



# THE-REX

SEPTEMBER 2021

ESCHER: JOURNEY  
INTO INFINITY

"velveteen glamour and brilliant programming..." (The Guardian)

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

SEPTEMBER 2021 - ISSUE 190  
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# THE-REX

CINEMA BERKHAMSTED

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**Films At A Glance 16-17**

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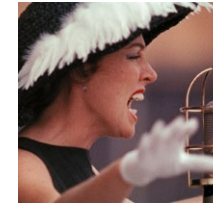
**Advertising:** Chloe Butler  
01442 877999

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**The Rex**  
High Street (Three Close Lane)  
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[www.therexberkhamsted.com](http://www.therexberkhamsted.com)

**"Unhesitatingly The Rex is the best cinema I have ever.."**  
**(STimes Culture)**

## FILMS OF THE MONTH



**JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY**  
Sunday 5th  
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**HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE**  
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## TimeOut The 50 best cinemas in the UK and Ireland

### 22. The Rex, Berkhamsted

With its art deco frontage and two-tiered auditorium, the Rex is the 1930s handiwork of cinema architect David Evelyn Nye. A devout man and a teetotaler, he'd have swerved the bar at the back of its single screen – but for regulars, it stays open during screenings, with the bar staff on stealth mode to keep distraction to a minimum. Affordable prices, leg-room fit for a giraffe and a 35mm projector (as well as the digital kind) have helped the cinema build a devoted following. With the broad programming ethos and nightclub-style seating, it's the kind of place you can watch *Cabaret* and feel like you're in it all at once. *Phil de Semlyen*

#### Put it on the poster:

The Rex's longest-running film is *The Motorcycle Diaries*, which screened regularly for two years.

To dare this hubris into next month, we compare the Rex to the Beatles...!! JH



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## SEPTEMBER FILMS





## The Father

Florian Zeller's *The Father* originated as a Rubik's Cube of a drama about the tricks a mind plays in advanced deterioration. This spiky, discombobulating piece was transferred to the London stage in 2015. The film, directed by Zeller himself and starring a fiercely powerful, Bafta and Oscar-winning Anthony Hopkins, maintains the same slippery structure. *The Father* is set almost entirely in a house – where fast-waning retired engineer Anthony (Hopkins) stays with his daughter Anne (Olivia Colman). The *Father* functions like a mystery, as we are each immersed in Anthony's unreliable perspective. Like a magician, Zeller brilliantly fashions illusion out of disillusion, challenging us to try to distinguish precisely what is true in a confusing environment. He uses conventions of film like a master manipulator, creating a space that always exists conceptually as opposed to literally. For the many people impacted by dementia, it won't be an easy watch – and for those who have experienced it in the past, it may feel like a gentle pressure on an old wound. But it's a real window into an affliction that is both commonplace and unfathomable. And in that sense, it is a gift. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Florian Zeller  
Cast: Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Imogen Poots, Olivia Williams, Mark Gatiss, Rufus Sewel  
Duration: 96 mins  
Origin: UK/France 2020  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Lionsgate

### When...

Wed 1 2.00, 7.30  
Tue 14 2.00



## Another Round

Thomas Vinterberg's rousing film, reuniting him with actor Mads Mikkelsen after 2012's *The Hunt*, is a slightly flippant tragicomedy of booze and midlife defiance. Four men – Martin (Mikkelsen), Tommy (Thomas Bo Larsen), Nikolaj (Magnus Millang), and Peter (Lars Ranthe) – are teachers at the same school. They lead relatively stable lives. Too stable, in fact, and things have gone stale for everyone. One night, out celebrating Nikolaj's 40th birthday as a quartet, they start to talk about the work of a well-known psychiatrist, Finn Skårderud, who proposed the theory that the human body is naturally 0.05 percent deficient in alcohol. Could life be better if they make up the difference? The theory, of course, is soon tested. The film's exuberance comes from moments of unpredictability, when the characters teeter on the precipice of either ecstasy or injury. It helps that Mikkelsen literally throws himself into the role; he's all drunk swagger and wobbly limbs. The Danish title is "Druk", a term which is maybe best translated by adding the letter N before the one at the end. *Another Round* is as much bursting with warmth and wit as it is alcohol. *Skål!* *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Thomas Vinterberg  
Cast: Lars Ranthe, Magnus Millang, Mads Mikkelsen, Thomas Bo Larsen  
Duration: 117 mins  
Origin: Denmark 2020 (Subtitled)  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Studiocanal

### When...

Thu 2 2.00, 7.30  
Wed 29 2.00, 7.30



## The Suicide Squad

In what feels like a genuine apology, DC are starting again; retooling the *Suicide Squad* comics - this time with writer/director James Gunn at the helm - in an attempt to scrub out the awful 2016 original.

The eccentric cast of anti-heroes are tasked by Viola Davis to deal with the aftermath of a revolution in the island nation of Corto Maltese. And so they are sent in, guns blazing, doing dirty work other 'normal' superheroes wouldn't touch with a barge pole. Gunn applies the same pulpy energy so effortlessly woven through both *Guardians of the Galaxy*s. Gone are the murky visuals and frenetic editing; gone is Will Smith, with Idris Elba filling the lead role; gone is the lurid objectification of one Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) who's now having an empowering blast. In its place are saturated colours and confident humour (albeit still firmly in the low-brow department) and a genuine reverence for the lesser known pages of its source material: including Polkdot Man, and a talking shark with a taste for human flesh. Thank goodness then for the brutish, maximalist, unhinged silliness of this new *Suicide Squad*, giving these oddballs a much needed lease of life. *(Jack Whiting)*



Director: James Gunn  
Cast: Margot Robbie, Idris Elba, John Cena, Joel Kinnaman, Viola Davis, Pete Davidson  
Duration: 132 mins  
Origin: USA 2021  
Certificate: 15  
Company: Warner Bros

### When...

Fri 3 7.30





## Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway

Beatrix Potter's lovable creation goes from tea time to crime time.

