

THE REX

M A G A Z I N E

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

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

MAY 2007 ISSUE 26
www.therexcinema.com

THE-REX

BOOKINGS &
INFORMATION

01442 877759

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

May Matinees	10-14
May Evenings	15-24
Gallery	5
Coming Soon	24
May Films at a glance	24
Dear Mrs Trellis	29, 31

SEAT PRICES:

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

Box Office: 01442 877759
 Mon to Sat 10.30am – 6.00pm
 Sun 4.30pm – 6.30pm
 (Credit/Debit card booking fee 50p)

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

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

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

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

Jane Clucas & Lynn Hendry
 PR/Marketing/FoH

Laurence Wiper Bar supervisor
Ian Muirhead Accountant

Alan Lambourne Caretaker

Resident creative builders
Darren Flindall
Michael Glasheen

Artists
Andrew Dixon
Paul Rowbottom

Advisors and Investors
Paul Fullagar
Alan Clooney

Ed Mauger Genius

Demiurge Design Designers 01582 791996
Allison Nunn Publisher 07786 540418
James Hannaway CEO 01442 877999

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

The Rex High Street (Three Close Lane)
 Berkhamsted HP4 2FG
www.therexcinema.com



MATINEES...

By chance a man started up the steps just ahead of me. It was about 9:30 on a very cold Tuesday night early in March. He was a bit bad on his feet so I stayed a few steps behind. Once safely in the foyer he turned to see it was me and said smiling "Ah just the man. I was hoping to see you..." End of smile! Like a parent smacking the child just pulled from under the wheels of a hurtling bus, he turned and said something like this: "What's the matter with you? Nobody can get in to see the best things... It's no way to run a business – you should put more shows on... In Hemel they show the films 3 or 4 times a day... What's the matter with you?"

I mumbled something feeble about an interesting programme. It only made matters worse. In a gap, I learned he'd driven all the way from Hemel to pick up a programme at this time on a (very cold) night. With no hint of sarcasm, it is a long way if you're not as young as you were, are bad on your feet and you're not sure you're even going to have your say! He didn't say goodbye. He got up to the door and turned (again roughly remembered). "You're not giving people the chance to see the popular films in a nice place. You have a lovely cinema. You should show what people want to see... It's not good business". Though I listen to all suggestions, I don't let anyone

tell me how to run my business. It was "not giving people a chance to see the best films in a nice place" which stalled me. He didn't use 'money' or 'profit' just "not good business". It was frustration not advice or accusation. It came from the heart on a cold night.

The Box Office 'children' have been saying it for ages - EXTRA MATINEES!

I've resisted it. There was probably a good reason, but I can't remember. When it starts in May, I might – all too late.

Anyway, like all wisdoms and advice, the one that shakes you into action is unanticipated. It was seeing this man leave, slowly on difficult steps. To emphasise the cold late night again, his wife was waiting in the car – yes, they had **both** come out!

The next day the office discussed it at length (with lots of 'told you so's').

Later in The Goat I caught up with the 'Rex children' who had come to play pool and get away from me. Instead, amid the smoke and distractions of sport and skirt on TV monitors, they listened, thought and talked passionately about all things and how extra matinees would work. Not only were they not phased by the idea of extra matinees but liked the idea more than me (and no, not to increase their already very minimum wage!).

So after 48 hours thinking, talking and listening; this is what we've come up with...

There will be regular matinees (Starting 1st May) from Monday to Thursday. Saturday matinees stay the same, with added Sundays when popularity gets out of hand. The only interruption will be for conferences/building/repairs/refurbishment/film location, etc).

Here's where the trouble begins. The matinees will bring back all the popular films you may have missed or want to see again, leaving the evenings free for the kind of repertory programme we promised from the beginning.

Of course, new POPULAR titles will run in the evenings. Returning again and again, day and night. It is another experiment. It won't suit everybody. Luckily, most of you are with us.

So here we go again. Whinge and you're out. Better, we'll tell estate agents where you live...

PS. For a memorable afternoon at the Pictures: from 1st May **ALL** matinee seats will be reduced to: Upper circle £5, Tables £6.50, 'Royal' boxes £10..

WE WILL SELL YOUR SEATS TWICE...

Complaining is the privilege of old age. It is not the domain of the young. It is earned only by the luck of too many birthdays.

We will sell your seats twice. If on the night you find someone in your party can't come, and if there is a huge queue on the door, we will sell that seat. Not to sell it for the huge profit, but to get one more in, and out of the half-hour raffle queue. I care as much about getting an extra seven quid as I do about losing it.

But I do care that people who have



Castle Street - first days of Spring

waited patiently for the raffle, do not get turned away. Wouldn't you hate it more if we let them in free for turning up ten minutes before, after you may have queued for two hours on release day?

This is prompted by immediate anger, as much at myself for not making it better as for the situation itself. Five minutes ago, I was faced with a complaint about us 'profiting' twice from an empty seat.

No doubt the complainant is driving home right this minute, feeling the same. Isn't it always so when the penny drops - seconds later - rage? She was a nice young woman with an unhappy complaint. It took me off guard. She wasn't old enough and didn't have a beard (the prime source of all our gripes), so I was surprised by her indignation at no refund for the absent seat - sold twice.

It was a polite but uneasy exchange. It is not the way to end a nice evening here.

This place was rebuilt with real blood, real sweat and real tears. The principle currency of the Rex is its spirit of give and take. We're not all dollars and cents, like every multiplex or factory bar/restaurant. Our prices are fair and we will never treat you like a captive audience,

held to ransom by whatever we feel like charging. When there's a big raffle queue, we are grateful for a surprise, spare seat. At the last minute, our staff will even ring people who haven't collected, to see if they're on their way!

Where else do you get this?

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.

At the risk of being a soft touch, we listen and absorb your complaints, constantly questioning what we're doing.

Try it at Jarman Park or even Leicester Square.

