them. Paul Scofield, died in March aged 86, refusing a knighthood, twice. He hated fuss and loved going home. Don't miss.



## My Brother Is An Only Child Mon 12 7.30



A fabulous title, subtle, witty and apparently not even close to the original Italian! Never mind, it tells us just enough before we sit down – Perfect.

Unlike the Jesse James title which told us the middle and end before we bought a ticket.

Growing up in small-town Italy during the '60s and '70s, brothers Accio (Germano) and Manrico (Scamacchio) are opposites and poles apart? They are diametrically opposed in every way, physically and emotionally.

Whilst their lives take completely different paths, there is of course an underlying love which stops them from breaking all contact. 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. 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

## Don't Look Back

Tue 13 7.30

**Director:** DA Pennebaker  
**Starring:** Bob Dylan  
**Certificate:** No certificate  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1967  
**By:** Jane Balfour Films

**Shame this new print release didn't coincide with I'm Not There.**

Here he is there in this celebrated, fascinating documentary charting Dylan's 1965 first British tour. My brother got in I didn't. It's a candid, funny and intriguing glimpse into his world as he was transforming from folksinger to rock legend. Don't Look Back is a priceless portrait of the artist as a young man, in a young England, where everything was possible and hope at its most optimistic. In spring 1965, Bob Dylan aged 23, a pixy-ish troubador, spent three weeks touring across the Country. "Pennebaker's camera follows him from the airport to hotel to pub, from conversation to concert." Joan Baez talks and others – and Donovan (how did he get in there?). This was when Dylan was shifting from acoustic to electric, a transition which caused riots at gigs (Baez didn't like it either) until 'Like a Rolling Stone' hit home. I'm so happy we could get it now. All young hopefuls must cancel air-guitar to sit with us greys to see why it was all so passionate and important. Hope the Subterranean Homesick Blues clip is in there.



# The Orphanage

Wed 14 7.30, Thu 15 7.30

**"The opening credits emerge from wallpaper peeled away to reveal names concealed underneath."**

This is a portrait of a world beyond the surface. A world of secrets and lies..." (oh dear) (*Sight & Sound*) Bayona is shepherded by Guillermo del Toro from the sidelines throughout this powerful film. Melancholic, frightening and intelligent. The hauntingly beautiful Belen Rueda (Laura...see her heartbreaking portrayal as Julia in *The Sea Inside*) returns with her husband Carlos (Cayo) and son Simon (Roger Prince) thirty years later, to the place of her happiest childhood memories – an abandoned orphanage by the sea. As they set about restoration, the boy starts to 'see' the other children. His father typically dismisses it but Laura begins to believe the boy's tales might bode ill. She is right...

"It is a disturbing, and yet intelligent and compassionate dramatisation of loss and bereavement." (*Bradshaw, Guardian*)

"An extraordinary performance by Belen Rueda is the beating heart and tortured soul of this most frightening ghost story." (*Time Out*) Apparently there's one point where the whole audience whimpers at once... Come for that.



**Director:** Juan Bayona  
**Starring:** Roger Princep, Fernando Cayo, Belén Rueda  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** Spain 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing



## Lars and The Real Girl

Fri 16 7.30

**Director:** Craig Gillespie  
**Starring:** Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson, Ryan Gosling  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 106 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Verve

"Small-town America routinely get a bad rap as hotbeds of redneck prejudice and intolerance. So it's refreshing, if a tad surprising nowadays, to find a quirky, heartwarming tale portraying its meat-and-potatoes Midwest community as a cosy, supportive haven." (*KS Sight & Sound*).

Underneath its folksy trappings lies a smart, thoughtful tale about mental illness.

It beckons you in with an intriguing bad taste premise (boy meets toy) then seduces you with a sweet account of how the community rallies round to help a dangerously lonely boy. This is a sweet and slightly off-centre comedy following timid Lars Lindstrom as he sleepwalks through life. He orders living doll, Bianca, a stunning, half Brazilian, half Danish religious missionary, from the online Real Girl Co.

Taking psycho-medical advice from local shrink (Clarkson), Lars' family reluctantly agree to play along with his delusion, while he begins to deal with things in his own way.

"Gosling is a decent actor who does as well as he can in fairly ludicrous circumstances. But the story is fundamentally as silly as it sounds." (*DM Eve Standard*) "an oddity and an original" (*PB Guardian*) Come. You'll be glad you did.



## 27 Dresses

Sat 17 7.00



**This is a romantic comedy (read 'vehicle') made to carry the continued rise of Katherine Heigl.**

She might even deserve it after playing the unfortunate in that hateful trash: *Knocked Up*. Here she's a different kind of unfortunate.

As Jane, she takes on the family (and anyone in her orbit) after her mum dies, to become mother to all.

Her tireless, chronic selflessness makes her the perfect mug. Meet the eternal bridesmaid. Her sister walks off with the man she wants. She is passed over by every man – old and boy. Nobody looks at her twice – What???

