



Q & A

★★★ 18

Crime drama 1990 · US · Colour · 126min

Sidney Lumet, who was once described as New York's Charles Dickens, chronicles yet another case of civic corruption and bigotry. Nick Nolte, giving a charismatic performance, stars as a cop who is suspected of killing a drug pusher. Seeking the truth behind the murder is Timothy Hutton, a squeaky-clean assistant district attorney. It is best appreciated now as a showcase for Nolte's explosive talent. AT Contains violence, swearing, nudity. **DVD**

Nick Nolte *Lieutenant Mike Brennan* · Timothy Hutton *Al Reilly* · Armand Assante *Bobby Texador* · Patrick O'Neal *Kevin Quinn* · Lee Richardson *Leo Bloomenfeld* · Luis Guzman *Luis Valentin* · Charles Dutton *[Charles S Dutton]* Sam Chapman · Jenny Lumet *Nancy Bosch* ■ *Dir* Sidney Lumet · *Scr* Sidney Lumet, from the novel by Edwin Torres

Q Planes

★★★ U

Second World War spy drama

1939 · UK · BW · 78min

Laurence Olivier (as a test pilot) and Ralph Richardson (as a Scotland Yard officer) co-star in this terrific Irving Asher/Alexander Korda produced espionage romp. Richardson is especially good value as the policeman trying to discover why planes are disappearing off the coast of Cornwall and it's rare to find light-heartedness working so well in a British film of the period. DP

Laurence Olivier *Tony McVane* · Valerie Hobson *Kay Hammond* · Ralph Richardson *Charles Hammond* · George Curzon *Jenkins* · George Merritt *Barrett* ■ *Dir* Tim Whelan · *Scr* Ian Dalrymple, from a story by Jack Whittingham, Brock Williams, Arthur Wimperis

Q - the Winged Serpent

★★★★ 15

Fantasy horror 1982 · US · Colour · 92min

The ancient Aztec god Quetzacoatl, a giant flying serpent-bird, is reincarnated by a Manhattan cult and decapitates New Yorkers from its nest atop the Chrysler Building. As detectives David Carradine and Richard Roundtree try to make sense of the myth, petty crook Michael Moriarty holds the Big Apple to ransom. Larry Cohen's classic B picture is part wonderfully entertaining cop thriller, part old-fashioned monster movie. AJ Contains violence, swearing, nudity. **DVD**

Michael Moriarty *Jimmy Quinn* · David Carradine *Detective Shepard* · Candy Clark *Juan* · Richard Roundtree *SGT Powell* · James Dixon *Lt Murray* · Malachy McCourt *Police commissioner* ■ *Dir/Scr* Larry Cohen · *Special Effects* David Allen

Quackser Fortune Has a Cousin in the Bronx

★★★

Comedy drama 1970 · US · Colour · 90min

The dreadful title apart, this is a charming Irish fable with Gene Wilder cast as Quackser Fortune - his duck imitations earn him the nickname - who shovels horse manure for a living, selling it to housewives all over Dublin. A know-all American student, Margot Kidder, distracts him romantically and patronises him intellectually, until the cousin in the Bronx brings about an ironic conclusion. Cameraman Gilbert Taylor turns the city's glistening Georgian buildings and cobbled streets into a tourist agent's dream. AT

Gene Wilder *Quackser Fortune* · Margot Kidder *Zazel Pierce* · Eileen Colgan *Betsy Bourke* · Seamus Ford *Mr Fortune* · May Ollis *Mrs Fortune* · Liz Davis *Kathleen Fortune* ■ *Dir* Waris Hussein · *Scr* Gabriel Walsh

Quadrophenia

★★★★ 18

Musical drama 1979 · UK · Colour · 114min

The Who's *My Generation* musical tribute to Mods and Rockers in pre-1960s England is a near-perfect integration of cinematic story and rousing pop. It specifically focuses on the antics of parka-clad Phil Daniels, whose alienation is fuelled by pill-popping, scooter rave-ups and seaside battles in Brighton. Director Franc Roddam evokes the budding Swinging Sixties and the teenage sense of frustration and disillusionment with a lively precision. Sting makes his acting debut in this musical milestone crackling with energy and great performances. AJ Contains swearing, violence, sex scenes. **DVD**

