

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

**JULY 2007 ISSUE 28**

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

28 WEEKS LATER

IN JULY...

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

THE-REX

BOOKINGS &  
INFORMATION

**01442 877759**

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

<b>July Matinees</b>	<b>9-14</b>
<b>July Evenings</b>	<b>15-25</b>
<b>Gallery</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Coming Soon</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>July Films at a glance</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Dear Mrs Trellis</b>	<b>29, 31</b>

#### SEAT PRICES:

<b>Circle</b>	£7.00
Members & Concessions	£5.50
<b>At Table</b>	£9.00
Members & Concessions	£7.50
<b>Royal Box</b> (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:

<b>Rosie Abbott</b>	<b>Eva Jaurena</b>
<b>Katie Anderson</b>	<b>Jo Littlejohn</b>
<b>Emily Doyle</b>	<b>Bethany McKay</b>
<b>Christine</b>	<b>Linda Moss</b>
<b>Fressineau</b>	<b>Louise Ormiston</b>
<b>Karina Gale</b>	<b>Julian Paredes</b>
<b>Jemma Gask</b>	<b>Amberly Rose</b>
<b>Holly Gilbert</b>	<b>Charlotte Stephens</b>
<b>Rosa Gilbert</b>	<b>Tina Thorpe</b>
<b>Olivia Glasser</b>	<b>Alex Tucker</b>
<b>Beth Hannaway</b>	<b>Beth Wallman</b>
<b>Oliver Hicks</b>	<b>Olivia Wilson</b>
<b>Sarah Holloway</b>	<b>Keymea Yazdanian</b>

**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

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



*Sandra Bullock with Tony Jones in a shot from Infamous. Toby is here to talk about it on Sunday 8th July, 2pm. Don't miss.*

**G**abz and Dan from 55 Durrants wrote: *"Everthing is top notch but audience crowd/around? are too old."* (Sorry, couldn't decipher 'crowd' from 'around' – it's in the request book – see if you can. 28.5.07). How sweet of you Gabz and Dan. Thank you. I'm taking this as a gag, but can't resist answering as if you mean it. The most endearing thing about the young, is they know nothing and want to share it with everyone. They talk when they should listen and yell proud victory if Engerland gets anywhere near the goal in a friendly against Iceland. One of the happiest things about the Rex re-opening is it has brought people out who had stopped going out. Not only had they given up going to the pictures, but had stopped going out altogether, especially at night. Now they come to the Rex freely and happily. To chance a guess: perhaps many have stopped going out because, in a swarm on any street corner, the young can be terrifying. The old can be pretty scary in many ways but shouting abuse at the young from a street corner, while spitting, necking and urinating, is not one of them. Here at The Rex all are welcome with equal respect, regardless of height.

**T**hese are the same people who sit in big red seats, facing the same way as you, and never complain that you are there (unless you're a baby of course – in which case, they do, but we stick up for the baby!). You all watch the same film, at the same time, then go home. What do you want? Your own place where you choose your own films to keep grey heads out? You've got it. Take a pencil and write this on your face... Go2 d plexes tht wr m8d 4 u. an wile yr at it... ??? You'll grow up in your own time to bemoan the youth of that day who by then, will enjoy goats for bliss, have side partings, pencil moustaches and sensible trousers. That's just the boys. Those blessed with greater years have three main privelages to sustain them.

*Toby as himself*





1. They don't have to listen to anyone anymore - ever.  
 2. They can moan about anything – and do.  
 3. They don't like you either.  
 Best and worst of all, they have memories of beautiful times, sadly you will never know.  
 Worst, those best times will never come again. Worst of all worsts, you will never know what you've missed, so won't care. You have Eastenders, Big Brother, ugly ankles, bare tattoos, holocaust haircuts and loud bass to comfort you when the Green-Belt is concreted over and you are stone deaf (an bldy) at 37. Try caring about something/someone other than you. It doesn't feel that bad. (But you do have skateboards, which I envy and would have loved as a kid).  
 PS. In case you're still unhappy being part of this audience - Jarman Park is off the dual carriageway towards the M1. It's on the right... Ucnts mit it.

### ST ALBANS ODEON...

**W**hy didn't they whisper?  
 At least, then we would have known they didn't want us to hear.  
 At the final Inquiry (31st May 2007 StA. Civic Cntr. 10am) called to decide upon the eleven year protest against the demolition of the old Odeon in London Road, the officials around the big table decided to speak so quietly, it was like watching a body of undertakers discussing embalming fluids. Nothing should be decided in such bashful voices with backs turned. It was virtually a closed meeting in public. In that depressing 70's brick chamber, every second word turned the one before into aural semolina. I sat close enough to touch them, but could hardly hear a word, half-uttered.  
 They didn't seem to care for the importance – very importance of



*The old cemetery behind the Rex, May 2007*

speaking up at such an open, public and final-decision meeting.

It was being called to order as I arrived, just that last second from being right on-time but late by military standards, with a full five minutes to spare. People had already turned from mingling to take their seats. There was still chatter, but it felt too late to put my name down.

At the main Inquiry two years earlier I had spoken (out) but today, being too late and ill at ease, agreed with myself - there was nothing more to say...

How wrong.

The Rex was muttered throughout and my name quoted for this or that.

The developer Mr Moulton from Wattsdown stated I had written to him twice but "not made an offer" for the site.

My letters stating my intention to restore the Odeon (should it be on offer) were enough to open talks? He failed to inform the Inquiry he had not replied to my letters, nor returned my calls. No "offer" was sufficient for the Inspector to repeat "Therefore no change?"

In and out, like bad radio reception, the Inspector could be heard repeating this question "what has changed?" It referred to the May 2005 Govt Inspector's report that the Odeon could be demolished, providing whatever replaced it, was protected by and complied with the constraints of building in a Conservation Area.

To find good reason for further delay to demolish, this second HM Inspector had to find new evidence - hence: "what has changed?" Together, Representing the Civic Society, Marion Hammant and young independent film-maker Ben Stevens made a clearly spoken and brave attempt, to find a material difference. There was nothing new to squash the original Inquiry's decision.

It was like that one exam question you hadn't revised for - then there it is - the only question on the page! His constant repeating of "what has changed?" (genuinely trying to find neutral ground) began to sound more menacing than Laurence Olivier's mantra in Marathon Man: "Is it safe...?" Clearly it wasn't.

*Cont. on page 29*



# J U L Y   M A T I N E E S

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

## Lives of Others

Mon 2 2.00, Tue 3 12.30

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

This remarkably assured first feature from von Donnersmarck paints a dark picture of life under the Communist regime in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Only one word is true in GDR. It begins with G. As you will see the other two grand words are nowhere to be found in this grey world created by these extraordinary faces. Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid 1980s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife. Unfortunately she has the fat, gargoyle politician slobbering after her. His power ensures he gets his way. Questioning the ethics of his work, the Stasi officer in charge of the spying, ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as the couple. The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals trapped in the dying years of evil institutional mistrust. A great cast of perfect faces. The film has caused an extraordinary stir. It is back by overwhelming demand, and will be again and again. Cancel everything.



