

THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E



I'M NOT THERE

BLANCHETT IS BOBBY FOR OUR
THIRD ANNIVERSARY - PREVIEW

DECEMBER...

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

THE-REX

DECEMBER 2007 Issue 33
www.therexcinema.com

01442 877759

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

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SEAT PRICES:

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At Table	£9.00
Concessions	£7.50
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or for the Box	£60.00

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01442 877759

Mon to Sat 10.30 – 6.00

Sun 4.30 – 6.30

(Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

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Happy Christmas from all at the Rex

Slowly I am less frightened by our success. So while waiting for the bubble to burst, welcome to our third anniversary, and the beginning of our fourth year. It is not just the place or the joy people bring with them through the doors, but by extraordinary luck, film-making from all over the world has got so much better and currently there is no end to them.

As long as this run of good films sustains, we should too. But since I was a kid I've always kept disappointment in a secret back pocket. It is an essential pocket for dreamers.

Thank you for turning up to see everything and anything, not just the blockers. Our small films remain the best surprise, with a few stinkers to remind us that turkeys are not just for Christmas.

As you can probably guess, though it shocks some, we don't see any new films before screening them. Often we haven't seen the old classics either. I freely admit this everytime I'm asked, and when I remember, will announce it before the film.

Who would want to watch fifty films a month? (Clearly you'd have to view more to choose the best thirty). It would mean spending more time in the dark than I do already, emerging like a cave-spider and looking like Nosferatu (...I'm way ahead of you).

We get a synopsis for each new film from our programmer, City Screen.

We all scour the mags and papers for reviews and interviews, and I piece it all together, in less than 180 words per title.

It is a combination of school teacher marking essays and re-writing them while lost for words. Storylines could stay as they are but long sentences strung together with "and then" and revealing the ending, would get on your nerves.

They are written to sell the film, so must be generous. Superlatives describing the director/actor/screenwriter as 'unassailably talented, gifted or genius' are not uncommon.

To get a balanced view means trusting critics.

Gradually, you learn who to trust. Like racing tipsters they don't always get it right – Closer, Children of Men, United 93, Ten Canoes, Enduring Love and Longing to name a few. It is best when critics disagree. Then it is up to us, the audience.

Despite my remarks, mostly uncalled for and usually guessing, a fair synopsis emerges on the page. Being hard on films doesn't stop anyone coming.

I won't over-sell something already hyped to the eyelashes.

Finding fault keeps me awake. The yanks are a doddle. But kicking the sacred cow of 'British Talent' is the best fun of all.

I love it that people come for the place, not just the film, especially when they come to see anything, without knowing or caring what's on. Tonight a man, whose boiler had broken down, joined the raffle to be somewhere warm for a couple of hours. He got in.

NEW PRICES

After listening to fair comments and some whining, we are reducing the back row.

From Dec 1st the back row will be £5.50 for all evening films (no concessions).

The legroom from A to H makes row I seem stingy. There is more room here than any other standard balcony in the country, and the seats are the same big luxury armchairs as they are throughout the circle.

With the meticulous reconstruction of the balcony, something had to give – alas, it was the back row.

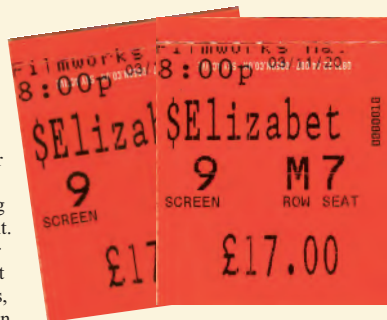
There has been only one ticket price rise in three years (up 50p to £7.00 upstairs, and £1.00 to £9.00 at tables).

In May 2007 all matinees were reduced to £5.00 upstairs and £6.50 at tables.

Our prices will stay the same until April, when we'll look at them again. You will see from these ticket stubs (pictured) from the Odeon 6/9?

screens in Maidenhead, how our prices compare. Ours are deliberate. It's so easy to get carried away by opinions on price. In thirty years, forced to sit on or answer to tergid committees, never was pricing fully researched or understood. It was always guessing what "people can afford". I hated it. So before we opened in December 2004, we looked into current ticket prices across the board. The multis, independents and the smart London overpriced parlours. £6.50 was calculated to be a fair, average ticket price (disregarding the smart indies). It also had to cover our costs, based on an audience of 150. So our research was twofold. This is how it will continue. We will never look at prices in terms of "what people can afford?" or "what the market will endure" or "supply and demand" or a trapped audience. These terrible weasel notions destroy morale and turn us all into bankers.

To be fair to Maidenhead, many



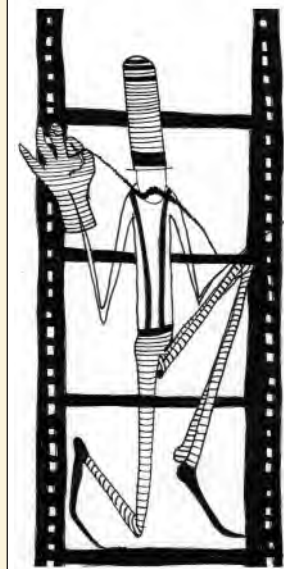
prices were on a par with ours. These were for special 'Gallery' seats where you are allowed to take your drinks! However, this seventeen quid has all the (committee) hallmarks of being plucked from thin air. You can hear the wheels of decision cranking – 'somewhere above fifteen and below twenty should do it, Oscar'. (Ironically my friend fell asleep – but it was Elizabeth The Golden Age, after all!) An expensive nap... At the Rex you can crash out for a fiver.

The glorious Humphrey Lyttelton band on stage 10 November



TRUE LEGENDS CARRY THEIR OWN SHOES...

From sketch artist Sylvie. We will feature her witty line drawings from time to time. One has already gone missing from the foyer...! If you want your own, you can reach her on: sylvie.c@virgin.net



Humphrey Lyttelton is a true legend. True legends carry their own shoes...

The Country's greatest man still standing, was back on our stage on 10th November with his fabulous band of old and young jazz-codgers. Amid major world shenanigans, wars and rumours of wars, his 85th birthday was front page news. You know when you're in the presence of somebody special; they can't see it. He was well and on top form. It is nice to see him relaxed here. His repertoire of ragtime, jazz and swing was applauded non-stop by an "excellent audience" as he beamed after the show. There were kids in the audience too and our ushers were in a state of shock. A bunch of average, oldish, men



shuffling on stage for a soundcheck, were about to blow their minds. There being no sign of little scrags in skinny jeans, pouting and preening, the gig would hardly going to be up to much. They were about to stand up straight with mouths open in disbelief. From nowhere came the exquisite sound of invisible old men playing beautiful music, loud and in tune. Throughout the show the ushers didn't budge. This, his third visit, took us ages to arrange. He is giggling non-stop with the band and "I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue" (For which we're are too small, so don't ask). The genius of the show is the apparent reluctance of Humph to show even the politest interest in what is going on. Not to mention

game's outrageous double entendres. These are delivered by Humph with such straight-voiced innocence, they become ten times more disgusting, yet cleansed of all offense. They are so achingly funny, you can sense the studio audience ready to burst. When it does, Humph has to repeat the drowned punchline for us, to the same response. Occasionally aimed at Lional Blair but always at scorer: 'the lovely Samantha' Typically: "While the teams are preparing... Samantha is just nipping out to see her new gentleman friend. He has invited her to the opening of the latest in his chain of fish restaurants, where she is looking forward to having his cockles in cider." New series; Mon 6.30 repeated Sun noon. BBC R4.



