

THE-REV

M A G A Z I N E

MADE IN DAGENHAM
NOVEMBER...

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

NOVEMBER 2010 Issue 68
www.therexberkhamsted.com

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

Gallery	4-5
November Evenings	11
Coming Soon	24
November Films at a glance	24
November Matinees	25
Rants and Pants	42-44

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The Rex

High Street (Three Close Lane)

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www.therexberkhamsted.com

BEST IN NOVEMBER



Nick Moran here for Q&A after screening.
UK 2010.

The Kid Sun 21 6.00

FILMS OF THE MONTH



8 June 1924, George Mallory and Sandy Irvine went missing... USA 2010.

The Wildest Dream Mon 8 7.30



The mother of all weepies. Come for the moon... USA 1942.

Now Voyager Mon 22 7.30



A precious, haunting, beautiful tale of loyalty and hope, where there is none. France 2005.

A Very Long Engagement Tue 23 7.30

FROM TIME TO TIME WITH JULIAN FELLOWES



Julian and Emma Fellowes Sunday 3rd October

It was a great pleasure to welcome Julian Fellowes and his wife Emma to the Rex again. It was Sunday and his *Downton Abbey* was on TV enjoying 9 million viewers. But he was here at the Rex with *From Time To Time* for an audience of 300! Again he answered audience questions with great wit and charm and thanked his luck as though his prolific talent had little to do it. A true gem, we look forward to welcoming him back early next year for his screenplay of *The Tourist* with Jolie and Depp.



From Time To Time



Downton Abbey



The Fellowes' at home amid the ruins of the Rex box office

THE KID WITH NICK MORAN - SUN 21 NOV

'Heinz' Telstar 2008



The Rex welcomes back welcome back the cooler-by-the-minute, Nick Moran with his second feature: *The Kid*. He told some great stories when he was here last year. We can look forward to more, not only about the making of the film, but the things he's been up to in between. As a film maker it is not his job to answer critics, but he might have some fun words for them. Come for the film and his easy going style and eloquence in improvised Q&A. A Sunday not to be missed.

The exquisite Natascha McElhone not quite herself: *The Kid* 2010Nick Moran
at the Rex
for Telstar
Aug 2009



N O V E M B E R E V E N I N G S

Eat, Pray, Love

Mon 1 7.30



Eating takes precedence over love and prayer in writer-director Ryan Murphy's screen version of Elizabeth Gilbert's hugely popular memoir.

With a career as a successful travel journalist living in a swanky New York apartment, having a post-marital fling with James Franco, things don't appear to be going too badly for Julia Roberts. Yet still, she can't find her "centre". She used to have "an appetite for life" and she's lost it. Woe is her. Clearly what this woman needs is a 12-month voyage of self-discovery around the globe...? "This is expertly wrought pop-psychology; perfect plates of pasta will be consumed in Rome, then the soul will be tended in an Indian ashram, and finally romance will flourish in sultry Bali. In the context of this summer's other lunkheaded fantasies, is that really so offensive?" (*Time Out*)

"A never ending, inward-looking travelogue for devotees of lurve and happy endings. From coast to coast, Roberts coasts." (*Total Film*) Forget the world and its search for the next dry biscuit. Forget these crits. This is about love and finding oneself. It has Julia Roberts all over Javier Bardem on a bicycle in spectacular, exotic locations. So who cares? Such escape is why popular movies are made. So come and wallow on a November Monday.

Director: Ryan Murphy
Starring: Julia Roberts, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Billy Crudup, Richard Jenkins
Certificate: PG
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Leaving

Tue 2 7.00

Director: Catherine Corsini
Starring: Sergi Lopez, Kristin Scott Thomas, Yvan Attal
Certificate: 15
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: France 2009
By: Metrodome Distributors

According to Luis Bunuel, there are few stories under the sun, but a hundred different ways to tell them.

Catherine Corsini's film tells of a bourgeois French woman leaving her husband for a bit of Spanish rough! It's an old story, but there's more to it and Kristen Scott Thomas is so good the result is intriguing. "Able supported by Lopez and Attal, almost out of nothing she produces a performance that suggests both strength and vulnerability. You believe in Suzanne utterly." (*Standard*) Suzanne is a well-off English-born, French-speaking housewife living in style in southern France with her husband Samuel (Attal) and their two teenagers. The film sidesteps a simple tale of pain and liberation and rails against the more conservative, less progressive strictures of marriage, accusing Suzanne and Ivan (the 'rough') of creating a partnership which is unhealthy and unequal. Samuel is nothing less than the villain of the piece. But Suzanne isn't merely a victim... "Corsini gives Suzanne physical and emotional liberation with one hand, but slaps her back into reality with the other. Scott Thomas is the main reason to see the film: she inhabits the strange contradictions and volatile changes of her character; cold, sexy, passionate, uncertain and vulnerable all at once." (*Time Out*) Back by demand.



The Girl Who Played With Fire

Wed 3 7.30, Tue 9 7.30



The Girl Who Played With Fire picks up a year after goth, hacker, Lisbeth has helped journalist Mikael Blomkvist clear himself of libel and escape death at the hands of the scion of a Swedish dynasty. Lisbeth's affair with the much older Mikael has been stalemated by his romance with Erika Berger the editor of Millennium magazine.

The catalyst for the plot is a story Millennium is planning on sex trafficking. When the writers of the story are murdered, Lisbeth is implicated. Now it's Mikael's turn to come to her rescue.

"Relentless suspense allows *The Girl Who Played With Fire* to hold you in a vicelike grip. But it's the performances of Nyqvist and especially Rapace that keep you coming back for more." (*Rolling Stone*) OR "As artful additions to the hallowed crime-movie genre, the Larsson movies are just so-so. At heart, they're old-fashioned private-eye procedurals, more indebted to Blomkvist's solid, stolid temperament than to Salander's bouts of anger and inspiration." (*Time*)

"Stripped of Larsson's social/political minutiae and slimmed down to its thriller chassis, certain clichés become more glaring: Lisbeth's superhuman hacking skills, an exploitative lesbian sex scene that mightn't have pleased the feminist Larsson; the secondary villain, a blonde giant incapable of feeling pain!" (*Village Voice*) Ignore. Come and be thrilled.

Director: Daniel Alfredson
Starring: Lena Endre, Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace
Certificate: 15
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: Denmark, Germany, Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

Winter's Bone

Thu 4 7.30

Director: Debra Granik
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes, Kevin Breznahan, Dale Dickey
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Artificial Eye

Much has been made of 20 year old Jennifer Lawrence's masterful performance in this adaptation of Daniel Woodrell's novel. She plays Ree Dolly, a teenager living in the desolate Ozark mountains of Southern Missouri. Her bootlegger father put the family home up as a bail bond, and has subsequently disappeared. If she is unable to locate him, she, her mentally ill mother, younger siblings will be evicted. Her search leads her through the wary, dysfunctional, violent, Ozark community, to the centre of a crystal-meth manufacturing operation. It's dangerous territory; bleak and eerie.

Director Debra Granik's depiction of rural America is intense. It suffers to an extent from American cinema's "dirty South" syndrome. Closer examination reveals deep seated and universal notions of community and family.