## The Queen

Wed 4, Thu 5 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

After ten, ugly, false, profitable years of keeping Diana on the front page, the Mail and Express are milking their very last drop from this morbid tenth anniversary.

With Tina Brown cashing in, we thought we'd show how cut-throat and in-touch we are... with these two matinees in July.

What was Frears thinking, calling it The Queen? It left people bewildered. There was good reason to expect a potted history of her life from princess to queen.

For the most part, it turns into a well drawn study of a family in a state of shock, mourning and bewilderment, after Diana's death. But it might have been called: Tony's Finest Hour (no sequel) or Queen Helen or Pulp Friction. Notes on a Scandal In The Wind could have summed up the hysteria of that late summer.

This sharp script starts with Blair's Premiership victory in May, ending with Diana's funeral in September 1997 – mostly through the eyes of the Queen as she struggles to grasp the temporary insanity of the Country. Best line: DoE. "That damned man (Blair phoning Queen). Now your tea's gone cold"

**Director:** Stephen Frears**Starring:** Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, Sylvia Syms, James Cromwell**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 103 mins**Origin:** UK 2006**By:** Pathe Distribution

## The Borrowers

Sat 7 2.00

**Director:** Peter Hewitt**Starring:** Celia Imrie, Jim Broadbent, John Goodman, Flora Newbigin**Certificate:** U**Duration:** 86 mins**Origin:** UK/US 1997**By:** United International Pictures

Based on a series of children's books by Marty Norton, this tells of the adventures of a family of little people, only inches tall, who live under the floorboards of an English country house.

Their existence is disturbed by an eight-year-old boy from the 'human bean' family.

The human's home, hence theirs, is under threat of demolition from a horrid developer (familiar?).

The eight year old and the tiny collectors of small everyday, human items which they re-cycle and use to ingenious effect, team up to thwart the horrid bulldozers.

A fabulous story, beautifully filmed, with a brilliant cast and some great laugh-out-loud moments.

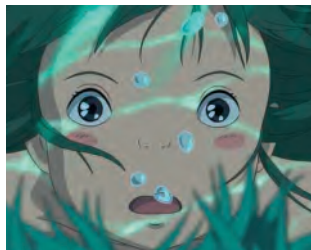
The fast show's Mark Williams steals all his scenes as the 'rantokil' man, children bring your grandparents – they'll love it.





## Spirited Away

Mon 9 2.00



This is a very weird story - not for children under twelve. I'm still scared.

Weird parents are scarier than any monster. This kid's parents are terrifying.

It is a surreal Alice in Wonderland-like-tale about a lost little girl.

The film opens with ten-year-old Chihiro on a family outing.

Her father is nuts and her mother? Not what a child needs. When they pass through a tunnel, they discover an abandoned amusement park.

As Chihiro's bad vibes continue, her parents discover an empty diner.

It smells of fresh food. After her mother and father help themselves.

She knows it's wrong and tries to stop them. She is right. But too late.

They turn into giant pigs. Chihiro flees. It is a holiday resort for supernatural beings after their exhausting times frightening humans. Luckily, a good boy, Haku finds her and looks after her.

She learns the rules of the land.

The first; she must work. Laziness is not tolerated. Secondly, she must take on the new name of Sen. But she must never forget her real name...

**Director:** Hayao Miyazaki

**Starring:** Rumi Hiragi, Miyu Irino, Mari Natsuki

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 125 mins

**Origin:** Japan 2002

**By:** Optimum Releasing

## The Boy from Mercury

Tue 10 12.30

**Director:** Martin Duffy

**Starring:** James Hickey, Rita Tushingham, Tom Courtenay, Hugh O'Connor, Joanne Gerrard, Sean O'Flannagain

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 87 mins

**Origin:** UK 1996

**By:** Blue Dolphin

Dublin in the late fifties. Fatherless eight-year-old James Cronin sees Flash Gordon serials at the cinema every Saturday morning and comes to believe that he is not an Earth-child but an envoy from Mercury. He befriends Sean, a child from a wealthy middle class family, and eventually tells him his secret. This leads to trouble with the school bully, so James feigns illness and stays at home, till his elder brother Paul helps him sort things out. James comes to accept his place on Earth.

A lovely story about fantasy, escaping from the nasty bits of the real world and growing up to work things out for yourself... with a little help from your true friends...



## The Painted Veil

Wed 11 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



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

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

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

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

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

Forget all that. Just come. It works on every level, especially the faces, most of the words and his immaculate shirts... A beautiful journey from beginning to end. Don't miss it.

**Director:** John Curran

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

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 125 mins

**Origin:** China, USA 2006

**By:** Momentum Pictures

## Bugsy Malone

Thu 12 2.00

**Director:** Alan Parker**Starring:** Jodie Foster, Scott Baio, Florrie Dugger, John Cassisi, Martin Lev, Paul Murphy**Certificate:** U (once you're past the synopses)**Duration:** 93 mins**Origin:** UK 1976**By:** Winstone Film Distributors

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

To its credit there are some good tunes, plus it has injected real fun into school plays ever since. All that dreaded foam...



## Superman Returns

Sat 14 2.00



**A perfect pre-summer holidays Saturday matinee for Dads and boys!**

There's a few frocks for the girls, unless you're into grown men who still wear their underpants outside their strides, then there's plenty of action... for the whole family! Said to be "One of the best films of last year".

"The effects are the most breathtaking you will ever see – however good CGI gets". Certainly better than Spiderman and the story is surprisingly good. Perhaps fat-cigar-man left them to it? It picks up after the events of the first two/three? Christopher Reeve films. Time has passed and the world has got used to life without Superman. Upon his return, he finds a Metropolis that doesn't need him anymore, while Lois has had babies. Enter old enemy, Lex Luthor (King Kevin on top form) and off he goes to save the world in his speedos. Come because they've spent millions to show it on the big screen... and ours is only a fiver for the best view.

**Director:** Bryan Singer**Starring:** Kate Bosworth, Kevin Spacey, Frank Langella, Brandon Routh**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 154 mins**Origin:** USA 2006**By:** Warner Brothers

## Watership Down

Mon 16 2.00

**Director:** Martin Rosen**Starring:** John Hurt, Roy Kinnear, Richard Briers, Ralph Richardson, Denholm Elliott, Richard O'Callaghan**Certificate:** U**Duration:** 91 mins**Origin:** UK 1978**By:** British Film Institute

**With their warren about to be destroyed, Hazel and the others set off to find a safer home.**

They survive encounters with rats, humans and a farm cat, and reach safety. All is now well, except they have no females, so Big-wig allows himself to be forced into tyrannical Woundwort's warren, Efrafa, and escapes with several does.

Woundwort surrounds Hazel's warren. Kehaar the seagull helps in one skirmish; then Hazel releases a farm dog which routs the Efracans for good.