Now that Bea and Thomas are married and living in harmony with Peter and his entourage of critters, Bea is getting noticed for her storybook about their farm. Big city publisher Basil makes a lavish offer, encouraging Bea to tell more commercial tales. But labelling Peter as the bad seed strikes a nerve, so he runs away, falling in with petty thief rabbit Barnabas and his gang. Together, they begin to make plans for an elaborate farmer's market heist but when his family risks everything to come looking for him, Peter must figure out what kind of bunny he wants to be. Taking the weaknesses of the original and turning them into strengths, the second in the series continues the evolution away from the gentle English countryside feel of the original writings, albeit in meta fashion, winking all the way. And it works charmingly well. Corden aside, Domhnall Gleeson and Rose Byrne head up an impressive cast of live and voice actors who bring just the right level of zany wackiness to keep this ticking along nicely. A surprisingly sweet second swing at success. (Chris Coetsee)

Director: Will Gluck  
Cast: Domhnall Gleeson, James Corden, Margot Robbie, Rose Byrne  
Duration: 93 mins  
Origin: Australia/India/USA/UK/Canada 2021  
Certificate: U  
Company: Sony Pictures Releasing

When...

Sat 4 2.00



## In The Heights

There's a sentimental kind of exuberance and more than two solid hours of dancing in the streets in this earnest movie-musical version of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway hit.

The main voice belongs to Usnavi (Anthony Ramos), who is on a beach telling a group of kids about his memories of New York City's Washington Heights neighbourhood.

A full-throated celebration of the diverse Latinx community that's been the lifeblood of Washington Heights since the white flight of the 1960s, In the Heights paved the way for Hamilton by transposing hip-hop, salsa, merengue, and other decidedly non-white sounds into a cadence that would appeal to Broadway audiences.

In the Heights is the kind of electrifying theatrical experience that people have been waxing nostalgic for ever since the pandemic began - the kind that it almost seemed like we might never get to enjoy again. That's due at least in part to director Jon M. Chu (Crazy Rich Asians) who sets his gorgeous young cast loose in a city where dazzling scenes of magical realism will carry you away. (Jack Whiting) It is fantastic. It will be back time and again. Don't wait come now.

Director: Jon M. Chu  
Cast: Anthony Ramos, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Stephanie Beatriz, Corey Hawkins  
Duration: 120 mins  
Origin: USA 2021  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Warner Bros

When...

Sat 4 7.00 Tue 7 2.00  
Thu 30 2.00



## Jazz On A Summer's Day

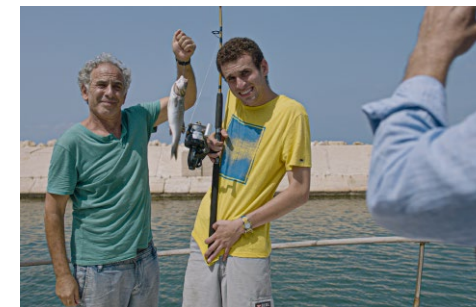
A legendary lineup of Jazz royalty take centre stage in Bert Stern's essential, timeless masterpiece.

The year is 1958. It's the dawn of a new age, full of excitement and expectation. Gathered for the Newport Jazz Festival, an eager crowd of concert-goers gathers under a blazing sun. What follows is a musical tour de force, anchored by Louis Armstrong and Mahalia Jackson but before they arrive late in the proceedings, there's a crowded roster of heavy-hitters getting in on the act; Anita O'Day, Dinah Washington, Thelonious Monk and Gerry Mulligan to name but four (and not forgetting a 31 year old Chuck Berry). Stern only directed one documentary. But Jazz on a Summer's Day is undoubtedly the greatest jazz performance documentary ever made. Every shot in this film has been perfectly framed. Even the cutaways to audience members chatting and dancing seem to tell their own stories. It's a work of beauty in and of itself; gorgeous images, Newport at its serene and confident peak with integrated stages and audiences far from the civil rights struggles erupting across the rest of the country. Simply the artists, their fans and the music that binds them together. (Chris Coetsee)

Director: Bert Stern  
Cast: Anita O'Day, Louis Armstrong, Dinah Washington, Mahalia Jackson  
Duration: 86 mins  
Origin: USA 1959  
Certificate: U  
Company: Contemporary Films

When...

Sun 5 6.00 Mon 6 2.00



## Here We Are

Here We Are is a tender and moving portrait of a father and son relationship in transition, perfectly performed by its two leads.

It explores an intense relationship between father Aharon (Shai Avivi) and his son Uri (Noam Imber), a young man in his 20s; although the word autism barely features here, it's clear that Uri is on the spectrum. He can speak, but he's very attached to his routines, and obsessed with watching Charlie Chaplin films; he must have his dad around to help him navigate the world at all times lest there's any danger he might, for example, step on a snail, a prospect that terrifies him.

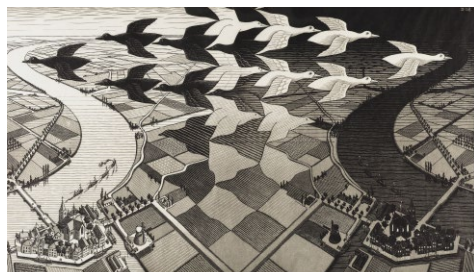
Uri's mother is pushing for him to live in a residential home. Convinced that Uri is not ready to leave their true home, Aharon embarks on an illicit road trip with his son. Tackling its subject with sensitivity and insight, it is a textured depiction of a co-dependence, told without a shred of forced sentimentality, and one that builds to a moving last act. Israeli director Nir Bergman has crafted a stirring and uplifting tale of fatherly love, and one that should not be missed. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Nir Bergman  
Cast: Noam Imber, Smadi Wolfman, Shai Avivi  
Duration: 95 mins  
Origin: Israel 2020 (Subtitled)  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Studio Soho Distribution Ltd

When...

