

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

LINHA DE PASSE

OCTOBER...

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

OCTOBER 2008 Issue 43
www.therexcinema.com

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Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-6.30pm

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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



This magnificent London Plane tree stands protected in the conservation area and watches over High Street.

THE ADVANCED BOOKING LIST (ABL): IMPORTANT...

This expires 30th November. The current ABL year will end with November's film listing. Please note:

it does not extend into December. The new one begins on 1st December. Renewal will not be automatic, so the ABL will not roll-over into the new year (Dec'08 to Nov'09). Instead the ABL will go on sale for everybody on **Saturday 25th October** at 10.30 am from the box office. This way, it is hoped everybody has the same chance.

The ABL is limited to 500 people and will cost £175. This year's experimental limit of 500 has successfully ensured, that upon general release, more people than before were able to get tickers for the most popular films.

I hope you agree this has made it easier for everyone to get tickets compared to the early rushes of the first two years.

One title (the indestructible Mamma Mia) sold out on general release weekend.

No other title all year has done this, unlike in 2007 when things were selling out even before general release!

We don't expect this new ABL to sell out on the first weekend (25th Oct) so please take time to consider it. Remember too we hold back a limited number of seats for the nightly raffle on the door. Thank you to those 500 who put their names in the hat this year.

I hope you got all you wanted from it so far?

And thanks too to those who missed it but took it graciously in their stride and hopefully still got in to most of the films they wanted to see.

A note of thanks to those loyal early contributors to our first membership scheme long before we opened: I hope you can see the ethos behind this advanced booking list.



Harvest time near Buckland Village

**BUSTER KEATON**

On Sunday 7th September we had a ball with a silent Buster Keaton accompanied by Neil Brand on piano. Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke Taylor talked us through some of the best of Buster Keaton while freely confessing the 'influence' he had on The Goodies. By lifting some of his most dangerous sight-gags they brought him to the attention of a 1970's generation, who might have otherwise have missed his genius at its most dangerous! The Matinee Idles mesmerised the audience with unaccompanied do-wap, the opening note caught in a second (or two) by Pikey Butler's pitch pipe. A truly magical afternoon, rounded off with a few drinks and some great stories about Humph.

Above: Neil Brand, Graeme Garden, Tim Brooke Taylor

Below: the glorious Matinee Idles





OCTOBER EVENINGS

Everything is Illuminated

Wed 1 7.30

Director: Liev Schreiber
Starring: Eugene Hutz, Elijah Wood, Boris Leskin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2005
By: Warner Brothers

In February our introduction read:

“Everyone must see this...” In October it remains the same. It didn't sell out (140 or so) on its first outing in February 2006.

I hope that first audience feels as lucky and privileged as I did and do. Consequently, its many repeat screenings have sold out.

Taken from Jonathan Safran Foer best-seller, it reads like a true story.

‘Jonfen’ (Elijah) is an obsessive collector, who journeys from America in search of the woman he believes saved his grandfather during the Nazi massacre of a lost Ukrainian village. With only a creased b&w photograph he sets off with the unlikely Eugene, his grandfather (the brilliant Leskin) and his “seeing-eye” bitch. Eugene’s passion for the American myth and his butchery of spoken English will win your heart with every word and gesture.

Come for Eugene Hutz’s perplexed Ukrainian ‘guide’ and his beautifully judged narration. (much of the glorious filmscore is his too; watch out for his real band playing at the station). Schreiber’s direction is unhurried and priceless. An unexpected surprise from an actor. He clearly understands, real genius means keeping out of the way.

It is haunting, heartlifting, heartbreaking, surprising and funny all at once - and one of the best films in our first four years. It will stay with you.



Brighton Rock

Thu 2 7.30



This early classic from Graham Greene put Richard Attenborough on a career path spanning more than 60 years and most importantly, introduced us to Jack Warner aka Dixon Of Dock Green.

Pinkie Brown (Attenborough) is a small-town hoodlum whose gang runs a protection racket based at Brighton racecourse. When he orders the murder of a rival, Fred (Alan Wheatley), the police close it as suicide. This doesn't convince Ida Arnold (Hermione Baddeley), who was with Fred just before he died, and she sets out to find the truth.

This seems a simple tale from Greene with none of the political subterfuge or international intrigue of his future novels, but look closer...

It's an honour to be part of Berkhamsted's Graham Greene festival for a third year. Not to missed, especially by those who nothing of Greene and even less about early post war film making.

Director: John Boulting
Starring: Carol Marsh, Richard Attenborough, William Hartnell, Hermione Baddeley
Certificate: PG
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: UK 1947
By: Optimum Releasing

Get Smart

Fri 3 7.30, Sat 4 7.00

Based on the 1960s spy parody series created by comic legends Mel Brooks and Buck Henry, Get Smart is just the thing for October. (You'll notice a few comedies in this month's programme)

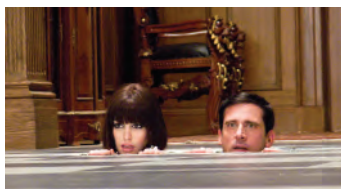
The reliable and ever watchable Steve Carell (40-Year Old Virgin, Anchorman, Little Miss Sunshine) stars as Maxwell Smart, a pre-eminent analyst at a top secret intelligence agency. When his agency is attacked by a ruthless terrorist group (led by Terence Stamp), it's up to the clumsy Smart and his partner, the beautifully efficient Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) to uncover and eradicate the nuclear threat before it's too late...

Unusual for a screwball comedy, there are some spectacular action sequences and an oddly high profile supporting cast in Alan Arkin, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Bill Murray. Get Smart is a light-hearted if light-weight addition to an already crowded, escapist spy spoofs - Johnny English anyone?

"If you like Carell's faintly anxious, fussy shtick then this silly, good-humoured film will prove more than tolerable...even when Get Smart loses its way, it remains an amiable journey." (*Telegraph*) Whater it is, it is a relief from this "serious" James Bond business. You'll love it...?



Director:	Peter Segal
Starring:	Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, Terence Stamp, Alan Arkin
Certificate:	12A
Duration:	110 mins
Origin:	USA 2008
By:	Warner Brothers



Three Colours: Blue

Sun 5 6.00



Unafraid of tackling vast themes, Kieslowski is perhaps best known for “The Dekalog”, a ten part mini-series based on the themes of the Ten Commandments. Stanley Kubrick once described it as the only masterpiece he could name in his lifetime. So too for his brilliant Three Colours Trilogy – a beautifully emotive exploration of the French revolutionary ideals of liberty (blue), equality (white) and fraternity (red).

In Three Colours: Blue, the first of the non-sequential trilogy, Juliette Binoche (in her most powerful role) plays Julie, the grieving wife of recently deceased composer Patrice. Her desire for a life of quiet freedom and anonymity in Paris is upset as she is forced to confront unfinished issues surrounding her husband's life, his work and his relationships...

Featuring exceptional cinematography, and haunting score by Zbigniew Preisner, Blue is a feast; visually and aurally. Highly praised upon its release in 1993, it is atmospheric, compelling and brilliantly executed. A lesson in the power of cinema and a master class in screenplay, lighting and direction.

White and Red to follow in the coming months...