Fantastic cast of great voices tell this classic story of heart-warming-stopping-wrenching moments.

The baddies are very bad, some redeemable. The good ones are very good... And all ends happily ever after...ish.

Your Grandparents will love it. Bring them.



## Spiderman III

Tue 17 12.30



**“Your neighbourhood web-slinger is back, only this time his sunny outlook has become overcast and we discover a darker side to Spider-Man.”**

The yarn: Peter Parker (Maguire) has finally found the balance he's longed for between his love for Mary Jane (Dunst) and his responsibilities as Spider-Man. But everything Parker has ever wanted is about to unravel. An escaped convict, Marko (Haden Church), is caught up in an accident that displaces his molecules and turns him into Sandman, a new super-villain able to form his body into any shape of sand.

When Parker learns of the history between Sandman and his Uncle Ben's rice murder he will stop at nothing to get him. Then there's his 'friend' Harry on a skateboard and a blob from outer-space!!! Better than Superman. When it's slow, it's very slow. When it's fast, it buzzes. So come for the big screen buzz.

**Director:** Sam Raimi  
**Starring:** Tobey Maguire, James Franco, Kirsten Dunst, Thomas Haden Church  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 139 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

## Jindabyne

Wed 18 2.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Director:** Ray Lawrence  
**Starring:** Gabriel Byrne, Laura Linney, John Howard, Stelios Yiakmis  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 123 mins  
**Origin:** Australia 2007  
**By:** Revolver Film

**A local garage owner (Gabriel Byrne) and his buddies set out on a fishing trip in the Australian bush.**

Strolling up river, they discover the body of an Aboriginal woman in the water. Faced with a moral dilemma, they choose to secure her with fishing line and report it when they get home.

Too risk understatement, back in town it's not so easy to shrug off. The main focus switches to Byrne's wife (Laura Linney) who struggles to understand and gradually, to find anything left to love in her husband. "The periphery of the story might lack focus, but Linney and Byrne are on understated, top form."

(DM. ES)

"Still waters run deep in this exquisite piece of dramatic naturalism" (Channel 4)

"A stunning film, impeccably acted... I was on the edge of my seat" (PB Guardian)

"It is about the inability of any of us, regardless of gender, to communicate..."

It pains me to say it is about 30 minutes too long. Sad that such a deft and succinct short story should become such hard-going." (Time Out)

"... grounded in the emotional immediacy of Byrne's befuddled masculinity and the reliably brilliant Linney's counter productive rage..."

To create a seamlessly probing screenplay, involving domestic turmoil and haunted national self-doubt is quite some achievement..." (Trevor Johnson)

As always you decide... but cancel everthing.





## The Wizard of Oz

Thu 19 2.00

**Director:** Victor Fleming

**Starring:** Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Ray Bolger, Margaret Hamilton, Billie Burke

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 98 mins

**Origin:** USA 1939

**By:** British Film Institute

**It's the original 'Wizard of Oz' – cleaned up for the big screen.**

Not only, don't miss it, bring every child in the street, if only to frighten the life out them.

Made in 1939, just a year after the Rex first opened; it must have been shown here.

It tells the story of Dorothy and her new friends on a huge, surreal adventure. I didn't get it as a kid and hated it at Christmas ever since.

But don't let that put you off.

Every child must be subjected to it, like cod-liver oil from a spoon and goose-grease rubbed into your chest every winter until you are 32.

The best is the fade from black and white into spectacular technicolour.

The film's big homespun, American message is 'There's no place like home': Dorothy's mythic journey seems to reveal that to find one's heart's desire, one need not look further than one's own backyard. Never mind, come for the history.

Forget the witch, Judy Garland is still the one who frightens me.



## Pirates of the Caribbean III

Sat 21 Mon 23 to Thu 26 1.00

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Never mind what the critics say or whether the film makes any sense, or if it's better or worse than the others.**

Come for the sheer neglect of substance or plot. Come for Bill Nighy's fish face, Orlando's swash, Keira's fetching frocks, Geoffrey's nose, the wurzel crew, the "Allo poppet" Laurel and Hardy, the whites of Johnny's eyes and his mincing. Come for silly antics and fabulous spectacle on our big screen and above all Keith Richards as Captain Jack's Dad... That's all.



**Director:** Gore Verbinski

**Starring:** Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom, Chow Yun-Fat, Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 170 mins

**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Buena Vista International



# Bridge to Terabithia

Sat 28 2.00, Mon 30 2.00

**Director:** Gabor Csupo  
**Starring:** Robert Patrick, Zooey Deschanel, Josh Hutcherson, Annasophia Robb  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd



**This is a rousing fantasy adventure about family, friendship and the wondrous power of the imagination.**

A perpetual outsider at home and at school, Jess (Hutcherson) never seems to fit in no matter how hard he tries. When his goal of becoming the fastest runner in school is thwarted by new girl Leslie (Robb), Jess strikes up a friendship with her. Their bond is cemented through Leslie's love for storytelling and Jess' skill as an artist, and together they create a secret kingdom called Terabithia, which is only accessible by swinging over a stream on a rope. Their adventures in Terabithia find them battling the dreaded Dark Master and his malevolent creatures while plotting revenge against the schoolyard bullies.

A great adventure for children and grown-ups over six.

*Warning: Contains scary scenes and emotional distress!!!*



# Fantastic Four

Tue 31 12.30



**"At last! A comic book blockbuster that isn't burdened by a self-important subtext and a bum-numbing running time.** Unlike X-men or Spiderman movies. This Fantastic Four: is a delicious lightweight sequel – a 92 minute dash through some simplistic moral problems, emotional hiccups and mildly, diverting PG-rated set-pieces. Of course, it's all deeply stupid stuff, and the movie knows it, even celebrates it" ('Knowledge' Sat Times) At last a reviewer has got a BlockB (or anything) right. So has 20th C Fox. Finally a studio has decided to forget the story. Instead, turn on the action button with Mr-can't-pass-a-mirror (with silly, unpronounceable name) Gruffodd, some gorgeous little Latino number, who is the only one you DON'T want to be invisible, some nondescript flame guy from coolsville and an animated pooper, unscooped. Forget the story. You already know... There is none.

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

PS Don't rush, it runs into the first few days of Aug, evenings too for grown-up kids...

**Director:** Tim Story  
**Starring:** Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 92 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox





J U L Y E V E N I N G S



## Amazing Grace

Sun 1 6.00

**Director:** Michael Apted

**Starring:** Ioan Gruffudd, Romola Garai, Rufus Sewell, Ciaran Hinds

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 118 mins

**Origin:** UK/USA 2007

**By:** Momentum Pictures

Back by great demand, but for only one available screening only this month...