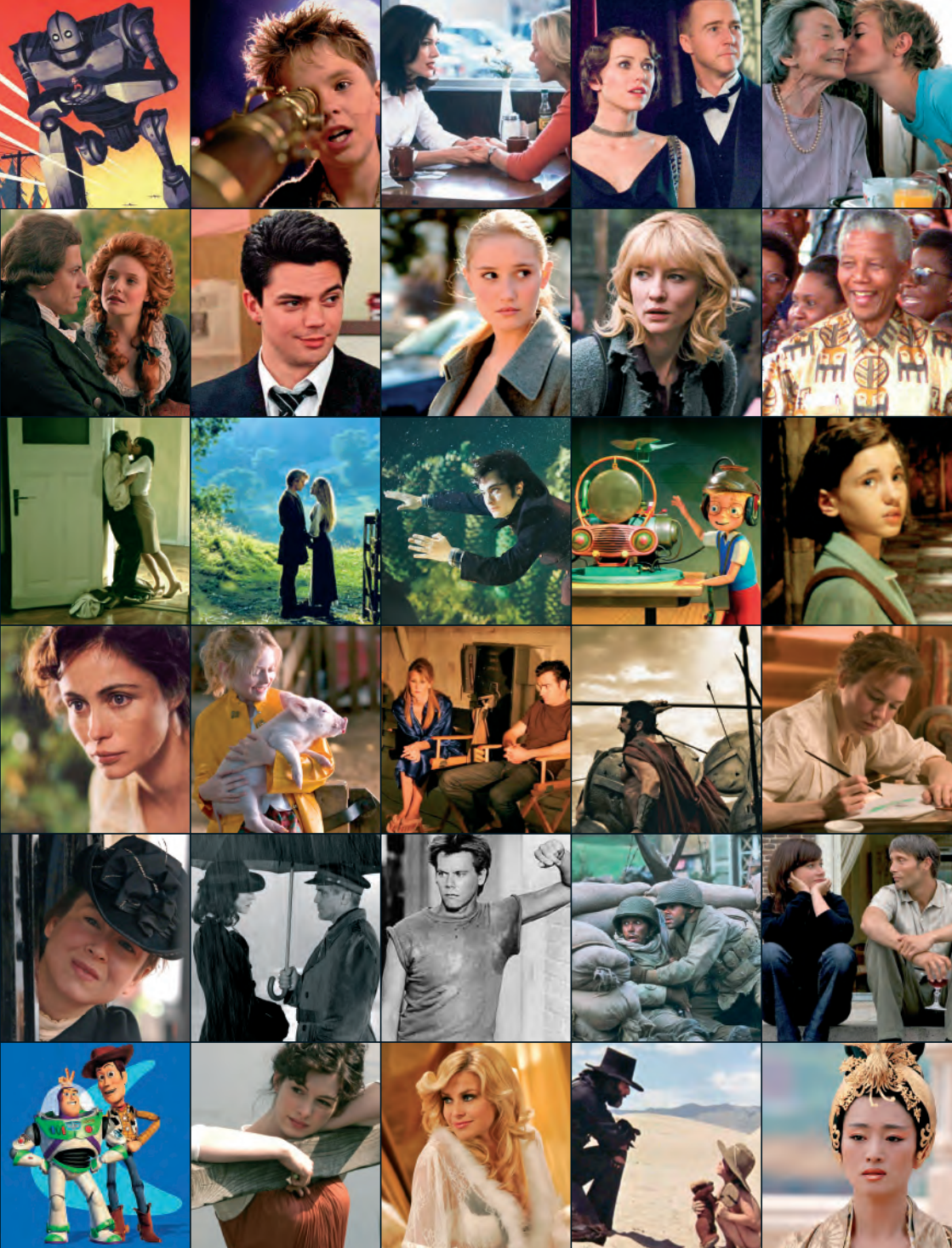
I buckle-under most of the time, but when I stand my ground, I stand it.

Please don't face me at the end of a long day and night to demand anything, be it a refund or to bitch about someone's noisy eating habits. Tell us if it's too hot or cold, you're uncomfortable or there's trouble, or something is wrong with the film - too loud or fuzzy subtitles, etc. 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). If you want your money back, you can tout your extra seat(s) to the waiting queue on the night.

I don't like this. It is humiliating, but if you want to, you are welcome.

I confess - I hate dealing with tickets. I try to keep out of their way. This is why you see so many sweet faces in the box office and not mine...



M A Y F I L M S

Miss Potter

Tue 1 12.30

Thu 3 2.00



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

"MISS POTTER wrenches the heart...Sure it's shamelessly sentimental, but strangely moving." (*Channel 4*)

Or...

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

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

It is, as her tales, a perfect escape. If nothing else, come for this.

Director: Chris Noonan

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

Certificate: PG

Duration: 93 mins

Origin: UK 2006

By: Momentum Pictures

The Good German

Wed 2 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Tobey Maguire, George Clooney, Cate Blanchett, Beau Bridges

Certificate: 15

Duration: 108 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Warner Brothers

This time George's mate Soderbergh shoots him in black and white, entirely in the style of *Casablanca* and other Bogart classics like *Big Sleep* & *Maltese Falcon*. To get the feel, he uses 1940s lenses, sound-recording techniques, and a decidedly non-mobile camera. Thus it will either be very tedious or very clever. Either way it doesn't bode well. Soderbergh straddles the three fields of mainstream, cult/trendy and lightweight. Here he's gone for the second with the safety of the first with bankable stars, but from all accounts has landed on the third.

Adapted from Joseph Kanon's novel, Jake (Clooney) is assigned the task of covering the peace in Berlin, where his former lover Lena (Blanchett, with brown eyes!), is trying to escape her dark past. In his search, a complex web of deceit is woven...

"Soderbergh's films often have one foot in old 'Noir' Hollywood.

This one risks both feet and trips up...looks more like a stylish exercise than a drama." (*Standard, March*)

As always... you will decide, but keep an eye on the driver...



The Iron Giant

Sat 5 2.00



It is directed by the noted animator/director/writer Brad Bird – you can blame him for *The Simpsons*.

Based on Ted Hughes 1968 novel "The Iron Man", this feature-length animated adventure tells of a giant metal machine that falls to earth, frightening the residents of a small town in Maine in 1958, until it befriends a 9-year old boy named Hogarth and ultimately unselfishly saves people from their own fears and prejudices. Featured among the voices are Jennifer Aniston as Annie Hughes, Hogarth's mother; Harry Connick Jr. as Dean McCoppin, one of the town's residents who befriends Hogarth and the giant; and newcomer Eli Marienthal as young Hogarth. Also on hand is Christopher McDonald voicing the role of Kent Mansley, a government agent determined to destroy the giant. This film features 2D and CGI animated characters.

It's a good story, and apart from its americanization, is pretty loyal to Hughes' original.

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: Vin Diesel, Eli Marienthal, Harry Connick Jr, Jennifer Aniston

Certificate: U

Duration: 86 mins

Origin: USA 1999

By: Warner Brothers

Becoming Jane

Tue 8 12.30

Thu 10 2.00

Director: Julian Jarrold

Starring: Anne Hathaway, James McAvoy, Maggie Smith, James Cromwell, Julie Walters

Certificate: PG

Duration: 120 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Buena Vista International

"A tale of love, class and the struggle to defy convention in the name of artistic endeavour (wasn't that Miss Potter???)

Becoming Jane tells the story of the real-life love affair (didn't happen?) which inspired the young Jane Austen to write romantic fiction.

When the 20-year-old Austen (pretty good for the American - Anne Hathaway) meets the brilliant, roguish Irishman, Tom Lefroy (I'm-now-in-everything-McAvoy), she falls madly in love. This little-known story is said to be the turning point in Jane's life; from which she would emerge as the greatest romantic writer in English Literature (until Barbara Cartland).

Nicely directed, it presents a fresh and surprising view of Austen's early years, claiming how her romantic adventure with Tom would later inspire many of the male characters in her celebrated novels." (*City Screen*) With all respect to the perfectly formed Ms Hathaway, Jane Austen students will know what to believe. It makes no difference, come for the beautifully captured English countryside, the manners and the language.



Amazing Grace

Wed 9 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies



So, it is Albert Finney we should thank for all those bagpipes?