Directors: Krzysztof Kieslowski
Starring: Juliette Binoche, Benoît Régent, Florence Pernel, Charlotte Véry, Hélène Vincent
Certificate: 15
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: France, Poland, Switzerland, UK 1993
By: Artificial Eye

El Bano De Papa

Mon 6 7.30

Directors: Enrique Fernández, César Charlone
Starring: Virginia Méndez, Césa Troncoso, Virginia Ruiz
Certificate: 15
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: Brazil, France, Uruguay 2008
By: Soda Pictures

“This small but perfectly formed Uruguayan comedy has the fetching Cesar Troncoso as Beto, a financially strapped petty smuggler who hopes the Pope's visit will provide his wife and daughter with financial succour as well as the appropriate blessing.” (*Standard*) Cinematographer César Charlone (City Of God) and screenwriter Enrique Fernández use the 1988 visit by Pope John Paul II to the impoverished Uruguayan town of Melo on the Brazilian border, to show how enterprise inspired by terrible poverty, drives people on. As news spreads of the papal visit, the townspeople not only hope for a divine blessing, but also for a small share of material happiness from the expected influx of pilgrims.

Beto will build a lavatory with a washbasin outside and charge a small fee for use – perfect. Unless almost everything that can go wrong does...? This is an elegantly crafted yet determinedly realist tale of the chaos that ensues when a celebrity comes to town, and of one wonderfully disparate community's colourful adventures to cash in on the event. “This is a heartfelt and deadpan portrait of knife-edge poverty where people are not so much greedy as desperate.” (*Guardian*)



Somers Town

plus short film

Tue 7 7.30, Wed 8 7.30

This is another grittily poetic coming-of-age tale, set in a depressed location.

It is the latest film from Meadows depicting the transition from childhood to grown-up - in no time.

Teen urchin Tomo (Turgoose) flees his Nottingham care home and winds up in Somers Town the grim, gang-ridden ghetto between Euston and St Pancras.

Marek (Jagiello), a Polish immigrant, lives with his father, who drinks after a long day's work on the new Eurostar terminal (The film was largely sponsored by Eurostar). The quiet and sensitive Marek is not comfortable in his father's world.

Separately at first then together, the boys struggle to make sense of their new environment. A chance meeting in Somers Town, leads them to form an unlikely friendship. The new friends attempt to win the heart of Maria (Lasowski), a French girl waitressing to pay her way home.

The film's frequently uncompromising portrait of the realities of life for those on the margins of society is leavened by Meadows' characteristic humour and sympathy for his characters. It is worth it on many levels not least the closing scene... and the Terry Henry Arsenal shirt. Come, see if its must-see hype is dressed in 'new clothes'.



Director: Shane Meadows
Starring: Virginia Mèndez, Césa Troncoso, Virginia Ruiz
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 71 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Optimum Releasing



Mamma Mia

Thu 9 7.30, **Fri 10** 7.30,
Sat 11 7.00 (singalong)

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

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F, the acting's okay, if irritating and they're having far too much fun. To add further insult, the sea sparkles blue – the whole time! It left everybody smiling every night in Aug and Sept but gave me a kind of tinnitus on top of which 'digging the dancing queen' is running round my brain like a hamster, not to mention the twitching.

So come, laugh, sing along and dance in the aisles, but please... hate some of it just a little. This might even be the singalong copy...?



The Conformist

Sun 12 6.00



This new print of the sexy 1970s Bertolucci classic thriller should not be missed. Interestingly, director Bernardo saw a parallel between his own life and that of the main character, which it is said, lent the film added relevance and potency, but don't let that put you off. Autobiography should be banned from story-telling.

If an ego is too big to tell a story where the central character is not 'you', then best shut up and leave it to a storyteller. That said, the film's visual style is legendary due in no small part to the immaculate cinematography of Vittorio Storaro.

The story opens in 1938 Rome, where Marcello has just taken a job working for Mussolini and is courting a beautiful young woman who will make him even more of a conformist. Marcello is going to Paris on his honeymoon and his bosses have an assignment for him there... Luckily, The Conformist is still not available on DVD, so remains "thankfully beholden to the domain of the big screen."

What a nice change – a classic you must leave the house to see. So come and see.

Director: Bernardo Bertolucci
Starring: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Gastone Moschin, Enzo Tarascio
Certificate: 15
Duration: 113 mins
Origin: Italy 1970
By: British Film Institute

Romance of Astrea and Celadon

Mon 13 7.30

Director: Eric Rohmer
Starring: Stephanie de Crayencour, Andy Gillet, Cecile Cassel, Serge Renko
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: France, Italy, Spain 2007
By: Artificial Eye

“In an enchanted forest in the time of the Druids, the shepherd Céladon and the shepherdess Astrée share a pure and chaste love. Fooled by a suitor, Astrée dismisses Céladon. In despair he throws himself into the rushing river. She thinks he’s dead, but he is secretly rescued by a bevy of nymphs. Faithful to his promise to Astrée to never appear before her again, Céladon must overcome many obstacles to break the curse. Thus a quest. Mad with love and despair, coveted by the nymphs, surrounded by rivals, and obliged to disguise himself as a woman to be near the one he loves, will he manage to make himself known without breaking his oath? A romance filled with doubt, hazards, and delicious temptations.” (taken from a website, so possibly written by a grown man in tight suede shorts)

At 88, Eric Rohmer says this is his last film, so worth seeing for that. Critics are polarised between wonder and ridicule. It sounds a bit camp, but fairy tales are. They’re also fantastic to fall into, like being read to as a child.



Blindsight

Tue 14 7.30



This inspirational documentary by Lucy Walker follows the attempt by the blind American mountain climber Erik Weißenmayer to lead an expedition of six blind Tibetan children up the north face of Everest. The crux of *Blindsight* is not whether they reach the top but a million other things. The kids are outcasts in their own country, where it is believed their affliction is a punishment for former sins. They are said to be possessed by demons, thus rejected by their families and society.

“The film-making is straightforward in comparison with something such as *Man On Wire*. The story becomes a fascinating exploration into the nature of being blind and the trust it engenders in those who can see. Weißenmayer is determined to conquer the peak. The children, on the other hand, prefer to savour each new sensation along the way.” (*Times Knowledge*)

“You wouldn’t believe it as fiction. It is easy to see awards beckoning. Walker never puts herself in front of her extraordinary subjects.” (*Standard*) Yeah? So what happens to the kids when they go home? Somebody asked “why not teach them the piano instead?” Inferring they have enough pain. It sounds a bit heartbreaking to me.

Director: Lucy Walker
Starring: Erik Weißenmayer, Sabriye Tenberken
Certificate: PG
Duration: 107 mins
Origin: UK 2006
By: Robson Entertainment

Angel

Wed 15 7.30

Director: Francois Ozon
Starring: Romola Garai, Charlotte Rampling, Sam Neill
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: Belgium, France, UK 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Another new release praised and derided in equal measure. Critics might as well be racing tipsters. Set in Edwardian England from 1905 onwards, ANGEL traces the career of would-be novelist Angel Deverell (Garai), whose blithe innocence of the ways of the world doesn't stop her pen from spilling forth torrid romantic fantasies.