Mon 6 7.30





## Escher: Journey Into Infinity

If you're of a certain age, the mere mention of M.C. Escher can nudge you into a heady swirl of nostalgia. The name has become shorthand for a certain kind of illusion and visually perplexing design. Brought to life by Stephen Fry's wry narration, Robin Lutz has put together a fascinating introduction to the work of the legendary Dutch artist and illustrator. The documentary shows how he was a passionate romantic at heart, and how his work was shaped by his initial, abandoned training as an architect. This is about as subjective as a cinematic experience one can get about the icon's life; utilising his own writing to transport the viewers into his mind, accompanied by the gallery of images seen by the artist, from his own work to the places he visited for inspiration. Escher's work was well known in postwar Netherlands, but it was only after a 1954 article in Time magazine that his reputation took off globally, and his work meshed with the trippy aesthetics of the counterculture. But the more that time moves on, the more Escher seems to touch something timeless. *(Jack Whiting)*

**Director:** Robin Lutz  
**Cast:** George Escher, M.C. Escher, Stephen Fry  
**Duration:** 80 mins  
**Origin:** Netherlands 2021  
**Certificate:** PG  
**Company:** Munro Film Services

**When...**

**Tue 7 7.30**



## Last Letter From Your Lover

Following the success of the film adaptation of her 2012 novel 'Me Before You', another of Jojo Moyes' novels is realised for the screen by a star-studded cast. When journalist Ellie (Felicity Jones) is researching for her next feature with the assistance of company archivist Rory (Nabhaan Rizwan) she comes across a collection of letters sent between two anonymous lovers. The appearance of the letters instigates a flashback to 1965 and the French Riviera where, caught in a marriage of convenience to the narcissistic Laurence (Joe Alwyn), society belle Jennifer (Shailene Woodley) is suffering from amnesia following a car crash. Discovering evidence of her affair with foreign correspondent Anthony (Callum Turner), she retraces the tragedies and challenges behind her quest for true love. Director Augustine Frizzell is a relative newcomer to the feature film scene but has already contributed to some impressive projects (including HBO's hit show Euphoria and A24's Never Goin' Back). She brings to the table a film steeped in Europhilic nostalgia, with fabulous of-the-period costumes designed by the Emmy-nominated Anna Robbins, that's far more a treat for the eyes than the mind. *(Freya Williams)*



**Director:** Augustine Frizzell  
**Cast:** Joe Alwyn, Shailene Woodley, Felicity Jones, Ncuti Gatwa, Nabhaan Rizwan, Callum Turner  
**Duration:** 109 mins  
**Origin:** UK/France 2020  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Company:** Studiocanal

**When...**

**Wed 8 2.00, 7.30**  
**Tue 21 2.00, 7.30**





## Hunt For The Wilderpeople

**Ricky (Julian Dennison) is a chubby hip-hop loving pre-teen who's been moved from home to home for most of his 13 years.** Described by his child-services worker, Paula (Rachel House) as a 'very bad egg', his new foster placement is his last chance before being sent to juvenile lockup. Bella (Rima Te Wiata) and Hec (Sam Neill) a self-sustaining old couple living in a remote clearing at the edge of the bush, become Ricky's guardians. Despite a slightly rocky start, their domestic situation seems promising. When tragedy strikes, Ricky escapes into the bush to avoid the inevitable return to the public system. Fortunately, his cantankerous "Uncle Hec" finds him hungry and cold in the wilderness. Then the real adventure begins. There's Haiku poetry from Ricky who turns out to be the right foil for Hec's laconic outdoorsman (and a Sam Neill best). Director Taika Waititi's last film was the touching anti-hate satire and Oscar winning JoJo Rabbit. As for the fab What We Do In The Shadows. Wow! "It's formulaic at heart but has a sweet predictable sense of humour and a nice way with words..." (ST Culture) It's fabulous, and back by gentle demand. Don't miss.

Director: Taika Waititi  
Cast: Sam Neill, Julian Dennison, Rima Te Wiata  
Duration: 101 mins  
Origin: New Zealand 2016  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Vertigo Films

When...

Thu 9 2.00, 7.30



## Black Widow

**One of the very few upsides to the pandemic is a long overdue respite from the Marvel onslaught. That quiet period is shattered, however, as the MCU machine kicks back into high gear with Black Widow.** Natasha Romanov, aka Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) finally gets her place in the spotlight, even if it is just backstory filler. In the mid-90s, a pre-teen Natasha and her younger sister Yelena (Florence Pugh) - along with Russian double-agents, Alexei (David Harbour) and Melina (Rachel Weisz) - pretended to be a normal, happy American family. After an incident, the family go their separate ways, with Yelena and Natasha recruited into an army of super-secret girl assassins, controlled by the sinister Dreykov (Ray Winstone, tackling a Russian accent that can only be seen as insulting). Flashforward twenty years later and we see Natasha, now an Avengers stalwart, finding that the past is starting to catch up with her. This spy thriller plays out like Bourne Identity or Mission: Impossible, but for viewers who like their stunts rendered in a computer. It's a breezy break from the cosmic, dimension-warping adventures we've been getting used to. As solid and grounded as Johansson is, it's Pugh that shines. She deserves her own spin-off. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Cate Shortland  
Cast: Scarlett Johansson, Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Rachel Weisz, O-T Fagbenle  
Duration: 133 mins  
Origin: USA 2021  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Walt Disney

When...