As John Newton, the reformed but still guilty slave-trader, he absolves himself by writing that teary lament.

"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, the film is not so inaccurate as to make the blood boil..." (*DM Standard*)

Here is what non-film people have said about it:

"I thoroughly enjoyed Amazing Grace, even though, like most historical films, it occasionally makes free with the facts. Anyone who knows the period will raise eyebrows at the sight of the future William IV speaking in the House of Commons, or at Charles James Fox delivering a superbly rousing speech five months after he had died!

But films and history books set out to do very different things. No doubt pedants will pick holes, but the film's broad narrative – the passage of the 1807 abolition act – rings broadly true. Contrary to some reports, the film does make an effort to depict the wider forces that drove the abolition of the slave trade, continued page 17

Director: Michael Apted

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Rufus Sewell, Ciaran Hinds, Toby Jones

Certificate: PG

Duration: 118 mins

Origin: UK/USA 2007

By: Momentum Pictures

The Princess Bride

Sat 12 2.00

Director: Rob Reiner

Starring: Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin, Chris Sarandon, Christopher Guest, Wallace Shawn, Fred Savage, Robin Wright, Peter Falk, Peter Cook, Billy Crystal

Certificate: PG

Duration: 97 mins

Origin: USA 1987

By: Lionsgate Films UK

Rob Reiner's classic 1987 fairytale with a healthy dose of tongue-in-cheek humour, THE PRINCESS BRIDE remains as fresh and as entertaining today as when it was first released.

All the standard fairytale characters are here - the handsome prince, the beautiful princess, the ugly but good-hearted ogre, the evil king and the wise old man with a knack for potion making - but holding it all together is the inimitable humour of its creators William Goldman (novel and screenplay), Mel Brooks (Producer) and of course Rob Reiner at the helm.

A kindly grandfather sits down with his poorly grandson and reads him a bedtime story. The story is one that has been passed down through from father to son for generations.

As the grandfather reads the story, the action comes alive.

The story is a classic tale of love and adventure "Return to a time when men were men and swamps were swamps..."



The History Boys

Mon 14 2.00

Tue 15 12.30

Thu 17 2.00



It doesn't matter anymore what this story is about, everybody is still talking about it – play or film.

It tells of a group of bright History students being pushed through entrance exams for undergraduate places at Oxbridge. There's a young history teacher, a squirming headmaster, a huge Richard Griffiths, having fun as the all-groping, irreverently, queer 'General Studies' professor.

The cast is extremely well marshalled, albeit by a lightweight director, Nicholas Hytner.

Who wouldn't know their lines after two years on stage, playing the same parts? The teenage boys – horrible, faceless and pubescent at first – grow on you. Inevitably, the proper grown-ups are gorgeous throughout, with the brilliant Ms de la Tour shining. You can't wait for fatty Griffiths to come back on the screen, while Clive Merrison's Headmaster is an oily joy. "The real strength of this appealing, intelligent and enjoyable film is Bennett's writing..." (*City Screen*). So it is 'the words' then...?

Director: Nicholas Hytner

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

Certificate: 15

Duration: 109 mins

Origin: UK 2006

By: Twentieth Century Fox

Curse of the Golden Flower

Wed 16 2.00

Matinee Warning: May contain babies

Director: Zhang Yimou

Starring: Chow Yun-Fat, Ye Liu, Gong Li, Jay Chou

Certificate: 15

Duration: 114 mins

Origin: China 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

This ancient tale shimmers in golds, reds and every shade and colour under the sun. It is ridiculously,

breath-takingly colourful, with more cleavage than you can shake a stick at. Zhang Yimou completes his thematic trilogy which began with *Hero* and ... *Flying Daggers*, with the most costly film in Chinese cinema history. It is set almost entirely within an anachronistic Forbidden City in 928AD, where the once-powerful and decadent Tang Dynasty is in decline. The Empress (Li) and her sons are awaiting the return of the Emperor (Yun-Fat) from a military campaign. In the lavish palace with its elaborate and strict system of customs and ceremonies, clandestine affairs, secrets and political intrigue bubble under the surface, only to climax in a tragic ballet-battle of Shakespearian proportions. "Trouble at the Imperial Palace in 10th-century China, with bloody rebellion, family strife, forbidden love and chrysanthemums..." (*Guardian*) Today's Chinese studios make Busby Berkeley look like Mike Leigh.



Arthur & The Invisibles

Sat 19 2.00



On the heels of his first foray into romantic comedy (*Angel-A*), French filmmaker Luc Besson breaks new ground again with this computer-animated, family-friendly adaptation of his own children's book - *Arthur and the Minimoys*.

Ten-year-old Arthur's (the forever Neverland boy, Freddie Highmore) vivid imagination is fuelled by the colourful bedtime stories his grandmother reads to him. His dreams are filled with African tribes and the remarkable inventions detailed in the enigmatic book his grandfather left behind after mysteriously disappearing four years earlier. Arthur and his family are in danger of losing their home to an unscrupulous developer – (surely not!).

However, if there is any truth in the tales of a treasure hidden deep beneath their garden, and with the help of the tiny, fairy-like creatures from his grandmother's sketchbook, there may still be hope...

Children, bring the whole family - especially your grandparents.

Director: Luc Besson

Starring: Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow, Penny Balfour, Doug Rand

Certificate: U

Duration: 93 mins

Origin: France 2007

By: Momentum Pictures

Notes on a Scandal

Mon 21 2.00

Tue 22 12.30

Thu 24 2.00

Director: Richard Eyre**Starring:** Dame Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Bill Nighy, Alice Bird**Certificate:** 15**Duration:** 92 mins**Origin:** UK 2006**By:** Twentieth Century Fox

Judi Dench should have won all the prizes for what must be one of the most complex and complete on-screen performance of all time - the lonely, manipulative, treacherous, vulnerable, pitiable but very scary, Barbara...

Richard Eyre teamed up with screenwriter Patrick Marber (who must never be forgiven for CLOSER, nor for some lines in this, unless they're Zoe Heller's, in which case, blame her). Though there are some great lines, perfectly delivered. Take your pick.

The tension between Dench and Blanchett is palpable. It turns an unconvincing playground into a gripping thriller.

About Judi: "It is her refusal to play some kind of latterday Lady Macbeth that makes this portrait so subtle and so powerful...She is not just an ordinary villain. We see her vulnerability, her loneliness and her desperation to be loved..." (*D.Malcolm, Standard 29 Jan*).

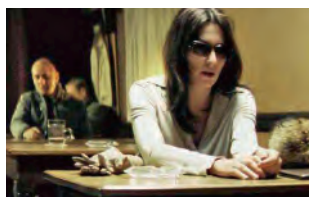
Over-shadowed, and over-looked in all the prize-giving mallarky, Cate Blanchett is mesmerising, rivetting and more than a match for Judi's brilliance. An unnecessary piece of melodrama but brilliantly performed by all.



Lives of Others

Wed 23 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 (whose sexual favours the politician clearly lusts after).

The surveillance expert in charge of spying on the artists ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as the couple as he comes to question the ethics of his work. The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals.

A great cast of perfect faces.