Phil Daniels *Jimmy Michael Cooper* · Leslie Ash *Steph* · Philip Davis *Chalky* · Mark Wingett *Dave* · Sting *Ace Face* · Raymond Winstone *[Ray Winstone]* Kevin · Garry Cooper *Peter* · Toyah Willcox *Monkey* ■ *Dir* Franc Roddam · *Scr* Dave Humphries, Martin Stellman, Franc Roddam

Le Qui des Brumes

★★★★ 18

Romantic melodrama 1938 · Fr · BW · 87min

As war clouds gathered, French poetic realism grew increasingly pessimistic. None expressed this despondency more poignantly than Marcel Carné and screenwriter Jacques Prévert, who collaborated on this mist-shrouded waterfront tale of doomed romance. Confining the action entirely to the sublime studio sets designed by Alexandre Trauner and evocatively shot by Eugen Schüfftan, Carné was able to control every detail of his meticulous compositions and, thus, make the plight of army deserter Jean Gabin and waif Michèle Morgan all the more allegorically tragic. Pure melancholic magic. DP In French with subtitles. **DVD**

Jean Gabin *Jean* · Michèle Morgan *Nelly* · Michel Simon *Zabel* · Pierre Brasseur *Lucien* · Robert Le Vigan *Michel Krauss* ■ *Dir* Marcel Carné · *Scr* Jacques Prévert, from the novel by Pierre MacOrlan *[Pierre Dumarchais]*

Qui des Orfèvres

★★★★ 18

Thriller 1947 · Fr · BW · 102min

The title of this wonderfully atmospheric thriller refers to the French equivalent of Scotland Yard. The story revolves around a seedy music hall, where singer Suzy Delair thinks she has committed a murder for which her husband becomes a suspect. The director Henri-Georges Clouzot portrays a Paris teeming with life and mystery in which he observes human frailty with wit and compassion. Outstanding is Louis Jouvet as a police inspector, part cynic, part sentimentalist. It was Clouzot's first film for four years because his previous picture, *The Raven (Le Corbeau)*, had been accused of being anti-French propaganda. RB In French with subtitles. **DVD**

Simone Renant *Dora* · Suzy Delair *Jenny Lamour* · Bernard Blier *Maurice Martineau* · Charles Dullin *Brignon the industrialist* · Louis Jouvet *Inspector Antoine* ■ *Dir* Henri-Georges Clouzot · *Scr* Henri-Georges Clouzot, Jean Ferry, from the novel *Légitime Défense* by Stanislas-André Steeman

Quality Street

★★★ U

Comedy drama 1937 · US · BW · 82min

JM Barrie's now hopelessly dated whimsy came to the screen as a vehicle for Katharine Hepburn in a last-ditch - and unsuccessful - attempt by RKO to arrest her box-office decline. She's in love with the dashing Franchot Tone, who goes off to the Napoleonic Wars for several years without declaring his intentions. Amid studio-bound Toytown sets, George Stevens directs at a deadly pace for the first half, and the star's stagey and hysterical performance is more deranged Southern belle than genteel Englishwoman. RK

Katharine Hepburn *Phoebe Throssel* · Franchot Tone *Dr Valentine Brown* · Fay Bainter *Susan Throssel* · Eric Blore *Recruiting Sergeant* · Cora Witherspoon *Patty the Maid* · Joan Fontaine *Charlotte Parratt* ■ *Dir* George Stevens · *Scr* Mortimer Offner, Allan Scott, from the play by JM Barrie

Quantez

★★★

Western 1957 · US · Colour · 80min

This is distinguished by its location photography and the tough performance of Dorothy Malone. Unfortunately, Malone is paired with an ageing - though still top-billed - Fred MacMurray and callow John Gavin to little advantage in this slow-paced tale about a group journeying to Mexico through Apache territory. TS

