

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

NOVEMBER...

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

NOVEMBER 2008 Issue 44  
[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

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

<b>Obituary</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>November Evenings</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Coming Soon</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>November Films at a glance</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>November Matinees</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Dear Mrs Trellis</b>	<b>35, 37</b>

**SEAT PRICES:**

Circle	£8.00
Concessions	£6.50
At Table	£10.00
Concessions	£8.50
Royal Box (seats 6)	£12.00
or for the Box	£66.00
All matinees £5, £6.50, £10 (box)	

<b>BOX OFFICE:</b>	01442 877759
Mon to Sat	10.30 – 6.00
Sun	4.30 – 6.30

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

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

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

**Sally Thorpe** In charge

**Alun Rees** Chief projectionist (Original)

**Jon Waugh** 1st assistant projectionist

**Martin Coffill** Part-time assistant projectionist

**Jacque 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

**Darren Flindall, Michael Glasheen**

Resident creative builders

**Andrew Dixon, Paul Rowbottom**

Artists

**Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney**

Advisors and Investors

**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 picture shows Mr & Mrs Pearson – landlord/lady of "The Compasses" in New Road, Northchurch 1961/62? Next door was the small grocery shop called "London House". This has long been demolished and sheltered housing built in its place." Thanks to Bert Hosier the local Northchurch historian fondly known as Hedgehog and to Sarah Casserley & Mary-Mary (Casserley) Murray for bringing it in. From the placard, one of the films on that week was "The Greengage Summer" starring Kenneth More, Susannah York and Jane Asher.

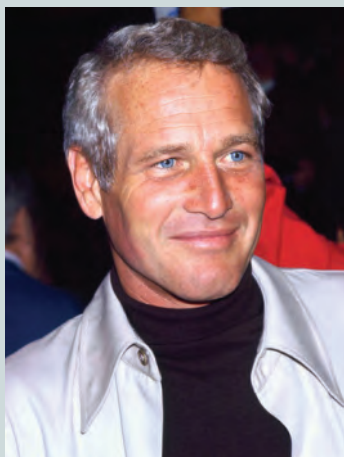
Welcome to a packed November with two visiting directors, a writer/producer, an international premiere and a comedy evening.

On Mon 3rd, **JOANNA HOGG** will be here to talk about her much praised new film *Unrelated*.

On Sun 23rd, writer and producer **MAMOUN HASSAN** will introduce a premier of his Chilean film *La Buena Vida*. On Thursday 27th the celebrated **TERENCE DAVIES** returns to our stage to talk about his new award winning *Of Time And The City*.

Finally, on Friday 14th we will stage our first live stand-up comedy night, with **MARCUS BRIGSTOCK**, **HOWARD READ**, **MILTON JONES** and **ROBIN INCE**.

It is being said lately that in times of war and depression people seek comfort at the pictures. So, we've included lots of depressing war films. Apparently in hard times people go to the cobblers as well.



### PAUL NEWMAN... 1925 - 2008

**H**appily our obituary column has been quiet for most of the summer. Hope it goes quiet again.

This is my generation's first great loss of a real Hollywood legend. Paul Newman was another one we thought would live forever. 'Living' on the screen, has a different dimension when you know the face is no longer there.

To learn that he was 83 turned out to be an even greater shock. It's funny how, when you take your eye off the ball for what you thought were five minutes, suddenly there's an old man. I remember being surprised by his appearance in Sam Mendes' *Road to Perdition* in 2002.

Every commentary and obituary has talked about his good looks on equal terms with his talent. "For a good looking man he was rarely cast as a romantic lead. No sweaty love scenes, usually the small guy getting on with it." (*Barry Norman*) His contemporary and rival for 'Rebel Without a Cause' James Dean, died too young to fade. The beauty about not being known until you're older is that nobody believes you were ever young. Take Humphrey Bogart, Edward G Robinson and Orson Welles, they each



looked as we 'knew' them till the day they died.

Paul Newman started out beautiful for all to see. Getting old and palid was never going to be a good move.

Curiously, Clint Eastwood has done it, as has Bruce Willis. He looks better or at least the same in each new movie.

**C**lint on the other hand has grown into a face that has stayed familiar. He just stayed as he was and we grew old with him. We've known him since Rowdy Yates and the Spaghetti man since his twenties. Sean Connery too has lived several lives in the same changing face and only ten years ago in his late sixties was still being touted as the sexiest man in the world! As for Jack Nicholson and Michael Caine... even Dennis Hopper for chrissakes! He was in *Rebel Without a Cause* with James Dean in 1955. Now look at him in all the glossies. At 72 he's had at least forty years on borrowed time, and still bright-eyed! Another surprise, he is eleven years younger than Newman and we thought they were all contemporaries.

In fact Newman was considered for Dean's role in *Rebel* and Brando's part in *On The Waterfront* a year earlier in 1954.

He was lucky that MGM were making *Somebody Up There Likes Me* and not Columbia, or Brando might have snatched the big role of boxer, Rocky Graziano. In 1958 he played opposite Elizabeth Taylor in *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, where he was nominated for an Oscar and a BAFTA in the 'Best Foreign Actor' category, which he would go on to win for *The Hustler* in 1961. Good old colonial Britain of the 1950s.

'Damned yankee foreigners coming over here and taking our awards!' *The Hustler* set him up as an intelligent and subtle force, shaking off the pretty face thing, which in fact he was never truly able to do. Even as the hapless Cool Hand Luke, he looked the part and still looked great. He was the anti heroic hero if you like; the unlikely individual against the awful system. As 'Luke' he is in the wrong and ugliest place by accident. Yet he doesn't complain, just overcomes it in a non-heroic way.

It wasn't until 1969 and *Butch Cassidy* that he would become loved the world over. It was this film that made me want to see all his others. You begin to notice his voice here. It's cool never overemphasised or false, not an acting voice. With Redford their comic jibes bounced off each other effortlessly. "He and Redford had a chemistry so easy, Oddly the two best looking men in

Hollywood worked with ease alongside each other seemingly without egos... you couldn't help but believe in them as friends." (BN)

There was talk a year or two ago of a reunion project but sadly it came to nothing.

Harvey: "When its all over and he's dead you can stay Sundance" Butch: "Look, I don't mean to be a sore loser but when its all over and I'm dead – kill him" (pause: looks up at the giant Harv) "...you should bet on him." Sundance: "I would but who'd bet on you?"

