



THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

CASABLANCA
YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS...

WHAT'S ON
IN FEBRUARY...

FEBRUARY 2007 ISSUE 23
www.therexcinema.com

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

THE-REX

BOOKINGS &
INFORMATION

01442 877759
Mon-Sat 10.30-6pm Sun 4.30-6.30pm

February Films	10-23
Gallery	4,5
Coming Soon	23
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Dear Mrs Trellis	25, 27

SEAT PRICES:

Circle	£7.00
Members & Concessions	£5.50
At Table	£9.00
Members & Concessions	£7.50
Royal Box (seats 6)	£11.00
or for the Box	£60.00

Box Office: 01442 877759
 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

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

Emily Doyle	Linda Moss
Christine	Olivia Palmer
Fressineau	Julian Paredes
Jemma Gask	Jeremy Read
Holly Gilbert	Amberley Rose
Rosa Gilbert	Charlotte Stephens
Olivia Glasser	Tina Thorpe
Beth Hannaway	Alex Tucker
Sarah Holloway	Olivia Wilson
Eva Jaurena	Marie-Francoise Wolf
Jo Littlejohn	Keymea Yazdanian

Sally Thorpe In charge
Alun Rees Chief projectionist (Original)
Jon Waugh 1st assistant projectionist
Martin Coffill Part-time assistant projectionist
Jacquie Rose Chief Box Office & Bar
Greg Tomkins Film director

Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry
 PR/Marketing/FoH

Laurence Wiper Bar supervisor
Ian Muirhead Accountant

Alan Lambourne Caretaker

Resident creative builders

Darren Flindall
Michael Glasheen

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



Catherine Deneuve.. Belle de Jour or Dancer in the Dark...

The year has already thumped into battle-speed, so much so, I have to start 2007 with an apology... I'm sorry for all those on the Advanced-booking-list (ABL), who didn't get through on Friday 12th January. Many believed the phones were not being answered. There are three phone lines dedicated to the box office – all were busy and being answered second by second. We had six staff on from 10am until 4ish, when things started to calm a little – three at the windows serving the queue in the foyer, and three on those telephones that rang and rang – non stop. Nobody ate. Water was taken on the run. It was bedlam!

Opening the ABL on a dedicated day turned out to be an unmitigated disaster. We were prepared to be busy, but the scale of it took everyone by surprise. There were tears and tempers and now letters, demanding to know why the phones were not answered. It was an experiment in trying to be ever more fair. It failed. So, book as soon as the confirmed list reaches you by 1st class post. Having resisted robots and answerphones for over two years, we will now install an answerphone telling you where you are in the telephone queue. Consensus suggests you might be happier to know your call is acknowledged, than listening to an endless ring tone. Depending on BT, it will be ready as soon as they've decided on meter-reference-point-numbers and had their tea – so July!

This is how it 'works'. ABL subscribers are able to book a week before general release. Big titles will not be sold beyond half capacity (150 seats) during that week. This is to ensure that nothing sells out before the full magazine/ programme is out.

The Advanced booking list (ABL) is now at full capacity (1000 names).

It runs annually from 1st Dec to 30th Nov and costs £75. There is no waiting list. Notice will be given in September to be on the 2008 list.

We have tried everything to be fair, to ensure nothing sells out in a stampede, and everyone has a good chance. Please don't suggest anything new. With all respect, there is nothing we haven't tried to accommodate 294 people a night and please you all! There will never be on-line bookings. Given what you may have just read – think about it. Bedlam times the ether is unthinkable.

Besides, we like to talk to you as much as you want get through to us. It will never be an exclusive club.

It sounds like a nice problem to have. If we were solely profit-driven, it might be, but we're not, so it is not. We care enough to do it right and hate disappointment as much as you.

Already there are fantastic films on release this year. We'll select the best of them alongside classics and Rex come-backs. Don't give up. Come on the door and try the raffle. You are welcome as always. We'll always try to get you in.

PS James Bond will not be coming back, however many awards his trunks might win.

ST ALBANS STOP PRESS...

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

ST ALBANS OBSERVER

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No 381

35p

Thursday, December 14, 2006

Landmark
cinema
rescued...

by Sally-Anne Johnson

RESIDENTS hoping to save the Odeon cinema from demolition say they are relieved after the building was given a stay of execution.

On Monday night, St Albans District Council's plans central committee rejected an application from developer Wattstown Developments Ltd to demolish the 1930s Art Deco cinema, which campaigners say should be preserved for future generations.

More than 250 local residents wrote to the council opposing Wattstown's plans to knock down the cinema, which closed its doors in 1965, and replace it with 15 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom flats.

The plan was rejected by six votes to one, on the grounds that flats were not a "satisfactory

replacement" for the cinema.

After the meeting, members of the St Albans Civic Society said the rejection had bought them more time in their fight to save the building.

Society member Marion Hamment, who spoke against the proposal, said: "If there had been an acceptance of the scheme, by the councillors, we would have felt more desperate."

"The implications were that we had lost this building, but it isn't necessarily so."

Addressing the committee during the meeting, Mrs Hamment said "many anonymous blocks of flats" were fast destroying the appearance of London Road.

She said: "The Odeon is a landmark cinema, possibly one of the most important 20th Century buildings in the city."

"For residents it is a focus of

nostalgic pleasure, a memory bank waiting to be tapped into."

She said the restorer of the Rex cinema in Berkhamsted, James Hannaway, was interested in restoring the building and thought it would be a viable project even if another cinema was built in the city centre.

Mrs Hamment added: "If we allow a much-loved cinema to disappear, I feel local residents will find it very hard to forgive us."

But the owner of Wattstown Developments Ltd, Mike Moulit, says the building will never be a cinema again and he is getting set to lodge an appeal against the decision.

He said: "We are very disappointed with the planning refusal, given the design for the flats was agreed with, and most important 20th Century buildings in the city."

Mr Moulit said the council's refusal meant the building would "continue to make a negative contribution to the street scene for another year."

Monday night's application is the second from Wattstown, after its first - to build 14 flats on the site - was rejected last year.

The developer appealed to the Government's planning inspectorate but lost.

A new planning application for the city centre cinema scheme is expected before Christmas.



James Hannaway beautifully restored the Rex cinema in Berkhamsted and thinks the same can be achieved with the Odeon in St Albans.

