

# THE-REX

M A G A Z I N E

**JUNE 2007 ISSUE 27**

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



SUNSHINE

IN JUNE...

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

THE-REX

BOOKINGS &  
INFORMATION

**01442 877759**

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

<b>June Matinees</b>	<b>9-14</b>
<b>June Evenings</b>	<b>15-25</b>
<b>Gallery</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Coming Soon</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>June 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>Jo Littlejohn</b>
<b>Katie Anderson</b>	<b>Bethany McKay</b>
<b>Emily Doyle</b>	<b>Linda Moss</b>
<b>Christine 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>
<b>Eva Jaurena</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)



*Greg (kneeling left) has left for the big wide world. We wish him well.*

**REPEATS**

“Your arse is on fire” has been a family expression for generations. It refers to the glazing over when somebody has clearly stopped listening, shut off, gone to the ‘other side’ or fallen into a deep coma. I’ll leave you to imagine why it remains a living expression in my social circles.

It should punctuate the magazine Intro and with anything important to be said, every other sentence.

**To repeat from May’s Intro...**

“Our prices are fair and you will never be treated like a captive audience... No theatre in the West End or locally gives refunds. In many places, even being late, forfeits your right to get in – with no refund... As for money and tickets, take your chances with what we have created in the spirit of what has been created. And if someone lets you down, why not ask them for the seven quid?

And no – it won’t be going to charity. You have 48 hours or a sudden difficulty to claim a replacement voucher (‘sudden’ and ‘difficulty’ is our judgement.

‘Forgot and traffic’ don’t count)...” One night in May a tall healthy young man asked about a refund for a show he’d forgotten about - the week before! Though I have increasing sympathy for poor memory, it doesn’t stretch to paying

for it. But thank you for asking. An early morning call-service might be in order.

**CIGAR NIGHT**

So sorry to write anonymously. I fear for my safety if I reveal my identity. I will be castigated and verbally abused for falling into the category of smokers, fatties and boozers. In other words, a mere mortal who is less than perfect. So – where is the beloved ‘addicts ash can’? It was absent from the balcony at the entrance last week. I was forced to stand in the street like a common whore! I do hope this is not a sign that you are becoming PC. Whatever happened to the iconoclast we all know and love? Anony-mouse

*Sorry Ms mouse, that we made you feel so lowly. We had to remove the ash can because it kept catching fire. Though it started with two bags of sand and was clearly marked for cigarette butts only, it soon became a general bin, with fag packets, crisp wrappers and discarded programmes. However as the evenings have become lighter and jugs of Spring flowers have appeared on the table, we have replaced the can with desecrated white ashtrays. Your disgraceful treatment at our hands, for which I apologise most profoundly, must have been during this transition. Thus with*

*you and many others in mind, we will mark Saturday 30 June (the last day people can smoke inside – anywhere!) with a little defiance of our own. We will be giving out cigars and roll-ups in the foyer, inviting you to light up with us. It is Wild Hogs that night so a spot of middle-aged rebellion should fit in well. This whole smoking ban is a vote winner. I can understand how the anti-smoking lobby has grown and why smoke upsets so many. However, remember it is a ploy. It is the moral high-ground. It is a further liberty removed. It is control disguised as care. It is that simple, plain or tipped.*

### YOU ROCK...

When kids on skateboards clatter to a halt down the hill to tell me the Rex “rocks”, it doesn’t get any better.

### INTERNET

There will never be on-line bookings. You’ll get used to it if you think of us as old-fashioned and stubborn. Isn’t it nice to be reminded of what life was like before. Manners seemed better then too. I don’t even know what our website looks like, and at the risk of insulting all that technology, I care even less.

We publish 15,000 mag/programmes every month. They all go. This, in marketing terms suggests a readership of at least 30,000. At the risk of gloating, this is phenomenal in any terms and a publisher’s wettest dream. I’m aware we can reach millions more via the web. Early 2005 on hearing, for the first time, of the thousands of ‘hits’ the office children got very over-excited. Now they use the internet, mainly for shoes, frocks, pictures of themselves and to titter at film-star cellulite. Besides who needs millions when there’s only 300 seats?



Sunrise 10th May 2007



### DON'T BUY A HOUSE NEAR A TREE...

Don't buy a house near a tree - if you don't like trees. In fact if you don't like trees have you thought about a place in the desert or Peckham. When you buy next to a pub you must know what to expect. In theory you can't complain, but of course you do. Trees are quieter than pubs but they grow - with all those nuisance leaf things attached. There is a magnificent London plane tree standing guard over the Rex. It was probably planted more than forty years ago and remains healthy and in full leaf. It has witnessed the bingo, the closure and watched over our resoration. Now it stands proud over a building that befits its standing. I hope and trust it will be remain a majestic presence in the High St for many new generations.





# J U N E   M A T I N E E S

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

## Charlotte's Web

Sat 2 2.00

**Director:** Gary Winick

**Starring:** Julia Roberts, Dakota Fanning, Oprah Winfrey, Steve Buscemi, Robert Redford, John Cleese

**Certificate:** U

**Duration:** 97 mins

**Origin:** USA 2006

**By:** Paramount International Pictures

Talking animals and cheesy humans make play for your heartstrings. "E. B. White's much-loved children's classic reaches the big screen in director Gary Winick's charming combination of live action and animation.

Wilbur the pig is scared of the end of the season, because he knows that is when he will end up on the dinner table. He hatches a plan with Charlotte, a kindly spider who lives in his pen, to ensure that this will never happen. Enlisting an all-star cast of vocal talents (including Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi and John Cleese) alongside Dakota Fanning, Winick brings a classic children's story to life for a whole new generation..." (*City Screen*) Ho-hum. Suffer your children to such gloom if you must, I'm off stalking pigs and thwacking spiders... According to the children in the box-office, who are sadly able to name, AND describe, all the Ninja Turtles, you'll love it! We'll see...