**N**ow with his passing and we learn new things about him, it is easier to see how it all fits.

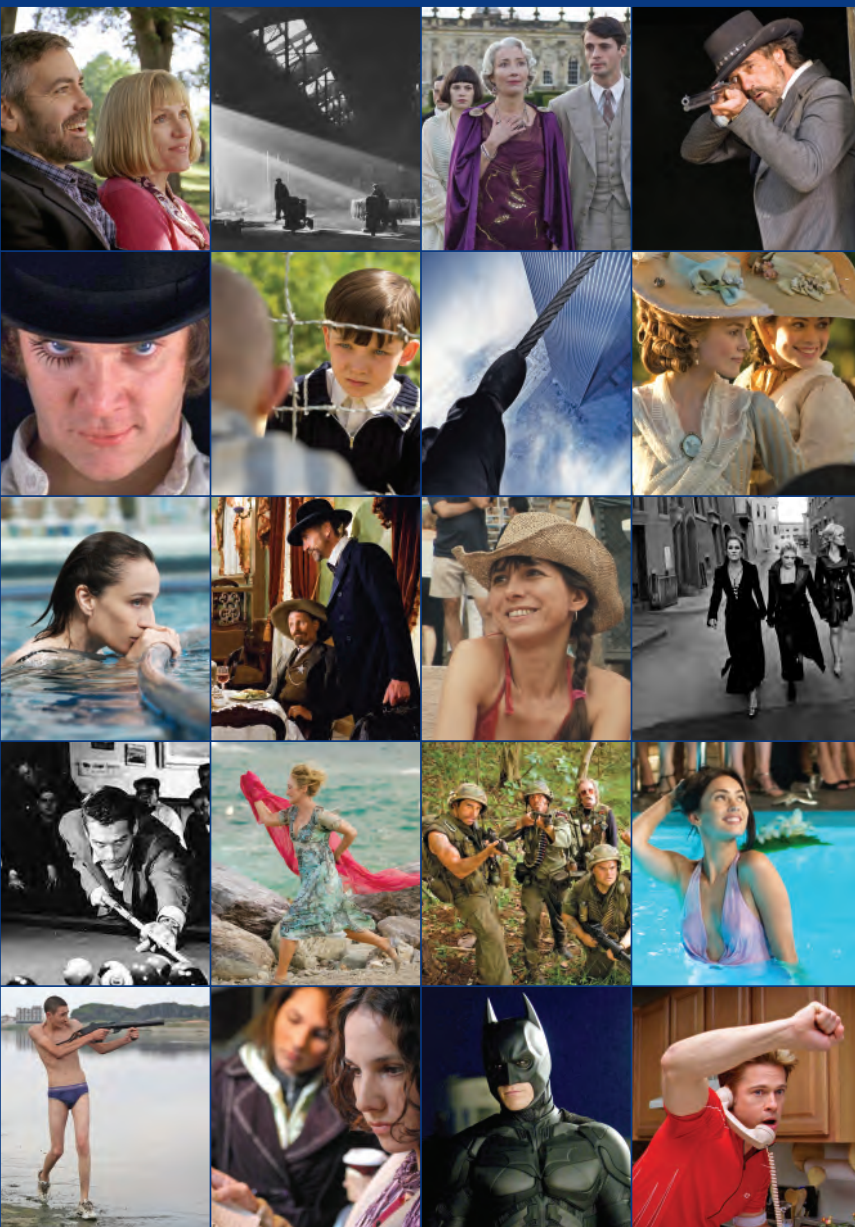
In 1962 with his new family he moved away from Hollywood and all its trappings to Connecticut. A bold move, especially just after the *Hustler*. If you weren't on or 'in' the scene you were invisible, forgotten. He described Connecticut as "not important, its geography." Immensely private and wary of fans, he kept out of it all, stayed in the shade, until a part came along worth the ride.

A true quiet rebel, .....Right to the end he claimed his proudest achievement was being 19th on the list of Richard Nixon's enemies. *'The Hustler' is on Monday 17 November 7.30*



"For a moment there I thought we were in trouble" (the closing line from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*: 1969)





N O V E M B E R   E V E N I N G S

## Tropic Thunder

Sat 1 7.00, Sun 2 6.00



**"It gives us exactly what we expect. Lashings of easy fun, no-expense-spared action and a dig at the absurdity of Hollywood.** The stars delightedly push the boat out in grotesque parody. Subtle it is not, even though it clearly thinks it is." (*Standard*) In this gleefully below-the-belt jab at the film world, Stiller creates the preposterous. His character is Tugg Speedman, a former A-list action star who is rapidly sliding down the alphabet. "Not only is the comedy cruelly perceptive and savagely unforgiving of the shallow self-importance of those in the movie business, it is a creditable action flick with a pyrotechnics budget Michael Bay would envy. Not only does Stiller blow up helicopters galore, he does it for laughs... It is a brilliant premise, executed with bravura, guns and a healthy disregard for PC sensibilities." (*Times Knowledge*)

There's a cameo from a Hollywood hot-shot, not known for humour, as an uncredited foulmouthed studio executive...

"Downey Jr is unquestionably the star not only in the absurdity of his character, but the extremes to which he takes it." (*Telegraph*)

It has been panned and praised and talked about so much you've got to see for yourselves. On the other hand anything with Steve Coogan is worth missing.

**Director:** Ben Stiller  
**Starring:** Jack Black, Steve Coogan, Robert Downey Jr  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Unrelated

Q&A with Joanna Hogg after the film

Mon 3 7.30

**Director:** Joanna Hogg  
**Starring:** Kathryn Worth, Mary Roscoe, Tom Hiddleston  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** New Wave

**"This heralds the long overdue arrival of a serious new talent in British cinema."**

Joanna Hogg's debut is a brilliantly uncomfortable study of a forty year old woman who takes time out from her deteriorating, childless marriage to join a friend's family holiday in Italy. Anna's world is subtly unravelled to reveal the rest of a deep and bitterly cold iceberg. "Using professionals and non-actors to credible effect, this is touching, original and refreshing." (*crits*) "From nowhere, a first-time British filmmaker has made an accomplished, confident feature, dripping with technique. An exhilarating, fascinating film, and what a find we have in Joanna Hogg." (*Guardian*) 'what a find we have!' is one for the q&a.

"It feels significantly different from the British mainstream, clogged with romantic comedies, mockney gangster flicks and period adaptations. It has to do with the luminous sense of space and the stillness of the camera." (*Independent*) It is this stillness of camera which is central. We look forward to meeting its stillness director - Joanna Hogg. Plan your day around the Q&A. This is a privilege and a rare coup. It's Monday, who cares? Come to stay.



## Shut up and Sing

Tue 4 7.30



**This is to celebrate eight years in the safe hands of George W Bush.**

In March 2003 with Iraqi invasion on 'red-alert', Natalie Maines declared, on-stage at the Shepherds Bush Empire, "We're ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas". With that the best-selling female band in US chart history descended into a dangerous brave new world.

Blacklisted, branded as traitors with death threats, the Chixies went from "Best Selling Female Band in History" to "Hated Red State Pariahs" Here we see their first worried reactions, apologising hoping it will blow over. Slowly they start questioning. Then comes anger. We see them standing close to each other against a colossal and very dirty campaign.

A fantastic evolution. They are gorgeous in every way. Pity about their loud-mouthed (Brit pretending Oz) manager - more Bush than Chick. Hope he is past tense.

Come for their faces, dignity, music and presence of mind in the face of them god-fearin' folks cheerfully ready to "string 'em up"

So here's to a Blazing Saddles election with that immortal line lifting Barack Obama into the White House. It makes no difference of course. If he wins he will be assassinated within two years by that tired 'lone gunman' posing as a terrorist.

**Directors:** Barbara Kopple, Cecilia Peck  
**Starring:** Natalie Maines, Martie Maguire, Emily Robison  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Man on Wire

Wed 5 7.30

**Director:** James Marsh  
**Starring:** David Frank, Ardis Campbell, Philippe Petit, David Demato  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

**On August 7th 1974 at 7.15am Philippe Petit stepped off the South Tower...**

Even though we know he makes it, Marsh makes it a heartstopping ride.

Described by Petit and his co-conspirators as the "artistic crime of the century" is here lovingly recreated through archive material, dramatic reconstruction and most importantly, insightful interviews. Their story unfolds in heist film-style, as 450 lbs of steel cable, plus rigging and people are smuggled to the top of the twin towers over a single week! "We had security passes and everything!"

His previous illegal coups were high-wiring between the spires of Notre Dam Cathedral in Paris and the giant northern pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge. He is self-absorbed, determined, bright and irritating in nearly equal measure with a charisma demanding absolute loyalty. Only two or three out of the six or seven early recruits submit to it unflinchingly. His courageous accomplices and a beautiful girlfriend were in grave danger if caught. Still they stayed to prepare the ground (air) for him. The best, most loyal and bravest are drawn to tears by the end. How he funded his escapades is never asked. So too, that 9/11 is never mentioned gives the film weight, remembering they weren't built to become grim symbols, nor an impromptu mid-air stage for a French acrobat.