D E C E M B E R E V E N I N G S

Eastern Promises

Sat 1 7.00, Sun 2 6.00
plus Thu 13 7.30

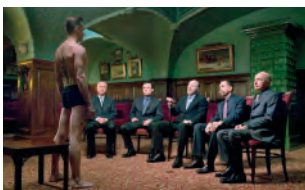
A fabulous thriller set in London which reunites Canadian auteur David Cronenberg with his History Of Violence leading man Viggo Mortensen. It centres on the mysterious and ruthless Nikoli (Mortensen), who is tied to one of London's most notorious Russian organised crime families.

A harrowing chain of murder, deceit and retribution is put in motion when he crosses paths with Anna (Naomi Watts), an innocent midwife who busybody's into something she shouldn't.

This is Cronenberg's first film shot entirely outside his native Canada. Alongside a crisp script from Steven Knight (Dirty Pretty Things), his usual key collaborators are with him; cinematographer, Peter Suschitzky and composer Howard Shore.

It is said to be brilliant, with Viggo excelling again under Cronenberg, and chameleon, Cassel playing 'terrifying' without having to act. Naomi, usually perfection in reliable close-up (even with an Empire State monkey) is wasted here. It is a perfect part for an unknown. Football managers are sacked for picking the wrong team. Film directors make millions. Everybody's talking about it. As always, come and see for yourself.

Director: David Cronenberg
Starring: Vincent Cassel, Naomi Watts, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Viggo Mortensen
Certificate: 18
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2007
By: Pathe Distribution



The Counterfeiters

Mon 3 7.30



A devastatingly effective wartime thriller based upon real events, **The Counterfeiters crackles with class and intelligence.** In 1936, the Nazis established the largest counterfeiting operation in history, with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. 'Enlisted' were any concentration camp inmates with the required skills. Among them was master forger, gambler, libertine and charismatic rogue Salomon 'Salli' Sorowitsch (brought vividly to life by Karl Markovics' gaunt, haunting face), who is at first energised by his new task.

As the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Salli's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he is on.

An incredible true story, written by a camp survivor, clearly told and beautifully shot with extraordinary performances on all sides.

Could only get it for one showing in December, but it will be back.

Funny thing this zeitgeist phenomenon...

Overnight, it seems Germany is back at its story-telling best.

Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
Starring: Martin Brambach, August Diehl, Karl Markovics, David Striesow
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: Austria, Germany 2006
By: Metrodome Distributors

Les Témoins

(The Witnesses)

Tue 4 7.30

The French seem to know how to turn hearts upside-down, while Anglo-Yanks know only how to turn them to stone – and bury them there.

The evaporation of disbelief and improbability is Andre Techine's gift to this film.

Paris, summer 1984. Sarah (Béart) is a writer and new mother but not having much luck with either. Her best friend Adrien (beautifully played by Blanc) has fallen for a young man, Manu (Libéreau), but Manu is more interested in Sarah's husband Mehdi (Bouajila), whose devotion to his wife does not exclude the odd dalliance... Described by its director as an 'action movie' informed by history, it is "An astute adult drama of shifting loyalties and fickle affections."

"Téchiné's characters are neither models of disharmony nor paragons of friendship; they are believable and likeable friends, struggling to handle a terrible change to their easy lives... It is so well acted by all, particularly Emmanuelle Béart and Michel Blanc, and directed with such pace and economy by André Téchiné, that it is impossible not to become absorbed. He handles this tragic story without hysteria, melodrama or sentimentality." (*Time Out*)

It's here once, don't miss.

Director: Andre Techine
Starring: Johan Libéreau, Emmanuelle Beart, Sami Bouajila, Julie Depardieu
Certificate: 15
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Artificial Eye



REX BIRTHDAY SCREENING
 I'm Not There
 Wed 5 7.30



A real coup for the Rex's third anniversary. Thanks again to Paramount for letting us have this remarkable film long before anyone else sees it.

The film begins with the motorcycle accident in 1966 and from this defining moment moves effortlessly backward and forward through Dylan's life. Its 'genius' and conceit is using a montage of famous faces to be his face!

As a young boy (Marcus Carl Franklin), Dylan is black, setting out as Woody Guthrie only to find him dying in Creedmoor State hospital. The endlessly touring, womanizing Robbie (Heath Ledger); the folk idol Jack (Christian Bale), who reinvents himself as an evangelist; Arthur (Ben Whishaw), the youthful, defiant, chain-smoking poet; Billy (Richard Gere), the famous Western outlaw; and Jude (the astonishing Cate Blanchett), the troubled, confused and androgynous rock star...

"In Haynes's fabulous reshaping of his life, Dylan has found a fellow traveller."

He sounds like a fan, so beware. Will be back for a run in January.

Director: Todd Haynes
Starring: Heath Ledger, Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Richard Gere, Ben Whishaw
Certificate: 15
Duration: 136 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Paramount International Pictures



Rendition

Thu 6 7.30, Fri 7 7.30

Sinister CIA, state-approved practice of 'Extraordinary Rendition' is given a 'Hollywood interrogation' in this compelling, if worthy, real-life thriller.

Doe-eyed Egyptian-American businessman, Anwar (Metwally), husband of, is kidnapped for his alleged... face?

Flown to a friendly torturing country he is duly 'renditioned'. Not by 'terrorists' (whom, by any other name...) but the devout US Government (...would smell as sweet). Anwar's 'questioning' is supervised by torture novice, Douglas Freeman (Jake). Back home, His feisty wife, heavily pregnant Isabella (Witherspoon), has no chance against Meryl Streep's sweetly sympathetic and very scary, CIA heavyweight. "Rendition is fine, gripping and entertaining, but has absolutely nothing to say about torture, the Middle East, or the so-called War on Terror..." (*Times, Knowledge*)

"South African ex lawyer, director Gavin Hood, graduates from the biting, modest 'Tsotsi' to this big budget Hollywood number. By underplaying the brutalities of interrogation, he actually drains much of the anger from the horrifying story.

Worthwhile but underwhelming. Perhaps too level-headed for its own good." (*Time Out*). Come and be angry.

Director: Gavin Hood

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Meryl Streep, Reese Witherspoon

Certificate: 15

Duration: 122 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Entertainment Film Distribution



Michael Clayton

Sat 8 7.00



Gorgeous George plays against type and very uncool as a debt-ridden fixer for one of New York's largest law firms in this powerful corporate espionage thriller.