## Black Book

Mon 4 2.00



Screening to great acclaim at Venice and London Festivals, **BLACK BOOK** is Verhoeven's first film in 20 years to be made in his native Dutch homeland. A fast-moving and heart-racing World-War-II drama, it has all the high production values and slickness of Verhoeven's Hollywood movies with the added intelligence of his earlier European films. Set in German-occupied Holland toward the end of the War, the film follows the fortunes of Rachel (van Houten), a young Jewish woman, whose attempts to conceal her identity to escape the Nazis lead her to join the Resistance before she embarks on a perilous affair with a German Officer.

"Epic in scale, the film excels in capturing the war action while remaining a drama of emotional integrity..." "Verhoeven's "flesh and blood" approach to film-making makes a welcome comeback in this rousing Dutch war saga... Subtle it ain't, but there's never a dull moment" (*The Guardian*) Back by great demand after a first showing in March. Absolutely breathless with a million twists and turns, and brilliant casting. You must not miss.

**Director:** Paul Verhoeven

**Starring:** Halina Reijn

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 146 mins

**Origin:** Netherlands 2006

**By:** Tartan Films

## World's Fastest Indian

Tue 5 12.30

**Director:** Roger Donaldson

**Starring:** Anthony Hopkins, Chris Lawford, Annie Whittle

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 127 mins

**Origin:** USA 2005

**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Since we re-opened over two years ago, this, alongside *Little Miss Sunshine* has created the 'happiest' of audiences. Everyone leaves smiling, through a few tears.

It is a true gem. Everyone who has seen it, young, old and children; easy-going or miserable have loved this film. It is almost faultless, it even sidesteps oily sentimentality. Therefore, perfect.

Hopkins describes it as his best work. It is an inspiring, real-life drama about an old man's stubborn refusal to give up. In 1967, after a lifetime perfecting his vintage 'Indian' racing bike, New Zealander Burt Munro journeys to Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats to attempt a new world land-speed record. He charms everyone in his way.

Old-age, a healthy contempt for too many safety standards, a 'dickie ticker', and even the failure to register for the competition, do not beat him.

Come, it is not about motorbikes or speed. It is about hope, love, gentleness, undying optimism and all things in between.



## The Painted Veil

**Wed 6 2.00**

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Thu 7 2.00**



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

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

"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)

"...an absorbing study of love in all its colours, from passion to rage, heartache to ecstasy... Toby Jones has some fun as a dissipated British official who has gone native, and Diana Rigg does a camp turn as a nun." (*Time Out*)

**Director:** John Curran

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

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 125 mins

**Origin:** China, USA 2006

**By:** Momentum Pictures

## The Last Mimzy

**Sat 9 2.00**

**Director:** Robert Shaye

**Starring:** Michael Clarke Duncan, Joely Richardson, Timothy Hutton, Rhiannon Wryn, Chris O'Neil

**Certificate:** PG

**Duration:** 96 mins

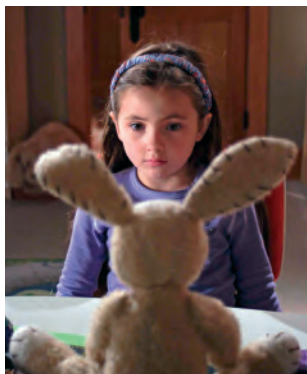
**Origin:** USA 2007

**By:** Entertainment Film

**The Mimzy in question is a well-travelled toy bunny found in a box containing mysterious objects that turns up floating behind a family's waterfront holiday home in Seattle.**

Noah (O'Neil) and Emma (Wryn) soon discover that playing with the newfound objects has an astonishing effect on their intelligence levels. It's a development that doesn't go unnoticed by Noah's teacher, who detects a higher purpose in the boy's complex geometric doodles that bear an eerie resemblance to ancient configurations. Emma, meanwhile, begins to pick up telepathically Mimzy's warnings about the survival of the inhabitants of the future and she has to act quickly before special government agent Nathaniel Boardman (Michael Clarke Duncan), who is investigating the source of a citywide blackout, gets to her.

A great edge-of-the-seat children's tale. I think, even your Mum, Dad and Grandparents will be glad you dragged them along.



## The Chorus

**Mon 11 2.00**

**Tue 12 12.30**



**This beautiful piece of French film-making returns as part of the summer's back catalogue.**

As a new teacher arrives at a school for disruptive boys, he sets about changing their lives for the better through the redemptive power of music. A huge success in its native France and its new adoptive home - The Rex, *The Chorus* is a genuinely heart-warming tale of the positive effect an inspirational teacher can have on a group of Abandoned and stranded children.

With the glorious music of Jean-Phillipe Rameau at its heart, it is not only a beautiful and warm film to cherish, but a celebration of the universal language of music.

Director, Barratier manages to draw naturalistic performances from his youthful cast while Jugnot brings great warmth and humour to his role as the odd-man-out teacher.

Their faces will start you, their voices will do the rest. Heart warming and breaking all at once.

**Director:** Christophe Barratier

**Starring:** François Berléand, Gérard Jugnot, Jacques Perrin, Jean-Baptiste Maunier

**Certificate:** 12A

**Duration:** 90 mins

**Origin:** France 2005

**By:** Pathe Distribution

## Lives of Others

Wed 13 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



**This remarkably assured first feature from von Donnersmarck paints a dark picture of life under the Communist regime in East Germany.** Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid-'80s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate, by means of surveillance, 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. So it is back by overwhelming demand (even before anyone has seen it!). Cancel important things.

