

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

FLOWERS OF WAR
SEPTEMBER 2012...

"Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever known..."
(Sunday Times 2012)

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

SEPTEMBER 2012 Issue 90
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

Gallery	4-6
September Evenings	11
Coming Soon	24
September Films at a glance	24
September Matinees	25
Rants and Pants	42-44

SEAT PRICES (+ REX DONATION £1.00)
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BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759
 Mon to Sat 10.30 – 6.00
 Sun 4.30 – 6.30

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

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

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Julia Childs	Liam Parker
Ally Clifton	Amberly Rose
Kitty Clucas	Georgia Rose
Nicola Darvell	Sid Sagar
Ashley Davis	Alex Stephenson
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Alice Fishman	Tina Thorpe
Karina Gale	Amy Tobin
Ollie Gower	Jordan Turner
Elizabeth Hannaway	Bethanné Wallman
Billie Hendry-Hughes	W. James Wallman
Abigail Kellett	Jack Whiting
Amelia Kellett	Olivia Wilson
Lydia Kellett	Roz Wilson
Tatjana LeBoff	Keymea Yazdanian
Emily Main	

Ushers:

Amy, Amy P, Annabel, Becca, Cameron, Ellen W, Ellie, Freya, Hannah, James, Katie, Lizzie, Luke, Meg, Patrick, Sophie, Zoe

Sally Rowbotham In charge
Alun Rees Chief projectionist (ret'd)
Jon Waugh Projectionist
Anna Shepherd Projectionist
Martin Coffill Projectionist
Jacquie Rose Chief Admin
Oliver Hicks Best Boy
Simon Messenger Writer
Jack Whiting Writer
Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry PR/Sales/FoH

Andrew Dixon Resident Artist
Darren Flindall Maintenance
Paul Fullagar, Alan Clooney Advisors and Investors
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Lynn Hendry Advertising 01442 877999

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.therexberkhamsted.com

BEST IN SEPTEMBER



Beautiful & heartbreaking. Nobody should miss it...

Nostalgia For The Light

Mon 10 7.30

FILMS OF THE MONTH



No not Jackson Browne. Rodriguez, missing for 40 years...

Searching For Sugar Man Mon 17 7.30



One wedding, no funeral. British, good & bad, not too ugly...

The Wedding Video

Fri 14 7.30/Sat 15 7.00/Sun 16 6.00



Familiar v passion. The old story surprisingly well told...

Take This Waltz Wed 26 7.30

WELCOME BACK TO AUTUMN AT THE ATTIC



The Attic café high above the Home and Colonial, has the best rooftop views of any Chilterns market towns. Unique and independent, it hasn't been renewed or revamped, just tidied, but with its familiar scruffy detail intact. Of competition from chains with their industrial dinners, there is little to be said that doesn't already speak for itself.

As for the Attic tables; Ercol might have been trendy for 14 minutes in 1972, but just like the Ford Cortina, it was ugly, then. Moreover, when scrubbed, it smells like ham-nite aboard a pirate ship.

So now there are school-dinner

tablecloths, clean cutlery (handles too!) posies and broad daylight still streaming through old windows. It remains unique and independent in Berkhamsted, with fresh, mostly organic local produce every day, and leaf tea in old pots. There are three flights of stairs, no glossy service with a queue at the top – and you can't book!

Ps... the menu is roughly the same but reduced in choice and price. There are no 95p prices. They have been reduced to 50p or up to a straight pound, and no fancy deals. Come and queue. Some have been coming for breakfast most afternoons for fifteen years, and still have to queue. So no favours.



BERKHAMFEST OR... HAM-NITE

(THE BEST PART OF BEING A PIRATE)



Anybody else sick of those Berkofest posters/banners..? It is no longer just the hideous name, but that ugly nicotine poster is everywhere!

Who is running it, how did those posters and banners get so widely fly posted, and preposterously four months too early? Even before the summer had begun, there was an epidemic of brown posters reminding us of September. Thanks! A wee element of surprise would have worked just as well. But what do I know? Why were there no Ollie-Ollie-Ollie penises drawn on them or ripped from railings on any drunken Friday night...? Perhaps local toerags thought they had already been vandalised enough?

Still, it is bound to be a fabulous day if the sun shines, with tents bulging with all kinds. Bring an interesting (homemade) musical contraption and try out the open mic tent.

Music should be heard and not seen.

Brian May? Case rested, with further watertight evidence from Elton John.

Who needs to be there to see a wig peeping over a piano from a 100 yards? Memorable and precious recordings are always ruined live. One note changed or held too long, never fails to look for the

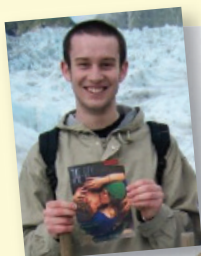
exit. So Showaddywaddy wont do any harm. Never heard of Seth Lakeman, but there are a few gems on the bill: Mitch Benn, Rowland Rivron, Steve Rodgers, The Dufflers, Tom Billington, Panic Circus and of course Shane Lamont. But here the rule reverses. Shane should definitely be seen, but only heard from an escape hatch. A cross between the pied piper and a second hand car salesman, if you get sucked in to his chat, you're bugged. (You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave...)

Come to the open mic tent with something different, something that doesn't involve just you, a guitar and twenty minutes of misery. Come snappy, with half an idea; one song, one routine, two gags, and off.

Bring a stout stick tied to a piece of string, mouth organs, things to rattle, and make something up, easily forgotten, apart from the sheer joy of creating some spontaneous 'music' on the spot. Bring your voices to make harmonies from a single note...

Otherwise just turn up alone or with a handful of friends, bring the kids, a few deck chairs, a picnic, enjoy most, some or all of it. Stay as long as you like, see what happens and go home smiling.

AU REVOIR OLLIE HICKS & BETH WALLMAN



Ollie surrounded by the girls & (inset) on top of a glacier in NZ with Rex mag..!



Oliver John Hicks is the tall skinhead with his arse hanging out the back of his jeans, whose been serving you at the bar for the last four or five years. In describing our intrepid programming of world cinema, Ollie coined the term 'foreign muck'. From his tantrums over making coffee at matinees, he turned it around to become the 'cappuccino kid' and the darling of cooing afternoon ladies, like that mischievous grandson with a twinkle in his eye. Now he is going from matinee idol to idle on parade.

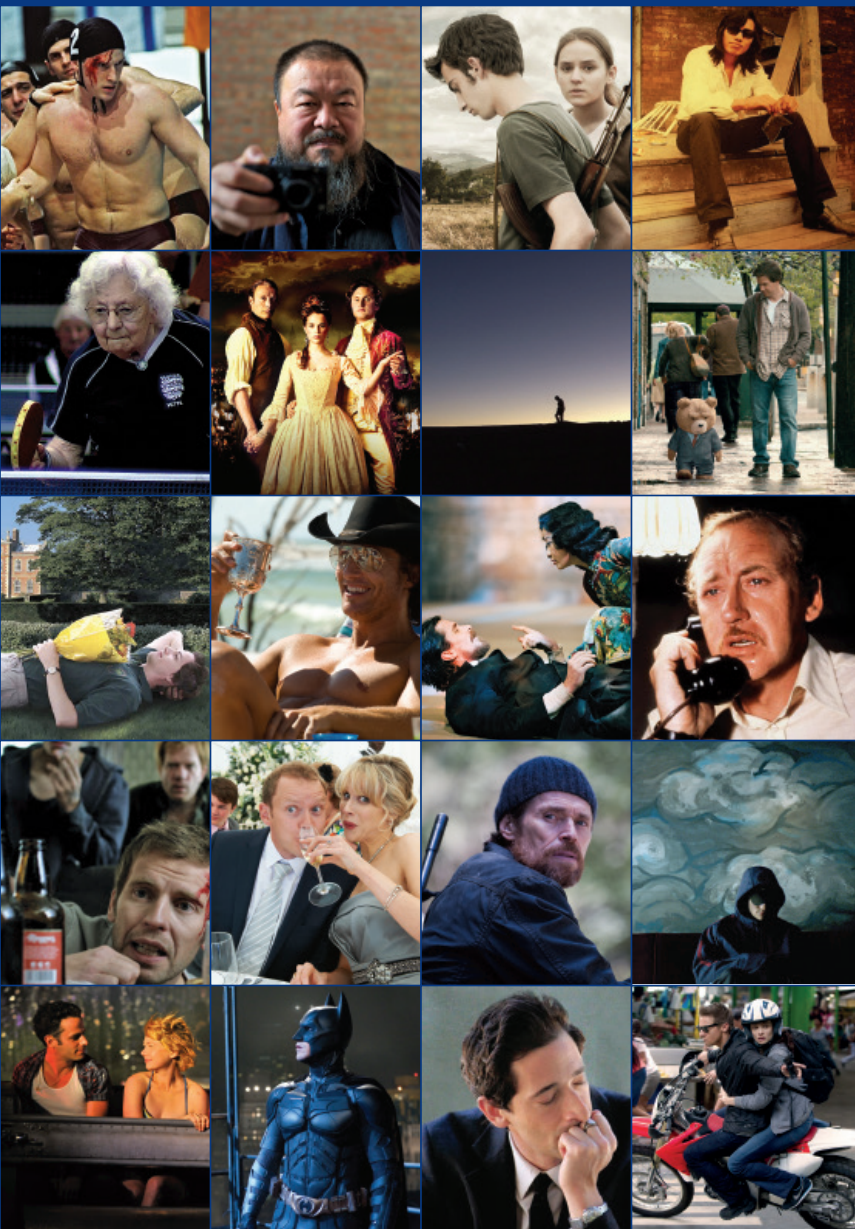
It is inevitable all our kids will grow up and leave. All have, to do something better, or return after travelling or Uni, before they decide what to do next, but Ollie is the first one we've sent off to the army. He called himself up to: The Grenadier Guards! So here's to shiny buttons, proper high-wasted grenadier trousers and the joy of taking orders... not cappuccinos this time.

