

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

MOLIÈRE

IN AUGUST...

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

THE-REX

AUGUST 2007 Issue 29  
[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)

**01442 877759**

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

<b>August Matinees</b>	<b>10-17</b>
<b>August Evenings</b>	<b>18-28</b>
<b>Gallery</b>	<b>5, 7</b>
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# SEAT PRICES:

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<b>At Table</b>	£9.00
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<b>Royal Box (seats 6)</b>	£11.00
<b>or for the Box</b>	£60.00

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 Mon to Sat 10.30am – 6.00pm  
 Sun 4.30pm – 6.30pm  
 (Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

Disabled and flat access: by gate on High Street. Tel: 01442 877999

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<b>Oliver Hicks</b>	<b>Olivia Wilson</b>
<b>Sarah Holloway</b>	<b>Keymea Yazdanian</b>

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Artists

**Andrew Dixon**

**Paul Rowbottom**

Advisors and Investors

**Paul Fullagar**

**Alan Clooney**

**Ed Mauger** Genius

**Demiurge Design** Designers 01582 791996

**Allison Nunn** Publisher 07786 540418

**James Hannaway** CEO 01442 877999

**Betty Patterson** Company Secretary and THE ORIGINAL VISIONARY of The Rex.

**The Rex** High Street (Three Close Lane)

Berkhamsted HP4 2FG

[www.therexcinema.com](http://www.therexcinema.com)



"Perhaps the chimneys stood too tall in this beautiful valley to stay there forever. For new-comers they were part of the scenery. For the born & bred under 50, they had always been there. Being 'used-to' has an inexplicable value of its own..."

The 'Mother' chimney brought down at precisely 11am on a very cold Christmas Day 1999. You can see the freezing wind blowing the ashes towards the "ancient windmill".

## TIMES PROPERTY SECTION 'BRICKS AND MORTAR'

29 June 2007

Headed: "Hot Tip Of The Week"

“ In Pitstone, Buckinghamshire. The views are stunning, with rolling hills, woodland and wide open spaces. You could be somewhere in Switzerland, but in reality you are on the edge of the Chiltern Hills... One of the larger villages around Tring, Pitstone is widely known for its ancient windmill (pictured above) and the medieval church of St Mary Virgin, founded in 1180. The surrounding area has much to offer – the Grand Union Canal, the bluebell woods at their best in May, nearby Whipsnade Zoo, and the Kings Head Restaurant at Ivinghoe. The market towns of Aylesbury, Tring and Berkhamsted are alive with interesting shops. The revamped Rex Cinema in Berkhamsted is arguably the finest independent cinema in the country...”

Taken from the Times (Fri 29 June) 'Bricks and Mortar' p27.

Thank you to the young couple who kept it for us.

To risk sour grapes at the old lie: 'any publicity is...' - why are we always in the 'property sections'?



This is estate agent land. 'Bricks and Mortar' and all such 'Property' pages are paid for by estate agents. They look like articles but are bijou advertorials.

This one gushes all over with the alpine Swissness of Pitstone! On a clear day you can hear yodelling. One cross-heading reads: "Why are people suddenly so excited about Pitstone?" Even for the million pound answer, the closest phone-a-friend - friend, would hang-up.

It boasts: "Much of the rural setting has been restored (with) 275 homes built on the old cement works... with a further 161 new dwellings scheduled..."

How do the words 'rural setting' and 'restored' go with 536 houses and a new road cut through green meadows to give access to the (essential, now we're living in the country, dahlink) 1072 four-wheel drives?

At the pleasure of repetition, The Rex was not lovingly restored to what may well be the last remaining fully working, single screen 1930's cinema; possibly Britain's most beautiful, to sweeten the sale of "three, four and five bedroom houses...". We restored it to show films for anyone and everybody in a place more magical than the film itself.

With a little imagination you can find more challenging aids to house prices – like how nicely drained are the craggy pavements and what an adventure it is to get home in one piece.

Isn't there a page in The Times where you might want to write about what we do, besides what a great asset we are to estate agents? Even the latest fears of the industry are fun to read. Getting us on the right page might sell even more 'properties' for you?

Currently studio chiefs and distributors of big-budget Block-Bs and the ever growing independents are worried. The Coens, Rodrigues, Tarantino and Clooney, Europeans, South Americans and Ken Loach in the UK, are more and more concerned that their films are only seen in "cesspits" (not quite their word). Then, after the first two big weeks on general release, they

### Booking blurb and new things:

- **Full houses:** Try the raffle on the door – a very high success rate.
- **Midweek Matinees:** If you have table tickets please come in through the downstairs doors. We will be there to see you in. It will save all those stairs.
- It is probably another worse-than-worst idea, but we've started afternoon teas. Mon to Thurs after the Matinees.

evaporate on to DVD – never to be seen on the big screen again.

We keep the best (and worst) titles alive many weeks later, for an audience who queues to see them.

We show films, great and small on a big screen in a civilised, welcoming and gorgeous setting. During a recent visit, Mainline Pictures chief (The Screen on the...), Romaine Hart, remarked that our "magical creation" was "courageous" to screen a different film most nights. We employ almost forty, pay all our bills and aren't out for huge profits. It is an extended family. It sounds idyllic but if you're not greedy, it can work anywhere.

It's about as courageous as washing behind your ears. (But thank you Romaine).

Who knows what motivated Castle Cement at Pitstone Cement Works, but for fifty years it employed thousands locally. As part of the landscape, five skinny chimneys were a three-dimensional compass point on the horizon. You could see them for miles. They orientated you, a landmark of post-war rural England re-building after the blitz. No doubt they supplied some of the crappiest architecture with cement for some of the most unforgivable civic buildings and housing estates in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

But it was only supplying the mortar for the bricks. Like 'only obeying orders' I suppose?

The chimneys must be turning in their cement slippers at the half-timbered four-bedroomed breeze semis built on top of them, with walls so well insulated, shoe laces can be heard being tied a cul-de-sac away.

A snip at half a million.

Favourite line... "...alive with interesting shops".



Toby Jones Sunday 8 July



Toby, looking very pleased with Sandra Bullock wrapped around his neck. But even happier (left) with family and friends by The Rex 'garden'.

Infamous: Toby Jones, Adrian Scarborough, James Hannaway. (Sandra is just out of shot). A lovely man, brilliant on the big screen and even better on stage. These star gigs are always apprehensive in preparation, but there seems to be no need. From Dame Judi to Humph, they've all been been easy-going and gracious. Toby was particularly gorgeous from the minute he walked in, and great company. Lost his raybans in the foyer and almost missed his flight. It doesn't get much better... until we gush about the next one...





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



## Fantastic Four

Wed 1 2.00, Thu 2 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

**Director:** Tim Story

**Starring:** Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 92 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**“At last! A comic book blockbuster that isn’t burdened by a self important subtext and a bum-numbing running time.** Unlike X-men or Spiderman movies.

This Fantastic Four: is a delicious lightweight sequel – a 92 minute dash through some simplistic moral problems, emotional hiccups and mildly, diverting PG-rated set-pieces. Of course, it’s all deeply stupid stuff, and the movie knows it, even celebrates it.” (*Knowledge’ Sat Times*) At last a reviewer has got a BlockB right. So has 20th C Fox. Finally a studio has decided to forget the story. Instead, turn on the action button with Mr-can’t-pass-a-mirror (with silly, unpronounceable name) Gruffudd; the gorgeous Alba – the only one who shouldn’t be invisible; some nondescript flame guy from coolsville and an animated pooper unscooped.

Forget the story. You already know... there isn’t one.

So come for the black-hole whirlpool in the middle of the Thames and the most fantastical techno-visuals on our huge screen... with all the usual hospitality.

Here for the first few days of August with one evening for grown-up kids...



# Ocean’s Thirteen

Fri 3 2.00

Soderbergh’s pacing is brisk, like he wants to get it all over as quickly as possible. You may hope so too?

“Better than the awful Twelve but not as fresh as Eleven”.