# The Dark Knight

**Thu 6 7.00, Fri 7 7.00,  
Sat 8 6.30, Sun 9 5.30**

**Overlong, overhyped and overdue but from all accounts - fabulous.** Finally it is here. Don't blame you if you didn't wait.

The plot, as if it matters...

Bruce Wayne dreams of a future when Gotham City no longer needs a caped crusader so he can settle down with his former love Rachel. But Rachel is now with Gotham's other hope of salvation, the idealistic district attorney Harvey Dent. Retirement is not an option for either man while the Joker is terrorizing the city. But...

"Ledger is chilling - his Joker smacks his lips obscenely as he taunts his victims. The CGI-heavy conclusion aside, this is phenomenally powerful stuff, infused with a brooding intelligence and anger. The tortured Bat is truly a hero for our troubled times."

*(Times, Knowledge)* And no doubt fed up playing second fiddle to a deceased joker.

"Ledger makes a great, freaky Joker, with dirty, lank hair, a voice that soars and dives, and a tongue that slithers and salivates... hanging out of the window of a speeding car, tasting the air like a reptile, with the soundtrack falling silent in tribute, freezing this psychotic, iconic villain in time and allowing for a moment of sadness amid the noise..."

It's all very monumental, with the many self-conscious moments saved from giggles by yet another explosion..."

*(Time Out)*



<b>Director:</b>	Christopher Nolan
<b>Starring:</b>	Heath Ledger, Michael Caine, Christian Bale, Morgan Freeman
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	152 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	USA 2008
<b>By:</b>	Warner Brothers





## I've Loved You So Long

Mon 10 7.30



**This is an intelligent and compassionate portrayal of the power of love and the fragility of forgiveness, beautifully told in French.**

Claudel's debut won two prizes at this year's Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why. This beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is utterly engrossing and deeply moving.

Kristin Scott-Thomas is extraordinary playing against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman just released from 15 years in prison. Emotionally and physically ground down by years of guilt and anguish, Juliette goes to stay with her younger sister Léa (Zylberstein). Léa has a full life as a wife and mother, and Juliette struggles to find her place in her sibling's close-knit world. As the sisters gradually rediscover common ground and a way of reaching each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

**Director:** Philippe Claudel  
**Starring:** Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

## The Duchess

Tue 11 7.30

**Director:** Saul Dibb  
**Starring:** Keira Knightley, Charlotte Rampling, Ralph Fiennes  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

**The Duchess tells the story of Georgiana Spencer, a beautiful, charismatic woman whose mother, Lady Spencer (Rampling), has arranged an adventurous marriage to the Duke of Devonshire (Fiennes).**

Her romantic notions are soon dashed by a man who shows more interest in his dogs than he does his wife.

She endures numerous humiliations, including accepting his illegitimate daughter into their home, and finds his displeasure only intensifies as she gives birth to two daughters.

"Dibb has already proven himself an able director of actors and there is an array of fine performances here, including Charlotte Rampling's steely, eternally practical mother and Ralph Fiennes' multi-faceted Devonshire that delves behind his cruelty. Fiennes makes him witty, saturnine, surprisingly tolerant at times and well-rounded. He almost steals the show from Kiera and offers fair reason why Georgiana may have grown to respect the man she once resented with such fury." (*Screen Int*)

"The grand houses. The glorious interiors. The awe-inspiring lobbies and entrances with marble floors washed with natural light. The wigs. The Whigs. The elegant country houses with their beautiful, innocent daughters romping on wonderful lawns. All of it murmurs "England" so excessively I half-expected the usherette to check my National Trust membership." (*PB Guardian*)



# The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

**Wed 12 7.30, Thu 13 7.30**

**Chronicling the forbidden friendship between Bruno, the son of a concentration camp commandant and young Jewish inmate Shmuel, this is a heartbreaking exploration of the innocence of childhood.**

Content with his comfortable life in Berlin, Bruno is upset to find himself uprooted along with his sister Gretl, to a small country house which isn't half as much fun as his city home. Bored and curious, Bruno decides to explore the neighbouring farm where everyone is dressed so strangely. And why isn't he allowed to talk to his new friend Shmuel...?

"The acting is heartfelt, but the film carries a heaped cargo of conceits... were camp inmates really able to slope off for a casual chat with passers-by?" (*Guardian*) "It's a beautifully balanced chamber piece. The cast is terrific...and despite moments of improbable whimsy, this is a hugely affecting film." (*Times*)

Holocaust fiction always treads a fine line between horrifying power and mawkish sentimentality; this is no exception.

For every individual narked by the more Ashridge-than-Auschwitz accents (deliberately scripted so not to distract with ridiculous 've vill' voices) many more will be moved to tears by the all too human voice of an unspeakable evil. Judge for yourself but don't miss.



<b>Director:</b>	Mark Herman
<b>Starring:</b>	Rupert Friend, Vera Farmiga, David Thewlis, David Heyman
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	94 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	UK, USA 2008
<b>By:</b>	Buena Vista International



# COMEDY NIGHT

Fri 14 7.30



**This is our first foray into live stuff since Humph and our first comedy night.**

I'm looking forward to it with all the joy of a Mamma Mia singalong.

Comedians dream of being on the big screen. Tonight The Rex offers them the next best thing... standing in front of it.

**MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE** has done films: a DJ in Love Actually and a radio host in Kevin Spacey's Beyond the Sea. He stars in the fabulous Now Show (BBC.R4) and Giles Wembley Hogg. His TV credits include Room 101, Have I Got News For You and even Question Time?

**HOWARD READ** is the only comedian who performs a double act with an animated six year old boy! Nominated for a Perrier Award, appeared at 2007's Royal Variety Performance, Tonight With Jay Leno and wrote R4's Peacefully in their Sleep.

**MILTON JONES** is one of the finest gag writers in the country. His Radio 4 series' include the House of Milton Jones and Another Case of Milton Jones. Awarded all kinds of things by Time Out.

Hosted by **ROBIN INCE** whose mischief includes R4's Just A Minute, The Now Show (covering when Marcus is skiing), Loose Ends and Armando Iannucci's Charm Offensive. His first feature film, Razzle Dazzle, has never been shown at the Rex and he's pretty tetchy about that... It's probably on that new fangled digital thingamy, so Robin for the next five years 'pretty tetchy' is the best you'll get.

It promises to be a fun evening. A first not to be missed.

## Mamma Mia

Sat 15 7.00

**Director:** Phyllida Lloyd  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Christine Baranski, Julie Walters  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

### Here we go again... my my – well well?

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F and the acting grade K. The three men 'singing' is fun. Julie W saves it more than once. But the sun shines and the sea sparkles Med-blue the whole time.

Everybody left unable to stop smiling from each show in Aug, Sept and Oct. It gifted me with a kind of RSI, permanently looping: "Thank you for the music..." around my brain. An ironic affliction which no doubt serves me right. Come, laugh, sing along and dance in the aisles, but please... hate it just a little.



## Stanley Kubricks: A Clockwork Orange

Sun 16 5.00

**Director:** Stanley Kubrick  
**Starring:** Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Warren Clarke, Michael Bay  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 137 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1971  
**By:** Warner Brothers

**“Welly, welly, well.” Our Kubrick season continues with “the adventures of a young man whose principal interests are ultra-violence, rape and Beethoven.”**

Based on Antony Burgess’ 1962 novel and set in a futuristic and dystopian Britain (filmed in part in a futuristic and dystopian-looking Radlett), A Clockwork Orange tells the story of Alex DeLarge (Malcolm McDowell), leader of a small band of thugs known as droogs.