Bethanné Wallman, leaves us to take up a six month teaching post in Thailand, before spending a further year travelling. Beth came here as an usher, not long after we opened in 2005, aged 14 or 16? During and after Uni she

returned to run the staff rota and bars alongside Ollie and Becca (above far right) who also left earlier this year to take up a fab new job in London. Last year, Beth was responsible for getting the Odyssey team to St Albans market every Saturday, working the day, then the night shift at the Rex. She has been responsible full stop, never letting me down and always one step ahead. However, the little twerps both leave in September! What if the grenadiers invade Thailand in October...?



Karina & Beth St A market March 2011



S E P T E M B E R E V E N I N G S

Magic Mike

Sat 1 7.00



This Soderbergh movie takes place in the milieu of male strip-clubs in Tampa, Florida, but its interest is in the lives of these strippers. It's about masculinity as something to sell, something performed, and something that may not last forever. The title role is played by Channing Tatum, who started his career as a male stripper in Tampa, aged 19. He devised the idea for a film based on his experiences. Tatum has shown promise elsewhere, but it's under Soderbergh's guidance that he feels wholly energised and harnessed. Beyond the role's physical demands, he nails the dramatic ones, too: Mike's dream, and hope of escape, is to build highly uncomfortable-looking custom furniture out of junk!

"Soderbergh composes the movie with matter-of-fact care, giving us wide views of the choreographed routines without cutting too fast. He's made a classy film on a tacky subject, without dressing it up in ways to betray the setting, or apologise for what it's about." (*Telegraph*)

"For all its social insightfulness, this isn't an inward-looking indie movie in a minor-key. Soderbergh is out to give audiences a good time, and he succeeds. Its trajectory may be predictable, but that doesn't stop Magic Mike being the best movie about dudes disrobing since *Brokeback Mountain*." (*Total Film*) Worth the strip? You decide.

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Alex Pettyfer
Certificate: 15
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Lionsgate

A Royal Affair

Sun 2 6.00

Director: Nikolaj Arcel
Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Mikkél Boe Følsgaard, Alicia Vikander, David Dencik
Certificate: 15
Duration: 138 mins
Origin: Denmark 2012
By: Metrodome Distributors

Denmark, 1760s at the beginning of the historical period of hope, known as the Enlightenment. German doctor Johann Struensee (Mikkelsen) is called upon to attend to the questionable sanity of the erratic King Christian. The German's eye is quickly caught by the king's beautiful wife, Queen Caroline (Vikander), and the two fall into an affair that threatens to consume the nation.

The opening scene, where a beautiful woman strokes a horse, and then walks by a river in a rain-soaked landscape, light, in this light we glimpse her world. Within moments, she's writing a letter. Then back in a sunlit field, in a different country and a different time. In moments, it is clear that this beautiful young woman, in this rain-soaked landscape, has an extraordinary (true) story to tell. Caroline Mathilde is the sister of England's King George III and the central character of this, Nikolaj Arcel's award-winning new film. In that sunlit field, she's fifteen and on the brink of an arranged marriage to the new 17 yr old king of Denmark...

"A Royal Affair is the definition of classy period drama: beautifully shot, well acted, intelligently scripted with a real story to tell." (*TimeOut*) This too is back by serious demand after it's first screening here in July. Must not be missed.



Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry

Mon 3 7.30



Directed by journalist and filmmaker Alison Klayman, “Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry” is an engaging and intimate portrait of the protest artist, famed for his input into China’s ‘Bird’s Nest’ stadium, and for his 2010 work ‘Sunflower Seeds’, an installation at the Tate Modern.

The film documents three years in the life of the artist, interspersed with footage of his upbringing, his early life in China and New York City, and his remarkable work to recognise the true human cost of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

The film also covers the period of his arrest in 2011, purportedly for tax irregularities although many suspect otherwise. Whilst briefly silenced, it is a testament to the artists’ sheer bravado that, within weeks, he was back firing missives at the Chinese authorities as if nothing had happened...

“Ai is an appealingly tranquil screen presence, but there is nothing placid about his commitment to testing the limits of the ruling party’s censorship laws, not to mention the patience of its underlings.” (*Telegraph*)

“Part artwork, part memorial, part journalistic campaign, it was conceived in defiant riposte to the authorities who refused to release clear figures. Ai Weiwei himself is a rather mysterious, opaque figure, but utterly confident and unafraid of state bullies. He is heroic.” (*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*) A must for those who long to know how China ticks.

Director: Alison Klayman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Detachment

Tue 4 7.30

Director: Tony Kaye
Starring: Marcia Harden, Adrien Brody, James Caan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: G2 Pictures

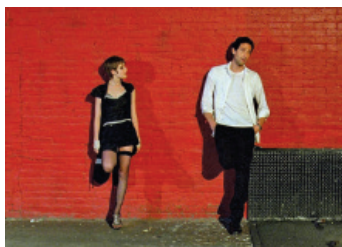
In Director Tony Kaye’s *Detachment*, Adrien Brody stars as Henry Barthes, a teacher with a true talent to connect with his students. Yet Henry has chosen to bury his gift. By spending his days as a substitute teacher, he conveniently avoids any emotional connections by never staying anywhere long enough to form an attachment to either students or colleagues. When a new assignment places him at a public (US for state) school where a frustrated, burned-out administration has created an apathetic student body, Henry soon becomes a role model to the disaffected youth. In finding an unlikely emotional connection to the students, teachers, and a runaway teen he takes in from the streets, Henry realises he is not alone in his life and death struggle to find beauty in a seemingly vicious and loveless world.

“In one of Mr. Brody’s best performances since *The Pianist*.” (*NYTimes*)

“It’s watchable enough, but the bludgeoning screenplay seems undercooked compared to the high-grade actors on show” (*Guardian*)

“The acting is excellent but the movie is the sort of thing that gives pessimism a bad name!” (*Observer*)

“Like the system it deplores, it’s pretty much a mess, though with a cast this strong you get moments of saving grace” (*Independent*) Worth it all the same. Although, teachers just back, might not think so...?



Flowers of War

Wed 5 7.30



Christian Bale swaps cape and cowl for collar and bible to protect the women of Nanking from Japanese occupation during 1937, in conflicting melodrama.

Bale plays John Miller, a boozy and cynical westerner who takes refuge in a convent housing a gaggle of terrified schoolgirls and a bevy of prostitutes. He dresses in priest's robes for a drunken joke, but then finds redemption in actually protecting the women disguised. "Zhang's take, adapted from a novel, was inspired by two factual elements of the atrocity. One was the attempts of Americans in the city to shield handfuls of Chinese. The other was incidents of professional sex workers volunteering to take the places of young, virginal girls earmarked as "comfort women", the euphemism for sex slaves." (*Empire*) Yimou's fondness for romanticism perhaps isn't the right eye to capture such horrors; his works are wrapped in colour and beauty (Hero, House of Flying Daggers) something the Nanking massacre wouldn't welcome. For a powerful war story *Flowers of War* lacks an honest reality that propels similar films, yet the sense of barbarous wonder running through one gorgeous set-piece after another, coupled with Bale's regular determination, rescues it from a minefield of monotony. (*Jack Whiting*) Worth seeing for Zhang Yimou's eyes on any subject.