"Superb, original and enthralling, in which the bleakness is silvered with a welcome seam of hope." (*Telegraph*) "It builds inexorably through successive stages of tension to an extraordinary finale. White-trash nightmare is given un-ironic dignity and power due to the outstanding lead performance from Lawrence..." (*Guardian*)

"These are not in-bred idiot hillbillies, but rich characters, capable of kindness and cruelty, beautiful music and brutal acts... Lawrence is flawless. This is a great piece of American cinema." (*S Times*)





Director: Adam McKay
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Will Ferrell, Dwayne Johnson, Samuel L. Jackson
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

The Other Guys

Fri 5 7.30, Sat 6 7.00

Will Ferrell fans rejoice! Director Adam McKay steered Ferrell through delights such as Anchorman and Tropic Thunder, and here they are again in this uproarious buddy cop comedy.

Ferrell and Wahlberg are 'the other guys'; a couple of unfortunate New York cops, sidelined to their desks and living in the shadow of two ego-jocks who get all the glory. Enter a brilliantly OTT cameo from Samuel L. Jackson and a pebble from The Rock.

Ferrell as gullible Detective Allen Gamble, is always convincingly hapless. His partner is hard-ass Terry Hoitz, played straight to great affect by Mark Wahlberg. One badly timed rooftop stunt later and the other guys find themselves with a big case on their hands. Company fraud might not be the most riveting plot devices but just see what they do with it. And watch for Ferrell's take on his achingly sexy wife, Eva Mendes.

There isn't quite enough farcical material to stretch over its running time, which left me checking my watch, but it remains relentlessly nuts throughout.

12A cert means the slapstick never quite reaches the levels of absurdity I would have liked. Still, silent brawls at funerals and 'desk pops' are just a few of the 'ingenious' creations of McKay and Ferrell's warped minds. *(review Jack Whiting)*



Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (Welcome to the Sticks) Sun 7 6.00



First screened here June 2008. It didn't sell out then, but by Christmas unruly behaviour broke out and tickets changed hands for four figure sums!

Philippe runs the post office in a picturesque small town in southern France. He thinks the more glamorous surroundings of the Côte d'Azur will lift his wife's spirits. His attempts to fiddle a transfer fail. Instead, his punishment is to be sent to Bergues, a village in the 'far north'. Matters only get worse - the local dialect is a strange bouillabaisse of French, Flemish and Latin!

A heart warming film, which stormed the box office across France, beating Titanic's twelve year record. The gags are French, but thanks in no small part to miraculous sub-titles, the laughter travels effortlessly. It is written and directed by Boon, the clown in MicMac's and lovelorn postman in this. This gorgeous low-budget film is a tribute to a region apparently treated to the same casual abuse by the rest of France as Slough is here.

Come for their glorious faces and humour that swims the Channel without getting wet.

Back by great demand, but a rare treasure with only one print available. So we have to wait our turn. This is our turn for this year, so don't miss.

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

The Wildest Dream Mon 8 7.30

Director: Anthony Geffen
Starring: Conrad Anker, Hugh Dancy, Ralph Fiennes, Liam Neeson
Certificate: PG
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Ian Rattray

Packing four cases of champagne and 70 tins of foie gras and sporting the latest gabardine jackets, corduroys tucked into socks and a stout stick, British mountaineer George Mallory, set out to conquer Everest.

On 8 June 1924, Mallory and Sandy Irvine went missing.

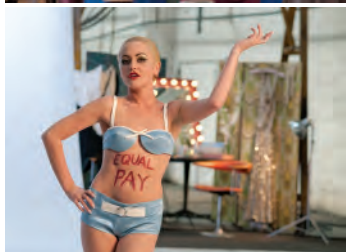
In 1999, American mountaineer Conrad Anker found Mallory's body still preserved in the icy 'death zone' close to the summit. But the mystery remained tantalisingly intact: had he reached the peak? Could Mallory and Irvine have been the first men on top of the world? Geffen reconstructs their tragic assault on Everest by observing Anker's and Leo Houlding's attempt to repeat it using the same primitive early 20thC equipment.

Narrated by Liam Neeson, it has a further bitter irony. Natasha Richardson reads Ruth Mallory's letters, recorded six weeks before her own death in the snow.

This gripping docu-drama combines archive footage, dramatised reconstruction and staggering landscapes to re-enact Mallory's last expedition. Sequences on Everest's 'death zone' are agonisingly tense.

When asked 'Why?' George Mallory answered "Because it's there" (circa 1924). Love it that they took champagne and even a pipe and cigarettes? Don't miss.





Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Jaime Winstone, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, Rosamund Pike, Sally Hawkins
Certificate: 15
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

Made in Dagenham

Wed 10 7.30, Thu 11 7.30

A lazy choice of Nigel (Calendar Girls) Cole to direct this makes it Calendar Girls 2 with attitude, four letters, tight sweaters and bras.

Outraged when she discovers that skilled women employees are receiving less pay than skilled men at the hands of despicably chauvinistic bosses and union reps, Rita O'Grady (Hawkins) sparks a mass walk out at the Ford Dagenham plant in 1968. A media frenzy follows, directly resulting in the groundbreaking Equal Pay Act 1970.

It's a gloriously nostalgic wallow in working class 1960s Britain. In the best traditions it's been dubbed "Carry on Cortina" by film journos, complete with Bob Hoskins wiping his furrowed brow muttering in cockney, with ribald gags and a half unfurled banner tantalisingly reading "We want sex..."

"Politically it's light, but its mission is honest. It highlights an important episode in a style that you imagine would appeal to the same women it honours" (*Time Out*) "Offhandedly touching and safe as houses, it's the breeziest film you can imagine about risking everything for a fairer slice of the pie." (*Telegraph*)

When producer Stephen Woolley caught an episode of *The Reunion* on Radio 4 about the women who started the strike 30 years earlier, he went to work on perhaps the best, if not the only decent, film he's made. (*research Simon Messenger*)



Charlie St Cloud

Fri 12 7.30



Charlie is a golden boy destined for a sailing scholarship to an Ivy League college. The yacht-snob kids sneer at Charlie, but he still 'kicks their asses' on the water. But grim fate upends everything. This light inoffensive story about a young man paralysed with grief and guilt over the death of his brother, is standard teen fare. However, what makes it more interesting than it should be is the presence of Zac Efron.

"There's not much on this movie's mind but photogenic healing, and making all the girls go ga-ga at the sight of Efron mewling with grief, dappling sunsets, the blue of his eyes. Things hinge on Efron being so ineffably hot he's able to reverse the effects of hypothermia on the half-dead." (*Telegraph*)

Like a high-jumper cracking the bar in two with his forehead, former teen star Zac Efron fails to make it into the Mature Performer league in this unendurable drama." (*Guardian*)

OR

"His performance is nuanced above the call of duty for such a movie, he is highly likeable on screen and almost ridiculously beautiful. Most important, you simply can't take your eyes off him. If that's the essence of star quality, Efron has it in spades!"

(*S Times*) You choose.

Director: Burr Steers
Starring: Zac Efron, Amanda Crew, Donal Logue, Charlie Tahan, Kim Basinger, Ray Liotta
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA Minor Outlying Isles, Uruguay 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

The Social Network

Sat 13 7.00, Sun 14 6.00

Director: David Fincher
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake, Andrew Garfield
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Directed by David Fincher (Se7en, Benjamin Button), and adapted by Aaron Sorkin (West Wing, Charlie Wilson's War) from Ben Mezrich's book The Accidental Millionaires, the film tells the story of the dubious beginnings of the phenomenally successful and unerringly irritating Facebook (dubbed FaceArse and vice versa, it is responsible for all our box office double-bookings).