When the law eventually catches up with him, he undergoes shocking experimental aversion therapy to rid him of his psychopathic tendencies. However, all does not go according to plan...

Nominated for four Oscars in 1971, A Clockwork Orange is undoubtedly one of the most controversial films ever. Kubrick himself voluntarily withdrew it for 27 years. Only re-released after his death, the film continues to provoke debate today. A highly intelligent treatise on aspects of morality and the then-modern psychotherapy? A brutal sci-fi flick with a career defining performance from McDowell? Never more relevant to the epidemic of street violence? You choose. Come and see the film that spawned a thousand pop-culture references. Bring along your Droogs and cane, and the bar will serve you milk all night.



## The Hustler

Remembering Paul Newman....

Mon 17 7.30



**With his second Oscar nomination for this Robert Rossen 1961 classic, Paul Newman was on his way.**

Fast-Eddie Felson (Newman) is a talented, self-destructive pool-hustler ruthlessly ‘managed’ by a very scary George C Scott. He takes the challenge to play the legendary Minnesota Fats (the legendary Jackie Gleason) for the highest stakes. The tension created by all on screen and behind camera, and that music is just as electric today and Piper Laurie as Eddie’s crippled girl friend is beautifully measured. The film was also remarkable for its realistic portrayal of New York’s seedy and menacing pool hall life. Shot entirely on location there, Rossen actually hired real-life street thugs as extras after enrolling them as ‘actors’ in the Screen Actors Guild! Look out for Jake LaMotta - bartender. Cancel Tuesday - don’t miss.

**Director:** Robert Rossen  
**Starring:** Paul Newman, George C Scott, Jackie Gleason, Piper Laurie, Myron McCormick, Murray Hamilton, Michael Constantine  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 135 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1961  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



# How to Lose Friends and Alienate People

**Tue 18 7.30, Wed 19 7.30**

The big-screen translation of Brit journalist Toby Young's doomed sojourn at Vanity Fair magazine, **How To Make...** is a slick package.

"Young was the cringe worthy, not terrifically sympathetic protagonist of his own amusing book, and if anyone could pull this loser off, it is Pegg, who completely convinces and even makes the character attractive." (*Screen International*) Jones said Pegg "plays it straight yet somehow makes me likeable which is something I never managed to do"

Perhaps Toby should fade gracefully and let Pegg play him in real life?

"Sit-com characters don't work on film. He never develops nor needs to. He is of no interest. Sitcoms don't ask what happened before for instance: A film asks who and what and how things happen. Ideally it has ninety minutes to tell the whole story – beginning, middle and end, plus sequel cliff hanger.

How did he get such a job? Why would anyone employ him?

The director hasn't decided if he's funny because he's awful or because he's an idiot. It doesn't deserve to do well. It's at best an easily forgotten television comedy about an unlikeable twerp made likeable by a confused Simon Pegg." (*BBC The Film Prog*) Come for him.



**Director:** Robert Weide  
**Starring:** Kirsten Dunst, Gillian Anderson, Simon Pegg, Jeff Bridges  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures



# Appaloosa

**Thu 20 7.30**

**Ed Harris returns to directing with this thoughtful and clever little tale.**

Set in the Old West territory of New Mexico, it revolves around a pair of hired guns, Mortensen and Harris, who come to clean up a dangerous town run by a ruthless, powerful rancher, the indulgent and enjoyably thuggish Jeremy Irons. Sounds like the familiar plot of all old Westerns, but wait... While boldly bringing order to the town, these fearless lawmen meet a provocative and unconventional outsider. Enter Ms Renee...

"Photographed handsomely with wide-angled majesty, the film does precious little myth-making, though Harris subtly twists some of the genre's conventions – shootouts are brief, and death, when it comes, is quick." (*Guardian*)

There is a creeping sense the two polite gunmen are already relics in the new order about to replace the wildness of the west. Irons is the face of budding corporate America. His fortune, built on bloody money will soon buy respectability... Sound familiar?

This gem should not be missed particularly if you don't like westerns. Like all the best ones, there's more to it than saloon shoot-outs. Besides it is beautifully shot and wittily directed by Ed Harris, showing how bald does it best. Come for that, but don't miss.



<b>Director:</b>	Ed Harris
<b>Starring:</b>	Jeremy Irons, Timothy Spall, Viggo Mortenson, Ed Harris, Renee Zellweger
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	115 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	USA 2008
<b>By:</b>	Entertainment Film Distribution



# Burn after Reading

**Fri 21 7.30, Sat 22 7.00,**  
**Tue 25 7.30, Wed 26 7.30**

**They say the Coens seem to follow a gem with an also ran. No Country For Old Men is the hardest of hard acts to follow.** So Burn After Reading doesn't try. It is a tightly wound, slickly plotted spy comedy which couldn't be in starker contrast. It is fast moving with lots of attitude, uncorking killer punches throughout.

Set in Washington DC, it paints the heart of America's political establishment as goofy, chaotic and decidedly non-sinister, just like any local authority Planning Dept!

It moves in four directions at the same time. Osbourne Cox (Malkovich) is a superannuated CIA analyst who is given the push. A computer disc containing his explosive memoirs is left in a locker-room. (Sounds familiar?) It ends up in the gormless clutches of Chad Feldheimer (Pitt) and Linda Litzke (McDormand). For the other two directions you'll have to wait and see. Suffice to say it is very cleverly put together with the The Coens taking the audience on their usual ride, but never leaving us out.

It is crammed with all their brilliant throwaway touches. The brothers' gift for making their A-list stars look like they enjoy looking like buffoons, is to everybody's credit.

<b>Director:</b>	Coen Brothers
<b>Starring:</b>	George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, John Malkovich
<b>Certificate:</b>	15
<b>Duration:</b>	110 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	USA 2008
<b>By:</b>	Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



## La Buena Vida – A UK Premiere Sun 23 5.00



We are privileged to be the first to screen *La Buena Vida* in the UK.

Andres Wood, focused on Pinochet's 1973 pogroms for *MACHUCA*.

In *LA BUENA VIDA* he looks at three lives in Santiago today.

*Machuca* won eight International awards on first release in 2005 and was greeted by warm applause.

Through distribution worldwide, *La Buena Vida* is likely to take many more.

Like many modern tales it tells the story of a world city through the lives a few characters. Their lives we will recognise from our own...

Mario, part Mapuche Indian returns home after three years studying music in Berlin and determined to join the Philharmonic Orchestra. He is 23, hopeful but reluctant. Edmundo, 40, hairdresser and 'holistic therapist', wants to buy a car. He lives with his mother and needs her to guarantee a loan. But the 35-year lease on his father's grave is up...!

Teresa is forty something and fairly well-off. She is hardworking divorced with a troubled teenager. She wants her ex-husband back, or does she?

Like all cities Santiago is as cruel as the next. More so perhaps. given the atrocities of brutal dictatorship still well within living memory.

Even London knows great cruelty without the excuse of oppression.

*La Buena Vida* is universal. Don't miss.

### British Premiere

**Director:** Andres Wood

**Writer/**

**Producer:** Mamoun Hassan

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** tbc

**Origin:** Chile 2008

## Gomorrah Mon 24 7.30

**Director:** Matteo Garrone  
**Starring:** Salvatore Abruzzese, Simone Sacchettino, Maria Nazionale, Salvatore Cantalupo  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 137 mins  
**Origin:** Italy 2008  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**Grand Prix winner at Cannes, Matteo Garrone's *Gomorrah* is an unfussy and urgent look at the underbelly of Naples organised crime network, the Camorra.**

Refreshingly for the Mafia genre, the film deals mainly with those at the bottom of the hierarchy. There are no insanely charismatic Scarfaces or cotton-wool jowled Dons in this realistic drama. Nor is it over bloody or overtly spectacular.