Angel's literary career is a runaway success, and the headstrong ingénue becomes the Barbara Cartland of her time. Wealth, fame and love come her way, but the one thing that continues to evade her is wisdom.

Garai is spirited, affecting and finally troubling in a role that might have honoured Bette Davis in her youthful heyday. "An unexpected change of direction from Ozon (remember *Eight Women*?), this is a brave and bracing rags-to-riches melodrama."

Not sure about brave but a melodrama it certainly is and Romola plays her heart out.

Fabulous to look at, it has a beginning, middle and end. Come for this.



Anchorman

Thu 18 7.30



This has been on the request list since we reopened four years ago. Finally it is here to cheer October and compete for 'feelgood' (and smiles as you leave) with the indestructible *Mamma Mia*!

It's the 1970's, San Diego news anchorman Ron Burgundy is top dog in network TV. His freewheeling sexism and obvious gags with his crew are legendary. But all this is about to change when ambitious reporter Veronica Corningstone has just arrived as a new employee at his TV station.

Will Ferrell is Ron Burgundy. When feminism marches into the newsroom in the shape of ambitious newswoman Veronica Corningstone (Applegate), Ron is willing to play along at first as long as Veronica stays in her place, covering cat fashion shows, cooking, and other "female" interests. But when Veronica refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it's more than a battle between two perfectly coiffured anchor-persons... it's war. Come for the ridiculous antics, the lightning banter and the full catalogue of Will Ferrell's very silly faces.

"Turn off your mind, relax and float downstream..." (Not quite what Lennon had in mind but it fits)

Director: Adam McKay
Starring: Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: USA 2004
By: Paramount International Pictures

Righteous Kill

Fri 17 7.30, Sat 18 7.00

Directors: Jon Avnet
Starring: Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Certificate: 15
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

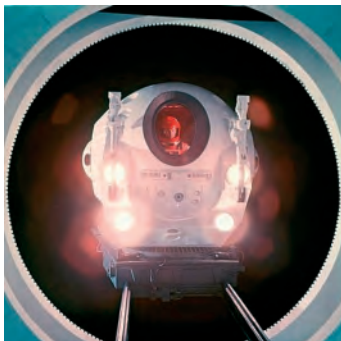
This has got to be seen if only to watch Pacino 'acting' with his eyebrows and DeNiro with that permanent bad smell under his nose.

As you'd expect in this adrenaline-fuelled psychological thriller, they play off each other just like a pair of veteran New York detectives on the trail of a vigilante killer, would do. Lucky casting then!

After 30 years as partners in the NYPD, detectives David Fisk and Thomas Cowan should be ready for retirement - but (wait for it) before they can hang up their badges, they are called in to investigate one final case - the murder of a notorious pimp, which appears to have ties to a case they solved years before. Like the original murder, the victim is a suspected criminal whose body is found accompanied by a four-line poem...? When the same thing happens again, it becomes clear they are looking for a serial killer, who targets those baddies who've fallen through the cracks in the judicial system.

It's predictable stuff, with wisecracks you've heard before and a story you've seen a thousand times, but worth every minute. Don't miss these two screen 'giants' bouncing off each other.

Kubricks: 2001 A Space Odyssey **Sun 19 5.00**



Our Stanley Kubrick season begins today and will run for six months of Sundays. From 19th October we will show a Kubrick film one Sunday a month until March 2009.

This first screening will be introduced by Jan Harlan, his long time producer, collaborator and friend.

Which Kubrick masterpiece will start the season is yet to be announced.

For fans and the curious alike, book a seat for what you know will be worth seeing on the big screen.



Director: Stanley Kubrick
Starring: Daniel Richter, Gary Lockwood, Keir Dullea, William Sylvester
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 141 mins
Origin: UK/USA 1968
By: Warner Brothers

The Duchess

Mon 20 7.30, **Tue 21** 7.30,
Thu 23 7.30

Chronicling the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire ("Jaw-jay-aahn-aah"), *The Duchess* stars Keira Knightley in the titular role as the brilliant and beautiful 18th century pseudo-royal whose life was tragically cut short in a Parisian underpass in 1997!

Thankfully director Saul Dibb's marketing campaign hasn't quite gone that far in stretching the parallels between Georgiana, and her great-great-great-niece, Diana. No its merely milking it dry. Fortunately, the film itself, seems to be okay.

Georgiana (Knightley) is an intelligent, fashionable aristocrat trapped in a loveless, contractual marriage to William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The film details Georgiana's complex ménage à trois with William and her best friend, Lady Bess Foster (Hayley Atwell). Knightley's star quality actually works in her favour as she inhabits Georgiana's character. Ralph is good as the dour and boorish, Charles-like Duke who delivers the film's best line in response to a towering wig inferno.

It's not perfect – "the film bends over backwards to be sympathetic to her, to the point that it can barely acknowledge her flaws..." (*Siobhan Synnot*) but with a starry cast, big costumes and hair, and more stately homes than in the National Trust Yearbook, it looks fantastic. Come for that.



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



Badlands

Wed 22 7.30

Director: Terrence Malick
Starring: Warren Oates, Sissy Spacek, Martin Sheen
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 1973
By: British Film Institute

From the opening shot with white t-shirted Sheen riding on a dust cart in Terrance Malick's 1973 directorial debut, you know you're in for a rough ride.

Quite how rough, still comes as a shock. Loosely based on the true events of the 1950s Starkweather-Fugate murders, *Badlands* follows socio/psychopathic James Dean-wannabe Kit (Sheen) and his listless 15 year old girlfriend Holly (Spacek) as they embark on an apparently random cross-country killing spree. Set in rural post-war South Dakota, Malick brilliantly juxtaposes the idyll of the American Deep South with its ominous, ever-present threat of violence. The characters too mirror these conflicting world-views – "...Holly's voiceover (in the style of the celebrity-obsessed magazines she's forever reading) is tellingly balanced both by the fugitive couple's actions and by Kit's oddly moralistic pronouncements..." (*BFI*) They say Malick is light-years (decades at least) ahead of films like *Natural Born Killers* and *No Country For Old Men* with his sophisticated critique of America's cultural values, its easy violence and maudlin family ties.

Featuring some wonderful cinematography (the land may be bad but as is often the way, it looks fantastic) James Taylor cropping up on the soundtrack, completes it. It fell at the US box office, which might explain its longevity.



Blessed

Fri 24 7.30



Blessed is a visually stunning and immensely moving film, shot in London and the Isle of Skye.

Written and Directed by award winning filmmaker Mark Aldridge.

Starring James Nesbitt, Natascha McElhone, Gary Lewis and introducing Lillian Woods as Charlotte, *Blessed* powerfully expresses the importance of connection, family and humanity.

It is a magical story about the redeeming power of love and the things in our lives which really matter. A successful city broker, Peter's life screeches to a standstill when he suddenly loses everything he truly cares about. Seeking comfort in isolation on a remote island, Peter's ordered world is turned upside down by the arrival of a little girl, Charlotte...

"A beautifully shot, bitter sweet story of loss and redemption, where cast and material blend to make a powerful piece of drama" (*British Film Commissioner, UK Film Council*) "Better than Great" (*Stewart Till, Chairman UK Film Council*).