...and restorer looks at
its possible resurrection

THE potential knight in shining armour in the story of the fight to save the former Odeon building is cinema restorer James Hannaway.

He was the man responsible for restoring the Rex cinema in Berkhamsted, near Hemel Hempstead, which attracts hundreds of visitors every week.

The St Albans Civic Society hopes he can pull off a similar feat with the former Odeon, which was opened in 1931 as the Capitol by film-making pioneer Arthur Melbourne-Cooper, whose studios were in nearby Alma Road.

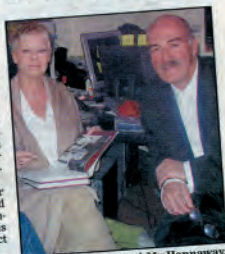
Speaking after Monday's meeting, Mr Hannaway said he remained interested in the prospect of restoring the run-down building and had declared his interest to Wattstown and the district council.

He estimates the project would cost up to £2million and take between one and two years to complete.

He said: "I think there's massive support in St Albans for this, more so than there was in Berkhamsted."

"People have seen it work here and they are angry and frustrated that things are taking so long."

One of the sticking points on any Odeon site, is a covenant preventing it



Dame Judi Dench and Mr Hannaway, from ever being a cinema again.

Mr Hannaway said: "I'm not sure how easy it would be to get around it, it was a nice leaving present for the people of St Albans."

"But that was ten years ago and we are pretty certain they don't last a lifetime."

"Now there's another cinema being planned for St Albans, that would certainly weaken the covenant."



The former Odeon cinema in St Albans, which has been saved from destruction by councillors.

Get head hunted! - register your CV now - www.stalbansobserver.co.uk/cvquest

On Monday 11th December at the council chamber in St Albans Civic Centre, permission was again refused to demolish the Odeon in London Road.

CLlr Martin Frearson highlighted a clause in the Public Inquiry inspector's report describing what can and can't be done in the conservation area, wherein the old cinema stands. Between bouts of courtroom drama where councillors get the chance to air their voices with questions for uncomfortable planning officers, it was all a bit dull.

The meeting came back to life with CLlr Frearson's persistent clause and the vote came in at six to one against demolition.

This was extraordinary for two reasons.

Firstly, there seemed to be no reason to refuse demolition.

Everything was in place for the sad end to the long campaign to save it. Secondly planning officers were recommending that councillors should vote for demolition.

It looked doomed. Then out of the blue CLlr Frearson's research, lit up the room. How long it can hold out is anybody's guess, but it's not optimistic. Mr Moulton (Wattsdown), the developer applying for demolition, has declared it will never be a cinema again, citing lack of building and fire regulations. Every new building or restoration is subject to these.

They can't come into play until drawings and materials are submitted and the project approved and underway.

Of course it can be a cinema again. It closed as one. It might not even need new planning permission.

The most curious thing here, is St Albans council has appointed a chosen developer, Henry Davidson (Nottingham), to submit plans for a new cinema complex in the City centre behind the Alban Arena, with a suitable development to finance it.

They have withdrawn one awful plan and are about to submit another. Both include a seven screen cinema complex, 174

apartments, two 'restaurants' and a four storey underground carpark. Just what every historic city centre needs!

The curiosity in question is that the Council is putting its full weight behind this new central development. Demolition of the old site would have cleared the way for unhindered approval of the new. Simply, the council cannot approve the restoration of the Odeon while pushing for its own favoured central development. It would be preposterous. Therefore CLlr Frearson's intervention, while testing a few council tempers, has slowed the whole thing down. Thus, more thinking time and time to breathe, until the Wattsdown appeal is heard.

The Rex has made its intentions very clear. We have written to Wattsdown, Davidson and St Albans Council. The St A Civic Society is behind any bid the Rex may make to operate a proper cinema in their city. This is how it stands towards the end of January.



Little Heath at end of last year's long hot summer.

John relaxes and talks about his love of the place and how its magic lasts all year round. February marks first growth, followed by the hurried green of spring into the full bursting of summer. Everything grows from seed, in its own time. Nothing hurried. It is not a garden-centre. It is a wild organic nursery. Come and breathe it in for yourself... A garden for all seasons. You will never go anywhere else again.



F E B R U A R Y F I L M S

Casino Royale

Thu 1 7.30



There are three good things about this film.

1. It remains loyal to Fleming's original story including a famous closing line. Fifties Cold War Russia is updated to Africa, terrorism and money laundering. A heavy knotted rope replaces the carpet beater in the the nethers bashing scene. Prepare to wince.

2. Action set pieces are breathtaking in every detail; all real with no special effects. Heart-stopping stunts are performed in one take, no second chance.

3. Daniel Craig.

He has played difficult roles to get to this – Some almost hard to watch in The Mother and Enduring Love (and brilliant as the spoilt brat gangster's son in Road to Perdition). As Bond he doesn't have to over-act. On the contrary, he is measured, evil, sadistic and perfect. This is the new Bond.

In fact it is the old one – Fleming's original creation. Albeit a lightweight book written in a few days in 1952, ten years later it captured the new 'spirit' of the emerging 1960's.

Bond will never be the same.

Sean delivered killer-instinct. Daniel oozes it.

Welcome to Coldfinger – and love every minute.

Director: Martin Campbell

Starring: Daniel Craig, Dame Judi Dench, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Mads Mikkelsen

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 145 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Sony Pictures Releasing

The Holiday

Fri 2 7.30 Sat 3 7.00

After each has her fair share of romantic disappointments, Englishwoman Iris (Winslet) and L.A. woman Amanda (Diaz) meet on a house-swap website.

They agree to spend Christmas at each other's home. While they each suffer from a minor case of culture shock, inevitably, predictably and sickeningly, they become involved with men. Iris meets an upbeat Everyman played by Jack Black, while Amanda spends time with a charming, shoot-my-best-side-only, Jude Law. Both women must decide what to do with these new relationships as their two week house swap comes to an end.

Why it was made is anybody's guess. But its here and will no doubt please the chick flickers (whom I welcome with open arms!). It's had mixed reviews but it's pleasant enough.

There are two nice faces to watch, while the other two overact or play dead, respectively.

Nice censor's warning: "Contains strong language and moderate sex references" – sex references in a rom-com, yes, but strong language in a rom-com??