A one-time criminal prosecutor, Michael Clayton is known among his colleagues as "The Janitor" because for 15 years he's worked behind the scenes to clean up high-profile clients' messy personal problems. As the loan sharks close in, one of the firm's most brilliant lawyers, Arthur Edens (Wilkinson) starts to crack up. Caught between this and that and the desperate need for cash, Clayton takes the assignment to help Eden... uh oh!

"Yet another in a long line of fine performances from Clooney" (*Channel 4*)

"Clooney's a damaged man, a weak man, a defeated man, an arresting performance...muscular and pain-racked at once." (*PB Guardian*)

From all accounts this is a fantastic and powerful corporate espionage thriller, with everybody on top form. Tilda is the best. Come for her and on the way, catch George and Tom doing alright.



Director: Tony Gilroy

Starring: George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton, Sydney Pollack

Certificate: 15

Duration: 120 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Pathe Distribution

Elizabeth: The Golden Age

Sun 9 6.00, Sun 30 6.00



Returning to their roles, Blanchett and Rush play their ruffs off in this captivating, if unreliable, historical thriller laced with treachery and romance. Joining them is ship's plank,

Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh. Elizabeth is facing bloodlust over her throne, family betrayal and an open challenge from Philip II of Spain.

As she prepares for war and crushes enemies and traitors, she cannot balance her duties with a tantalizing, unexpected and vulnerable urge for Raleigh. Unable to act on her feelings, the silly Queen encourages her favourite lady-in-waiting to befriend him... to keep him near?

"All spectacle, dazzling, over-the-top opulence, fabulous frocks and (ridiculous) hair. Every shot composed like an oil painting (not unlike Zhang Yimou's flying circuses)... you will long for a moment of peace in this visual battering..." (*Times, Knowledge*)

Cate Blanchett is a miracle of uncertain beauty and absolute conviction, as always. Geoffrey can do no wrong. Samantha Morton's gorgeous breathing is all too short-lived and Clive's Raleigh is all spud and no tobacco.

Director: Shekhar Kapur

Starring: Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Samantha Morton, Geoffrey Rush

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 115 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Once

Mon 10 7.30, Tue 11 7.30,
Wed 12 7.30

"Life, eh? One minute you're skint, banging out tunes to half-filled venues in one-horse towns, the next thing you're fielding calls from Steven Spielberg and Al Gore, getting solicitous texts from Salma Hayek, and turning down juicy roles in blockbuster movies..."

This smash hit at Sundance, is an unassuming no-budget quasi-autobiographical 'musical' by unknowns Glen Hansard (singer with the cult band The Frames) and writer-director John Carney, a former Frames bass player! Uh oh.

It tells of a broken-hearted busker who falls for a young immigrant (real-life Czech musician, Markéta Irglová) on the wintry streets of Dublin.

They sing on a bus, fall in love, make a demo and go to London.

That's basically it – no subplots, no narrative twists, and little else.

It's real rags-to-riches. From a scraggly kid, banging out Dylan covers on the streets of Dublin, to the real Bob calling Glen to support his next tour!

Cillian Murphy was down for the part. He had to drop out and with him, the money.

So Carney told a reluctant Hansard, either he played it or the whole thing would lose time and be dropped.

"Shows what you can do with a decent story."

"A sublime, visual album of unassuming and self-assured eloquence"

(*mixed crits & interviews*)

Such dangerous praise and total hype. For them (and us) I hope it lives up to it.

Director: John Carney

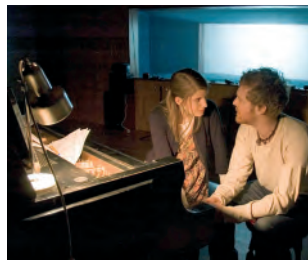
Starring: Markéta Irglová, Gerard Hendrick, Hugh Walsh, Glen Hansard

Certificate: 15

Duration: 87 mins

Origin: Ireland 2007

By: Entertainment Film Distribution



Lions for Lambs

Fri 14 7.30, Sat 15 7.00



Robert Redford hasn't made a film as director for seven years. But, forsaking all his usual caution, he has engaged Matthew Michael Carnahan to put in everything the writer left out of recent terrorist thriller, *The Kingdom*. Its three inter-linking stories use the Afghan conflict to look at America itself. Even the media are in on the act, implies Redford.

It is the argument of an obviously disappointed American. Many will now share it.

Over here it is not disappointment, we knew what to expect. Ours is fear of zealots, trigger-happy Generals and one screwball President.

"Lions for Lambs needs more flair to make its point as powerfully as it would like. Otherwise it could be accused of being more lamb than lion." (*Standard*)

"A timely and intelligent political drama, this is arguably one of Redford's best works as a director." (*Times*)

"It is a worthy, wordy exercise in liberal polemics that never quite catches fire – but at least develops a discernible argument rather than compromising itself with audience-pleasing fireworks" (*Derek Malcolm*) Who cares? Robert R's worth seeing in anything - except with Demi Moore.

Director: Robert Redford
Starring: Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, Peter Berg, Robert Redford
Certificate: 15
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Ratatouille

Sun 16 6.00, Thu 20 7.30

Director: Brad Bird
Starring: Patton Oswalt, Peter O'Toole, Lou Romano, Brad Garrett
Certificate: U
Duration: 111 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Buena Vista International

It's hard being a rat with aspirations to be a star chef, but Remy (Oswalt) is convinced he can break the stereotype and make it in the world of haute cuisine.

He teams up with a no-talent chef, Linguini (Romano), who works in the Paris restaurant above Remy's home in the sewer.

Together they create some fabulous dishes, but they live in fear of discovery.

When his cooking turns the haughty world of French cuisine upside down, Remy questions whether he should pursue his dream or go back to the sewer.

With its abundant verbal and visual wit and a soupçon of Gallic sophistication, *Ratatouille* is the perfect pudding.

"One of the most witty, clever, gently moral, dramatically convincing and visually stimulating family entertainments of the year.

The animation is extraordinary too, and occasionally breathtaking...

A test for tiny tots and a mite nostalgic but delightful" (*Time Out*)

"Among its many, myriad delights, *Ratatouille* is a film to make you love the rat" (*Guardian*).



Blame it on Fidel

Mon 17 7.30



Little Miss Unimpressed... Nine-year-old Anna (Nina Kervel) is a prissy Parisian with an electrifying scowl. It's 1970 and the murder of her communist Spanish uncle propels her guilt-ridden bourgeois parents (Stefano Accorsi and Julie Depardieu) into joining "la revolution". Anna's little brother goes with the flow... Anna doesn't. From her aristocratic grandma's rambling chateau she ends up surrounded by Chilean beards and whingeing Cubans in a tiny Parisienne flat.