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

## Spiderman III

Thu 14, Sat 16 2.00

**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

**I didn't get all this Spider-man stuff about it being the best of the superpants heroes.**

That overused 'dark/darker/darkest' is yet another word they won't be saying next year, it'll be 'melia' for trendy pundits by then. Aren't they just fantastic wham bam comicstrip yarns? As for Tobey Maguire, has there ever been such a blank, unmemorable, Hollywood face?

"Your neighbourhood web-slinger is back, only this time his sunny outlook has become overcast and we discover a darker (there) side to Spider-Man." The yarn: Peter Parker (Maguire) has finally found the balance he's longed for between his love for Mary Jane Watson (Dunst) and his responsibilities as Spider-Man. But everything Parker has ever wanted is about to unravel. An escaping prisoner, Flint 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. "Featuring other dastardly new villains (the dreaded Venom Chief amongst them), this is undoubtedly the biggest and the best in the series."



## Amazing Grace

Mon 18 2.00

Tue 19 12.30

Wed 20 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



**"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 resisted 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) ???

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



## Fracture

Thu 21 2.00

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

A meticulously sharp minded structural 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 all...

"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 (Rosamund Pike) at the firm poaching him. This makes Fracture too long for it's own good and the confrontation between the killer and his hopeful nemesis is far less powerful than it might have been. If they had taken out the extraneous matter and come in at about 90 mins, this could have been a contemporary film noir of some note. The dross, however, leaves it limp..." (Time Out) Never mind the crits come for a titanic show of old master pitted against the new kid on the block – in every respect, as characters and uncompromising individuals and actors – plus the bonus of twists and turns right up to the exhilarating final reel.



## Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Sat 23 2.00



Eastman and Laird's "heroes in a half-shell" return to defend the world against a 3,000 year interstellar threat... Watch out there are turtles about...!

The stars have aligned in an ominous sign. As a legion of malevolent monsters descends upon New York City, the only thing between mankind and certain destruction stands four wisecracking turtles into martial arts and pizza!

This computer-animated action comedy marks the final film role of Japanese screen legend Mako - here the voice of the eternal-wise Master Splinter.

Your 'half shell heroes' are all here, in glorious 2007 CGI... and very funny. Leonardo - conscientious leader (blue). Raphael – cool anti-hero (red) Donatello - scientific and technical genius (purple). Michelangelo - pizza-loving dude (orange). Master Splinter – sensei (ninja master) and adoptive father of the turtles. April – tv news reporter sidekick in a snazzy yellow outfit! Shredder – THE ENEMY...but sadly supposed dead...???

Never mind, there'll be more 25yr olds in the audience than tinys. Come and see how not to behave when you grow up...!

**Director:** Kevin Munroe  
**Starring:** Sarah Michelle Gellar, Patrick Stewart, Chris Evans, Mako  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 87 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Warner Brothers

## Away from Her

Mon 25 2.00  
 Tue 26 12.30

**Director:** Sarah Polley  
**Starring:** Julie Christie, Michael Murphy, Gordon Pinsent, Olympia Dukakis  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 109 mins  
**Origin:** Canada 2007  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors

The actress Sarah Polley's directorial debut is an intelligent and insightful affair. Adapted from a short story by Alice Munro, it is a New Yorker short story through and through - all quiet lyricism and emotional restraint (as was Brokeback Mountain).

This intimate drama concerns Grant (Pinsent) and Fiona (Christie), a long-married couple in their golden years, who are much in love and connected to one another on every level. When Fiona's memory begins to slip and she insists on being put into care, torrents of guilt and regret are stirred up. To make matters worse, one seemingly well-meaning but awful decision at the home/ asylum turns all their lives upside down... But he is determined to support his wife, even at the expense of his own peace of mind.

"This is a brave work that tackles an uncomfortable subject with dignity and respect" "...it avoids all the clichés and high drama of films about old folks in love and succumbing to illness. There's no tugging at heartstrings, but seems inaccurate as a portrayal of this illness..."

"Julie Christie, has seldom been better... through her, small glimpses of awareness are snuffed out, little by little..." (mixed crits)

As always you decide, but don't miss.





## Mon meilleur ami (My Best Friend)

**Wed 27 2.00**

*Matinee Warning: May contain babies*

**Thu 28 2.00**

**Director:** Patrice Leconte  
**Starring:** Daniel Auteuil, Julie Gayet, Dany Boon  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

**"The buddy is missing...!" François (Auteuil) is a middle-aged antique dealer.**

He's got a stylish apartment and a fabulous life, but at a dinner with a group he considers his dearest acquaintances, he is blindsided by the revelation that none of them actually like him. When his business partner challenges him to produce his best friend, François naively tears through his address book, trying to shoehorn an increasingly unlikely series of contacts into the all-important role. A chance encounter with a chatty, lowbrow cabbie, who possesses great finesse in interpersonal skills, may prove to be François' salvation as Leconte expertly squeezes pathos and sensitivity from instances of human folly and dysfunction.

*Warning: Contains strong language – French...*

Please don't get this mixed up with The Family Friend on Mon 18th.

## Wild Hogs

**Fri 29 2.00**



**Chrome won't get you home...**

A mismatched group of bored suburbanites longing to escape the stress of their daily lives and embrace the freedom of the open road find that it takes more than polished chrome and leather jackets to truly experience the biker lifestyle in this revved-up road comedy.

Upon trading the comfort of the couches for the thunderous rumble of their 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 the weekend warrior type. 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 discover a lot about life, love and friendship. Wouldn't you know it The critics have slagged it, as have we.

Never mind. Consider the sheer indulgence of some big names bowing to the 'sacred' old ground of 1970's tosh, for which only Clint and Burt are firmly to blame.