Director: Yimou Zhang
Starring: Christian Bale, Paul Schneider
Certificate: 15
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: China/Hong Kong 2011
By: Revolver

Children of Glory

Thu 6 7.30

Director: Krisztina Goda
Starring: Kata Dobó, Iván Fenyő
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: Hungary 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Spring 1956. While Hungary is only a small slave nation to the massive Soviet Block, it is sovereign with its own proud identity. Moreover its national Water Polo team is invincible! They had 'lost' only one game, this to the USSR in Moscow in 1955. It is well known the match was rigged.

So as revolution breaks out on the streets of Budapest during that summer, the Soviet tanks roll in. Young polo star Karcsi and his friend, Tibi get caught up in the 'adventure'. But it is no longer a game.

By the end of October, it is all over. Friends, rounded up are never seen again. It has all been for nothing.

Lucky to escape, Karcsi rejoins the national team for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. It is 6th December and their semi final match is against the USSR! They set out to lift Hungary's head out of the water, in what would be one of the most brutal exchanges ever seen on the sports-field.

The USSR must never be seen to lose on the World Stage! Pussy Riot versus Putin. Right now 56 years later, three tiny girls lose to the might of a jealous Power that daren't lose. This is the same simple true story of how love and loyalty take revenge by humiliation. Brilliant. Don't miss.





Director: Christopher Nolan
Starring: Christian Bale, Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 164 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers



The Dark Knight Rises

Fri 7 7.30, Sat 8 7.00, Sun 9 6.00, Thu 13 7.30

Christopher Nolan calls upon everything from Greek tragedy to Charles Dickens as his Dark Knight saga comes to a close in a titanic, emotional action spectacle that casts a large, bat shaped shadow over all its competition.

Eight years after Batman (Christian Bale) took the wrap for Harvey Dent's downfall, Gotham has been enjoying a break from deranged criminals and Bruce Wayne has retired, reclusive, Howard Hughes style. His peace is disrupted by the hulking, masked menace Bane (Tom Hardy), who's heading to town with Gotham's destruction in mind.

Bruce is drawn from hiding by sultry Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) a feline thief with her own agenda. Re-calling, then neatly tying up plot strands from *Batman Begins*, Bane's plans in fact run much deeper than initial terrorism. So Bruce must don the cape one more time, but is his conflicted city worth saving?

An impeccable cast of screen legends returns including Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine at his misty eyed best, all bringing something to the table, but it's new addition Joseph Gordon-Levitt as honest cop John Blake who is the film's true ace in the hole.

Lovingly captured on traditional 70mm and with mostly practical stunt work, this monolith of a conclusion to an already dynamite series bows out with confidence, and deserves tremendous applause. (*Jack Whiting*) Come twice.





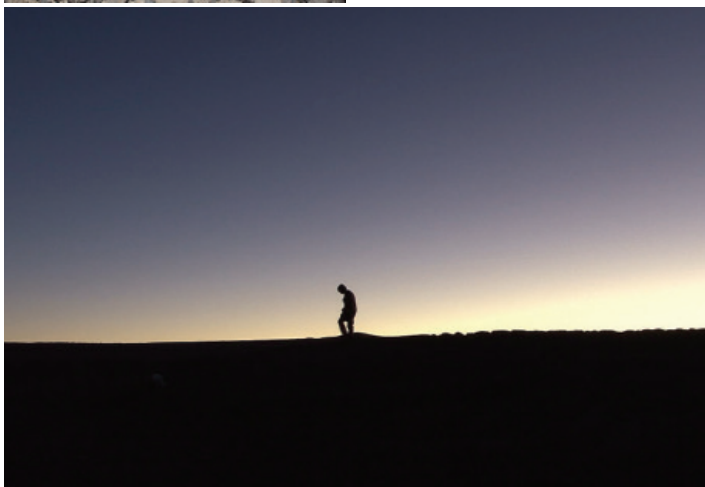
Director: Patricio Guzman
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: Chile/France/Germany 2012
By: Verve



Nostalgia For The Light **Mon 10** 7.30

Directed by Patricio Guzmán, “Nostalgia for the Light” is a breathtaking and remarkable documentary; an intense, near transcendental essay on politics, humanity, and our place on Earth.

Loosely, the documentary has two narrative strands. Initially a retrospective of burgeoning Chilean astronomy – a then new observatory built in 1977 pointed at the immense, tranquil lunar landscape in the sky above the Atacama desert. Then the film turns to explore the fate of those who were ‘disappeared’ by the Chilean regime around the same time. Contemporary interviews reveal how those scouring the sky for deeper meaning coexist with those scouring the ground for fragments of their loved ones, buried here by Pinochet. 35 years later, women still hold pictures of their missing children at Santiago stadiums and prison gates, then scratch the desert to find their own hopeless, tortured answers. “For Guzmán, the science of astronomy is not simply an ingenious metaphor for political issues, or a way of anaesthetising the pain by claiming that it is all tiny, relative to the reaches of space...this is one of the films of the year.” “Magical, moving documentary...everything about this film makes you look with fresh eyes at the familiar...a sense of wonder anchored in solemnity and sobriety...a truly eye-opening experience, yes, a truly eye-opening experience!” (*Time Out*) (research *Simon Messenger*) Don’t miss.



Tortoise In Love

Tue 11 7.30



There is a sprinkling of gags in this modest romantic comedy from debut film-maker Guy Browning.

Occasionally, it achieves a homespun, unassuming daftness. Tom is a young man who chucks in a big-city job and comes back to his home village as a gardener. He does a fair bit of Hugh Grant-ish stammering and flinching as he falls in love with a pretty Polish au pair, Anya, (Alice Zawadzki). But silly Tom is as slow as a tortoise when it comes to plucking up the courage to ask her out (hence the clever title). The comedy locals have to jolly him along. "It's gentle, well-meaning, a bit watery."

(*Guardian*)

"I watched this amateurish comedy of village manners in a cringe of mystified embarrassment, unable to discern who might have financed it. Then I discovered that it actually is an amateur undertaking, produced, directed and financed by the villagers of Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire. So bravo to their endeavour"

(*The Patronising Independent*)

"It's sharper than your average Britcom, and perfectly charming, so you'll forgive a bit of amateurism and wooden acting."

(*Time Out*)

The village requested it be shown here, so to complete the favour, come and see what you think. I guarantee we've shown worse, complete with 5 stars and a string of emperor's new clothes awards.

Director: Guy Browning
Starring: Tom Mitchelson, Alice Zawadzki, Tom Yates, Mike Kemp
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Immense Productions

Ping Pong

Wed 12 7.30

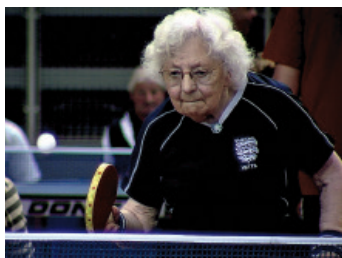
Director: Hugh Hartford
Certificate: PG
Duration: 76 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Brit Doc Films

The film, following a handful of octogenarian competitors as they head to China for the Over-80s World Table Tennis Championships, recounts some amazing stories. Lisa, an 85-year-old American, was born in Vienna, fought the Nazis with the French Underground and won the Croix de Guerre, to go with her shelf-loads of tournament medals. She's a mere stripling compared with Dorothy, an object of adoration still playing at 101. Perhaps toughest of all is Terry from Stockport, an 82-year-old with ruined lungs and prostate cancer yet absolutely determined to compete in China.

"Inspirational" hardly covers it.

Featuring remarkable men and women whom age cannot wither. They are, in the main, people who have been vigorous sportsters all their lives, with one German woman who only took it up in her 80s after ill health and a stroke!! Remarkably, it appears to have re-energised her. Interestingly, the film shows that the over-80s table-tennis scene is much the same as any other sporting event: there is rivalry, egomania and even dirty tricks, like pinching someone else's bat.

"Director Hugh Hartford does not patronise his stars, although perhaps there is something too gently celebratory and obviously feelgood about the film. These dynamic table-tennis stars put the rest of us to shame." (*Guardian*) It's batty, and and here once. Don't miss.



The Wedding Video

Fri 14 7.30, Sat 15 7.00,
Sun 16 6.00



Director Nigel Cole and writer Tim Firth (Calendar Girls) take a stab at the 'found-footage' sub-genre in this sweet and unpretentious British comedy.