Julie Gavras gives little Nina no rehearsal time before shooting, to keep her responses spontaneous natural. "The result is an engaging, warm and gently wise film which benefits from the director's lightness of touch... it is elevated out of the ordinary by Nina's breathtaking performance."

(*Times, Knowledge*)

"Depardieu and Accorsi are fine as the grown ups, but the film belongs to Nina Kervels intuitive brilliance as their pouting terror in uniform" (*Time Out*)

"for the most part, scenes move with the quick-slow rhythms of real life. The acting – especially Kervel's – is spookily good" (*Standard Oct 07*). It has been called beautiful, special and a surprising little film. Cancel Christmas to see it.

Director: Julie Gavras
Starring: Nina Kervel, Stefano Accorsi, Julie Depardieu
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: France, Italy 2006
By: Institute of Contemporary Arts

And When Did You Last See Your Father

Tue 18 7.30,
Wed 19 7.30

Blake Morrison borrowed the title of his 1993 novel from Yeames' eerie 1878 painting of a boy standing before an inquisition. It is a painfully honest memoir, brought to life by a top cast and director.

When his overbearing, boorish father (Broadbent) becomes terminally ill, Blake (Firth) is forced to reassess their relationship. Was Arthur a bully, shameless philanderer, terrible dad or just a larger-than-life soul who always meant well? Beautifully scripted by David Nicholls this is an emotional, often hilarious examination of those ever-complex family ties.

"The transfer of a first-person memoir from page to screen is often tricky, yet largely by sticking rigidly to the detail and structure of Morrison's book, Tucker and Nicholls manage the task mostly with success. It's not a radical solution, and visually the results are unexceptional. However, to do justice to the story and, one imagines, his father, the story is well-handled and sensitively portrayed. It is certainly a moving film... with the father-son relationship, particularly cathartic." (*Time Out*).

Broadbent is outstanding and Firth brilliant. Don't miss.

Director: Anand Tucker

Starring: Gina McKee, Elaine Cassidy, Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson, Claire Skinner, Jim Broadbent, Matthew Beard

Certificate: 12A

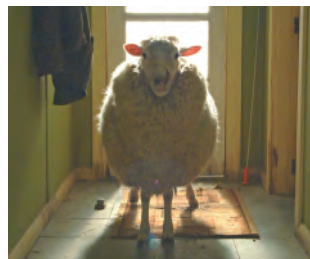
Duration: 92 mins

Origin: Ireland, UK 2007

By: Buena Vista International



Black Sheep
Fri 21 7.30



In this rural horror comedy from NZ, a genetic engineering experiment goes horribly wrong, turning a flock of docile sheep into unrelenting killing machines!

When the death of his father and fear of sheep pushes him towards a nervous breakdown, farmer Henry Oldfield (Meister) leaves the family small-holding in search of inner peace. On his return 15 years later he finds, his brother Angus (Feeney) has been performing genetic experiments on the woollies.

Unfortunately he has produced a strain of flesh-eating sheep with a diabolical craving for human meat. Reminiscent of the early films of Peter Jackson, especially *Bad Taste* and *Braindead*, this is tremendous fun and well timed.

"Blending gags and gore can be tricky, but King maintains a perfect balance between sheep-shagging silliness and character-based comedy." (*Time Out*)

"it contains the year's single best visual gag" (*Telegraph*)

One 18 yr old here, hated it while another sweet looking girl couldn't wait to see it at the Rex! Take your pick. Come and laugh on the last Friday before all Christmas breaks loose. Bit nervous about Jonathan King... Tell me its not?

Director: Jonathan King

Starring: Nathan Meister, Peter Feeney, Jonathan King, Danielle Mason

Certificate: 15

Duration: 87 mins

Origin: New Zealand 2006

By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

It's a Wonderful Life



Sat 22 7.00

Sun 23 6.00

Mon 24 6.00



Back for its fourth Christmas (our third year). And it's a new re-mastered print, so no crackles and jumps. It was a flop at the box office when it first appeared in 1946, but became essential TV viewing in the late 70's, when Christmas chart hits were at their most christmassy. You couldn't see it at the pictures until the independents flirted with getting it released a few years ago. Now thanks to Park Circus' new film-print, our build up to Christmas would not be the same without Clarence (angel 2nd class) showing George Bailey how awful Bedford Falls would be had he not been born. Thus, the simplest and best of all messages: remember, without you and each other, things would be very different - probably better. As Christmas is the time for sloppy stories, come for this ultimate in the sloppiest of sloppy stories. A very warm and happy Christmas to you from all of us at the Rex.

Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Ward Bond, Gloria Grahame, Lionel Barrymore
Certificate: U
Duration: 130 mins
Origin: USA 1946
By: The Works UK Distribution

Harry Potter AND THE ORDER OF PHOENIX

Thu 27 7.00

Director: David Yates
Starring: Helena Bonham Carter, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Ralph Fiennes
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 138 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2007
By: Warner Brothers

Finally at the Rex, Harry returns for his fifth year at Hogwarts only to find he has to pull into shape 'Dumbledore's Army' - a raggle-taggle bunch of young wizards to defend themselves against the Dark Arts. Preparing them for the battle ahead, has its funny moments to match the heartstopping effects. Watch out for a new gem-face in the totally useless Nevil Longbottom... or is he...? Gem or useless? I wish I cared.

The wizard community has been denied the truth about Harry's recent encounter with the evil Lord Voldemort. Hogwarts' venerable Headmaster, Albus Dumbledore is in the soup over Voldemort's return. The Minister of Magic appoints a new Defence-Against-the-Dark-Arts teacher (think Geography in corduroy) to prepare the hopeless bunch, woefully unprepared... until Harry turns up. Hurrah for Harry! If you have been, thank you for waiting to see it here. Perfect for suicide week. Kids, bring Gran, cousins, Mum and Dad, Vera, Chuck and Dave and anyone else you like to tease as they nod-off in front of this big telly.



From Russia With Love

Fri 28 7.00



This second Bond film is said to be the best of the lot, with a remarkably gritty, witty and exciting plot where the outlawed international organisation SPECTRE, bent on world domination and more than a little queer, implements a diabolical scheme, hatched by a chess grand master, to unhinge already flimsy Cold War relations between East and West. It is memorable on many counts - the brilliant stalking of 007 in the trademark main-story preamble. Lottie Lenya's lesbo sadist, Greb with her poisoned stabbing shoe is a rare treat. Robert Shaw's psycho assassin, with pees all greased and tummy sucked-in. The cat-and-mouse game on the Orient Express is more Jacques Tati than James Bond.

Q's gadgets are as primitive as gaffer tape and string, while the enchanting and believable Daniela Bianchi is so vividly alive compared with the plastic dollies toyed by later Bonds (curiously, the early Bond girls only seemed to make that one film or followed it with career, wrist-slashing dross). Above all, it is Sean at his best.

Director: Terence Young
Starring: Sean Connery, Daniela Bianchi
Certificate: PG
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: UK 1963
By: Park Circus Films

Stardust

Sat 29 7.00

"Some film fantasies provide us with a world satisfyingly complete in itself. Some can't manage it.