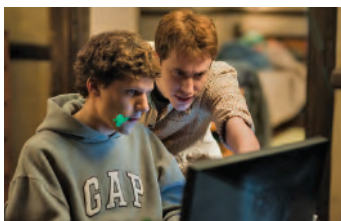
Harvard University, 2003. Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) is dumped by his girlfriend. As a result he drunkenly codes FaceMash; a site for rating hot college girls. It crashes the whole Harvard network. His sudden infamy brings Zuckerberg to the attention of the wealthy Winklevoss twins (both Armie Hammer) who ask him to code their 'social networking' site: The Harvard Connection. Unbeknown to them, Zuckerberg is already working on his Facebook prototype. Something has to give...

Eisenberg plays Zuckerberg with joyless, passive-aggressive intensity. His character is instantly dislikeable; quite how close this is to the real Zuckerberg (still only 26; the world's youngest billionaire) who cares.

"This is an exhilaratingly hyperactive, hyperventilating portrait of an age when Web 2.0 became sexier and more important than politics, art, books – everything. Sorkin and Fincher combine the excitement with a dark, insistent kind of pessimism. Smart work." (*Guardian*)

(research Simon Messenger)

Worth seeing – allegedly.



Made in Dagenham

Mon 15 7.30, Tue 16 7.30



A lazy choice of Nigel (Calendar Girls) Cole to direct this makes it Calendar Girls 2 with attitude, four letters, tight sweaters and bras.

Outraged when she discovers that skilled women employees are receiving less pay than skilled men at the hands of despicably chauvinistic bosses and union reps, Rita O'Grady (Hawkins) sparks a mass walk out at the Ford Dagenham plant in 1968. A media frenzy follows, directly resulting in the groundbreaking Equal Pay Act 1970.

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Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Jaime Winstone, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, Rosamund Pike, Sally Hawkins
Certificate: 15
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

Tamara Drewe

Wed 17 7.30

Director: Stephen Frears
Starring: Dominic Cooper, Luke Evans, Tamsin Greig, Roger Allam, Gemma Arterton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Momentum Pictures

Back by huge demand, Tamara Drewe is very much a Frears movie in its skilful fidelity to the delightful Posy Simmonds cartoon strip, itself inspired by Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd*.

He captures Posy's reflections on British life and character in changing times. Posy's cartoon strip and comic book, chronicles a year in the life of a Dorset village upon the return of former ugly duckling, Tamara (Arterton) now an alluring, ambitious, sexy bombshell, who sends ripples across this placid rustic idyll. Her aim is to do up the old family house, write a chic-lit bestseller and become an international personality. Naturally, her appearance creates a stir not only among the impoverished locals, now marginalised and rootless, but in the fashionable circle of prosperous outsiders represented by Stonefield, a writers' retreat visited by a variety of pretentious authors.

"It's smart, sprightly and just a little bit dark. Allam as the fabulously self-regarding village literateur, and the fabulous Tamsin Greig as his long-suffering wife Beth, give a jolt of much-needed arsenic to this otherwise lacy material." (*Telegraph*)

"Beautifully, sharply observed and quietly wicked" (*Film Prog R4*)

"Think *The Archers* with a sprinkling of trendier folk and a lot more shagging." (*Empire*) Don't miss.





Director: Ben Affleck
Starring: Ben Affleck, Blake Lively, Jeremy Renner, Rebecca Hall
Certificate: 15
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers



The Town

**Thu 18 7.30, Fri 19 7.30,
Sat 20 7.00**

Don't let the drab title put you off; *The Town* is a taut heist thriller with blazing shootouts that rival *Heat*; tense with very human characteristics.

Good Will Hunting aside, the name Ben Affleck has struck derision into the hearts of film critics until he hit upon his directorial debut 'Gone Baby Gone'. Now with a second chance, he has been hailed as an actual contender for serious filmmaking. His past career (as an actor at least) has been relatively ignored.

Based on Chuck Hogan's novel 'Prince of Thieves' (a much more alluring title).

A simple tale of 'leaving a life of crime behind' certainly ups the adrenaline levels. Affleck is Doug, the conflicted leader of a rubber-masked wrecking crew who take down banks on behalf of kingpin (and florist!) Pete Postlethwaite.

"Doug wants to take his loot and make a break for Florida, a desire fuelled by his relationship with Rebecca Hall's gorgeous bank excec. But Pete's got dirt on him, and even though the Feds are closing in (led by 'Mad Men' heartthrob John Hamm), the team keep breaking banks." (*Time Out*)

The Town is proof that Ben Affleck does indeed have talent, even if he is reaching into Michael Mann's pocket for inspiration. (*review: Jack Whiting*)

Tight tale with great shots of Boston. Don't miss.

The Kid

NICK MORAN WILL BE HERE
FOR A Q&A AFTER THE FILM

Sun 21 6.00



Based on Kevin Lewis' horrifying memoir of the same name, Nick Moran's second excursion into feature length direction - after the glorious *Telstar* - is an altogether different picture.

Rupert Friend plays Kevin, a youngster growing up on a grotty south London council estate in the unpleasant bit of the 1980s. Abused by his mother (Natascha McElhone), and bullied at school, Kevin finds some release as a bare-knuckle boxer, before a downward spiral towards seedy underworld gangs, with seemingly no redemption in sight...

It's unquestionably brutal subject matter, dealt with in a considered, restrained way. The film concentrates on Kevin's harsh narrative, rather than being an out and out exploitative violence-fest - much for the better. Natascha McElhone is unrecognisable as Kevin's foul-mouthed mother in a remarkable performance.

"Rupert Friend is engaging and convincing in a complex role..." (*Telegraph*)

"Nick Moran's second feature...is another remarkable true story." (*Time Out*)

Mostly, it has been panned by the crits, so Nick Moran is back to guide us gently through 'what they know'.

It should be enlightening... Don't miss
(research Simon Messenger)

Director: Nick Moran
Starring: Rupert Friend, Ioan Gruffudd, Bernard Hill, Natascha McElhone, James Fox
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Revolver Film Distribution

Now Voyager

Mon 22 7.30

Director: Irving Rapper
Starring: Bette Davis, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains
Certificate: PG
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 1942
By: British Film Institute (BFI)

This 1942 weepy of weepies was made in the same year as *Casablanca* and *Random Harvest* as one of the Warner Bros standard studio wartime output. Make 'em laugh, and cry. Move them and keep them longing, wishing and hoping. I doubt it was that cynical? Like the songs of the time from Cole Porter, Gershwin and Irving Berlin, they were simple love songs. The films accompanied the sentiments of that music and were frequently accompanied by it. Porter's *Night and Day* is here, but it is Max Steiner's haunting score that will tug forever at your heart strings. The young fell in love once and for all and lived happily ever after. Well that's how it was supposed to be. However both this and *Casablanca* are about lost love, found again, but never to be fulfilled. Paul Henreid and Claude Rains star in both. Charlotte Vale (Bette Davis a self-described Spinster Aunt) meets Jerry Durrance (Paul Henreid) a married man she falls in love with on a cruise. Dare they kiss? Apparently the most contentious trivia has been about who 'invented' the two-cigarette routine that Paul Henreid became famous for later? Never mind. "Why ask for the moon when we have the stars." Come, laugh and cry.