Fri 10 7.30



## Moonbound

**Based on a well-known 1915 children's book - Gerdt Von Bassewitz's Little Peter's Journey to the Moon - this adequate animation blends together an assortment of vaguely familiar characters and story tropes.**

Life is pretty tough for Peter, and all the more so because he has to put up with an annoying little sister, Anne. She is particularly fond of making up fantastic stories, and Peter is so fed up with them that he declares he wishes he could send her to the Moon. But when the nefarious Moon Man kidnaps her, he realises that it's his duty as a big brother to get her back. On his fantastic adventure, Peter lands on the Star Meadow where he meets the sleepy Mr Sandman. He knows they can only find out about Anne's whereabouts at the castle in the clouds; they then engage in a wild race along the Milky Way. Where charm might be lacking, wonder certainly isn't; the luna landscapes are handsomely presented, drawing on the richness of the book and on Middle Eastern artistic traditions which give them a distinct visual quality. This breezy yarn will go down a treat for the little ones. (Jack Whiting)



Director: Ali Samadi Ahadi  
Cast: Ryan O'Neal, Tatum O'Neal, Madeline Kahn  
Duration: 85 mins  
Origin: Germany 2021  
Certificate: PG  
Company: Signature Entertainment

When...

Sat 11 2.00



## COMING SOON

### NEW RELEASES



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MINAMATA



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ANNETTE



NEW ORDER



THE MALTESE FALCON

### BACK BY DEMAND



AMERICAN UTOPIA



THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES



THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS

## SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

MATINEES	TIME	DATE	EVENINGS	TIME
THE FATHER	2:00	WED 1	THE FATHER	7.30
ANOTHER ROUND (S)	2:00	THU 2	ANOTHER ROUND (S)	7.30
NO MATINEE		FRI 3	THE SUICIDE SQUAD	7.30
PETER RABBIT 2	2:00	SAT 4	IN THE HEIGHTS	7.00
NO MATINEE		SUN 5	JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY	6.00
JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY	2:00	MON 6	HERE WE ARE (S)	7.30
IN THE HEIGHTS	2:00	TUE 7	ESCHER: JOURNEY INTO INFINITY	7.30
LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER	2:00	WED 8	LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER	7.30
HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE	2:00	THU 9	HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE	7.30
NO MATINEE		FRI 10	BLACK WIDOW	7.30
MOONBOUND	2:00	SAT 11	STILLWATER	7.00
NO MATINEE		SUN 12	THE COURIER	6.00
RIDERS OF JUSTICE (S)	2:00	MON 13	RIDERS OF JUSTICE (S)	7.30
THE FATHER	2:00	TUE 14	THE SPARKS BROTHERS	7.30
THE COURIER	2:00	WED 15	THE COURIER	7.30
STILLWATER	2:00	THU 16	ZOLA	7.30
NO MATINEE		FRI 17	RIDERS OF JUSTICE (S)	7.30
PAW PATROL: THE MOVIE	2:00	SAT 18	FREE GUY	7.00
NO MATINEE		SUN 19	THE WORLD TO COME	6.00
THE WORLD TO COME	2:00	MON 20	LIMBO	7.30
LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER	2:00	TUE 21	LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER	7.30
THE NIGHT HOUSE	2:00	WED 22	THE NIGHT HOUSE	7.30
SUMMER OF SOUL	2:00	THU 23	SUMMER OF SOUL	7.30
NO MATINEE		FRI 24	GUNPOWDER MILKSHAKE	7.30
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	2:00	SAT 25	REMINISCENCE	7.00
NO MATINEE		SUN 26	THE LAST BUS	6.00
THE LAST BUS	2:00	MON 27	MISHA AND THE WOLVES	7.30
SUPERNOVA	2:00	TUE 28	SUPERNOVA	7.30
ANOTHER ROUND (S)	2:00	WED 29	ANOTHER ROUND (S)	7.30
IN THE HEIGHTS	2:00	THU 30	REMINISCENCE	7.30

(S) SUBTITLED





## Stillwater

**Matt Damon delves beneath the surface in this gripping story of a flawed father seeking redemption.** In Stillwater, Oklahoma, unemployed Bill heads to Marseille to visit his daughter Allison (Breslin), who has spent the past five years in prison for murdering her roommate and lover Lina. Despite Allison's continued cries of innocence, her lawyer has exhausted all avenues of appeal and her prospects of release look bleak. Determined to secure his daughter's freedom, Bill digs into the case himself. After befriending eight-year-old Maya in his hotel, he reaches out to her actress mother Virginie for help translating French. Together, the unlikely allies embark on a journey of discovery, truth, love and liberation. Director Tom McCarthy (Spotlight) extracts some fantastic performances from his talented cast. Front and centre is Damon, who inhabits Bill without a shred of pretence, cliché or caricature. His performance is natural, intricate and some of his best work in years. Despite a hefty budget and it's A-list star, Stillwater is a film far more concerned about human behaviour and asking tough questions than showcasing large set pieces, and is all the more fascinating for it. (Chris Coetsee)

### When...

**Sat 11** 7.00  
**Thu 16** 2.00



## The Courier

**Benedict Cumberbatch is a man on a mission in this gripping Cold War thriller.** As tensions between the USA and USSR reach breaking point in 1960, Russian intelligence colonel Oleg Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze) wants to relieve pressure by passing secrets to the West. The CIA and MI6 select unwitting businessman Greville (Cumberbatch) as the courier, suggesting he expand his sales to Moscow. As the Cold War escalates, Berlin is divided, the Soviets begin installing missiles in Cuba and Greville's assignment takes on a new urgency. Forming a covert, dangerous partnership with Oleg, he suddenly finds himself racing to provide crucial intelligence needed to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis. Based on an astonishing true story, this classic-style spy stuff, yet laid out in grounded, believable fashion. Cumberbatch is terrific as the hapless engineer in the eye of the storm. His personal friendship with the engaging Oleg is brilliantly captured, the two finding a commonality between their lives. Suspenseful from the off, it's a first-rate exploration of how average people quietly worked toward peace at a fraught moment in history, in full knowledge of the dangers they and their families faced. (Chris Coetsee)