This is taken from the work of best-selling author Neil Gaiman, is more the latter.

There are plenty of good things in it, but you get the feeling that it has been cobbled together with less conviction than *The Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter*. The result is not the rip-roaring two hours in the cinema it intends.

Cox and Danes are adequately fresh and charming, but a bit amorphous all the same.

Vaughn tries not only for spectacular fantasy, but for romance and comedy to boot.

He allows himself a few satirical swipes while attempting to maintain a serious tone without which this kind of film fails with its main fan base - the young.

He gets there some of the time, but tends to fall back into well-worn cliché when he can't think of anything else to do..."

(Standard, Oct 07)

The writing is childish and the starry cast indulgently wasted, but it's great to watch.

Ashridge's Golden Valley steals it as the 'Wall'.

Director: Matthew Vaughn

Starring: Claire Danes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Charlie Cox, Robert De Niro, Ricky Gervais, Mark Strong, Sienna Miller, Peter O'Toole

Certificate: PG

Duration: 128 mins

Origin: UK, USA 2007

By: Paramount International Pictures



Top Gun
Mon 31 5.00



Deciding on a happy uplifting film to start the New Year celebrations with a smile, we came up with this, schmaltzy, macho, homo-erotic, gung-ho nonsense. We looked through the best, entertaining, funny, heart warming, family all-rounders of the last three years and Tom Gun won! Sorry.

However, it's a 70mm print (no digital here), which means the detail on the big screen will be remarkable and the sound extraordinary – big, crystal clear (apart from macho mumbling) and painless. Don't you think it would have been a true classic with real edge, if Tom had been called Goose?

It is feel-good enough to send you off with a happy ending, and looking for a fight with sailors.

Come and have the 'time of your life' with us before the party begins...

Have a great night and see you next year, from all of us at the Rex...

Director: Tony Scott

Starring: Tom Cruise, Val Kilmer, Kelly McGillis

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 110 mins

Origin: USA 1986

By: Paramount International Pictures

A sneaky location pic. Ashridge. Golden Valley. Summer 2006



Coming Soon

New releases

Jessie James
The Darjeeling LTD
American Gangster
Manhattan
No Country for Old Men
Butch and Sundance
I'm Not There

Back by demand

Prairie Home Companion
Motorcyle Diaries



American Gangster



I'm not there



DECEMBER FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

SAT	1	HAIRSPRAY	2.00
SAT	1	EASTERN PROMISES	7.00
SUN	2	EASTERN PROMISES	6.00
MON	3	THE COUNTERFEITERS	2.00, 7.30
TUE	4	AMAZING GRACE	12.30
TUE	4	THE WITNESSES	7.30
WED	5	HISTORY BOYS	2.00
WED	5	I'M NOT THERE - REX BIRTHDAY	7.00
THU	6	LA VIE EN ROSE	2.00
THU	6	RENDITION	7.30
FRI	7	RENDITION	7.30
SAT	8	MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET	2.00
SAT	8	MICHAEL CLAYTON	7.00
SUN	9	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	6.00
MON	10	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	2.00
MON	10	ONCE	7.30
TUE	11	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	12.30
TUE	11	ONCE	7.30
WED	12	ONCE	2.00, 7.30
THU	13	LIONS FOR LAMBS	2.00
THU	13	EASTERN PROMISES	7.30
FRI	14	LIONS FOR LAMBS	7.30
SAT	15	RATATOUILLE	2.00
SAT	15	LIONS FOR LAMBS	7.00
SUN	16	RATATOUILLE	6.00
MON	17	AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER	2.00
MON	17	BLAME IT ON FIDEL	7.30
TUE	18	AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER	12.30, 7.30
WED	19	ATONEMENT	2.00
WED	19	AND WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER	7.30
THU	20	RATATOUILLE	2.00, 7.30
FRI	21	BLACK SHEEP	7.30
SAT	22	POLAR EXPRESS	2.00
SAT	22	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	7.00
SUN	23	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	6.00
MON	24	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	6.00
TUE	25	CINEMA CLOSED	
WED	26	CINEMA CLOSED	
THU	27	HARRY POTTER	1.30, 7.00
FRI	28	HARRY POTTER	1.30
FRI	28	FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE (NEW PRINT)	7.00
SAT	29	STARDUST	2.00, 7.00
SUN	30	ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE	6.00
MON	31	TOP GUN	5.00



D E C E M B E R M A T I N E E S

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

Hairspray

Sat 1 2.00

Director: Adam Shankman
Starring: Nikki Blonsky, John Travolta, Michele Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken
Certificate: PG
Duration: 116 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

The fat girl dances, makes good and gets the boy in this remake of John Waters' 1988 sparky, dirty and edgy original. This is not edgy in the slightest but sparky it is, albeit at the other end of the spark but always dirty Waters. Taken more from the hit musical than his original screenplay, it zings from start to finish, with only a dull preachy bit in the middle. (The West End has just opened it again – last week, to rave reviews).

Forget the West End, our seats are better and they don't have John Travolta!

"Though not as scabrous, as sharp or even as musically memorable as John Waters' original, it retains much of his big-hearted sensibility (he cameos as the happy flasher)" (*Time Out*)

They're all fabulous, Nikki Blonsky wins on points but doesn't steal it from Travolta in chunky, old wife drag. Walken's unrivalled weirdness makes it all the better to watch him dance, and the ever gorgeous Ms Pfeiffer is not scared to act the goat. Drop the ironing and leave the kids with a stranger...



The Counterfeiters

Mon 3 2.00



A devastatingly effective wartime thriller based upon real events, *The Counterfeiters* crackles with class and intelligence. In 1936, the Nazis established the largest counterfeiting operation in history, with the intention of flooding the British and American economies with fake currency. 'Enlisted' were any concentration camp inmates with the required skills. Among them was master forger, gambler, libertine and charismatic rogue Salomon 'Salli' Sorowitsch (brought vividly to life by Karl Markovics' gaunt, haunting face), who is at first energised by his new task.

As the war grinds on, the moral frailty of Salli's position becomes more and more apparent, and he must choose which side he is on.

An incredible true story, written by a camp survivor, clearly told and beautifully shot with extraordinary performances on all sides.

Could only get it for one showing in December, but it will be back.

Funny thing this zeitgeist phenomenon... Overnight, it seems Germany is back at its story-telling best.

Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky
Starring: Martin Brambach, August Diehl, Karl Markovics, David Sriesow
Certificate: 15
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: Austria, Germany 2006
By: Metrodome Distributors

Amazing Grace

Tue 4 12.30

Director: Michael Apted
Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Romola Garai, Rufus Sewell, Ciaran Hinds
Certificate: PG
Duration: 118 mins
Origin: UK/USA 2007
By: Momentum Pictures

In 1784, at only 21, William Wilberforce (Gruffudd) is elected to the Commons. He soon establishes himself as a politician with a conscience and a sharp tongue. Some years later, his friend William Pitt becomes Prime Minister. Together they make a bold plan to introduce a bill banning slavery. Wilberforce is aided by anti-slavery activists Olaudah Equiano (N'Dour) and Thomas Clarkson (Sewell). However, pro-slavery hardliners Lord Tarleton (Hinds) and the Duke of Clarence (the ever fab Toby Jones) spearhead a tough opposition. Wilberforce leaves politics due to poor health and a battered spirit but revives years later, older, wiser but still high (low) on laudanum, to launch a more consolidated push. "Apted's biography of anti-slaver, Wilberforce, doesn't pervert history, it just embellishes it. The familiar phrase is 'making it relevant (palatable/dumbing) for modern audiences'. Never mind, it is not so inaccurate as to make the blood boil..." (*DM Standard*). It's a bit silly in places and predictable in others but nicely filmed and will touch your heart.

Warning: (Contains references to the mistreatment of slaves and mild language) Oh dear.



The History Boys

Wed 5 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



It is still talked of as a masterpiece of words and Bennett's unique play on them.

It ran for years on the West End. If its only purpose as a film was to reach a wider audience rather than saving it from being lost, it succeeds in both. Plays should never be filmed. This is an exception.

A group of bright History students are being pushed through entrance exams for undergraduate places to Oxbridge. There's a young history teacher, a squirming headmaster, a huge Richard Griffiths, having fun as the all-groping, irreverently, queer Hector. "The cast is extremely well marshalled" albeit by lightweight director, Hytner. Who wouldn't know their lines after two years on stage? The teenage boys – horrible, faceless and pubescent at first, grow on you. Inevitably, the proper grown-ups are gorgeous throughout, with the brilliant Ms de la Tour shining. You can't wait for fatty Griffiths to come back on to the screen, while Clive Merrison's Headmaster is an oily joy.

"The real strength of this appealing, intelligent and enjoyable film is Bennett's writing..." (*City Screen*). So it *is* 'the words' then...?

Director: Nicholas Hytner

Starring: Stephen Moore, Richard Griffiths, Frances de la Tour, Clive Merrison

Certificate: 15

Duration: 109 mins

Origin: UK 2006

By: Twentieth Century Fox

La Vie En Rose

Thu 6 2.00

Director: Olivier Dahan

Starring: Sylvie Testud, Marion Cotillard, Pascal Greggory

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 140 mins

Origin: Czech Republic, France, UK 2007

By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

After a huge sell-out run in August, September and October (only making way in Dec for other huge sell-outs), *La Vie En Rose* is back for one December afternoon.

It will be back again and again in the New Year.

"Cotillard is little short of genius". She elevates this tragic tale of one huge, tiny life. This little girl's magnetism and instant presence lifts the whole film into something above expectations. From the slums of Paris to the limelight of New York, Piaf's life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love.

'Little Sparrow' flew so high it was inevitable she would burn her wings in bravado, brilliance and self-destruction.

"Marion Cotillard expertly impersonates the legendary singer whose passionate vibrato, like a demented car-alarm, electrified the nation....a great performance" (*PB Guardian*)

Don't listen to them. Come for a heartbreaking story, beautifully told and photographed right to the last teardrop of the last scene.



Miracle on 34th Street

Sat 8 2.00



This is the film every current 20 to 26 year old craves to see at Christmas.

Perhaps as little kids they watched it on telly, lucky enough to be all wrapped in warm snugly jim-jams and tucked into each other, in that one moment when the whole world stopped for a tiny euphoric glimpse of absolute happiness.

With few changes, the 1947 holiday classic *Miracle on 34th Street* is transplanted to the 1990s.

The screenplay by the prolific John Hughes sticks close to the original outline, centering on Macy's executive Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins) and her young daughter Susan (Mara Wilson), neither of whom believes in the spirit of Christmas... until they hire Kriss Kringle (a made-for-the-part Richard Attenborough).

He does a remarkably convincing job... Not a good move Kriss. Time for all mayhem to break loose...

Viewers familiar with the original may still prefer Edmund Gwenn's original Kris Kringle and consider the remake unnecessary.

Nevertheless, it upholds enough of the original film's spirit, to prove Father Christmas lives... for ever.

Director: Les Mayfield

Starring: Richard Attenborough, Mara Wilson

Certificate: U

Duration: 114 mins

Origin: USA 1994

By: Twentieth Century Fox

Elizabeth: The Golden Age

Mon 10 2.00, Tue 11 12.30



Returning to their roles, Blanchett and Rush play their ruffs off in this captivating, if unreliable, historical thriller laced with treachery and romance. Joining them is ship's plank, Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh. Elizabeth is facing bloodlust over her throne, family betrayal and an open challenge from Philip II of Spain. As she prepares for war and crushes enemies and traitors, she cannot balance her duties with a tantalizing, unexpected and vulnerable urge for Raleigh. Unable to act on her feelings, the silly Queen encourages her favourite lady-in-waiting to befriend him... to keep him near? "All spectacle, dazzling, over-the-top opulence, fabulous frocks and (ridiculous) hair. Every shot composed like an oil painting (not unlike Zhang Yimou's flying circuses)... you will long for a moment of peace in this visual battering..." (*Times*, *Knowledge*)

Cate Blanchett is a miracle of uncertain beauty and absolute conviction, as always. Geoffrey can do no wrong. Samantha Morton's gorgeous breathing is all too short-lived and Clive's Raleigh is all spud and no tobacco.

Director: Shekhar Kapur
Starring: Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Samantha Morton, Geoffrey Rush
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 115 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Once

Wed 12 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: John Carney
Starring: Markéta Irglová, Gerard Hendrick, Hugh Walsh, Glen Hansard
Certificate: 15
Duration: 87 mins
Origin: Ireland 2007
By: Entertainment Film Distribution

"Life, eh? One minute you're skint, banging out tunes to half-filled venues in one-horse towns, the next thing you're fielding calls from Steven Spielberg and Al Gore, getting solicitous texts from Salma Hayek, and turning down juicy roles in blockbuster movies..."

This smash hit at Sundance, is an unassuming no-budget quasi-autobiographical 'musical' by unknowns Glen Hansard (singer with the cult band The Frames) and writer-director John Carney, a former Frames bass player! Uh oh. It tells of a broken-hearted busker who falls for a young immigrant (real-life Czech musician, Markéta Irglová) on the wintry streets of Dublin.

They sing on a bus, fall in love, make a demo and go to London. That's basically it – no subplots, no narrative twists, and little else. It's real rags-to-riches. From a scraggly kid, banging out Dylan covers on the streets of Dublin, to the real Bob calling Glen to support his next tour!



Lions for Lambs

Thu 13 2.00



Robert Redford hasn't made a film as director for seven years. But, forsaking all his usual caution, he has engaged Matthew Michael Carnahan to put in everything the writer left out of recent terrorist thriller, *The Kingdom*. Its three inter-linking stories use the Afghan conflict to look at America itself. Even the media are in on the act, implies Redford.