A Very Long Engagement

Tue 23 7.30



This is one of a growing list of treasures to bring back from time to time when that time feels right. It is well over a year and has stayed in mind since its first screening in February 2005. November is perhaps the right time to show it again, to mourn those conscripts, mostly children just turned sixteen, whose lives were wasted (and continue to be, alongside millions of women and children) in a filthy war in which they had no say and didn't know why they were fighting.

As World War One comes to an end, a young French woman's greatest fight is about to begin. Crippled, Mathilde receives word that her first and only love, Manech is one of five soldiers court-martialled and pushed out into no-mans land... to certain death. Audrey Tautou and AMELIE director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, have made a thriller with love's heartbreaking determination at its core. It captures the horrors of mud-deep trench life and the terrible decisions made in haste by incompetents and distracted generals. A haunting, warm and beautiful story of loyalty and hope, where there is none. Above all it is a detective story meticulously unfolding piece by piece. Don't miss or come again.

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Starring: Audrey Tautou, Dominique Pinon, Gaspard Ulliel
Certificate: 15
Duration: 134 mins
Origin: France 2005
By: Warner Brothers

Mr Nice

Wed 24 7.30

Director: Bernard Rose
Starring: Rhys Ifans, Chloë Sevigny, David Thewlis, Andrew Tiernan
Certificate: 18
Duration: 121 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: E1 Films

Not so nice; Howard Marks wanted 2000 quid to come here to talk about himself. He's not coming.

Marks begins his story in the Welsh valleys of the 1960s, before getting into Oxford's dreaming spires, evidently spending most of it stoned, as he does in the whole film. From there, it is a patchwork of mildly amusing set pieces involving the IRA, MI6 agents, dodgy Afghans and fake Mexican policeman... On paper, Ifans is a perfect choice to play the swaggering Marks in Bernard Rose's adaptation of the bestselling 1996 memoir of the same name. However on screen, he is just too smirking; too self satisfied. Chloë Sevigny is curiously cast as his longsuffering babe.

"Sadly, the 42-year-old Ifans as a student looks like Ronnie Wood chasing waitresses. As for the over-reliance on back projection, it's not retro-cool, just looks cheap." (*Total Film*)

"It's also worth remembering that Howard Marks is a dealer who 'tried to smoke it all' not a musician or artist. While Johnny Cash and Ray Charles leave behind songs to crystallise their brilliance, so 'forgiving' ugly personality traits, Marks' main legacy is likely to be short-term memory loss." (*Guardian*)

"The result is more like a meandering shaggy dog story. Rose's gimmicks have limited success: Marks's pre-dope life is in black and white." (*Time Out*) As is he. (research Simon Messenger).



Buried

Thu 25 7.30



Claustrophobics beware – Spanish director Rodrigo Cortés crafts a frightening and horribly cramped thriller, which centers on Paul Conroy (Ryan Reynolds); a US civilian contractor kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents and buried alive.

With nothing but a phone, a lighter and what's left of his sanity, can he brave the confines of the wooden box, and more importantly – keep the audience absorbed for ninety minutes?

The feeling you get from someone in this desperate situation is hard to put into words, and it makes for uncomfortable viewing. Knowing that his only job was to ferry supplies to community aid centres adds a feeling of chilling helplessness. Don't be put off though, *Buried* is a convincing exercise in ultra-heightened suspense and sheer terror, at surprisingly high speed.

The weight of the film falls entirely on Reynolds's shoulders and he's refreshingly cast against type; a perfect opportunity to lift his acting out of the hunk/smug box. He did it as a favour to Cortés in seven weeks off between blockbusters, and suffered for it!

There are a few questionable additions; a snake (really?) and a wobbly, uber-worthy Oscar acceptance type speech by phone, which despite Reynolds' straight-faced best, breaks the tension.

You'll be too near the edge of your seat to care. (review: Jack Whiting)

Director: Rodrigo Cortés
Starring: Ryan Reynolds
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: Spain 2010
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps

Fri 26 7.30, Sat 27 7.00
 Sun 28 6.00

Having served his time for insider trading, Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) was released from prison in 2001, and now, he's making his money writing and lecturing.

His estranged daughter Winnie (Carey Mulligan), is a left-wing blogger; her liberal outlook completely at odds with that of her impossibly capitalist father. As fate would have it, Winnie is dating an idealistic young Wall Street trader Jake (charisma nil, Shia LaBeouf), who encounters Gekko just as the economy begins to tank. Has Gekko mended his ways behind bars, or is he willing to step over his own daughter for a second shot at the big time...?

Oliver Stone's direction is always more than competent; however his subject matter misses the mark somewhere here. If the film intends to be satirical, it falls short, ending up curiously glorifying speculative trading and its assorted trappings.

"The film offers us the regretful father, the post-crash moralist, and the lizard king with a deadly tongue. Which Gekko should it back?... Stone knows that the devil still has the best tunes, and Douglas looks up for doing his dirty work. But the film's writers have wimped out of giving him his due. Maybe they were having lunch." (*Independent*)

"...As to this sequel's sub-title: well, it may well be true that money never sleeps. But you will." (*Guardian*) (research Simon Messenger)

It's a bit crass, but couldn't resist this title as The Rex's first fund raising event for the St Albans Odyssey. It is only the Saturday screening where the ticket price is as ridiculous as it is blatant. There'll be some extra, nice things. Friday and Sunday stay at the usual price and it will be back in December. (ps So too, it is a year almost to the day, 29th Nov 2009, when we opened the Rex to over 600 people on a rainy Sunday afternoon, to launch the St Albans campaign)



Director: Oliver Stone
Starring: Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, Shia LaBeouf, Carey Mulligan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 133 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox



The Kids Are All Right

Mon 29 7.30, Tue 30 7.30

Director: Lisa Cholodenko
Starring: Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo,
Certificate: 15
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Julianne Moore and Annette Bening star as Jules and Nic, in this touching, off-beat comedy by Lisa Cholodenko (High Art, Laurel Canyon).

Jules and Nic, as a lesbian couple, have both given birth to children, via the same sperm donor. When the kids are of age, eldest Joni (Mia Wasikowska) asks her mother to contact the sperm bank so her and her brother can meet their biological father, Paul (Mark Ruffalo). In turn, his presence disrupts the unconventional family unit as the kids find themselves drawn to his easygoing style, and to the dismay of Nic, so does Jules...

It's a poignant, well crafted film, transcending "kooky" cinematic lesbianism; it's both thoughtful and refreshing. Cholodenko's scripting is effortlessly natural, and whilst the subject matter may not touch exactly on experiences shared by all, the universality of musings on growing up/old are never tiresome when done well.

"Cholodenko has not only made a film about lesbians as ordinary, mainstream people, or a good movie about lesbians, or even a smart movie: she has made a great film." (*Guardian*)

"Writer-director Lisa Cholodenko knows that real life is messier than that, but her empathy and lightness of touch ensure this wonderfully realistic film is both deeply affecting and riotously funny." (*Time Out*) (research Simon Messenger)
 Don't miss.