Suspend disbelief its on a Friday and Saturday. Frothy, funny, easy and delightful. Come... and 'drag' him with you.

"You might groan at the thought of yet another nuptial-frenzied rom-com. But if you are dragged to it, you may be pleasantly surprised. Still, the film has plenty to make you grumpy.

Scripted by Aline Brosh McKenna it shows little of her edgy screenplay for *The Devil Wears Prada*. Verbal sparring is presented as a virtue and anger as energy, but Heigl and Marsden are definitely something to watch." (*Time Out New York*)

**Director:** Anne Fletcher  
**Starring:** Katherine Heigl, Edward Burns, James Marsden, Malin Akerman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## The 39 Steps

Sun 18 6.00

**Director:** Alfred Hitchcock  
**Starring:** Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll, Godfrey Tearle, Lucie Mannheim, Peggy Ashcroft, John Laurie, Wylie Watson, Helen Haye

**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1935  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**Re-released in crisp new prints, this early Hitchcock thriller was to prove a prototype for much of his later American work.** Robert Donat stars as a Canadian holidaying in London who finds himself on the run after a mysterious woman, he meets by chance, is murdered.

She managed to tel him of a spy ring, cryptically mentioning the '39 steps'. This is a loose and hugely enjoyable adaptation of John Buchan's thriller, "one of the finest examples of the genre, richly illustrating Hitchcock's mastery of filmmaking." Well perhaps? It is a fabulous, old fashioned adventure written by a master story teller. Providing he got decent actors and pointed the camera at them, he could hardly go wrong.

This he did, has and didn't! For once he has used gorgeous locations and panoramic views alongside his mean studio backdrop cuts. Robert Donat's Hannay is the perfect gentleman-hero with a touch of cad. Madeleine Carroll plays duly irritating. One would not want to be attached to her for that long. As always, the parade of lovely old faces acting their socks off, is a real treat.





## Flight Of The Red Balloon

Mon 19 7.30

**Director:** Hsiao-hsien Hou  
**Starring:** Juliette Binoche  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**"Binoche is near the top of her game as this stressed puppeteer, whose seven-year-old son (Simon Iteanu) is followed around Paris by a red balloon, in a homage to Albert Lamorisse's famous 1956 short *Le ballon rouge* (2pm matinee Sat 26 April).**

The movie is going nowhere fast, but it stays in place beautifully: it's all little bits of human business, vivid and true" (*Telegraph*)

"Cinema rarely soothes the heart and mind with the grace and quiet intellect of this wonderful new work" (*Time Out*)

"It's an exceptional piece of filmmaking, intricate, elaborate and exuding warmth and wisdom from its every frame." (*Time Out*)

"The delicate cat's cradle story Hou weaves about how their various artistic interests impinge on their daily and unexpectedly warm relationships is profoundly heart-warming." (*Times*)

A delicate and delightful Paris-set drama, it paints a portrait of a woman searching for balance.

It sounds hopeful and is bound to be beautiful. Come and see.



## Love In The Time Of Cholera

Tue 20 7.30, Wed 21 7.30

**This gorgeous book was lingered over every word. It has come to the screen chased by some pretty mean reviews.**

White-man, Newell's 'Four Weddings...' was a very British comedy. Though enjoyable and perfectly pitched, it is hardly a CV for this deeply passionate latin tale of love, lust and loss. Where were Walter Salles, Almodovar and Guillermo? How is such big money (\$50m) allowed to get it so wrong? If it has. Maybe the harpies are wrong? They screamed over Jesse James remember.

Set in the magical city of Cartagena, Colombia, this sweeping romantic epic tells of a man who waits 51 years for his one true love.

Young poet Florentino, and Fermina fall in love forever. Her father is furious and vows to keep them apart for the same forever. Fermina marries into aristocracy and moves to Paris. When she returns years later, she has all but forgotten her first love, but Florentino hasn't.

"Bardem's performance is touching and quietly underexposed but, overall, the film's appeal is disappointingly narrow; for patient literature buffs with a stomach for candid geriatric sex." (*WH Time Out*)  
 You decide.



**Director:** Mike Newell  
**Starring:** Benjamin Bratt, Javier Bardem, Giovanna Mezzogiorno  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures



## Son Of Rambow

Thu 22 7.30, Fri 23 7.30,

Sun 25 6.00

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

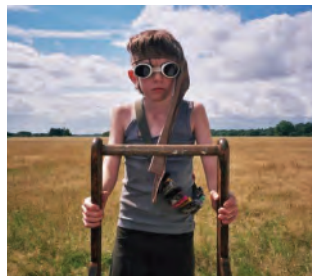
Set in Hertfordshire in the early 1980's, it's a great little film filled with energy and surprise, not to mention beautifully unself-conscious performance by the two boys – and in fact by all the kids. A fine example of light-touch, low-key directing, letting them shine without 'acting'. You'll all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

So many, too many things have been written, upping it beyond where it should be. It is good but it's no Kes or The Railway Children. It is a fabulous little film with genuine warmth, but the things that don't work, don't work on the same screen as those that do. Who cares? It is rare to see something this good, made where we live.