## The Dark Crystal

**Sat 30 2.00**

**Director:** Frank Oz, Jim Henson  
**Starring:** Dave Goelz, Jim Henson, Kathryn Mullen  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 93 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1982  
**By:** United International Pictures

**Despite its U certificate, its not recommended for under twelves, or children worried about nightmares.**

Jim Henson's animatronic cult fantasy movie is visually stunning and a triumph of the imagination. Another planet, another time. One thousand years ago the Dark Crystal was damaged by one of the Urskeks and an age of chaos began. Now the time of the great conjunction of the three suns is near. If the crystal is not healed now the control of the evil Skekses will last forever.

Jen, the last of the Gelfings nearly exterminated by monsters controlled by the Skekses, starts his perilous journey to find the missing shard of the Crystal.

"Dessicated, clawing villains feasting on rotting food in a castle as unprepossessing as the crashed spaceship in ALIEN, have a splendour that is almost operatic" (Time Out) a perfect assurance that critics chew grass.

So a sure thing for tiny kids then!



**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





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

# Sunshine

**Fri 1 7.30, Sat 2 7.00, Sun 3 6.00**

**Danny Boyle has come a long way since *Trainspotting*, as has his latest (28 Day) muse Cillian Murphy, with breathtaking performances in *Breakfast On Pluto* and *The Wind that Shakes The Barley*.**

The yarn: As the sun begins to dim along with humankind's hope for a future, it's up to a crew of eight astronauts to reach the dying star and re-ignite the fire that will bring life back to Earth in this tense, psychological sci-fi thriller that re-teams 28 Days Later director Boyle with writer Alex Garland.

Though the encroaching darkness at first seemed unstoppable, scientists have concocted a last-ditch plan to buy the human race a temporary reprieve from a grim future.

The astronauts are given a device designed to literally re-ignite the sun and are sent on the most crucial space mission ever attempted. However, the crew lose radio contact and find themselves not only struggling for their lives, but for their sanity as well.

"Like sci-fi epics of the past, this dazzling space thriller brings into focus the difficult questions of our age, as much as the possibilities of the future'.

*(Philip French, Observer)*

"...a beautiful-looking new space adventure....with stunning sequences and gobsmacking Nasa-graphic visuals... Superbly photographed, it is a thrilling and sensual spectacle... I loved *Sunshine* for its radical proposal that humans can and will do something about a catastrophe..." *(Peter Bradshaw,*

*Guardian)* Oh yeah, is that in the causing or rescuing dept?

**Director:** Danny Boyle

**Starring:** Cillian Murphy, Michelle Yeoh, Rose Byrne, Chris Evans

**Certificate:** 15

**Duration:** 146 mins

**Origin:** UK 2007

**By:** Twentieth Century Fox





## Black Book

Mon 4 7.30



Screening to great acclaim at Venice and London Festivals, **BLACK BOOK** is Verhoeven's first film in 20 years to be made in his native Dutch homeland. A fast-moving and heart-racing World-War-II drama, it has all the high production values and slickness of Verhoeven's Hollywood movies with the added intelligence of his earlier European films. Set in German-occupied Holland toward the end of the War, the film follows the fortunes of Rachel (van Houten), a young Jewish woman, whose attempts to conceal her identity to escape the Nazis lead her to join the Resistance before she embarks on a perilous affair with a German Officer. "Epic in scale, the film excels in capturing the war action while remaining a drama of emotional integrity..." "Verhoeven's "flesh and blood" approach to film-making makes a welcome comeback in this rousing Dutch war saga...Subtle it ain't, but there's never a dull moment" (*The Guardian*) Back by great demand after a first showing in March. Absolutely breathless with a million twists and turns, and brilliant casting. You must not miss.

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**Starring:** Halina Reijn  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 146 mins  
**Origin:** Netherlands 2006  
**By:** Tartan Films

## World's Fastest Indian

Tue 5 7.30

**Director:** Roger Donaldson  
**Starring:** Anthony Hopkins, Chris Lawford, Annie Whittle  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 127 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2005  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

Since we re-opened over two years ago, this, alongside *Little Miss Sunshine* has created the 'happiest' of audiences. Everyone leaves smiling, through a few tears. It is a true gem. Everyone who has seen it, young, old and children; easy-going or miserable have loved this film. It is almost faultless, it even sidesteps oily sentimentality. Therefore, perfect. Hopkins describes it as his best work. It is an inspiring, real-life drama about an old man's stubborn refusal to give up. In 1967, after a lifetime perfecting his vintage 'Indian' racing bike, New Zealander Burt Munro journeys to Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats to attempt a new world land-speed record. He charms everyone in his way. Old-age, a healthy contempt for too many safety standards, a 'dickie ticker', and even the failure to register for the competition, do not beat him. Come, it is not about motorbikes or speed. It is about hope, love, gentleness, undying optimism and all things in between.



## The Painted Veil

Wed 6, Thu 7 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 her with him to a village stricken with a cholera! The daily trials of living in appalling conditions have a striking impact upon them... "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) "...an absorbing study of love in all its colours, from passion to rage, heartache to ecstasy... Toby Jones has some fun as a dissipated British official who has gone native, and Diana Rigg does a camp turn as a nun." (*Time Out*)

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

# Alpha Dog

Fri 8 7.30



**A drug dealer moves on to bigger crimes in an effort to settle a score with disastrous results in this true-life drama.**

Based on the story of Jesse James Hollywood, who at the age of 21 became one of the youngest people ever to appear on the FBI's 'Most Wanted' list, ALPHA DOG recalls the best work of Larry Clark, offering a sobering glimpse of the American underbelly.

"Alpha Dog is admittedly uneven and too long for comfort, awkwardly mixing up documentary and fictional footage. However, its originality lies in the fact that it depicts white middle-class kids on the loose, calling their women bitches and listening endlessly to violent, misogynist and homophobic black rap.