Fred MacMurray *Gentry/John Coventry* · Dorothy Malone *Chaney* · James Barton *Minstrel* · Sydney Chaplin *Gato* · John Gavin *Teach* · John Larch *Heller* ■ *Dir* Harry Keller · *Scr* R Wright Campbell, from a story by R Wright Campbell, Anne Edwards

Quantrell's Raiders

★★ U

Western 1958 · US · Colour · 70min

This CinemaScope western programme filler is made interesting not by the presence of star Steve Cochran, but by Leo Gordon as the legendary William Quantrell himself, whom this movie kills off during the raid on an ammunition dump at Lawrence, Kansas, and not, as actually happened, two years later in Kentucky. The thickest Gordon specialised in villains, and eventually found a natural haven in Europe. Here, as Quantrell, his psychoses are given free rein. TS

Steve Cochran *Westcott* · Diane Brewster *Sue* · Leo Gordon *Quantrell* · Gale Robbins *Kate* · Will Wright *Judge* · Kim Charney *Joel* ■ *Dir* Edward Bernds · *Scr* Polly James

Quantum of Solace

★★★★ 12

Spy adventure 2008 · UK/US · Colour · 101min

Daniel Craig makes an assured return as James Bond in the first direct sequel in the franchise. The action picks up one hour after *Casino Royale* left off, with Bond looking for answers after the death of his lover, Vesper Lynd. This leads to Quantum, an organisation that has infiltrated the world's corridors of power, and, through the front of eco-campaigner Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric), is backing a regime change in Bolivia. Shifting loyalties and outright betrayals force Bond to defy his paymasters and team up with Camille (Olga Kurylenko), a woman equally motivated by revenge. Director Marc Forster (*The Kite Runner*) succeeds in balancing the globe-trotting excesses of the series with a paranoid and engaging storyline. And although the drama does feel subservient to the stunts, that's a minor quibble given their sheer quality and variety. JH In English, Spanish, Italian, French with subtitles. **DVD**

Daniel Craig *James Bond* · Olga Kurylenko *Camille* · Mathieu Amalric *Dominic Greene* · Judi Dench *M* · Giancarlo Giannini *Rene Mathis* · Gemma Arterton *Agent Fields* · Jeffrey Wright *Felix Leiter* · Jasper Christensen *Mr White* ■ *Dir* Marc Forster · *Scr* Paul Haggis, Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, from characters created by Ian Fleming · *Cinematographer* Roberto Schaefer · *Production Designer* Dennis Gassner · *Music* David Arnold

Quarantine

★ 15

Science-fiction thriller

1989 · Can · Colour · 91min

In this schlock Canadian horror, a deadly disease leads to the overthrow of democracy and the installation of a dictatorship that confines everyone to death camps. Cheap and shoddy, with subtitles glued on, the film fires off metaphors and allegories and makes no sense at all. AT Contains swearing, violence.

Beatrice Boepple *Ivan Joad* · Garwin Sanford *Spencer Crown* · Jerry Wasserman *Senator Edgar Ford* · Michele Goddger *Berlin Ford* ■ *Dir/Scr* Charles Wilkinson

Quarantine

★★★★ 13

Horror 2008 · US · Colour · 85min

Director John Erick Dowdle's instant remake of the 2007 Spanish horror hit *[Rec]* relocates the action to Los Angeles, where a young TV reporter (*Dexter's* Jennifer Carpenter) and her cameraman are on assignment at a fire station. They're called to an emergency at an apartment

block, and before long they find themselves recording a bloody nightmare in the now-quarantined building, where a rabies-like infection has taken hold. What raw energy and shock value there is will have more impact for those who haven't already seen *[Rec]* - for those who have, this is a near-pointless exercise. **AJ DVD**

Jennifer Carpenter *Angela Vidal* · Jay Hernandez *Jake* · Columbus Short *Danny Wilensky* · Greg Germann *Lawrence* · Steve Harris *Scott Percival* · Dania Ramirez *Sadie* · Rade Serbedzija *[Rade Serbedzija]* Yuri Ivanov · Johnathon Schaech *George Fletcher* ■ *Dir* John Erick Dowdle · *Scr* John Erick Dowdle, Drew Dowdle, from the film *[Rec]* by Jaume Balagueró, Luis A Berdejo *[Luis Berdejo]*, Paco Plaza

