

THE-REX

SEPTEMBER 2020

WHO YOU THINK I AM

"velveteen glamour and brilliant programming..." (The Guardian)

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

SEPTEMBER 2020 • ISSUE 183
www.therexberkhamsted.com

01442 877759

Mon-Sat 10.30-6.30pm Sun 4.30-5.30pm

THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

CONTENTS

Films At A Glance 18-19

Comment 30-33

BOX OFFICE: 01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30-6.30
Sun 4.30-5.30

SEAT PRICES

Circle	£9.50
Concessions/ABL	£8.00
Back Row	£8.00
Table	£11.50
Concessions/ABL	£10.00
Royal Box Seat (Seats 6)	£13.00
Whole Royal Box	£73.00
Matinees - Upstairs £5, Downstairs £6.50, Royal Box £10	

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

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The Rex
High Street (Three Close Lane)
Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2FG
www.therexberkhamsted.com

“Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever..”
(STimes Culture)

A love letter...

Welcome to our first scrappy anti-social distancing September with some old crackers: Ragtime, The Chorus, Memento, Leon (orig) etc. It's been fun juggling the space and you have been gracious, forgiving and happy to be back.

Thank you all: our genuinely lovely mish-mash audiences. The Paradiso review note below says it all...

The love letter of all love letters to cinema... a celebration of childhood, friendship, romance and the power of film itself, Cinema Paradiso is a delightful, tender and funny ode to the enduring impact of the cinema on both individuals and society.

“Don't look back. Don't write. Don't give in to nostalgia” Alfredo tells Toto as he's sending him off to start a new life.

It's rare for a film so bathed in it, to acknowledge the downside of nostalgia, but therein lies its true mastery.' (Chris Coetsee)

I echo these words, though not so well, to my young staff, only here for a while, on their way to somewhere of their own making - with a Rex philosophy and blessing - under their belts.

(Chris is one - gone but ever present - in his writing)





SEPTEMBER FILMS



Summerland

Playwright Jessica Swale makes her directorial debut with this touching wartime drama.

The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society: Part II. Or at least that is the vibe the producers appear to have been clawing at. Alice (Gemma Arterton) is a fiercely independent and reclusive young woman living alone by the Kentish seaside during World War II. Much to her frustration, she learns that she is expected to take on a teenage evacuee from London, Frank (Lucas Bond). Agreeing he can stay for one week while the town evacuation committee find him another place to stay, she is soon taken aback by his sensitivity and independence. A connection forms as she reflects on a past of loneliness, regret and her lost love, Vera.

A great performance by Arterton fits neatly alongside those of seasoned pros Penelope Wilton and Tom Courtney who, as entertainingly as ever, flesh out this multi-timeline tale. Cinematographer Laurie Rose should also take a bow for beautifully capturing the coastal scenery.

If you had a slice of Potato Peel Pie, you'll know exactly where it's headed but as a bite of sweet, escapist fantasy, maybe it's just what's needed right now. (Research Chris Coetsee)

Director: Jessica Swale
 Cast: Gemma Arterton, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Penelope Wilton, Tom Courtenay
 Duration: 100mins
 Origin: UK 2020
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Lionsgate

When... **Wed 16 2.00**
Tue 1 7.30 Wed 16 7.30



Cinema Paradiso

The love letter of all love letters to cinema, Giuseppe Tornatore's heart-thawing tale of motion picture enchantment.

The story of oppressively adorable Italian urchin Totò and his friendship with a village projectionist Alfredo, told from the vantage point of emotionally dissatisfied, misty-eyed adulthood. It spearheaded a whole decade of heart-tugging Italian Oscar-winners and it felt like we might have had enough of it. Then you rewatch Cinema Paradiso, and it wins you back. Legendary Italian composer Ennio Morricone, who sadly passed this July at the age of 91, is at this film's very heart; a wonderfully moving musical masterpiece. Swelling with both charm and grace, you would be hard-pressed to find a score more beautiful. A celebration of childhood, friendship, romance and the power of film itself, Cinema Paradiso is a delightful, tender and funny ode to the enduring impact of the cinema on both individuals and society.

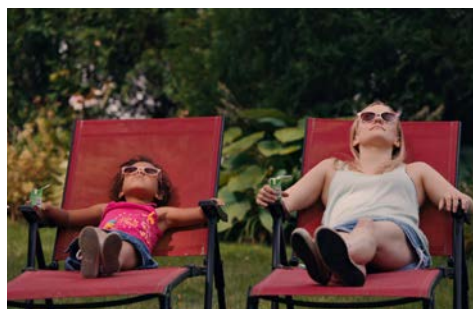
"Don't look back. Don't write. Don't give in to nostalgia" Alfredo tells his young friend as he's sending him off to start a new life. It's rare for a film so bathed in the stuff to acknowledge the downside of nostalgia, but therein lies its true mastery.

(Research Chris Coetsee)

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore
Cast: Philippe Noiret, Jacques Perrin, Marco Leonardi
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: Italy/France 1988 (Subtitled)
Certificate: PG
Company: Arrow Films

When...

Wed 2 2.00



Saint Frances

Writer and star Kelly O'Sullivan shares the experiences of modern femininity at all ages in one of the year's best indie flicks.

When Bridget takes up a new job as nanny to Frances (Ramona Edith Williams), a chancer who doesn't suffer fools gladly, she inadvertently arrives at a crossroads in her life. Not long after she starts minding Franny, Bridget finds out she's pregnant. After a bumpy start, Bridget and Frances find their groove with the relationship, giving Bridget the chance to make some sense of things and in the meantime offer some much-needed help to someone who could do with a friend.

At the centre, O'Sullivan is a major talent and we'll surely be hearing more from her in the near future. Unfussy direction from Alex Thompson makes a point of not having an agenda, instead getting at the real-lived experiences; the pressures, prejudices and time-related choices that constantly face women in these circumstances.

An unflinching and wildly charming portrait of womanhood, Saint Frances skilfully tackles abortion and parenthood issues without the preachy overtones. It simply tells it like it is. (Research Chris Coetsee)

Director: Alex Thompson
Cast: Kelly O'Sullivan, Ramona Edith Williams, Lily Mojekwu, Charin Alvarez, Max Lipchitz
Duration: 101mins
Origin: USA 2020
Certificate: 15
Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Wed 2 7.30



Portrait Of A Lady On Fire

Love is a work of art in Céline Sciamma's staggering subversion of the period drama.

In the 18th century, second-generation painter Marianne (Merlant) arrives by boat at an isolated manor. She's been commissioned to paint a portrait of Heloise (Haenel) for her wedding, but is instructed by her mother to do it secretly, simply being a companion to Heloise. As they talk, Marianne discovers Heloise's anger at being forced to marry a stranger while still grieving the death of her sister. Over the coming days, Marianne and Heloise become close, helping housemaid Sophie something deeply personal while comparing views on music, painting and love. Merlant and Haenel deliver wonderfully shaded performances underscored with brittle wit and seriously deep feelings. As they tentatively reveal their mutual attraction, they become more openly charming, yet still on guard. This is a rare film that take will take your breath away (handy in the Covid dept). Their talks get deeper and more revealing as the story grows. The texture it creates is beautiful using firelight and music to add unanticipated layers. Rich and painted with an otherworldly beauty, this is a likely masterpiece in the making. *(research Chris Coetsee)* Come and soak in its tender light.