Its author and screen writer, Roberto Saviano has been in hiding under carabinieri protection since its publication in 2006!

Shot in the very areas of Naples the camorra dominate, Garrone's bleak and intensely powerful film is the direct antithesis of Hollywood style Mafia-flicks.

"Mafia films have always sated their audiences' desire for big hits, splattering gunshots, etc. In *The Godfather*, Coppola creates an elegant counterpoint between a christening and a massacre; Scorsese's *Casino* opens with an operatic car bomb...but these violent moments pass quickly. As *Gomorrah* so powerfully demonstrates, the survivors' fear lingers on..." (*Guardian*)

"Sometimes difficult to follow, it may not be a perfect movie, but it is memorable, angry at what it finds and determined not to find lily-white heroes or colourful villains." (*Standard*) Don't miss.





# Of Time and The City

**Thu 27 7.30**

**After years of neglect, Terence Davies was feted at Cannes this year.**

While still in limbo and a fair chunk of purgatory, he came last year to talk to us about Distant Voices Still Lives.

He was inspiring, entertaining, angry, mischievous, witty and talked honestly about everything. When he got fed up he quoted TS Eliot.

He seemed murderous toward and murdered by the whole British film industry.

Come again or for the first time to listen to the murdered man who has lived to tell the tale.

He is now feted as Britain's greatest living (and most skint) film-maker.

"Screened to unprecedented acclaim at Cannes, Of Time And The City marks the much welcomed return to the screen of Terence Davies, arguably the UK's most distinctive filmmaker. Created as part of the Digital Departures scheme, set up by..." yeah, yeah, yeah... The film will remind all those old enough to forget and might inspire the young to stand in the way of such bad town planning.

His music is perfect, especially Peggy Lee's melting; 'The Folks Who Live on The Hill' set to images of heartbreaking 'slum clearance' ready for the new slums. Come for all this, then come for him, you'll be mesmerised. It's midweek, so plan to stay out late.



<b>Director:</b>	Terence Davies
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	72 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	UK 2008
<b>By:</b>	British Film Institute



# Brideshead Revisited

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

**"Someone once said the only thing worse than nuclear war was Evelyn Waugh!**

Maybe he'd seen this..." (*Daily Mirror*)

Charles Ryder arrives at Oxford, only to fall in with one of the "sodomites" he's been warned about, namely the aristocratic Sebastian Flyte. Becoming close pals, and possibly lovers, Charles is invited to visit Brideshead, where he falls for his pal's opulent lifestyle, not to mention his beautiful sister Julia.

But his hopes of fitting in seemed doomed from the start. Icy and bigoted, Lady Marchmain has driven her son to alcohol, her daughter to the edge of madness and her husband (Michael Gambon) into the arms of a mistress in Venice!

While they're all played brilliantly, you end up not liking them very much. Waugh's sandpaper dry wit seems squashed, leaving us with a period romp, all big frocks, quivering upper lips and not much else.

The same tale condensed to 132 minutes can hardly compare with the 1981 extravagantly detailed television epic shown in hour long episodes over eleven weeks, and meticulously faithful to the book.

Beautifully shot and styled throughout, Castle Howard keeps it loyal familiar, but one's heart yearns to see the exquisite Diana Quick sashaying down that sweeping staircase.



<b>Director:</b>	Julian Jarrold
<b>Starring:</b>	Michael Gambon, Emma Thompson, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell, Matthew Goode
<b>Certificate:</b>	12A
<b>Duration:</b>	132 mins
<b>Origin:</b>	UK 2008
<b>By:</b>	Buena Vista International



## COMING SOON

### New releases

Rock n Rolla  
Quantum of Solace  
Easy Virtue  
Changeling

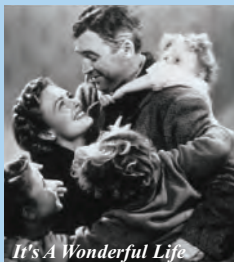
### Back by demand

The World's Fastest Indian  
Brideshed Revisited  
Miss Pettigrew  
Casablanca  
Singing In The Rain

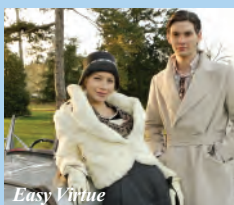
### Other Christmas movies

White Christmas  
Miracle on 34th Street  
Polar Express  
It's A Wonderful Life

*Quantum of Solace*



*It's A Wonderful Life*



*Easy Virtue*

## NOVEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	SAT	WALL-E	2.00
1	SAT	TROPIC THUNDER	7.00
2	SUN	TROPIC THUNDER	6.00
3	MON	UNRELATED	2.00
3	MON	UNRELATED/Q&A JOANNA HOGG	7.30
4	TUE	TROPIC THUNDER	12.30
4	TUE	SHUT UP AND SING	7.30
5	WED	MAN ON WIRE	2.00, 7.30
6	THU	SUMMER HOURS	2.00
6	THU	THE DARK KNIGHT	7.00
7	FRI	THE DARK KNIGHT	7.00
8	SAT	THE DARK KNIGHT	1.30, 6.30
9	SUN	THE DARK KNIGHT	5.30
10	MON	THE DARK KNIGHT	1.30
10	MON	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	7.30
11	TUE	THE DUCHESS	12.30
11	TUE	THE DUCHESS	7.30
12	WED	THE DUCHESS	2.00
12	WED	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	7.30
13	THU	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	2.00
13	THU	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS	7.30
14	FRI	LIVE COMEDY	7.30
15	SAT	MAMMA MIA (SINGALONG)	2.00, 7.00
16	SUN	A CLOCKWORK ORANGE	5.00
17	MON	THE HUSTLER	2.00, 7.30
18	TUE	HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE	12.30, 7.30
19	WED	MISS PETTIGREW	2.00
19	WED	HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE	7.30
20	THU	MISS PETTIGREW	2.00
20	THU	APPALLOOSA	7.30
21	FRI	BURN AFTER READING	7.30
22	SAT	CARS	2.00
22	SAT	BURN AFTER READING	7.00
23	SUN	LA BUENA VIDA INTRODUCED BY MAMOUN HASSAN	5.00
24	MON	BURN AFTER READING	2.00
24	MON	GOMORRAH	7.30
25	TUE	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	12.30
25	TUE	BURN AFTER READING	7.30
26	WED	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	2.00
26	WED	BURN AFTER READING	7.30
27	THU	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	2.00
27	THU	TIME AND THE CITY/ Q&A TERENCE DAVIES	7.30
28	FRI	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	7.30
29	SAT	IGOR	2.00
29	SAT	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	7.00
30	SUN	BRIDESHEAD REVISITED	6.00



# N O V E M B E R 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*



## Wall-E

### Sat 1 2.00

**Director:** Andrew Stanton  
**Starring:** Kathy Najimy, Sigourney Weaver, John Ratzenberger, Fred Willard  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 103 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International

**This is one of the most brilliant animations in a long list of brilliant animations over the last ten years.**

The detail is faultless and though the message is bleak, it states it clearly from the outset but never dwells upon it.

Wall-e is a square box with tank treads for feet and binoculars for a face.

It would seem impossible to draw character let alone emotion from such a jumble of parts, but by some miracle of genius it does.