George, Brad, Matt and the rest are as cool as ever. They know when their luck is in. It’s back to Vegas, where Al Pacino’s casino big-shot (apply named Willie Bank) upsets the gang and pays for it...

The stars don’t have to try. They hardly have to string more than two sentences together. But then, it’s not Shakespeare. There are some good one-liners but the action is better. Dice are magnetised, card shufflers are bribed, slot machines are rigged and an earthquake is faked with a giant drill!

“That’s only the half of it. I wouldn’t want to spoil your guilty pleasure at this preposterous plotline.” (*Standard*) It is complete spoofy nonsense.

They all look like they’re having a great time and, unlike Brit comic-strips actors, share it with the audience.

So come for this, George, the thrills, the in-jokes and the obvious finale... But more, for the gorgeously flawed Ellen Barkin.



**Director:** Steven Soderbergh

**Starring:** Don Cheadle, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Al Pacino, Andy Garcia

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 122 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Warner Brothers



## Hoodwinked

Sat 4 2.00



The animators are getting better and better. There are Pixar geeks versus Disney stalwarts. There are conventions and daytrips. They're excited by all the new electro-toys and clever enough to use them, which for us and our kids means an hour or so of unbridled spectacle, fantasy and wow!

This is an utterly irreverent and hugely enjoyable mixture of classic fairytale and a hard-bitten cop yarn with healthy doses of humour. HOODWINKED (the clue is in the title!) is Little Red Riding Hood turned on its side. This story begins where the famous Grimm's tale ends. The Grandmother (bunny-blr, Close) and the Woodcutter (Belushi) confront the Big Bad Wolf (Chazz). The Police (all known fairy faces) arrive blocking the entrances to the house, and begin their investigation of the human inhabitants. Little Red Riding Hood (Hathaway) is the prime suspect, with the Woodcutter and the Grandmother also under suspicion. A character-based animation with wise-cracks, jokey in-jokes and a procession of instantly familiar fairytale figures. Come for the cheeky brilliance, but bring your grandparents to keep you in the frame...

**Director:** Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards

**Starring:** Glenn Close, Anne Hathaway, James Belushi, Chazz Palminteri

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 81 mins

**Origin:** USA 2006

**By:** Momentum

## The Incredibles

Mon 6 2.00

**Director:** Brad Bird

**Starring:** Holly Hunter, Brad Bird, Jason Lee, Samuel L Jackson

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 120 mins

**Origin:** USA 2004

**By:** Buena Vista International

THE INCREDIBLES is a hilarious action-packed animated adventure about superheroes. Bob Parr used to be one of the world's greatest superheroes (known to all as 'Mr Incredible') saving lives and fighting evil on a daily basis. But now, 15 years later, Bob and his wife have adopted civilian identities and retired to the suburbs to live normal lives with their three kids.

Brad Bird, the man largely responsible for the The Simpsons, as well as the 1999 animated feature - Ted Hughes' The Iron Giant, has created this little gem.

You may have seen it before and got it at home, but the big screen creates a different world.

Besides they're not making kids films as quickly as we need to show them, so bring your grandparents out for a treat. Luckily most new films for children are spiked with 'grown-up' gags. So you don't need a child. Come and elbow them out of the way.



## La Vie En Rose

Tue 7 12.30, Wed 8 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*



LA VIE EN ROSE is elevated above many other biopics by Marion Cotillard. This little girl's, magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above argument.

From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love. Piaf's magical voice, and her passionate romances and friendships with some of the greatest names of the period, made her a star the world over. But in her audacious attempt to tame her tragic destiny, the 'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable that she would burn her wings. Capturing the French icon's bravado, brilliance and self-destruction, "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation... a great performance" (PB Guardian) Don't listen to them. Come for her and a heartbreaking story, beautifully told. "Cotillard is little short of genius"... absolutment.

**Director:** Olivier Dahan

**Starring:** Sylvie Testud, Marion Cotillard, Pascal Gregory

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 140 mins

**Origin:** Czech Republic, France, UK 2007

**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

## Madagascar

Thu 9 2.00

**Directors:** Eric Darnell & Tom McGrath

**Voices of:** Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith.

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 86 mins

**Origin:** USA 2005

**By:** UIP

**"Someone's got a zoo loose..." the clue is in the title!**

Four residents, best friends and "stars" of the Central Park Zoo in New York City: Alex the lion (Stiller), Marty the zebra (Rock), Melman the giraffe (Schwimmer) and a pregnant hippo - Gloria (Jada). When one of them goes missing, the other three break out to look for him. They are captured but instead of returning to the zoo they are shipped back to their roots: Africa, only to find that the escapees are too soft city-slick for their wild origins. Pixar may have raised crayon of perfection, but Dreamworks is going keyboard-to-keyboard when it comes to popular appeal. "So sophisticated is digital animation nowadays, the makers are forced to study the old masters Chuck Jones, Tex Avery and Hanna-Barbara to create an authentic retro-cartoon look" (*Mail on Sunday*). Watch out for Ali G as a singing lemur, but its the renegade penguins who steal it for me.

(Warning: "PG for mild language, crude humour and some thematic elements") Thematic elements - how awful).



## Fly Away Home

Sat 11 2.00



**From the director of The Black Stallion comes the story of a family who adopt a flock of geese after its front flyer dies.** Ultimately they help the flock migrate south by piloting an ultra-light plane.

This film is based on the real-life exploits of Bill Lishman whose story was featured on a "20/20" news segment in 1993. The news item inspired this film.

Featured among the ensemble cast are Jeff Daniels, Dana Delany and Academy-Award-winning actress Anna (The Piano) Paquin.

Preliminary scenes are said to show the hatching eggs of real geese:

"The newborn geese 'imprint' onto the first living thing they see and then follow it". That could be tricky... What if its Gary Glitter?

## Ladies in Lavender

Mon 13 2.00

**Director:** Charles Dance

**Starring:** Dame Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Miriam Margolyes, Natascha McElhone, Daniel Bruhl

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 103 mins

**Origin:** UK 2004

**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

**This ran and ran when we first opened and introduced us to the fiercest and most feared of audiences.** Charles Dance was one of our first guest directors, whom later and unforgettably, brought Judi Dench to chat to him on our stage. He came across this short story while waiting to shoot a scene in a library. After many ups and downs, it eventually became this small, beautifully shot, independent film. It cleverly transcends the sentimental through its warm sketches of genuine people. In exquisitely judged performances, Dame Judy tries to suppress carnal desires and Dame Maggie tuts. The sister's world is simple and uncomplicated. Their words are measured, manners perfect and repression absolute. The sun shines and waves pound. It is about a time long lost, where smokey pubs were the domain of ruddy faced old men and policemen doffed their caps, clipped cheeky young'uns around the bar and got away with 'Now bugger off or I'll be round to see yer father'. Once more we look forward (with a little trepidation) to the patter of sensible shoes.



**Directors:** Carroll Ballard

**Starring:** Anna Delany, Terry Kinney, Jeff Daniels, Anna Paquin

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 107 mins

**Origin:** USA 1996

**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing



## Winged Migration

Tue 14 12.30



An Oscar nominee, it is visually ravishing and an amazing feat of camera work. Startling close-ups and beautiful long tracking aerial shots follow these birds south for the winter. It tells us that over hundreds and thousands of air miles are navigated by the stars, the sun, the earth's gravitational field and best of all - familiar landmarks! Apparently, 225 feet of film were exposed for every foot used on the screen!

"Some birds were raised to be the stars of the film; they were exposed to the sounds of aeroplanes and movie cameras while still in the shell, and upon hatching, were greeted by crew members!" (how terrifying for the newborns ).

Shots were taken from microlights, hot air balloons and gliders.

Happily the film lets the pictures tell the story. The light narration does not distract from the breathtaking visuals. Apart from passing predators this it is a beautiful flight.