Accompanied by a great soundtrack, the story will grip you from the outset and the location shots are breathtaking. This new directors cut at the Rex previews ahead of the film's London release. Don't miss.

Director: Mark Aldridge
Starring: James Nesbitt, Natascha McElhone, Gary Lewis, Lillian Woods
Certificate: tbc
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: UK 2008
By: Storm Pictures

Jar City

Sat 25 7.00

Director: Baltasar Kormakur
Starring: Björn Haraldsson, Ágústa Erlendsdóttir, Ingvar Sigurdsson
Certificate: 15
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: Denmark, Germany, Iceland 2006
By: The Works UK Distribution

“Icelandic director Baltasar Kormakur’s atmospheric, fractured but wonderfully weird thriller has a detective (the excellent Eggert Sigurdsson) investigating the death of a

young girl 30 years earlier. He is gloomily obsessed both with his daughter’s problems and the fatality, which he calls ‘another typical Icelandic murder, shitty and pointless’. As he digs up the bones of the dead girl, a biologist at Iceland’s genetic research HQ is having a burial sadness of his own... The two stories gradually become interwound, leading us deep into the genetic and moral bloodlines of the whole country!”

He is certainly an imaginative director even if his grasp of narrative isn’t all it might be. He is aided by spectacularly beautiful cinematography that makes Iceland look like an extraordinary version of the end of the world.” (*with thanks DM Standard*)

It all sounds a bit low, but you must see it if just for Iceland (do you know anyone who has been?). From Magnus Magnusssuuunn to Bjork (the only ‘known’ examples of Icelandic people) there’s a curious something-else-ness about them, so their country? To have normal murderers and detectives seems very wierd. Come in to the unknown where you won’t know anyone’s face...



Partition

Sun 26 6.00



A fantastic and spectacular story of the war years leading up to 1947 and the dividing of India into three separate states by the departing British Raj.

Muslims living in India were given East and West Pakistan and Hindus, Sikh and Christians were driven across the new borders into India. This was Partition. After 300 years of British colonial rule they separated the fighting tribes by giving them their own boundaries in their own countries. The cross-over was bloody and the consequences echo to this day. “Determined to leave the ravages of war behind, 38 year old Gian Singh (Jimi Mistry) resigns from the British Indian Army to come home. It is not the home he left. By chance he finds himself responsible for the life of Naseem a 17 year muslim old girl, traumatized by being separated from her family. Slowly but inevitably, resisting all the taboos, Gian and Naseem fall in love. “In a moving and epic story, woven into a rich and exotic tapestry, they battle the forces that haunt their innocent love, fighting all odds to survive in a world surrounded by hate.”

The colours, scenery and photography are breathtaking. Come for it all.

Director: Vic Sarin
Starring: Jimi Mistry, Irfan Khan, Neve Campbell, Kristin Kreuk
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: Canada, South Africa, UK 2007
By: Soda Pictures

I've Loved You So Long

Mon 27 7.30, Tue 28 7.30

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

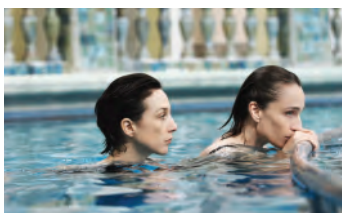
Claudel's debut won two prizes at this year's Berlin Film Festival and it is easy to see why: this beautifully scripted and skilfully composed tale of two sisters who rebuild their relationship after years apart is utterly engrossing and deeply moving.

Kristin Scott-Thomas plays wonderfully against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman who has just been 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 relating to 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



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

Wed 29 7.30



To general astonishment, this unremarkable little comedy has stormed the box office across France. There are jokes about living north of Lille, while the hero is bald and (curiously, except for his wife) the rest of the characters, ordinary. Yet is a stunning piece of easy genius. Thanks in no small part to clever sub-titles, their faces, and the simplicity of the tale, the humour swims the Channel without getting wet. It is a gem of gems, not to be missed.

Linha De Passe

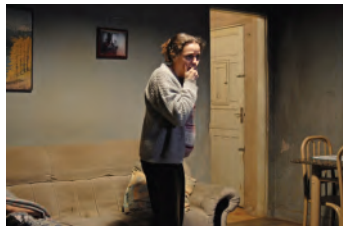
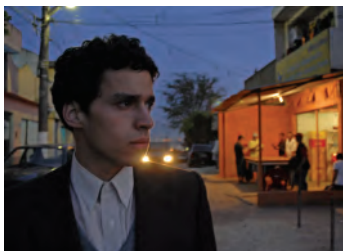
Thu 30 7.30

This is Walter Salles' latest understatement about life in South America. Sorry, the collective noun – South America – is not enough to describe a vast continent teeming with a million cultures, diverse traditions, faiths and boundaries. Where music seems to pour through the whole continent like a bloodstream. And where, we are told, blood is spilt without a second thought for its owner. In his three major films, *Central Station*, *Motor Cycle Diaries* and now this, Salles seems to look at his continent through the eyes of those trying to live in it, or escape its traps. Sao Paulo. 20 million inhabitants, 200 kilometres of traffic, 300,000 bike messengers!

At the heart of one of the toughest, most chaotic cities in the world, four brothers try to reinvent themselves. With the backdrop of Brazil in a state of emergency, each is looking for a way out... Through him and his frequent collaborator Daniela Thomas, this is a characteristically humane and intelligent film. Steadfast in its refusal to glamourise violence or patronise extremes of a polarised environment, it exudes compassion and insight... and the most beautiful faces on earth. Kill your pimp, dealer or that silly, white, village-hall Salsa teacher who sweats cheese, to be here.

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

Directors: Daniela Thomas, Walter Salles
Starring: Sandra Corveloni, Vinícius Oliveira, João Baldasserini, Kaique Santos
Certificate: 15
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: Brazil 2008
By: Pathe Distribution



Step Brothers

Fri 31 7.30



Will Ferrell seems to have single-handedly introduced British and French farce to America in this 21st Century - and shipped it back!

From redneck Mississippi to Aylesbury, everybody gets it. Not bad for a big yank. Here he is again alongside the not-to-be underestimated big stars' foil, but nobody's straightman, John C. Reilly. Watch him in A Prairie Home Companion to see his command of the screen. His 'Best Supporting' Oscar for the terrible Chicago, was for standing out by standing still in an orgy of over-acting.

Unemployable 40-something losers Brennan (Ferrell) and Dale (Reilly) are forced to become step-brothers as their single parents marry each other. Initially hating each other, they find common ground in the hatred of Brennan's brother Derek. Not to mention their enthusiastic building of bunk beds...!

Adam McKay (Anchorman – here Thurs 16th) keeps the jokes coming. You might decide the idea was better left as an idea.

"I laughed but the plotting is so random you could shuffle the scenes of two curly-haired buffoons sleepwalking, wrestling and going for interviews into any order - it wouldn't make any difference..." (*Independent*)

It's not big or clever – so come and chuckle at halloween.