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

Meet the Robinsons

Sat 26 2.00

Director: Stephen J Anderson
Starring: Angela Bassett, Steve Zahn, Tom Selleck, Laurie Metcalf
Certificate: U
Duration: 102 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Buena Vista International

“Based on William Joyce’s - A Day with Wilbur Robinson, an orphan who dreams of someday finding a family to call his own finds his fate taking an unexpected turn when a mysterious stranger named Wilbur Robinson transports him into the future in a computer-animated time-travel adventure for the whole family.” (now you can breathe)

“Lewis is an orphaned child genius with a surprising number of clever inventions to his credit.

His latest and most ambitious project is the Memory Scanner, a machine that will help him find his mother. But, his invention is stolen by the dastardly Bowler Hat Guy and his diabolical hat and constant companion, Doris.

Lewis has all but given up hope when a mysterious stranger named Wilbur Robinson whisks him away in a time machine. Together they team up to track down Bowler Hat Guy in a showdown that ends with an unexpected and unbelievable twist of fate.” (Blogger John)

I’m none the wiser - must be some internet thing. Tom Sellick’s is ‘in it’. Come for the moustache.



Mr Bean's Holiday

Tue 29 12.30
Wed 30 2.00

Wed Matinee Warning: May contain babies



Rowan Atkinson’s Mr Bean is an acquired taste.

Tired of the dreary London weather, Mr Bean heads to Cannes for some sun. But he falls face first into a series of mishaps and coincidences. “With its obvious nods to Tati, a surprise for Charles Trenet lovers and much humour at the expense of celluloid pretensions, there’s ample diversion here for even the snootiest cinemagoer, inclusively set alongside the expected cavalcade of adeptly choreographed pratfalls to tickle the family audience. ‘He’s just Mr Funny!’ piped up one excited little boy in the row behind me at the preview, and even if the final reel perhaps takes contrivance further than one’s good-will would usually allow, that’s still a pretty fair assessment.” (Trevor Johnston *Time Out* 28 March) [Wally, Please give your boys and girls a lesson in short sentences]

“Atkinson’s Bean clearly takes his cue from both theatrical mime and the silent cinema, especially in this film, where he hardly speaks. The difference is that the physical comedy involved comes largely from a myriad of facial expressions which is in direct contrast to Chaplin, Keaton or Harold Lloyd.” (And P. Sellars).

Director: Steve Bendelack
Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Karel Roden, Willem Dafoe
Certificate: PG
Duration: 89 mins
Origin: UK 2007
By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

Toy Story II

Thu 31 2.00

Director: Ash Brannon, Colin Brady
Starring: Tim Allen, Don Rickles, Jim Varney, Tom Hanks
Certificate: U
Duration: 95 mins
Origin: USA 1999
By: Buena Vista International

In “Toy Story 2,” the fun and adventure continues when Andy goes off to summer camp and the toys are left to their own devices.

Things shift into high gear when an obsessive toy collector kidnaps Woody who unbeknownst to himself is a highly valued collectable.

It’s now up to Buzz Lightyear and the gang from Andy’s room - Mr. Potato Head, Slinky Dog, Rex and Hamm - to spring into action and save their pal from winding up as a museum piece.

There’s plenty of excitement and fun as the toys get into all manner of difficult scrapes in their daring race to get home before Andy does.

“It seemed impossible to match the original but, if anything, this sequel is better.

The story of Buzz Lightyear’s heroic rescue of Woody from a toy collector is an inspired blend of high excitement, relationships and another hilarious script.

And it adds splendidly to the loveable cast and new characters...” (Guardian)



The Page Turner

Tue 1 7.30

Director: Denis Dercourt

Starring: Catherine Frot, Déborah François, Pascal Greggory

Certificate: 15

Duration: 85 mins

Origin: France 2006

By: Artificial Eye

Come, if only for Déborah François' beautiful and unnerving lesson in exquisite and terrifying stillness.

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

"Dercourt has crafted an expert thriller...with attention to meticulous detail..."

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

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

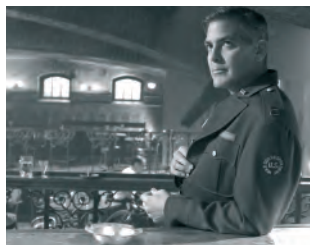
For a small sub-titled film, it sold out in no time in January, February and March.

It is a riveting, cool and stylish thriller only the French can make... But not everyone thought so. Don't care. Lock your children in the shed to be here.



The Good German

Wed 2 7.30



This time George's mate Soderbergh shoots him in black and white, entirely in the style of Casablanca and other Bogart classics like *Big Sleep* & *Maltese Falcon*. To get the feel, he uses 1940s lenses, sound-recording techniques, and a decidedly non-mobile camera. Thus it will either be very tedious or very clever. Either way it doesn't bode well. Soderbergh straddles the three fields of mainstream, cult/trendy and lightweight.

Here he's gone for the second with the safety of the first with bankable stars, but from all accounts has landed on the third.

Adapted from Joseph Kanon's novel, Jake (Clooney) is assigned the task of covering the peace in Berlin, where his former lover Lena (Blanchett, with brown eyes!), is trying to escape her dark past. In his search, a complex web of deceit is woven...

"Soderbergh's films often have one foot in old 'Noir' Hollywood. This one risks both feet and trips up...looks more like a stylish exercise than a drama." (*Standard, March*) As always... you will decide, but keep an eye on the driver...

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Tobey Maguire, George Clooney, Cate Blanchett, Beau Bridges

Certificate: 15

Duration: 108 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Warner Brothers

Mulholland Drive

Thu 3 7.30

Director: David Lynch

Starring: Justin Theroux, Naomi Watts, Robert Forster, Ann Miller, Laura Herring, Dan Hedaya

Certificate: 15

Duration: 146 mins

Origin: USA 2001

By: Pathe Distribution

This is a taste of David Lynch for the uninitiated – ahead of his latest indulgent offering - *Inland Empire* on Sun 20th (5pm).

Why this and not *Blue Velvet* or *Eraserhead*? To give you a better idea of what you're in for, it's longer than the first two! Moreover it plays into the mood of his latest indulgence, with its actressy, theatricals and things that might not make sense. It could even be a continuation of the theme of self, consciousness, and a treatise on whatever reality really might mean when all is said and done...David?

What's more, Justin Theroux is in this and the other. Never mind, two gorgeous women get it on. So come for that.

The story... A bright-eyed young actress travels to Hollywood, only to be ensnared in a dark conspiracy involving a woman who was nearly murdered, and now has amnesia because of a car crash.

Eventually, both women are pulled into a psychotic illusion involving a dangerous blue box, a film director and the mysterious night club. *Silencio*...Uh oh.



I Want Candy

Fri 4 7.30



New British films are like open-mic nights in the pub. They are hit and miss but everybody applauds each other, all the same. 'I Want Candy' should have been shelved to late-night Channel 4, but someone persuaded Carmen Electra to say yes to playing a porn star – in suburban England! Immediately it raised itself from open-mic film-making.