**Director:** Dominic Cooke  
**Cast:** Benedict Cumberbatch, Jessie Buckley, James Schofield, Rachel Brosnahan,  
**Duration:** 112 mins  
**Origin:** UK/USA 2021  
**Certificate:** 12A  
**Company:** Lionsgate

### When...

**Sun 12** 6.00  
**Wed 15** 2.00, 7.30





Director: Anders Thomas Jensen  
 Cast: Nicolas Bro, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Mads Mikkelsen  
 Duration: 116 mins  
 Origin: Denmark/Sweden/Finland 2021 (Subtitled)  
 Certificate: 15  
 Company: Vertigo

## Riders Of Justice

**Mads Mikkelsen dominates the Rex screen once again in this gripping humour-infused thriller from writer-director Anders Thomas Jensen.**

Markus's (Mads Mikkelsen) deployment to Afghanistan is cut short when his wife dies in a train collision. Returning home to his daughter Mathilde (Andrea Heick Gadeberg), he struggles to navigate their joint grief. When Otto (Nikolaj Lie Kaas), a statistical analyst and fellow survivor of the incident, arrives unannounced with evidence linking the accident to the trial of the notorious boss of motorbiker gang, Markus embarks on a pursuit for the truth and revenge. With a hefty 56 writing credits to his name, here Anders Thomas Jensen expands his directorial portfolio with a gritty screwball and thriller fusion. The success of this film should not be solely attributed to him, however. Without the support of the 25-person strong stunt team and the formidable pairing of cinematographer Kasper Tuxen and colourist Hannibal Lang, who deftly set the tone with a monochromatic aesthetic, *Riders of Justice* wouldn't be nearly as exhilarating of a journey. (Freya Williams)

### When...

**Mon 13** 2.00, 7.30  
**Fri 17** 7.30



## The Sparks Brothers

**Edgar Wright's ignites curiosity with his kinetic portrait of Ron and Russell Mael, otherwise known as the American pop and rock duo Sparks.**

Here, the famously musically-minded Wright tackles documentary form, curating joyfully eclectic coverage of the pop-culture folklore that has shrouded the individual and creative identities of Sparks since their formation. Wright navigates the mythology associated with them through a fusion of archival footage, animated sequences (created by Joseph Wallace, who previously worked with Sparks on the stop-motion music video for Edith Piaf (*Said It Better Than Me*)) and interviews with figures from across the arts and entertainment industries – including Steve Jones, Neil Gaiman, and Mark Gatiss. There's also a brief cameo from Wright's *Cornetto* trilogy muses Simon Pegg and Nick Frost as they voice John Lennon and Ringo Starr in a retelling of apocryphal *Top of the Pops* story. A genre-bending chronology of fact and fiction, it's a psychedelic feast of quirky trivia for hardcore and soon-to-be fans alike. If anything, come for a peek at Ron's surprisingly impressive snowglobe collection. (Freya Williams)



Director: Edgar Wright  
 Cast: Ron Mael, Russell Mael, Beck, Jane Wiedlin, Flea  
 Duration: 140 mins  
 Origin: UK/USA 2021  
 Certificate: 15  
 Company: Universal

### When...

**Tue 14** 7.30





## Zola

**If you ever run out of books and plays to adapt into film, just head on over to Twitter. That's exactly what director Janicza Bravo did with this electrifying drama.**

To recap: in 2015 a 19-year-old Detroit waitress/exotic dancer called Aziah "Zola" King (Taylour Paige) went viral with hundreds of tweets recounting how she was seduced by a crazy white "bee-atch" named Stefani (Riley Keough) into a wild 48 hours of stripping, guns and sex trafficking in Florida. There's a sense of adventure in the early stages of the journey but as they get closer, Zola starts to question exactly who she's travelling with and as the night gets underway, she finds herself trapped in a dangerous game of prostitution, pimps and murder. With shades of Natural Born Killers and Spring Breakers, this Twitter-to-screen adaptation is as scrappy and imperfect as the original story but just as likable. It has a kind of intelligent attitude toward trash and the sheer crazy energy of the film feels intoxicating. Zola free wheels between queasy authenticity, gasp-out-loud laughs, unerotic eroticism and dazzling fantasy. *(Jack Whiting)*

Director: Janicza Bravo  
Cast: Taylour Paige, Riley Keough, Colman Domingo, Nicholas Braun, Nelsie Souffrant, Ts Madison  
Duration: 86 mins  
Origin: USA 2020  
Certificate: 18  
Company: Sony Pictures

When...

Thu 16 7.30



## Paw Patrol: The Movie

**The pack of pups head for the big city in this colourful and inspiring animated feature.**

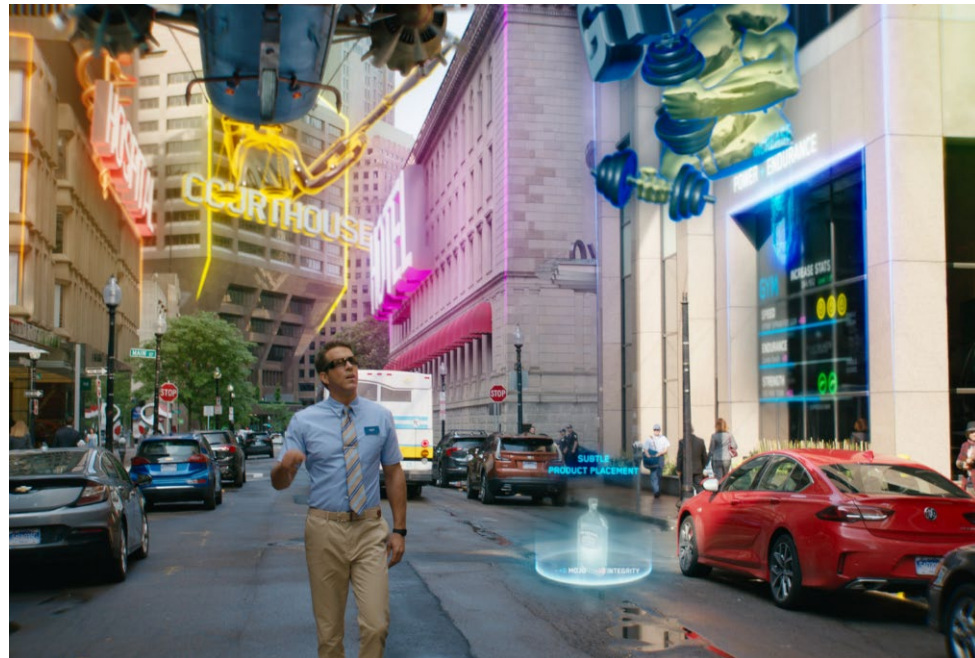
Young human Ryder (voiced by newcomer Will Brisbin) and his squad of pooches run Adventure Bay's rescue operations. When their biggest rival, Humdinger, starts wreaking havoc as the mayor of the city, Ryder and everyone's favourite heroic hounds kick into high gear to face the challenge. Armed with exciting new gadgets and gear, the PAW Patrol joins forces with a savvy dachshund to save the citizens of Adventure City.