The Quare Fellow

★★★★ 15

Drama 1962 · Ire · Colour · 86min

Patrick McGoohan stars in this anti-capital punishment treatise, a gloomily sincere adaptation of Brendan Behan's renowned play. He's the novice prison warden who has his hanging convictions severely shaken after meeting the wife of one "Quare Fellow", Irish slang for a criminal on death row. And they're rattled again when another reprieved murderer takes his own life. The claustrophobic prison atmosphere is expertly conjured up in a well-intentioned, if downbeat, protest movie. **AJ**

Patrick McGoohan *Thomas Crimmin* · Sylvia Syms *Kathleen* · Walter Macken *Regan* · Dermot Kelly *Dowdley* · Jack Cunningham *Chief warden* · Hilton Edwards *Holy Healy* ■ *Dir* Arthur Dreifuss · *Scr* Arthur Dreifuss, Jacqueline Sundstrom, from the play by Brendan Behan

Quartet

★★★ 18

Portmanteau drama 1948 · UK · BW · 114min

With W Somerset Maugham introducing the four vignettes based on his celebrated short stories, an air of literary portentousness hangs over this portmanteau picture, but, each tale is told with refreshing lightness. In *The Facts of Life*, Jack Watling enjoys the attentions of Monte Carlo gold-digger Mai Zetterling; *The Alien Corn* sees Dirk Bogarde driven to despair by his ambition to become a concert pianist; nerdy inventor George Cole is caught between wife Susan Shaw and hectoring mother, Hermione Baddeley in *The Kite*; while in *The Colonel's Lady*, Cecil Parker frets about the contents of a slim volume of love poems published by his wife, Nora Swinburne. DP

Basil Radford *Henry Garnet* · Jack Watling *Nicky* · Mai Zetterling *Jeanne* · Dirk Bogarde *George Bland* · Honor Blackman *Paula* · George Cole *Herbert Sunbury* · Hermione Baddeley *Beatrice Sunbury* · Susan Shaw *Betty* · Cecil Parker *Colonel Peregrine* · Nora Swinburne *Mrs Peregrine* ■ *Dir* Ralph Smart, Harold French, Arthur Crabtree, Ken Annakin · *Scr* RC Sherriff, from stories by W Somerset Maugham

Quartet

★★★★ 13

Period drama 1981 · UK/Fr · Colour · 96min

Based on the novel by Jean Rhys, this is a typically classy piece of film-making from director James Ivory. In 1920s Paris, Isabelle Adjani takes refuge with married couple Alan Bates and Maggie Smith after her husband (Anthony Higgins) is jailed. She eventually submits to the advances of Bates at the expense of his rather sad bullied wife, as the film explores with subtlety an upper-class lifestyle beset with moral corruption. LH **DVD**

Isabelle Adjani *Marya Zelli* · Anthony Higgins *Stephan Zelli* · Maggie Smith *Lois Heidler* · Alan Bates *HJ Heidler* · Pierre Clémenti *Theo the pornographer* · Daniel Mesguich *Pierre Schlamovitz* ■ *Dir* James Ivory · *Scr* Ruth Praver *Jhavalva*, from the novel *Quartet* by Jean Rhys

Quatermass II

★★★★ 12

Science-fiction thriller 1957 · UK · BW · 81min

The second in Hammer's *Quatermass* trilogy is a potent, low-budget roller coaster ride through government conspiracies and alien invasions, set against the chilling backdrop of postwar new town paranoia. Great writing by Nigel Kneale (based on his original BBC TV serial), superb direction by Val Guest and Gerald Gibbs's stark black-and-white photography make this British

Quatermass and the Pit

classic one of the best science-fiction allegories of the 1950s. **AJ DVD**

Brian Donlevy *Quatermass* • John Longden *Inspector Lomax* • Sidney James *Jimmy Hall* • Bryan Forbes *Marsh* • William Franklyn *Brand* • Vera Day *Sheila* • Charles Lloyd Pack *Dawson* • Michael Ripper *Ernie* ■ *Dir* Val Guest • *Scr* Val Guest, Nigel Kneale, from the TV serial by Nigel Kneale • *Cinematographer* Gerald Gibbs