Director: Nancy Meyers

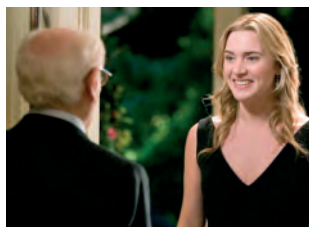
Starring: Kate Winslet, Cameron Diaz, Jack Black, Jude Law

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 135 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Flushed Away

Sat 3 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



A pampered society mouse must fight his way back to the comforts of Kensington after he is sent spiralling into an underground world filled with scavenger rats and villainous toads.

This “fun-filled family adventure produced by DreamWorks and Aardman” has Roddy (Jackman) living the high life when he first meets Sid the sewer rat (Shane Richie). Not-to-be-trusted, Sid sends the hapless mouse down the pipes and stealthily takes his place in the lap of luxury. Upon meeting scavenger rat Rita (Winslet), Roddy hopes to get back to the surface in Rita’s boat, but her help doesn’t come cheap. “FLUSHED AWAY is replete with a meticulous attention to detail, beautiful characterisation and idiosyncratic wit.” – There’s also lots of poo with speaking parts!! – Perfect for children of nose-picking age...the whole population, then. It’s got to be fab – Bill Nighy is in it. Don’t think twice, forget the critics – bring everybody!!

Directors: David Bowers, Sam Fell
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Andy Serkis, Bill Nighy
Certificate: U
Duration: 85 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: UIP

A Prairie Home Companion

Sun 4 6.00

Directors: Robert Altman
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Kevin Kline, Meryl Streep
Certificate: PG
Duration: 105 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: The Works UK Distribution

For anybody who loved Garrison Keillor’s “Lake Wobegon Days” on the wireless – this is a must.

I remember staring at the radio so not to miss a word. On the other hand and with respect, Altman’s starry ensemble pieces did nothing for me. Though *The Player* was brilliant, Nashville left me cold. However, this is a fitting end to his maverick and distinguished career. As always, a star-studded cast brings National Public Radio stalwart, Keillor’s long-running programme to vivid life. It is an intricately woven, and very funny, backstage fable about the ‘final performance’ of his variety show.

It somehow managed to survive the television age to reach a colossal audience every Saturday night, live from the stage of the historic Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“A fittingly affectionate epitaph from a film-maker who took more chances than most, and so often succeeded in making the risk worthwhile” (*Derek Malcolm*).

“A late, minor addition to the Robert Altman collection – but a treasure all the same... more likely to inspire fondness than awe” (*New York Times*) Cancel your life.



Pan’s Labyrinth

Mon 5 7.30



This is one of the most unusual and exciting film of the year. A fairytale for adults inspired by the paintings of Francisco Goya and rooted, like *The Devil’s Backbone*, in war. This is del Toro’s most accomplished work even in his own opinion. It is 1940s Franco’s Spain. Finding her new life terrifying, amid the cruel excesses of fascist inquisitors. Ofelia seeks refuge in a labyrinth she discovers next to the house. A magical creature named Pan, the guardian of the labyrinth, reveals that Ofelia is the long-lost princess of a magical kingdom. To discover the truth, she will have to complete three very dangerous tasks. “Del Toro’s startling vision rests on a profoundly moving story with universal appeal.” – Stunning. Definitely not for children. It’s not the ‘monsters’ who are frightening, as always it’s the (male) humans. “The special effects are breathtaking, and the ghastly portrait of this small bit of Franco’s Spain, equally repulsive”. “A major achievement, beautifully acted and shot with almost unerring certainty.....” (mixed crits)

Director: Guillermo Toro
Starring: Doug Jones, Ivana Baquero, Ariadna Gil, Maribel Verdu, Sergi Lopez
Certificate: 15
Duration: 119 mins
Origin: Spain 2006
By: Optimum Releasing

The Prestige

Tue 6 7.30

Wed 7 2.00, 7.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

"...in addition to the intellectual or philosophical excitement it engenders, **The Prestige** is gripping, suspenseful, mysterious, moving and often darkly funny...

A dazzling piece of work that left me eager to see it again" (*Philip French, Observer*)

Obsession, jealousy and deceit define the tense relationship between two Victorian magicians in this dizzying sleight-of-hand.

Rupert Angier (Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Bale) are London-based magicians of the highest order; each blessed with spectacular powers of deception and both cursed with unrelenting envy of each other. When Alfred performs an awe-inspiring trick for which there seems to be no logical explanation, the friendly competition turns into a deadly rivalry. The firestorm engendered by their anger threatens to consume all around them. The film "has all the flair, intelligence and visual invention one would expect from one of modern cinema's most exciting directors..."

For sure he is one of the best, most innovative and hard-working directors (his *Memento* was nothing short of

Director: Christopher Nolan

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Michael Caine, Christian Bale, Hugh Jackman

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 130 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Warner Brothers

genius), so how did he miss Christian Bale's excruciating - Dick Van Dyke - cockney?

Despite this, "Jackman and Bale make impressive tango partners..... a handsome film, beautifully photographed by Wally Pfister in a chocolate-and-cinnamon sepia palette flashed with electric blue." (*Time Out*) Wow! - come anyway.



The Page Turner

Thu 8 7.30



Surprisingly, sold out in no-time in January. Don't miss this edge-of-the-seat thriller, twice.

If revenge is a 'dish best served cold', it doesn't get any cooler than this.

"Dercourt has crafted an expert behavioural thriller..." (what's a 'behavioural thriller?' 'George... Don't do that!'). "With attention to detail - it highlights both the strict social mores of the wealthy and their emotional aridity..."

A young girl, Mélanie Prouvost (François), nervously undergoes a long awaited, terrifying, make or break, piano audition. For her it is the climax of years of childhood practice and sleepless nights. The examiner, famed recitalist Ariane Fouchécourt (Frot), is carelessly distracted in the middle of Mélanie's audition...

She fails.

Uh oh, Mdm Fouchécourt; don't think you should have done that.

Years later Mélanie works her way back into the examiner's life.

"Vanity, deception, selfishness and false liberal charity play their part in this beautifully observed film that somehow works on the barest elements of both plot and character development."

Come for a cool thriller only the French can make.