Cassavetes (son of John), apparently a worried parent himself, shows surprisingly little sympathy for his subjects, even though he gets holding performances from them. They include Bruce Willis, Sharon Stone and Lukas Haas – who do everything they can by way of veracity..."

"...be assured Justin Timberlake gives a surprisingly strong, edgy performance as Hirsch best pal... and when its good, it is very good indeed..." (*mixed crits*)



**Director:** Nick Cassavetes  
**Starring:** Emile Hirsch, Sharon Stone, Bruce Willis, Justin Timberlake  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Icon Film Distribution Ltd

## Casino Royale

Sat 9 7.00

**Director:** Martin Campbell  
**Starring:** Daniel Craig, Dame Judi Dench, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Mads Mikklesen  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 145 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Sony Pictures Releasing

**There are three good things about this Bond.**

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 nethers bashing scene. Prepare to wince.

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

3. Daniel Craig. (the swagger, the pecs and the trunks..)

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.

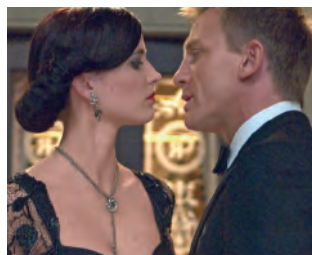
In fact it is the old one – Fleming's original creation. Albeit a lightweight book written in a few days in 1952, ten years later it captured the new 'spirit' of the emerging 1960's.

Bond will never be the same.

Sean delivered killer-instinct.

Daniel oozes it.

Welcome to Coldfinger...



# Godfather II

Sun 10 4.00

A rare instance of a sequel being more talked about than its predecessor, *Godfather Part 2* even won the Oscar in 1975.

A brooding epic, it traces the life of Vito Corleone from his childhood escape from Sicily to America, and his accidental rise to Don Corleone - the Godfather. Trapped in the immigrant slums of New York in the early years of the century, he climbs out to defend his family through his wits and fearlessness.

He even returns to Sicily to revenge the slaying of his own parents. In the original, Coppola built climax upon cross-cutting, a technique applied here throughout the entire film as the story moves back and forth on a shifting time scale.

Pacino's melancholy in defending his interests before senate investigations and eliminating rivals gets worse as he disowns his wife and 'loses' his brother to his crumbling empire. Whereas the the fortunes of his father (De Niro) offer real hope in an uncertain future - rags to riches with family at its core.

There could have been no better young Vito than DeNiro to jigsaw so beautifully into Brando. Pacino is at his first and very best as the ever more despicable Michael - before he started 'acting' with his eyebrows.

**Director:** Francis Coppola  
**Starring:** Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, James Caan  
**Certificate:** 18  
**Duration:** 200 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1974  
**By:** Paramount International Pictures



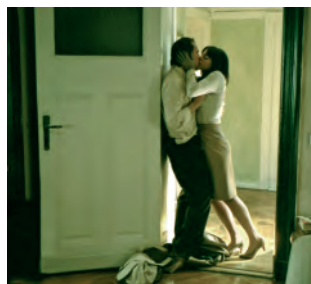
## The Lives of Others

Mon 11, Tue 12  
 Wed 13 7.30

**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 East Germany. Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid-'80s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate, by means of surveillance, the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife. Unfortunately she has the fat, gargoye 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. So it is back by overwhelming demand (even before anyone has seen it!). Cancel important things.





# Spiderman III

Thu 14 7.30, Fri 15 7.30, Sat 16 7.00

**I didn't get all this Spider-man stuff about it being the best of the superpants heroes.**

That overused 'dark/darker/darkest' is yet another word they won't be saying next year, it'll be 'melia' for trendy pundits by then. Aren't they just fantastic wham bam comicstrip yarns? As for Tobey Maguire, has there ever been such a blank, unmemorable, Hollywood face?

"Your neighbourhood web-slinger is back, only this time his sunny outlook has become overcast and we discover a darker (there) side to Spider-Man."

The yarn: Peter Parker (Maguire) has finally found the balance he's longed for between his love for Mary Jane Watson (Dunst) and his responsibilities as Spider-Man. But everything Parker has ever wanted is about to unravel. An escaping prisoner, Flint 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. "Featuring other dastardly new villains (the dreaded Venom Chief amongst them), this is undoubtedly the biggest and the best in the series."

"The good news is that this pacey, rainbow-coloured blockbuster works both as filler and finale. It's easily the best of the trilogy and, for my money, one of the most enjoyable films of the decade...The villains are well-rounded...Thomas Haden Church has a great, Depression era face and his transformation into The Sandman is spectacularly beautiful – the creature is like a Henry Moore sculpture." (*Evening Standard*) Never mind all that baloney 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



## Jazz on a Summers Day

Sat 17 6.00

**Director:** Bart Stern  
**Starring:** Louis Armstrong,  
 Dinah Washington, Thelonious  
 Monk, Mahalia Jackson  
**Certificate:** U  
**Duration:** 86 mins  
**Origin:** USA 1959  
**By:** Contemporary Films

**A Peter Clark Film. A friend. Died 2002. He would love this on this screen.**

Forget the music – come for the crowd. It has some of the best lingering shots of real faces you will ever see at a gig. They'll be old or dead by now – but then they were the hippest faces in the world. (There are no flags, mugging to camera or V signs). They look as fresh as tomorrow.

Strange how time warps itself into peculiar repetition where the old seems familiar, even new; while last year's Glastonbury, looks old and tired. This fabulous documentary of the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival is popularly hailed as the first and one of the finest and most influential live recordings ever to be filmed.

A who's who of jazz and rock giants make up the legendary line-up. Bart Stern's deft, economical style captures them in all their glory and more.