Directors: Adam McKay
Starring: Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Certificate: 15
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

COMING SOON

New releases

Brideshead Revisited
The Boy in Striped
Pyjamas
Burn After Reading
Batman
Rock n Rolla

Back by demand

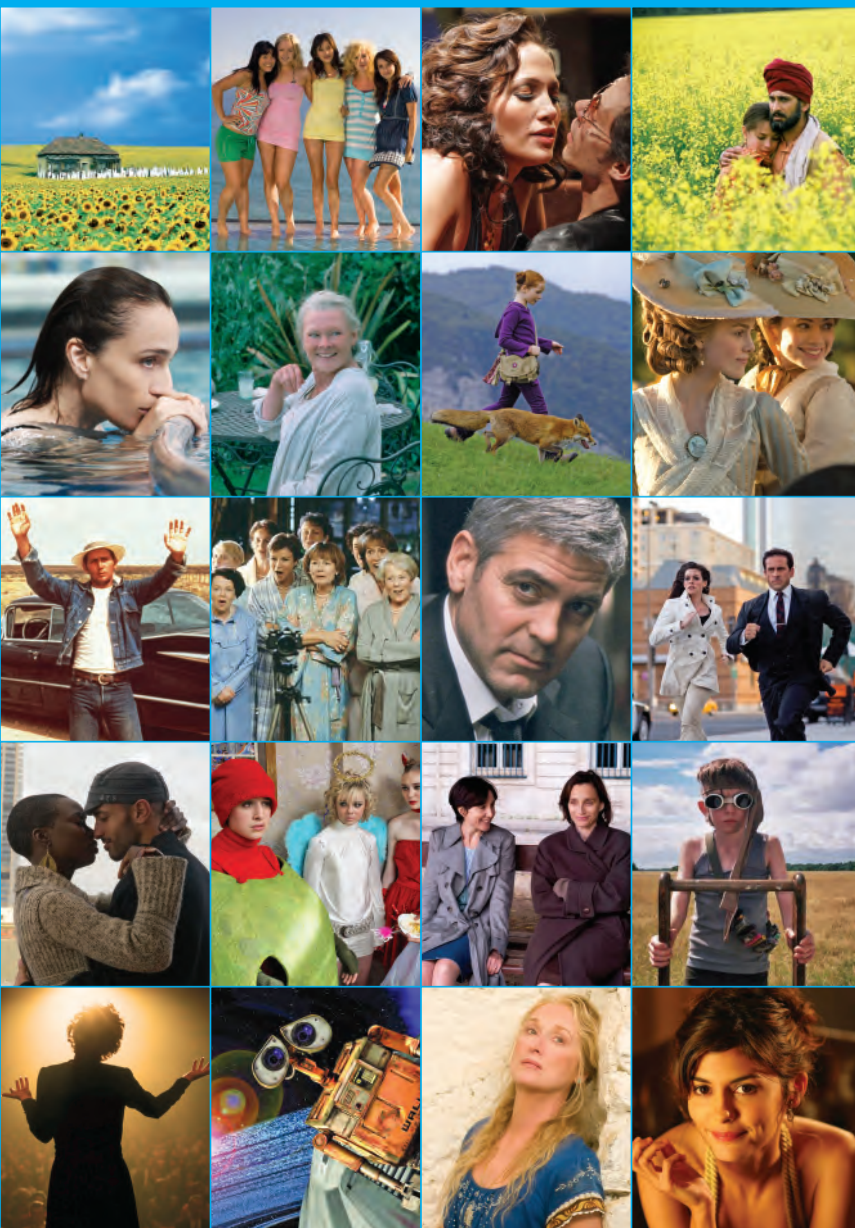
Paris
Mamma Mia
I've Loved You So Long



OCTOBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	WED	EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED	2.00, 7.30
2	THU	MICHAEL CLAYTON	2.00
2	THU	BRIGHTON ROCK	7.30
3	FRI	GET SMART	7.30
4	SAT	ANGUS, THONGS & PERFECT SNOGGING	2.00
4	SAT	GET SMART	7.00
5	SUN	THREE COLOURS BLUE	6.00
6	MON	GET SMART	2.00
6	MON	EL BANO DE PAPA	7.30
7	TUE	PRICELESS	12.30
7	TUE	SOMERSTOWN & SHORT FILM	7.30
8	WED	LADIES IN LAVENDER	2.00
8	WED	SOMERSTOWN & SHORT FILM	7.30
9	THU	MAMMA MIA	2.00, 7.30
10	FRI	MAMMA MIA	7.30
11	SAT	MAMMA MIA (SINGALONG)	2.00, 7.00
12	SUN	THE CONFORMIST	6.00
13	MON	CALENDAR GIRLS	2.00
13	MON	ROMANCE OF ASTREA & CELADON	7.30
14	TUE	THE DUCHESS	12.30
14	TUE	BLINDSIGHT	7.30
15	WED	THE DUCHESS	2.00
15	WED	ANGEL	7.30
16	THU	THE DUCHESS	2.00
16	THU	ANCHORMAN	7.30
17	FRI	RIGHTEOUS KILL	7.30
18	SAT	WILD CHILD	2.00
18	SAT	RIGHTEOUS KILL	7.00
19	SUN	KUBRICK EVENT	5.00
20	MON	THE VISITOR	2.00
20	MON	THE DUCHESS	7.30
21	TUE	LA VIE EN ROSE	12.30
21	TUE	THE DUCHESS	7.30
22	WED	BADLANDS	2.00
22	WED	BADLANDS	7.30
23	THU	EL CANTANTE	2.00
23	THU	THE DUCHESS	7.30
24	FRI	PREVIEW OF 'BLESSED'	7.30
25	SAT	WALL-E	2.00
25	SAT	JAR CITY	7.00
26	SUN	PARTITION	6.00
27	MON	PARTITION	2.00
27	MON	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	7.30
28	TUE	SON OF RAMBOW	12.30
28	TUE	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	7.30
29	WED	I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG	2.00
29	WED	WELCOME TO THE STICKS	7.30
30	THU	THE FOX AND THE CHILD	2.00
30	THU	LINHA DE PASSE	7.30
31	FRI	STEP BROTHERS	7.30



OCTOBER MATINEES

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

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Everything is Illuminated

Wed 1 2.00

Director: Liev Schreiber
Starring: Eugene Hutz, Elijah Wood, Boris Leskin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2005
By: Warner Brothers

In February our introduction read:

“Everyone must see this...” In October it remains the same. It didn’t sell out (140 or so) on its first outing in February 2006.

I hope that first audience feels as lucky and privileged as I did and do. Consequently, its many repeat screenings have sold out.

Taken from Jonathan Safran Foer best-seller, it reads like a true story.

‘Jonfen’ (Elijah) is an obsessive collector, who journeys from America in search of the woman he believes saved his grandfather during the Nazi massacre of a lost Ukrainian village. With only a creased b&w photograph he sets off with the unlikely Eugene, his grandfather (the brilliant Leskin) and his “seeing-eye” bitch. Eugene’s passion for the American myth and his butchery of spoken English will win your heart with every word and gesture.

Come for Eugene Hutz’s perplexed Ukrainian ‘guide’ and his beautifully judged narration. (much of the glorious film score is his too; watch out for his real band playing at the station). Schreiber’s direction is unhurried and priceless. An unexpected surprise from an actor. He clearly understands, real genius means keeping out of the way.