Frustrated by their arty film teacher, wannabe producer Joe and his friend Baggy, head to London with their 'script of pure-gold'. After many slammed doors, their luck changes when an equally desperate producer needs a certain 'star'. There's just one problem – the star – is porn legend Candy Fiveways... Against all odds they get her, but making a groundbreaking graduation film with scenes of an adult nature in your parents' house was never going to be easy... "But thanks to Ms Fiveways (Carmen), living up to her stage name, they eventually manage get something fairly filthy on-screen... harmless wrist action..." (*Derek Malcom, Standard*)

"Despite the usual failings of a cash-strapped British film, this cheerful exploitation of 'The Full Monty' formula works -just-" (*Anna Smith, Time Out*)

Director: Stephen Surjik

Starring: Carmen Electra, Tom Riley, Kristian Erik Kiehling, Mackenzie Crook

Certificate: 15

Duration: 90 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Buena Vista International

Footloose

Sat 5 7.00

Director: Herbert Ross

Starring: Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer

Certificate: 15

Duration: 107 mins

Origin: USA 1984

By: Paramount International Pictures

Sashaying out from *Dirty Dancing* every gang of girlies and grown women (who should know better) thrusts lists of demands at me ranging from *Pretty Woman* to *An Officer and a Gentleman*, with a few weaker ones in between, including *Cocktail*, *Rocky Horror* and *Top Gun* (again). I asked the kids in the box office and bars too.

So the list is now long.

Footloose might not be the best choice to follow snake hips Swaze, but it's the same old girl/boy story with a bit of dancing.

The others will follow and you can bet old Dirty D Patrick will be back in the Autumn.

Free-spirited teenager Ren McCormack (Bacon) arrives in a small Midwestern town from Chicago to a wave of outrage in this eighties iconic hit dance drama.

"Only the most cynical would never admit to tapping their toes to Kenny Loggins' title track.

Director Herbert Ross handles proceedings effectively, notably the lively dance sequence.

This ridiculous but entertaining film is further bolstered by a decent supporting cast, that includes John Lithgow and a frighteningly svelt Christopher Penn." *Channel 4*



Pan's Labyrinth

Sun 6 6.00



Cancel everything. Come and see this again and again.

How did it miss an Oscar for Best Foreign Film? Who cares?

This rare inspiration has turned into one of the most magical and exciting films of the year.

A fairytale for adults inspired by Goya's paintings and war. This is del Toro's best, even by his own standards. It is 1940s Franco's Spain. Finding her new life frightening, Ofelia finds refuge in a labyrinth. 'Pan' (the faun) is the guardian of the doors. Through fairies, he tells her she is a long-lost princess. To discover the truth, she will have to complete three perilous tasks armed with little more than a piece of chalk!

"del Toro's startling vision rests on a profoundly moving story."

Definitely not for children. It's not the 'monsters' who are terrifying, as always, it is the men in uniform.

"The special effects unnoticeable, therefore perfect, as the ghastly portrait of Franco's Spain is equally repulsive".

"A major achievement, beautifully acted and shot with almost unerring certainty....." (*mixed crits*)

We will show it until 'everybody in the whole-wide-world' has seen it.

Director: Guillermo Toro

Starring: Doug Jones, Ivana Baquero, Ariadna Gil, Maribel Verdu, Sergi Lopez

Certificate: 15

Duration: 119 mins

Origin: Spain 2006

By: Optimum Releasing

Amazing Grace

Mon 7 7.30

Tue 8 7.30

Wed 9 7.30



Continued from page 11...

notably the rise of Christian evangelicism among the 18th – century middle classes...

Dominic Sandbrook, Historian "Africans resisted their enslavement from the moment of capture. The revolts on the ships and uprisings in the America's and Caribbean were pivotal in questioning the viability of the trade..."

This largely unknown story can inspire and motivate us now to demand an end to modern-day slavery, which affects more than 12 million people worldwide. Change, as events 200 years ago show, is the result of action by many, not the preserve of one member of the British Parliament..."

Aidan McQuade Director, Anti-Slavery International

"Apparently, Amazing Grace cost £15 million to make. Let's just say the money could have been better spent..."

"Michael Eboda New Nation Good turns from pro-slavery hardliners Lord Tarleton (Hinds) and the Duke of Clarence (Jones). Come for the argument.

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

Director: Michael Apted

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Rufus Sewell, Ciaran Hinds, Toby Jones

Certificate: PG

Duration: 118 mins

Origin: UK/USA 2007

By: Momentum Pictures

Amandla

Thu 10 7.30

Director: Lee Hirsch

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 102 mins

Origin: South Africa 2002

By: Metrodome Distributors

This film celebrates the power of song to communicate, motivate, console, unite and, in go a long way to herald Change. Plantation slave owners hated "that negro singing". They were scared rigid by the power they could hear in those downtrodden but defiant voices.

This ideal, gloriously realised, lies at the heart of director Lee Hirsch's inspiring feature-documentary bracketed: "A Revolution In Four-Part Harmony". Winner of the Audience Award and Freedom of Expression Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. A Freedom of Expression award? Aren't all things written and/or performed a freedom of expression? A Freedom from Oppression award or a Defiance award, or an In-the-Face-of-all-Danger award might be worth something, but Expression?

Nine years in the making, this is the first film to specifically consider the music that sustained and galvanized black South Africans for more than 40 years.

AMANDLA! tells the story of black South African freedom-music and reveals the central role it played in the long battle against apartheid. "An electrically expressive and politically forthright portrait of South African life then and now..." (*City Screen*)

Come and be lifted by a thousand voices in pain and triumph in song.



The Science of Sleep

Fri 11 7.30

Sat 12 7.00



Written and directed by Michel Gondry, this is an astonishing roller-coaster ride through the human consciousness. Gael García Bernal is shy, inhibited Stéphane, who possesses a lively imagination and lives in an eccentric dream world which threatens to engulf his real life. He falls in love with his new neighbour, Stéphanie (Charlotte Gainsbourg), whose fantasies match his own. At the very point when his wildest dreams seem to be coming true, however, he suddenly has the impression that Stéphanie is rejecting him. Or is he misinterpreting something? Is it merely his insecurity rearing its ugly head again? Torn between his dreams and reality, Stéphane begins to realise that both worlds are spiralling out of control.

Gael's outstanding performance, both funny and moving, anchors Gondry's ceaseless energy and imagination. Stéphane "Through this (one of his crazy inventions) you can see life in 3D. Stéphanie "Isn't life already in 3D?" (*trailer*)

Director: Michel Gondry

Starring: Gael García Bernal, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Miou Miou, Alain Chabat

Certificate: 15

Duration: 106 mins

Origin: USA 2006

By: Warner Brothers

Les Destinées Sentimentales

Sun 13 5.00

Director: Olivier Assayas
Starring: Charles Berling,
 Emmanuelle Beart, Isabelle Huppert
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 180 mins
Origin: France/Switzerland 2000
By: Pathe Distribution

Based on the classic French (turn of the century) novel by Jacques Chardonne, this is a timeless tale of 'Responsibility' over 'Happiness' – one demanded, the other never to be found. One is for others the other for you. One lasts forever, the other appears on sunny days and evaporates in the rain (vice versa). Neither keeps its word in the cold.