Director: Denis Dercourt

Starring: Catherine Frot, Déborah François, Pascal Greggory

Certificate: 15

Duration: 85 mins

Origin: France 2006

By: Artificial Eye

Flags of our Fathers

Fri 9 7.30 Sat 10 7.00

Director: Clint Eastwood

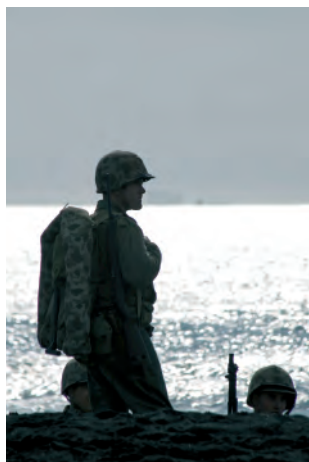
Starring: Jesse Bradford, Ryan Phillippe, Barry Pepper, Adam Beach

Certificate: 15

Duration: 132 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Warner Brothers



At 77 Clint gets better and better. So glad he's still out there.

This one's a gem amongst gems. It takes a seemingly heroic event and turns its iconic status upside-down. He finds an anti-war message smack in the face of a revered symbol of American victory and power. From James Bradley's bestseller, it chronicles the battle of Iwo Jima and the fates of the six American soldiers who flag-poled the star spangled banner atop Mount Suribachi. Clint's latest act of genius is a poignant, post-mortem of the underside of heroism.

One of the most crucial and bloody battles of the Pacific War, culminated in that iconic photo capturing the moment the flag was raised in apparent victory. It made instant heroes of the six. But they wanted none of it and didn't understand the fanfare, while their friends were still dying in battle. (Followed by Clint's companion piece early next year – *Letters From Iwo Jima* – presenting events from Japanese eyes). "Both films are not just audacious and challenging but eager to show the waste of war and the downside to patriotism... his approach throws up vivid reminders of the mess that is Iraq today" (*Derek Malcolm*).

Eragon

Sat 10 2.00

Mature Warning: May contain babies



Industrial Light and Magic special-effects wizard Stefan Fangmeier makes the leap into the director's chair with this exciting coming-of-age fantasy concerning a young boy whose discovery of a mysterious dinosaur egg leads him on a predestined journey to become a Dragon Rider and defend his peaceful world against an evil king. Based on the bestselling novel by Christopher Paolini, *ERAGON* tells the tale of (Edward Speleers), a humble farm boy living in the land of Alagaesia whose life is forever changed when he discovers that he has been chosen to fight the most powerful enemy in the world. The critics are mixed. As always forget them. It is well worth seeing this ingenious spectacle on our big screen.

Warning (official board of censorship language): Contains mild fantasy violence and scary moments!!!

Director: Stefan Fangmeier

Starring: Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, Djimon Hounsou

Certificate: PG

Duration: 104 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Twentieth Century Fox

Belle De Jour

Sun 11 6.00

Director: Luis Buñuel**Starring:** Catherine Deneuve, Jean Sorel, Michel Piccoli**Certificate:** 18**Duration:** 100 mins**Origin:** France, Italy 1967**By:** Optimum Releasing

Luis Buñuel's erotic masterpiece (adapted from Joseph Kessel's novel) is likely to hold the same hypnotic a grip on a modern audience as it did then, 30 years ago. Catherine

Deneuve plays Severine, the glacially beautiful, sexually unfulfilled wife of a surgeon, whose blood runs icy until she takes a day-job in a brothel.

There she meets a charismatic but sinister young gangster, complete with gold teeth. It ignites a perilous obsession. Erotic love, the director implies, is far more dangerous than sexual exploration...? "Buñuel's camera turns bourgeois interiors into prisons.

Tight shots fixate on Severine's immaculately-polished patent shoes and elaborate coiffures and render them as erotic in their vice-like control as the degradations of her sado-masochistic fantasies (coachmen, restraints, whips and mud all transcend cliché under Buñuel's unflinching direction.)" An extremely rare opportunity to see one of cinema's acknowledged masterpieces once more on the big screen and ask again: "What, exactly, is in the Chinaman's box?" Indeed. (quotes: various crits) Come for Catherine at her most unreachably beautiful and beautifully untouchable.



Night at the Museum

Mon 12 2.00

Tue 13 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

This looks like a fab matinee and weekend flick. Apart from Gervais and Coogan, it's fun from start to finish. Things begin to take a turn for the unlikely on night shift at the Museum. Bumbling Ben Stiller at New York's Museum of Natural History inadvertently unleashes havoc when he triggers a dormant curse that fully animates the historical displays in this wild fantasy comedy.

Under the ancient spell of the pharaoh's tablet, Attila the Hun begins carving a swathe of destruction through the marbled hallways and the once-still gladiators and Neanderthals spring to life. Now faced with the daunting task of restoring stillness to the increasingly agitated displays, he turns to a wax replica of former president Teddy Roosevelt (Robin Williams O.T.T) to reverse the curse before the dreaded Tyrannosaurus Rex gives terrified modern-day museum goers a taste of prehistoric fear.

Think Jumanji, its just as much fun.

**Director:** Shawn Levy**Starring:** Robin Williams, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller**Certificate:** PG**Duration:** 109 mins**Origin:** USA 2006**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

Shortbus

Mon 12 7.30



John Cameron Mitchell, who created a cult sensation with 'Hedwig And The Angry Inch', blazes another 'brave' trail with this comedy-drama combining the stories of a handful of emotionally unsatisfied New Yorkers.

Sofia (Lee) is a couples' therapist!!! who has a major problem of her own: she's never had an orgasm.

Her clients James and Jamie invite her to a 'Shortbus Party', a sexual free-for-all, where she experiments with sapphic diversions, and begins to 'truly find herself' (oh dear, and even with therapist/orgasm, it was all going so well) when she meets Severin, a dominatrix.

"Shortbus is an honest look at how people interact both physically and emotionally... Beautifully performed, it's also as accurate a depiction of the wonders of life in New York as was ever committed to film..."

(How much bollocks goes with 'complete and absolute'? Whatever the answer, it's not enough).

Likely to be pretentious, where the Emporer's new bits are applauded. They're saying its not.

See what you think.

"Porno for the chattering classes..." says enough. (*D Malcolm, Standard*)

Director: John Mitchell
Starring: Raphael Barker, PJ DeBoy, Sook-Yin Lee, Paul Dawson
Certificate: 18
Duration: 101 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: The Works UK Distribution

Who Killed the Electric Car?

Tue 13 7.30

Director: Chris Paine
Starring: Colette Divine, Phyllis Diller, Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks
Certificate: U
Duration: 92 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Sony Pictures Releasing

This is a must after Al Gore's unreliable 'Inconvenient Truth'.