Paw Patrol's greatest strengths are the messages of teamwork and accepting ourselves, flaws and all. Many will be able to relate with Chase and his insecurities and Liberty and her desire to be part of the team. Chase in particular goes through some real emotions and the film gives him the time to drink those feelings in. His process is ideal for encouraging children to talk about their concerns in a healthy way, and how not to fear them. Both entertaining and educational, this is one animated adventure that neither kids nor parents will feel the need to be rescued from. *(Chris Coetsee)*

Director: Cal Bruner  
Cast: Iain Armitage, Will Brisbin, Ron Pardo, Marsai Martin, Yara Shahidi, Randall Park, Dax Shepard  
Duration: 88 mins  
Origin: USA/Canada  
Certificate: U  
Company: Paramount

When...

Sat 18 2.00



## Free Guy

**Every morning Guy (Ryan Reynolds) goes through the same routine: put on the same blue shirt, order the same coffee, go to work at the same bank... and watch it get robbed, over and over and over again, like clockwork.**

Gradually, Guy realises that his repetitive life is not even real; he is, in fact, an NPC (non-player character) in a video game. A flaw in the algorithm means that he has evolved into an AI state of free will and agency, and is now able to break the shackles of his pre-programmed daily life. This astonishes the game's evil corporate owner Antwan (Taika Waititi), and also the game's designers Millie (Jodie Comer) and Keys (Joe Keery) whose concept Antwan ripped off. Millie realises that she will have to enter the game as a player herself, befriend Guy and enlist his help in getting back their intellectual property. It's as if someone took The Truman Show, stripped out all serious satirical ambition, and replaced it with rainbow-coloured spectacle, yet Free Guy aims for the heart rather than the brain, and Reynolds and Comer are a winning pair. *(Jack Whiting)*



Director: Shawn Levy  
Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Taika Waititi, Jodie Comer, Lil Rel Howery, Joe Keery, Britne Oldford  
Duration: 12A  
Origin: USA/Canada/Japan 2021  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Walt Disney

When...

Sat 18 7.00





## The World To Come

**Another day, another period-set lesbian drama. This visceral heartbreaker is a low-key account of an infatuation between two women pioneers in mid-rural 19th-century New York.**

Abigail (Katherine Waterston) narrates the tale of how she came to meet farmer's wife Tallie (Vanessa Kirby) and finally understood what tenderness and companionship felt like, as the two married women fell fast and hard in love. Men, of course, become roadblocks to their blossoming affections.

Abigail has a needily morose husband, Dyer (Casey Affleck), who soon recognises the women are more than just friends. Dyer tries to guilt-trip his wife into ending the affair. Finney (Christopher Abbott) - Tallie's Husband - takes a different approach. Mona Fastvold's film is one in which love springs in winter, whereas spring beckons devastation. Waterston and Kirby are a consistently gorgeous match; they lend a droll spin to the smallest scenes, and never overdo Abigail and Tallie's tenderness towards one another. The gothic thrills are both subtle and properly gut-churning, and if you're a fan of Portrait of a Lady on Fire, Ammonite, or Carol, you'll feel right at home. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Mona Fastvold  
Cast: Katherine Waterston, Vanessa Kirby, Casey Affleck  
Duration: 95 mins  
Origin: USA 2020  
Certificate: 15  
Company: Columbia Pictures Corporation Ltd.

### When...

Sun 19 6.00  
Mon 20 2.00



## Limbo

**The refugee experience is given a wry twist in Ben Sharrock's BAFTA-nominated comedy-drama.**

Syrian refugee Omar is stranded on a Scottish island waiting for his asylum hearing. He remains in contact with his mother using a phone box in the middle of nowhere. A promising musician, he's burdened by his grandfather's oud, which he has carried all the way from his homeland. His flatmates are Afghan exile Farhad (Bhai), who has been waiting in this purgatory for almost three years, and two Africans (Ansah and Orebiyi) dreaming of footballing glory. Together, they're in Limbo.