He creates a serene atmosphere, with no tricks. Come and see a young Chuck Berry, Mahalia Jackson, Louis Armstrong and the gorgeous Anita O'Day in those gloves and hat ... in broad daylight, unfussed.



## L'amico di famiglia (The Family Friend)

Mon 18 7.30



**A highly original, gripping and occasionally grotesque suspense drama, this film intensely explores extreme emotions whilst playing out a clever confidence-trick crime plot.** In a small town, a very unpleasant, ageing loan shark, living with his mother and ugly in every way, is undone by greed and his fatal attraction to a beautiful young woman. The film manages to use its small-town setting and gallery of idiosyncratic characters to considerable effect. Visually rich, its tragi-comic tone and almost surreal atmosphere recalls Fellini but the distinctive direction and contemporary style confirm filmmaker Sorrentino - to blame for *The Consequences Of Love* - as a major talent in his own right. Further, the luminous cinematography by Luca Bigazzi is gorgeous, as is Teho Teardo's mixey score. This is here by request, thus it would be churlish to miss. "...insistently stylish (both visually and aurally) ...the work of an ambitious, audacious and unusually gifted filmmaker" (*Time Out*) Not to be confused with *My Best Friend* (France) 27&28th

**Director:** Paolo Sorrentino  
**Starring:** Laura Chiatti, Fabrizio  
 Bentivoglio, Giacomo Rizzo  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 103mins  
**Origin:** Italy 2007  
**By:** Artificial Eye

## Amazing Grace

Tue 19 7.30

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

**"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 resisted 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) ???



# Half Nelson

**Wed 20 7.30**

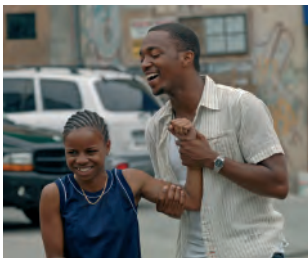
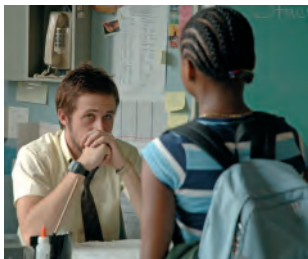
**This striking film sidesteps the pitfalls of the classroom drama.**

Dan Dunne (Gosling) teaches History in a Brooklyn junior high, where his deviation from the curriculum makes him more popular with his students than with the principal. Sharp and engaging in class, Dan numbs his life outside school with drink, drugs and joyless sex. A beautifully understated performance from Epps as the old head on vulnerable young shoulders, and Gosling's heartbreaking idealist hell-bent on self destruction, carry the whole film.

"If Gosling paints the teacher in very human terms, without stinting on the perils of drug-taking and the personality changes it affects, the small, solemn, round-faced Epps gives her part a similar authenticity, never playing for sympathy or sentiment".

"The performances make it, as much from the director as the cast themselves. Half Nelson is a slice of American life that consistently rings true. It is much better than your average Hollywood message movie on the subject of deprived schoolchildren where big stars grandstand as inspired teachers. Gosling, may well become a big star. But there's no grandstanding here at all..." (DM Standard 19 April). Come.

**Director:** Ryan Fleck  
**Starring:** Anthony Mackie, Ryan Gosling, Shareeka Epps  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 107 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2006  
**By:** Axiom Films



# Fracture

**Thu 21 7.30**

**A meticulously sharp minded structural 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 all...!

"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 (Rosamund Pike) at the firm poaching him.

This makes Fracture too long for it's own good and the confrontation between the killer and his hopeful nemesis is far less powerful than it might have been. If they had taken out the extraneous matter and come in at about 90 mins, this could have been a contemporary film noir of some note. The dross, however, leaves it limp..." (Time Out) Never mind the crits come for a titanic show of old master pitted against the new kid on the block – in every respect, as characters and uncompromising individuals and actors - plus the bonus of twists and turns right up to the exhilarating final reel.







**Director:** David Fincher  
**Starring:** Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr., Mark Ruffalo, Chloe Sevigny, Anthony Edwards  
**Certificate:** 15  
**Duration:** 158 mins  
**Origin:** USA 2007  
**By:** Warners

# Zodiac

**Fri 22 7.30**  
**Sat 23 7.00**  
**Sun 24 6.00**

**Yer Fight Club man, Fincher is back with more fighting-talk in this true (Hollywood 'true') story of murder and manipulation.**

If it is true, it is certainly stranger (and better) than fiction. Be assured the ifs-and-whens of 'true' will be written large on-screen. Apparently it has perplexed scholars for years.

This is all you need to know. It comes to the screen in chilling detail. Think more thriller than blood and you'll be fine.

A relentless killer is stalking the streets of San Francisco, leaving the city in a state of panic.

The authorities are baffled by ciphers and menacing letters left at every scene. Four detectives take him on.

But wait... he might be cleverer? Might he take control from under their noses - not only of the killings but of their own lives too...?

The tone is edge-of-seat stuff, with the big and little names carrying the tension flawlessly.

Might it not be Dirty Harry coming true? If so, then not only can you bet the killer was a fan, but that 'advertising works'. Columbine, Dunblane and the latest American High School killing-spree?

Thank heavens for Playstation, Eastenders, Reality TV and tabloid-stirring bollocks.