"Specifically, it's shot by Rufus Hound, the rambunctious brother and best man of Robert Webb, who is due to marry Lucy Punch in a few weeks' time. As a wedding present for the bride and groom, Hound volunteers to document the build-up with his new camcorder, little realising that what he'll capture is a spiral of mayhem." (*Independent*)

"When it's not being shrill, obvious or awkwardly wistful, *Wedding Video* is quite funny: crazed dance rehearsals, an out-of-control wine tasting, the bride-to-be's hideous grandmother (Miriam Margolyes)." (*Total Film*)

It verges on BBC Three levels of humour yet the improv from popular TV comics Webb (Peep Show) and Hound (Celebrity Juice) can always bring a smile to even the creakiest material, and their likable charm shines through the moments that leave you eye-rolling when you should be laughing. *Wedding Video* tickles the funny bone in places, but we've come up with far better rom-coms than this. Consider filing for divorce soon after. (*Jack Whiting*)

I'm plumping for this, probably far too much, but it did sound good at first? Okay, plumbing might be a better option. So come for me, laugh a bit, then boo at the end. (*JH*)

Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Rufus Hound, Lucy Punch, Robert Webb, Miriam Margolyes
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Searching for Sugar Man

Man Mon 17 7.30

Director: Malik Bendjelloul
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: Sweden/UK 2012
By: StudioCanal

Directed by Malik Bendjelloul
"Searching for Sugar Man" is a terrific documentary about Detroit-born 60s folk singer Rodriguez.

An enigma in his hometown, Rodriguez released an album 'Cold Fact' which sold poorly in the US leading to his being dropped from Sussex Records. He disappeared into relative obscurity, and rumours abounded that, in a fit of despondency, he had committed suicide on stage at the end of a show. Meanwhile, 'Cold Fact', and the singer's other works, had made their way to South Africa where Rodriguez became something of a cult figure; his powerful lyrics resonating with a youth repressed by Apartheid.

But what had really happened to Rodriguez? Were the rumours of his demise authentic? Bendjelloul, a lifetime fan of the musician, uses this masterful documentary to reveal the truth of this fascinating artist.

"Searching for Sugar Man is a fresh and unexpected documentary that plays like a nail-biting mystery and a ticket to ride the whirlwind where art and commerce do battle." (*Rolling Stone*)

"The lilting, honeyed soundtrack, made up of Rodriguez's own songs, makes his relative obscurity here seem all the more puzzling." (*Telegraph*) (*Simon Messenger*) Not just for musos, this one is for everybody, so don't miss.



The Hunter

Tue 18 7.30



A beautifully photographed outdoorsman's woody thriller with an environmentalist theme, **Mysterious American, Martin** (a magnetic Dafoe) is tasked by a shadowy biotech company to go into the wilderness and find a **Tasmanian tiger**, a species long considered extinct.

Based on the 1999 novel by Julia Leigh and directed by Oz TV vet Daniel Nettheim. Filmed in Tasmania, it has the faintly surreal look peculiar of Australian movies in which nature pulses with a mysterious, primordial danger.

Martin lodges with the family of a man who went missing months before in the nearby mountains, possibly on the same quest.

The vanished father was an environmentalist who may have fallen foul of loggers in this part of Tasmania. Martin soon discovers that he is in danger from both sides. The timber types associate him with the green protesters, while the environmentalists suspect (correctly) that he is using illegal steel traps in the wilderness.

"Prehistoric might also describe the cavernous face of Mr. Dafoe, now 56, he proves to have the right blend of ruggedness and sensitivity for this conflicted hero.

The Hunter never says who is good, bad, right or wrong. And the implications of Martin's decisions are left for the viewer to unravel." (NYT) Brilliant and back by serious demand, so don't miss it twice.

Director: Daniel Nettheim
Starring: Frances O'Connor, Willem Dafoe
Certificate: 15
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: Australia 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Jo Nesbo's Jackpot

Wed 19 7.30, Thu 20 7.30

Director: Magnus Martens
Starring: Kyrre Hellum, Mads Ousdal, Henrik Mestad
Certificate: 15
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: Norway 2011
By: Metrodome Distributors

For those hungry for more Jo Nesbo, or any Nordic noir for that matter, you're in for a bauble sized treat as another of his balmy yet hugely gripping airport novels hits the screen.

"Jackpot unfolds in a series of flashbacks after a massacre just before Christmas at a seedy strip joint outside a small town near the border between Norway and Sweden.

The only survivor, found covered in blood and clutching a gun under the corpse of a blowsy stripper, is Oscar, who manages a small factory employing ex-convicts. As the snow falls, he's interrogated by the sardonic Norwegian police detective Solør (Henrik Mestad), who is constantly surprised by finding that Oscar's wildly unlikely story seems to add up."

(Guardian)

Oscar narrates this twisting tale in ways that would impress Kyser Soze (Usual Suspects) himself, keeping the cops and the audience, second-guessing.

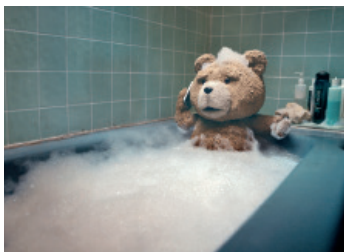
"Casually gruesome and corpse-littered, it's a shaggy dog story with an almost buried emotional core about friendship, betrayal, temporary alliance and craftiness." (Empire)

Lacking the gloss that masked Headhunters' many absurd moments, Jackpot goes for a below the belt approach and what comes out the other end is a grisly farce that approaches Fargo levels of oddity, or at least a lesser Cohen Brothers effort. (Jack Whiting) Grizzly ketchup fest, but an absolute must.





Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane, Mila Kunis
Certificate: 15
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Int'l



Ted

**Fri 21 7.30, Sat 22 7.00,
 Sun 23 6.00**

It doesn't do any harm to wish upon a star, and in seven year-old John Benett's case he got exactly that when, on one Christmas morning, he wished that his beloved bear Teddy came to life.

Teddy soon becomes a national sensation appearing on chat shows and signing autographs. It doesn't last though and the lovable bear soon enters the world of the celebrity Z-lister.

Flash forward to the present and John (Mark Wahlberg) now a pot smoking thirty something is still living with Teddy, (now simply Ted, voiced by Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane) life is hardly going anywhere fast. Things change when John promises to get himself together in order to continue his relationship with girlfriend Lori (Mila Kunis). She presents a simple ultimatum, it's Ted or her. MacFarlane crosses over to cinema with a series of crude sketches strung together by a forgettable story. It's the culture riffs that propel Ted forward and his foul mouth, drug induced antics are immature, yet highly amusing all the same. So if you detest Adam Sandler movies and love Flash Gordon there's a spot for you here. It's low-brow at its best, but everybody's talking about it. (*Jack Whiting*) So either come and see, or consign the 'everybody's talking' dept to its natural home – behind the 'who cares?' bin.

The Forgiveness Of Blood

Mon 24 7.30



Set in rural Albania, it examines the changing fortunes of two siblings, 17-year-old Nik and his 15-year-old sister Rudina, both approaching maturity at different speeds. When a local land dispute ends with their father accused of murder and on the run, the family is ensnared in a blood feud. By the ancient Balkan code of the Kanun, Nik is forced into isolation, forbidden to leave his own house on pain of death. Obligated to support the family in the absence of menfolk, Rudina takes over her father's delivery business and proves herself, in contrast, resourceful and spirited. Joshua Marston's new film takes us into remote rural Albania, where a long-standing feud between two families over a disputed right of way turns ugly.

"Observed with the same non-judgmental manner Marston brought to *Maria Full of Grace*, the film has an earthy whiff of authenticity. But it's seriously lacking in incident and dramatic drive. Admirable work by British cinematographer Rob Hardy, though." (*Guardian*)

"The glimpse into a centuries-old community and a system of justice would be fascinating in itself, but the life of Marston's film resides in the brooding inner dramas of brother and sister. They are beautifully played by Tristan Halilaj and Sinsi Lacej, neither of whom had acted before." (*Independent*) To simply understand and connect, don't miss.

Director: Joshua Marston
Starring: Sindi Lacej, Tristan Halilaj, Refet Abazi
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: Albania 2012
By: Soda Pictures

The Imposter

Tue 25 7.30



Bart Layton's beautifully crafted documentary begins with the vanishing of Nicholas Barclay, a 13-year-old Texan boy, in June 1994. But its central character is Frédéric Bourdin, an extremely damaged young Frenchman longing to lose himself in the illusion of another identity. Despite not looking or sounding like Barclay, and being discovered by police three years later and 5,000 miles away, in Spain, Frédéric disguises himself, very badly, as the boy now grown-up, and is welcomed with open arms by his grieving family!