## Humphrey Lyttelton

Humph is back at The Rex for his 87th birthday...

Sat 24 7.00



### True legends carry their own shoes...

The Country's greatest man, still standing, is back on our stage. Amid major world shenanigans, wars and rumours of wars, his 85th birthday was front page news in all the quality rags! Grand statesmen and extended royalty don't get such applause (Albeit, he is both).

Humph is back at 87 to celebrate his birthday at the Rex, with his brilliant band and the bass player.

On meeting him, you know you're in the presence of someone special. Especially when he rolls up in an old car and carries his stage shoes and suit up the steps. And I have carried his trumpet-case. The Holy Grail doesn't get much closer. He's giggling non-stop with his band and "I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue" (For which we're are too small, so don't ask).

His vast repertoire is built ragtime, jazz and swing. The band plays spontaneously as if making it up unrehearsed, like Humph's gags! Come for all this and the sheer joy of a rare presence... Bring fourteen year-olds. They need to know.

## Water Lilies

Mon 26 7.30

**Director:** Celine Sciamma  
**Starring:** Adele Haenel, Pauline Acquart, Louise Blachère  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 85 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Slingshot

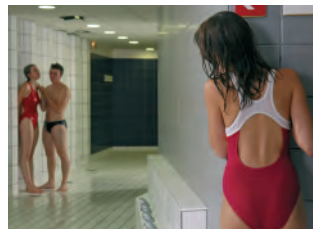
**"Water Lilies deals not with the dawn of sexual self-knowledge, but with the punishing onslaught of mid-adolescence..."** The slippery fakery of synchronized swimming provides a neat if somewhat old fashioned metaphor for the demands of womanhood: swanlike poise and full make-up conceal the frantic unseen effort to remain afloat."

(*Hannah Mc Sight & Sound*)

A coming-of-age tale wherein three girls explore their burgeoning sexuality. It is summer in an anonymous Paris suburb, and Marie (Acquart) is hoping to make her local synchronised swimming team captained by Floriane (Haenel), a big hit with all the boys. Tagging along with Floriane, Marie finds herself becoming her accomplice in a series of triangular, juvenile assignments with boys, best friends and the inevitable fallings out. The isosceles of all that burgeoning desire triggers a series of power struggles.

"Sciamma's sensitive debut, from which adults are almost completely absent, is the kind of quality French drama we almost take for granted." "an extraordinarily perceptive look at the way women grow up and men grow down, whether in the water or not." (*Standard*)

Cancel swimming, but don't miss.



# Happy-Go-Lucky

**Tue 27 7.30, Wed 28 7.30,  
Thu 29 7.30**

**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 a thorough pain.

"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 bicycle is stolen, she decides to take driving lessons, which will bring her face-to-face with a character and a world view quite unlike her own. 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.



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



**Shine A Light**  
**Fri 30 7.30, Sat 31 7.00**

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

**The Rolling Stones on stage and away from it, finally caught on real film.** It doesn't get any better. Marty turns out to be a bit of a plonker.