To help, it is from the same pencils and imagination that brought embarrassed disgrace to the angle-poise lamp 'who' pounds the pixar 'i' into the ground. The year is 2700. WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter - Earth-Class) is a robot who spends every day organising the rubbish left behind by mankind. Soon he will discover his noble destiny. From Oscar winning director Andrew Stanton, WALL-E is the story of one robot's comic adventures as he chases his dream across the galaxy. "This latest animated feature from Pixar is said to be amongst its finest. It is witty, profound and beautifully realised, with a faint whiff of E.T." (*Standard*) It is a true gem not to be missed. Bring a grown-up to explain it to...



## Unrelated

### Q&A with Joanna Hogg after the film

### Mon 3 2.00



**"This heralds the long overdue arrival of a serious new talent in British cinema."**

Joanna Hogg's debut is a brilliantly uncomfortable study of a forty year old woman who takes time out from her deteriorating, childless marriage to join a friend's family holiday in Italy. Anna's world is subtly unravelled to reveal the rest of a deep and bitterly cold iceberg. "Using professionals and non-actors to credible effect, this is touching, original and refreshing." (*crits*)

"From nowhere, a first-time British filmmaker has made an accomplished, confident feature, dripping with technique. An exhilarating, fascinating film, and what a find we have in Joanna Hogg." (*Guardian*) 'what a find we have!' is one for the q&a.

"It feels significantly different from the British mainstream, clogged with romantic comedies, mockney gangster flicks and period adaptations. It has to do with the luminous sense of space and the stillness of the camera." (*Independent*) It is this stillness of camera which is central. We look forward to meeting its stillness director - Joanna Hogg. Plan your day around the Q&A. This is a privilege and a rare coup. It's Monday, who cares? Come to stay.

**Director:** Joanna Hogg  
**Starring:** Kathryn Worth, Mary Roscoe, Tom Hiddleston  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** New Wave

## Tropic Thunder

**Tue 4 12.30**

**Director:** Ben Stiller  
**Starring:** Jack Black, Steve Coogan, Robert Downey Jr  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

**“It gives us exactly what we expect. Lashings of easy fun, no-expense-spared action and a dig at the absurdity of Hollywood.** The stars delightedly push the boat out in grotesque parody. Subtle it is not, even though it clearly thinks it is.” (*Standard*) In this gleefully below-the-belt jab at the film world, Stiller creates the preposterous. His character is Tugg Speedman, a former A-list action star who is rapidly sliding down the alphabet. “Not only is the comedy cruelly perceptive and savagely unforgiving of the shallow self-importance of those in the movie business, it is a creditable action flick with a pyrotechnics budget Michael Bay would envy. Not only does Stiller blow up helicopters galore, he does it for laughs... It is a brilliant premise, executed with bravura, guns and a healthy disregard for PC sensibilities.” (*Times Knowledge*)

There’s a cameo from a Hollywood hot-shot, not known for humour, as an uncredited foulmouthed studio executive...?

“Downey Jr is unquestionably the star not only in the absurdity of his character, but the extremes to which he takes it.” (*Telegraph*)

It has been panned and praised and talked about so much you’ve got to see for yourselves. On the other hand anything with Steve Coogan is worth missing.



## Man on Wire

**Wed 5 2.00**



**On August 7th 1974 at 7.15am Philippe Petit stepped off the South Tower...**

Even though we know he makes it, Marsh makes it a heartstopping ride.

Described by Petit and his co-conspirators as the “artistic crime of the century” is here lovingly recreated through archive material, dramatic reconstruction and most importantly, insightful interviews. Their story unfolds in heist film-style, as 450 lbs of steel cable, plus rigging and people are smuggled to the top of the twin towers over a single week! “We had security passes and everything!”

His previous illegal coups were high-wiring between the spires of Notre Dam Cathedral in Paris and the giant northern pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge. He is self-absorbed, determined, bright and irritating in nearly equal measure with a charisma demanding absolute loyalty. Only two or three out of the six or seven early recruits submit to it unflinchingly. His courageous accomplices and a beautiful girlfriend were in grave danger if caught. Still they stayed to prepare the ground (air) for him. The best, most loyal and bravest are drawn to tears by the end. How he funded his escapades is never asked. So too, that 9/11 is never mentioned gives the film weight, remembering they weren’t built to become grim symbols, nor an impromptu mid-air stage for a French acrobat.

**Director:** James Marsh  
**Starring:** David Frank, Ardis Campbell, Philippe Petit, David Demato  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

## Summer Hours

Thu 6 2.00

**Director:** Olivier Assayas  
**Starring:** Jeremie Renier, Charles Berling, Juliette Binoche  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 102 mins  
**Origin:** France 2008  
**By:** Artificial Eye

**For those who were thwarted by a missing matinee in September...**

This beautifully observed and played drama follows the troubled fate of a priceless private art collection, as family members disagree over its best use. Preserve or sell? Display or protect? With a stunning cast this is an intelligent and tender assessment of the power of memory and the value of objects. "A poignant tale of people dealing with the logistics of bereavement." (*S Times Culture*)

"Assayas's most fully satisfying film for some while, this is a warm, wise drama about the tensions and mysteries of family life.

The whole family gathers for an idyllic lunch to celebrate the 75th birthday of their widowed mother Helene...

While never ignoring the grief death causes, Assayas refuses to sentimentalise it. It's a film of deft nuances, particularly alert to the fact that everyone has his or her reasons for everything.

Perhaps the characters are finally a little too decent but it would be churlish to bemoan the generosity of spirit in a film so beautifully performed, intelligently written and fluently directed." (*Time Out*). Juliette Binoche is glorious as always, but not enough of her. Ensemble doesn't suit her. She is better on her own...



## The Dark Knight

Sat 8 1.30, Mon 10 1.30



**Overlong, overhyped and overdue but from all accounts - fabulous.** Finally it is here. Don't blame you if you didn't wait.

The plot, as if it matters...

Bruce Wayne dreams of a future when Gotham City no longer needs a caped crusader so he can settle down with his former love Rachel. But Rachel is now with Gotham's other hope of salvation, the idealistic district attorney Harvey Dent. Retirement is not an option for either man while the Joker is terrorizing the city. But...

"Ledger is chilling – his Joker smacks his lips obscenely as he taunts his victims. The CGI-heavy conclusion aside, this is phenomenally powerful stuff, infused with a brooding intelligence and anger. The tortured Bat is truly a hero for our troubled times."

(*Times, Knowledge*) And no doubt fed up playing second fiddle to a deceased joker.

"Ledger makes a great, freaky Joker, with dirty, lank hair, a voice that soars and dives, and a tongue that slithers and salivates... hanging out of the window of a speeding car, tasting the air like a reptile, with the soundtrack falling silent in tribute, freezing this psychotic, iconic villain in time and allowing for a moment of sadness amid the noise..."

It's all very monumental, with the many self-conscious moments saved from giggles by yet another explosion..." (*Time Out*)

**Director:** Christopher Nolan  
**Starring:** Heath Ledger, Michael Caine, Christian Bale, Morgan Freeman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 152 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Warner Brothers

## The Duchess

**Tue 11 12.30, Wed 12 2.00**

**Director:** Saul Dibb  
**Starring:** Keira Knightley, Charlotte Rampling, Ralph Fiennes  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

**The Duchess tells the story of Georgiana Spencer, a beautiful, charismatic woman whose mother, Lady Spencer (Rampling), has arranged an adventurous marriage to the Duke of Devonshire (Fiennes).**

Her romantic notions are soon dashed by a man who shows more interest in his dogs than he does his wife.

She endures numerous humiliations, including accepting his illegitimate daughter into their home, and finds his displeasure only intensifies as she gives birth to two daughters.