A compelling liar, Frédéric confesses his pathological Pinocchio-ing straight to camera, with Nicholas' sister Carey and mother Beverly chipping in separately as credibly heart-sick witnesses. The reason neither of them questioned the inconsistencies in his tale is painfully simple: they needed to believe him. Layton is just as skilled a storyteller as his subject, fleshing out these incredible, often conflicting accounts with whatever comes to hand: talking-head interviews with family members and state officials; snatches of conversations; static-crackling home-video footage (some shot by Nicholas himself). Sometimes he intercuts police phone calls with clips from '70s detective shows such as *Kojak*. Elsewhere, he dramatises moments with stunning neo-noir reconstructions.

"In lesser hands, such technique might feel like a cheat." (*Total Film*)

"They were a family without a kid, he was a kid without a family ..." Sensational, don't miss.

Director: Bart Layton
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Picturehouse/Revolver

Take This Waltz

Wed 26 7.30



Take This Waltz, the second feature film to be written and directed by Sarah Polley, a Canadian actress in her early thirties, is sharply observed and richly furnished. The film is seen almost entirely from the point of view of Margot, a 28-year-old freelance journalist. On one hand, Margot (Michelle Williams) is married to a charming guy, Lou (Seth Rogen). He's cuddly, they love each other. On the other hand, there's Daniel (Luke Kirby). He's sexy, but sensitive too; an artist who makes his living wheeling a rickshaw round Toronto. An affair seems written in the stars: Margot bumps into him by chance in Nova Scotia, and by a stroke of coincidence or an act of fate, it turns out that he has recently moved in to her street. Gradually a relationship springs up between them. This is a hard-headed, generous film about love, with no definite answers. Williams, one of the cinema's most versatile performers, brings an extraordinary depth and complexity to Margot.

"This is in effect a modern version of *Brief Encounter* in a society where the constraints may be different but the personal, emotional and ethical risks remain significant. It seems truthful, honest and phenomenally atmospheric." (*Guardian*)

"The acting is terrific. Rogen brings a breakable sweetness he hasn't shown before." (*Time Out*) It's the old, old story surprisingly well told...

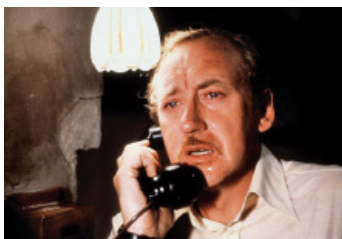
Director: Sarah Polley
Starring: Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Sarah Silverman, Luke Kirby
Certificate: 15
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Studiocanal

The Human Factor

Thu 27 7.30

Director: Otto Preminger
Starring: Richard Attenborough, John Gielgud, Derek Jacobi
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: UK 1979
By: British Film Institute

Fittingly, with a number of scenes set in Berkhamsted, *The Human Factor* marks the last in the current Graham Greene Festival screenings at the Rex. First published in 1978, It is an espionage tale of double agents, double bluffs and double scotches. Said to be based on the character of notorious spy, Kim Philby, later to come out and defect all in the same week? The film adaptation was released in 1979 with an all-star Brit cast and a token Russian: John Guilguid, Derek Jacobi and Richard Attenborough, with terrible sideboards. Nicol Williamson plays the Philby character, trying to smuggle his beautiful wife out of Africa (played by Iman, David Bowie's wife) With a screenplay by Tom Stoppard and directed by Otto Preminger, it was a pretty heavyweight film to disappear without a trace. A solid conflict of interests story at the end of the Cold war, where the complexities of loyalty are set against the amoral nature of those in high office, overseeing interplay of spy and counter spy at MI6. For us, its main interest is Berkhamsted. We see the Swan (then the best pub in town) and best of all there is a shot of Percy Birtchnell's (now a forlorn hording marking the place where the shop collapsed 'accidentally' one night in 2010). Don't miss.





Director: Tony Gilroy
Starring: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz,
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 135 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Int'l



The Bourne Legacy

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

Those who remember *The Bourne Ultimatum* in 2007 (who can forget the best action trilogy ever?) will know the series ended in a note perfect, full-circle closure. So why spoil the fun?

Yes, Matt Damon has moved on to greener grasses (Paul Greengrass to be exact) leaving director Tony Gilroy (Michael Clayton) and Hurt Locker front-man Jeremy Renner to carry the Bourne torch, hence the Legacy bit.

Now we've got over the lack of actual Bourne let's move on to the plot which involves another botched super-soldier project in the form of Aaron Cross (Renner), who must take mysterious red and blue pills on a regular basis in order stay alive. He crosses paths with Dr Marta Shearing (Rachel Weisz) so now they both have to keep a big distance from the assassins (assets) Aaron's shadowy superior (Edward Norton) continues to send after him (now them).

"These mildly suspenseful scenes showcase Renner's physical agility and screen presence as well as Weisz's talent for credible crying and screaming, but they scarcely trouble their respective acting abilities." (*TimeOut*)

Despite Gilroy ushering Renner's pug face confidently from one adrenaline sequence to the next, their debut doesn't quite hit previous heights. Matt, we miss you. (*Jack Whiting*) Yes, hard to imagine without Matt D, but this Legacy can't be missed.

COMING SOON

New releases

Samsara
Brave
Berberian Sound Studio
Shadow Dancer
Total Recall

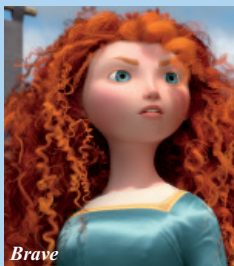
Back by demand

Darfk Knight
Bourne Legacy
Take this Waltz

Berberian Sound Studio



Samsara



Brave



Shadow Dancer

SEPTEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

1	Sat	ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT	2.00
1	Sat	MAGIC MIKE	7.00
2	Sun	A ROYAL AFFAIR	6.00
3	Mon	AI WEIWEI: NEVER SORRY	2.00, 7.30
4	Tue	DETACHMENT	12.30, 7.30
5	Wed	THE FLOWERS OF WAR	2.00, 7.30
6	Thu	CHILDREN OF GLORY	2.00, 7.30
7	Fri	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES	7.30
8	Sat	ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT	2.00
8	Sat	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES	7.00
9	Sun	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES	6.00
10	Mon	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES	2.00
10	Mon	NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT	7.30
11	Tue	TORTOISE IN LOVE	12.30, 7.30
12	Wed	PING PONG	2.00, 7.30
13	Thu	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES	2.00, 7.30
14	Fri	THE WEDDING VIDEO	7.30
15	Sat	THE LORAX	2.00
15	Sat	THE WEDDING VIDEO	7.00
16	Sun	THE WEDDING VIDEO	6.00
17	Mon	THE WEDDING VIDEO	2.00
17	Mon	SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN	7.30
18	Tue	THE WEDDING VIDEO	12.30
18	Tue	THE HUNTER	7.30
19	Wed	JO NESBO'S JACKPOT	2.00, 7.30
20	Thu	JO NESBO'S JACKPOT	2.00, 7.30
21	Fri	TED	7.30
22	Sat	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS	2.00
22	Sat	TED	7.00
23	Sun	TED	6.00
24	Mon	TED	2.00
24	Mon	THE FORGIVENESS OF BLOOD	7.30
25	Tue	TED	12.30
25	Tue	THE IMPOSTER	7.30
26	Wed	THE WEDDING VIDEO	2.00
26	Wed	TAKE THIS WALTZ	7.30
27	Thu	THE WEDDING VIDEO	2.00
27	Thu	THE HUMAN FACTOR	7.30
28	Fri	THE BOURNE LEGACY	7.30
29	Sat	STEP UP 4: MIAMI HEAT	2.00
29	Sat	THE BOURNE LEGACY	7.00
30	Sun	THE BOURNE LEGACY	6.00



S E P T E M B E R M A T I N E E S

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

Ice Age 4

Sat 1 2.00



Manny, Diego and Sid have come a long way. Over 10 years, the mammoth/tiger/sloth trio have saved a baby, survived a flood and fought off dinosaurs. Leaving the stripped-back loony toons of the first movie behind, the gang's latest adventure piles on more characters, action, animal pirates, giant whales, sea monsters and an army of Ewok chipmunks.

The story picks up roughly where Ice Age 3 left off. Manny is still overanxious, trying to keep teenage daughter Peaches from mixing with the wrong type of mammoth. Peaches is desperate to impress the cool kids (voiced by Drake and Nicki Minaj) but blind to the affections of her nervous mole friend Louis.

Sid has been lumbered with granny-sitting his sassy nan, and Diego is still trying to avoid everyone. Separated from their families by a sudden earthquake, caused, of course, by Scratt sticking his nut where it doesn't belong, the old gang are on their own again, trying to get home.