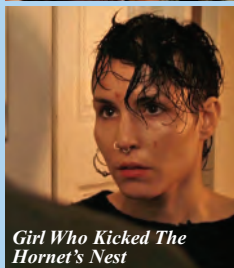
COMING SOON

New releases

Another Year
 Girl Who Kicked The
 Hornet's Nest
 Chico and Rita
 Anniversary surprise

Back by demand

It's A Wonderful Life
 The Kids Are All Right
 Made in Dagenham



NOVEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Mon	EAT PRAY LOVE	2.00, 7.30
2	Tues	LEAVING	12.30, 7.30
3	Wed	GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE	2.00, 7.30
4	Thu	THE BUCKET LIST	2.00
4	Thu	WINTER'S BONE	7.30
5	Fri	THE OTHER GUYS	7.30
6	Sat	THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	2.00
6	Sat	THE OTHER GUYS	7.00
7	Sun	WELCOME TO THE STICKS	6.00
8	Mon	WELCOME TO THE STICKS	2.00
8	Mon	THE WILDEST DREAM	7.30
9	Tues	MADE IN DAGENHAM	12.30
9	Tues	GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE	7.30
10	Wed	MADE IN DAGENHAM	2.00, 7.30
11	Thu	MADE IN DAGENHAM	2.00, 7.30
12	Fri	CHARLIE ST CLOUD	7.30
13	Sat	DESPICABLE ME	2.00
13	Sat	THE SOCIAL NETWORK	7.00
14	Sun	THE SOCIAL NETWORK	6.00
15	Mon	THE SOCIAL NETWORK	2.00
15	Mon	MADE IN DAGENHAM	7.30
16	Tues	THE SOCIAL NETWORK	12.30
16	Tues	MADE IN DAGENHAM	7.30
17	Wed	TAMARA DREWE	2.00, 7.30
18	Thu	THE TOWN	2.00, 7.30
19	Fri	THE TOWN	7.30
20	Sat	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	2.00
20	Sat	THE TOWN	7.00
21	Sun	THE KID (WITH NICK MORAN)	6.00
22	Mon	NOW VOYAGER	2.00, 7.30
23	Tues	MR NICE	12.30
23	Tues	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	7.30
24	Wed	MR NICE	2.00, 7.30
25	Thu	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	2.00
25	Thu	BURIED	7.30
26	Fri	WALL STREET	7.30
27	Sat	AFRICA UNITED	2.00
27	Sat	WALL STREET (ST. ALBANS FUNDRAISER)	7.00
28	Sun	WALL STREET	6.00
29	Mon	WALL STREET	2.00
29	Mon	THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT	7.30
30	Tues	WALL STREET	12.30
30	Tues	THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT	7.30

ALL MATINEES: Balcony £5.00 • Table seats £6.50 • Royal Box seats £10.00
Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Eat, Pray, Love

Mon 1 2.00



Eating takes precedence over love and prayer in writer-director Ryan Murphy's screen version of Elizabeth Gilbert's hugely popular memoir.

With a career as a successful travel journalist living in a swanky New York apartment, having a post-marital fling with James Franco, things don't appear to be going too badly for Julia Roberts. Yet still, she can't find her "centre". She used to have "an appetite for life" and she's lost it. Woe is her. Clearly what this woman needs is a 12-month voyage of self-discovery around the globe...?

"This is expertly wrought pop-psychology; perfect plates of pasta will be consumed in Rome, then the soul will be tended in an Indian ashram, and finally romance will flourish in sultry Bali. In the context of this summer's other lunkheaded fantasies, is that really so offensive?" (*Time Out*)

"A never ending, inward-looking travelogue for devotees of lurve and happy endings. From coast to coast, Roberts coasts." (*Total Film*) Forget the world and its search for the next dry biscuit. Forget these crits. This is about love and finding oneself. It has Julia Roberts all over Javier Bardem on a bicycle in spectacular, exotic locations. So who cares? Such escape is why popular movies are made. So come and wallow on a November Monday.

Director: Ryan Murphy
Starring: Julia Roberts, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Billy Crudup, Richard Jenkins
Certificate: PG
Duration: 139 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Leaving

Tue 2 12.30

Director: Catherine Corsini
Starring: Sergi Lopez, Kristin Scott Thomas, Yvan Attal
Certificate: 15
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: France 2009
By: Metrodome Distributors

According to Luis Bunuel, there are few stories under the sun, but a hundred different ways to tell them.

Catherine Corsini's film tells of a bourgeois French woman leaving her husband for a bit of Spanish rough! It's an old story, but there's more to it and Kristen Scott Thomas is so good the result is intriguing. "Able supported by Lopez and Attal, almost out of nothing she produces a performance that suggests both strength and vulnerability. You believe in Suzanne utterly." (*Standard*) Suzanne is a well-off English-born, French-speaking housewife living in style in southern France with her husband Samuel (Attal) and their two teenagers. The film sidesteps a simple tale of pain and liberation and rails against the more conservative, less progressive strictures of marriage, accusing Suzanne and Ivan (the 'rough') of creating a partnership which is unhealthy and unequal. Samuel is nothing less than the villain of the piece. But Suzanne isn't merely a victim...

"Corsini gives Suzanne physical and emotional liberation with one hand, but slaps her back into reality with the other. Scott Thomas is the main reason to see the film: she inhabits the strange contradictions and volatile changes of her character; cold, sexy, passionate, uncertain and vulnerable all at once." (*Time Out*) Back by demand.



The Girl Who Played With Fire **Wed 3 2.00**



The Girl Who Played With Fire picks up a year after goth, hacker, Lisbeth has helped journalist Mikael Blomkvist clear himself of libel and escape death at the hands of the scion of a Swedish dynasty. Lisbeth's affair with the much older Mikael has been stalemated by his romance with Erika Berger the editor of Millennium magazine.

The catalyst for the plot is a story Millennium is planning on sex trafficking. When the writers of the story are murdered, Lisbeth is implicated. Now it's Mikael's turn to come to her rescue.

"Relentless suspense allows *The Girl Who Played With Fire* to hold you in a vicelike grip. But it's the performances of Nyqvist and especially Rapace that keep you coming back for more." (*Rolling Stone*) OR "As artful additions to the hallowed crime-movie genre, the Larsson movies are just so-so. At heart, they're old-fashioned private-eye procedurals, more indebted to Blomkvist's solid, stolid temperament than to Salander's bouts of anger and inspiration." (*Time*)

"Stripped of Larsson's social/political minutiae and slimmed down to its thriller chassis, certain clichés become more glaring: Lisbeth's superhuman hacking skills, an exploitative lesbian sex scene that mightn't have pleased the feminist Larsson; the secondary villain, a blonde giant incapable of feeling pain!" (*Village Voice*) Ignore. Come and be thrilled.

Director: Daniel Alfredson
Starring: Lena Endre, Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace
Certificate: 15
Duration: 129 mins
Origin: Denmark, Germany, Sweden 2009
By: Momentum Pictures

The Bucket List **Thu 4 2.00**

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

Back to brighten a November afternoon...It is about two old men playing, rather than dicing, with death. I remember wanting to like it, thought I'd hate it, but loved it.

Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as terminally ill patients who decide to break out and live their last days to the fullest in this 'serious-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 the list: gambling in Monte Carlo, women, fast cars, exploring the world they've so far missed, etc "the two men forge a truly remarkable friendship." It is an all-expenses-paid predictable, Jack Nicholson romp with fabulous locations, girls (on & off-set) and a few drinks...

Come just for these and laugh and cry as much as it makes you. It takes the sadness of it all and plays with it. It is corny, buddy and sentimental... but these two are too clever not get the balance right. Come for Morgan beating Jack at his own game – stealing great chunks of the screen. Come, laugh and cry. What else is there...?



The Spiderwick Chronicles **Sat 6** 2.00



The return of great children's tale from May 2008. 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 very scary. 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 it's a heart-stopping adventure all the way.

"What we see in Mark Waters's film is attractive, colourful and slightly weird. Parents will enjoy it too on all levels" (*Standard*)

It is family Saturday Matinee at its best. Come and see it again on the big screen.

Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (Welcome to the Sticks) **Mon 8** 2.00

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

First screened here June 2008. It didn't sell out then, but by Christmas unruly behaviour broke out and tickets changed hands for four figure sums!

Philippe runs the post office in a picturesque small town in southern France. He thinks the more glamorous surroundings of the Côte d'Azur will lift his wife's spirits. His attempts to fiddle a transfer fail. Instead, his punishment is to be sent to Bergues, a village in the 'far north'. Matters only get worse - the local dialect is a strange bouillabaisse of French, Flemish and Latin!

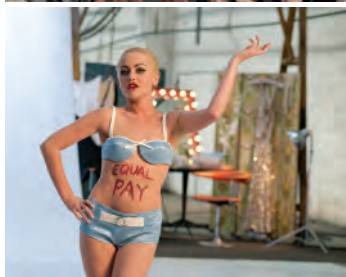
A heart warming film, which stormed the box office across France, beating Titanic's twelve year record. The gags are French, but thanks in no small part to miraculous sub-titles, the laughter travels effortlessly. It is written and directed by Boon, the clown in MicMac's and lovelorn postman in this. This gorgeous low-budget film is a tribute to a region apparently treated to the same casual abuse by the rest of France as Slough is here.

Come for their glorious faces and humour that swims the Channel without getting wet.

Back by great demand, but a rare treasure with only one print available. So we have to wait our turn. This is our turn for this year, so don't miss.

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





Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Jaime Winstone, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, Rosamund Pike, Sally Hawkins
Certificate: 15
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Paramount International Pictures

Made in Dagenham

Tue 9 12.30, Wed 10 2.00, Thu 11 2.00

A lazy choice of Nigel (Calendar Girls) Cole to direct this makes it *Calendar Girls 2* with attitude, four letters, tight sweaters and bras.

Outraged when she discovers that skilled women employees are receiving less pay than skilled men at the hands of despicably chauvinistic bosses and union reps, Rita O'Grady (Hawkins) sparks a mass walk out at the Ford Dagenham plant in 1968. A media frenzy follows, directly resulting in the groundbreaking Equal Pay Act 1970.

It's a gloriously nostalgic wallow in working class 1960s Britain. In the best traditions it's been dubbed "Carry on Cortina" by film journos, complete with Bob Hoskins wiping his furrowed brow muttering in cockney, with ribald gags and a half unfurled banner tantalisingly reading "We want sex..."

"Politically it's light, but its mission is honest. It highlights an important episode in a style that you imagine would appeal to the same women it honours" (*Time Out*) "Offhandedly touching and safe as houses, it's the breeziest film you can imagine about risking everything for a fairer slice of the pie." (*Telegraph*)

When producer Stephen Woolley caught an episode of *The Reunion* on Radio 4 about the women who started the strike 30 years earlier, he went to work on perhaps the best, if not the only decent, film he's made. (*research Simon Messenger*)



Despicable Me

Sat 13 2.00



This is co-directed by Chris Renaud, creator of bug-eyed squirrel *Scratch* in the *Ice Age* movies, and the French-born animator Pierre Coffin. Steve Carell is Gru's voice, a career super-villain who presides over a secret lair populated by hundreds of little yellow creatures who do his bidding. Times are hard in the super-villain dept, and Gru finds it tough to get funding from the banks (there's a nice wisecrack about Lehman Brothers) for his various nutty wheezes. Uh oh there's a new super-villain in town, Vector (Jason Segel) who is flavour of the month with evil venture-capitalists.

To pinch Vectors new gadget Gru decides to adopt three orphans to weedle their way into Vector's, house selling girl-scout cookies! Inevitably, it all goes wrong, and he finds himself becoming entranced by these little kids, and wonders if fatherhood is more his style?

"Hollywood's cartoon villains have always been more fun than heroes, so it's hardly surprising that two major animated movies this year have chosen to focus on the bad guys. But while forthcoming Will Ferrell/Brad Pitt vehicle 'Megamind' promises to be an all-out satirical assault on comic-book cliché, 'Despicable Me' is a cosy, old-fashioned, cockle-warming redemption story." (*Time Out*) Listen out for Julie Andrews as Gru's mum.

Director: Pierre Coffin
Voices: Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Kristen Wiig, Julie Andrews, Jermaine Clement
Certificate: U
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

The Social Network

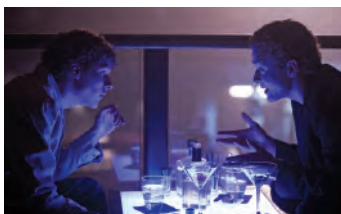
Mon 15 2.00, Tue 16 12.30

Director: David Fincher
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake, Andrew Garfield
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

Directed by David Fincher (Se7en, Benjamin Button), and adapted by Aaron Sorkin (West Wing, Charlie Wilson's War) from Ben Mezrich's book The Accidental Millionaires, the film tells the story of the dubious beginnings of the phenomenally successful and unerringly irritating Facebook (dubbed FaceArse and vice versa, it is responsible for all our box office double-bookings).

Harvard University, 2003. Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) is dumped by his girlfriend. As a result he drunkenly codes FaceMash; a site for rating hot college girls. It crashes the whole Harvard network. His sudden infamy brings Zuckerberg to the attention of the wealthy Winklevoss twins (both Armie Hammer) who ask him to code their 'social networking' site: The Harvard Connection. Unbeknown to them, Zuckerberg is already working on his Facebook prototype. Something has to give...

Eisenberg plays Zuckerberg with joyless, passive-aggressive intensity. His character is instantly dislikeable; quite how close this is to the real Zuckerberg (still only 26; the world's youngest billionaire) who cares. "This is an exhilaratingly hyperactive, hyperventilating portrait of an age when Web 2.0 became sexier and more important than politics, art, books – everything. Sorkin and Fincher combine the excitement with a dark, insistent kind of pessimism. Smart work." (*Guardian*) (research Simon Messenger)
 Worth seeing – allegedly.



Tamara Drewe

Wed 17 2.00



Back by huge demand, Tamara Drewe is very much a Frears movie in its skilful fidelity to the delightful Posy Simmonds cartoon strip, itself inspired by Thomas Hardy's *Far From The Madding Crowd*.