Jean (Charles Berling) and Pauline (Emmanuelle Beart) meet at a ball. He is a young Protestant minister, heir to a porcelain fortune. She is a mere 'independent-minded' niece of snooty middle class parishioners. It is love at first sight.

But he has a severe wife - Nathalie (the magnificent Isabelle Huppert). Not a good start.

In guilt, he submits his fortune to her. In return he wins the beautiful Pauline. They marry and live happily-ever-after in Switzerland, until...

"...a slow but moving epic about love, life, war, death and porcelain in early 20th century France... this is a sumptuous drama boasting substance and spectacle. Exquisitely shot" (Channel 4)

Forget it, come and be soaked in French-time... and the exquisite Mlle Beart.



Bafta Preview - Zodiac

Mon 14 7.00



Another BAFTA preview. We've hosted two so far, both gems which eventually appeared in our normal programme and are set to run and run – Little Miss Sunshine and Notes On A Scandal.

There are no stars present, just BAFTA members who are obliged to vote or just privileged to view titles before they are released. They don't fill the house so there are a limited number of seats available (140ish). I suppose the best part is that you get to see it before everyone else, but that's no big deal.

So please don't sharpen your elbows. Zodiac will be in the programme in June anyway so if you miss it, you won't have to wait too long.

We know nothing about it, except its Robert Downey Jnr's latest film and its well over two hours long – thus the 7.00pm start.

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

El Topo

Tue 15 7.30

Director: Alejandro Jodorowsky
Starring: Alejandro Jodorowsky,
 Brontis Jodorowsky
Certificate: 18
Duration: 125 mins
Origin: Mexico 1970
By: Tartan Films

EL TOPO was the landmark cult film that began the Midnight Movie phenomenon of the counterculture-crazy 1970s. At the time, it was the most talked-about, most shocking and most controversial quasi-Western 'head-trip' ever made. It is said to have transformed the way risk-taking audiences, seeking alternatives to mainstream Hollywood, watched edgy underground films and how the industry marketed them. Classic Americana and avant-garde European cinema sensibilities meet Zen Buddhism and the Bible as master gunfighter and cosmic mystic El Topo (played by writer/director Alejandro Jodorowsky) must defeat his four sharp-shooting rivals on an ever-increasingly bizarre path to allegorical self-enlightenment and surreal resurrection.

Pretentious hippy horse doings or something significant. It caused a big noise on the international fringe underground. So what? So did moustaches!

"Catch it while you can: Alejandro Jodorowsky's psychedelic imaginative western should really be experienced in all its beautiful and demented glory on the big screen". (Guardian 13 April) Worth one chance to see such a rare cinematic 'masterpiece'. Come.



Curse of the Golden Flower

Wed 16 7.30, Thu 17 7.30, Fri 18 7.30



This ancient tale shimmers in golds, reds and every shade and colour under the sun. It is ridiculously, breathtakingly colourful, with more cleavage than you can shake a stick at.

Zhang Yimou completes his thematic trilogy which began with *Hero* and ... *Flying Daggers*, with the most costly film in Chinese cinema history. It is set almost entirely within an anachronistic Forbidden City in 928AD, where the once-powerful and decadent Tang Dynasty is in decline. The Empress (Li) and her sons are awaiting the return of the Emperor (Yun-Fat) from a military campaign. In the lavish palace with its elaborate and strict system of customs and ceremonies, clandestine affairs, secrets and political intrigue bubble under the surface, only to climax in a tragic ballet-battle of Shakespearian proportions. "Trouble at the Imperial Palace in 10th-century China, with bloody rebellion, family strife, forbidden love and chrysanthemums..." (*Guardian*) Today's Chinese studios make *Busby Berkeley* look like Mike Leigh.

Director: Zhang Yimou

Starring: Chow Yun-Fat, Ye Liu, Gong Li, Jay Chou

Certificate: 15

Duration: 114 mins

Origin: China 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd



Buena Vista Social Club

Sat 19 7.00

Director: Wim Wenders

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

Certificate: U

Duration: 105 mins

Origin: Cuba, Germany 1999

By: Pathe Distribution

A group of ageing, legendary Cuban musicians, some in their nineties, whose talents had been virtually forgotten following Castro's coup in 1959, are brought out of retirement by Ry Cooder, who travelled to Havana to bring them together, resulting in triumphant performances of extraordinary music, and resurrecting the musicians' careers. In their very late years they are suddenly touring the globe. Some great footage from concerts in Amsterdam and New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Bless Ry Cooder – what a remarkably optimistic journey into the unknown.

This is a true gem, not just for musos but for everybody who cherishes the ideal that lost is not forgotten...

It has taken us nearly two years to trace a print copy so cancel everything to be here...



Inland Empire

Sun 20 5.00



"Mel Brookes once called David Lynch 'Jimmy Stewart from Mars'. He's certainly never made a more unearthly movie than this three-hour riff on identity and the subconscious.

Lynch makes you sit through all his stuff unable to move or leave – even though you are desperate to get up and go. Is this his damned genius or are we pretending his films are dressed in gold and silks, when all the time they're stark naked? Don't expect logic, narrative or the smart physical look that his films have had since Eraserhead.

Don't expect anything, in fact, or you'll go home disappointed. Inland Empire is Lynch in extremis..." (Standard)

Made entirely on an ordinary digital video camera, partly in Poland with Polish actors and in Los Angeles with LA actors, the 'story' has the aspect of a never-ending bad dream, often lit in semi-darkness. "Most of Lynch's previous tropes, subconscious or otherwise, can be distinguished in the gloom."

Yet there is something about its extraordinary audacity and its sense of otherness that keeps you watching, even when you're willing it to end... This one is entirely up to you.

Director: David Lynch

Starring: Laura Dern, Jeremy Irons, Justin Theroux, Peter Lucas

Certificate: 15

Duration: 180 mins

Origin: USA 2007

By: Optimum Releasing

Orchestra Seats

Mon 21 7.30

Director: Daniele Thompson

Starring: Claude Brasseur, Cecile De France, Albert Dupontel, Valérie Lemercier

Certificate: 12A

Duration: 105 mins

Origin: France 2007

By: Optimum Releasing

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 Versen (Lemercier) will open a Feydeau farce at the theatre next door, celebrated pianist Jean-François Lefort (Dupontel) will perform a Beethoven concert and financier Jacques Grumberg (Brasseur) will auction off his renowned art collection.

Jessica floats between three sets of characters, becoming part of everyone's life even as she searches unsuccessfully for somewhere to live. "ORCHESTRA SEATS possesses wit, wisdom and undeniable charm..."

"...there's much to enjoy in esteemed screenwriter Daniele Thompson's latest directorial feature...

Charming, if you're in the mood" (Time Out)

"...Gallic equivalent of Love Actually" (Channel 4) Never mind, a surprise Rex gem in the making? Come.





Lives of Others

Tue 22 7.30, Wed 23 7.30

This remarkably assured first feature from von Donnermarck paints a dark picture of life under the Communist regime in East Germany.