The new cast might feel a bit out of place in the old-fashioned Ice Age world, but silent star Scratt is still there to steal the show. Clever, witty, funny with stunning visual thrills on our big screen. Don't miss.

Directors: Steve Martino, Mike Thurmeier
Voices: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, Jennifer Lopez, Wanda Sykes

Certificate: U

Duration: 93 mins

Origin: USA 2012

By: Twentieth Century Fox

Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry

Mon 3 2.00

Director: Alison Klayman
Certificate: 15
Duration: 91 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Artificial Eye

Directed by journalist and filmmaker Alison Klayman, "Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry" is an engaging and intimate portrait of the protest artist, famed for his input into China's 'Bird's Nest' stadium, and for his 2010 work 'Sunflower Seeds', an installation at the Tate Modern.

The film documents three years in the life of the artist, interspersed with footage of his upbringing, his early life in China and New York City, and his remarkable work to recognise the true human cost of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

The film also covers the period of his arrest in 2011, purportedly for tax irregularities although many suspect otherwise. Whilst briefly silenced, it is a testament to the artists' sheer bravado that, within weeks, he was back firing missives at the Chinese authorities as if nothing had happened...

"Ai is an appealingly tranquil screen presence, but there is nothing placid about his commitment to testing the limits of the ruling party's censorship laws, not to mention the patience of its underlings." (*Telegraph*)

"Part artwork, part memorial, part journalistic campaign, it was conceived in defiant riposte to the authorities who refused to release clear figures. Ai Weiwei himself is a rather mysterious, opaque figure, but utterly confident and unafraid of state bullies. He is heroic." (*Guardian*) (*Simon Messenger*) A must for those who long to know how China ticks.



Detachment

Tue 4 12.30



In Director Tony Kaye's *Detachment*, Adrien Brody stars as Henry Barthes, a teacher with a true talent to connect with his students. Yet Henry has chosen to bury his gift. By spending his days as a substitute teacher, he conveniently avoids any emotional connections by never staying anywhere long enough to form an attachment to either students or colleagues. When a new assignment places him at a public (US for state) school where a frustrated, burned-out administration has created an apathetic student body, Henry soon becomes a role model to the disaffected youth. In finding an unlikely emotional connection to the students, teachers, and a runaway teen he takes in from the streets, Henry realises he is not alone in his life and death struggle to find beauty in a seemingly vicious and loveless world.

"In one of Mr. Brody's best performances since *The Pianist*." (*NYTimes*)

"It's watchable enough, but the bludgeoning screenplay seems undercooked compared to the high-grade actors on show" (*Guardian*)

"The acting is excellent but the movie is the sort of thing that gives pessimism a bad name!" (*Observer*)

"Like the system it deplores, it's pretty much a mess, though with a cast this strong you get moments of saving grace" (*Independent*) Worth it all the same.

Although, teachers just back, might not think so...?

Director: Tony Kaye
Starring: Marcia Harden, Adrien Brody, James Caan
Certificate: 15
Duration: 97 mins
Origin: USA 2011
By: G2 Pictures

Flowers Of War

Wed 5 2.00

Director: Yimou Zhang
Starring: Christian Bale, Paul Schneider
Certificate: 15
Duration: 142 mins
Origin: China/Hong Kong 2011
By: Revolver

Christian Bale swaps cape and cowl for collar and bible to protect the women of Nanking from Japanese occupation during 1937, in conflicting melodrama.

Bale plays John Miller, a boozy and cynical westerner who takes refuge in a convent housing a gaggle of terrified schoolgirls and a bevy of prostitutes.

He dresses in priest's robes for a drunken joke, but then finds redemption in actually protecting the women disguised.

"Zhang's take, adapted from a novel, was inspired by two factual elements of the atrocity. One was the attempts of Americans in the city to shield handfuls of Chinese. The other was incidents of professional sex workers volunteering to take the places of young, virginal girls earmarked as "comfort women", the euphemism for sex slaves." (*Empire*)

Yimou's fondness for romanticism perhaps isn't the right eye to capture such horrors; his works are wrapped in colour and beauty (*Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*) something the Nanking massacre wouldn't welcome.

For a powerful war story *Flowers of War* lacks an honest reality that propels similar films, yet the sense of barbarous wonder running through one gorgeous set-piece after another, coupled with Bale's regular determination, rescues it from a minefield of monotony. (*Jack Whiting*) Worth seeing for Zhang Yimou's eyes on any subject.



Children Of Glory

Thu 6 2.00



Spring 1956. While Hungary is only a small slave nation to the massive Soviet Block, it is sovereign with its own proud identity. Moreover its national Water Polo team is invincible! They had 'lost' only one game, this to the USSR in Moscow in 1955. It is well known the match was rigged.

So as revolution breaks out on the streets of Budapest during that summer, the Soviet tanks roll in. Young polo star Karsci and his friend, Tibi get caught up in the 'adventure'. But it is no longer a game.

By the end of October, it is all over. Friends, rounded up are never seen again. It has all been for nothing.

Lucky to escape, Karsci rejoins the national team for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. It is 6th December and their semi final match is against the USSR! They set out to lift Hungary's head out of the water, in what would be one of the most brutal exchanges ever seen on the sports-field.

The USSR must never be seen to lose on the World Stage! Pussy Riot versus Putin. Right now 56 years later, three tiny girls lose to the might of a jealous Power that daren't lose. This is the same simple true story of how love and loyalty take revenge by humiliation. Brilliant. Don't miss.

Director: Krisztina Goda
Starring: Kata Dobó, Iván Fenyő
Certificate: 15
Duration: 120 mins
Origin: Hungary 2008
By: Lionsgate Films UK

Ice Age 4

Sat 8 2.00

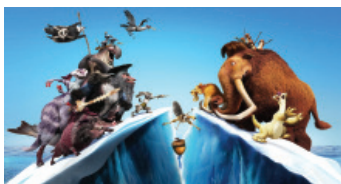
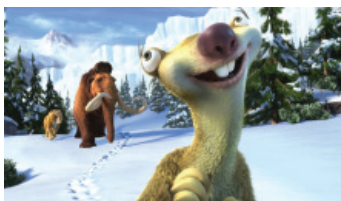
Directors: Steve Martino, Mike Thurmeier
Voices: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, Jennifer Lopez, Wanda Sykes
Certificate: U
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Manny, Diego and Sid have come a long way. Over 10 years, the mammoth/tiger/sloth trio have saved a baby, survived a flood and fought off dinosaurs. Leaving the stripped-back loony toons of the first movie behind, the gang's latest adventure piles on more characters, action, animal pirates, giant whales, sea monsters and an army of Ewok chipmunks.

The story picks up roughly where Ice Age 3 left off. Manny is still overanxious, trying to keep teenage daughter Peaches from mixing with the wrong type of mammoth. Peaches is desperate to impress the cool kids (voiced by Drake and Nicki Minaj) but blind to the affections of her nervous mole friend Louis.

Sid has been lumbered with granny-sitting his sassy nan, and Diego is still trying to avoid everyone. Separated from their families by a sudden earthquake, caused, of course, by Scrat sticking his nut where it doesn't belong, the old gang are on their own again, trying to get home.

The new cast might feel a bit out of place in the old-fashioned Ice Age world, but silent star Scrat is still there to steal the show. Clever, witty, funny with stunning visual thrills on our big screen. Don't miss.





Director: Christopher Nolan
Starring: Christian Bale, Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 164 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Warner Brothers



The Dark Knight Rises

Mon 10 2.00, Thu 13 2.00

Christopher Nolan calls upon everything from Greek tragedy to Charles Dickens as his Dark Knight saga comes to a close in a titanic, emotional action spectacle that casts a large, bat shaped shadow over all its competition.

Eight years after Batman (Christian Bale) took the wrap for Harvey Dent's downfall, Gotham has been enjoying a break from deranged criminals and Bruce Wayne has retired, reclusive, Howard Hughes style. His peace is disrupted by the hulking, masked menace Bane (Tom Hardy), who's heading to town with Gotham's destruction in mind.

Bruce is drawn from hiding by sultry Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) a feline thief with her own agenda. Re-calling, then neatly tying up plot strands from Batman Begins, Bane's plans in fact run much deeper than initial terrorism. So Bruce must don the cape one more time, but is his conflicted city worth saving?

An impeccable cast of screen legends returns including Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine at his misty eyed best, all bringing something to the table, but it's new addition Joseph Gordon-Levitt as honest cop John Blake who is the film's true ace in the hole.

Lovingly captured on traditional 70mm and with mostly practical stunt work, this monolith of a conclusion to an already dynamite series bows out with confidence, and deserves tremendous applause. (*Jack Whiting*) Come twice.