Conspiracy theory brought to life. Forget the starry talking heads, come and be very scared of oil companies and the political, business-as-usual blockings of alternatives.

With petrol prices approaching \$4 per gallon (£5 in UK!!!), fossil fuel shortages, unrest in oil producing regions, it feels like the right time to bow to alternatives. Thus, this documentary couldn't be more relevant or important. Its foremost goal is to inform audiences about this car and its place in history as well as our wider car culture and how it enables our continuing addiction to oil. This somewhat chilling film investigates the death and resurrection of the electric car, as well as the role of renewable energy and sustainable living in the future. The new Priuse hybrid electric car sold more than 140,000 last year! Come for the uncomfortable ride.



Valentines Day

Casablanca

Wed 14 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

7.30 *Oysters and Champagne*



"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world she walks into... possibly Britains' most beautiful cinema..."

Finally, everybody comes to Rick's... at the Rex.

On a shortlist of all-time classic love stories, Casablanca must be close to the top. We have waited over a year.

Thanks to Hollywood Classics here it is. Come and enjoy every second of every line you've heard a million times.

You know the story but just in case: Bogart plays his greatest-type, the seen-it-all, battered, laconic nightclub owner. The ethereal Bergman who left him waiting on that rainy Parisienne platform, walks into his bar and back into his life - cue: "moonlight and love songs never out of date, hearts full of passion jealousy and hate, woman needs man and man must have his mate, that no one can deny..." What!! (Dedicated to Peter Clark who played Capt Renault (Claude Reins) in the only black n'white theatrics on Edinburgh Fringe 1983. Peter supported the Rex from scratch and lent me a precious turn-table and amp, on permanent-loan and still in use. He died Aug 2002 aged 55) Here's looking at you...

Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Conrad Veidt, Paul Henreid, Sydney Greenstreet, Claude Rains
Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 1942
By: Hollywood Classics

Happy Feet

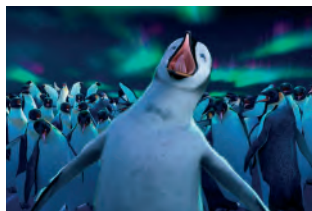
Perfume

Tue 15 7.30

Thu 15 2.00

Fri 16 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Director: George Miller

Starring: Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Elijah Wood

Certificate: U

Duration: 108 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Warner Brothers

In the world of the Emperor Penguin, a simple song can mean the difference between a lifetime of happiness and an eternity of loneliness.

When a penguin named Mumble (Wood) is born without the ability to sing the romantic song that will attract his soul mate, he has to resort to some fancy footwork by tap dancing his way into her heart. A brilliantly animated romantic comedy from the writer of *BABE*, this affecting and hilarious tale of one penguin's quest for love, features an all-star cast of vocal talents, all singing their hearts out.

Oh no – this means terrible karaoke from Williams, Kidman, Jackman and Brittany. That aside... Everybody's talking about it, so come and see what all the fuss is about.

Director: Tom Tykwer

Starring: Alan Rickman, Dustin Hoffman, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Ben Whishaw

Certificate: 15

Duration: 147 mins

Origin: France 2006

By: Pathe Distribution

In mid-18th-century Paris, young Jean-Baptiste Grenouille (Whishaw – best Hamlet for decades at The Old Vic, 2004), was born in reeking entrails of the city's fish market.

He grows up with, and lives on, a super-sense of smell. He doesn't say much. While all around him stinks to very low hell, he has no personal scent or odour. An outcast, still standing after a wretched childhood, he emerges with a will of iron. Finally, taught by the master Baldini (Hoffman), the art of mixing scents, he soon becomes obsessed. He must find that final missing essence to create the perfect, all consuming perfume. The one he must kill to find again... again and again.

Once he senses the beautiful Laura (Hurd-Wood), has it in her 'supernatural scent', the chase begins. Her father, Richis (Rickman), sees his daughter is in grave danger. So a desperate game of cat-and-mouse unfolds between fatherly love and a deadly passion.

Come to be overwhelmed in and by every sense...



Apocalypto

Fri 16 7.30 Sat 17 7.00 Sun 18 6.00

"Mel Gibson takes a sideways look at the decline of the Mayan civilisation, in a movie that's more jungle chase thriller than historical epic. No crucifixions on offer, but plenty of mutilations." (*The Guardian*)

"Like him or not, he's is turning into a good film-maker..." (*D Malcolm*) APOCALYPTO is a stunning return to epic filmmaking, in which an entire civilization is given the full Gibson cinematic treatment. The film begins on the outskirts of the Maya civilization at around the same time that Columbus was crossing the Atlantic. We observe a small band of Mayan hunters pursuing an animal with a persistence that only hunger breeds. Enjoying their kill, they relax and mock each other with 'men's talk' establishing a calm camaraderie. But don't let the first 20 minutes fool you. All hell is about to break loose.

"Gibson has been talking up the film's deep historical relevance. But as you watch, you are reminded of Mad Max, Lethal Weapon ... Then it hits you.

This film is about Australian masculinity. This time, with beads and animal skins. No difference there then..." (*Standard 22.12.06*) Or...

"... never having been a great admirer, though liking a number of his movies, I think this is a remarkable achievement... It concludes with the chilling and the beautiful, the tragic and the hopeful which, not forced or spelled out, has a deep meaning for our times." (*Philip French, Observer*) Or...

"Without Gibson's maverick, daredevil spirit, APOCALYPTO would probably never have been made at all – but apparently that same spirit prevents him from listening to reason in the editing room. Thirty minutes or so shorter, and this might have been a masterpiece – but as it stands, it is still eminently watchable." (*Channel 4*)

As always you decide.



Director: Mel Gibson
Starring: Dalia Hernandez, Gerardo Taracena, Mayra Serbulo
Certificate: 18
Duration: 138 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Icon Film Distribution Ltd

The Great Dictator

Sat 17 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Charles Chaplin
Starring: Charles Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Jack Oakie, Henry Daniel
Certificate: U
Duration: 128 mins
Origin: USA 1940
By: British Film Institute

Chaplin's first all-talking feature marked a controversial turn as he stood firmly against fascism.