"Dibb has already proven himself an able director of actors and there is an array of fine performances here, including Charlotte Rampling's steely, eternally practical mother and Ralph Fiennes' multi-faceted Devonshire that delves behind his cruelty. Fiennes makes him witty, saturnine, surprisingly tolerant at times and well-rounded. He almost steals the show from Kiera and offers fair reason why Georgiana may have grown to respect the man she once resented with such fury." (*Screen Int*)

"The grand houses. The glorious interiors. The awe-inspiring lobbies and entrances with marble floors washed with natural light. The wigs. The Whigs. The elegant country houses with their beautiful, innocent daughters romping on wonderful lawns. All of it murmurs "England" so excessively I half-expected the usherette to check my National Trust membership." (*PB Guardian*)



## The Boy in Striped Pyjamas

**Thu 13 2.00**



**Chronicling the forbidden friendship between Bruno, the son of a concentration camp commandant and young Jewish inmate Shmuel, this is a heartbreaking exploration of the innocence of childhood.**

Content with his comfortable life in Berlin, Bruno is upset to find himself uprooted along with his sister Gretl, to a small country house which isn't half as much fun as his city home.

Bored and curious, Bruno decides to explore the neighbouring farm where everyone is dressed so strangely. And why isn't he allowed to talk to his new friend Shmuel...?

"The acting is heartfelt, but the film carries a heaped cargo of conceits... were camp inmates really able to slope off for a casual chat with passers-by?" (*Guardian*) "It's a beautifully balanced chamber piece. The cast is terrific...and despite moments of improbable whimsy, this is a hugely affecting film." (*Times*)

Holocaust fiction always treads a fine line between horrifying power and mawkish sentimentality; this is no exception.

For every individual marked by the more Ashridge-than-Auschwitz accents (deliberately scripted so not to distract with ridiculous 've vill' voices) many more will be moved to tears by the all too human voice of an unspeakable evil.

Judge for yourself but don't miss.

**Director:** Mark Herman  
**Starring:** Rupert Friend, Vera Farmiga, David Thewlis, David Heyman  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 94 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International



## Mamma Mia

Sat 15 2.00

**Director:** Phyllida Lloyd  
**Starring:** Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Christine Baranski, Julie Walters  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 98 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

### Here we go again... my my – well well?

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F and the acting grade K. The three men 'singing' is fun. Julie W saves it more than once. But the sun shines and the sea sparkles Med-blue the whole time.

Everybody left unable to stop smiling from each show in Aug, Sept and Oct. It gifted me with a kind of RSI, permanently looping: "Thank you for the music..." around my brain. An ironic affliction which no doubt serves me right. Come, laugh, sing along and dance in the aisles, but please... hate it just a little.



## The Hustler

Remembering Paul Newman....

Mon 17 7.30



**With his second Oscar nomination for this Robert Rossen 1961 classic, Paul Newman was on his way.**

Fast-Eddie Felson (Newman) is a talented, self-destructive pool-hustler ruthlessly 'managed' by a very scary George C Scott. He takes the challenge to play the legendary Minnesota Fats (the legendary Jackie Gleason) for the highest stakes. The tension created by all on screen and behind camera, and that music is just as electric today and Piper Laurie as Eddie's crippled girl friend is beautifully measured. The film was also remarkable for its realistic portrayal of New York's seedy and menacing pool hall life. Shot entirely on location there, Rossen actually hired real-life street thugs as extras after enrolling them as 'actors' in the Screen Actors Guild! Look out for Jake LaMotta - bartender. Cancel Tuesday - don't miss.

**Director:** Robert Rossen  
**Starring:** Paul Newman, George C Scott, Jackie Gleason, Piper Laurie, Myron McCormick, Murray Hamilton, Michael Constantine  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 135 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1961  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

## How to Lose Friends and Alienate People

Tue 18 12.30

**Director:** Robert Weide  
**Starring:** Kirsten Dunst, Gillian Anderson, Simon Pegg, Jeff Bridges  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

**The big-screen translation of Brit journalist Toby Young's doomed sojourn at Vanity Fair magazine, *How To Make...* is a slick package.**

"Young was the cringe worthy, not terrifically sympathetic protagonist of his own amusing book, and if anyone could pull this loser off, it is Pegg, who completely convinces and even makes the character attractive." (*Screen International*)

Jones said Pegg "plays it straight yet somehow makes me likeable which is something I never managed to do" Perhaps Toby should fade gracefully and let Pegg play him in real life?

"Sit-com characters don't work on film. He never develops nor needs to. He is of no interest. Sitcoms don't ask what happened before for instance: A film asks who and what and how things happen. Ideally it has ninety minutes to tell the whole story – beginning, middle and end, plus sequel cliff hanger.

How did he get such a job? Why would anyone employ him?

The director hasn't decided if he's funny because he's awful or because he's an idiot. It doesn't deserve to do well. It's at best an easily forgotten television comedy about an unlikeable twerp made likeable by a confused Simon Pegg." (*BBC The Film Prog*) Come for him.



## Miss Pettigrew

Wed 19 2.00, Thu 20 2.00



**Can you find a new life and discover love, all in one day? Two women are about to find out.** There is something of 'The Sound of Music' meets 'Nanny MacFee' to this tale of frumpy, penniless English governess Guinevere Pettigrew (Frances McDormand).

She is falsely employed as 'social secretary' to American actress Delysia Lafosse (Amy Adams). Her discomfort is immediate. Miss Pettigrew is out of place in a world of Champagne-swilling, bed-hopping cads partying merrily through the warning signs of war. But she has no choice. Her principle problem is juggling the three men in Delysia's bed/life. Fortunately, a big part of her 'accidental' presence, is accidentally to be in the right place at all the right times – and fabulous to watch at all times.

"Lee Pace is miscast as the piano player love interest" No, he is an embarrassment. Might make a Littlewoods' cardigan model but should never be given anything to say – ever, or allowed to pretend to play piano. "Adams is adorable as the wide-eyed would-be starlet, with McDormand spot-on as the sensible half. A delightfully frivolous screwball comedy." (*Time Out*) Ciaran Hinds carries it best. The Rex was considered and photographed for the club setting! So look out for our Original design wavy-line railings in the club scene. (Suing to follow).

**Director:** Bahrat Nalluri  
**Starring:** Shirley Henderson, Ciaran Hinds, Frances McDormand, Amy Adams  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** UK, USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Cars Sat 22 2.00

**Director:** John Lasseter  
**Starring:** Bonnie Hunt, Paul Newman, Cheech Marin, Owen Wilson  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 121 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Buena Vista International

**Three or four years ago great storytellers and high-tech wizards at Pixar teamed up with Oscar winner John Lasseter.** Together they hit the road to play with cars.

I guess if you can do it with toys, bugs and fish, you can do it with cars... Lightning McQueen (Wilson), is a cocky hotshot rookie stock-car driven to succeed.

Until one day, enroute to the big race, he gets lost in the sleepy town of Radiator Springs off Route 66. Here he encounters the off-beats who kindly teach him a thing or two. It is fast, slow, funny and technically brilliant. Packed with pathos, comment and wit. Listen out for the immaculate Paul Newman as Doc Hudson and whoever is the voice of the VW camper. There's the usual American moral in there too, but don't let it sledgehammer you... Come for the ride and especially for the voice of Doc. You'll see at the Rex and on TV as you grow up, but you won't know now.

Ask your mums and dads about Butch C & Sundance K. Then find out for yourselves when you're ready.