It is the argument of an obviously disappointed American. Many will now share it.

Over here it is not disappointment, we knew what to expect. Ours is fear of zealots, trigger-happy Generals and one screwball President.

"Lions for Lambs needs more flair to make its point as powerfully as it would like. Otherwise it could be accused of being more lamb than lion." (*Standard*)

"A timely and intelligent political drama, this is arguably one of Redford's best works as a director." (*Times*)

"It is a worthy, wordy exercise in liberal polemics that never quite catches fire – but at least develops a discernible argument rather than compromising itself with audience-pleasing fireworks" (*Derek Malcolm*) Who cares? Robert R's worth seeing in anything - except with Demi Moore.

Director: Robert Redford
Starring: Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, Peter Berg, Robert Redford
Certificate: 15
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Ratatouille

Sat 15 2.00, Thu 20 2.00,

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: Patton Oswalt, Peter O'Toole, Lou Romano, Brad Garrett

Certificate: U

Duration: 111 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Buena Vista International

It's hard being a rat with aspirations to be a star chef, but Remy (Oswalt) is convinced he can break the stereotype and make it in the world of haute cuisine.

He teams up with a no-talent chef, Linguini (Romano), who works in the Paris restaurant above Remy's home in the sewer. Together they create some fabulous dishes, but they live in fear of discovery.

When his cooking turns the haughty world of French cuisine upside down, Remy questions whether he should pursue his dream or go back to the sewer.

With its abundant verbal and visual wit and a soupçon of Gallic sophistication, Ratatouille is the perfect pudding.

"One of the most witty, clever, gently moral, dramatically convincing and visually stimulating family entertainments of the year.

The animation is extraordinary too, and occasionally breathtaking...

A test for tiny tots and a mite nostalgic but delightful" (*Time Out*)

"Among its many, myriad delights, Ratatouille is a film to make you love the rat" (*Guardian*).



And When Did You Last See Your Father

Mon 17 2.00, Tue 18 12.30



Blake Morrison borrowed the title of his 1993 novel from Yeames' eerie 1878 painting of a boy standing before an inquisition. It is a painfully honest memoir, brought to life by a top cast and director.

When his overbearing, boorish father (Broadbent) becomes terminally ill, Blake (Firth) is forced to reassess their relationship. Was Arthur a bully, shameless philanderer, terrible dad or just a larger-than-life soul who always meant well? Beautifully scripted by David Nicholls this is an emotional, often hilarious examination of those ever-complex family ties.

"The transfer of a first-person memoir from page to screen is often tricky, yet largely by sticking rigidly to the detail and structure of Morrison's book, Tucker and Nicholls manage the task mostly with success. It's not a radical solution, and visually the results are unexceptional.

However, to do justice to the story and, one imagines, his father, the story is well-handled and sensitively portrayed. It is certainly a moving film... with the father-son relationship, particularly cathartic." (*Time Out*).

Broadbent is outstanding and Firth brilliant. Don't miss.

Director: Anand Tucker

Starring: Gina McKee, Elaine Cassidy, Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson, Claire Skinner, Jim Broadbent, Matthew Beard

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 92 mins

Origin: Ireland, UK 2007

By: Buena Vista International

Atonement

Wed 19 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Joe Wright

Starring: James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Romola Garai

Certificate: 15

Duration: 125 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

One summers day in 1935, 13-year-old Briony (the brilliant Saoirse Ronan) sees her older sister Cecilia (Knightley) strip off and plunge into the garden fountain. Standing

waiting for her to surface is Robbie (McAvoy). By nightfall the lives of all three will have changed for ever. Robbie and Cecilia will have crossed that irretrievable kissing line, so become the victims of the younger girl's vengeful jealousy. As she ages (through Romola Garai and later Vanessa Redgrave), she can't find forgiveness in anything she does. Beautifully adapted (by Christopher Hampton), shot and played by everyone, it leaves you longing for it all to have been so different.

Apparently the 'c' word has a lot to answer for. Because of it some walked out on our opening night. More of this much maligned, vexed and misinterpreted word in November's mag p29. McEwan has used the notion of 'what if' to terrifying effect, where one tiny word on a moment's whim, when introduced to a lie, can destroy lives and turn worlds upside down forever. Back for one matinee only in December, but it wont go away - promise.



Polar Express

Sat 22 2.00



When a doubting young boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole to discover the reality of Santa Claus, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery... "the wonder of life never fades for those who believe..." Never mind all that tosh, come for the heartstopping ride to find Father Christmas.

Polar Express, with its eye-popping, animated photo-realism, tells a touching family story, based upon Chris Van Allsburg's best seller. Tom Hanks reunites with his Castaway director to voice (and be) the character of The Conductor – who stays in charge and never betrays trust.

It is a weird, quasi educational, tale about tolerance, discovery and redemption (think American). It is odd and at times a bit too scary for little ones. But hold them tight and they'll be alright.

The best is, it is an extraordinarily, fantastic adventure from start to finish, unbelievably spectacular on the big screen, with a very happy (Christmas) ending.

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Starring: Tom Hanks, Andrew Aboleson
Certificate: U
Duration: 99 mins
Origin: USA 2004
By: Warner Brothers

Harry Potter

AND THE ORDER OF PHOENIX

Thu 27 1.30, Fri 28 1.30

Director: David Yates
Starring: Helena Bonham Carter, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Ralph Fiennes
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 138 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2007
By: Warner Brothers

Finally at the Rex, Harry returns for his fifth year at Hogwarts only to find he has to pull into shape 'Dumbledore's Army' – a raggle-taggle bunch of young wizards to defend themselves against the Dark Arts. Preparing them for the battle ahead, has its funny moments to match the heartstopping effects. Watch out for a new gem-face in the totally useless Nevil Longbottom... or is he...? Gem or useless? I wish I cared.

The wizard community has been denied the truth about Harry's recent encounter with the evil Lord Voldemort. Hogwarts' venerable Headmaster, Albus Dumbledore is in the soup over Voldemort's return. The Minister of Magic appoints a new Defence-Against-the-Dark-Arts teacher (think Geography in corduroy) to prepare the hopeless bunch, woefully unprepared... until Harry turns up. Hurrah for Harry! If you have been, thank you for waiting to see it here. Perfect for suicide week. Kids, bring Gran, cousins, Mum and Dad, Vera, Chuck and Dave and anyone else you like to tease as they nod-off in front of this big telly.



Stardust

Sat 29 1.30



"Some film fantasies provide us with a world satisfyingly complete in itself. Some can't manage it.

This is taken from the work of best-selling author Neil Gaiman, is more the latter.

There are plenty of good things in it, but you get the feeling that it has been cobbled together with less conviction than The Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter. The result is not the rip-roaring two hours in the cinema it intends.

Cox and Danes are adequately fresh and charming, but a bit amorphous all the same.