## Coming Soon

### New releases

Persepolis

Indiana Jones and the  
Kingdom of the Crystal  
Skull

In Bruges

Iron Man

Caramel

We are together

### Back by demand

Son of Rambow

No Country for Old Men

Diving Bell & The  
Butterfly

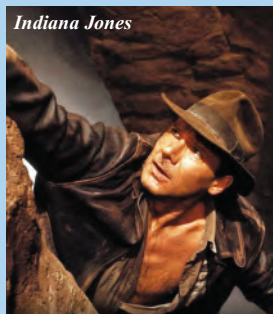
The Kite Runner

The Painted Veil

*Iron Man*



*Indiana Jones*



*We Are Together*



## MAY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

THU	1	DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY	2.00, 7.30
FRI	2	27 DRESSES	7.30
SAT	3	THE WATER HORSE	2.00
SAT	3	VANTAGE POINT	7.00
SUN	4	THE BAND'S VISIT	6.00
MON	5	THE BUCKET LIST	7.30
TUE	6	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	12.30
TUE	6	FUNNY GAMES	7.30
WED	7	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	2.00, 7.30
THU	8	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	2.00, 7.30
FRI	9	REX 70TH: ANNIVERSARY	7.30
SAT	10	SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	2.00, 7.00
SUN	11	A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS	6.00
MON	12	THE BAND'S VISIT	2.00
MON	12	MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD	7.30
TUE	13	MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD	12.30
TUE	13	DON'T LOOK BACK	7.30
WED	14	THE ORPHANAGE	2.00, 7.30
THU	15	THE ORPHANAGE	2.00, 7.30
FRI	16	LARS AND THE REAL GIRL	7.30
SAT	17	ASTERIX AT OLYMPICS	2.00
SAT	17	27 DRESSES	7.00
SUN	18	THE 39 STEPS	6.00
MON	19	FLIGHT OF THE RED BALLOON	2.00, 7.30
TUE	20	LOVE IN TIME OF CHOLERA	12.30, 7.30
WED	21	LOVE IN TIME OF CHOLERA	2.00, 7.30
THU	22	SON OF RAMBOW	2.00, 7.30
FRI	23	SON OF RAMBOW	7.30
SAT	24	SON OF RAMBOW	2.00
SAT	24	HUMPHREY LYTTTELTON	7.00
SUN	25	SON OF RAMBOW	6.00
MON	26	SON OF RAMBOW	2.00
MON	26	WATER LILIES	7.30
TUE	27	SON OF RAMBOW	12.30
TUE	27	HAPPY-GO-LUCKY	7.30
WED	28	HAPPY-GO-LUCKY	2.00, 7.30
THU	29	HAPPY-GO-LUCKY	2.00, 7.30
FRI	30	SHINE A LIGHT	7.30
SAT	31	UNDERDOG	2.00
SAT	31	SHINE A LIGHT	7.00



# M A Y M A T I N E E S

ALL MATINEES: Balcony £5.00 • Table seats £6.50 • Royal Box seats £10.00

## The Diving Bell and The Butterfly

Thu 1 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



This is the best film of the year so far. Please don't come for that, my favourites have enjoyed disagreement and walkouts. However, this is beautiful in every way, from the way it is shot to the faces and the non-acting. Unfortunately the best piece of music (Tom Waits' I'm Still Here) is in the trailer but doesn't make the final edit. It doesn't matter. The film is stronger. It is clear, real, totally absorbing and takes you with it in every moment. There is no hint of manipulation. Schnabel recounts the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Amalric), horny, charismatic editor of French *Elle* magazine, who at only 43 awoke from a coma to find himself a victim of locked-in syndrome: mentally alert but physically paralysed – except for his left eye lid. Terrifyingly, his mind was fully functioning with wit, memory and imagination intact! Through four devoted, beautiful and unceasingly patient faces, he 'blinks' this profound story.

"It's a gorgeously atmospheric and deeply affecting piece of work" (Times)

The faces, the screenplay, the language, the camera... and that music, will move you further than you want to go. Come and lose yourself, then come again.

**Director:** Julian Schnabel  
**Starring:** Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Emmanuelle Seigner, Mathieu Amalric  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 112 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## The Water Horse

Sat 3 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Jay Russell  
**Starring:** Ben Chaplin, Alex Etel, Emily Watson, David Morrissey  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 111 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

A lonely boy, Angus, vows to protect the strange hatchling as it emerges from a mysterious egg he finds on the shore of a Scottish loch in Russell's adaptation of Dick King-Smith's children's novel. The bizarre creature comes to be called a 'Water Horse'. As it grows at an alarming rate, it becomes obvious that Angus will not be able to keep it a secret for very long. The government develops a particularly keen interest in these Highland shenanigans. So when Captain Hamilton (Morrissey) of the Royal Navy arrives to investigate, the boy has to do some seriously quick thinking to keep his new-found friend out of the hands of scientists and get it back to the aquatic home where it belongs. Shades of the Loch Ness monster as a teenager. A 'what if' of the highest calibre. Good CGI and fabulous Scottish scenery on the big screen. A great little film. Fight your grandchildren for a seat...



## The Other Boleyn Girl

Tue 6 12.30, Wed 7 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



"A sumptuous and sensual tale of intrigue, romance and betrayal, *The Other Boleyn Girl* is set against the backdrop of a defining moment in European history. Based on a best-seller by Philippa Gregory, it tells the tale of two beautiful sisters, Anne (Portman) and Mary (Johansson) Boleyn whom, driven by their family's blind ambition, compete for the love of Henry VIII (Bana: forever the Incredible Hulk & Bananaman). The film is beautifully scripted by The Queen's Peter Morgan." (synopsis) All well and good but is it any good? Like *The Queen*, the guessing becomes the story. It doesn't matter what the guessing is, as long as it makes us believe the story rather than want to believe it. Writing about an Elizabeth we all 'know', doesn't mean he (and Philippa G) can play the same game with the first one, 500 hundred years before the Daily Express (still selling its front page with a dead princess). That's it, if the Express had typed it, it would have been the truth-absolute; no guessing required... You've already been and demanded more. So here it is.

**Director:** Justin Chadwick  
**Starring:** Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman, Eric Bana, Kristin Scott Thomas  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 115 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## There Will Be Blood

Thu 8 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



**A sprawling epic about family, faith, power, love, hope, community, belief, ambition and father-son bonding, all imperilled by corruption, deception and oil. Nothing too important.**

"I don't know why I am drawn irrevocably into a life that isn't mine". (DD-L)

He even researched drilling equipment! As indeed for the Last of The Mohicans he lived naked in the forest for months, weeks or an hour or two. Who cares?