He captures Posy's reflections on British life and character in changing times. Posy's cartoon strip and comic book, chronicles a year in the life of a Dorset village upon the return of former ugly duckling, Tamara (Arterton) now an alluring, ambitious, sexy bombshell, who sends ripples across this placid rustic idyll. Her aim is to do up the old family house, write a chic-lit bestseller and become an international personality. Naturally, her appearance creates a stir not only among the impoverished locals, now marginalised and rootless, but in the fashionable circle of prosperous outsiders represented by Stonefield, a writers' retreat visited by a variety of pretentious authors.

"It's smart, sprightly and just a little bit dark. Allam as the fabulously self-regarding village literateur, and the fabulous Tamsin Greig as his long-suffering wife Beth, give a jolt of much-needed arsenic to this otherwise lacy material." (*Telegraph*)

"Beautifully, sharply observed and quietly wicked" (*Film Prog R4*)

"Think *The Archers* with a sprinkling of trendier folk and a lot more shagging." (*Empire*) Don't miss.

Director: Stephen Frears
Starring: Dominic Cooper, Luke Evans, Tamsin Greig, Roger Allam, Gemma Arterton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Momentum Pictures

The Town

Thu 18 2.00

Director: Ben Affleck
Starring: Ben Affleck, Blake Lively, Jeremy Renner, Rebecca Hall
Certificate: 15
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Don't let the drab title put you off; *The Town* is a taught heist thriller with blazing shootouts that rival *Heat*; tense with very human characteristics.

Good Will Hunting aside, the name Ben Affleck has struck derision into the hearts of film critics until he hit upon his directorial debut '*Gone Baby Gone*'. Now with a second chance, he has been hailed as an actual contender for serious film-making. His past career (as an actor at least) has been relatively ignored.

Based on Chuck Hogan's novel '*Prince of Thieves*' (a much more alluring title).

A simple tale of 'leaving a life of crime behind' certainly ups the adrenaline levels. Affleck is Doug, the conflicted leader of a rubber-masked wrecking crew who take down banks on behalf of kingpin (and florist!) Pete Postlethwaite.

"Doug wants to take his loot and make a break for Florida, a desire fuelled by his relationship with Rebecca Hall's gorgeous bank exec. But Pete's got dirt on him, and even though the Feds are closing in (led by '*Mad Men*' heartthrob John Hamm), the team keep breaking banks." (*Time Out*)

The Town is proof that Ben Affleck does indeed have talent, even if he is reaching into Michael Mann's pocket for inspiration. (*review: Jack Whiting*)

Tight tale with great shots of Boston. Don't miss.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Sat 20 2.00



Based on a series of American children's books by Jeff Kinney, this classroom comedy uses a to-camera commentary and Kinney's cartoon sketches to tell the tale of a self-centred kid who is so intent on being middle school's most popular pupil that he's forgotten how to be himself. Greg (Zachary Gordon) is a nerdy kid obsessed with making it out of the "unpopular" ghetto. If he were less analytical and more easy going like his fat chum Rowley, (Robert Capron) perhaps he wouldn't get on everyone's wick, including ours. That's the problem: Greg is so unpleasant that you're itching for someone to punch him.

"Had he and everyone else been a bit more likeable, we might have overlooked the film is an empty vessel. Granted, many ten year olds will identify with Greg's situation. The question is whether they'll stay awake to see the film through to its limp end." (*Time Out*)

And the moral... "It's a trite, broad, very predictable tale of peeing and farting, of failure and embarrassment, of trying to impress the wrong girls and attempting to win glittering prizes that aren't worth the spangled plastic they're made of."

(*Guardian*)

A bit harsh? Let ten year olds decide.

Director: Thor Freudenthal
Starring: Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron, Rachael Harris, Steve Zahn
Certificate: PG
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Now Voyager

Mon 22 2.00

Director: Irving Rapper
Starring: Bette Davis, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains
Certificate: PG
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 1942
By: British Film Institute (BFI)

This 1942 weepy of weepies was made in the same year as *Casablanca* and *Random Harvest* as one of the Warner Bros standard studio wartime output. Make 'em laugh, and cry. Move them and keep them longing, wishing and hoping. I doubt it was that cynical? Like the songs of the time from Cole Porter, Gershwin and Irving Berlin, they were simple love songs. The films accompanied the sentiments of that music and were frequently accompanied by it. Porter's *Night and Day* is here, but it is Max Steiner's haunting score that will tug forever at your heart strings. The young fell in love once and for all and lived happily ever after. Well that's how it was supposed to be. However both this and *Casablanca* are about lost love, found again, but never to be fulfilled. Paul Henreid and Claude Rains star in both. Charlotte Vale (Bette Davis a self-described Spinster Aunt) meets Jerry Durrance (Paul Henreid) a married man she falls in love with on a cruise. Dare they kiss? Apparently the most contentious trivia has been about who 'invented' the two-cigarette routine that Paul Henreid became famous for later? Never mind. "Why ask for the moon when we have the stars." Come, laugh and cry.



Mr Nice

Tue 23 12.30, Wed 24 2.00



Not so nice; Howard Marks wanted 2000 quid to come here to talk about himself. He's not coming.

Marks begins his story in the Welsh valleys of the 1960s, before getting into Oxford's dreaming spires, evidently spending most of it stoned, as he does in the whole film. From there, it is a patchwork of mildly amusing set pieces involving the IRA, MI6 agents, dodgy Afghans and fake Mexican policeman... On paper, Ifans is a perfect choice to play the swaggering Marks in Bernard Rose's adaptation of the bestselling 1996 memoir of the same name. However on screen, he is just too smirking; too self satisfied. Chloë Sevigny is curiously cast as his longsuffering babe.

"Sadly, the 42-year-old Ifans as a student looks like Ronnie Wood chasing waitresses. As for the over-reliance on back projection, it's not retro-cool, just looks cheap." (*Total Film*)

"It's also worth remembering that Howard Marks is a dealer who 'tried to smoke it all' not a musician or artist. While Johnny Cash and Ray Charles leave behind songs to crystallise their brilliance, so 'forgiving' ugly personality traits, Marks' main legacy is likely to be short-term memory loss." (*Guardian*)

"The result is more like a meandering shaggy dog story. Rose's gimmicks have limited success: Marks's pre-dope life is in black and white." (*Time Out*) As is he. (research Simon Messenger).

Director: Bernard Rose
Starring: Elsa Pataky, Rhys Ifans, David Thewlis, Andrew Tiernan
Certificate: 18
Duration: 121 mins
Origin: UK 2010
By: E1 Films

A Very Long Engagement

Thu 25 2.00

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Starring: Audrey Tautou, Dominique Pinon, Gaspard Ulliel
Certificate: 15
Duration: 134 mins
Origin: France 2005
By: Warner Brothers

This is one of a growing list of treasures to bring back from time to time when that time feels right. It is well over a year and has stayed in mind since its first screening in February 2005. November is perhaps the right time to show it again, to mourn those conscripts, mostly children just turned sixteen, whose lives were wasted (and continue to be, alongside millions of women and children) in a filthy war in which they had no say and didn't know why they were fighting.

As World War One comes to an end, a young French woman's greatest fight is about to begin. Crippled, Mathilde receives word that her first and only love, Manech is one of five soldiers court-marshalled and pushed out into no-mans land... to certain death. Audrey Tautou and AMELIE director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, have made a thriller with love's heartbreaking determination at its core. It captures the horrors of mud-deep trench life and the terrible decisions made in haste by incompetents and distracted generals. A haunting, warm and beautiful story of loyalty and hope, where there is none. Above all it is a detective story meticulously unfolding piece by piece. Don't miss or come again.