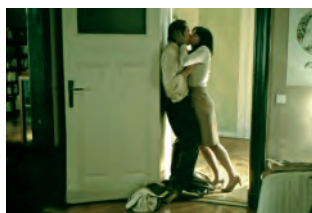
Set mainly in East Berlin during the mid-'80s, the film chronicles the consequences of the Minister of Culture's decision to investigate, by means of surveillance, the lives of a successful playwright and his actress wife (whose sexual favours the politician clearly lusts after).

The surveillance expert in charge of spying on the artists ends up as profoundly affected by the bugging as he comes to question the ethics of his work.

The Lives Of Others succeeds both as a convincing historical recreation and a compelling tale of individuals.

A great cast of perfect faces.

Cancel important things.



Director: Florian Henckel von Donnermarck

Starring: Martina Gedeck, Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch

Certificate: 15

Duration: 138 mins

Origin: Germany 2007

By: Lionsgate Films UK



Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: David Wenham, Gerard Butler, Lena Heady, Dominic West
Certificate: 15
Duration: 117 mins
Origin: USA 2007
By: Warner Brothers

300

Thu 24 7.30
Fri 25 7.30
Sat 26 7.00



Should there be any doubt whether history is bunk, **300** proves it.

Sin City creator, Frank Miller's sweeping take on this historic brawl swaggers onto the screen in an all-action special effects extravaganza. It is about the celebrated battle of Thermopylae in 480BC, when 300 Spartans under Leonidas sacrificed themselves by decimating a huge horde of invading Persians under the legendary Xerxes, thus saving Western civilisation and by chance giving birth to the modern concept of democracy!

It is certainly not for the squeamish. The battles are gory, visceral and ceaseless.

With more greased pees than you can shake a stick at.

"This visually stunning, unintentionally homoerotic comic book adaptation shows how 300 Spartans decimated a superior Persian force at Thermopylae, in 480 BC. A pumped-up and very butch cast goes to it against the effete 'boy loving' Persians... probable perverts, up to no good on the ding-dong front, the Spartans seem likely to be much at home at an exclusive bondage club... extreme right wing... homophobic and macho posturing" (*DM Standard*)
 Pure Tom & Jerry.

Days of Glory

Sun 27 6.00



Bouchareb's **DAYS OF GLORY** is a tribute to the sacrifices made by hundreds of thousands of North Africans drafted into the French army during WWII. It follows the fate of five Algerians and Moroccans on their perilous trek through Italy, and France. The ensemble won the Best Actor prize at Cannes. Through clear and powerful storytelling, it is a scathing critique of the racism, exploitation and injustices suffered by North African soldiers at the hands of their French counterparts.

War films are taking a more audacious turn now that patriotism and heroics are no longer the order of the day.

The five relatively inexperienced principles are so good, they won Cannes through their eloquence and credibility.

Without trying to achieve spectacular battle scenes, they become dangerously real.

Bouchareb's refusal to overload sympathy upon the sometimes naive men, works throughout and nobody is painted in black and white. It could be one of the most important films of its kind in recent memory. Don't miss.

Director: Rachid Bouchareb
Starring: Sami Bouajila, Roschdy Zem, Jamel Debbouze, Samy Naceri, Bernard Blancan
Certificate: 12A
Duration: 124 mins
Origin: France 2007
By: Metrodome Distributors

Mr Bean's Holiday

Mon 28 7.30



Rowan Atkinson's Mr Bean is an acquired taste.

Tired of the dreary London weather, Mr Bean heads to Cannes for some sun. But he falls face first into a series of mishaps and coincidences. "With its obvious nods to Tati, a surprise for Charles Trenet lovers and much humour at the expense of celluloid pretensions, there's ample diversion here for even the snootiest cinemagoer, inclusively set alongside the expected cavalcade of adeptly choreographed pratfalls to tickle the family audience. 'He's just Mr Funny!' piped up one excited little boy in the row behind me at the preview, and even if the final reel perhaps takes contrivance further than one's good-will would usually allow, that's still a pretty fair assessment." (Trevor Johnston Time Out 28 March) [Wally, Please give your boys and girls a lesson in short sentences]

"Atkinson's Bean clearly takes his cue from both theatrical mime and the silent cinema, especially in this film, where he hardly speaks. The difference is that the physical comedy involved comes largely from a myriad of facial expressions which is in direct contrast to Chaplin, Keaton or Harold Lloyd." (And P. Sellarc).

Director: Steve Bendelack

Starring: Rowan Atkinson, Karel Roden, Willem Dafoe

Certificate: PG

Duration: 89 mins

Origin: UK 2007

By: Universal Pictures (UK) Ltd

After The Wedding

Tue 29 7.30

Director: Susanne Bier

Starring: Sidse Knudsen, Mads Mikkelsen, Stine Christensen

Certificate: 15

Duration: 124 mins

Origin: Denmark, Sweden 2007

By: Soda Pictures

Continuing in the spirit of Bier's recent films *OPEN HEARTS* and *BROTHERS*, this is a sensitively rendered film about emotional honesty and difficult choices.

Jacob (the excellent Mikkelsen - Casino Royale's baddie) runs a struggling orphanage in India. He is offered with a large cash donation on certain conditions, the first being that he returns to Copenhagen to meet his mystery benefactor Jørgen (Rolf Lassgård). Jørgen then engineers Jacob's presence at his daughter's wedding... Uh Oh!

Here things are revealed, which would be better left hidden. Thus... "Bier's sure directorial hand, balance and economy, coupled with a first-rate script and finely nuanced performances ensure that *AFTER THE WEDDING* speaks directly to one's emotions without overwhelming them..."

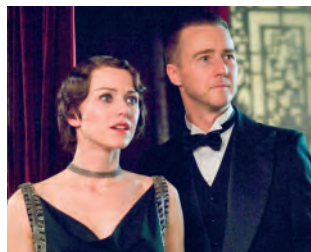
I hope so, Her 'Brothers' shown here in June 2005 was draining and so tense, I 'm still haunted by one pivotal scene set in Afghanistan. Her films have an extraordinary power. Take a deep breath and come.



The Painted Veil

Wed 30 7.30

Thu 31 7.30



Two people learn some valuable lessons about love, life and sacrifice in this romantic drama based on a novel by W.Somerset Maugham.

It is 1925, and Dr Walter Fane (Norton) falls in love with and marries Kitty (Watt), the beautiful but frivolous daughter of a wealthy family. The couple move to Shanghai, where he sets up a practice and she takes a lover. Walter is furious when he finds out and impulsively volunteers to work in a village stricken with a cholera epidemic taking her with him. The daily trials of living in appalling conditions have a striking impact on them both, giving them a new and deeper perspective on their lives.

"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

Coming Soon

New releases

Half Nelson
Sunshine
My Best Friend
Bamako
Funny Ha Ha

Back by demand

The Queen
The World's Fastest Indian



Sunshine



Spiderman 3



Catch a Fire



Funny Ha Ha

APRIL FILMS AT A GLANCE

Please check times carefully and watch out for early shows.