It is haunting, heartlifting, heartbreaking, surprising and funny all at once - and one of the best films in our first four years. It will stay with you.



Michael Clayton

Thu 2 2.00



Gorgeous George plays against type but still cool as a debt-ridden fixer for one of New York’s largest law firms in this powerful corporate espionage thriller.

A one-time criminal prosecutor, Michael Clayton is known among his colleagues as “The Janitor” because for 15 years he’s worked behind the scenes to clean up high-profile clients’ messy personal problems.

As the loan sharks close in, one of the firm’s most brilliant lawyers, Arthur Edens (Wilkinson) starts to crack up. Caught between this and that and the desperate need for cash, Clayton takes the assignment to help Eden... uh oh!

“Yet another in a long line of fine performances from Clooney” (*Channel 4*) “Clooney’s a damaged man, a weak man, a defeated man, an arresting performance... muscular and pain-racked at once.” (*PB Guardian*)

This is a fantastic and powerful corporate espionage thriller, with everybody on top form.

Tilda is the best. Come for her and on the way, catch George and Tom doing pretty well.

Director: Tony Gilroy
Starring: George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton, Sydney Pollack
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Pathe Distribution

Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging

Sat 4 2.00

Director: Gurinder Chadha
Starring: Alan Davies, Georgia Groome
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 100 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Paramount International Pictures

Welcome children, to this trashy piece of pre-teenage pandering. Louise Rennison should have a talking to and Gurinder Chadha transferred to Plymouth Argyle.

Oh how this awful combination of ugly words must have made them chuckle. Apparently the book title is worse! They are the pot-noodles of the I-know-young-people-they-listen-to-me-and-think-I'm-cool-generation of desperate pandering women. Mothers are the only hope the world has. When they start to sound like their children, despair can't be far off.

"Clueless meets Byker Grove in this Day-Glo adaptation of Louise Rennison's tween bestseller about a kooky 14-year old Eastbourne native called Georgia Nicholson.

Here the director Chadha (Bend It Like Beckham) overdoses on "infectious" musical montages and zany comedy diversions. It's a whitewashed adolescence, a film for the very young or the very gullible. It's as though *Skins* never happened." (*Times Knowledge*) *Skins*? More lowest-com-denom cool pandering from 50year olds?

My great aunt Audrey's fat arse to it all. Please, don't bring your grandparents.



Get Smart

Mon 6 2.00



Based on the 1960s spy parody series created by comic legends Mel Brooks and Buck Henry, Get Smart is just the thing for October. (You'll notice a few comedies in this month's programme)

The reliable and ever watchable Steve Carell (40-Year Old Virgin, Anchorman, Little Miss Sunshine) stars as Maxwell Smart, a pre-eminent analyst at a top secret intelligence agency. When his agency is attacked by a ruthless terrorist group (led by Terence Stamp), it's up to the clumsy Smart and his partner, the beautifully efficient Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) to uncover and eradicate the nuclear threat before it's too late...

Unusual for a screwball comedy, there are some spectacular action sequences and an oddly high profile supporting cast in Alan Arkin, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Bill Murray. Get Smart is a light-hearted if light-weight addition to an already crowded, escapist spy spoofs - Johnny English anyone?

"If you like Carell's faintly anxious, fussy shtick then this silly, good-humoured film will prove more than tolerable...even when Get Smart loses its way, it remains an amiable journey." (*Telegraph*) Whater it is, it is a relief from this "serious" James Bond business. You'll love it...?

Director: Peter Segal
Starring: Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, Terence Stamp, Alan Arkin
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Warner Brothers

Priceless

Tue 7 12.30

Director: Pierre Salvadori
Starring: Gad Elmaleh, Audrey Tautou
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: France 2006
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Jean (Elmaleh), a shy young bartender, is mistaken for a millionaire by a beautiful gold-digging seductress named Irène (Tautou). When she discovers his true identity, she abandons him, only to find that the love-struck Jean has no intention of letting her get away. Jean's comical attempts to gain her affections gradually evolve into setting himself up as a gigolo at a luxury hotel, until Irène finally starts to warm to her persistent, persuasive suitor.

Against the wildly atmospheric backdrop of the south of France, Pierre Salvadori directs this sexy and thoroughly charming romantic comedy, as a is a fresh re-imagining of the classic Breakfast At Tiffany's.

This is quite a different role for the bright eyed Audrey Tautou. It's a nice little tale of confidence trickery set against the most sumptuous Riviera background... Come and drool over over that forgotten phenomina – summer sunshine.



Ladies in Lavender

Wed 8 2.00



This ran and ran when we first opened and introduced us to the most feared of audiences. Charles Dance was one of our first Q&A guests, whom later and unforgettably, brought Judi Dench to chat to him on our stage.

He came across this short story while on filming on location in a library.

The interminable waiting on-set allowed him to read and absorb it.

After a thousand set-backs and the usual ups and downs, it stubbornly emerged as this small, beautifully shot, independent film. It cleverly transcends the sentimental through its warm sketches of genuine people. In exquisitely judged performances, Dame Judy tries to suppress carnal desires and Dame Maggie tuts in sisterly disdain. Their world is simple and uncomplicated. Their words are measured, manners perfect and repression absolute.

The sun shines and waves pound. It is about a time long lost, where smokey pubs were the domain of ruddy faced old men and policemen doffed their caps, clipped cheeky twerps around the ear and got away with 'Now bugger off or I'll be round to see yer Father'.

Once more we look forward (with a little trepidation) to the patter of sensible shoes.

Director: Charles Dance
Starring: Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Miriam Margolyes, Natascha McElhone, Daniel Bruhl
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: UK 2004
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Mamma Mia

Thu 9 2.00,

Sat 11 2.00 (singalong)

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

The story's fluffy, the music's beige, the script is Media Studies grade F, the acting's okay, if irritating and they're having far too much fun. To add further insult, the sea sparkles blue – the whole time! It left everybody smiling every night in Aug and Sept but gave me a kind of tinnitus on top of which 'diggin the dancing queen' is running round my brain like a hamster, not to mention the twitching.

So come, laugh, sing along and dance in the aisles, but please... hate some of it just a little. This might even be the singalong copy...?



Calendar Girls

Mon 13 2.00



This our second outing in sensible shoes this month, sees some lovely old favourites stripping down to their carefully placed foliage and sheet music. Apparently a sensation at the Cannes 2003, and one of the most popular films in the UK that year. Based on a true story, it's the tale of the women of the Rylstone Women's Institute in North Yorkshire. Their cancer charity has long sponsored a calendar.

Their original calendars were of lovely scenes of the Yorkshire dales. In 1999, after one of their husbands became ill with leukaemia, the women came up with a more commercial concept: discreet photos of these bare WI bottoms. Their calendar became a worldwide phenomenon. Inevitably, the likes of Britney Spears and Cindy Crawford copied the idea, not to show off real beautiful bodies of course, but all for charity.

Beautifully performed by an all-star cast with Mirren and Walters excelling in the central roles, Cole's (SAVING GRACE) plucky film will certainly delight our matinee audience.

Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Celia Imrie, Helen Mirren, Annette Crosbie, Julie Walters, Philip Glenister, Merryn Owen, Penelope Wilton, John-Paul Macleod
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: UK 2003
By: Park Circus Films

The Duchess

Tue 14 12.30, **Wed 15** 2.00,
Thu 16 2.00

Chronicling the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire ("Jaw-jay-aahn-aah"), *The Duchess* stars Keira Knightley in the titular role as the brilliant and beautiful 18th century pseudo-royal whose life was tragically cut short in a Parisian underpass in 1997!

Thankfully director Saul Dibb's marketing campaign hasn't quite gone that far in stretching the parallels between Georgiana, and her great-great-great-niece, Diana. No its merely milking it dry. Fortunately, the film itself, seems to be okay.

Georgiana (Knightley) is an intelligent, fashionable aristocrat trapped in a loveless, contractual marriage to William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The film details Georgiana's complex ménage à trois with William and her best friend, Lady Bess Foster (Hayley Atwell). Knightley's star quality actually works in her favour as she inhabits Georgiana's character. Ralph is good as the dour and boorish, Charles-like Duke who delivers the film's best line in response to a towering wig inferno.

It's not perfect – "the film bends over backwards to be sympathetic to her, to the point that it can barely acknowledge her flaws..." (*Siobhan Synnot*) but with a starry cast, big costumes and hair, and more stately homes than in the National Trust Yearbook, it looks fantastic. Come for that.



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



Wild Child

Sat 18 2.00

Director: Nick Moore
Starring: Natasha Richardson, Aidan Quinn, Emma Roberts
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 98 mins
Origin: USA 2008
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Yet more teeny trash to show we're not all Railway Children and Swallows and Amazons. Actually we are - this is just pandering to the 12As.

The unhinged behaviour of a Malibu princess (Roberts) prompts her frustrated father to send her to an all-girls English boarding school in this teen comedy. Poppy is a bratty, self-absorbed 16 year old whose pampered L.A. childhood has left her with a notable sense of self-entitlement.

When she pulls a prank that goes too far, her father (Quinn) decides that it's high time she understands the concept of discipline. Upon arriving at her new school, she is taken aback by the rules laid out by the stern matrons, the curfew and the mandatory lacrosse matches. She is at first confident that she can contend with these lifestyle changes, but there's one variable that she hadn't factored into her self-centered equation - her classmates.



The Visitor

Mon 20 2.00



McCarthy's belated follow up to his low-key indie gem 'The Station Agent' takes as its inspiration the lives of illegal immigrants in America. A lonely misanthrope; a disheartened economics professor and all-round miserable old sod - Walter Vale is forced into contact with other human beings and finds himself opening up.

It is about a tentative, wary friendship where ownership is blurred, belonging tested and loyalty stretched.

Something happens to force Walter to make a choice:

"The characters have real depth and there are lovely moments of tenderness and intimate self-discovery but the political story is far less convincing. McCarthy's figures are essentially perfect, model citizens pitted against a faceless, repressive state. While elements of this may ring true, it drowns the subtle dialogue and incisive character development in right thinking, left-leaning platitudes." (*Time Out*)

"Like *The Station Agent*, the story is told in a very direct way and can seem a trifle naïve. The immigrants are impossibly nice. The authorities are less impossibly cruel. The whole cast is good but Jenkins, never overplaying and refusing to act for sympathy, could not be better." (*Standard*) Cancel work, come.

Director: Thomas McCarthy
Starring: Hiam Abbas, Danai Gurira, Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 103 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Miracle Communications

La Vie En Rose

Tue 21 12.30

Director: Olivier Dahan
Starring: Marion Cotillard, Sylvie Testud, Pascal Greggory
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 140 mins
Origin: Czech Republic, France, UK 2007
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Beginning in August last year La Vie En Rose has been a huge sell-out whenever it is screened. A year later it is back for autumn matinees. Marion Cotillard's Oscar turned her into the usual short-lived media darling. She used this free coverage to air her fantastic theory that 9/11 was an all-American job to rid New York of some jerry-built towers, while simultaneously finding the excuse it needed to make the world a freer, happier, safer place...! It's a long-shot but what a girl... "Cotillard is little short of genius". She elevates this tragic tale of one huge, tiny life. This little girl's magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above expectations. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love. The 'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable she would burn her wings in bravado, brilliance and self-destruction. "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation....a great performance" (*PB Guardian*) Come for a heartbreaking story, beautifully played and photographed right to the last musical teardrop... with no regrets.



Badlands

Wed 22 2.00



From the opening shot with white t-shirted Sheen riding on a dust cart in Terrence Malik's 1973 directorial debut, you know you're in for a rough ride.

Quite how rough, still comes as a shock. Loosely based on the true events of the 1950s Starkweather-Fugate murders, *Badlands* follows socio/psychopathic James Dean-wannabe Kit (Sheen) and his listless 15 year old girlfriend Holly (Spacek) as they embark on an apparently random cross-country killing spree. Set in rural post-war South Dakota, Malik brilliantly juxtaposes the idyll of the American Deep South with its ominous, ever-present threat of violence. The characters too mirror these conflicting world-views – "...Holly's voiceover (in the style of the celebrity-obsessed magazines she's forever reading) is tellingly balanced both by the fugitive couple's actions and by Kit's oddly moralistic pronouncements..." (*BFI*) They say Malik is light-years (decades at least) ahead of films like *Natural Born Killers* and *No Country For Old Men* with his sophisticated critique of America's cultural values, its easy violence and maudlin family ties. Featuring some wonderful cinematography (the land may be bad but as is often the way, it looks fantastic) James Taylor cropping up on the soundtrack, completes it. It fell at the US box office, which might explain its longevity.

Director: Terrence Malick
Starring: Warren Oates, Sissy Spacek, Martin Sheen
Certificate: 15
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 1973
By: British Film Institute

El Cantante

Thu 23 2.00

Director: Leon Ichaso
Starring: Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez, John Ortiz, Manny Perez, Vincent Laresca, Federico Castelluccio
Certificate: 15
Duration: 114 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Revelation Films Ltd.

A colourful but uninspired biopic of Hector Lavoe, vocal hero of the Seventies salsa scene in New York.

Decent music is intercut by predictable backstage shenanagins but with J-LoLopez in a thousand glorious outfits. Come for that.

Marc Anthony stars as the 'King of Salsa' in this musical biopic produced by his wife and co-star Jennifer Lopez.

El Cantante is an upfront, matter-of-fact and entirely superficial portrait of Hector Lavoe, a Puerto Rican crooner who brought a new Latin beat to the streets of New York in the 1970s. Meanwhile, backstage, he was descending into that same old spiral of self-destruction that killed many a musician before him and which makes this story as predictable as the lyrics to 'Happy Birthday'.

The recreation of his concerts - with Anthony providing the vocals - is cheerful and definitely worth a listen, but while we're assured that this music was important and innovative, we're not told what made it so.

"The focus is on Lavoe's clichéd slide into addiction and his soap-opera relationship with his wife, charmlessly played by Lopez herself." (*Sunday Times*)

For Salsa fans on an October afternoon it is music jammed-full and showing nowhere else. Come for that



Wall-E

Sat 25 2.00



The latest in the ever growing line of "best yet-ever" feature length cartoons.