Africa United

Sat 27 2.00



An inferior, kiddie spin on the exotic high jinx and low lives of ‘Slumdog Millionaire’, this well-meaning but scrappy British film was shot entirely on location in Rwanda, Burundi and South Africa.

“It details a fictional road trip from Rwanda to the 2010 World Cup in Johannesburg by five African children of different backgrounds and demands that you come to it with a good heart and, preferably, forgiving children.” (*TimeOut*) Clearly intended as an antidote to the many stories of suffering and recrimination that tend to define the global perception of Africa, Rhidian Brook’s screenplay is almost relentlessly upbeat as it introduces us to the beaming smile and cheery banter of Dudu (Eriya Ndayambaje), a boy convinced that football is God’s greatest creation. He is overjoyed when his middle-class pal Fabrice (Roger Nsengiyumva) catches the eye of a FIFA representative and is offered the chance to display his skills at the World Cup opening in South Africa. The question of how they might travel the 5,000 kilometres from Rwanda to South Africa is a small challenge for someone of Dudu’s resourcefulness. It’s a bit Enid Blyton in their outwitting of the bumbling adult baddies, yet addresses lightly Africa’s problems of child soldiers, sex trafficking and HIV. Our comfortable kids should see it.

Director: Debs Gardner-Paterson
Starring: Roger Nsengiyumva, Sherrie Silver, Eriya Ndayambaje, Yves Dusenge
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: UK/South Africa/Rwanda 2010
By: Warner Brothers

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps

Mon 29 2.00, Tue 30 12.30

Director: Oliver Stone
Starring: Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, Shia LaBeouf, Carey Mulligan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 133 mins
Origin: USA 2010
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Having served his time for insider trading, Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas) was released from prison in 2001, and now, he’s making his money writing and lecturing.

His estranged daughter Winnie (Carey Mulligan), is a left-wing blogger; her liberal outlook completely at odds with that of her impossibly capitalist father. As fate would have it, Winnie is dating an idealistic young Wall Street trader Jake (charisma nil, Shia LaBeouf), who encounters Gekko just as the economy begins to tank. Has Gekko mended his ways behind bars, or is he willing to step over his own daughter for a second shot at the big time...?

Oliver Stone’s direction is always more than competent; however his subject matter misses the mark somewhere here. If the film intends to be satirical, it falls short, ending up curiously glorifying speculative trading and its assorted trappings.

“The film offers us the regretful father, the post-crash moralist, and the lizard king with a deadly tongue. Which Gekko should it back?... Stone knows that the devil still has the best tunes, and Douglas looks up for doing his dirty work. But the film’s writers have wimped out of giving him his due. Maybe they were having lunch.” (*Independent*)

“...As to this sequel’s sub-title: well, it may well be true that money never sleeps. But you will.” (*Guardian*)
 (research Simon Messenger)



LATEST ST ALBANS... THE ODYSSEY



When shall we three meet again...? Conjuring a foyer design from first pencil sketches.

Since our open viewing on 12th September, attended by what felt like thousands, clearing the tonnage from the building has been full on. It will slow down a little now as our main men are busy with their other work. Thank you to all those who volunteered for hard (and soft) labour. Please keep an eye on the new Odyssey website. We will contact you directly when the time and the work are right.

A sign will go up sooner than eventually marking the rise in funds as they come in, and we've applied for a space on Saturday and Wednesday markets. 29th November marks a year since that wet Sunday afternoon, when we opened the Rex to declare the Odeon site St Albans was ours. Providing we could find £1 million by February! With standing room only, over 600 filled the 300 seater auditorium, with a relay into the foyer. The atmosphere was electric, good-humoured and joyfully optimistic, as it has been ever since. As it happened, it took to the end of March to raise the million.

To celebrate that extraordinary Sunday when it all began, we're inviting you

back to the Rex, where it all began. This time to spend a ridiculous amount on tickets for Wall St II Money Never Sleeps, as a blatant fund raising event on Saturday 27th November. Details from the Rex Box Office (01442 877759) and the Odyssey website.

www.odysseypictures.co.uk

If you just want to see Wall St II, come on Friday 26th or Sunday 28th. It's cheaper, but you don't know what you'll miss. Neither do we right now, but it will be wonderful.

The funding is slow but it will come. We'll keep you informed as big things happen. In the meantime, please keep an eye on the Rex and Odyssey websites, or come and see something/anything at the Rex. Then you will know what the Odyssey might feel like.

FROM THE BOOK

'Loved the film (Inception) not sure whether it was level 1 2 or 3 dream, or reality bloke on table no.3 was making good work on nostril no.1... for the best part of 2 half hours of the film he was

picking his nose. YUK you know who you are' Louise (table 2) 'Emel. Pleased we don't have 3-D.

'Grumpy old woman who loves this place – but please please please stop selling crisps - the sound of a serial cruncher in my ear makes me want to scream and run out of the cinema! Apart from that you can do no wrong xx'
Pam (Hemel)

AND...ANON

'What a terrible film!'
'Dreadful, dreadful, dreadful film, although laughed our way through it.'
(Eccentricities of a Blonde Haired Girl)
This is the latest film (2008) from director Manoel de Oliveira who is only 102 years old. Give him a chance.

'Please could you serve brandy at the bar?'
'And when are you going to do sushi...?'

Student F, 5'1" 7.5 stone, hard of hearing, likes country & western music, animals, the countryside & travel. Seeks down-to-earth M, 5'-5'3" under 8 stone, n/s.
(*Eve Standard Lonely Hearts 'Meeting point' cutting kept from 1996/98?*)

THE ADVANCED BOOKING LIST (ABL) 2011 WILL GO ON GENERAL RELEASE TO NEW MEMBERS ON SAT 6TH NOV AT 10.30 FROM THE REX BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 01442 877759



Recoil Films' Andre Renner capturing precious Odyssey beginnings



First St Albans gathering at The Rex on a rainy Sunday a year ago (29 Nov 2009)

Idyllic: a blacksmith on the water. Oct 2010



SAVE YOUR BERKHAMSTED

Dacorum Borough Council will be publishing its Draft Core Strategy document for Public Consultation from **3rd November-15th December 2010**. This consultation includes housing development proposals for Berkhamsted which will put even greater pressure on traffic, parking and schools, as well as loss of Green Belt and agricultural land.

Save Your Berkhamsted Residents Association needs your support to ensure that any developments are in keeping with the character and heritage of our historic market town. Make your voice heard by responding to the DBC questionnaire. Full details on our website www.saveyourberkhamsted.co.uk

THE ODYSSEY FUNDRAISING EVENT

**Wall Street:
Money Never Sleeps**
Sat 27 7.00



It's a bit crass, but couldn't resist this title as The Rex's first fund raising event for the St Albans Odyssey. It is only the Saturday screening where the ticket price is as ridiculous as it is blatant. There'll be some extra, nice things. Friday and Sunday stay at the usual price and it will be back in December. (ps So too, it is a year almost to the day, 29th Nov 2009, when we opened the Rex to over 600 people on a rainy Sunday afternoon, to launch the St Albans campaign)