Using *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948) as inspiration if not a template, both Anderson and DD-L have taken its essence of treachery and mistrust. "I could watch Walter Huston all day long" (DD-L)

Johnny Greenwood's music is so atmospheric (including Popcorn Superhead Receiver – first composed for Radio3) "This nasty noise that he made was perfect for this nasty movie" (PT Anderson) (*extract: The Film Prog with the unflappable Francine Stock R4*). "Thrillingly original, a visionary passion... against which all directors, and all moviegoers, will want to measure themselves. Anderson is doing something new with cinema" (*P Bradshaw, Guardian*) No we won't and No he's not.

"Is this America's best film-maker?" (*Standard*) No.

**Director:** Paul Anderson  
**Starring:** Daniel Day Lewis, Kevin O'Connor, Ciaran Hinds, Paul Dano

**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 158 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Buena Vista International

## The Spiderwick Chronicles

Sat 10 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Mark Waters  
**Starring:** Mary-Louise Parker, Freddie Highmore, David Strathairn, Joan Plowright  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 96 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

**The story revolves around the three Grace children Jared and his twin brother Simon (both played by Freddie Highmore) and their older sister; Mallory (Sarah Bolger).**

They and their recently separated mother; Helen (Mary-Louise Parker) move into the isolated Spiderwick estate the former home of their great great uncle Arthur.

You guessed it; creepy things start to happen.

At first there is just the house 'brownie' (voiced by Martin Short) who seems reasonably harmless but when the kids open the forbidden: Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastic World Around You; things get scarier. If the hidden fairy world falls into the wrong hands, it will open a Pandora's Box of terror – and lots of CGI effects!

Enter Mr. Beastly as the nasty 'wrong hands'. From here on its heart-stopping adventure all the way.

"What we see in Mark Waters's film is attractive colourful and slightly weird. Parents taking the kids will have a better time than the recent Golden Compass" (*DM Standard*)

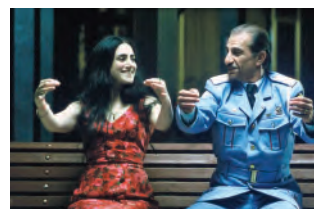
Its on Saturday Matinee and Evening so that you can bring the kids to either or leave them at home and come on your own to both!



## The Band's Visit

Mon 12 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



**This charming debut feature has won the hearts of audiences everywhere.** It has played twice here at the Rex and is very welcome back. 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 of Petach Tikva. When no one turns up to meet them they find their own way, but wind up stranded in Beitha Tikva 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, everyone comes to realise there's more to each other than being on opposite sides. But 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 just a pleasant work in a minor key. The more you think about it, the more truthful, and thus important, it seems. I cannot imagine anyone not enjoying it." (*Standard 8 Nov 07*) Cancel church.

**Director:** Eran Kolirin  
**Starring:** Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri

**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** France, Israel 2006  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## My Brother Is An Only Child

Tue 13 12.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



A fabulous title, subtle, witty and apparently not even close to the original Italian! Never mind, it tells us just enough before we sit down – Perfect.

Unlike the Jesse James title which told us the middle and end before we bought a ticket.

Growing up in small-town Italy during the '60s and '70s, brothers Accio (Germano) and Manrico (Scamacchio) are opposites and poles apart? They are diametrically opposed in every way, physically and emotionally.

Whilst their lives take completely different paths, there is of course an underlying love which stops them from breaking all contact.

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. 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

## The Orphanage

Wed 14 2.00, Thu 15 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Juan Bayona  
**Starring:** Roger Princep, Fernando Cayo, Belén Rueda  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** Spain 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**"The opening credits emerge from wallpaper peeled away to reveal names concealed underneath.**

This is a portrait of a world beyond the surface. A world of secrets and lies..." (oh dear) (*Sight & Sound*) Bayona is shepherded by Guillermo del Toro from the sidelines throughout this powerful film. Melancholic, frightening and intelligent. The hauntingly beautiful Belen Rueda (Laura...see her heartbreaking portrayal as Julia in *The Sea Inside*) returns with her husband Carlos (Cayo) and son Simon (Roger Prince) thirty years later, to the place of her happiest childhood memories – an abandoned orphanage by the sea. As they set about restoration, the boy starts to 'see' the other children. His father typically dismisses it but Laura begins to believe the boy's tales might bode ill. She is right...

"It is a disturbing, and yet intelligent and compassionate dramatisation of loss and bereavement." (*Bradshaw, Guardian*)

"An extraordinary performance by Belen Rueda is the beating heart and tortured soul of this most frightening ghost story." (*Time Out*)

Apparently there's one point where the whole audience whimpers at once... Come for that.