Director: Céline Sciamma
Cast: Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel, Luàna Bajrami, Valeria Golino
Duration: 122 min
Origin: France 2019 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Artificial Eye

When...

Thu 3 7.30



Memento

Christopher Nolan has become one of the few directors to sell a film on name alone; recently he's become synonymous with grand, bombast filmmaking. So let's wind the clock back on what made him a unique storyteller to begin with.

Guy Pearce is Leonard Shelby, a former insurance investigator who is out to find the man who killed his wife; problem is, he has severe memory loss. Sound conventional? Think again. From the start this jolting jigsaw puzzle of a movie grabs you and won't let go. The stunning opener involves a murder and a polaroid of the body. Then Nolan runs everything backward; the photo slips back into the camera, a bullet is sucked back into a gun barrel, and Leonard starts living in reverse.

All thrillers thrive on shifting sands, self-contained nowhere worlds where allegiances change, crosses double and nobody is ever who they claim to be. Nolan's simple stroke of genius was to add the old literary trick of an unreliable narrator and thereby kick away the last remaining prop an audience could rely upon. Memento displays real interest in how perception and memory shape action, identity and, of course, filmic storytelling. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Christopher Nolan
Cast: Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss, Joe Pantoliano, Mark Boone Junior, Stephen Tobolowsky
Duration: 113mins
Origin: USA 2000
Certificate: 15
Company: Pathé

When...

Fri 4 7.30



Onward

Do families need fathers? Onward delivers a love song to atypical clans, which couldn't end on a sweeter, or clearer, note.

A charming tale which explores the frayed bond between two elf brothers: shy, introverted Ian (voiced by Tom Holland) and the bumbling Barley (Chris Pratt) who lost their father before they got to know him. Their mum has raised them the best she could in New Mushroomtown, a Middle Earth inspired slice of suburbia brimming with trolls, unicorns, elves etc. And like our world, they live in a landscape where digital technology threatens to replace imagination.

As could have been guessed from the moment "dead dad" entered the picture, Onward is another soul-crushing tearjerker in the tradition of *Coco* and *Inside Out*. It's like the Pixar team set up a betting pool on who can make audiences choke on their own tears the fastest. In the end, the affecting simplicity of the family dynamic shines through; Onward isn't just an abstract parable of the absent father, but a relatable tale about how the broken bond between two brothers is mended by a common cause. (*research Jack Whiting*) Sounds fab, if unusual in the cartoon of things. Come and see.



Director: Dan Scanlon
 Cast: Tom Holland, Chris Pratt, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Octavia Spencer, Ali Wong
 Duration: 107 min
 Origin: USA 2020
 Certificate: U
 Company: Walt Disney Studios

When...

Sat 5 2.00



Pinocchio

Matteo Garrone's streak of great cinema continues with his darkly whimsical adaptation of the old Italian folktale.

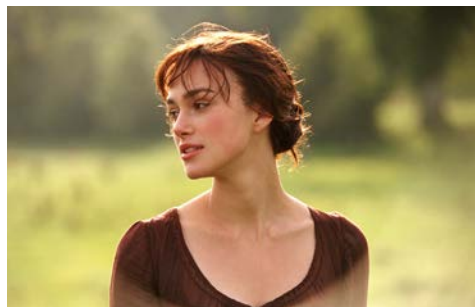
Geppetto, a poor Italian carpenter, decides to build a wooden puppet to tour the country and earn a living. During the process, Geppetto realises that Pinocchio is alive and sentient and decides to take him as his son. Like with *Tale of Tales*, Garrone's personal flair for dark fantasy and charming humour shines through in his own unique way but the heart of this adaptation is in its dedication to the character as an aimless child. This isn't a point-for-point plot retelling of an age-old tale. Instead, *Pinocchio* is allowed to meander, with many sequences consisting of the young puppet simply taking in the world around him; walking through golden fields, dodging kidnappers in a dark forest or being carted around by a cat-steer buggy.

There is something to be said about a film that reclaims the cultural roots of its story's origins and tells it with those sensibilities in mind. Disney's live-action fantasies of late should sit up and take note. They could only benefit from the funding and trust from the countries and cultures from which these stories stem. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Matteo Garrone
 Cast: Roberto Benigni, Federico Ielapi, Marine Vacth
 Duration: 125mins
 Origin: Italy 2019 (Dubbed)
 Certificate: PG
 Company: Vertigo Releasing

When...

Sat 5 7.00



Pride & Prejudice

It looks gorgeous and was already threatening an Oscar for Kiera, who lifts the part of Elizabeth above all great expectations. BAFTA, it appears, couldn't consider her. Too beautiful..? If ever How's that for rejection by committee - of correct-thinking arseholes. But all for the greater good. Happily the whole production was stunningly beautiful - how did they miss that? The countryside alone, the backlit summer meadows, the lake and beautiful Jane language is enough to set your heart at throb. The scenery stops in its own tracks, the cinematography is just breathtaking and their faces stay in tune with fragile hope, longing and loss throughout. They take you with them every step. Manners, misunderstandings, courtship, love, pride and prejudice are all here, of course - condensed into two hours for the screen. Elizabeth and Darcy play their hearts out for you... It is heartbreaking and uplifting, and where it is funny, it is funny. "...serene and beautiful...The classic battle of the sexes in literature, now on screen..." *City Screens* Never mind that. Matthew MacFadyen turns-in the best - Complete awkward, brooding screen Heartthrob personified - ever. As for Joe Wright, he never managed such beauty and attention to useful detail on screen again (lucky sun & rain? too). A cinematic big screen epic in every word, snub, caricature and gesture. Don't dare miss it now.

Director: Joe Wright
 Cast: Keira Knightley, Matthew MacFadyen, Tom Hollander
 Duration: 124mins
 Origin: UK 2005
 Certificate: U
 Company: United International Pictures

When...