Quatermass and the Pit

★★★ 12

Science-fiction thriller

1967 • UK • Colour • 93min

This remains the most popular of the movies taken from Nigel Kneale's acclaimed BBC TV serial. Although the Deluxe Color dissipates some of the atmosphere and mystery, the story of the Martian spaceship uncovered in a London Tube station retains much of its intrigue and sense of disquiet thanks to Roy Ward Baker's careful direction and special effects that never attempt to exceed their technical or budgetary limitations. As well as providing a generous helping of shocks, Kneale's script gives his complex themes and theories plenty of space, and both action and argument are neatly judged. **DP DVD**

James Donald *Dr Matthew Roney* • Andrew Keir *Professor Bernard Quatermass* • Barbara Shelley *Barbara Judd* • Julian Glover *Colonel Breen* • Duncan Lamont *Sladden* ■ *Dir* Roy Ward Baker • *Scr* Nigel Kneale, from his TV serial

The Quatermass

Conclusion

★★★ 15

Science-fiction thriller

1979 • UK • Colour • 101min

After *Quatermass and the Pit*, the Professor returned to television in a four-part serial that was generally regarded as a failure. This cut-down feature film was released to cinemas abroad and on video in the UK. As author Nigel Kneale correctly observed, the serial was too long and the film too short. Nevertheless, the story, which uses a favourite Kneale theme, the re-emergence of old fears and religions, begins and ends well. *Quatermass* (a creditable John Mills) discovers that aliens are harvesting humans from places of congregation. **DM DVD**

John Mills *Professor Bernard Quatermass* • Simon MacCorkindale *Joe Kapp* • Barbara Kellerman *Clare Kapp* • Margaret Tyzack *Annie Morgan* • Brewster Mason *Gurov* ■ *Dir* Piers Haggard • *Scr* Nigel Kneale, from his TV serial

The Quatermass Xperiment

★★★ PG

Science-fiction thriller

1955 • UK • BW • 78min

Hammer's film of Nigel Kneale's groundbreaking television serial was a huge success, encouraging the studio to concentrate on the production of horror films - in that regard, it can truly be said to have changed the course of British film history. The story, of an astronaut who returns to Earth only to mutate gradually into a vegetable, was subsequently much emulated. Director Val Guest detested the casting of American actor Brian Donlevy, though his portrayal of *Quatermass* was generally well-received at the time. **DM DVD**

Brian Donlevy *Professor Bernard Quatermass* • Jack Warner *Inspector Lomax* • Margia Dean *Judith Carroon* • Richard Wordsworth *Victor Carroon* • David King-Wood *Dr Gordon Briscoe* • Thora Hird *Rossie* • Gordon Jackson *TV producer* • Lionel Jeffries *Blake* ■ *Dir* Val Guest • *Scr* Val Guest, Richard Landau, from the TV serial by Nigel Kneale

Que la Bête Meure

★★★★ 15

Thriller

1969 • Fr/It • Colour • 107min

Adapted from a novel by Nicholas Blake (pseudonym of former poet laureate Cecil Day Lewis), this is one of Claude Chabrol's most accomplished pictures. Starting out as a whodunnit - widower Michel Duchaussoy seeks the hit-and-run driver who killed his son - the film turns into a psychological thriller. Duchaussoy inveigles himself into the culprit's family, only to decide that his planned revenge would be inappropriate. Chabrol mischievously muddies the waters by allowing Jean Yanne to portray the killer

as an oaf who, despite alienating his own boy, is somehow grotesquely engaging. **DP** In French with subtitles. **DVD**

Michel Duchaussoy *Charles Tenier* • Caroline Cellier *Helene Lanson* • Jean Yanne *Paul Decourt* • Anouk Ferjac *Jeanne* • Marc DiNapoli *Philippe Decourt* • Maurice Pialat *Police inspector* ■ *Dir* Claude Chabrol • *Scr* Paul Gegauff, Claude Chabrol, from the novel *The Beast Must Die* by Nicholas Blake (Cecil Day Lewis)