**Director:** Jacques Cluzaud, Michel Debats

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 89 mins

**Origin:** France 2002

**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Miss Potter

Wed 15 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Director:** Chris Noonan

**Starring:** Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Bill Paterson, Emily Watson

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 93 mins

**Origin:** UK 2006

**By:** Momentum Pictures

Unerringly beautifully from first frame to last, this magical tale follows Beatrix Potter's rise to being the most successful children's author of all time. Despite delighting generations of children with her books, she kept her own story carefully locked away. The film reveals how she developed storytelling from a young age and rebelled against draconian convention by refusing to marry. Her first book, *Tales of Peter Rabbit*, was a publishing phenomenon and led to a forbidden romance with her publisher Norman Warne (a most irritating Ewan Mc). "MISS POTTER wrenches the heart... Sure it's shamelessly sentimental, but strangely moving" (*Channel 4*) Or...

"...barely scratches the Dickensian surface of true female repression. Zellweger tries to make up for this with coy mannerisms, squinty-eyed grimaces and precision in studied 'period' gestures." (*Hollywood Reporter*)

Most comments on leaving refer to Renee as Brigid Jones - in costume. I think she's great, but to remove the clutter of 'stardom' and let the story breathe, they should have used unknowns. All agree on its unaffected enchantment and charm.

It is, as her tales, a perfect escape. So come for this.



## Millions

Thu 16 2.00



Danny Boyle, has brought his unique style to a story about two young boys (aged seven and ten) who have recently lost their mother and whose lives are dramatically changed even more when the younger one chances upon a huge bag of cash - "fallen from heaven" only days before the UK is to adopt the Euro! The boy is obsessed with saints and martyrs, many of whom he talks to throughout the film. He feels obliged to disperse the money amongst the needy.

Only days before the UK is to adopt the euro, his older brother, fully aware the money is a stray bag from a heist of an enormous load of incinerator-bound cash, is determined to spend it while they've still got the chance. *Millions* is a delightful child's-eye-view of the world which delivers on all fronts. Danny Boyle draws inspired performances from his youthful cast and creates a wondrous vision of the impossible. It is charming, funny and surprising all at once. For everyone.

**Director:** Danny Boyle

**Starring:** Alexander Etel, Lewis McGibbon, James Nesbitt, Daisy Donovan

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 98 mins

**Origin:** UK 2005

**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Stormbreaker

Sat 18 2.00

**Director:** Geoffrey Sax  
**Starring:** Ewan McGregor, Alex Pettyfer, Mickey Rourke, Bill Nighy  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Entertainment

**“Being only fourteen, he’s not licensed to speak until spoken to, let alone kill.**

Luckily, there’s more to this caper than Pettyfer’s pretty face. The humorous spirit of Horowitz’s books has, in the main, transferred nicely to the screen”. (*Time Out*) Stormbreaker introduces this reluctant teenage super-spy to the big screen. Alex Rider is a 14-year-old orphan who has been nurtured throughout childhood by, his MI6 agent, uncle to learn the spying game. When the uncle (McGregor) is killed, the new boy is pressed into daring-do on/in grand (Manx, as Cornish) landscapes and London’s famous landmarks. It’s teenage James Bond – with gadgets, gizmos, villains and spikey hair. “It’s strange to see a new film that hasn’t one original idea. (Strange? There are hundreds released every week). But Bill Nighy lifts it into the extraordinary as always, and Andy Serkis, still not given his whole body to play. Here he’s a mute with a knife ‘accident’ for a smile. Fabulous action for all the family and some glorious shots of London. Non-stop from beginning to end.



## Mrs Henderson

Presents

Mon 20 2.00



**Inhabiting a role she was born to play, Judi Dench is the certifiably eccentric, tart-tongued Laura Henderson, a woman of**

**considerable wealth and social standing who refuses to go gently into widowhood.** Bored with drab 1930’s Britain, she buys a rundown, Soho theatre – The Windmill.

In response to failing audiences and in an effort to shake up the staid British establishment (and for one good reason she saves for a rousing and moving speech towards the end), she introduces nudity into her ever increasingly risqué shows.

Consistently brilliant Stephen Frears, effortlessly turns pitch-perfect performances into a feast of witty and quotable acerbic dialogue. The stage routines are daring and stunning. Bob Hoskins plays posh (somebody should have told him), Judi is flawless and Kelly Reilly is stunning, gorgeous and brilliant.

It has already sold out here umpteen times, but is a must for these new rainy day matinees. Judi as Mrs Henderson, or anybody, especially herself, is lavender for all seasons. Watch out for Aylesbury Vale from Coombe Hill in the opening shot.

**Director:** Stephen Frears  
**Starring:** Dame Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Christopher Guest  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 102 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2005  
**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Deep Blue

Tue 21 12.30

**Directors:** Andy Byatt, Alastair Fothergill  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2004  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**Now, for the first time ever, it is possible to explore a world few have ever seen.**

From the familiar to the unknown, the film reveals the sea and its communities at their most enchanting, alluring and fierce.

Deep Blue is a film about the Earth’s Oceans. The orchestral score is gorgeous. Narration by Michael Gambon is not a travelogue.

Twenty specialist camera teams shot 7,000 hours of footage in more than 200 locations around the world for more than five years, descending almost five miles below the surface.

We know more about the surface of the moon than we do about the deep oceans! Imagine it, take it in, be terrified at the thought - but come and see for yourself, this vital two thirds of our planet on our big screen. The real star is the water and the life in it and around it. Even then you will hardly grasp the infinity of it all. But you might marvel at the miniscule significance and gross stupidity of the human race.

(Filmed by the BBC Natural History Unit: makers of “The Blue Planet”).



# Molière

**Wed 22** 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Director:** Laurent Tirard

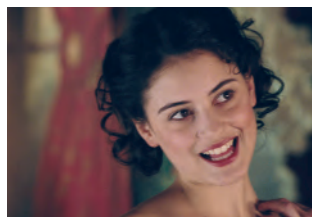
**Starring:** Fabrice Luchini, Laura Morante, Romain Duris, Ludivine Sagnier

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 120 mins

**Origin:** France 2007

**By:** Pathe Distribution



**In 1645, the French playwright Molière mysteriously disappeared.**

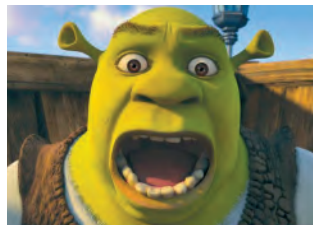
It was only weeks. This comedy-drama is inspired by his disappearance and imagines all manner of possible scenarios to colour what might have happened to him – and what mischief he might make? At the time, Molière (Duris) was touring the French countryside with his theatre company. He was yet to be recognised as a great author or make any money.

He is recruited by Jourdain (Luchini), a wealthy man who has fallen in love with a widow, Célimène (Sagnier), despite having a beautiful wife and two daughters already!

He needs someone to help with his acting and to polish his self-indulgent, terrible play, designed to seduce Célimène. “Brilliantly written and directed, **MOLIÈRE** is witty and handsomely played, and is representative of French cinema at its very finest...” It is totally speculative, hence a great story, told with certain knowledge of Molière - but no idea where he went or what happened during his absence. It is the “knowing him” which creates this likely tale. Come and be wooed by inspired fantasy, Duris’ presence and Laura Morante’s face.

## Shrek The Third

**Thu 23** 2.00, **Sat 25** 2.00



**The recipe hasn’t changed much, even if the cooking is underdone.**

They’re all here - Donkey (Eddie Murphy) Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) John Cleese’s dying King Harold, nasty Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) Shrek’s pregnant wife Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) Queen Lillian (Julie Andrews). What a bunch? Sounds like fun for a jogger.

“There are, of course, a few genuinely funny moments and a sprinkling of decent one-liners. But the rest is poorly written and dully characterised. Even the cast seem less bouncy than before...” “Despite a number of protracted moments, a few scenes are truly inspired: the dying-frog sequence for one, and Shrek’s “Exorcist”- inspired nightmare about parenthood for another. Some jokes sail close to innuendo, but in the main they’re balanced enough to appeal to all ages. The CG animation, too, is as refined as we’ve come to expect. Just a shame it lacks the smart sassiness of its predecessors. Time to call time????”

