

# the critics' choice

## Films **Kevin Maher**

### Top pick

**Wind River**  
**Taylor Sheridan, 15 (107min)**  
★★★★☆  
Curious, brutal and ultimately humane tale of a murder hunt on a vast Native American reserve in snowbound Wyoming. Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen star. **Ed Potton**



Prison life in *The Work*

**The Work**  
**Jairus McLeary, Gethin Aldous, 15 (89min)**  
★★★★★  
Award-winning documentary follows an explosive four-day group therapy session in Folsom prison. Gripping, occasionally terrifying, real-world character studies. **Kevin Maher**

**Primaire**  
**Helene Angel, 12A (103min)**  
★★★★☆  
Soft, sincere, and only occasionally worthy drama about life in a French primary school, and the dedicated teachers who make it all worthwhile. **KM**

**Insyriated**  
**Philippe Van Leeuw, 15 (85min)**  
★★★★☆  
Ignore the punning title, this is a searing portrait of a family cowering in their apartment in Damascus as the civil war seethes

*Brokeback Mountain*, with Josh O'Connor as the doleful young farmer shaken out of a fug of self-loathing by a handsome Romanian newcomer. Bleak but moving. **EP**

**The Limehouse Golem**  
**Juan Carlos Medina, 15 (109 min)**  
★★★★☆  
The music halls of Victorian London are the backdrop for a hammy murder-mystery in this overblown but enjoyable adaptation of Peter Ackroyd's novel, starring Bill Nighy. **EP**

**Moon Dogs**  
**Philip John, 15 (93min)**  
★★★★☆  
A likeable love triangle road movie about two stepbrothers who travel from their home in the Shetlands to Glasgow. Jack Parry-Jones and Christy O'Donnell star. **EP**

**Detroit**  
**Kathryn Bigelow, 15 (143min)**  
★★★★★  
Uncompromising drama from Kathryn Bigelow relives the Detroit riots of 1967, and specifically the torture and murder of black men by police. **KM**

**Logan Lucky**  
**Steven Soderbergh, 12A (119min)**  
★★★★☆  
An entertaining redneck

outside. The great Hima Abbass plays the matriarch trying to hold the clan together. **EP**

**Una**  
**Benedict Andrews, 15 (94min)**  
★★★★☆  
Disturbing, discomfiting drama featuring Rooney Mara as a victim of child abuse who tracks down and confronts her abuser (Ben Mendelsohn). **KM**

**American Made**  
**Doug Liman, 15 (115min)**  
★★★★☆  
Tom Cruise, the proper actor, returns in this hugely entertaining account of the TWA pilot turned CIA-sanctioned drug smuggler. A hoot. **KM**

**God's Own Country**  
**Francis Lee, 15 (104min)**  
★★★★☆  
A Yorkshire take on

Elizabeth Olsen and Jeremy Renner in *Wind River*



comedy from the king of heist movies. Two hillbilly brothers rob one of the richest car-racing events in the US. **Debra Craine**

**Final Portrait**  
**Stanley Tucci, 15 (90min)**  
★★★★☆  
Geoffrey Rush oozes chaotic self-doubt and cantankerous charisma as the Italian-Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti with

Armie Hammer as the suave American who sits for him. **EP**

**Atomic Blonde**  
**David Leitch, 15 (115min)**  
★★★★☆  
Cold War action spectacular, set in Berlin in 1989, with Charlize Theron as an undercover spy punching her way through the KGB. A blast. **KM**

**A Ghost Story**  
**David Lowery, 12A (92min)**  
★★★★☆  
Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara star in a delicate and sweetly moving fantasy drama about grief. **KM**

**Annabelle: Creation**  
**David F Sandberg, 15 (109min)**  
★★★★☆  
Top-tier "haunted house"

horror, and the fourth movie in the Conjuring franchise, features orphans in the Midwest tormented by the titular devil doll. **KM**

**The Big Sick**  
**Michael Showalter, 15 (120min)**  
★★★★☆  
Judd Apatow rom-com about the evolution of a relationship. **KM**

## Dance **Debra Craine**

### Also showing

**Goon: Last of the Enforcers (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Ultra-violent sports "comedy"

**The Lure (n/a)**  
★★★★☆  
Aimless treasure hunt documentary

**The Vault (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Shonky mix of heist and horror

**Dennis Skinner: Nature of the Beast (PG)**  
★★★★☆  
Dull doc about the firebrand Labour MP

**Stratton (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Egregious thriller

**Patti Cake\$ (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Flaccid rap melodrama

**Bushwick (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Apocalyptic silliness

**The Hitman's Bodyguard (15)**  
★★★★☆  
Ryan Reynolds misfire

**The Dark Tower (12A)**  
★★★★☆  
Flat Stephen King adaptation

**Dark Night (12A)**  
★★★★☆  
Pretentious crime parable

### Top pick

**Hofesh Shechter**  
The choreographer's latest offering, *Grand Finale*, features ten dancers in a work described as "comic, bleak and beautiful, evoking a world at odds with itself". Whatever that means, you can count on Shechter's choreography to showcase his flair for the anarchic and the visceral. *Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (020 7863 8000), Tues-Sept 16*