"Apted's biography of anti-slaver, William Wilberforce (Gruffudd), 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)

### Other's comments:

"No doubt pedants will pick holes, but the film's broad narrative – the passage of the 1807 abolition act – rings broadly true." Dominic Sandbrook, Historian

"Africans ended their enslavement from the moment of capture. The revolts on the ships and uprisings in the Americas and Caribbean were pivotal, not the preserve of one member of the British Parliament... modern-day slavery stands at over 12 million and growing..." Aidan McQuade Director, Anti-Slavery International

"Apparently, *Amazing Grace* cost £15 million to make... the money could have been better spent..." Michael Eboda New Nation

Warning: (Contains references to the mistreatment of slaves and mild language) ???



## The Lives of Others

Mon 2 7.30



This remarkably assured first feature from von Donnersmarck paints a dark picture of life under the Communist regime in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Only one word is true in GDR. It begins with G. As you will see the other two grand words are nowhere to be found in this grey world created by these extraordinary faces. Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid 1980s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife. Unfortunately she has the fat, gargoyle politician slobbering after her. His power ensures he gets his way. Questioning the ethics of his work, the Stasi officer in charge of the spying, ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as the couple. The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals trapped in the dying years of evil institutional mistrust. A great cast of perfect faces. The film has caused an extraordinary stir. It is back by overwhelming demand, and will be again and again. Cancel everything.

**Director:** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

**Starring:** Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 138 mins

**Origin:** Germany 2007

**By:** Lionsgate Films UK

## A History of Violence

Tue 3 7.30

**Director:** David Cronenberg

**Starring:** Viggo Mortenson, Maria Bello, Ed Harris, Ashton Holmes, William Hurt

**Certificate:** 18

**Duration:** 95 mins

**Origin:** USA 2005

**By:** Entertainment Film

This was first shown here late in 2005. It is gripping from the first frame, with the suspense holding right till the end. It is back as a monthly reminder of must-see films from our past two and a half years. It is based on the acclaimed work of John Wagner and Vince Locke. Canadian auteur David Cronenberg's film is a characteristically intelligent and confrontational look at how one instinctive act can trap you. The narrative follows an ordinary family's life after Mortensen receives unwanted national attention after dealing with two brutal gangsters who threaten to kill people at his small town diner. With the mob on his tail (headed up by a menacing Ed Harris) things unravel fast but are revealed much more slowly. Brilliantly played from a cast-against-type. William Hurt drips malevolence. It ranks amongst Cronenberg's most coherent works.

It's not for the faint hearted, and the fights are pretty tough. But you're on his side from beginning to end. You will want him to win and will not move from your seat until you see what happens next. Not a false gesture from great faces. And for me, a triumphant tale of good over evil, about a man who will do anything to protect his family. Don't miss. It may not be round again.



## Goya's Ghost

Wed 4 7.30



**The lives of a great artist, a corrupt monk and a beautiful woman cross paths at a crucial moment in Spanish history.**

In 18th-century Spain, Francisco Goya (Skarsgård) is a controversial artist whose satirical work has earned the enmity of the Catholic church. Not the best idea under the ravages of the dirty Spanish Inquisition (which of course, couldn't ever happen today... Guantanamo whatsitsname? Sonny and Cher? – Narw – that could never happen now).

Brother Lorenzo (Bardem) decides Goya's favourite model, Ines as a heretic. Under torture she signs a false confession. However her father makes Bro Lorenzo sign a confession of different kind ...! Lorenzo flees Spain with his reputation in tatters. To tell you more would spoil it? Worth it for The glorious (The Sea Inside) Bardem, Portman's porcelain perfection and Skarsgård's lumpy face. Better still, its edge of the seat stuff; and if you listen not-too-carefully, you'll snatch a tiny flake of real History from under Hollywood's fat-cigar (couldn't-care-less-as-long-as-there's-blood-explosions-unrequited-love-and-tits) nose.

**Director:** Milos Forman

**Starring:** Stellan Skarsgård, Natalie Portman, Javier Bardem

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 114 mins

**Origin:** Spain 2007

**By:** Entertainment Film

## Joe Strummer:

(THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN)

Thu 5 7.30

**Director:** Julien Temple

**Starring:** Joe Strummer, Don Letts, Mick Jones

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 123 mins

**Origin:** Ireland, UK 2007

**By:** Vertigo Films

Though it was way over my head, Punk was at least a relief from Eric Clapton and Bucks Fizz. It should have killed them stone dead but thirty years on, the oily Cowell and manufactured Girls Aloud are the new undead. Through previously unearthed recollections from friends and the usual t-heads, a complex Joe Strummer is revealed. One who used his music as a bullhorn for conscience and against injustice. The film includes typical concert footage alongside tapes of his eccentric BBC World Service radio broadcasts, 'London Calling'. It is all a fitting soundtrack to his short life. "A truthful and poignant tribute to a 'punk rock warlord'." As for Julian Temple. He never seems to go beyond what he already knows – the thin world of London's lightweight music and fashion. This is clearly a labour of fan-worship and about 33minutes too long. Nevertheless, it leaves Joe plenty of room to tell his own story as a deliberately glamourless rock icon. Come for the rush.



## Blades of Glory

Fri 6 7.30



**"Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, and Will Arnett headline this high-concept comedy"- high concept?** It tells the tale of two male figure-skating rivals aching to compete despite being banned from the sport as a result of a public 'disagreement' at the 2002 Winter Olympics. When they discover a loophole allowing them to perform together in the pairs' figure skating category, they put differences (and one other big 'difference') aside. It is produced by Ben Stiller, so expect an all-pals movie.

None of this matters. From all accounts (the Rex children) it is fantastic, silly and the best of all possible nonsense. It will have you wetting yourself from start to finish – reason enough to show it on a July Friday. At 93minutes, it is a piece of perfectly timed, unashamed escapism. Come and escape.

Warning: *Contains moderate sex references and slapstick violence.* Slapstick violence???

**Directors:** Will Speck, Josh Gordon  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Will Arnett, Amy Poehler, Jon Heder  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures

## Fracture

Sat 7 7.00

**Director:** Gregory Hoblit  
**Starring:** Anthony Hopkins, David Strathairn, Ryan Gosling, Rosamund Pike  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 114 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Entertainment Film Distribution

**The second film, after *The Lives Of Others*, to sell out first in June.**

(How dare the dirty Germans beat Hollywood?) Okay sweet faces, sorry - first...ish.

A meticulous engineer (Hopkins) and an ambitious young district attorney (Gosling) are locked in a deadly battle of wits in this tense courtroom mind-game. Apparently Hopkins murders his adulterous young wife, confesses all, then denies it...!

"Unfortunately, although Hoblit seems highly competent as a filmmaker, he is badly deflected by an unconvincing romance between the prosecutor and an ambitious young lady (Ms Pike). Hence, too long for it's own good. If they had taken this out and come in at about ninety mins, this could have been a contemporary film noir of some note. The dross, however, leaves it limp..." (*Time Out*)

Never mind all that, come for a titanic show of old master pitted against the new-kid-on-the-block – in every sense; acting, being themselves off-screen – uncompromising individuals and playing off each other with all that ego energy of master and apprentice. Come too for the seat-gripping twists and turns right up to the final reel.