Only this time it's true... It is a fantastic animation, beautifully detailed.

The year is 2700. WALL-E (an acronym for Waste Allocations Load Lifter - Earth - Class), a robot, spends every day doing what he was made for. But soon he will discover what he was truly meant for. From Academy Award®-winning director Andre Stanton (*Finding Nemo*), WALL-E is the story of one robot's comic adventures as he chases his dream across the galaxy.

The 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." So there! It does look amazing, so come and see for yourself. Bring a grown-up to explain it to... but don't miss it.

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

Partition

Mon 27 2.00



A fantastic and spectacular story of the war years leading up to 1947 and the dividing of India into three separate states by the departing British Raj.

Muslims living in India were given East and West Pakistan and Hindus, Sikh and Christians were driven across the new borders into India. This was Partition. After 300 years of British colonial rule they separated the fighting tribes by giving them their own boundaries in their own countries. The cross-over was bloody and the consequences echo to this day. "Determined to leave the ravages of war behind, 38 year old Gian Singh (Jimi Mistry) resigns from the British Indian Army to come home. It is not the home he left. By chance he finds himself responsible for the life of Naseem a 17 year muslim old girl, traumatized by being separated from her family. Slowly but inevitably, resisting all the taboos, Gian and Naseem fall in love. "In a moving and epic story, woven into a rich and exotic tapestry, they battle the forces that haunt their innocent love, fighting all odds to survive in a world surrounded by hate."

The colours, scenery and photography are breathtaking. Come for it all.

Director: Vic Sarin
Starring: Jimi Mistry, Irfan Khan, Neve Campbell, Kristin Kreuk
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: Canada, South Africa, UK 2007
By: Soda Pictures

Son of Rambow

Tue 28 12.30

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

Back by demand. Many of you have seen it more than once – so come again and bring somebody who hasn't!

Set in Hertfordshire in the early 1980's, it's a great little film filled with energy and surprise, not to mention beautifully unself-conscious performance by the two boys – and by all the kids in fact.

A fine example of light-touch, low-key directing, letting them shine without 'acting'. If you haven't seen it, you've possibly missed seeing your children, houses, roads and cinema!

The big boys director Garth Jennings and producer Nick Goldsmith kept their promise to show it here first in preview on 14th March for all the children involved.

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

It is a fabulous little film with genuine warmth. And Ashlyns looks great on film.

It is rare to see something this good, made where we live.

Better, it is universal and even the worst critics loved it, which of course is no recommendation.



I've Loved You So Long

Wed 29 2.00



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

Claudé'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 plays wonderfully against type as Juliette, an introverted and fragile woman who has just been 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 relating to each other... It is heartbreaking in places but never manipulative. Cancel all manner of things but don't miss.

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

The Fox and the Child

Thu 30 2.00

Director: Luc Jacquet
Starring: Isabelle Carré, Thomas Laliberté, Bertille Noël-Bruneau
Certificate: U
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Pathe Distribution

This French film from Luc Jacquet, narrated by Kate Winslet in its English version, is set on the mountainsides of Ain. Like *March of the Penguins*, the director's first feature-length film, it is ravishingly shot.

It tells a simple tale about a little girl who makes friends with a fox but finally realized that to love doesn't necessarily mean to possess. Children will undoubtedly adore the film, and the local tourist board will probably have to take its phones off the hook.

"The Alpine scenery steals the picture as we go through the season before concentrating on a gloriously-hued autumn. I hope it wasn't tarted up with CG effects – it doesn't look like it."

(Standard)

It sounds too good to miss, so bring all the children in your street.



THREE CLOSE LANE, PERCY BIRTCHELL & THE BOOKSTACK



“Three Close Lane was the way to three closes or paddocks where sheep and cattle were penned for the night on the way to market in London.” Other gems like this can be found in “A Short History of Berkhamsted” by Percy Birtchnell. (He also does a nice line in pink jackets)

“Manor Street is so called because the land was formerly part of the Pilkington manor estate; the manor house stood opposite Rectory Lane.”

“Berkhamsted is said to be taken from the ‘birch-grown homestead’ but other works of reference support the view of John Norden (1598) that it was so called because it is situated among the hills...”

(Don’t quite get this theory but ‘birch-grown’ sounds quaint enough).

His book is in the library and used to be available from the Bookstack before it was replaced by an empty lock/alarm shop.

Browsing its labyrinth with that new-book smell was such a joy. Many of the glossy books in our foyer library are from there. The Bookstack gave real pleasure to thousands, while keys and alarms remind us how vulnerable we are. If they needed a Russian money laundering front, they could have used that secret passage between gulag knitting patterns and the football-for-boys section. Someone must know why we suddenly have a lock shop where nobody goes? For now you can order Percy’s book from Waterstones.

Three Close Lane with no sheep or yellow lines. Five years of pot-holes took less than two days to fix. The double yellows were added while the tarmac was still warm. Care? My aunt Audrey's arse.



THE WEBSITE

Our website went down in August. So for weeks it has been frustrating for everyone. Please accept our apology. I freely admit to knowing nothing of the internet and never got near ours or any other website; not counting that little vintage Italian number. Which is more health and safety complete with instructions. The men, straight from the vineyards, sport manly moustaches with rolled up sleeves. The women are big, hairy and magnificent and the donkey has all the best lines. Not to mention, the lip-sinc is so far out, any moans and groans come minutes later during the ice-skating scene. Apart from this I know nothing.

Its demise was sudden and unexpected. Apparently websites are complicated. Even our wizziest of whiz-kids can't get into it - just to warn you its not working! They've spent hours on telephone help lines talking gibberish to those who speak it fluently. Alas to no avail. Postman Pat, between many adventures, would have delivered it the same day even with a dot in the wrong place! However, we are about to spawn an all-singing, all-dancing Rex website which will be up soon-ish.

I have only understood its true value since it's been broken. For weeks every second or third call has been to tell us about it. Thus we have spoken to people we might never hear from and emailed them the programme. This is probably the best thing to come out of it. Plus, it made us realize how many log on daily. So, if you can, come in talk to us and pick up mag/programme. My biggest concern is for the mother and daughter from Hackney who used to catch two buses then train from Euston (now criminally useless at weekends) on a Sunday to come and see whatever we were showing.



When I threatened early on to ditch the website because of complaints and bitching I couldn't be bothered with, they politely waited for me in the foyer and anxiously asked me to keep the website. When they told me of their journey, I was as close to heartbroken as you can get on a Sunday. So I vowed to keep it, if only for them. Now it's down, I don't know how to reach them. Stupidly I didn't ask their address. My image of websites is borne out the Wall Street, Gekko 'greed is good' thing. I imagine high-flyers all half-lying in big chairs with pencil-skirted pa's pandering to their whims. Exhausted by wheeling and dealing, they turn to the Rex to see what they can get their secretary to book. I'm sure this is not the case but it's quite satisfying to think you can't always get what they want at the push of a button. I hope the old site is up soon and the new one following on when our top brains have fathomed it out.

No Humph quote this month sorry... Can't reach the SorryIHAClue website! But I'm sure he'd enjoy this in the same spirit. An album title announced on the radio at the weekend: "I started out with nothing and I've still got most of it left"