Tortoise In Love

Tue 11 12.30



There is a sprinkling of gags in this modest romantic comedy from debut film-maker Guy Browning.

Occasionally, it achieves a homespun, unassuming daftness. Tom is a young man who chucks in a big-city job and comes back to his home village as a gardener. He does a fair bit of Hugh Grant-ish stammering and flinching as he falls in love with a pretty Polish au pair, Anya, (Alice Zawadzki). But silly Tom is as slow as a tortoise when it comes to plucking up the courage to ask her out (hence the clever title). The comedy locals have to jolly him along. "It's gentle, well-meaning, a bit watery."

(*Guardian*)

"I watched this amateurish comedy of village manners in a cringe of mystified embarrassment, unable to discern who might have financed it. Then I discovered that it actually is an amateur undertaking, produced, directed and financed by the villagers of Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire. So bravo to their endeavour"

(*The Patronising Independent*)

"It's sharper than your average Britcom, and perfectly charming, so you'll forgive a bit of amateurism and wooden acting."

(*Time Out*)

The village requested it be shown here, so to complete the favour, come and see what you think. I guarantee we've shown worse, complete with 5 stars and a string of emperor's new clothes awards.

Director: Guy Browning
Starring: Tom Mitchelson, Alice Zawadzki, Tom Yates, Mike Kemp
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 84 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Immense Productions

Ping Pong

Wed 12 2.00

Director: Hugh Hartford
Certificate: PG
Duration: 76 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Brit Doc Films

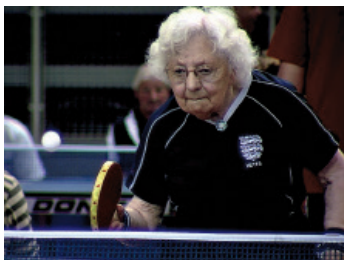
The film, following a handful of octogenarian competitors as they head to China for the Over-80s World Table Tennis Championships, recounts some amazing stories. Lisa, an 85-year-old American, was born in Vienna, fought the Nazis with the French Underground and won the Croix de Guerre, to go with her shelf-loads of tournament medals. She's a mere stripling compared with Dorothy, an object of adoration still playing at 101. Perhaps toughest of all is Terry from Stockport, an 82-year-old with ruined lungs and prostate cancer yet absolutely determined to compete in China.

"Inspirational" hardly covers it.

Featuring remarkable men and women whom age cannot wither. They are, in the main, people who have been vigorous sportsters all their lives, with one German woman who only took it up in her 80s after ill health and a stroke!! Remarkably, it appears to have re-energised her.

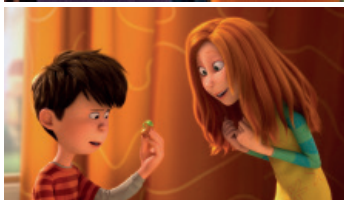
Interestingly, the film shows that the over-80s table-tennis scene is much the same as any other sporting event: there is rivalry, egomania and even dirty tricks, like pinching someone else's bat.

"Director Hugh Hartford does not patronise his stars, although perhaps there is something too gently celebratory and obviously feelgood about the film. These dynamic table-tennis stars put the rest of us to shame." (*Guardian*) It's batty, and and here once. Don't miss.



Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Sat 15 2.00



The basic eco-tale is expanded into a cutesy movie about a boy who visits a creepy old fellow called The Once-ler who destroyed all the trees (the name perhaps alludes to logging industries which use up resources with no sustainability.) Ted (Efron) and Audrey (Swift) live in Thneedville, a walled town where even the plant life is synthetic and fresh air is sold by the bottle. Audrey dreams of seeing a real tree, so Ted leaves town to find one. Beyond the city limits he stumbles on the Once-ler (Ed Helms), the man responsible for harvesting all the world's plantlife to make theeds, a must-have, multipurpose garment.

"The Lorax, voiced by Danny DeVito, pleads for an end to the deforestation. 'The Once-ler ignores it and environmental meltdown ensues, although the moral: trees good, capitalism bad, is lost.'" (*Telegraph*)

The Guardian hated it, calling it boring, objectionable and soulless. I know nothing of Dr Seuss, but they say he himself would have loathed it.

In trying to find something good to say, this is all I could imagine as a kid: sounds like the stuff of nightmares. Not for little ones.

Directors: Kyle Balda, Chris Renaud
Certificate: U
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

The Wedding Video

Mon 17 2.00, Tue 18 12.30,
 Wed 26 2.00, Thu 27 2.00

Director: Nigel Cole
Starring: Rufus Hound, Lucy Punch, Robert Webb, Miriam Margolyes, Harriet Walter
Certificate: 15
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK 2012
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

Director Nigel Cole and writer Tim Firth (Calendar Girls) take a stab at the 'found-footage' sub-genre in this sweet and unpretentious British comedy.

"Specifically, it's shot by Rufus Hound, the rambunctious brother and best man of Robert Webb, who is due to marry Lucy Punch in a few weeks' time. As a wedding present for the bride and groom, Hound volunteers to document the build-up with his new camcorder, little realising that what he'll capture is a spiral of mayhem." (*Independent*)

"When it's not being shrill, obvious or awkwardly wistful, Wedding Video is quite funny: crazed dance rehearsals, an out-of-control wine tasting, the bride-to-be's hideous grandmother (Miriam Margolyes)." (*Total Film*)

It verges on BBC Three levels of humour yet the improv from popular TV comics Webb (Peep Show) and Hound (Celebrity Juice) can always bring a smile to even the creakiest material, and their likable charm shines through the moments that leave you eye-rolling when you should be laughing. Wedding Video tickles the funny bone in places, but we've come up with far better rom-coms than this. Consider filing for divorce soon after. (*Jack Whiting*)

I'm plumping for this, probably far too much, but it did sound good at first? Okay, plumping might be a better option. So come for me, laugh a bit, then boo at the end. (*JH*)



Jo Nesbo's Jackpot

Wed 19 2.00, Thu 20 2.00



For those hungry for more Jo Nesbo, or any Nordic noir for that matter, you're in for a bauble sized treat as another of his balmy yet hugely gripping airport novels hits the screen.

"Jackpot unfolds in a series of flashbacks after a massacre just before Christmas at a seedy strip joint outside a small town near the border between Norway and Sweden. The only survivor, found covered in blood and clutching a gun under the corpse of a blowsy stripper, is Oscar, who manages a small factory employing ex-convicts. As the snow falls, he's interrogated by the sardonic Norwegian police detective Solør (Henrik Mestad), who is constantly surprised by finding that Oscar's wildly unlikely story seems to add up."

(*Guardian*)

Oscar narrates this twisting tale in ways that would impress Kyser Soze (Usual Suspects) himself, keeping the cops and the audience, second-guessing.

"Casually gruesome and corpse-littered, it's a shaggy dog story with an almost buried emotional core about friendship, betrayal, temporary alliance and craftiness." (*Empire*)

Lacking the gloss that masked Headhunters' many absurd moments, Jackpot goes for a below the belt approach and what comes out the other end is a grisly farce that approaches Fargo levels of oddity, or at least a lesser Cohen Brothers effort. (*Jack Whiting*) Grizzily ketchup fest, but an absolute must.

Director: Magnus Martens
Starring: Kyrre Hellum, Mads Ousdal, Henrik Mestad
Certificate: 15
Duration: 86 mins
Origin: Norway 2011
By: Metrodome Distributors

Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

Sat 22 2.00

Director: David Bowers
Starring: Steve Zahn, Peyton List, Rachael Harris
Certificate: U
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: Canada/USA 2011
By: Twentieth Century Fox

School's out for the summer, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is back for a sequel. It begins with the design conceit of black-and-white line drawings morphing into live-action figures, but this is dropped after the introductory sequence; otherwise it's a pretty straight family comedy.

Zachary Gordon is the eponymous kid, Greg; Devon Bostick is his supposedly cool elder brother, Rodrick, and Steve Zahn is their long-suffering dad. Greg's hoping the summer will bring nothing more than an opportunity to mature and improve as a gamer, but fate has other plans.

"A third helping of this friendly family entertainment would be insufferable were it not for Steve Zahn and Rachael Harris as the Wimpy Kid's parents and Robert Capron as his roly-poly friend Rowley. Watching Zahn sing 'I love you' to the dog is some compensation for an otherwise wasted hour and a half of your life." (*Independent*)

"The first one was okay, but this new one is a likeable and rattles along amiably. Zach Gordon himself may become the new Shia LaBeouf or Joseph Gordon-Levitt, or fade from view?" (*Guardian*) Who would want to be the old Shia La...?