## Burn after Reading Mon 24 2.00



**They say the Coens seem to follow a gem with an also ran. No Country For Old Men is the hardest of hard acts to follow.** So Burn After Reading doesn't try. It is a tightly wound, slickly plotted spy comedy which couldn't be in starker contrast. It is fast moving with lots of attitude, uncorking killer punches throughout.

Set in Washington DC, it paints the heart of America's political establishment as goofy, chaotic and decidedly non-sinister, just like any local authority Planning Dept!

It moves in four directions at the same time. Osbourne Cox (Malkovich) is a superannuated CIA analyst who is given the push. A computer disc containing his explosive memoirs is left in a locker-room. (Sounds familiar?) It ends up in the gormless clutches of Chad Feldheimer (Pitt) and Linda Litzke (McDormand). For the other two directions you'll have to wait and see. Suffice to say it is very cleverly put together with the Coens taking the audience on their usual ride, but never leaving us out.

It is crammed with all their brilliant throwaway touches. The brothers' gift for making their A-list stars look like they enjoy looking like buffoons, is to everybody's credit.

**Director:** Coen Brothers  
**Starring:** George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Tilda Swinton, John Malkovich  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 110 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

## Brideshead Revisited

**Tue 25** 12.30, **Wed 26** 2.00,  
**Thu 27** 2.00

**Director:** Julian Jarrold  
**Starring:** Michael Gambon, Emma Thompson, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell, Matthew Goode  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 132 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2008  
**By:** Buena Vista International

**“Someone once said the only thing worse than nuclear war was Evelyn Waugh!**

Maybe he'd seen this...” (*Daily Mirror*) Charles Ryder arrives at Oxford, only to fall in with one of the “sodomites” he's been warned about, namely the aristocratic Sebastian Flyte. Becoming close pals, and possibly lovers, Charles is invited to visit Brideshead, where he falls for his pal's opulent lifestyle, not to mention his beautiful sister Julia.

But his hopes of fitting in seemed doomed from the start. Icy and bigoted, Lady Marchmain has driven her son to alcohol, her daughter to the edge of madness and her husband (Michael Gambon) into the arms of a mistress in Venice!

While they're all played brilliantly, you end up not liking them very much. Waugh's sandpaper dry wit seems squashed, leaving us with a period romp, all big frocks, quivering upper lips and not much else. The same tale condensed to 132 minutes can hardly compare with the 1981 extravagantly detailed television epic shown in hour long episodes over eleven weeks, and meticulously faithful to the book.

Beautifully shot and styled throughout, Castle Howard keeps it loyally familiar, but one's heart yearns to see the exquisite Diana Quick sashaying down that sweeping staircase.



## Igor

**Sat 29** 2.00



**“In a land of mad scientists and diabolical inventions, what do you do when you're born a hunch-back? You become an Igor.** A twist on the classic monster movie, which tells the story of one Igor - who's sick of being a lowly lab assistant with a ‘Yes Master's’ degree. He dreams of becoming an evil scientist. When his cruel master kicks the bucket a week before the annual Evil Science Fair, Igor (Cusack) finally gets his chance.

With the help of two of his experimental creations - Brain, a brain in a jar who's a little light on brains, and Scamper, a cynical bunny brought back to life from a flattened piece of road-kill Igor embarks on building the most evil invention of all time, a huge, ferocious monster.”

**Warning:** (Contains scary scenes and mild insults)

If this synopsis is anything to go by there'll be lots of ‘mild insults’. It sounds like grubby boys stuff. Don't think girls under six will like it much but grown men who should no better, will. So bring your dads to this one.

**Director:** Anthony Leondis  
**Starring:** Christian Slater, John Cleese, John Cusack, Steve Buscemi  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2008  
**By:** Momentum Pictures



## A LATE NIGHT RAMBLE INTO ABSURDITY.



Two images inextricably linked. The first those savage faces, twisted in panic (above). Can you imagine the noise and smell in those pens? Second, the train. (overleaf) I have never understood how money works, though I can see why it “makes the world go around”.

Inflation remains a mystery. Why do we comply with the lie that everything must go up? It defies life’s simplest law – that of gravity, where everything comes down! ‘The economy’ is a foreign language and ‘the market’ is where you buy spuds. Even so, I see what has happened – they’ve lost all our money. We’re ruled, not by hapless governments, but by money-changers as we have been for 2,008 years.

Thatcher was on the ball. She ferociously encouraged this greed-is-good lark. As a result they have not acted properly or responsibly since. “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few” (Churchill from his 1942 Battle of Britain speech in praise of spitfire pilots). If you swap the ‘many’ with the ‘few’ it describes what has just taken place across the globe. What a waste of all that courage and lost lives. These unpleasant people who rule the banks, therefore the world, think history began with the Big Brother house. Bankers have gambled our miserable pennies

between themselves and lost it all while making incidental fortunes for each other. They are not Spitfire pilots they are the spineless who couldn’t care less if the many live or die. This may sound like some communist tretis. Curiously, isn’t it how it all kicked off in the first place? The imagery is the same – ‘Spineless, Bankers and Greed mongers.

It’s too late for that kid to blurt ‘the emperor is naked’. We’re all complicit. We wanted to believe in his fine clothes, even though we too could see his bare bottom. What a silly thing to do. Now our precious world crumbles from the damp palms of these threadbare Spineless, Bankers and Greed mongers.

As for the train... We screened the GPO (General Post Office) film ‘Night Mail’ (1936) early in October. It showed how the post office distributed letters and parcels from London to Scotland by train every night. Forty men (then) sorting the mail on the train. It ran until Thatcher (through Major) privatised the railways in 1996 (only twelve years ago) whereupon ‘Railtrack’ offered the Post Office a 400 or 500% rent increase for the mail train to use its railway lines. Hence the GPO now uses hundreds of lorries and vans on the roads, day and night. Once again let’s hear it for:



Spineless, Bankers and Greed mongers. How about this: Nationalise the NHS, banks, stock exchange, railways, gas, electricity and water. Take charge again as if you were a proper government. Leave the profit- players to their cars, music, double glazing, time share, microsoft, cinema and fashion, etc. Then take over all the essentials of life starting with food, light, shelter, health and freedom of movement and communication. And while you're at it legalise all drugs (how can something that grows in the soil be illegal???). Save billions on jails and police, eliminate the Taliban and crack-houses overnight and watch shares in Boots rocket. Ban e-bay, and on-line sales. Close down overseas call-centres. Make Tesco go underground, its drivers dodging police patrols to get your crème freche to your door. Give facebook to Islamic fundamentalists. Manufacture cars with tiny engines capable of only 30mph (any colour you like...) and take all lorries off the road by setting up train terminals for small vans. Lay new tracks, eat only local produce, teach children every language under the sun at birth, manufacture real bikes for thirty quid, ban helmets and lycra. Let the police raid helmet and lycra-crack houses, put our letters back on the night train and leave us alone.

Spineless, Bankers and Greed mongers, you have shown no respect. You deserve to be stripped of everything and given heavy-lifting duties but that won't happen.

If you paid us what you're paying them to rob us blind...

Just playing with one of Butch Cassidy's lines which doesn't quite work, but hopefully you get some of the picture...

"If they paid me what they're paying them to stop me robbing them, I'd stop robbing them!"

#### HUMPH QUOTES...

I used to look at these pictures of trumpeters pointing their instrument to the ceiling. Stunning pictures, but if you play the trumpet and point it upwards, all the spit comes back into your mouth!

And so as the Rock of Ages is cleft in twain by the karate chop of fate, I notice it has Souvenir of Watford written all the way through it... (10 Jun 1995. Watford)

#### RICK WRIGHT...

Sadly, founder member of Pink Floyd, Rick Wright died on 15th September. He was 65.

There will be a proper tribute to him in December's column.