Sun 6 6.00



Who You Think I Am

Catfish meets Hitchcock in this romantic thriller starring Juliette Binoche

When her younger lover Ludo (Guillaume Gouix) rejects her, divorced professor Claire (Binoche) turns to social media to reinvent herself. Creating a fake profile on Facebook to cyber-stalk Ludo, Claire poses as Clara, a beautiful 24-year old fashion intern. After liking a couple of posts by Alex (François Civil), Ludo's handsome friend and assistant, the likes turn into messages, which turn into seductive phone calls, and soon enough a full-blown virtual relationship. Recounting the experience throughout the film to her therapist (Nicole Garcia), *Who You Think I Am* interrogates the motives behind a predatory poisson-chat (Catfish), as Claire grapples with the insecurities of ageing and her low self-esteem (just ignore the fact that Binoche is a knockout). Insecurity develops into addiction, with Claire becoming obsessed with the thrill her online persona provides her. When Alex insists on meeting her in person, the thriller ramps up with a number of gripping twists and turns, as the line between IRL reality and URL fantasy begins to blur. A film which feels unintentionally timely with its exploration of physical separation and virtual intimacy. (Rachel Williams)

Director: Safy Nebbou
 Cast: Juliette Binoche, Nicole Garcia, François Civil, Guillaume Gouix
 Duration: 99mins
 Origin: France 2020 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Artificial Eye Film Co. Ltd

When...

Mon 7 7.30



Calm With Horses

Debut director Nick Rowland's remarkable portrait of domestic happiness, a life of crime and the trappings of both.

After he quits boxing, Douglas (Jarvis) is quickly snapped up by the Dever family, local mobsters who could use his heavyweight skills. Torn between his love for his autistic 5-year-old son Jack and his increasingly violent work, the soft-spoken Douglas is led deeper into the Dever business by his friend Dymna (Keoghan) whose uncles run the family. Backed into a corner, Douglas' true loyalties are tested when he is asked to kill for the first time. All performances here are gritty and grounded in earthy honesty. At the centre, Jarvis is strikingly engaging, wearing his emotional struggles in every movement. Even in his failures, it's clear that he's trying to do the right thing. Alongside him, Keoghan's career continues to go from strength to strength, delivering another astonishingly committed performance as the carefree makeshift prince of this ruling family.

A powerful exploration of how life can sometimes push people in directions that they never wanted to go. *(research Chris Coetsee)* Beautiful Chris and spot on. It is culturally absolute and brutal: when you're with us - you're with us - and that's it.

Director: Nick Rowland
 Cast: Cosmo Jarvis, Ned Dennehy, Barry Keoghan, Niamh Algar, David Wilmot, Anthony Welsh
 Duration: 100mins
 Origin: UK 2020
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Altitude Film Distribution

When...

Tue 8 7.30



Clemency

Alfre Woodard gives an unmissable performance in this devastating death row drama.

Bernadine Williams is a prison warden of twenty years charged with sending inmates to their death. Bearing the constant burden of managing her prison and its purpose, her commanding authority is thrown into question when a botched execution fuels opposition to the death penalty.

Confronted with the choice of sanctioning a clean and dignified death or helping a potentially innocent man walk away freely, Bernadine toes a dangerous line of self-destruction as she struggles to make her choice. All the while, a backdrop of racial prejudice and sexism threatens her every move. Woodard's breathtaking performance is up among the best, this year or any. To convey an internal trauma bubbling so dangerously close to the surface with such restraint is as close to perfection as you'll see anywhere.

Clemency confronts the full weight of what it means to participate in a system that claims the lives of fellow humans. Make no mistake, it's a disturbing watch, handing us with the realities of modern execution. Today's methods might be more clinical, but are no less barbaric. *(Research Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Chinonye Chukwu
 Cast: Alfre Woodard, Richard Schiff, Aldis Hodge, Wendell Pierce
 Duration: 112mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Bohemia Media/Modern Films

When...

Wed 9 2.00, 7.30



The Photograph

A sizzling cross-generational rom-com, *The Photograph* explores the tricky balance between romance and professional aspirations.

While interviewing Isaac (Y'lan Noel) for a story in Louisiana, NYC-based journalist Michael (Lakeith Stanfield) is charmed by the interviewee's photograph of a former lover. Looking up her name once back in New York, Michael discovers that the subject is Christina Eames (Chanté Adams), a celebrated photographer who has passed away. Setting out to write a profile of her, his research connects him with museum-curator Mae (Issa Rae), the estranged daughter of Christina. The pair instantly hit it off as they delve into her mother's past, the film moving back and forth between Mae and Michael's modern love story and flashbacks to her mother's own romance with Isaac in 80s' Louisiana. Drawing parallels between mother and daughter, both are career-driven women who are reluctant to commit to a long-term relationship. Christina has feelings for fisherman Isaac but is determined to move to the big city to become a photographer, while present-day Mae finds it easier to focus on work than open up emotionally to Michael. Equal parts tender nostalgia, equal parts millennial love affair. (*Rachel Williams*)



Director: Stella Meghie
Cast: Issa Rae, Lakeith Stanfield, Chante Adams, Y'lan Noel
Duration: 106mins
Origin: USA 2020
Certificate: 12A
Company: Universal Studios

When...

Thu 10 7.30



The Blues Brothers

No one makes films with cop cars flying through the air and crashing in mounds any more. Maybe CGI undermined the currency, or maybe modern auto design makes them more difficult to stack. So there's an added nostalgic tinge to this rerelease of the epic comedy from 1980, starring a slimline Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi as the Butch-and-Sundance of white R&B. They are "Joliet" Jake and Elwood Blues, a couple of deadpan guys who dress in dark suits and sunglasses, trying to reform their band and earn enough money to save the Chicago orphanage where they were raised. The quest is portrayed through a series of set-pieces either musical or slapstick. The latter pitches the Brothers against the forces of darkness: the spectacularly badly-dressed John Candy's enormous posse of traffic cops, a bunch of Illinois Nazis, a redneck country and western outfit, and Jake's estranged wife (Carrie Fisher). With all this madness at play it would be easy for The Blues Brothers to go completely off the rails, but director John Landis keeps everything rattling along beautifully. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: John Landis
 Cast: John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, James Brown, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin
 Duration: 142mins
 Origin: USA 1980
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Universal

When...

Fri 11 7.30



Jumanji: The Next Level

Three years after the events of Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, Spencer, Anthony, Martha and Bethany organise a players reunion but when Spencer fails to show up they find out that he has not only repaired the Jumanji game, he has once again been sucked into it.

They quickly follow him into the game but they soon realise that the clock is ticking, the rules have changed and they have to brave scorching deserts, snow-capped mountains and dense perilous jungles in a race against time to find Spencer and find a way to escape. But the game has more than a few new tricks up its sleeve.

The old gang return with Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan, Kevin Hart and Jack Black leading the way with (unwilling) recruits Danny Glover and Danny DeVito joining the adventure. With Director Jake Kasdan also back on board and new villain Rory McCann (Game of Thrones) as the diabolical Jurgen the Brutal, the stakes could never be higher and the excitement and fun are unrelenting.

So sit back, strap yourself in and... Welcome back to the jungle!

Director: Jake Kasdan
 Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Madison Iseman, Jack Black, Awkwafina, Kevin Hart
 Duration: 123mins
 Origin: USA 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Sat 12 2.00



Unhinged

We've all experienced a little road rage, especially when stuck in traffic. But nothing comes quite as close to the anger expressed by Russel Crowe in this violent cat-and-mouse thriller.