Risking his reputation, he was 'strongly discouraged' by the British government and Hollywood's Jewish producers, Chaplin ignored them, financing the lengthy shoot himself. Bravely speaking out against Nazism with brilliant parody combined with sharp political satire, he lampooned Hitler and Mussolini in a bittersweet farce in which he plays dual roles as a humble Jewish barber and Adenoid Hynkel, the ranting dictator of Tomania. When Chaplin began work on the script in 1938, there had still been no anti-Nazi films from mainstream Hollywood. By the time editing had begun, France and Denmark had fallen and the film was nearly shelved. Declaring publicly "Hitler a menace to civilisation not someone to laugh at". Instead, he decided to close the film with an impassioned plea for tolerance. Don't let your children miss it. Chaplin's best and most famous sequences, eg Hinkel's balletic pas de deux with a luminous globe.



Lou Lou

Mon 19 7.30



Loulou is a challenging, absorbing example of the awkward beauty of the late Maurice Pialat.

Superficially, it's a keenly observed, naturalist, passionate semi-improvised, hand-shot 'slice-of-life', set in the post-Women's Lib Paris of the late 1970s. Isabelle Huppert is a young accountant "still-flushed-cheeked, in one of her most sensual and mysteriously protean performances..." unsurprisingly, she leaves her incredulous, angered bourgeois husband for the bed of an earthy, unemployed petty crook. This is Depardieu "superbly uningratiating, still equine and cocksure". It may seem a little dated, but on a deeper level, is an audacious, experimental attempt by Pialat to marry "realist and spiritual cinema". Luckily it is also "effortlessly watchable". "Depardieu looks exactly the same as he does now, but the 27-year-old Huppert is unrecognisable. She often actually smiles: a gentle, almost moon-faced girl, captured on film here before she went over to the dark side, playing scary-sexy characters for Chabrol and Haneke" (*Peter Bradshaw, Guardian and other crits*)

Director: Maurice Pialat
Starring: Isabelle Huppert, Gerard Depardieu, Guy Marchand
Certificate:
Duration: 110 mins
Origin: France 1980
By: Contemporary Films

Night at the Museum

Tue 20 7.30

Director: Shawn Levy
Starring: Robin Williams, Ricky Gervais, Ben Stiller
Certificate: PG
Duration: 109 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Twentieth Century Fox

This looks like a fab matinee and weekend flick. Apart from Gervais and Coogan, it's fun from start to finish. Things begin to take a turn for the unlikely on night shift at the Museum. Bumbling Ben Stiller at New York's Museum of Natural History inadvertently unleashes havoc when he triggers a dormant curse that fully animates the historical displays in this wild fantasy comedy.

Under the ancient spell of the pharaoh's tablet, Attila the Hun begins carving a swathe of destruction through the marbled hallways and the once-still gladiators and Neanderthals spring to life. Now faced with the daunting task of restoring stillness to the increasingly agitated displays, he turns to a wax replica of former president Teddy Roosevelt (Robin Williams O.T.T) to reverse the curse before the dreaded Tyrannosaurus Rex gives terrified modern-day museum goers a taste of prehistoric fear.

Think Jumanji, its just as much fun.



Happy Feet

Wed 21 2.00, 7.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



In the world of the Emperor Penguin, a simple song can mean the difference between a lifetime of happiness and an eternity of loneliness. When a penguin named Mumble (Wood) is born without the ability to sing the romantic song that will attract his soul mate, he has to resort to some fancy footwork by tap dancing his way into her heart. A brilliantly animated romantic comedy from the writer of BABE, this affecting and hilarious tale of one penguin's quest for love, features an all-star cast of vocal talents, all singing their hearts out. Oh no – this means terrible karaoke from Williams, Kidman, Jackman and Brittany. That aside... Everybody's talking about it, so come and see what all the fuss is about.

Director: George Miller
Starring: Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Elijah Wood
Certificate: U
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Warner Brothers

Dancer in the Dark

Thu 22 7.30

Director: Lars Trier
Starring: Peter Stormare, Catherine Deneuve, Joel Grey, David Morse, Björk, Vincent Paterson, Cara Seymour, Jean-Marc Barr
Certificate: 15
Duration: 137 mins
Origin: Euro/International 2000
By: Pathe Distribution

Björk 'composed' all the music. So now's the time to leave. At Cannes 2000 the film won the Palme d'Or and Björk, Best Actress. "Originally she was booked just to write the film's soundtrack but took on the challenge of playing the lead, which seems as though it was written for her" (BBC) "Selma (Björk) is a chronically myopic Czech immigrant single mother scraping a living in rural America. Her life is hard, but her intense love of musicals means she often drifts off into fantastic day-dreams which transform her world into a Technicolor spectacle. However, she must still face the reality of her own failing eyesight and that of her young son, who'll go blind unless she can pay for treatment..." (Total Film) It is almost as if the audience is treated to two movies – one, a hand-held documentary melodrama, the other an all-singing, all-dancing Hollywood musical, shot in vibrant Technicolor. Lars' films are tricky to watch. Forget his puritanical 'Dogme' and the music, come for Catherine D.



Last King of Scotland

Fri 23 7.30 Sat 24

Director: Kevin Macdonald
Starring: Gillian Anderson, James McAvoy, Forest Whitaker, Kerry Washington
Certificate: 15
Duration: 123 mins
Origin: UK 2006
By: Twentieth Century Fox

Since Mr Tumnus and out of the blue, James McAvoy has come a long way. A great face and no mean performer, excels here as the hapless white servant.

This first semi-fictional feature from Oscar-winning documentary director Macdonald (Touching The Void) is rooted in the reality of Idi Amin's brutal 1970's Uganda. Wooed by the president's generosity, charm and apparent populist appeal, young Scottish doctor Nicholas Garrigan (McAvoy) agrees to be Amin's personal physician. Soon he is appointed number-one advisor on all manner of things, from architecture to foreign policy. Hugely flattered, he blocks out what is going on around him. By the time he faces the atrocities of Amin's command, it is too late.

"A bold combination of comedy and mind-numbing horror, balancing psychological insight and historical fact..."

"Forest Whitaker gives a barnstorming performance in a bitter, juicy plum of a role... while McAvoy's best performance yet, lifts the film from some unsteady early moments." (Guardian/Time Out) Come for the forgotten, recent past where a tyrant on the African continent was supported by the Commonwealth rather than his country invaded, and he rounded-up and hanged.