## Infamous

Sun 8 2.00

**Come for Toby Jones talking about this and a million other things.**

He has squeezed this one Sunday between 'location' flights to be here. Miss it and miss this piece of Rex history in the making.

Why another film about a squirry, self-obsessed, socialite-queen of New York in the late 1950's? Simple: Toby Jones did a better job than Philip S-Hoffman – and he's here – Today. This is his Rex 'Oscar'.

'Capote' was more than enough. His morbid, personal and commercial interest in the murders of the Clutter family was based on huge vanity. He should have rested on Breakfast at Tyfanny's as a one-hit-wonder.

Is it a gay thing, a writer's thing, an 'artist' thing, another thing?

How many would turn up to watch Melvyn Bragg and Myra Hindley in the cells? Though potentially a great match, it doesn't bare thinking about. The disgust level might be high, but we'd all watch! Perhaps not all.

Based on George Plimpton's "Truman Capote: In Which Various Friends, Enemies, Acquaintances and Detractors Recall His Turbulent Career" (bad title – bad start, sorry George) it begins with Capote (a superb characature from Jones) in his privileged Manhattan milieu.

Key players are all here - Paley, Vreeland, Gore Vidal, Slim Keith, and Harper Lee (a career-best for Bullock). What starts as a humorous look at this gossipy 'elegancia', gets darker when Capote becomes obsessed with the murders. Thus, a sixties best-seller and film, 'In Cold Blood'.

A fluke, for which the little bugger is still being feted forty years on.

If nothing else, come for Toby and Daniel 'Bond' in the cells. How to get one decent 'take' through the giggling must be a better story than the film itself.





## After The Wedding

Mon 9 7.30

**Director:** Susanne Bier  
**Starring:** Sidse Knudsen, Mads Mikkelsen, Stine Christensen  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 124 mins  
**Origin:** Denmark, Sweden 2007  
**By:** Soda Pictures



**This is back for those who missed it or need to be soaked in it all over again.** Why did its first showing in

May touch the audience so deeply? Perhaps she dares us into that place where only-the-brave can win, knowing full well it is the scared-in-us which will always deprive the 'brave' of its one big chance? Jacob (the excellent Mads Mikkelsen) runs a struggling orphanage in India. It is offered a life or death cash injection on one condition - he returns to Copenhagen to meet his mystery benefactor Jørgen (an equally compelling Rolf Lassgård). Against his better judgement, he goes.

In what seems like simple power-play, Jørgen delays his decision until after his daughter's wedding...

This is more than you need to know. The actors don't act, the talk feels like real words (even in sub-title) and the emotional upheaval creeps up on you like it always does.

Susanne Bier's 'Brothers' shown here in June 2005 still haunts. Her films seem to have an extraordinary power. After The Wedding goes deeper. (Brothers will show again in August/Sept and This later in the same month).

Take a deep breath and cancel anything.



**Director:** Douglas McGrath  
**Starring:** Daniel Craig, Sigourney Weaver, Sandra Bullock, Toby Jones  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 118 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Warner Brothers



## The Painted Veil

Tue 10, Wed 11 7.30



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

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

"A rare, perfect masterpiece... Powerful and exhilarating" (*Horizons*)  
 "A timeless love story... Let it sweep you away" (*Rolling Stone*)  
 "Gripping. Not to be missed" (*Daily Mail* - So it must be true)

Forget all that. Just come. It works on every level, especially the faces, most of the words and his immaculate shirts... A beautiful journey from beginning to end. Don't miss it.



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

## Dans Paris

Thu 12 7.30

**Director:** Christophe Honoré  
**Starring:** Romain Duris, Louis Garrel, Guy Marchand, Joana Preiss  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 90 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Artificial Eye

**In a remarkable about-face after the controversial and heavy-handed *Ma Mère*, Honoré proves he can muster insight and lightness of touch.**

Volatile Paul (Duris) is in thrall to the same kind of depression that led to his sister's suicide some years earlier. Plunged into bottomless despair when his relationship hits the skids, he returns to his brother's room and refuses to leave. There he is comforted in various ways by the attentions of his family.

"Dans Paris is that rarity, a genuinely honest, unpretentious and delightful film, alternately sober and effervescent. Among its many understated qualities is Honoré's spot-on understanding of depression. Unadorned by artifice, this is likely to be one of the finest French films of the year..." (CS)  
 Not sure. There's a chance it could very dull.

However, at 90minutes, it is a perfect cinematic length, showing how great editing can turn a story into a masterpiece of restraint, if not so the film. As for Duris, he must be the find of the century so far.



## 28 Weeks Later

Fri 13 7.30, Sat 14 7.00

**From the director of INTACTO (whatever that was) comes the follow-up to Danny Boyle's zombie thriller, 28 Days Later.**

So far, not good.

Six months after the rage virus has annihilated the British Isles, the US Army declares the war against infection has been won, and that reconstruction of the country can begin. Thank heavens - for them Yanks. In the first wave of returning refugees, a family is reunited - but one of them unwittingly carries a terrible secret.

The virus is not yet dead. This time it is more aggressive than ever.

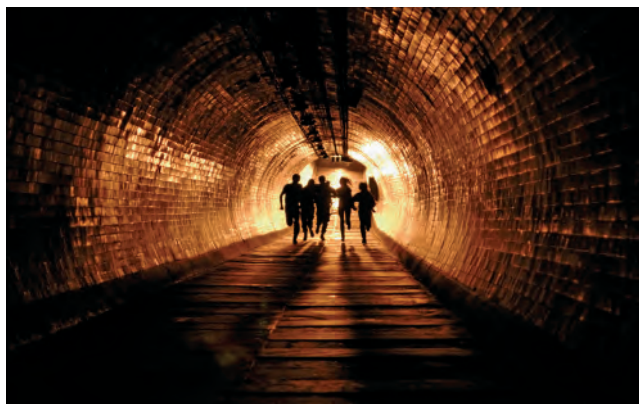
"A chilling dystopian vision of a society on the edge of destruction... a highly effective and terrifying horror yarn. An intelligent sci-fi in the mould of the recent THE CHILDREN OF MEN." (City Screen).

Please don't let this, the worst film of any year, put you off.

Come for the uneasy, thrill on the big dipper of 'What-if?' but knowing you will leave intact, and be drinking minutes later. (If nothing else, it makes a nice cover pic)



**Director:** Juan Fresnadillo  
**Starring:** Catherine McCormack, Rose Byrne, Robert Carlyle, Harold Jr, Jeremy Renner  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 100 mins  
**Origin:** UK 2007  
**By:** Twentieth Century Fox



## Pulp Fiction

Sun 15 5.00



**"Tarantino is too gifted a filmmaker to make a boring movie, but he could possibly make a bad one: Like Edward D. Wood Jr., proclaimed the Worst Director of All Time, he's in love with every shot - intoxicated with the very act of making a movie. It's that very lack of caution and introspection that makes PULP FICTION crackle like an ozone generator. Here's a director who's been let loose inside the toy store, and wants to play all night." (who/crit/fan/when?)**

That aside, you've seen it already – possibly many times. You know what's coming. (Some can quote pockets of dialogue in that depressing Monty Python parrot sketch way) So come and mouth your favourite bits. Back on the big screen thirteen years – and the first time on ours. It won't be round again so don't miss it this time.