Writer-director Sharrock sees the narrative through a cheeky, artful eye, catching tiny absurdities and deeper resonance. He assembles his world cleverly, capturing the people and settings with quirky wit. Omar has little in common with the other guys, but they're the only people he knows. They lounge around their shared flat watching Friends. They share wrenching stories of fleeing their homeland. It's an offbeat representation of the everyday. With snappy production design and a delightful cast, this is a wonderfully human and intimate approach to an important topic. (Chris Coetsee)

Director: Ben Sharrock  
Cast: Amir El-Masry, Vikash Bhai, Ola Orebiyi, Kenneth Collard, Sidse Babbett Knudsen  
Duration: 104 mins  
Origin: UK 2020  
Certificate: 12A  
Company: Mubi

### When...

Mon 20 7.30



## The Night House

**Jump scares get a bad rap, primarily because they're used in cheap ways. Now there are good jump scares out there, ones designed to shake you to your core.** The Night House is full of these genuine shocks – and boy oh boy are they effective. We open with Beth (Rebecca Hall) entering her empty lakefront home after attending her husband's funeral. Still reeling from his unexpected death, Beth struggles to live alone in the home he built for them. Almost immediately, she's plagued by strange dreams, and haunted by a ghostly presence that beckons to her. While her friends are deeply concerned, Beth ignores them and begins searching through his belongings, discovering dark secrets that indicate she might not have known her husband as well as she thought.

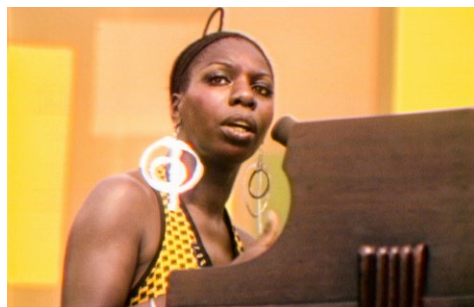
Hall worked wonders in 2011's The Awakening, another chiller that, without her compelling performance, might've slipped into obscurity. Here she does it again; while we've all seen this kind of ghostly tale many times before, the combination of Hall's convincing paranoia and the sense of mounting dread, elevate an otherwise ordinary horror into something genuinely terrifying. (Jack Whiting)

Director: David Bruckner  
Cast: Rebecca Hall, Sarah Goldberg, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Evan Jonigkeit, Stacy Martin, Christina Jackson  
Duration: 108 mins  
Origin: UK 2021  
Certificate: 15  
Company: Walt Disney

### When...

Wed 22 2.00, 7.30





## Summer Of Soul

**Musician Questlove marks his directorial debut with this stunning documentary feature.**

Over two months in 1969, during the same summer as Woodstock, more than 300,000 people attended the Harlem Cultural Festival. The event was captured on video, but plans to air it were scrapped and the footage was forgotten in a basement for 50 years. Summer of Soul dusts off the reels to blend a series of staggering performances with firsthand reminiscences that encompass the headlines and social issues of the period.

A star-studded line-up includes Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, BB King and Gladys Knight and the Pips. Their urgent, energetic sets are accompanied by newsreel clips and narrated by those who attended the event as teens, fully aware that it was organised to contain the rage of oppressed communities that had erupted a year earlier after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Both the attendees and artists express how it felt to be involved in the festival. Everyone recognises it wasn't just about the music. A remarkably textured and deeply involving concert film that explores the importance of embracing the truth of history in order to move forward.  
(Chris Coetsee)

When...

Thu 23 2.00, 7.30



## Gunpowder Milkshake

**It's beginning to dawn on me just how influential the John Wick films have become. Its visual flair for tightly choreographed violence has laid the groundwork for many imitators, and this female led romp is no exception.**

Sam (Karen Gillan) is an assassin who works for the nebulously powerful, all-male organization the Firm. She and her handler Nathan (Paul Giamatti) have been bumping people off for them for fifteen years, since her mother Scarlet (Lena Headey), also an assassin, left her behind. After a job goes horribly wrong and she kills someone unexpected, her life begins to unravel. With a target on her back, Sam needs to use all her shooting, slashing, stabbing, punching, and kicking skills to fight back against her foes.

Gunpowder Milkshake is a frenetic action spectacle that feels like a candy-coloured Tarantino theme park; and while it doesn't reach the level of Wick's visual splendor, it is still a bluntly stylised comic-book myth of kick-ass matriarchal empowerment. It is also an immense joy to see screen icons Michelle Yeoh and Angela Bassett take up arms and kick untold amounts of butt. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Navot Papushado  
Cast: Karen Gillan, Lena Heady, Carla Gugino  
Duration: 114 mins  
Origin: France 2020  
Certificate: 15  
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Fri 24 7.30



## Around The World In 80 Days

**Jules Verne's seminal work receives yet another update, this time in the form of a cute animal centric adventure for kids.**

Junior, a sensible, mild-mannered marmoset, dreams of travelling the world. By chance, he crosses paths with greedy frog Phileas, who accepts a wager to circumnavigate the globe in 80 days. If Phileas succeeds, he will be rewarded with 10 million delicious clams. Passepartout doesn't hesitate to join Phileas on his exhilarating escapade. Guided by the wise old turtle Nerissa, Junior must learn to trust his instincts, and his newly formed friendships to navigate his way through the chills of the Atlantic, the ships of the Suez Canal and crocodiles in China.

Along the way he discovers New York, the Titanic, London, Paris and even the ruins of Atlantis. Exhausted and with only a few days left of his epic journey he must pass through the Panama Canal to make it home. It's a breezy adaptation with bright, colourful characters and a giddy sense of joy.

(Jack Whiting)

Director: Samuel Tourneux  
Cast: Damien Frette, Julien Crampon, Kaycie Chase  
Duration: 82 mins  
Origin: France 2021  
Certificate: TBC  
Company: Studiocanal

When...

Sat 25 2.00





Director: Lisa Joy  
 Cast: Hugh Jackman, Rebecca Ferguson, Natalie Martinez  
 Duration: 116 mins  
 Origin: USA 2021  
 Certificate: PG  
 Company: FilmNation Entertainment

### When...

Sat 25 7.00  
 Thu 30 7.30

## Reminiscence

**Lisa Joy, together with her husband Jonathan Nolan (brother of Christopher) shepherded HBO's adaptation of Michael Crichton's Westworld to great success, now she's ready for her first feature.**

Nick Bannister (Hugh Jackman), a rugged and solitary veteran living in a near-future Miami flooded by rising seas, is an expert in a peculiar and dangerous occupation: he, along with his business partner, Watts (Thandie Newton) offers clients the chance to relive any memory they desire, via already outdated technology. His life spirals out of control when he meets a sultry, mysterious young woman named Mae (Rebecca Ferguson). What begins as a simple matter of lost and found becomes a passionate love affair. But when a different client's memories implicate Mae in a series of violent crimes, Bannister must dive, quite literally, into the dark world of the past to uncover the truth about the woman he fell for.