Happy Feet

Sat 24 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



In the world of the Emperor Penguin, a simple song can mean the difference between a lifetime of happiness and an eternity of loneliness. When a penguin named Mumble (Wood) is born without the ability to sing the romantic song that will attract his soul mate, he has to resort to some fancy footwork by tap dancing his way into her heart. A brilliantly animated romantic comedy from the writer of *BABE*, this affecting and hilarious tale of one penguin's quest for love, features an all-star cast of vocal talents, all singing their hearts out. Oh no – this means terrible karaoke from Williams, Kidman, Jackman and Brittany. That aside... Everybody's talking about it, so come and see what all the fuss is about.

Director: George Miller
Starring: Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Elijah Wood
Certificate: U
Duration: 108 mins
Origin: USA 2006
By: Warner Brothers

Fallen Idol

Sun 25 6.00



This first collaboration between writer, Graham Greene and director Carol Reed, *THE FALLEN IDOL*, cemented a very successful partnership. Their next would be *The Third Man*...

This great artistic union between Greene, Reed and leading actor, Ralph Richardson was never repeated, thus the only chance to see this mannered masterpiece.

Ralph plays Baines, a straight-laced butler at the French Embassy in London. Not so straight-laced... His illicit affair with the Embassy Secretary, played by the ravishing Michèle Morgan, moves closer to scandal with each concealed expression of emotion. Baines befriends the Ambassador's lonely young son Phil and becomes something of a surrogate father to him. Phil unwittingly reveals Baines' secret and when tragedy unexpectedly occurs, Baines' career and freedom are put into jeopardy. *THE FALLEN IDOL* is considered Carol Reed's 'lost classic' and remains a tense and beautifully constructed thriller with a superb central performance from Richardson.

Director: Carol Reed
Starring: Bobby Henrey, Sonia Dresdel, Michèle Morgan, Ralph Richardson
Certificate: PG
Duration: 94 mins
Origin: UK 1948
By: British Film Institute

Director: Chris Noonan
Starring: Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Bill Paterson, Emily Watson
Certificate: PG
Duration: 93 mins
Origin: UK 2006
By: Momentum Pictures

Miss Potter

Mon 26 7.30 Tue 27 7.30 Wed 28 2.00, 7.30

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Miss Potter is a magical biopic that 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 her artistic and storytelling abilities from a young age and rebelled against the conventions of the time by refusing to marry for the sake of it. Her first book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, was a publishing phenomenon and led to a captivating romance with her publisher Norman Warne (McGregor). Beautifully performed; possibly one of the most enchanting tales of any year.

"MISS POTTER wrenches the heart. Sure it's shamelessly sentimental, but the inevitability of its tragedy and the manner in which it tramples over Beatrix's fantasy world makes this otherwise middlebrow biopic strangely moving" (*Channel 4*)

Or...

"...the film barely scratches the Dickensian surface of true female repression. Zellweger tries to make up for these deficiencies with a performance that bubbles over with coy mannerisms, squinty-eyed grimaces and outlandish 'period' precision in her studied gestures. The actress has been playing Brits for so long that the accent is no bother, but a bit of her native Texas creeps into the exaggerated affectations. In a contemporary movie, you would assume such a character is on drugs" (*Hollywood Reporter*)

Or

"Renee Zellweger gets in touch with her inner puddleduck in this whimsical Beatrix Potter biopic" (*The Guardian*)

As always, you'll decide.



Coming Soon

From March...

New releases

Venus

The Dead

Esma's Secret

Blood Diamond

Babel

Bobby

Plus the evergreens

Motorcycle Diaries

Everything is Illuminated

Little Miss Sunshine

London to Brighton

Snow Cake



Blood Diamonds



Babel



Esma's Secret



Venus

FEBRUARY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

THU 1	CASINO ROYALE	7.30
FRI 2	HOLIDAY	7.30
SAT 3	FLUSHED AWAY	2.00
SAT 3	HOLIDAY	7.00
SUN 4	A PRARIE HOME COMPANION	6.00
MON 5	PAN'S LABYRINTH	7.30
TUE 6	THE PRESTIGE	7.30
WED 7	THE PRESTIGE	2.00, 7.30
THU 8	THE PAGE TURNER	7.30
FRI 9	FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS	7.30
SAT 10	ERAGON	2.00
SAT 10	FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS	7.00
SUN 11	BELLE DE JOUR	6.00
MON 12	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	2.00
MON 12	SHORTBUS	7.30
TUE 13	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	2.00
TUE 13	WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?	7.30
WED 14	CASABLANCA (VALENTINE'S DAY)	2.00, 7.30
THU 15	HAPPY FEET	2.00
THU 15	PERFUME	7.30
FRI 16	HAPPY FEET	2.00
FRI 16	APOCALYPTO	7.30
SAT 17	THE GREAT DICTATOR	2.00
SAT 17	APOCALYPTO	7.00
SUN 18	APOCALYPTO	6.00
MON 19	LOU LOU	7.30
TUE 20	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	7.30
WED 21	HAPPY FEET	2.00, 7.30
THU 22	DANCER IN THE DARK	7.30
FRI 23	LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	7.30
SAT 24	HAPPY FEET	2.00
SAT 24	LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	7.00
SUN 25	THE FALLEN IDOL	6.00
MON 26	MISS POTTER	7.30
TUE 27	MISS POTTER	7.30
WED 28	MISS POTTER	2.00, 7.30

RANTS AND PANTS

Dear Mr Hannaway
As a regular visitor to your cinema, I think you should know that your loyal customers are not expecting to read a bigoted, ignorant diatribe about defenceless people when they pick up your cinema guide. I cannot believe that you feel it is appropriate to publish these opinions in a cinema guide about those who are less fortunate than yourself and worthy charities. If, from your pampered middle class perspective, you feel that a woman who is homeless and a registered Big Issue seller is an "intimidating pain in the arse", I suggest you need to take a look at the world from a homeless person's perspective and consider how intimidating it could be then. Do you genuinely think that the average person's life in Berkhamsted is just as bad as this woman's? (I doubt very much she owns a phone or iPod to ignore us with, for a start!). If you do then I suggest you need to take a trip away from your gorgeous cinema and this little town once in a while to get some perspective on what life is like out in the harsh, real world.