I won't – must be the only one left who has never seen it.

**Director:** Quentin Tarantino  
**Starring:** Uma Thurman, John Travolta, Samuel L Jackson, Bruce Willis, Tim Roth  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 140 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1994  
**By:** Buena Vista International

## Longing

Mon 16 7.30

**Director:** Valeska Grisebach  
**Starring:** Andreas Müller, Ilka Welz, Anett Dornbusch  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 88 mins  
**Origin:** Germany 2006  
**By:** British Film Institute

**Longing is simplicity itself – but because it seems so truthful and sincere it has more subtlety than most.**

The new German cinema continues to impress. After the Lives of Others comes Valeska Grisebach's almost minimalist story of a part-time fireman (Andreas Muller) who, though deeply in love with his wife, training weekend and, after a boozy evening, finds himself in bed with a waitress, with no idea how he got there. But...

It is this 'But' which carries the rest of the film... Can anyone truly love two? Grisebach, a former documentary film-maker, conveys the characters' complex emotional responses with extraordinary restraint. Her acute observation of everyday life and the subtle, naturalistic performances from her largely non-professional cast has provoked critical acclaim. Longing is based on a true story which Grisebach heard while visiting a small village in France. For her own research, she conducted 200 street interviews asking people how, as children, they had imagined the future.

She was moved by the sense of longing and loss in what seemed to be well ordered lives. "Sometimes this one life is too small..." (BFI). Again, cancel important things



## Conversations With Other Women

Tue 17 7.30



**It tells the story of a couple whose accidental 'reunion' at a wedding ignites a sexually-charged battle of wits, deeper and more emotionally perilous than either would have predicted.**

As the party haze wears on, their first tentative exchange deepens to reveal the passion of their love twenty years earlier. Escaping to a hotel, they dissect each other's lives over the absent decades - each being 'absolutely right'. Thus creating the humour and pathos of two who can only remember that the other was always wrong. In one radio interview, Helena was happy to go through the whole film in (and out of) the same bridesmaid's frock. Free from endless fittings, she "stayed close" to her character. You decide.

"An intelligent, unconventional story, bringing out the best in its actors. Helena is particularly good in a part that might have seemed gluttonous in other hands. As they circle, we get to know them; unusual from such romantic encounters. No unforced dramatics – with some very truthful moments." (DM. Standard)

The split-screen might get on your nerves. Come, but don't sit together...

**Director:** Hans Canosa  
**Starring:** Aaron Eckhart, Helena Bonham Carter  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 84 mins  
**Origin:** UK/US 2005  
**By:** Revelation Films Ltd



## Jindabyne

Wed 18 &amp; Thu 19 7.30

**Director:** Ray Lawrence**Starring:** Gabriel Byrne, Laura Linney, John Howard, Stelios Yiakmis**Certificate:** 15**Duration:** 123 mins**Origin:** Australia 2007**By:** Revolver Film

A local garage owner (Gabriel Byrne) and his buddies set out on a fishing trip in the Australian bush.

Strolling up river, they discover the body of an Aboriginal woman in the water. Faced with a moral dilemma, they choose to secure her with fishing line and report it when they get home. Too risk understatement, back in town, it's not so easy to shrug off. The main focus switches to Byrne's wife (Laura Linney) who struggles to understand and gradually, to find anything left to love in her husband.

"The periphery of the story might lack focus, but Linney and Byrne are on understated, top form." (*DM. ES*) "Still waters run deep in this exquisite piece of dramatic naturalism" (*Channel 4*)

"A stunning film, impeccably acted... I was on the edge of my seat" (*PB Guardian*)

"It is about the inability of any of us, regardless of gender, to communicate..."

It pains me to say it is about 30 minutes too long. Sad that such a deft and succinct short story should become such hard-going." (*Time Out*) As always you decide... but cancel everything.



## Pirates of the Caribbean III

Fri 20 &amp; Sat 21 7.00

Sun 22 5.00

Tue 24 to Thu 26 7.00



Never mind what the critics say or whether the film makes any sense, or if it's better or worse than the others.

Come for the sheer neglect of substance or plot. Come for Bill Nighy's fish face, Orlando's swash, Keira's fetching frocks, Geoffrey's nose, the wurzel crew, the "Allo poppet" Laurel and Hardy, the whites of Johnny's eyes and his mincing. Come for silly antics and fabulous spectacle on our big screen and above all Keith Richards a Captain Jack's Dad... That's all.

**Director:** Gore Verbinski**Starring:** Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom, Chow Yun-Fat, Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 170 mins**Origin:** USA 2007**By:** Buena Vista International

## Tell No One

Mon 23 7.30

**Directors:** Guillaume Canet, André Dussolier**Starring:** Kristin Thomas, Francois Cluzet, Marie-Josée Croze**Certificate:** 15**Duration:** 131 mins**Origin:** France 2006**By:** Revolver Film

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

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

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

And why does she instruct him to tell no one?

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



## Wild Hogs

Fri 27 7.30

**Chrome won't get you home...****Yet back by very silly demand.**

A mismatched group of suburban, middle-aged failures try big bikes on the freedom of the open road to escape their hum-drum lives.

Inevitably, they find it takes more than gleaming chrome and leather jackets to truly experience the biker lifestyle in this ridiculous but very funny road movie. From the comfort of their couches for the thunderous rumble of two-wheeled street machines, Doug, Woody, Bobby and Dudley cross paths with the notorious Del Fuegos - an authentic biker gang who 'don't take kindly' to 'weekend warriors'. Evocative of such fish-out-of-water comedies as City Slickers and The Out of Towners, with nods to Every Which Way... and Smokie and the Bandit.

Predictably, the quartet discovers new life, love and that terrifying of all American concepts - male bonding. The critics slagged it, as did we, but in the 'no accounting for taste' dept, it sold out, twice in June! So here it is again. Come and chuckle on a warm July, Friday night.

Warning: (*Contains moderate sex references and violence*)

So lock up your (middle-aged) daughters.

**Director:** Walt Becker**Starring:** John Travolta, William Macy, Ray Liotta, Tim Allen, Marisa Tomei, Martin Lawrence**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 99 mins**Origin:** USA 2007**By:** Buena Vista International

## Pretty Woman

Sat 28 7.00

**Director:** Gary Marshall**Starring:** Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Ralph Bellamy, Laura San Giacomo**Certificate:** 15**Duration:** 120 mins**Origin:** USA 1989**By:** Buena Vista International

In Gary Marshall's silly take on Pymalion, she (Julia) discovers a sense of self worth, while he (Dick) discovers his own "core of emotional vulnerability".