Crowe plays 'The Man' as a blend of Rutger Hauer in *The Hitcher* and the lorry in Spielberg's *Duel*. His short-tempered nature is only matched by his scarily large physicality; all beard and bloat. His target is single mum Rachel (Caren Pistorius) after she beeps him when he hesitates to move at a green light. For most people this would be an understandable response, but for *The Man*, this act of impatience was the last straw for his already fractured mental state. After she refuses to apologise for what he describes as an overly aggressive act of honking, he snaps, and begins to relentlessly pursue the mother across the freeways of New Orleans.

No one is safe from his warpath; from her friends and family, to pedestrians that just happen to be in his way. *Unhinged* may be a one trick pony, but it's Crowe on overdrive - allowing the Aussie to go full bad-guy - and veers from horrifically entertaining to just downright horrific. (*Jack Whiting*)



Director: Derrick Borte
Cast: Russell Crowe, Jimmi Simpson, Gabriel Bateman, Caren Pistorius, Anne Leighton, Sylvia Grace Crim
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: USA 2020
Certificate: 15
Company: Altitude

When...

Sat 12 7.00

COMING SOON TO THE ODYSSEY

BACK BY DEMAND

THE TRAITOR
HOPE GAP
CLEMENCY

NEW RELEASES

TENET
THE SECRET GARDEN
PLUS...



BABYTEETH



LES MISÉRABLES



WHITE RIOT



THE KING'S MAN



THE ODYSSEY

CINEMA ST ALBANS

BOX OFFICE: 01727 453088

SEPTEMBER FILM

			TIME
TUE	1	SPY KIDS	12.30
TUE	1	A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	7.15
WED	2	KNIVES OUT	12.30
WED	2	BOMBSHELL	7.15
THU	3	EMMA	1.30
THU	3	PARASITE (S)	7.15
FRI	4	MILITARY WIVES	1.30
FRI	4	DARK WATERS	7.15
SAT	5	ONWARD	1.30
SAT	5	BRIDE & PREJUDICE	7.15
SUN	6	ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS	1.30
SUN	6	PARASITE (S)	7.15
MON	7	A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	1.30
MON	7	DARK WATERS	7.15
TUE	8	SUMMERLAND	12.30, 7.15
WED	9	ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS	12.30, 7.15
THU	10	THE TRAITOR (S)	12.30, 7.15
FRI	11	PROXIMA	1.30
FRI	11	BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE	7.15
SAT	12	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING	12.00
SAT	12	THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION	7.15
SUN	13	ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS	1.30, 7.15
MON	14	SUMMERLAND	1.30
MON	14	HOPE GAP	7.15
TUE	15	EMMA	12.30
TUE	15	CLEMENCY	7.15
WED	16	PROXIMA	12.30, 7.15
THU	17	BOMBSHELL	1.30
THU	17	MEMENTO	7.15
FRI	18	UNHINGED	1.30
FRI	18	LE MANS '66	7.15
SAT	19	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS	12.00
SAT	19	PURPLE RAIN	7.15
SUN	20	BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL LIVE	12.45
SUN	20	PARASITE - BLACK AND WHITE EDITION (S)	7.15
MON	21	A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	1.30
MON	21	SUMMERLAND	7.15
TUE	22	SUMMERLAND	12.30
TUE	22	THE LIGHTHOUSE	7.15
WED	23	CLEMENCY	12.30
WED	23	NOTTING HILL	7.15
THU	24	MY REMBRANDT	1.30
THU	24	ENTER THE DRAGON	7.15
FRI	25	THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION	1.30
FRI	25	UNHINGED	7.15
SAT	26	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING	12.00
SAT	26	AN AMERICAN PICKLE	7.30
SUN	27	BUGSY MALONE	1.30
SUN	27	THE BLUES BROTHERS	7.15
MON	28	BRIDE & PREJUDICE	1.30
MON	28	HOPE GAP	7.15
TUE	29	HOPE GAP	12.30
TUE	29	LA HAINE (S) (+i)	7.15
WED	30	SUMMERLAND	12.30, 7.15
(S) SUBTITLED (+i) INTRO			

THE-REX

BERKHAMSTED

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SEPTEMBER	FILM	TIME	PAGE
1 TUE	SUMMERLAND	7.30	8
2 WED	CINEMA PARADISO (S)	2.00	9
2 WED	SAINT FRANCES	7.30	9
3 THU	PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (S)	7.30	10
4 FRI	MENTO	7.30	10
5 SAT	ONWARD	2.00	11
5 SAT	PINOCCHIO	7.00	12
6 SUN	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	6.00	13
7 MON	WHO YOU THINK I AM (S)	7.30	13
8 TUE	CALM WITH HORSES	7.30	14
9 WED	CLEMENCY	2.00, 7.30	14
10 THU	THE PHOTOGRAPH	7.30	15
11 FRI	THE BLUES BROTHERS	7.30	16
12 SAT	JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL	2.00	16
12 SAT	UNHINGED	7.00	17
13 SUN	PARASITE (S)	6.00	20
14 MON	THE CHORUS (S)	7.30	20
15 TUE	KNIVES OUT	7.30	21
16 WED	SUMMERLAND	2.00, 7.30	8
17 THU	THE TRAITOR (S)	7.30	21
18 FRI	THE MATRIX	7.30	22
19 SAT	THE KARATE KID	2.00	22
19 SAT	BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE	7.00	23
20 SUN	BUGSY MALONE	6.00	23
21 MON	BALLOON (S)	7.30	24
22 TUE	PROXIMA	7.30	25
23 WED	RAGTIME	2.00, 7.30	25
24 THU	AN AMERICAN PICKLE	7.30	26
25 FRI	AN AMERICAN PICKLE	7.30	26
26 SAT	TROLLS: WORLD TOUR	2.00	27
26 SAT	FLASH GORDON	7.00	27
27 SUN	HOPE GAP	6.00	28
28 MON	THE LOST PRINCE (S)	7.30	29
29 TUE	LEON	7.30	29
30 WED	HOPE GAP	2.00, 7.30	28

(S) SUBTITLED

NEW RELEASES IN SEPTEMBER AT THE REX



MORE NEW RELEASES COMING SOON

You'll know as soon
as we do.



Parasite

From the Palme d'Or to Best Picture, Parasite is a masterpiece worthy of all the praise.

The first foreign-language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars, Bong Joon-ho beat his personal idols Tarantino and Scorsese to the grand prize (whilst making history). Known for his slick social satires, the South Korean director's latest takes you on a thrilling ride - the less you know going in, the better. A brief introduction: when Ki-woo (Choi Woo-shik) is given the opportunity to tutor the daughter of the wealthy Park family, he bluffs his way into the lucrative position with a forged university degree from his sister Ki-jung (Park So-dam).