*(crits: Eve Standard, Time Out)*

**Directors:** Raman Hui, Chris Miller

**Starring:** Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Mike Myers

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 93 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Paramount International Pictures



## Lives of Others

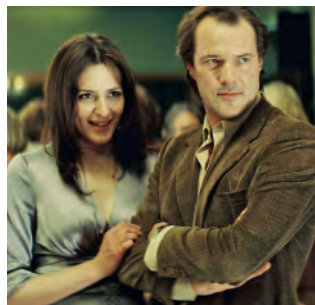
Tue 28 12.30

**Director:** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck  
**Starring:** Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** Germany 2007  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

**This remarkably heartbreaking and uplifting film has left audiences in absolute consent.**

It is literally stunning. Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid 1980s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife. Unfortunately she has the fat, gargyle politician slobbering after her. His power ensures he gets his way. Questioning the ethics of his work, the Stasi officer in charge of the spying, ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as the couple. The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals trapped in the dying years of evil institutional mistrust.

A great cast of perfect faces. The film has caused an extraordinary stir. It is back by overwhelming demand, and will be here again and again. Again, cancel everything.



## The Painted Veil

Wed 29 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*



**"Sometimes the greatest journey is the distance between two people..."**

W.Somerset Maugham's Painted Veil is set in 1925. Dr Walter Fane (Norton) falls in love with and marries Kitty (Watt), the beautiful, frivolous daughter of a wealthy family. He knows she doesn't love him, but hopes... They move to Shanghai, where he takes up a practice and she takes a lover. It was bound to happen, but she picked the wrong man to cuckold. Impulsively, he takes a commission to a Chinese village, deep in the heart of nowhere – and stricken with a cholera! He takes her with him. The daily trials of living in appalling conditions have a striking impact upon them both...

"A rare, perfect masterpiece... Powerful and exhilarating" (*Horizons*)  
 "A timeless love story... Let it sweep you away" (*Rolling Stone*)

"Gripping. Not to be missed" (*Daily Mail* - So it must be true)

Forget all that. Just come. It works on every level, especially the faces, most of the words and his immaculate shirts... A beautiful journey from beginning to end.

**Director:** John Curran  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Edward Norton, Toby Jones  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 125 mins  
**Origin:** China, USA 2006  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Singing in the Rain

Thu 30 2.00

**Director:** Gene Kelly  
**Starring:** Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Gene Kelly  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 102 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1952  
**By:** British Film Institute

**Its 1927, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are the darlings of the silent silver screen.**

Off screen, Don, aided by his happy-go-lucky friend and piano accompanist, Cosmo Brown (the brilliant Donald O'), has to dodge Lina's romantic overtures, especially when he falls for chorus girl Kathy Selden (sacchrine Debbie Reynolds). With the advent of sound in motion pictures, Don and Lina's new film will be turned into a 'talkie' and a musical at that! The only problem is Lina's voice could scrape blackboards. Thus, Kathy is brought in to dub her speaking and singing in secret. Don is as pleased as punched, over the moon, on top of the world... But then Lina finds out... Come for her (she's the best in it) and of course Gene's big dance (they had to mix milk with the rain so the cameras could pick it up) but most of all, Donald O'Connor's unsuppassed show-biz masterpiece – 'Make 'em Laugh'.





A U G U S T E V E N I N G S

## Fantastic Four

Wed 1 7.30

**Director:** Tim Story

**Starring:** Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 92 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**“At last! A comic book blockbuster that isn’t burdened by a self important subtext and a bum-numbing running time.** Unlike X-men or Spiderman movies.

This Fantastic Four: is a delicious lightweight sequel – a 92 minute dash through some simplistic moral problems, emotional hiccups and mildly, diverting PG-rated set-pieces. Of course, it’s all deeply stupid stuff, and the movie knows it, even celebrates it.” (*‘Knowledge’ Sat Times*) At last a reviewer has got a BlockB right. So has 20th C Fox. Finally a studio has decided to forget the story.

Instead, turn on the action button with Mr-can’t-pass-a-mirror (with silly, unpronounceable name) Gruffudd; the gorgeous Alba – the only one who shouldn’t be invisible; some nondescript flame guy from coolsville and an animated pooper unscooped.

Forget the story. You already know... there isn’t one.

So come for the black-hole whirlpool in the middle of the Thames and the most fantastical techno-visuals on our huge screen... with all the usual hospitality.

Here for the first few days of August with one evening for grown-up kids...



# Ocean’s Thirteen

Thu 2 7.30, Fri 3 7.30,

Sat 4 7.00

**Soderbergh’s pacing is brisk, like he wants to get it all over as quickly as possible.** You may hope so too?

“Better than the awful Twelve but not as fresh as Eleven”.

George, Brad, Matt and the rest are as cool as ever. They know when their luck is in. It’s back to Vegas, where Al Pacino’s casino big-shot (apply named Willie Bank) upsets the gang and pays for it...

The stars don’t have to try. They hardly have to string more than two sentences together. But then, it’s not Shakespeare. There are some good one-liners but the action is better. Dice are magnetised, card shufflers are bribed, slot machines are rigged and an earthquake is faked with a giant drill!

“That’s only the half of it. I wouldn’t want to spoil your guilty pleasure at this preposterous plotline.” (*Standard*) It is complete spoofy nonsense.

They all look like their having a great time and, unlike Brit comic-strips actors, share it with the audience.

So come for this, George, the thrills, the in-jokes and the obvious finale...

But more, for the gorgeously flawed Ellen Barkin.



**Director:** Steven Soderbergh

**Starring:** Don Cheadle, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Al Pacino, Andy Garcia

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 122 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Warner Brothers





## Buena Vista Social Club

Sun 5 6.00

**Director:** Wim Wenders

**Starring:** Ry Cooder, Joaquim Cooder, Ibrahim Ferrer, Ruben Gonzalis, Eliades Ochoa, Omara Portuondo, Compay Segundo

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 105 mins

**Origin:** Cuba, Germany 1999

**By:** Pathe Distribution

A group of ageing, legendary Cuban musicians, some in their nineties, whose talents had been virtually forgotten during Castro's reign, are brought out of retirement to play a few last gigs. The legend has it, Ry Cooder with his son Joachim, where in Havana to record with a group of players from across the world. They didn't make it. So he asked around about the legendary Buena Vista Social Club. The result: a triumphant celebration of hundreds of lost years between them, without grudge.

It is not only for musos but for everyone who cherishes the ideal that being lost is not forgotten...

Come for the optimism, the grace, the low key ease of their unhurried music. The way they walk, talk and are. Come for them. Above all, come for their beautiful faces in close-up. Especially Omara Portuondo's teardrop lovingly smudged away in an instant by Ibrahim Ferrer's "big flat black thumb" and right at the end, his long, bewildered gaze into a Carnegie Hall on its feet in rapture and in tears. Heartbreaking and uplifting in every word, gesture and note.



## Tell No One

Mon 6 7.30



Another gem the French have 'stolen' from the yanks and showing how to make a thriller a million times more thrilling, told in French! Remember "The Beat that My Heart Skipped"? Though Cluzet is no Romain Duris, this is an edge of the seat thriller to beat them all.

An anonymous email. When he clicks on the link he sees Margot's face standing in a crowd and being filmed in real time. Is she still alive?

And why does she instruct him to tell no one?

"Relentless suspense and a tense, multilayered plot combine to superlative effect in this pulsating French thriller adapted from Harlan Coben's bestseller of the same name" (CS). So don't drink, or wear a nappy, but don't leave your seat for a second... That's all you need to know. Don't ask, just come.

Already selling out in August, even before its first screening in July... Vive la French thrillers.

**Directors:** Guillaume Canet, André Dussolier

**Starring:** Kristin Scott Thomas, Francois Cluzet, Marie-Josée Croze

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 131 mins

**Origin:** France 2006

**By:** Revolver Film

## La Vie En Rose

Tues 7, Wed 8, Thu 9

7.30

LA VIE EN ROSE is elevated above many other biopics by Marion Cotillard.