This isn't too far removed from something Philip K. Dick would've written; a potent mixture of Inception and Minority Report, with a heavy dose of classic romanticism and mystery, this sci-fi tinged neo-noir will scratch that Nolan itch quite comfortably. (Jack Whiting)



## The Last Bus

**Timothy Spall heads up this modest, heartwarming drama about a widower on one final adventure.**

Opening in flashback in 1952, couple Tom and Mary are forced to leave their home at Land's End and travel to the far point of John O'Groats, where, decades later, we catch up with them in their autumn years. Tom's quiet, unassuming life of retirement however is shattered when Mary tragically passes away.

Keeping an old promise and determined to bring his Mary's ashes back home, he begins a cross-Britain pilgrimage to Lands End utilising the free bus network that he can access with his travel pass. Armed with his map of the UK, precious brown suitcase and a habit of nodding off, he learns to rely on a string of kind-hearted strangers along the way and by the end of his trip he is destined to become a social media celebrity.

Timothy Spall's eternal face of confusion hides the raw emotion of the memories with the woman he just lost. It's a touching performance, befitting of the charming nature of this short but sweet tale of devotion and dedication. (Chris Coetsee)



Director: Gillies MacKinnon  
 Cast: Timothy Spall, Phyllis Logan, Grace Calder, Celyn Jones, Colin McCredie, Saskia Ashdown  
 Duration: 86 mins  
 Origin: UK/United Arab Emirates  
 Certificate: 12A  
 Company: Parkland

### When...

Sun 26 6.00  
 Mon 27 2.00





Misha And The Wolves

**Truth is stranger than fiction in this riveting exploration of the power of storytelling.**  
At the age of 7, Misha Defonseca was separated from her Jewish parents when they were captured by the Nazis. While hidden with a Catholic family in Brussels she ran away from safety, determined to walk to Germany and find her mother and father. Winding her way through the woodlands to avoid capture, she found comfort and companionship in a wolf pack that protected her along the way. Misha went on to share her story and a bestselling book about her survival was the result. But as the relationship between Defonseca and her publisher soured, the true nature of her experience was questioned and a lawsuit began. Here, filmmaker Sam Hobkinson attempts to unravel the truth with a range of inventive techniques. Slickly assembled are a selection of first-hand interviews, archival photos and clips, dramatic recreations and animation, all of them adding pieces to the puzzle that is the “real” story of Misha Defonseca. Doubting the account of a Holocaust survivor is borderline unthinkable, and yet this film provocatively takes on the idea, digging for truth in a way that feels transgressive but vital. (Chris Coetsee)

Director: Sam Hobkinson  
Cast: Misha Defonseca  
Duration: 90 mins  
Origin: Belgium 2021  
Certificate: PG  
Company: Republic Film Distribution

When...  
Mon 27 7.30



Supernova

**Tender performances from Stanley Tucci and Colin Firth carry this heartfelt, intimate film from actor-turned-film-maker Harry Macqueen, whose 2014 debut, Hinterland, was also a two-hander about love.** Partners Sam (Firth) and Tusker (Tucci) are driving through the Lake District, headed to the first concert classical pianist Sam intends to give after what appears to have been a long break. Tusker has been diagnosed with early-onset dementia. He knows there will come a time, sooner rather than later, when he'll look into Sam's eyes and no longer see the man he's loved for two decades. Inevitability hangs like a pointed sword above these men's heads. But life continues as normal, it seems, except for the creeping feeling that all their bickering about sat-navs, cooking responsibilities, and sleeping arrangements are but a well-rehearsed play that helps the two avoid confrontation with what lies ahead. The tone of Supernova will strike anyone who's still recovering from the pulverising impact of The Father, as extremely gentle. And that's sort of the point; it never insists on pleasing Oscar judges; this a more low-key affair; a sincere and affecting portrait of two people stoically accepting mortality. (Jack Whiting)

Director: Harry Macqueen  
Cast: Colin Firth, Stanley Tucci, Pippa Haywood, James Dreyfus  
Duration: 95 mins  
Origin: UK 2020  
Certificate: 15  
Company: StudioCanal

When...  
Tue 28 2.00, 7.30



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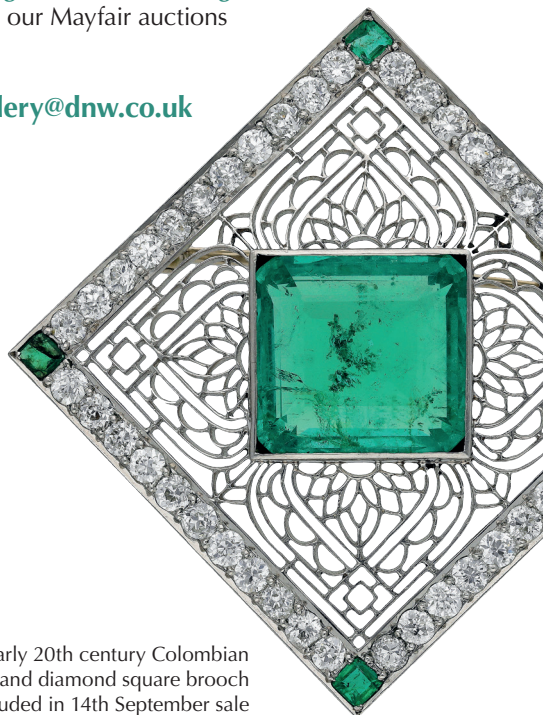
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