We'll never mind all that. You know the story and all you 'Dirty Dancers' who asked for it, better be here to join in the classic chorus.

No please, you must be able to find something better to do on a Saturday night in late July...

Landing in Los Angeles for a week of tortuous negotiation, ruthless self-confident corporate tycoon Edward (Richard Gere) hires eccentric hooker Kit (Julia Roberts) as his disarming escort, wining and dining his opponents while grooming and schooling her in the finer points of a 'better' life.

It was the 'sleeper' hit of 1989 and the film which at a stroke restored Richard Gere to the major league... for a short season, but made Julia into a star.



## Orchestra Seats

Sun 29 6.00



**Back because everyone left smiling, except one, the first time around in May.**

The cheerfulness of this assured comedy is infectious as it moves between three storylines in an upscale Paris neighbourhood at the intersection of Life, Love and Art. Jessica (De France), new in town, becomes a waitress at the chic Bar des Theatres as three major events are about to occur on the same street.

Soap-opera star Catherine (Lemerrier) will open in a Feydeau farce at the theatre next door, celebrated pianist Jean-François (Dupontel) will perform a Beethoven concert and financier Jacques (Brasseur) will auction off his renowned art collection.

Jessica floats between them, becoming part of everyone's life, listening and being there for them, even though she has nowhere to live.

"...there's much to enjoy in esteemed screenwriter Daniele Thompson's latest directorial feature... Charming, if you're in the mood" (*Time Out*)

Come for a bit of Amelie with added Chocolat - sweet, easy and perfectly French.

**Director:** Daniele Thompson**Starring:** Claude Brasseur, Cecile De France, Albert Dupontel, Valérie Lemerrier**Certificate:** 12A**Duration:** 105 mins**Origin:** France 2007**By:** Optimum Releasing

## The Battle of Algiers

Mon 30 7.30



**I remember being moved by this first time round. The hand to hand street fighting and dodging could be from yesterday's TV newreel footage.**

In Pontecorvo's superb restaging of modern colonial history, the actual achievement of Algerian independence is relegated to an epilogue; the focus of the film is limited to 1954-7: the forming and turning of the FLN from an effective guerilla force fighting the French and the eradicating of crime in the Casbah, to initiating bombing campaigns and pushing the escalation of violence and reprisals, pushing the French to send in crack paratroopers under the charismatic leadership of resistance hero, Colonel Mathieu. All at once, tragic, stirring, sometimes harrowing and scrupulously even-handed. But the rhythm and passion of the images alongside Ennio Morricone's thunderous score – leaves you in no doubt about Pontecorvo's political and emotional sympathies. A classic story hope through fighting for what you believe is yours, always forgetting the other side is doing the same. Gaza, The West Bank and Baghdad today. The difference, in 1957 there was one enemy. It wore a uniform, and when the fighting was over, you could go home

**Director:** Gillo Pontecorvo

**Starring:** Brahim Haggiag, Jean Martin, Saadi Yacef, Samia Kerbash, Ugo Paletti, Fusia El Kader, Omar, Mohamed Ben Kassen, Michele Kerbash, Tommaso Neri, Gene Wesson

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 121 mins

**Origin:** Algeria, Italy 1966

**By:** Maiden Voyage

## The Night Of The Sunflowers

Tue 31 7.30

**A real thriller from Spain charting a wrongly accused man's innocence or guilt from the points of view of several characters.** It is the slow death of the beautiful, ancient countryside and its traditions, which forms the foreground and backdrop to this taut classically told story of vengeance and betrayal.

A young girl's body is discovered in a field of sunflowers.

A travelling salesman watches the events unfold on television. In the small village of Angosto the discovery of a prehistoric cave brings excitement and the arrival of a geologist and his fiancée.

A police chief plans his retirement, while his deputy dreams of escaping the boredom of his marriage and his job. Through a series of shocking events, their lives become entangled in a terrible web... Threading through the action of this astonishing thriller is a bitter view of lost rural life.

Fast moving and slow burning all at once.

Definitely not to be missed.

**Director:** Jorge Cabezudo

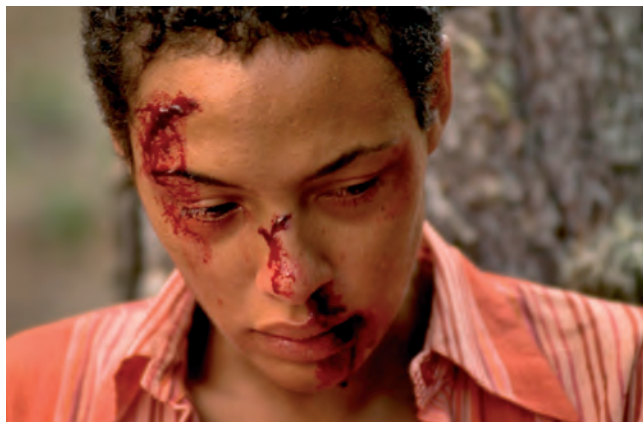
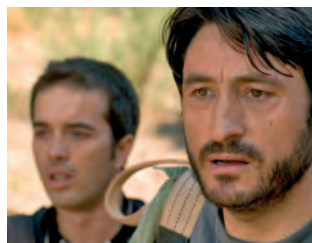
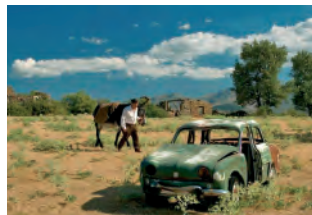
**Starring:** Carmelo Gomez, Judith Diakhate, Celso Bugallo

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 123 mins

**Origin:** Spain 2007

**By:** Yume Pictures





## Coming Soon

### New releases

10 canoes  
La Vie en Rose  
Ocean's 13  
Taking Liberties  
The Blossoming of  
Maximo Oliveros  
Water