This little girl's, magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above argument. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love. Piaf's magical voice, and her passionate romances and friendships with some of the greatest names of the period, made her a star the world over. But in her audacious attempt to tame her tragic destiny, the 'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable that she would burn her wings.

Capturing the French icon's bravado, brilliance and self-destruction, "Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation.... a great performance" (PB Guardian) Don't listen to them. Come for her and a heartbreaking story, beautifully told. "Cotillard is little short of genius"... absolutement.

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



## Vacancy

Fri 10 7.30



When David and Amy's car breaks down in the middle of nowhere, they are forced to spend the night at the grubby, and only motel around. Trying to be cheerful, pretending that everything is fine, they discover the low-budget slasher movies they're watching were all filmed in the their room!

With hidden cameras now aimed at them and filming their every move, they are trapped wherever they run or crawl. Will they get out alive before cameraman can finish his tea? Who cares.

"There may not be much edification in American horror's fixation torture porn, but at least Vacancy spares us objectionable teenage victims in favour of a bickering married couple, (Wilson and Beckinsale)... Intense and nerve-racking for the best part of an hour, eventually runs out of options and wimps out at the climax. But it is a notch above average all the same". (*The Knowledge*) It's complete tripe. Can't think why I booked it. Oh yes, Kate Beckinsale. Could be a perfect Friday night horror flick? Only come if you take the clichés – Short cut, car breaks down, lonely motel... Makes suicide bombing sound attractive.

**Director:** Nimród Antal  
**Starring:** Kate Beckinsale, Luke Wilson  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 85 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Goldfinger

Sat 11 7.00

**Director:** Guy Hamilton  
**Starring:** Sean Connery, Honor Blackman, Gert Frobe, Harold Sakata  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 112 mins  
**Origin:** UK 1964  
**By:** Park Circus Films

The first Bond to hit home. It was the third, so had to become iconic or lose its grip on that part of the vital mid-sixties. With Sean just coming into his own and making Bond unmistakably his (until Daniel C), it hit iconic with such force, it is still running. It created a hit song that even now, 42 years later, won't lie down and die.

Oddjob is immortalised through his lethal, frisbee bowler, Gert Frobe had only to deliver one line properly: "No Mr Bond, I expect you die". Shirley Eaton died naked in gold and the gorgeous Honor Blackman will be forever 'Poosy'.

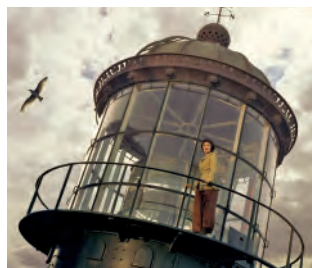
A finest hour all round. Now we have a brand new print to show on our big screen without a crackle or a blemish. Come now.

Next time, after it's done the rounds, it might be full of holes.



## A Very Long Engagement

Sun 12 6.00



First shown in March 2005 and again in July last year. You must see it now. Wide eyed Audrey Tautou is unrecognisable in this heart-breaking tale of love, desperation and honour... and one piece of very satisfying revenge.

A hauntingly tragic story, beautifully told of loyalty and hope, where there is none.

As World War One comes to an end, a young French woman's greatest fight is about to begin. Mathilde receives word of Manech, her childhood sweetheart... That's all... But there are four other soldiers. Follow her, following each one. Jeunet's squalid trench life and terrible decisions made in haste by incompetents, are only the spokes in the puzzle. More, in no time, he somehow creates whole biographies of four ordinary men and one boy, caught in hell. It is linked more by the French countryside than the war, and Mathilde's determination to find Manech through listening very carefully. Above all, it is a beautifully executed 'detective' story, with some startling twists and fantastic Gallic faces... It is the most compelling and moving thing you are ever likely to see. Cancel everything on Sunday 12th August.

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

## Brothers

Mon 13 7.30

**Director:** Susanne Bier  
**Starring:** Connie Nielsen, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Bent Mejding, Ulrich Thomsen  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** Denmark 2005  
**By:** Soda Pictures

Made two years before *After The Wedding* and shown here in June 2005, Bier's delicate approach, draws deep and tender performances from a beautifully balanced cast.

Brothers Michael (Thomsen) and Jannick (Lie Kaas) couldn't be more poles apart. Jannick, a waster, is released from prison. Michael, an army officer and loving husband and father, is called up by the UN to help rebuild the war-ravaged Afghan infrastructure. When he is reported 'missing in action, presumed dead' Jannick wakes up and takes on the responsibility of his brother's family. Grief and necessity draw Sarah (Nielsen) and the children closer to Jannick. Inevitably Sarah and Jannick become very close. However, Michael is not dead but held in a squalid desert, rebel camp struggling for his survival, and that of his terrified cellmate. This is all you need to know.

Bier carefully balances scenes of tenderness and disturbing cruelty. She builds the story and lets the characters find their way through it, much as she does with *After The Wedding*. Only this time she deals with the unthinkable, unseen and beyond imagination hence 'forgotten' in the business of everyday life in a cold, safe climate on the other side of the world. Cancel holidays.



## Water

Tue 14 7.30



This final eloquent part of Deepa Mehta's *Elemental Trilogy* is set in the holy city of Varanasi in 1938, when widows, some of them children, were incarcerated in impoverished ashrams (temples).

The beautiful, headstrong Kalyani (Ray) is unwilling to accept the harsh restrictions imposed by Indian society on widows. Her relationship with a man from a lower caste, a follower of Mahatma, doesn't help.

"These dramas about the experiences of women at various points in Indian history, *Fire* (1997) and *Earth* (1998) have now been joined by this tale of a girl (simply credited as Sarala) who, after an arranged marriage is left a widow at the age of eight! Ghandi is preaching freedom, but Hindu dogma demands that the child spends her life in a joyless ashram. Although too melodramatic to be moving, the film carries you..." (*Landesman & Porter*) Filming was interrupted for four years following huge protests from Hindu fundamentalists. Throughout it maintains a profound sense of humanism. The ensemble cast of women and children brings an extraordinary honesty to the screen.

**Director:** Deepa Mehta  
**Starring:** Lisa Ray, John Abraham, Sarala, Seema Biswas  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** Canada, India 2005  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors



## Taking Liberties

Wed 15 7.30

**Director:** Chris Atkins**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 106 mins**Origin:** UK 2007**By:** Revolver Film Distribution

**"This purports to show the shocking truth behind the erosion of our fundamental civil liberties by Tony Blair's government.**

It argues that the five pillars of liberty – the right to liberty/freedom, to privacy, to a fair trial and to free speech, and the absolute outlawing of torture – have been systematically destroyed by New Labour in a climate of fear generated by its government and the media."

Our hard-won (over 600 years) longstanding freedoms, withdrawn in just ten years, are so ridiculous you will laugh. Then you'll be very scared. Chris Atkins makes little mention of those who might be happy to see us dead. Nor does he ask whose name gave the orders which the police obeyed so bone-headedly.

"This lack of investigative reporting weakens the diatribe. But at least it holds attention and tries to amuse as much as instruct (oh dear). You don't have to agree with it to reckon something may be wrong". (Thanks Chris, we hadn't noticed).

"Defiantly hostile... It's definitely partial, and lacks investigation. But its awful warning strikes home".

(DM Standard)

Pity protesters still look like shite.

Should have listened to Magritte.

Dress like them. Then they won't know who you are... If you mean it, try it.



## Golden Door

Thu 16 7.30

We never see the skyline of a nascent New York City. We are detained on-deck from the moment a packed and creaking ship slides away from the quay at Palermo until we reach a stern Ellis Island – actually re-created in an old Buenos Aires hotel.

Crialese's second film, after his much-praised *Respiro*, is set at the turn of the century when thousands of immigrants left Europe for America. Our focus is a family of simple peasants from the Sicilian countryside who embark on the dangerous journey across the sea to a hoped-for Garden of Eden where fruits grow huge and money falls from trees.