TUE	1	MISS POTTER	12.30
TUE	1	THE PAGE TURNER	7.30
WED	2	GOOD GERMAN	2.00, 7.30
THU	3	MISS POTTER	2.00
THU	3	MULHOLLAND DRIVE	7.30
FRI	4	I WANT CANDY	7.30
SAT	5	THE IRON GIANT	2.00
SAT	5	FOOTLOOSE	7.00
SUN	6	PAN'S LABYRINTH	6.00
MON	7	AMAZING GRACE	7.30
TUE	8	BECOMING JANE	12.30
TUE	8	AMAZING GRACE	7.30
WED	9	AMAZING GRACE	2.00, 7.30
THU	10	BECOMING JANE	2.00
THU	10	AMANDLA	7.30
FRI	11	THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP	7.30
SAT	12	THE PRINCESS BRIDE	2.00
SAT	12	THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP	7.00
SUN	13	LES DESTINEES SENTIMENTALES	5.00
MON	14	THE HISTORY BOYS	2.00
MON	14	BAFTA PREVIEW - ZODIAC	7.00
TUE	15	THE HISTORY BOYS	12.30
TUE	15	EL TOPO	7.30
WED	16	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	2.00
WED	16	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	7.30
THU	17	THE HISTORY BOYS	2.00
THU	17	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	7.30
FRI	18	CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	7.30
SAT	19	ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES	2.00
SAT	19	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	7.00
SUN	20	INLAND EMPIRE	5.00
MON	21	NOTES ON A SCANDAL	2.00
MON	21	ORCHESTRA SEATS	7.30
TUE	22	NOTES ON A SCANDAL	12.30
TUE	22	LIVES OF OTHERS	7.30
WED	23	LIVES OF OTHERS	2.00, 7.30
THU	24	NOTES ON A SCANDAL	2.00
THU	24	300	7.30
FRI	25	300	7.30
SAT	26	MEET THE ROBINSONS	2.00
SAT	26	300	7.00
SUN	27	DAYS OF GLORY	6.00
MON	28	MR BEANS HOLIDAY	7.30
TUE	29	MR BEANS HOLIDAY	12.30
TUE	29	AFTER THE WEDDING	7.30
WED	30	MR BEANS HOLIDAY	2.00
WED	30	THE PAINTED VEIL	7.30
THU	31	TOY STORY 2	2.00
THU	31	THE PAINTED VEIL	7.30

RANTS AND PANTS



First colours at Little Heath...

Dear James,

As you can probably imagine I was upset to read your comments about estate agency in the April edition of the magazine.

For what it's worth, I agree that estate agents (or for that matter any commercial organisation) who 'piggy back' on the back of The Rex without even so much as an acknowledgment, shouldn't be doing so. However, I would draw your attention to the fact that Nash Partnership do not mention The Rex in any of our sales literature, brochures, advertisements or displays.

What we have done is financially support the cinema in some form or other right from the start, including of course advertising on the screen and also in your magazine.

Like any business, we give ourselves an advertising and marketing budget every year. Some of that budget is spent in newspaper and internet advertising, but you might be surprised to hear that almost half the money is spent on more local

sponsorships or supporting local organisations like The Rex.

One of the reasons we do this is because as a local business, we believe we should be putting something back into the local community, rather than just spending more and more with, say, the local newspaper.

I take exception to your view that we have "got in under the wire". Like any of your advertisers, we see our advertising as a two-way trade: We financially support The Rex which is a benefit to you, and in return we obtain brand exposure. Do you also consider all your other advertisers - that between them give The Rex thousands of pounds each year - have also "got in under the wire" in a similarly underhanded way? Do you have the same low opinion of the private schools, restaurants, designers, jewellers and solicitors?

Stop demonising estate agents. You stated intention to put all revenue you have received from estate agents into a separate fund is laughable. You seem to be

comparing our financial support, to that of drug dealers! What is your next step? Ban anyone involved in the property industry from your performances?!?

As for estate agents being responsible for bumping up house prices, perhaps consider this: maybe house prices in Berkhamsted are so high because it's such a fantastic place to live! Why? Well there is a lovely Art Deco cinema for a start, plus the private schools, restaurants, designers, jewellers, solicitors.... And one or two pretty decent estate agents like us! Starting to see my point James? Like it or not, you are as responsible for bumping up house prices as the rest of us. The difference is, you're 'ever so slightly' hypocritical with it!

James, I have a lot of respect for a lot of what you say, particularly that you are not afraid of 'calling it as you see it'. So in the same spirit, let me do likewise: I believe you should take a long hard look at yourself before you rant on about others. If you keep believing your own bullshit like this, some day someone may just suggest a career in estate agency to you...! Yours sincerely
DANIEL NASH MNAEA, MARLA

Published "in its entirety" as requested.

Well done, Daniel. A dream of a last line. To take it a step further, three little things to make your trade almost lovable...

1. Stop blaming prices on 'the market' as though you have nothing to do with it.
2. No more highest-bidder or

RANTS AND PANTS

offers - the house is set at a fair price and stays there.

3. No more 'buy-to-let'. This robs our children of any chance of having their own place.

Dear Mr Hannaway

I am writing to highlight a problem I am experiencing with your Voucher system.

I was given a Voucher (No. 1244) for two box tickets as a Christmas present by my friend. I was absolutely delighted with this until I came to redeem it in January when I was told all the films I wanted to see were fully booked. The same thing happened in February and March and, I have no doubt, will happen in April when I try to book for May.

Apparently the only way I can be relatively certain of booking is to queue at an early hour on the Saturday morning when booking for the following month opens. Even then, of course, there are no guarantees. This, I am sure, was not what my friend had in mind when she purchased the Voucher and since it expires on 30th June it would seem that there is every likelihood that I will be unable to use it I am unable to attend a matinee and I do not wish to see one of the 'less popular' films (two of the suggestions made by a member of your staff).

At the moment there is only one winner in this. I am disappointed because I am unable to book seats and my friend is disappointed because what she thought would be an unusual and welcome gift (as it was) has soured.

You, however, have had the money for two box seats since December and may, indeed, retain it until June and then forever, if I

am still unable to book. If this should happen, can I assume that you will provide a refund?

You have, after all, taken money for something you are not able to provide.

I would welcome your comments on this situation. At the very least you should ensure you make people aware, when purchasing a Voucher, that the recipient will very likely have to join a lengthy queue in order to redeem it and that it is not, therefore, suitable to present as a gift.

Yours sincerely
MRS JACQUIE GUEST

You're right Jacquie Guest. It is a nice idea, thwarted by the mischief of sell-out shows! Two years ago nobody could have

predicted gift vouchers would become vouchers-to-queue! A present you can't open is just a worthless box. The frustration for both parties is clear. Thus we are thinking of dropping blank vouchers.

One way around it is if you book tickets for a specific film on a specific day far enough ahead for your friends or family to make arrangements. This way it will be like inviting them to something special, where you have chosen the date - eg a party. Best to avoid weekends. Early weekdays a few weeks ahead is probably safer.

So the buyer queues for the tickets! If it is the 'thought that counts', then this is thought in deed.

Changes will start on 1st May.

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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