The Queen

★★★★ 12

Historical drama

2006 • UK/Fr/It • Colour • 98min

Destined to become the apocryphal truth, this poignantly amusing mix of fact and fiction is set after Princess Diana's fatal car crash in 1997 and speculates on the Royal Family's reaction to the tragedy. Superbly scripted by Peter Morgan and deservedly beating a strong field to the best film Bafta, this benefits from director Stephen Frears's clever manipulation of iconic newsreel footage and flawless re-creation, with surprisingly moving results. The acting is exemplary, with Michael Sheen's newly elected Tony Blair spot on, Sylvia Syms a joy as the Queen Mother and James Cromwell hilariously pompous as Prince Philip. But it's Helen Mirren's faultless, Bafta-winning lookalike Queen Elizabeth II, facing the demands of a changing monarchy, that resonates with pure regal brilliance. **AJ** Contains brief swearing.

DVD

Helen Mirren *Queen Elizabeth II* • Michael Sheen *Tony Blair* • James Cromwell *Prince Philip* • Sylvia Syms *HM The Queen Mother* • Alex Jennings *Prince Charles* • Mark Bazelay *Alastair Campbell* • Helen McCrory *Cherie Blair* • Paul Barrett *Trevor Rhys Jones* ■ *Dir* Stephen Frears • *Scr* Peter Morgan (1) • *Music* Alexandre Desplat

Queen Bee

★★★ PG

Melodrama

1955 • US • BW • 90min

Joan Crawford virtually breathes fire as the power-crazed woman who marries into an unhappy Southern family and then ruins their lives. Crawford is perfectly cast in her Tennessee Williams-style role and acts up a storm in one fabulous hostess gown after another, while expertly cutting the rest of the cast down to size. An overblown extravaganza much beloved by Crawford fans and lovers of glossy Hollywood melodramas in the grand tradition. **AJ**

Joan Crawford *Eva Phillips* • Barry Sullivan *John Avery Phillips* • Betsy Palmer *Carol Lee Phillips* • John Ireland *Judson Prentiss* • Fay Wray *Sue McKinnon* ■ *Dir* Ronald MacDougall • *Scr* Ronald MacDougall, from the novel by Edna Lee

Queen Christina

★★★★ U

Historical romantic drama

1933 • US • BW • 95min

Greta Garbo stars as a 17th-century queen of Sweden who falls in inappropriate love with the Spanish ambassador sent to deliver a marriage proposal from his king. Garbo is quintessentially Garbo-ese in one of her most famous roles, while John Gilbert, her crony from silent days, is the ambassador, a role he played only at her insistence, after she had failed to warm to Laurence Olivier. The action is better when Garbo is travelling the kingdom dressed as a man than when she is weighed down by the worries of her throne. **PF DVD**

Greta Garbo *Queen Christina* • John Gilbert (1) *Don Antonio de la Prada* • Ian Keith *Magnus* • Lewis Stone *Chancellor Oxenstierna* ■ *Dir* Rouben Mamoulian • *Scr* HM Harwood, Salka Viertel, S.N Behrman, from a story by Salka Viertel, Margaret Levin • *Cinematographer* William Daniels (1)

Queen Kelly

★★★ PG

Silent romantic melodrama

1928 • US • BW • 99min

Despite Erich von Stroheim's legendary profligacy, Gloria Swanson hired him to direct this silent tale of the waif who is mistreated by both a Teutonic aristocrat and a mad Ruritanian monarch, in the hope he could turn a simmering melodrama into a sophisticated masterpiece. However, on learning her character would inherit a chain of brothels in German East Africa, Swanson pulled the plug and cobbled together a

save-face version that included a musical number to cash in on the talkie boom. Von Stroheim evidently forgave her, as together they watch clips from this visual feast in *Sunset Blvd.* **DP**