Realising his own family could fill the other positions in the grand modernist home, they form a plan to infiltrate the household (without the Park family knowing that they are related). On Parasite's universality, Bong Joon-ho stated "it talks about two opposing families, about the rich versus the poor, and that is a universal theme, because we all live in the same country now: that of capitalism."

Hilarious and humane, tense and thought-provoking; Parasite promises a sensational cinematic experience not to be missed. (*Rachel Williams*)

Director: Bong Joon Ho
Cast: Song Kang Ho, Lee Sun Kyun, Cho Yeon Jeong, Choi Woo Shik, Park So Dam
Duration: 132 min
Origin: South Korea 2019 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: StudioCanal

When...

Sun 13 6.00



The Chorus

This was among our first foreign language miracles-in-film, first at the Rex in the summer of 2005. It continued a sell-out into the following year and the next and beyond. It remains a most beautiful piece of French film-making returning here as part of this year's back catalogue.

As a new teacher arrives at a school for disruptive boys, he awkwardly and quite unwittingly, sets about changing their lives. A huge success in its native France and its (then) newly adopted home The Rex, The Chorus is a heart surging tale of an inspirational teacher and a rag-tag of abandoned and stranded children.

"With the music of Jean-Phillipe Rameau at its heart, it is not only a beautiful and warm film to cherish, but a celebration of the universal language of song. Director, Barratier manages to draw naturalistic performances from his youthful cast while Jugnot brings great warmth, genuine care and humour to his role as the odd-man-out teacher." (*Universal*) Their faces will start you, the music will take you, the storytellers will do the rest. You must come. It is exquisite. Heart warming and breaking all at once. It won't be back for ages. Bring the street.

Director: Christophe Barratier
Cast: G  rard Jugnot, Fran  ois Berl  and, Jean-Baptiste Maunier, Jacques Perrin, Kad Merad, Marie Bunel
Duration: 93mins
Origin: France 2004 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 12A
Company: Path  

When...

Mon 14 7.30



Knives Out

A glorious blockbuster of whodunit chemistry, guessing and wit. Following a lavish 85th birthday party in his honour, wealthy and successful mystery novelist Harlan Thrombey is found dead with his throat slit. For the police this is an open and shut case of suicide, until master sleuth and debonair detective Benoit Blanc makes an entrance. Hired by an unknown benefactor, Blanc soon turns his attention to a Cluedo board of suspects... the entire family of course. Inspired by Agatha Christie, writer/director Rian Johnson knows how to stage a murder mystery. Murder on the Orient Express this is not. His knotty, deliriously deceptive screenplay plays like an unreliable narrator's recollection of a drunken story 'overheard in the distant secondhand'. Daniel Craig is a storm as the ridiculously southern Blanc. Shannon, Curtis and Collette bring malice, greed and spite into each full-frame close-up while Chris Evans smarms it up as the spoilt brat grandson. If you have half as much fun watching Knives Out as it looks like they did making it, you're guaranteed a good time. A timeless reminder that a talking tale, well told, doesn't need boom-banga-bang superpowers mouth-agape big screen joy. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) Come, see if you can spot the clues...

Director: Rian Johnson
Cast: Christopher Plummer, Ana de Armas, Daniel Craig, Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis
Duration: 137 min
Origin: USA 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Lionsgate

When...

Tue 15 7.30



The Traitor

Marco Bellocchio reimagines the gangster epic as an exploration of modern morality.

The Traitor, which competed for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last year, tells the true story of Mob informant Tommaso Buscetta who exposed the workings of the Cosa Nostra in Italy's 1986 Maxi Trials, the country's largest round-up of the criminal organisation.

Following his two-decade journey, Bellocchio chronicles Buscetta's descent from made man to pariah as, along with his family, he becomes the most prominent target of the Italian Mafia.

Nods to big screen classics The Godfather and Goodfellas are dotted throughout but importantly this is a film which never feels crippling in their debt. It thrives on shunning the glamour and glory of the underworld and instead focuses on the pathetic trap of criminal power.

Similarly to Scorsese's The Irishman, The Traitor gets to the bottom of how crushingly hollow the endgame of a life organised crime can be. While probably a step behind the epic impact of its Stateside counterpart, the two films would make a fascinating (if dauntingly long) double-feature. It is, however, the shorter in length. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Marco Bellocchio
Cast: Pierfrancesco Favino, Luigi Lo Cascio, Fausto Russo Alesi, Maria Fernanda Cândido
Duration: 152 mins
Origin: Italy 2019 (Subtitled)
Certificate: 15
Company: Modern Films

When...

Thu 17 7.30



The Matrix

Another one of those monumental releases that influenced a generation of films and filmmakers alike, *The Matrix* still stands as a pop-culture icon, two decades on.

Itself heavily inspired by cyberpunk novels, asian cinema, and religion, the Wachowski's genre-melding thriller is also now regarded as a parable for trans rights. There's a lot going under the hood, not least the numerous philosophical musings. On the surface however, is a kick-ass sci-fi adventure, with the only dated aspect being the over abundance of black leather and PVC (but that only adds to its underground appeal).

The Matrix embodies a delicious paradox: using technology, it tells its story of mankind's near destruction brought about by our reliance on, you guessed it, technology. The idea that our world is an elaborate simulation meant to divert us from the knowledge that our bodies are being enslaved and harvested for energy by sentient computers is at once heady, ridiculous and supremely clever. But when the action kicks in, you'll witness gravity defying feats only this film can provide. So take the red pill and jump in. (*Jack Whiting*)

Directors: The Wachowski Brothers
 Cast: Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne
 Duration: 136mins
 Origin: USA 1999
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Warner Bros



The Karate Kid

From the depths of 1980s pop culture comes *The Karate Kid*, a film that, despite being stamped by its decade of origin, still works on a basic level today.

Daniel (Ralph Macchio) is a teenager who moves with his mother to LA. When Daniel starts to date the former girlfriend of the toughest guy in class, he starts pounding on Daniel's head on a regular basis. Daniel tries to fight back, but this guy has a black belt in karate. Enter Mr. Miyagi (Pat Morita), who seems to be a harmless old eccentric with a curious hobby: catching flies with chopsticks.

It turns out that Miyagi is a karate master, a student not only of karate fighting but of the total philosophy of the martial arts. He agrees to take Daniel as his student. Cue training montages to cheesy 80s tunes ala *Rocky*.

Mr. Miyagi saddles Daniel with one herculean home-repair chore after another; tasks that have no apparent connection with his karate training. It is irresistible to watch this culminate in the boy's angry outburst, the old man's quiet bemusement and the revelation that painting and waxing have plenty to do with karate after all. (*Jack Whiting*)

Director: John G. Avildsen
 Cast: Ralph Macchio, Noriyuki 'Pat' Morita, Elisabeth Shue, Martin Kove
 Duration: 122mins
 Origin: USA 1984
 Certificate: 12
 Company: RCA/Columbia Pictures Video Ltd

When...

Fri 18 7.30

When...