Clearly a small budget film, *Golden Door* uses fantasy to express their hopes but realism to show their poverty at home, the awful journey, and finally the tests they are put through by the American authorities to determine whether they are fit enough physically and mentally to become American citizens. What the film explores particularly effectively is the fact that the journey the Sicilians take is not just geographical. Salvatore and his family are leaving an arcane world of superstition and ritual and arriving in the bureaucratic and unforgiving 20th century.

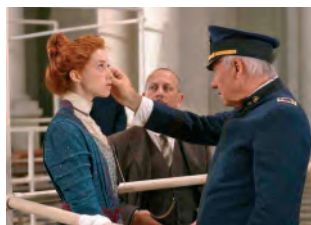
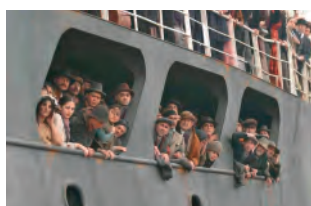
*Golden Door* is touching, beautiful and imaginative in its minimalism.

Superbly choreographed, Crialese shows a deft ability to flit between the ensemble and the personal.

He creates something very beautiful with great dignity, never losing sight of the experience of an entire generation of refugees. Don't miss.

**Director:** Emanuele Crialese

**Starring:** Aurora Quattrocchi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Vincenzo Amato, Francesco Casisa

**Certificate:** PG**Duration:** 118 mins**Origin:** France, Germany, Italy 2006**By:** Optimum Releasing

## The Flying Scotsman

Fri 17 7.30

**Director:** Douglas Mackinnon  
**Starring:** Brian Cox, Laura Fraser, Billy Boyd, Jonny Lee Miller  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 103 mins  
**Origin:** Germany, UK 2006  
**By:** Verve

"True stories accurately told are rare in the movies, and TV man, Douglas Mackinnon's first feature about the remarkable Graeme Obree suffers from what it leaves out". (*DM Standard*)

Nicknamed The Flying Scotsman, Obree was the eccentric cyclist and Ayrshire's national hero who won the World Pursuit Championship twice on a bike he built himself (using washing machine parts). He developed the "Superman" crouch position, which allowed him to shave seconds off Francesco Moser's world record. All without sponsorship and despite frequent opposition from the world governing body (which kept on changing the rules, often banning him from competing at the last moment), on 17 July 1993 he broke that first world record. Miller performs well, as the determined but depressive-cum-suicidal cyclist, whose on-track speed battles with Chris Boardman are legendary in Lycra circles. Yet his private demons would prove to be a tougher battle.

"Too many of the film's climaxes rely on lengthy sequences of Miller sweatily pounding around a velodrome against a rival or duller still, against the clock..." (*Wendy Ide Times, Knowledge*) Tuck into socks or leave your clips at the door.



## The Painted Veil

Sat 18 7.00



"Sometimes the greatest journey is the distance between two people..."

W.Somerset Maugham's *Painted Veil* is set in 1925. Dr Walter Fane (Norton) falls in love with and marries Kitty (Watt), the beautiful, frivolous daughter of a wealthy family. He knows she doesn't love him, but hopes... They move to Shanghai, where he takes up a practice and she takes a lover. It was bound to happen, but she picked the wrong man to cuckold. Impulsively, he takes a commission to a Chinese village, deep in the heart of nowhere – and stricken with a cholera! He takes her with him. The daily trials of living in appalling conditions have a striking impact upon them both...

"A rare, perfect masterpiece... Powerful and exhilarating" (*Horizons*)

"A timeless love story... Let it sweep you away" (*Rolling Stone*)

"Gripping. Not to be missed" (*Daily Mail* - So it must be true) Forget all that. Just come. It works on every level, especially the faces, most of the words and his immaculate shirts... A beautiful journey from beginning to end.

## Y Tu Mama Tambien

Sun 19 6.00

**Director:** Alfonso Cuarón  
**Starring:** Maribel Verdu, Gael Garcia  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 105 mins  
**Origin:** Mexico 2001  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

"A charming, immensely likeable road movie and coming-of-age drama, the film charts the quest of two highly excitable but inexperienced friends on a journey to a mythical sun-kissed paradise". Have we been watching different films? It is moving, intense and totally absorbing, not charming or likeable. Who pays these guys? The opening scene is extraordinary, and the ending made me stop breathing. Along for the ride is the unequivocally dirty wife of an older Spanish relative who takes it upon herself to teach her young charges a thing or two about...this and that. It boasts sumptuous photography from Emmanuel Lubezki, and a startling performance from the then rapidly rising star Gael García Bernal, now fully risen. But it is Maribel who steals every inch of the screen. She oozes that kind of instant allure which leaves you hopeless. She can't move, speak or be still, without spilling it. And when she starts, you know she's not playing! This is Mexican film-making. They don't mess with fifteen takes or stand-ins. Everything is instant and so beautifully observed, it hurts. Come for this exquisite pain.



**Director:** John Curran  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Edward Norton, Toby Jones  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 125 mins  
**Origin:** China, USA 2006  
**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Ten Canoes

Mon 20 7.30



Set a thousand years ago in Australia's far northern Arnhem Land, this beautifully shot and acted tale with an all-native cast, is a remarkable study of aborigine folklore.

Narrated with style and humour by David Gulpilil, it is a fairly straightforward story of forbidden love, but its relative simplicity is fleshed out with tales cutting back and forth across time in timeless examination of coming-of-age.

"A hit at Cannes and Venice, the film is a beguiling and sumptuously photographed, examination of an ancient culture... the first about Australia's indigenous people told as their story and wholly owned by them. de Heer (Oz director) collaborated at length with the indigenous (non-starry) community who went on to star in the film" (*Times*)

"... an informal study of storytelling and its social functions. Hence, it wouldn't have hurt for the film's own tales to be better told... Beguiling all the same, this is not a dry, ethnographic treatise, but a good natured, beautifully photographed movie". (*Cosmo L*)

The opening line will set you up for the surprises to come. Don't miss.

**Director:** Rolf Heer

**Starring:** Richard Birrinbirrin, Jamie Gulpilil, David Gulpilil, Johnny Bunjiyira

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 92 mins

**Origin:** Australia 2006

**By:** The Works UK Distribution

## Molière

Tue 21, Wed 22,  
Thu 23 7.30

In 1645, the French playwright Molière mysteriously disappeared.

It was only weeks. This comedy-drama is inspired by his disappearance and imagines all manner of possible scenarios to colour what might have happened to him – and what mischief he might make? At the time, Molière (Duris) was touring the French countryside with his theatre company. He was yet to be recognised as a great author or make any money.

He is recruited by Jourdain (Luchini), a wealthy man who has fallen in love with a widow, Célimène (Sagnier), despite having a beautiful wife and two daughters already!

He needs someone to help with his acting and to polish his self-indulgent, terrible play, designed to seduce Célimène. "Brilliantly written and directed, MOLIÈRE is witty and handsomely played, and is representative of French cinema at its very finest..." It is totally speculative, hence a great story, told with certain knowledge of Molière - but no idea where he went or what happened during his absence. It is the "knowing him" which creates this likely tale. Come and be wooed by inspired fantasy, Duris' presence and Laura Morante's face.

**Director:** Laurent Tirard

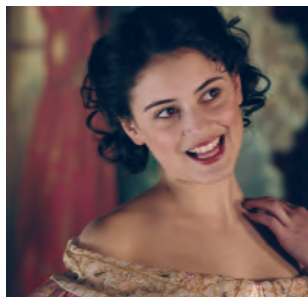
**Starring:** Fabrice Luchini, Laura Morante, Romain Duris, Ludivine Sagnier

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 120 mins

**Origin:** France 2007

**By:** Pathe Distribution





# Die Hard 4

Shrek The Third  
Sun 26 6.00

Fri 24 7.30, Sat 25 7.00

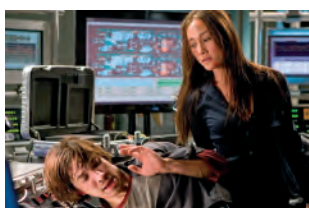
An old-fashioned cop emerges to foil a hi-tech attack on the United States' computer infrastructure in the latest instalment of one of the biggest action franchises in screen history.