## Asterix At The Olympic Games

Sat 17 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



**Audacious young Gaul Alafolix falls head over heels in love with Greek Princess Irina.** With the help of Astérix, Obelix and their druid's magic potion, he travels to Greece to win the Olympic Games and Irina's heart.

There, he finds himself in competition with Caesar's treacherous son Brutus, who is feverishly plotting his father's downfall. As everybody knows, magic potions are banned at the Olympics. Luckily, Astérix has a plan...

Fantastic stuff just in time to show China how it is done.

Sebastian Coe might learn a few things too...

Absolutely no tricks, special effects, surgical appliances or a Truss...

Vive la France!

**Director:** Frederic Forestier  
**Starring:** Gerard Depardieu, Alain Delon, Clovis Cornillac  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Flight Of The Red Balloon

**Mon 19** 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Director:** Hsiao-hsien Hou  
**Starring:** Juliette Binoche  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 116 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Park Circus Films

**"Binoche is near the top of her game as this stressed puppeteer, whose seven-year-old son (Simon Iteanu) is followed around Paris by a red balloon, in a homage to Albert Lamorisse's famous 1956 short *Le ballon rouge* (2pm matinee Sat 26 April).**

The movie is going nowhere fast, but it stays in place beautifully: it's all little bits of human business, vivid and true" (*Telegraph*)

"Cinema rarely soothes the heart and mind with the grace and quiet intellect of this wonderful new work" (*Time Out*)

"It's an exceptional piece of filmmaking, intricate, elaborate and exuding warmth and wisdom from its every frame." (*Time Out*)

"The delicate cat's cradle story Hou weaves about how their various artistic interests impinge on their daily and unexpectedly warm relationships is profoundly heart-warming." (*Times*)

A delicate and delightful Paris-set drama, it paints a portrait of a woman searching for balance.

It sounds hopeful and is bound to be beautiful. Come and see.



## Love In The Time Of Cholera

**Tue 20** 12.30, **Wed 21** 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*



**This gorgeous book was lingered over every word. It has come to the screen chased by some pretty mean reviews.**

White-man, Newell's 'Four Weddings...' was a very British comedy. Though enjoyable and perfectly pitched, it is hardly a CV for this deeply passionate latin tale of love, lust and loss. Where were Walter Salles, Almodovar and Guillermo? How is such big money (\$50m) allowed to get it so wrong? If it has. Maybe the harpies are wrong? They creamed over Jesse James remember.

Set in the magical city of Cartagena, Colombia, this sweeping romantic epic tells of a man who waits 51 years for his one true love.

Young poet Florentino, and Fermina fall in love forever. Her father is furious and vows to keep them apart for the same forever. Fermina marries into aristocracy and moves to Paris. When she returns years later, she has all but forgotten her first love, but Florentino hasn't.

"Bardem's performance is touching and quietly underexposed but, overall, the film's appeal is disappointingly narrow; for patient literature buffs with a stomach for candid geriatric sex." (*WH Time Out*)  
 You decide.

**Director:** Mike Newell  
**Starring:** Benjamin Bratt, Javier Bardem, Giovanna Mezzogiorno  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Son Of Rambow

**Thu 22** 2.00, **Sat 24** 2.00,

**Mon 26** 2.00, **Tue 27** 12.30

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**It doesn't matter that it was made here. Is it any good?** Had it been made in the Romanian village of Berkujescu or Swansea – would you care two farthings? Would you come on a Saturday night to watch two kids from the Shires pretending to be Rambo? It has been hyped to the elbows by all, as the saviour of British film comedy. But what if it is a complete Madonna? Garth Jennings seems like that nice boy your gran would like. Even worse you would willingly buy things you already have from smiler, producer, Nick Goldsmith. However, they kept their promise in March to show it here first for all the children involved.

It might be the first Emperor's New Clothes of a long awaited decent British film.

Or it could be an okay small independent on a long and massive PR jaunt. Or it might be a little gem... It's up to you. No, your children, streets and houses are in it. You'll love it like a family album.

It's the queues in Taunton, Aberdeen and Liverpool that'll show its worth. As for the yanks?

However, as it turns out, it is a fabulous little film, energetic, warm and surprisingly funny, with beautifully unself-conscious performance from the two boys – and as it happens, from all the kids.

A great example of light-touch, low-key directing, letting them shine without 'acting'.







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



## Happy-Go-Lucky

Wed 28 2.00, Thu 29 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**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 a thorough pain. "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 bicycle is stolen, she decides to take driving lessons, which will bring her face-to-face with a character and a world view quite unlike her own. 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.



## Underdog

Sat 31 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*



After an accident in the mysterious lab of mad scientist Dr Simon Barsinister, an ordinary beagle named Shoeshine finds himself with extraordinary powers...and the ability to talk! Armed with a fetching superhero costume, Underdog vows to protect the beleaguered citizens of Capital City and, in particular, a beautiful spaniel named Polly Purebred. When a diabolical plot by Barsinister and his overgrown henchman Cad threatens to destroy Capital City, only Underdog can save the day. It sounds like the best film of the month. Children are so lucky, you get all the best fun films...