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



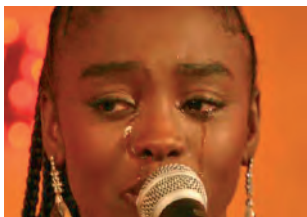
# Bamako

**Mon 25 7.30**

**This is an unusual and original take on literally taking the law into your own hands.**

In a poor area of Bamako, a court is set up in the yard of a house. On trial are the World Bank and the IMF, who are facing proceedings brought against them by African civil society. Their disastrous policies, including wasting almost £10 billion annually on debt service, have brought most African countries to their knees in extreme poverty and unpayable debt. Witnesses for the plaintiff include a farmer, an unemployed teacher and the former Malian Minister of Culture. As the courtroom drama unfolds, life goes on in and around the courtyard: women fetch water, children play football and a wedding is taking place. "Beautifully photographed by Jacques Besse, BAMAKO proves beyond doubt that Sissako is one of the most distinctive directors now working in Africa..." Don't miss.

**Director:** Abderrahmane Sissako  
**Starring:** Aïssa Maïga, Maimouna Diarra  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Duration:** 117 mins  
**Origin:** Mali 2007  
**By:** Artificial Eye



# Away from Her

**Tue 26 7.30**



**The actress Sarah Polley's directorial debut is an intelligent and insightful affair.** Adapted from a short story by Alice Munro, it is a New Yorker short story through and through - all quiet lyricism and emotional restraint (as was *Brokeback Mountain*). This intimate drama concerns Grant (Pinsent) and Fiona (Christie), a long-married couple in their golden years, who are much in love and connected to one another on every level. When Fiona's memory begins to slip and she insists on being put into care, torrents of guilt and regret are stirred up. To make matters worse, one seemingly well-meaning but awful decision at the home/ asylum turns all their lives upside down... But he is determined to support his wife, even at the expense of his own peace of mind. "This is a brave work that tackles an uncomfortable subject with dignity and respect" "...it avoids all the clichés and high drama of films about old folks in love and succumbing to illness. There's no tugging at heartstrings, but seems inaccurate as a portrayal of this illness..." "Julie Christie, has seldom been better... through her, small glimpses of awareness are snuffed out, little by little..." (*mixed crits*) As always you decide, but don't miss.



**Director:** Sarah Polley  
**Starring:** Julie Christie, Michael Murphy, Gordon Pinsent, Olympia Dukakis  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 109 mins  
**Origin:** Canada 2007  
**By:** Metrodome Distributors

## Mon meilleur ami (My Best Friend)

Wed 27, Thu 28 7.30



**"The buddy is missing...!"**

**François (Auteuil) is a middle-aged antique dealer.**

He's got a stylish apartment and a fabulous life, but at a dinner with a group he considers his dearest acquaintances, he is blindsided by the revelation that none of them actually like him. When his business partner challenges him to produce his best friend, François naively tears through his address book, trying to shoehorn an increasingly unlikely series of contacts into the all-important role. A chance encounter with a chatty, lowbrow cabby, who possesses great finesse in interpersonal skills, may prove to be François' salvation as Leconte expertly squeezes pathos and sensitivity from instances of human folly and dysfunction.

Warning: *Contains strong language – French...*

Please don't get this mixed up with The Family Friend on Mon 18th.

**Director:** Patrice Leconte  
**Starring:** Daniel Auteuil, Julie Gayet, Dany Boon  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Duration:** 95 mins  
**Origin:** France 2007  
**By:** Optimum Releasing

## Wild Hogs

Fri 29 7.30, Sat 30 7.00

**Chrome won't get you home...**

A mismatched group of bored suburbanites longing to escape the stress of their daily lives and embrace the freedom of the open road find that it takes more than polished chrome and leather jackets to truly experience the biker lifestyle in this revved-up road comedy.

Upon trading the comfort of the couches for the thunderous rumble of their 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 the weekend warrior type. 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 discover a lot about life, love and friendship.

Wouldn't you know it The critics have slagged it, as have we.

Never mind. Come for the sheer indulgence of some big names bowing to the 'sacred' old ground of 1970's tosh, for which only Clint and Burt are firmly to blame.



See page 3 for details

**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





## Coming Soon

### New releases

Pirates of the Caribbean:  
At World's End  
28 Weeks Later  
Ocean's 13  
Dans Paris  
Goyas Ghost  
Shut up and sing

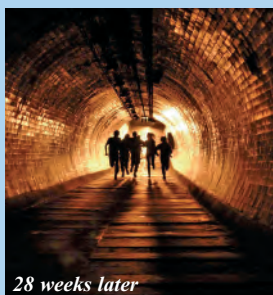
### Back by demand

Fracture  
Pan's Labyrinth  
A Very Long Engagement

*Pirates of the Caribbean*



*28 weeks later*



*Shut up and sing*



*Ocean's 13*



## JUNE FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

FRI	1	SUNSHINE	7.30
SAT	2	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	2.00
SAT	2	SUNSHINE	7.00
SUN	3	SUNSHINE	6.00
MON	4	BLACK BOOK	2.00, 7.30
TUE	5	THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN	12.30, 7.30
WED	6	THE PAINTED VEIL	2.00, 7.30
THU	7	THE PAINTED VEIL	2.00, 7.30
FRI	8	ALPHA DOG	7.30
SAT	9	THE LAST MIMZY	2.00
SAT	9	CASINO ROYALE	7.00
SUN	10	GODFATHER 2	4.00
MON	11	THE CHORUS	2.00
MON	11	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	7.30
TUE	12	THE CHORUS	12.30
TUE	12	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	7.30
WED	13	THE LIVES OF OTHERS	2.00, 7.30
THU	14	SPIDERMAN 3	2.00, 7.30
FRI	15	SPIDERMAN 3	7.30
SAT	16	SPIDERMAN 3	2.00, 7.00
SUN	17	JAZZ ON A SUMMERS DAY	6.00
MON	18	AMAZING GRACE	2.00
MON	18	THE FAMILY FRIEND	7.30
TUE	19	AMAZING GRACE	12.30, 7.30
WED	20	AMAZING GRACE	2.00
WED	20	HALF NELSON	7.30
THU	21	FRACTURE	2.00, 7.30
FRI	22	ZODIAC	7.30
SAT	23	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES	2.00
SAT	23	ZODIAC	7.00
SUN	24	ZODIAC	6.00
MON	25	AWAY FROM HER	2.00
MON	25	BAMAKO	7.30
TUE	26	AWAY FROM HER	12.30, 7.30
WED	27	MY BEST FRIEND	2.00, 7.30
THU	28	MY BEST FRIEND	2.00, 7.30
FRI	29	WILD HOGS	2.00, 7.30
SAT	30	THE DARK CRYSTAL	2.00
SAT	30	WILD HOGS	7.00