It's been over a decade since audiences last followed a mission undertaken by New York cop John McClane (Willis).

Now, as the world's greatest criminal mastermind (Olyphant) attempts to cripple an entire country with an innovative act of technological terrorism, only one cop can ensure that the system stays intact.

It's nonsense but fantastic spectacle with a nice touch of parody.

He's older, balder (caused a big Hollywood debate) but not allowed his vest... They decided a bald, old geezer might just be able to save the world... but not in a vest.



**Director:** Len Wiseman

**Starring:** Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant, Jeffrey Wright, Maggie Q

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 129 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

**Directors:** Raman Hui, Chris Miller

**Starring:** Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Mike Myers

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 93 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

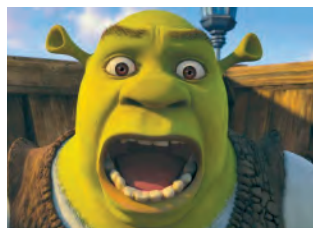
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

The recipe hasn't changed much, even if the cooking is underdone.

They're all here - Donkey (Eddie Murphy) Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) John Cleese's dying King Harold, nasty Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) Shrek's pregnant wife Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) Queen Lillian (Julie Andrews). What a bunch? Sounds like fun for a jogger.

"There are, of course, a few genuinely funny moments and a sprinkling of decent one-liners. But the rest is poorly written and dully characterised. Even the cast seem less bouncy than before..." "Despite a number of protracted moments, a few scenes are truly inspired: the dying-frog sequence for one, and Shrek's "Exorcist"-inspired nightmare about parenthood for another. Some jokes sail close to innuendo, but in the main they're balanced enough to appeal to all ages. The CG animation, too, is as refined as we've come to expect. Just a shame it lacks the smart sassiness of its predecessors. Time to call time???"

(crits: *Eve Standard, Time Out*)



## Paris Je T'Aime

Mon 27 7.30

**"What seemed like a good idea - 20 directors making 18 shorts about 'gay Paris' with a bevy of stars, might have worked better if, say ten came, to whittle down the dross..."**

But eighteen is what we've got.

A few silly, two dire, the rest okay and a handful of gems.

The Coens, Van Sant, Walter Salles and Tom Twyker are among the star directors.

It doesn't mean, the more famous the participants, the greater the stories. Unfortunately, the portmanteau movie about being "as good as the sum of its parts" lives up to its curse.

"One segment is a stinker, enough to possibly sink the whole collection". Luckily others rescue it.

The best are well worth watching.

"Salles's pensive meditation on immigration and Payne's bittersweet comedy about a middle-aged woman's first visit". The real surprise is Gérard Depardieu's piece. He reunites Cassavettes' favourites Gena Rowlands and Ben Gazzara. It's a heartbreaking little vignette and a 300 second master-class.

"The saving grace is that each has crafted their own Paris-story. Though haphazard, none is touristy."

"Isn't it telling that's so few French directors joined the party?"

*(crits: Times, Time Out, Standard)*  
Don't listen. Come for the one five minutes you'll love.

**Director:** Many  
**Starring:** Everyone  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 120 mins  
**Origin:** France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland 2006  
**By:** The Works UK Distribution



## Lives of Others

Tue 28 7.30



**This remarkably heartbreaking and uplifting film has left audiences in absolute consent.**

It is literally stunning. Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid 1980s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife. Unfortunately she has the fat, gargoyle politician slobbering after her. His power ensures he gets his way. Questioning the ethics of his work, the Stasi officer in charge of the spying, ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as the couple. The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals trapped in the dying years of evil institutional mistrust.

A great cast of perfect faces. The film has caused an extraordinary stir. It is back by overwhelming demand, and will be here again and again. Again, cancel everything.

**Director:** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck  
**Starring:** Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 138 mins  
**Origin:** Germany 2007  
**By:** Lionsgate Films UK



## The Painted Veil

Wed 29 7.30



**"Sometimes the greatest journey is the distance between two people..."**

W.Somerset Maugham's *Painted Veil* is set in 1925. Dr Walter Fane (Norton) falls in love with and marries Kitty (Watt), the beautiful, frivolous daughter of a wealthy family. He knows she doesn't love him, but hopes... They move to Shanghai, where he takes up a practice and she takes a lover. It was bound to happen, but she picked the wrong man to cuckold. Impulsively, he takes a commission to a Chinese village, deep in the heart of nowhere – and stricken with a cholera! He takes her with him. The daily trials of living in appalling conditions have a striking impact upon them both...

"A rare, perfect masterpiece..."

Powerful and exhilarating" (*Horizons*)

"A timeless love story... Let it sweep you away" (*Rolling Stone*)

"Gripping. Not to be missed" (*Daily Mail* - So it must be true)

Forget all that. Just come. It works on every level, especially the faces, most of the words and his immaculate shirts... A beautiful journey from beginning to end.

**Director:** John Curran

**Starring:** Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Edward Norton, Toby Jones

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 125 mins

**Origin:** China, USA 2006

**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Tell No One

Thu 30 7.30

**Directors:** Guillaume Canet, André Dussolier

**Starring:** Kristin Scott Thomas, Francois Cluzet, Marie-Josée Croze

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 131 mins

**Origin:** France 2006

**By:** Revolver Film

Another gem the French have 'stolen' from the yanks and showing how to make a thriller a million times more thrilling, told in French!

Remember "The Beat that My Heart Skipped"? Though Cluzet is no Romain Duris, this is an edge of the seat thriller to beat them all.

An anonymous email. When he clicks on the link he sees Margot's face standing in a crowd and being filmed in real time. Is she still alive?

And why does she instruct him to tell no one?

"Relentless suspense and a tense, multilayered plot combine to superlative effect in this pulsating French thriller adapted from Harlan Coben's bestseller of the same name" (CS). So don't drink, or wear a nappy, but don't leave your seat for a second... That's all you need to know. Don't ask, just come.

Already selling out in August, even before its first screening in July...

Vive la French thrillers.



## Exiled

Fri 31 7.30



**Summary:** Hong Kong Johnny To orchestrates a thriller based in Macau where a gang are instructed to eliminate a former member trying to go straight.

The time is 1998. The setting is Macau. Everyone jumps at every chance to make quick money before the Portuguese colony ushers in a new era under the Chinese rule. For the jaded henchmen, the good times are over. They wonder where this journey will end. Against this backdrop come two hit men from Hong Kong sent to take out a renegade member trying to turn over a new leaf with his wife and newborn baby.

They soon find themselves in the throes of a dilemma when two of their former associates also show up, intent on thwarting them at every cost.

"...Exiled... the more accessible point of entry to the work of a director who's long excited both fanboys and the festival circuit'...

'It's cool, knowing and sustained in its tension'. "Brilliant sequences, average screenplay..." (*Time Out*) Don't be put off by Hong Kong films. Its not all chop chop and they don't all look the same.