**Director:** Frederik Du Chau  
**Starring:** Jason Lee, Amy Adams, James Belushi  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 84 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Buena Vista International (BVI)

## RANTS AND PANTS

Dear Mr Hannaway...  
Something for the P(r)ants column?

A short while ago my husband bought tickets for two films at the Rex and paid by credit card. Unfortunately he managed to misplace tickets for one of the films. However, when we arrived at the box office and explained the problem the girl was able to look at the records, locate the booking and promptly issued us with duplicate tickets. We were very impressed by her/the system's efficiency.

2. Please can you tell me why you find it necessary to make nightly stage pronouncements? If it's to announce what films will be showing, we have the programme to tell us that. If it's to give your opinion of the film, we are able to make up our own minds up once we have seen it. If it's to make birth/marriage/death announcements or to advise of visits by dignitaries/celebrities, the local newspaper covers it. Do I detect a frustrated thespian? I for one would enjoy my trip to the cinema so much more if I didn't have to sit through this distraction/performance. Many thanks, Mrs M Walls

Congratulations. A very clever letter Mrs Walls. So, baited and hooked, to your reply.

Thank you for acknowledging our staff and their efficiency with such good grace.

However, should you really want to see efficiency, leave your tickets with us and collect them on the night.

That way your husband can't lose them and we will know you have arrived.

If the whole audience were to do this, we would know when everybody was in, so cut down on seating errors. We might lose them ourselves of course. Thus turning your tutting into gasps of awe as our system rattles itself up to full megasteam efficiency... And you can still blame your husband.



The award winning Chadwick Centre dated April 2008. The sunken cottages (p3) were demolished in the early Seventies to make way for The Boy's School's sick-bay; a hideous flat-roofed prefab, typical of the worst excesses of 60s/70s vomit-grey concrete. This was the first sickening blow. Now, this award winning carrot-vomit-red art/techno block stands as a monument to... big ginger things?

Where do sick boys go to be sick now? Hindsight would have preserved the sunken cottages as the perfect kebab vomitry for a 21st century Friday night out. I am beginning to enjoy hating this cowardly new world after taking forty naive years getting used to the betrayal of 'that promised' brave new one. It is not the 'new' I despise it is those who worship it, rush to embrace it and can't wait to be rid of the old. They even give it awards and call it things. I give you Dr Beeching's railway closures of the early sixties and the dismantling of vast City tramline networks.

I wish I could laugh at them...

(Tesco squats where the glorious Court Cinema once stood.

Pictures in June's mag)

As for the pronouncements, I wanted to agree with you but there are a couple of things.

I know nothing of marketing but for a half remembered line from Butch Cassidy: "Pardon me sheriff...shame to waste the crowd" (the bicycle seller).

It would be rude, negligent, even a little stupid not to remind you of the gems you might miss.

As for opinions: it gives such pleasure to offer views on things about which you know nothing – cricket and Tibet for instance – far less tedious than someone who knows what they're talking about.

Good idea about the local papers announcing birthdays, etc. Must get them along to help clear up after a kids matinee.

Another couple's disapproval of the introduction, has in a small way contributed to its longevity; you might know them.

It was not meant to last beyond the

opening week. In those early days there was always something to apologise for or announce. You know how it goes with those best intentions to move on. They get postponed, usually for the rest of one's life. I can't remember there being applause. It must have grown from politeness, embarrassment or too many early drinks.

As it is, many see it as a welcoming part of the evening.

However, you're right, in true thespian tradition it should be more entertaining. Luckily it's not. Perhaps some balloon tricks might do it.

So, Mrs Walls in thanking you for your observations, and I hope you are not alone, there are two things you can do to avoid this distraction/performance... you know what's coming.

Don't take your seat until it's over or go where you are guaranteed no welcome at all.

Faithfully, JH

## OBITUARIES

This has already gone too far. The obit word is in plural. Can you please stop dying while we catch up.

It's only May and already too many have died this year. Our obituary column started very small with Ned Sherrin in 2007. It was not meant to grow. Now we're running out of space. Any more and we'll ignore you. Please stay alive if only to keep a few column inches for the ridiculous antics of the living.

A wee word to the dead... you're not missing anything except Spring and Autumn. The Summers are always disappointing and Christmas is never white. Besides you'll "always have Paris" wherever that Paris was for you.

First Heath Ledger in January.

Now:

Anthony Minghella

Paul Schofield

Arthur C Clarke all in the same week.

Charlton Heston is a surprise winner in April's chariot race to oblivion.