## RANTS AND PANTS



**M**y name is Ellen Meadows and I think The Rex is a very posh place and extraordinarily clean. The decorations in the cinema room are beautiful and Rocky Balboa is an excellent film. Keep up the good work!  
Ellen Meadows - Age 10  
(Go Rocky!)

I am called Faye Meadows. I thought that the Rex was very pretty and clean. The films you show are very good. There are nice people working here and I hope that I can come here again!  
Faye Meadows - Age: 8

Dear Mr Hannaway,  
I am finding obtaining tickets to your cinema an increasingly annoying exercise. I believe your success has made you complacent and you are ignoring issues which need to be addressed.  
In February I queued for 3 hours for March tickets because of a computer problem. Today having been told by a member of your box office staff that 14 April was the general release date for May tickets, I came to the cinema. I was shocked to see that the date had apparently changed to 21st

April. The girls on the box office had confirmed this, said that the date had been changed on the website and inferred it was my own fault for not knowing this. I asked if there was anything they could do and was told there wasn't. I remarked that it was time somebody got their act together, and turned to leave when a terrier-like woman with curly dark hair turned on me from the office and told me not to have a go at the staff! What happened to the customer always being right!? In short, Mr Hannaway, I have been:

Misinformed

Neither apologized to nor recompensed

Verbally attacked

If I have taken the trouble to ring and ask the date for ticket sales, I don't expect to have to keep checking the website to see if it's changed. Your staff were off-hand at best and rude at worst. I was not holding the girls responsible, or having a go at them, merely expressing frustration at a ridiculous situation. Why on earth is it not possible to buy tickets on line, like every other cinema or theatre? The beauty of the theatre and excellence of some of the

films do not make up for the inefficiency with which you run your administration.

I look forward to hearing from you. May I suggest 6 months' complimentary membership as a gesture of goodwill.

Yours Sincerely

Linda Bedford

**T**hat would be a Highland terrier, Ms Bedford. Thank you for your comments. Holly and Sarah were on the Box Office that day. Holly is the coolest here with the warmest smile and quietest voice. Sarah is the loveliest, from a long forgotten world, where courtesy was all. Both are hardly out of their teens yet have an instinctive and natural respect for everybody, old or young, dead or alive. Above all they are fair, open and sympathetic. I have listened to them and I have read your letter. Changing the release date was my decision. Easter and late film confirmations made it impossible to release on 14th April.

I announced this, probably, every night. It was posted on the web at least 5/6 days before (14th).

Notices were displayed on the steps and inside the foyer, and apologies made. I am sorry if none of this reached you. To be fair, you're not alone. The very few others (some who came much further than Abbots Langley) were cool, calm, gracious and took in the spirit of The Rex. From the thousands who climb the steps, complaints like this are miniscule.

So why do we print them?

They help to answer questions, praise doesn't raise.

So thank you.

To "address" some of your comments: On-line bookings? You are right, we are not "like every other cinema or theatre". There will be no "complimentary

## RANTS AND PANTS

membership" - in the same way I do not anticipate an early apology to my staff.

Our "goodwill" is our "inefficiency". As for "the customer always being right". If "Hell is other people" (Jean-Paul S), then expecting to be 'right' for pennies, pounds or millions, is hell's hell.

As for your 'terrier'? She is one of my most trusted, loyal and long-standing friends and advisers. Anticipating visitors moving through the foyer, she had listened quietly, letting the youngsters deal with it, until it was time to take the responsibility I have bestowed on all senior staff.

In her words, so mine "Please don't speak to our box office staff like that. They are doing their best. I understand your frustrations and I am sorry. If you have any complaints please direct them to Mr Hannaway."

So you have. Thank you.

Forgive my indulgent crucifixion of one last piece of advice:

"it was time somebody got their act together".

It is neither time, nor will/would/ could we ever aspire to such a vulgar display of competence.

The last indulgent 'last-word' goes to Mr Cohen (Leonard not Tesco).

"So save me a place in the ten dollar grave... for those who took money for the pleasure they gave."

(Who would accuse Tesco of 'pleasure' or 'gave'?).

A five year old watching her Mum getting ready, she asked what Amazing Grace was all about. To save a long explanation and even longer questions, she thought it best to say it was bedtime and too late to talk about it. After a few minutes quiet thought the little one padded in and declared: "I know - it's about a girl called Grace and she is amazing..." (8 May)



Candles,  
old African and Indian  
jewellery, fairtrade baskets,  
money boxes, dream catchers and  
luxurious hammocks, duvet sets, table-  
cloths & soap, tea, coffee, delicious  
homemade cakes, Indian cabinets, silk  
cushions and bolsters, free range eggs, local  
honey, bags, mirrors, shaving boxes, tea light  
holders, joss sticks, curios, fairtrade silk  
dressing gowns, cushion covers, jewellery  
wraps & purses, pictures, copper kettles,  
greetings cards, jewellery, door knobs,  
hooks, rugs, cd's, pictures, tribal  
crafts, carvings, peace  
and quiet.....

sanuk

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