Sat 19 2.00



Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure

I can't believe I'm saying this but this year the Wyld Stallyns will be returning to rock the spacetime continuum once more in their third film, so until then, let's revisit the ridiculous fun of the original. It sounds even more ridiculous on paper:

Bill S. Preston, Esq (Alex Winter) and Ted "Theodore" Logan (Keanu Reeves) are two dunderheaded Californian teens about to flunk their history class – the last straw for Ted's father, who's threatened to pack him off to a military academy in Alaska, tearing apart the duo's band.

Suddenly, an emissary from the future (comedian George Carlin) turns up in a time-travelling phone booth and informs them that their band will one day be responsible for creating a global utopia. And so Bill and Ted take an educational jaunt into the past, picking up titans like Socrates, Napoleon, and Beethoven along the way. It all ends in a spotlight-heavy, electric guitar-scored presentation that inexplicably earns them a passing grade.

The world is safe once more. Air guitars at the ready because this gonzo eighties adventure is a blast. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Stephen Herek
 Cast: Keanu Reeves, Alex Winter, George Carlin, Amy Stoch, Terry Camillieri
 Duration: 86mins
 Origin: USA 1989
 Certificate: PG
 Company: StudioCanal

When...

Sat 19 7.00



Bugsy Malone

Bugsy is Alan Parker's curse on the youth Am-Dram circuit. As was his 'The Commitments' on the 80's pub circuits. From nowhere hundreds of white middle-aged stone-washed denim, soulsters shook cricket pavilions and village halls, belting out 'Mustang Sally' like they meant it. As for 'Fame' – look what that has spawned! Apparently he dreamt up Bugsy one lunch-time session with a mate. That said, a few gems have been written on the "back of a fag-pack" – most of Slade's hits for instance, and... the restoration of The Rex! This is a gangster movie where all the hoods are children. Instead of real bullets they use "splurge guns" to cream their victims. It tells of the rise of Bugsy Malone and the battle for power between Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. It launched Jodie Foster's (Tallulah) career, not to mention a few stalkers. To its credit there are some good tunes, plus it has injected real fun into school plays ever since. All that dreaded foam...

Director: Alan Parker
 Cast: Jodie Foster, Scott Baio, Florrie Dugger
 Duration: 93 mins
 Origin: UK 1976
 Certificate: U
 Company: Park Circus

When...

Sun 20 6.00



Balloon

You could probably choose a less conspicuous method of getting over the wall than floating across the border in what looks like a giant, brightly coloured, glowing lightbulb.

Yet a spectacular nocturnal breakout from communist East Germany by hot-air balloon is exactly what two families tried two chilly nights in September, 1979. Director Michael Bully Herbig tells the true story of the Strelzyks and the Wetzels, who built their balloon in a cellar. After sewing and tinkering for weeks, they make their first attempt. A few feet from West German freedom, their balloon suffers from the rain and crash lands. Luckily, they manage to avoid being caught by the nazi-Stasi. However, the wreckage from their attempt is found. Enter: a desperate manhunt. The tension rises as the families determine to try again, and a race against time begins. Besides being a fine thriller, Balloon also shows very well the effects authoritarian societies have on its people. It's further proof that Herbig is one of the best directors his Country has to offer. *(research Jack Whiting)* I remember my own family's tension at the international news of this fantastical misadventure, but will they make it 2nd time... Back by huge demand. Miss everything else but this.

Director: Michael Bully Herbig
 Cast: Friedrich Mücke, Karoline Schuch,
 David Kross, Alicia von Rittberg,
 Thomas Kretschmann
 Duration: 125 mins
 Origin: Germany 2019 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Studio Canal

When...

Mon 21 7.30



Proxima

French filmmaker Alice Winocour explores the pressures and struggles experienced by female astronauts while keeping her heroine on the ground. Sarah (Eva Green) is on the cusp of achieving her childhood dream of going into space. As she tries to balance being a mother and the sole female astronaut on the mission, the brutal preparation required drains her physically while the distance from 8-year-old daughter Stella causes emotional distress. Despite the challenging situation and the sexist criticisms of American colleague Mike (Matt Dillon), Sarah's unwavering focus and quiet determination keep her going. Green blends heart and intensity to excel in her most challenging role to date. She and Zélie Boulant (Stella) both bring a level-headedness while Winocour's smart direction highlights the difficulties astronauts both past and present have faced. This is a far-cry from the ill-fated Natalie Portman vehicle *Lucy in the Sky*. Instead, this is a delicate and elegant meditation on motherhood. "There's no such thing as the perfect astronaut, just like there's no such thing as the perfect mother" Sarah is told at one point. If anything could sum up *Proxima's* core message, it's this. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Alice Winocour
Cast: Eva Green, Zélie Boulant, Matt Dillon
Duration: 107mins
Origin: France/Germany 2019
Certificate: 12A
Company: Picturehouse Ents

When...

Tue 22 7.30



Ragtime

Milos Forman's 1981 adaptation of E. L. Doctorow's epic featuring the swan song of Hollywood legend James Cagney (and Pat O'Brien).

Spanning two crucial decades of American history, Doctorow's *Ragtime* was a sprawling fictional chronicle of politics, culture and society between 1900 and 1913. As such, the book presented an immense challenge for Forman. Centering on issues of social class and social change, Forman's *Ragtime* depicts three of Doctorow's plot threads; the story of an immigrant artist who becomes a filmmaker, the tale of Evelyn Shaw who becomes entangled in a notorious killing, and the saga of Coathouse Walker Jr (Howard E. Rollins Jr) a talented young black pianist who seeks justice after an incident with a racist fire chief. It is this that takes centre stage, as Rollins, Jr. brilliantly channels the changes he goes through; from youthful romantic love to an impassioned cry of rage. There could be no justice for the likes of Coalhouse Walker in the New York of 1910.

With 8 Oscar nominations, *Ragtime* still remains a loving, beautifully mounted, graceful film that creates its characters with great clarity. (*Research Chris Coetsee*) I have been chasing for *Ragtime* since we opened in 2004. Now it's finally here, don't miss it.

Director: Milos Forman
Cast: James Cagney, Brad Dourif, Moses Gunn, Elizabeth McGovern
Duration: 155 mins
Origin: USA 1981
Certificate: 15
Company: Columbia-Emi-Warner Dists Ltd

When...

Wed 23 2.00, 7.30



An American Pickle

Seth Rogen does the double in this unexpectedly poignant comedy about family and legacies.

Rogen plays Herschel Greenbaum, a ditch-digger from Eastern Europe who immigrates to Brooklyn at the turn of the 20th century. Herschel goes to work in a pickle factory killing rats, where he falls into the pickle vat and is sealed inside. A century later, a drone disturbs the vat and Herschel emerges, fully preserved, alive and confused. The doctors find his only living relative, great-grandson Ben (also Rogen), a freelance web app developer and a series of time-traveling mishaps and misunderstandings ensue. Both characters are brilliantly performed by Rogen who, despite the uneasy social satire and fantasy mix, does a great job of getting to the emotional heartstrings of the story and is on typically excellent form as the sharp-witted funnyman he's always been. It's one of his best roles(s) to date.