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He gets there some of the time, but tends to fall back into well-worn cliché when he can't think of anything else to do..."

(Standard, Oct 07)

The writing is childish and the starry cast indulgently wasted, but it's great to watch.

Ashridge's Golden Valley steals it as the 'Wall'.

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Starring: Claire Danes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Charlie Cox, Robert De Niro, Ricky Gervais, Mark Strong, Sienna Miller, Peter O'Toole
Certificate: PG
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: UK, USA 2007
By: Paramount International Pictures

RANTS AND PANTS



Alan Coren. (b June 1938 d. 18 Oct 2007. Aged only 69.)

Irreverent broadcaster, writer, and master insulter. Somehow, through his tone, I think, he was cutting and gentle at the same time, so the insulted could never be offended. Never "umm'd" or "err'd" in a News Quiz rant. One of the most gifted and funny men ever to make you stop and watch the radio in case you missed a word. We'll miss every word. (especially 'Snowy' Hendin, Tring) "The Act of God on all insurance policies: means, roughly, that you cannot be insured for the accidents that are most likely to happen to you". Thanks Mr Coren.

BELIEVE ME...

Please be assured everything in these R&P pages is true. Nothing is made up, fabricated or exaggerated (much). They are real comments from real people. It would be silly to make it up, when the richest material comes in naturally. Neither is it here to embarrass anyone. It is just a wonderful, life-affirming collection of what people do say and write.

Dear Mr Hannaway,
I am writing to let you know that my evening's enjoyment watching Atonement was ruined tonight by some very selfish and rude people who talked the whole way through the film. Surprisingly the perpetrators were middle-aged 'respectable' looking

people, who one would have thought had better manners than to behave so thoughtlessly. Rather than save their comments for after the film, I was subject to a constant stream of verbal dysentery: "oh look at that awful wallpaper", and "doesn't she remind you of the actress from that old film The Railway Children, you know the one?" "no, which one?"; "you know it begins with a W", and so on, and on and on... (*I think she meant Jenny Agutter, which doesn't begin with a W anyway!*).

One of the women actually started humming along to the music in the film, (*in a sombre and inappropriate moment for humming, if ever there is an appropriate moment*).

I tried saying 'ssh' a few times and giving them some filthy looks, then hissing 'shut up' but they completely ignored me and carried on regardless. In the end I became so frustrated I adjourned to the foyer to drink coffee and indulge in a good old moan to the very nice lady serving behind the bar. Honestly, why go to see a film and then talk all the way through it?

I suggest that the two couples I am referring to, stay at home and watch a DVD in future and leave cinema goers to enjoy their film in peace.

Yours sincerely
Mrs N Steele

Thank you Mrs Steele, I couldn't agree more. If 'hell is other people', they get more hellish when they're pushy, and hell-hellish when they're irritating, and thrice hellish when they're mean, irritating and so far up themselves, they don't know or care that anyone else exists.

You seem to have encountered this third kind. I'll bet they get full marks for being pushy too. Best not to engage in fisticuffs, or suggest the 'W' might better refer to them.

The best thing you can do is come out and tell us. If it's outrageous and others around you are equally fed-up, we'll deal with it. If any kind of action is likely to disturb everybody more, we will wait and talk to them on the way out. All you have to do is tell us where you're sitting. I'm sorry they spoiled your evening. It is at

Bob and Cate – who'd have thought it...

They are here to celebrate our 3rd Anniversary. Thanks to Paramount for letting them out ahead of general release. 'I'm Not There' opens on 21st December... but if you miss it now, wait until it returns to The Rex in January.



times like these, I really do think of it as my house and those who don't respect their invitation are not welcome.

Lastly, looks no matter how filthy, don't work in the dark or from the side. Come and tell us. Thanks James

A very tiny boy with hair he'd combed himself, and the only part of him visible above the box office counter, approached with his mum. She said he wanted to ask me something. He wanted to know what I'd done before the Rex...
 "Were you a famous film star?"
 I was too slow reply; I am Kirk Douglas.

FORGET YOUR DAUGHTERS, LOCK UP YOUR GARDENS....

I have to replace my windows like for like, I can't turn my attic into a bedroom or fit the dreaded Dormer window. A green solar panel is a definite no no. Don't get me wrong I am not objecting to any of the above, I live in a conservation area and that's what I expect. So how is it that a planning application for five 3-storey houses can even be considered in my neighbouring back gardens? There is no building line to follow, no precedent set, and it will be over looked by residents of George St, New Street, Ellesmere Rd and Gravel Path who have previously enjoyed looking onto green and pleasant land - or is that England? The new proposal will look onto and in some cases into all the above homes. I understand the need to introduce more affordable housing but I think these particular houses will be out of reach of the average young couple. Will the owners of the sold gardens stay to admire their handy work or will they scarpers with their vans loaded with the huge amounts of cash that they have been offered by a sensitive, caring developer?
 I think I know which.
 Is it that any area of green, be it



conservation area or not, is now up for grabs, are allotments next in line, what about your own back garden? If you knock down your garage you could claim accessibility...as could your neighbour. All be aware, nothing is sacred.

We were given 6-days notice to get to a Council meeting to show our objections and rather worryingly there will be no Berkhamsted Council representative at the Dacorum meeting that will decide our fate. If you would like to try and protect our, or indeed your gardens, please contact Jackie.Ambrose@dacorum.gov.uk
 Once the precedent is set who knows where it will end...
 Disgusted Resident of Berkhamsted (always wanted to sign off as that.)

There are three worrying things here. Firstly, it has been allowed to get this far.

Next, Berkhamsted Town Council has no say in what happens here. Dacorum can and does override any of its public and democratic decisions. Six days notice or sixty, would have made no difference. Thirdly, Dacorum Planning Offices have been responsible for some of the worst planning decisions in Berkhamsted.
 In the autumn of 1990 Alan Gater, then Chief Town planning officer, persuaded Development Control to

permit the bulldozing of our open-air swimming, in the middle of the night. It lies beneath the 'skatepark'. They introduced the Swan project into one the oldest coaching inns in the South East without proper resources, supervision or consideration. Nor any planning to support its future. The Waitrose development left the town-centre derelict for ten years. Then came its needless extension with one door! Stag Lane's, cardboard development, laughingly known as the 'Locks'. And so on.

However, a Conservation Area is sacrosanct. As guardians of its sweet prices, ask any estate agent. Hence, this greedy and insane scheme.
 If your letter is right about permission to scratch, you should be safe. But beware, and believe little you see and nothing you hear. Bombard Planning Depts with letters and calls. And don't let any of them take a spoonful of soil.

Dear Mr James,
 Would you please wish my Nanna a happy birthday? She is the best in the whole wide world. My Nanna helps me by teaching me loads of sports. Nanna teaches me Karate. Lots of love
 Miss Elizabeth Godfrey-Rush
 Age: 8
 My mummy Mrs Angela Godfrey-Rush