As for your opinions about charity "beggars", this is an old chestnut of an argument (usually given by people who give very little to charity) and are usually students or enthusiastic young people who have a very real passion for the charity they represent. This type of fundraising technique is used by charities because in today's climate it is harder and harder to raise the necessary funds for worthy causes and, simply put, this type of fundraising pays off. Of course some people don't like this type of 'in your face'

fundraising and it is not to everyone's taste. But if you don't like it I suggest you simply walk on by next time rather than poisoning your reader's minds about this "hateful" practice and the genuinely worthy charities that are deserving of their support. There are a lot more "hateful" things in life than this! This strikes me, as a fairly recent resident of Berkhamsted, as just another example of small town bigotry. Much as you rail again Berkhamsted being seen as a 'rich' town, I am sorry to let you in on a little secret – by average UK standards, it is, and we should feel lucky to live here. Cheryl Spain, Berkhamsted.

(Sorry, verbatim but cut. Hope your main points are here)

Dear Mr Hannaway,
I do not know what got into you to print your coarse and insulting diatribe against the seller of the Big Issue in the High Street. The lady is simply doing something to help others less fortunate in life than the majority of residents in Berkhamsted, including yourself I imagine. There is nothing intimidating about her, just find her a pleasant greeting.

(Sorry, couldn't read your signature)

Dear Mr Hannaway,
4th January 2007
I have never been moved to write a letter before, but I found your public rant about the "Big issue women" both insensitive and deeply offensive.....
Is it because she brings out seeded feelings of guilt as you ramble past her whilst on you're way from or to the cash point in order to spend more money on

things you probably do not need in your life?

What your rant also says is you can deal with the Big issue seller in London because they are faceless, but surely not here in our little market town. Is this not the ultimate middle-class attitude of "not here, not in our backyard"?

You deserve your success and I have always championed you for doing what you believe in, especially in the face of adversity. Each month your cinema guide has become little more than an outlet for your tremendous ego and I'm afraid you are losing sight of your original vision. Your hypocritical stances on American politics are also not interesting and not why people love the Rex.

You cannot bare the fact that someone far less fortunate than you has moved into your town and is now trying to sell you a paper, which you do not want. Does she deserve to be public humiliated in your pompous middle class publication? Not everyone can be as fortunate as you Mr Hannaway, you need to accept that there is a difficult world out there and maybe from time to time, you should help your fellow neighbour. You never know when you made need help in return.

Anonymous for two reason:
I believe I speak for many not just myself.
your response will no doubt sarcastically and cynically make light of the content of my letter, whilst aim to be the final word on the subject, therefore not inviting true dialogue.....
(Sorry, verbatim but cut. Hope your main points are here)

RANTS AND PANTS

How can there be “true dialogue” with the anonymous. By definition, isn't it a dead-end to dialogue?

That aside, you're right. There is no need to be abusive or to publicly humiliate anyone, particularly when they find themselves vulnerable or defenceless.

Thank you for writing in defence of the Big Issue woman. I began to think of the congratulations as a kind of ganging-up. As for the tabard clip-boarders, my sympathy remains the same. As Cheryl Spain explains: “this type of fundraising pays off”. Of course it does. It's that horrid foot-in-the-door (dare I say American?) sales technique, where the hapless are caught and cajoled. Charities were set up to combat unfairness, intimidation, global greed and oppression, not promote them.

Start lobbying governments who applaud charity work, quietly knowing full well they should be funding the lot.

Between you, you have managed to call me some pretty names. Never mind, sticks n' stones and all that. Judging people by the way they look or seem to be, is abhorrent. I'm guilty of it all the time.

However, you don't know why this theatre is so “gorgeous”, nor where I buy my clothes. Collectively, you seem to have gone for the smug. As Descarte, I will defend your (therefore my own) right to think and say anything, though I might not agree (even with my own).

I didn't judge the 'Big Issue woman, I simply described her mischief. I put into words what I had seen, but more-so heard, over and over. The tittle-tattle in the Box Office began to get on my nerves. It was all about avoiding this one individual. So much so there were days when nobody would run the

simplest errand if it involved walking past Boots!

The short paragraph was about the anxiety one individual has so efficiently created in people, normally free to walk anywhere. Some days they would talk of little else. Not because they are callous, cold-hearted or dispassionate but simply, they do not want to be afraid to walk down their own street. Besides, they are chronically skint and don't like being hugged in the street by somebody they don't know.

I'm glad to hear there are people who have greater sympathy, and don't mind being chased and gushed-over.

Thus my 'rant' was the final straw. Nobody was saying anything, but everyone was moaning (except for three above and no doubt many more).

That said, there is no need to be abusive or to publicly humiliate anyone, particularly when they find themselves vulnerable or defenceless.

Thus, if you can't take it, don't dish it out.

I feel sorry for her now, and wish I hadn't been so flippant. Still, I won't buy anything from her.

Perhaps she is worse off than us.

Perhaps she is sad and lonely.

She has every right to beg and tell us of her plight – just as we have the right to walk by and not listen. Curiously, how does one right seem greater than the other? Nobody has the right to guess at someone else's plight. To presume they are better-off, or less lonely is its own form of bigotry, perhaps worse, as it promotes instant guilt in the innocent. For one individual to be made to feel anxious enough to cross the road and have to think about walking past Boots before she/he sets out, is a fundamental

infringement of freedom. It is that simple, and no amount of moral high-ground can change it. No words declaring me a barbarian: “bigot, middle-class, pampered, ignorant, ego, fortunate, pompous, hypocritical”, will stop me standing for the right to that freedom, to walk, talk, and be silent without interference from any individual, group, thing, or organisation.

PSAs I have the last word; those same pages talked about the curse of traffic wardens, so paying for something, free only a year ago, not to mention the anxiety they engender. Then the terrible pavements where people, old enough to know better, find themselves face down scraping along on their cheekbones, and needing twelve stitches.

On the R&P back pages was a considered essay in answer to two very good questions about Al Gore's ridiculous global 'message'. Nobody commented on one.

The words 'arse' and 'pain in the' have a lot to answer for...

Thanks, James.

Just the other day a woman, leaving the box office, turned back to say thank you for the hearing loop. She said “It was the best” she had ever heard. (please set your hearing aids to ‘T’). The loop was fitted under obligation by Nicholas King and re-aligned to work properly by our Ed Mauger in 2004. It works better upstairs but is okay at the tables.

A priceless comment by a couple who came to show their friends... “Never mind the film, can we not just come and sit in here for an hour or so...?”