There's a great fan-made trailer for *Titanic 2* floating around on YouTube where Jack is resurrected from frozen ice a century later. Until that enters production, this is the only cross-generation comedy you'll need. (*Research Chris Coetsee*)

Director: Brandon Trost
 Cast: Seth Rogen, Sarah Snook, Sean Whalen
 Duration: 88mins
 Origin: USA 2020
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Warner Bros

When...

Thu 24 7.30
Fri 25 7.30



Trolls World Tour

The first major release to bypass cinemas and launch exclusively in our homes thanks to lockdown, Trolls World Tour can now be experienced in all its candy coloured hysteria on the big screen.

Our beloved trolls from the earlier film, led by the always-cheerful Princess Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and her forlorn, anxious admirer Branch (Justin Timberlake), learn that they are not the only trolls in existence. Apparently, there are six different tribes, each identified by a musical genre. When rockers Queen Barb and King Thrash set out to destroy the other music, Poppy and Branch embark on a daring mission to unite the trolls and save the diverse melodies from becoming extinct.

It's delirious, but often in ways that are disarmingly weird and imaginative. It should be noted, the film opens with a troll sneezing in our faces, which is a hell of a way to begin a movie coming out during a pandemic, but I suppose editing that bit out would have compromised its artistic vision. *(Jack Whiting)*

Directors: Walt Dohrn, David P. Smith
 Cast: Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Rachel Bloom, James Corden, Ron Funches, Kelly Clarkson, Sam Rockwell
 Duration: 91mins
 Origin: USA 2020
 Certificate: U
 Company: Universal

When...

Sat 26 2.00



Flash Gordon

Mike Hodges' bizarre LSD pantomime Flash Gordon, adapted from the 1930s comic-strip serial, has received a stunning restoration for its 40th anniversary.

It now looks even madder and more expressionist than ever, with its operatic theme from Queen, bizarre studio sets for alien planets and the kind of eyeball-frazzling technicolour scheme that generally only existed on old TVs.

The saviour of the universe, played by floppy-haired American football star Sam Jones, is transported to an alien galaxy where he must do battle with Ming the Merciless (Max von Sydow), and side with a winged Brian Blessed and a swashbuckling Timothy Dalton, all in in plethora of exotic locations.

It's amazing that, despite Star Wars coming out three years prior and changing blockbuster movies forever, Flash Gordon simply ignores its influence and aims squarely for the golden era of B-movie camp. It's scary, it's exciting, it's clever, it's witty, it's at times, emotional, and it's just great, great fun.

Keep your mind-bending, critically acclaimed, genre defining, 3 hour stories – I want my 90mins of sci-fi fun, and Flash delivers in spades. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Mike Hodges
 Cast: Sam J. Jones, Melody Anderson, Max von Sydow, Topol, Ornella Muti, Timothy Dalton, Brian Blessed
 Duration: 111mins
 Origin: UK 1980
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: StudioCanal

When...

Sat 26 7.00



Hope Gap

Annette Bening and Bill Nighy star in this poignant depiction of how longtime partners can drift apart without either fully knowing it. Written and

directed by Oscar nominated screenwriter William Nicholson (Gladiator), *Hope Gap* begins as a portrait of marriage as living hell.

Grace is approaching her 29th wedding anniversary with Edward. She's a homemaker while he writes and researches Wikipedia entries. It's clear he's the harried husband who can never make Grace happy and she's the scolding bully; demanding and self-serving. When Edward decides to walk away from his domestic torture, Grace's egotism and neuroticism are exposed as she struggles to come to terms with both her and Edward's new and separate lives. Bening, quietly in the running for star of the century, proves you can hand her just about anything and she'll turn in a performance so ferocious and original that it'll completely transform a film. Coupled with sweeping landscape photography, she turns the crisp, cold beauty of Seaford, Sussex into a metaphor for Grace's chilly marriage. Entertainment Weekly described this as *Marriage Story* for boomers, with only one side of the story to tell. Hers is, at least, a pleasure to watch. (Research Chris Coetsee)

Director: William Nicholson
 Cast: Annette Bening, Bill Nighy, Aiysha Hart, Josh O'Connor, Nicholas Burns, Rose Keegan
 Duration: 101mins
 Origin: UK 2019
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: Curzon

When... **Wed 30 2.00**
Sun 27 6.00 Wed 30 7.30



The Lost Prince

Falling somewhere between *The Princess Bride* and *Inside Out*, this latest feature from Michel Hazanavicius is a charming coming-of-age story set just outside Paris.

In this deconstructed French fairy tale, Omar Sy plays Djibi, a widowed father whose entire life revolves around that of his 11 year old daughter, Sofia (Sarah Gaye). Initially enamored by her dad's bedtime stories, Sofia is turning into a young adult who needs her own space.

Djibi is clearly not ready for the onslaught of Sofia's pubescence, his emotional state reflected in the technicolour fantasy world he visits in his mind each night while telling stories. In that world, which takes on the guise of an old Hollywood studio lot filled with costumed actors, Djibi has always been The Prince — the star of the show and his daughter's hero. Now he's being replaced by Sofia's new boyfriend, and must embark on a quest to get back to top billing status.

Like Hazanavicius' other features – *The Artist*, *Redoubtable*, and the OSS spoofs – attention to the period details is part of the charm; with its flourishes and emotional highlights, brings *The Lost Prince* closer to a Hollywood production. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Michel Hazanavicius
 Cast: Omar Sy, Bérénice Bejo, François Damiens
 Duration: 101mins
 Origin: France 2020 (Subtitled)
 Certificate: 12A
 Company: StudioCanal

When...

Mon 28 7.30



Leon

The French master Luc Besson came through with what is one of the oddest guardian-child relationships (who adopts who). In this his English language debut, Jean Reno plays Leon, the coolest assassin ever, with fantastic new (then) child-star: Natalie Portman as Mathilda. At only 12-years-old, Mathilda returns one day from running an errand to find her dysfunctional, family wiped out after a corrupt undercover police raid, led by psychotic cop, Stansfield (a terrifying, Gary Oldman). As luck would have it, it turns out she lives next door to a very quiet assassin: Leon. Reluctantly he takes her in. Let the story begin. The film has everything it needs to be an action thriller in every detail, high on emotion. Outstanding performances, mind-blowing action, loads of tension and violence, on top of which is a truly amazing screenplay.

"Having one career highlight performance in a film is a treat. Having three is just spoiling us" (*Total Film*) "Reno's performance of hangdog loyalty lends his character pleasing sympathy, while Besson's heavily stylized direction builds tension around sexy violence." (*Film4*) What a tepid writing for a film so hot. The three performances are shining-brilliant from the start. One of the most thorough thrillers from the last 25 years.