### Back by demand

A Very Long Engagement  
Brothers  
Lives of Others  
Tell No One  
Moulin Rouge



## JULY FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

SUN	1	AMAZING GRACE	6.00
MON	2	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	2.00, 7.30
TUE	3	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	12.30
TUE	3	A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	7.30
WED	4	THE QUEEN	2.00
WED	4	GOYA'S GHOST	7.30
THU	5	THE QUEEN	2.00
THU	5	JOE STRUMMER...	7.30
FRI	6	BLADES OF GLORY	7.30
SAT	7	THE BORROWERS	2.00
SAT	7	FRACTURE	7.00
SUN	8	INFAMOUS + Q&A with Toby Jones live	2.00
MON	9	SPIRITED AWAY	2.00
MON	9	AFTER THE WEDDING	7.30
TUE	10	THE BOY FROM MERCURY	12.30
TUE	10	THE PAINTED VEIL	7.30
WED	11	THE PAINTED VEIL	2.00, 7.30
THU	12	BUGSY MALONE	2.00
THU	12	DANS PARIS	7.30
FRI	13	28 WEEKS LATER	7.30
SAT	14	SUPERMAN RETURNS	2.00
SAT	14	28 WEEKS LATER	7.00
SUN	15	PULP FICTION	5.00
MON	16	WATERSHIP DOWN	2.00
MON	16	LONGING	7.30
TUE	17	SPIDERMAN 3	12.30
TUE	17	CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER WOMEN	7.30
WED	18	JINDABYNE	2.00, 7.30
THU	19	THE WIZARD OF OZ	2.00
THU	19	JINDABYNE	7.30
FRI	20	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	7.00
SAT	21	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1.00, 7.00
SUN	22	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	5.00
MON	23	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1.00
MON	23	TELL NO ONE	7.30
TUE	24	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1.00, 7.00
WED	25	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1.00, 7.00
THU	26	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN	1.00, 7.00
FRI	27	WILD HOGS	7.30
SAT	28	BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	2.00
SAT	28	PRETTY WOMAN	7.00
SUN	29	ORCHESTRA SEATS	6.00
MON	30	BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	2.00
MON	30	THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS	7.30
TUE	31	FANTASTIC FOUR	12.30
TUE	31	THE NIGHT OF THE SUNFLOWERS	7.30

## RANTS AND PANTS



Early morning Sweet Peas, Tuesday 12th June

St. Albans... from page 5

Angry and restless, I left as Wattsdown's lawyers rustled their papers ready for the next lesson in professional hunched-backed muffles.

Now weeks later, listening to those I trust to always stay cool, we can't beat-ourselves-up over a question we couldn't answer. The St Alban's Civic Society forced the Inquiry and has made the Council stall demolition for eleven years. They have been courageous, diligent and unerringly optimistic, hard-working and fearsome in mustering public support against those things various interested parties might prefer to be as hushed as their voices. It seemed hopeless. Demolition – inevitable!

Then out of the blue, just as this page was finished (Fri 15 June) - The Inspector's report landed on my desk. Sally opened it and put it in front of me, suggesting, against my remarks, I should shut-up and read it. It read: "Summary of Decision:

The appeal (Wattsdown's to demolish) is dismissed". Wattsdown failed to win their appeal to demolish!!! Had to read it again. Legal, weasel words can trick you. There was no trick. The building will not be demolished - just yet. I wondered if their muttering was heard and found not to say much, or whether he couldn't hear it either, so made up his own mind? Either way, it "is safe" - for the moment.

As you know Tesco has the site opposite. The chances are it has this one too. So it is not over yet. Only a minute ago it was. Now there seems to be hope again. Don't know what the next stage is, but we'll stay close and let you know.

### LITTLE PEACE OF HEAVEN

Busy foyer as people were leaving. I was talking at the door. In the general swell a woman came up and said quietly "Is A Little Piece of Heaven coming... here?"

"I'm not sure... Haven't read about it just yet..." Interrupting, laughing she repeated it a little closer. "No, no – It IS a little piece of heaven, coming here... thank you so much"

*And off she went. As usual, I wasn't quick enough to ask her name... So, if you see this, thank you... and be assured you're not alone. We all feel the same... every day.*

### MATINEES

"Matinees are the best thing you've EVER done, thank you!" Two women, to Holly at The Painted Veil, 2pm 06/06/07.

*I'm so glad. You have the office children to thank - and that man from Hemel who came out on a cold wintry night to tell me. I can't remember what stalled daily matinees. Never mind, they're here now as part of the whole programme and you are welcome. As we're here all day, it doesn't matter how 'compact' the audience, the show will run. Afternoons will show mostly, popular titles from previous programmes, adding new ones where appropriate (sorry about Spiderman). Booking ahead helps us to plan for extra staff, but you are free to just turn up. Sell outs are unlikely in the afternoons. So come, the welcome is always the same... an old man shouting at tiny ushers.*

### SMOKING

Dear James, Congratulations for arranging a Cigar Night at the Rex on 30 June. I have long been stimulated by your thoughtful and challenging

## RANTS AND PANTS

approach to Cinema management and this is one of your most outstanding ideas.

As a child I was brought up in an era of smoking freedom, when both my parents, most adults and quite a few children smoked wherever they liked.

Although I never smoked, I developed my very own smokers cough, and I should like to commemorate your blow (suck?) for freedom by coughing loudly in the quieter parts of any film whenever I visit the Rex, and expectorating on your carpet. Or perhaps you would care to provide dinky little art-deco spittoons at the end of every row? I'm sure you would enjoy emptying and cleaning them at the end of every performance.

Yours in expectoration,  
Scott Shaw

*Not certain Mr Shaw, but it sounds like you're having a wee dig. I grew up in the same way and probably in the same time. But it's not about the smoking, and you know it.*

*The moral high ground loves lies, Mr Shaw. They have had it in for Drink since Victoria (but still haven't got past Mornington Crescent).*

*Now we can't drink outside and can't smoke inside! What freedom lost - never in our lifetime to be returned? British licensing laws came into being in 1916, to stop women munitions workers getting 'pie-eyed' between shifts. It lasted to the end of the millenium. Soldiers dying or about to be executed were given a swig of grog and a last cigarette. What would they be offered now - a ribena and an After Eight?*

*No, freshly squeezed cranberry and*

*a slice of carrot cake - sugar and chocolate are bad for you.*

*This is the same democracy which is offering new gambling licences to huge (American) casinos. The same democracy which approves new runways across once beautiful green-belt to transport lumps on cheap flights to once beautiful places. The same democracy which has no idea how to improve education, make hospitals safe or prevent increasing violence. The same democracy which lied to its own Nation so it could "legally" invade a foreign country...*

*Make your own dismal list.*

*But remember - nobody voted for any of this. Lies are no longer in small-print. They're now big, bold and unashamed.*

*We have been given big red Nosmo*

*King warning signs to display.*

*Didn't they send them to a cathedral? It's costing (criminally wasted) millions.*

*It is now Law. So we don't need signs. The Rex is a public auditorium. Smoking was banned from such places years ago, without the need for big red signs.*

*Hence, I would want to display warning signs for: No Murdering, No Robbing, No Beating your Wife with a Stick Thicker than the Girth of your Own Thumb, Coverting your Neighbour's Ass, etc.*

*So glad our "thoughtful and challenging approach to Cinema management" stimulates you.*

*It seems to have the same effect on over 2000 people a week.*

*Please spit as much as like, Mr Shaw. We'll clean it up.*

Candles,  
fairtrade duvet sets,  
tablecloths & soap, tea,  
coffee, delicious homemade  
cakes, lampshades, Indian cabinets,  
free range eggs, local honey, bags,  
mirrors, shaving boxes, tea light holders,  
joss sticks, homemade jam, photo albums,  
journals, curios, fairtrade silk dressing  
gowns, cushion covers, jewellery wraps &  
purses, pictures, copper kettles,  
greetings cards, jewellery, door  
knobs, hooks, bowls, lamps,  
rugs, cd's, pictures, tribal  
crafts, carvings, peace  
and quiet...

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