Ted

Mon 24 2.00, **Tue 25** 12.30



It doesn't do any harm to wish upon a star, and in seven year-old John Benett's case he got exactly that when, on one Christmas morning, he wished that his beloved bear Teddy came to life.

Teddy soon becomes a national sensation appearing on chat shows and signing autographs. It doesn't last though and the lovable bear soon enters the world of the celebrity Z-lister.

Flash forward to the present and John (Mark Wahlberg) now a pot smoking thirty something is still living with Teddy, (now simply Ted, voiced by Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane) life is hardly going anywhere fast. Things change when John promises to get himself together in order to continue his relationship with girlfriend Lori (Mila Kunis). She presents a simple ultimatum, it's Ted or her.

MacFarlane crosses over to cinema with a series of crude sketchers strung together by a forgettable story. It's the culture riffs that propel Ted forward and his foul mouth, drug induced antics are immature, yet highly amusing all the same. So if you detest Adam Sandler movies and love Flash Gordon there's a spot for you here. It's low-brow at its best, but everybody's talking about it. (*Jack Whiting*) So either come and see, or consign the 'everybody's talking' dept to it's natural home – behind the 'who cares?' bin.

Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane, Mila Kunis
Certificate: 15
Duration: 106 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Int'l

Step Up 4: Miami Heat

Sat 29 2.00

Director: Scott Speer
Starring: Stephen Boss, Alyson Stoner, Adam G. Sevani
Certificate: PG
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2012
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Who's ready for another round of street dancing? This sassy sequel takes the dance fever from the streets of Baltimore down to the warmer climes of Miami.

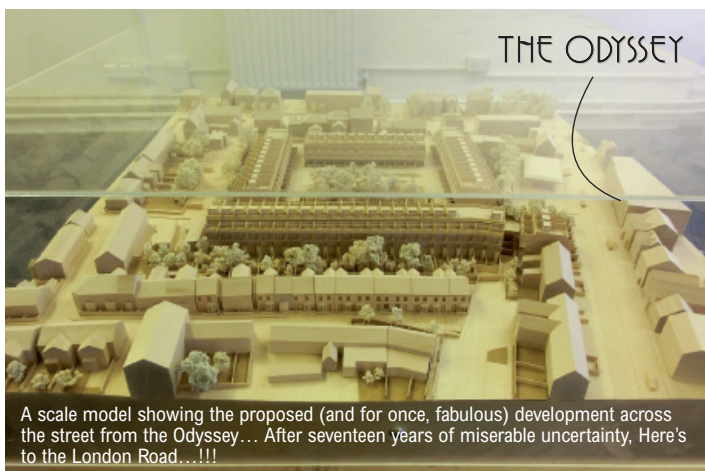
The sweet girl from the right side of the tracks, into frigidly conventional dance moves, loosens up emotionally when she falls for a raunchy street dancer, and it's all leading up to a competition. Ryan Guzman has the smouldering-Romeo role of Sean, who is entranced by Emily (Kathryn McCormick), posh daughter of the baddie property magnate, played by Peter Gallagher.

The lack of Channing Tatum (who's currently hitting his stripping stride) is still felt but the new kids on the block impress with a myriad of crazy moves and sprightly attitude; just don't expect an award winning script.

Those story bits (involving a needless 'Occupy' movement) may be slower than a slug, and about as interesting, but when they start throwing themselves around with magical, acrobatic and coordinated pizzazz you can't help but want to handspring down the aisles. (*Jack Whiting*) A must for over elevens, dancers and dance teachers, of course.



LET THE ODYSSEY BEGIN...



In June I announced we had secured £1.2 of the £1.6m needed to start work. So we are starting work.

You will see scaffolding going up by the beginning of October with all the paraphernalia of building works happening all around.

On 17th August we appointed Borrás of St Albans as our main contractor to take on the work. The Odyssey restoration is split into three phases.

PHASE ONE: Restoring and making good the external envelope of the building and watertight. This will include the roof, rainwater drainage, external rendering & making good the four walls of the building.

PHASE TWO: Complete the internal fit out, walls, structures, foyer, auditorium etc. Plumbing, mechanical & electrical throughout.

PHASE THREE: Final cinema and specialist installations: screen, sound systems, projection, lighting etc, carpets tables and chairs.

With Robert Martell & Partners newly appointed to manage the project and oversee the appointment of main contractor (Borrás) we expect to be

completed and open early in 2014.

We are overwhelmed that since June when the £1.2m came in, and after painfully realising we (The Rex team) couldn't do the whole thing on our own, how quickly things have moved. It is still all-talk but unlike the previous two years of all-talk failure with every British bank, inc those taxpayer-owned and a couple overseas, these are now muscular talks, no longer 'IF' but announcing how and when.

So you will see phase one making a noise early in the autumn.

Our 'artisan' Rex team remains intact. We have been freed up to plan how the building will re-shape itself into the Odyssey. Martell and Borrás are totally committed to providing what we need to make the cinema work for you, as we want it.

From now on, we will keep you up to date with things in the Rex programme. As you pass by you will see for yourself the building come alive with frenetic activity at our end of the London Road.

Moreover, when the time is right and the fire bobbies say it's okay to let you back in, we will invite you back in. So keep an eye on things and talk to us. Email hannaway07@btinternet.com

SOULFISH FRIDAY 14TH SEPT ST ALBANS ARENA

This is our first big public restoration fundraising event at The Arena with the ridiculously popular SOULFISH on Friday 14th September. Many come with ideas of 'have you tried...?' A number of streets and schools have separately run their own campaigns to club together to sponsor a seat, and have done so, brilliantly. So on the very rare occasion when an individual with an idea and a few friends, says 'keep out of it, we'll do it', it is a great and welcome surprise.

This is how Soulfish came about. It is the sole enterprise of St Albans' resident, Jill Leslie, who has taken it upon herself to help raise the vital extra restoration funds. I was sceptical, not trusting major public events, which often cost more than they raise, so this bowing to a greater force (than my scepticism) is as much for her, as it is to encourage others to take individual initiatives (hopefully, not all involving the Arena!) to help raise the last essential £380,000.

I bet her this gig would never happen. To repeat, I am no good at these big fund raising events. I find them awkward and am always out of my depth. So if anybody has an idea that doesn't involve me in the planning, I will be happy to help towards the end, as I am with Jill now. Not just to jump in at the end and take the glory (which of course is true) but you would hate me there at the beginning. So please get on with it and tell me when to turn up. I mean it. One woman has done it against the odds, so off you go and let me know.



Sexy Rexy's newly branded two seater celebrating Odyssey restoration works.

A very special thanks to ST ALBANS DISTRICT COUNCIL, and in particular Cllr Julian Daly on sponsoring the event by gifting us The Arena and saving us a massive £2,500 venue fees. It is a measure of the Council's commitment to the Odyssey as it has been from the outset.

There'll be Odyssey merchandise to snap up on the night along with raffle prizes of big sponsorship items – for the price of a raffle ticket you could have an Odyssey ABL membership, or a seat. So come rattling loose change.

Here's to a great event and an evening of fantastic uncle dancing and shimmying to the fabby Soulfish.



STUART CLARKE'S BEAUTIFUL SHORT FILM

We are screening his *The Homes Of Football* short film at random during September before different features and matinees. You're bound to catch it.



“**S**tuart Roy Clarke, born Berkhamsted 1961, is the number one photographer of football culture. His photographs of teams big and small, fans, grounds and football moments are known all over the world and his collection spanning 23 years is now housed at the new National Football Museum in Manchester.

Clarke's connections with the Rex are deep-rooted. Not only did he see all his

films here in his youth, his grandfather, then Mayor, besides commissioning umpteen football pitches and public amenities, was the town Mayor who opened the Rex on 9th May 1938! Don't you just love full circles...?

This short film (12 mins) on Clarke's *Homes of Football* epic was commissioned this year by The National Football Museum and features a specially recorded soundtrack by Mercury Prize nominated band British Sea Power.” (*Press release*) “If Nick Hornby gave the fan a voice in the nineties; Stuart Clarke has given the fan a face”. (*Times*)

He appeared on the steps of Arts Centre (Boxmoor Hall), a shy, skinny kid with a Pentax in his hand. It was 1984/5-ish, he had stopped to ask if he could practice at gigs, on the faces in and out, shadows and light, and to check out our dark room. He never left, coming and going as he wanted, until the day he stopped in the early 90s. We didn't hear from him again until he turned up with all this football stuff years later, and a gallery in the Lakes District! The Arts Centre in the 1980s was a free home for any budding musicians, performers, artists, video makers, photographers and thousands of kids. Stuart fitted in perfectly – as you'll see.