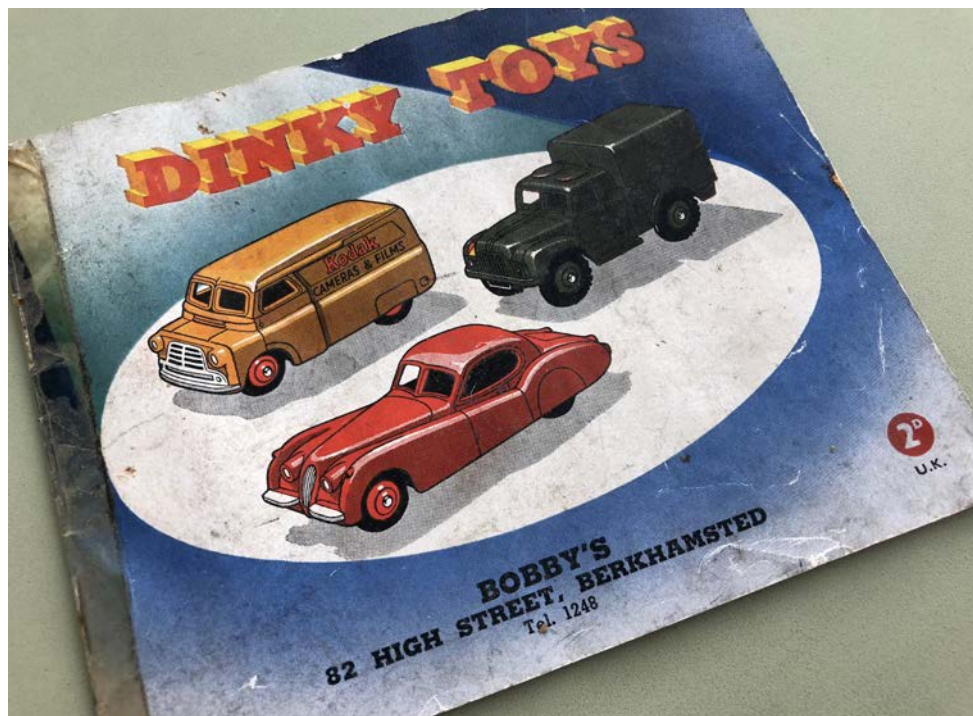
Director: Luc Besson
 Cast: Jean Reno, Gary Oldman, Natalie Portman, Danny Aiello, Peter Appel
 Duration: 106mins
 Origin: France/USA 1994
 Certificate: 15
 Company: Buena Vista Home Video

When...

Tue 29 7.30

Left alone, many 'changes' are best left unchanged

*It's been Bobby's (corner shop albeit not on the corner) all along...!
This Dinky toy booklet dating from 1956 was recently sent to Raj & family -
our important & well loved up-to-date 'Bobby's' family.*



Gifted to Bobby's this year by someone from Bushey who didn't leave his name. The envelope he left is dated 1956...!

So It's been Bobby's corner shop (albeit not on the corner) all along. A most precious shop, the last of its kind in Berkhamsted – and thankfully, still going strong today.

Follow the arrows... any way you like



God's own car park roundabout lit from heavens above. It is A Sign...!



This too must be a Sign from God's own Hemel Town Planning experts. "Returning the Moor to Nature" - my God's sweet arse. Left alone untouched, unspoilt, un-raped - It was Nature already - fools.

Arrows (from overleaf) to a beheading...

Like corporate business, estate agents, insurance brokers, Amazon & Netflix etc, you make it sound like you're doing us all a big favour. At least they have greed on their side, you - said council, sadly - don't.

It appears you are simply incompetent, irresponsible, unapologetic, so worse - cowardly (your insurance beavers klan would hang you from the few trees you left alone should you dare even utter taking 'blame').

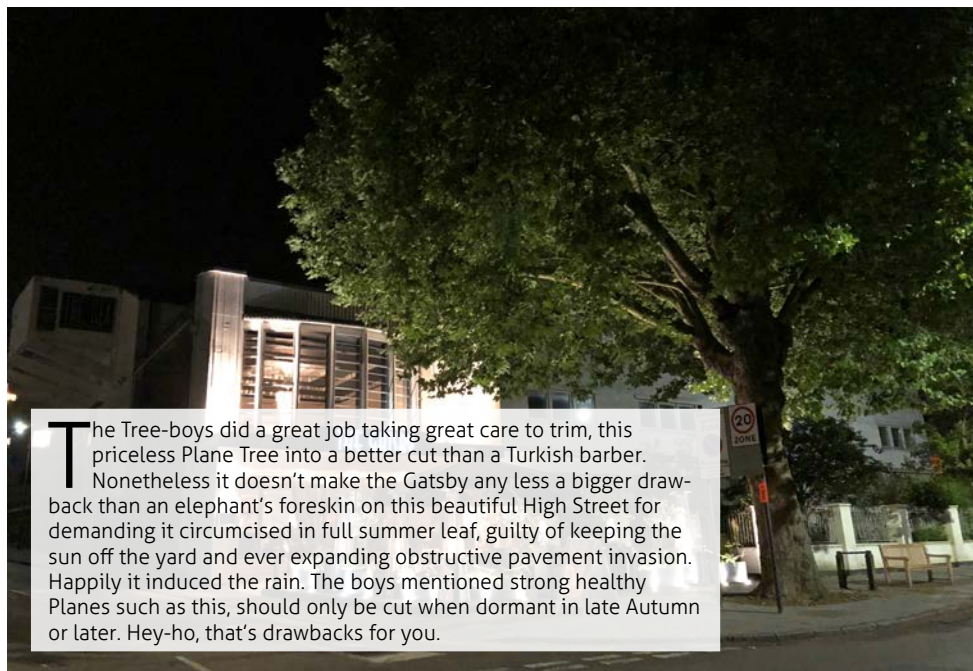
Your ugly arrogance is careless. Simply, you are responsible for vandalism on a scale approaching criminal. But instead of prosecution, you go free to distract us from behind weasel words of grace, favour and environmental care.

'New furniture' 'fencing' and 'tree replanting' only just beats selling ice-cream to fat children by a flake of your own collective feeble imagination. As for "THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE..."

Outstanding. This clearly exonerates, and elevates you to an honoured place as true, caring Country members...



The High Street in gorgeous full leaf earlier this summer. The London Plane tree is clearly visible full & green at the far end mid-right.



The Tree-boys did a great job taking great care to trim, this priceless Plane Tree into a better cut than a Turkish barber. Nonetheless it doesn't make the Gatsby any less a bigger drawback than an elephant's foreskin on this beautiful High Street for demanding it circumcised in full summer leaf, guilty of keeping the sun off the yard and ever expanding obstructive pavement invasion. Happily it induced the rain. The boys mentioned strong healthy Planes such as this, should only be cut when dormant in late Autumn or later. Hey-ho, that's drawbacks for you.