Gloria Swanson *Patricia Kelly*, an orphan • Walter Byron *Prince "Wild" Wolfram Von Hohenberg Falsenstein* • Seena Owen *Queen Regina V*, his cousin and fiancée • Sidney Bracey *Prince Wolfram's valet* • William von Brincken *Adjutant to Wolfram* ■ *Dir/Scr* Erich von Stroheim • *Cinematographer* Paul Ivano

Queen of Hearts

★★★★ PG

Drama

1989 • UK • Colour • 107min

In Italy, sometime after the Second World War, Anita Zagaria breaks off her engagement to fierce Vittorio Amandola, and runs off to London with her lover, Joseph Long. But has she seen the last of her ex-fiancee? No chance. In later life, her ten-year-old son tells the whole magical tale. John Amiel debuts as director with a smashing mixture of vivid reality and dream-like surrealism. He introduces us to a world where people fly out of towers, where pigs dispense wisdom like Greek oracles, and where espresso machines puff out steam like mechanical dragons. Add terrific period atmosphere, and engaging performances from a largely unknown cast, and you've a terrific piece of offbeat entertainment. **DA**

Vittorio Duse *Nonno* • Joseph Long *Danilo* • Anita Zagaria *Rosa* • Eileen Way *Mama Sibilla* • Vittorio Amandola *Barbariccia* • Jimmy Lambert *Bruno* • Anna Pernicci *Angelica* ■ *Dir* John Amiel • *Scr* Tony Grisoni

Queen of Outer Space

★ U

Science-fiction adventure

1958 • US • Colour • 79min

A serious contender for the worst film ever made list, this idiotic would-be sexy sci-fi movie stars Zsa Zsa Gabor, who rescues our astronaut heroes, headed by Eric Fleming, who should have known better than to land on Venus, anyway. The colour gives the film an illusion of expense, but most British prints have faded to pink. **TS**

Zsa Zsa Gabor *Talleah* • Eric Fleming *Patterson* • Laurie Mitchell *Queen Yilana* • Paul Birch *Professor Konrad* • Barbara Darrow *Kael* ■ *Dir* Edward Bernds • *Scr* Charles Beaumont, from a story by Ben Hecht

The Queen of Spades

★★★★

Supernatural drama

1948 • UK • BW • 95min

Set in Imperial Russia, this is the definitive film version of Pushkin's short story about an army captain who takes on more than he bargained for when he tries to discover the secret of an old countess's success at cards. Director Thorold Dickinson creates what is generally regarded as his best film: a handsomely mounted and highly atmospheric ghost story which still chills the blood. In her first major film, Edith Evans was heavily made up to add decades to her true age of 60. Surprisingly, Dickinson directed only two more films before retirement. **DM**

Anton Walbrook *Herman Savarin* • Edith Evans *Countess Ranevskaya* • Yvonne Mitchell *Lizavetta Ivanova* • Ronald Harwood *Andrei* • Mary Jerrold *Old Varanushka* • Anthony Dawson *Fyodor* ■ *Dir* Thorold Dickinson • *Scr* Rodney Ackland, Arthur Boys, from a short story by Alexander Pushkin • *Cinematographer* Otto Heller • *Music* Georges Auric

Queen of the Damned

★★ 15

Horror

2002 • US/Aus • Colour • 97min

Camp and often silly, this is an adaptation of another Anne Rice novel, and as such is a sort of sequel to 1994's *Interview with the Vampire*. Stuart Townsend takes over from Tom Cruise in the role of the vampire Lestat, here woken from centuries of slumber by the lure of rock music. Fanged temptress Akasha (Aaliyah) wants him to join her in a confused scheme to take over the world. R&B star Aaliyah's performance is rather woody; sadly, she was killed in a plane crash shortly after the production wrapped. **TH** Contains violence, swearing. **DVD**

Stuart Townsend *Lestat* • Marguerite Moreau *Jesse Reeves* • Aaliyah *Akasha* • Vincent Perez *Marius* • Paul McGann *David Talbot* • Lena Olin *Maharet* ■ *Dir* Michael Rymer • *Scr* Scott Abbott, Michael Petroni, from the novel *The Vampire Chronicles: Queen of the Damned* by Anne Rice