Okay Paul Schofield and Arthur Clarke; now big Ben Hur, in their late eighties and/or nineties, could be said to have had a 'good innings'. But no; there is something about that well meant phrase which you hope is never said about you... Everyone under that 'good-innings' age smugly nods to the notion that your 'time was up' just when you were getting into your stride for a few



more overs. There's no 'good-innings' only bad ones. Out for 28, 34, 40, 52, 54, 61 to heart, cancer, bullet, stroke, accident or 'routine op' is no innings. Besides, anything under 161 without missing a catch, is too soon.

Not greedy, but one more wicket captain, one more before tea, just to hear the cry of 'not-out' carried off into the trees with the late afternoon pock-pock of summer-green clapping – Declared, not out.

Anthony Minghella was one of those rare directors everybody loved.

A great waste.

He was keen to come to the Rex and would have made it sooner or later. I vow never go in for tests or anything 'routine'. English hospitals are now more dangerous than anything you go in with. Forget the next cinema, perhaps The Rex should open its own brand of ultra sparkling hospitals with no fat-cat Trusts unworthy of trust, but with an army of Hattie Jacques, one or two Lancelot Spratts, a couple of nurses from The English Patient and those four gorgeous faces from The Diving Bell and The Butterfly.

Sorry Anthony, it was no innings and you were caught and bowled on a bad wicket.

Well done to Paul Schofield for

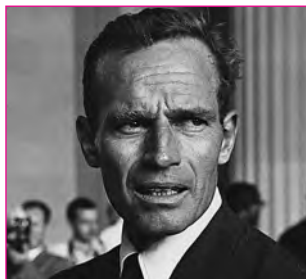
going home after the show. No knighthoods, interviews or media detritus just home to his family and the local pub.

To Arthur C Clarke, thank you for A Space Odyssey -2001 and for inspiring another man (who liked to go home to his family) into revolutionising all kinds of things for the big screen, we now take for granted.

Come and see Stanley Kubrick's 2001 in 70mm (as he shot it) at The Rex later this year as the start of a 'festival' run of his films in the autumn. We have requested three of Anthony Minghella's best and Paul Scofield's A Man For All Seasons is here in May.

If you want to see a complex thriller, look no further than the 16th century. Scofield's Thomas More, using only words, makes Jason Bourne look like jelly at a kid's party.

Locally, two big surprise early wickets saw Tring's own Gary Heap off in January. The big fella will always be remembered for the best music nights ten years ago, 'Engerland' matches and early doors at The Castle. Gerry Zukas declared in February at some ridiculously young age. He loved the Rex and with his wife Kezzie was a very early financial supporter, when most were turning their backs. Very sad and a terrible waste. Now, if it's not too much trouble, would the rest of my younger friends mind staying at the crease, at least until after tea?







CLLR STANLEY SHARPE IN HIS GARDEN LAST SUMMER.

Stanley Sharpe declared on 25th January. He was 87. A Liberal councillor, Town and Borough, representing Berkhamsted for nearly twenty years, he spent his life fighting for fairness, particularly for the young – to give them a chance, hope and a sense of their own potential in all the good things around them. Alongside CLLR Betty Patterson he helped steer things away from party politics towards the greater good for people living in a small community, voteless to ambitious town-planners and predatory developers. He supported The Rex throughout its restoration, low times, doldrums and all. He was the first local politician to financially support us on behalf his family, who didn't quite share his optimism. It was not a political gesture or opportunity. He did it properly as genuine, quiet help at our market stall without fanfare or largesse.

When we opened, his knowing smile was enough. He and Mrs Sharpe, supported us from the minute we opened, coming to see everything from the sublime to the obscure and not shying away from the ridiculous. He loved *The Motorcycle Diaries*. I liked seeing them in. I had missed them shortly after Christmas, wondering where they were. Mrs Sharpe now brings family and friends to the same eclectic mixture of films they would come to see together. I didn't catch the last wicket that day, but I hear he Declared... not out.

### FROM THE FOYER BOOK...

Afternoon totally spoilt by screaming babies, couldn't hear half the film. Haven't been before and thought it was so lovely, would



Stanley Sharpe's beloved Berkhamsted on the Grand Union (9 April)

(Sorry Stanley, it's a bit of an estate agent snap but you know where you are)

He may even have thought it stood no chance and he would never see his money again but it didn't stop him.

definitely have to think twice about coming to a matinee again!

Nice moving film....spoiled by babies

Can only agree with all of the above-even sitting upstairs at not hear the film due to babies crying!

A great film – I was upstairs and could hear all the dialogue. I think my daughter with a new baby would love the chance to get out to the cinema with him and I will tell her about this.

Film ruined by two wailing babies and two very selfish mothers!! I understand you saying that matinees may contain babies – but surely not a certificate 15!!

Don't touch the Axe (Ne Touchez pas de hache). Touch it! Touch it! Put us out of our misery! Sally F.S.

Thank you for Deep Blue, couldn't help but notice the amount of people going to the toilet during this wet and watery film!!

I love this place and would willingly waste my time in it.  
Keith from Boxmoor