**Director:** Johnny To

**Starring:** Anthony Wong Chau-Sang, Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Nick Cheung, Josie Ho, Roy Cheung

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 110 mins

**Origin:** Hong Kong 2006

**By:** Optimum Releasing



## Coming Soon

### New releases

Distant Voices, Still Lives  
Harry Potter  
Black Gold  
No Country for Old Men  
Not here to be Loved

### Back by demand

The Painted Veil  
Lives of Others  
Goya's Ghost  
Tell No One  
Everything is Illuminated

*Transformers*



*Shut up and Sing*



*Hairspray*



## AUGUST FILMS AT A GLANCE

*Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.*

WED	1	FANTASTIC FOUR	2.00, 7.30
THU	2	FANTASTIC FOUR	2.00
THU	2	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN	7.30
FRI	3	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN	2.00, 7.30
SAT	4	HOODWINKED	2.00
SAT	4	OCEAN'S THIRTEEN	7.00
SUN	5	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL	6.00
MON	6	THE INCREDIBLES	2.00
MON	6	TELL NO ONE	7.30
TUE	7	LA VIE EN ROSE	12.30, 7.30
WED	8	LA VIE EN ROSE	2.00, 7.30
THU	9	MADAGASCAR	2.00
THU	9	LA VIE EN ROSE	7.30
FRI	10	VACANCY	7.30
SAT	11	FLY AWAY HOME	2.00
SAT	11	GOLDFINGER (** NEW PRINT**)	7.00
SUN	12	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	6.00
MON	13	LADIES IN LAVENDER	2.00
MON	13	BROTHERS	7.30
TUE	14	WINGED MIGRATION	12.30
TUE	14	WATER	7.30
WED	15	MISS POTTER	2.00
WED	15	TAKING LIBERTIES	7.30
THU	16	MILLIONS	2.00
THU	16	THE GOLDEN DOOR	7.30
FRI	17	THE FLYING SCOTSMAN	7.30
SAT	18	STORMBREAKER	2.00
SAT	18	THE PAINTED VEIL	7.00
SUN	19	Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN	6.00
MON	20	MRS HENDERSON PRESENTS	2.00
MON	20	TEN CANOES	7.30
TUE	21	DEEP BLUE	12.30
TUE	21	MOLIÈRE	7.30
WED	22	MOLIÈRE	2.00, 7.30
THU	23	SHREK THE THIRD	2.00
THU	23	MOLIÈRE	7.30
FRI	24	DIE HARD 4	7.30
SAT	25	SHREK THE THIRD	2.00
SAT	25	DIE HARD 4	7.00
SUN	26	SHREK THE THIRD	6.00
MON	27	PARIS JE T'AIME	7.30
TUE	28	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	12.30, 7.30
WED	29	THE PAINTED VEIL	2.00, 7.30
THU	30	SINGING IN THE RAIN	2.00
THU	30	TELL NO ONE	7.30
FRI	31	EXILED	7.30

## RANTS AND PANTS



The cigar night went like a dream. There were brandy glasses with gold-tipped Balkan Sobranie in pinks, blues and black on the bars. One guy brought his own big cigar and even people who don't smoke, lit up with us. Those who detest smoking didn't complain. So thank you for joining in with the spirit of this minor mischief – especially these two! (pictured).

"Encore une cigarette, SVP x". Joelle, Tessa, Jackie, Great Missenden. 30 June).

**D**ear... We all rely on the NHS to provide health services whenever our families need them – or we need help ourselves. So we all have a personal interest in the quality of those services. Hertfordshire Partners NHS Trust invites you to help influence the development of some key services... All you have to do is register as a Member of the Trust. Becoming a member allows you to choose your level of involvement to suit your circumstances... Most members will want to receive our regular newsletter, keeping you up to date with developments. You will be asked to vote in the elections for our board of governors, and you may want to stand for election as a Governor yourself sometime in the future. Some members have asked to be invited to take part in special events...

Whatever level of involvement you choose will be helping to shape our services so they meet the needs of patients, and the families who care for them. Please show you care by joining a caring organisation. There are three ways to register – you can:

- Use the form on the back of this letter – and send it back to us using the Freepost envelope enclosed
- Use our online form at [www....](http://www....)
- In office hours you can phone our membership office on (01727) 897459

I look forward to welcoming you as a member of the Trust.

Yours Sincerely  
*Bill Mac Signature*  
 Bill Macintyre  
 Chief Executive  
 (NHS Trust, 99 Waverley Rd, St Albans AL3 5BR)

**O**nly a few lines have been cut. Tried to cut more, but it needs the full bar-room punchline. This letter was posted to my house at the end of May 2007 addressed to the previous owner. (have kept the envelope) She doesn't live here anymore – or anywhere else for that matter. She died six years ago. (A friend suggested that in the dark world of "Valuing Diversity" [aka Equal Opportunities], where they have to include someone black, wheelchair bound, welsh or a token woman, then "it's only fair to include the dead").

*Evelyn sweetheart, I wish you as much rest-in-peace as I would wish myself.*

*I hope I'm treating your old place well, but probably not. Before you tut-tut, consider this saving grace – I have tended your garden, planted, watered and neglected it in equal measure. Ducklings have just hatched, last week (late June) in the long grasses you left. Thank you. Now you can rest indeed, in the safe knowledge that ducks are always welcome and those nice NHS Chiefs are thinking of you... Sweet dreams.*

*James*

### **Mon 18 June – L'amico di famiglia (The Family Friend)**

A woman, very nice, as it turned out, was asked to leave the auditorium for being too hyper and excited (her words) during the film. She couldn't stop talking, waving and pointing at the screen; causing at least one person to leave and more to complain. In the foyer she apologised and explained how she had to express her excitement at this "fantastic film". I suggested those around her may have felt the same, but usually tended to wait until after the film.

## RANTS AND PANTS

The discussion see-sawed from public performances needing silence and private thought – through to freedom of expression and loud appreciation! Once upstairs she was happy to have some tea and wait for her friends. She didn't ask for another drink. Leaving her with Laurence, I went back to work. Afterwards he told me how she had continued to engage him in ever deeper discussion about the importance of 'life's freedoms and the vital expression of feelings'. Her final observation came from nowhere. As if thinking aloud she asked him: "Do you *have* to be gay to work at The Rex?" After a second or two to enjoy the question, he replied... "Well no, but if it makes husbands feel safer... then probably!"

16th June 2007

Dear Mr. Hannaway,

I was delighted to read your response to the complaint letter quoted in Rants and Pants (June issue, back page). To find an employer so justifiably trusting of his staff, and prepared to stand up and say so, is extremely encouraging in these litigation-happy, responsibility-abdicating times. Enclosed is the equivalent of half a year's membership which is to be used (please!) to give your wonderful team some kind of pat on the back – chocolate or wine? We've never been on the receiving end of anything other than professionalism and courtesy at the Rex, from the lovely man who helped with the buggy when I brought my toddler to the Happy Feet matinee to the lady who moved heaven and earth to seat four of us for Zodiac away from the back row when I mentioned that my friend was heavily pregnant. To my shame I can't tell you their names.



Romaine Hart chief exec: Mainline Pictures (The Screens on the...) came to see us in June. Clearly moved, she wrote to thank us for bringing this "magical creation" back to life. Thank you Romaine, for coining two priceless words.

But we'd like to thank you for the Rex, and for the great evenings we have every time we come.

Yours sincerely,

Antonia and James Hancocks.

*Sure enough £37.50 was found rattling in the envelope. Very nice. Thank you.*

*The 'lovely man' was Michael.*

*The 'lady who moved heaven and earth' would have been Sally, Jacquie Rose, Lynn or Jane.*

*More like hell-on-earth to an old man in a slack vest...*

*These R&P pages have given us the chance to enjoy people's unpredictable polarity. From 'can't get in' – 'have no trouble getting in' to 'can't get through on the phone' – 'I always get through on the phone' to 'how lovely (or) miserable are your staff'.*

*Luckily the down poles have far less mass, so no magnetic, and little gravitational pull on what we do or how we think. In short the moans are miniature iron filings compared with the energy pulling us toward the up poles. However;*

*nature being what it is, the down poles are often more entertaining – unless of course they come with loose change.*

*To be fair, the phones are a nightmare on release days. If you live nearby, please come in. It is quicker and easier for you. If you live miles away, then you'll have to keep trying. But leave it till mid-afternoon. It always eases off around 1.30ish everyday, and by 3ish the whole box office will climb over each other to answer.*

### Cocktails...

...are now fully tried and tested. Three refreshing, one very dirty, but all generously laden and perfectly balanced to hit you where it stops hurting on the second sip.

### July - from comments book:

Fantastic! Lovely and nostalgic! Excellent Pimms and love the sweet peas!"

Sophie Eve Morven, Singapore!

Where's the ice cream?  
Alex Inchenko, Flaunden