The Queen's Guards

★

Drama

1960 • UK • Colour • 110min

"The most inept piece of film-making that I have ever produced or directed," said Michael Powell of this wearisome slice of pomp and circumstance. It's a family drama about two brothers, one of whom dies at Tobruk leaving the other to maintain the family tradition by joining the Guards and fighting for the Empire in some fly-blown Arab state. Raymond Massey plays the father, Daniel Massey the son and it's all jolly well British, a sort of belated reaction to the humiliation of Suez. **AT**

Daniel Massey *John Fellowes* • Robert Stephens *Henry Wynne-Walton* • Raymond Massey *Captain Fellowes* • Ursula Jeans *Mrs Fellowes* • Judith Stott *Ruth Dobbie* ■ *Dir* Michael Powell • *Scr* Roger Minier, from a idea by Simon Harcourt-Smith

Queens Logic

★★★★ 15

Comedy drama

1991 • US • Colour • 108min

As in *The Big Chill*, a group of old friends are brought together by a life-changing event - in this case the impending marriage of Ken Olin and Chloe Webb. Gathering for the bachelor party (in Queens, of course) are Joe Mantegna, a fishmonger married to Linda Fiorentino, a gay but celibate John Malkovich and Kevin Bacon, now living in Hollywood. The film provides a gritty and thoroughly watchable group, but is essentially a series of well-written sketches. **LH**

Kevin Bacon *Dennis* • Linda Fiorentino *Carla* • John Malkovich *Eliot* • Joe Mantegna *Al* • Ken Olin *Ray* • Tony Spiridakis *Vinny* • Chloe Webb *Patricia* • Tom Waits *Monte* • Jamie Lee Curtis • Helen Hunt ■ *Dir* Steve Rash • *Scr* Tony Spiridakis, from a story by Joseph W Savino, Tony Spiridakis

Quentin Durward

★★★★ U

Period drama

1955 • US • Colour • 116min

This marvellous romp gave a new lease of life to the mature Robert Taylor and his career. Based on Sir Walter Scott's novel, and clearly an attempt to emulate the success of *Ivanhoe* (same star, same director, same fiery climax), this is deliberately more tongue-in-cheek. Taylor is charmingly witty as the noble Durward, dignified by a moustache and a trimmed beard, and is the only American in a prestige, mainly British cast. The leading lady is Kay Kendall, and she and the fabulous location shooting in the Loire valley are reasons enough to watch. **TS**

Robert Taylor (1) *Quentin Durward* • Kay Kendall *Isabelle Countess of Marcoy* • Robert Morley *King Louis XI* • Alec Clunes *Charles, Duke of Burgundy* • Marius Goring *Count Philip de Creville* • Wilfrid Hyde White *Master Oliver* • Ernest Thesiger *Lord Crawford* • George Cole *Hayraddin* ■ *Dir* Richard Thorpe • *Scr* Robert Ardrey, George Froeschel, from the novel by Sir Walter Scott

Querelle

★★★ 19

Erotic drama

1982 • W Ger/Fr • Colour • 104min

Rainer Werner Fassbinder didn't live to see the release of this long-cherished adaptation of Jean Genet's once-banned novel. By consistently deflecting away from the drama and by having the cast recite lines rather than give performances, Fassbinder was able to explore the cinematic quality of non-action. Moreover, his use of blatantly theatrical sets emphasises the unreality of the events that follow sailor Brad Davis's arrival at Jeanne Moreau's waterfront brothel. It's a despondent wallow in a world full of drugs, murder, alienation and suppressed emotion and is, therefore, more valuable as a final self-portrait than as a work of art. **DP** In German with subtitles. **DVD**

Brad Davis *Querelle* • Franco Nero *Lieutenant Seblon* • Jeanne Moreau *Lysiane* • Günther Kaufmann *Nono* • Laurent Malet *Roger Bataille* ■ *Dir* Rainer Werner Fassbinder • *Scr* Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Burkhard Driest, from the novel *Querelle de Brest* by Jean Genet