### DeadClub

Frauke Requardt and David Rosenberg create this intimate experience for a limited audience – standing only – about trauma and memory. *The Place, London WC1 (020 7121 1100), to Sept 30*

**Tango Moderno**  
Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, the *Strictly Come Dancing* duo, fuse

ballroom, Latin and Argentine tango to create a modern interpretation of the sensual dance. *Waterside, Aylesbury (0844 8717607), today; Bristol Hippodrome (0844 8472325), Tues-Sept 16*

**5 Soldiers**  
Rosie Kay visits the UK City of Culture with her piece that looks at how the human body remains essential to war in the 21st century. *Londesborough Street Barracks, Hull (hull2017.co.uk), Thur & Fri*

**Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael**  
The complex rivalries between three Renaissance giants are explored in this small show. *National Gallery, London WC2 (020 7747 2885), to Jan 28*

**Matisse in the Studio**  
The artist's treasured collection of objects – furniture, textiles and statuary from around the world – provides a new lens through which to look at his work. *Royal Academy, London W1 (020 7300 8000), to Nov 12*

**Rachel Whiteread**  
A big survey of the sculptor made famous for

casting empty spaces ranges from signature pieces to new works. *Tate Britain, London SW1 (020 7887 8888), Tues-Jan 21*

**Nature Morte**  
The still-life tradition meets contemporary art in a show that invites you to contemplate your mortality. *Guildhall Art Gallery, London EC2 (020 7870 7332 3700), Thur-April 2*

**Can Graphic Design Save Your Life?**  
Have you any idea how deeply those images sink

in? A look at the subliminal messages of graphics. *Wellcome Collection, NW1 (020 7611 2222), to Jan 14*

**Folkestone Triennial**  
A seaside town comes alive with creative activity involving paintings and sculptures, symposiums and events. *Folkestone, Kent (folkestonetriennial.org.uk), to Nov 5*

**Charles March: Seascape**  
March's photographic landscapes are inspired by

impressionist techniques. With echoes of movies that you can't quite remember, they evoke a strange nostalgia. *Hamilton's, London W1 (020 7499 9493), Mon-Sat*

**A Celebration of Watercolours**  
The Wordsworth Trust displays some of its treasures in a show of paintings that capture the drama of surrounding landscapes. *Wordsworth Museum, Grasmere (015394 35544), to Dec 23*

**Looking Good: The Male Gaze From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud**  
A show that examines the multifaceted representations of male identity and appearance in portraits from the 16th century to the present day. *Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (0131 624 6200), to Oct 1*

## Exhibitions **Rachel Campbell-Johnston**

### Top pick

**Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia**  
Fierce nomads take over the British Museum in a show of never before seen treasures from a rich and mysterious civilisation, one of the greatest empires ever known. *British Museum, London WC1 (020 7323 8299), Sept 14-Jan 14*

**The Reformation**  
Take a journey through a tumultuous era with objects reflecting events that changed the course of history. *John Rylands Library, Manchester (0161 275 3751), to March 4*

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Scythian horsemen dismount at the British Museum

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**Book now**  
**Turner Prize 2017**  
Hull plays host to this year's shortlisted artists, including the wonderfully vibrant Lubaina Himid and the trenchant Hurvin Anderson, nominated at the age of 52, and for whom the 50 age limit has been lifted for the first time. *Ferens Art Gallery, Hull (01482 613902), Sept 26-Jan 7*

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## Rock & pop **Will Hodgkinson**

### Top pick

**The 2017 Hyundai Mercury prize**  
The album of the year award comes with the most eclectic gig of the year, with performances from nominated acts including fun indie quartet the Big Moon, the rappers J Hus and Loyle Carner, grime superstar Stormzy and even – perhaps – Ed Sheeran. *Eventim Apollo, London W6 (0844 2494300), Thur*

**Ryan Adams**  
The country rocker and dysfunctional whirlwind plays songs from his post-marriage heartbreak album, *Prisoner*. *O<sub>2</sub>, Apollo, Manchester (0844 477677), Thur; Usher Hall, Edinburgh, Fri*

**The Rails**  
The accomplished husband-and-wife



Robert Plant goes solo

folk-rock duo, Kami Thompson (daughter of Richard and Linda) and James Walbourne. *King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow (0870 1690100), Mon; Trades Club, Hebden Bridge, Thur; Deaf Institute, Manchester, Fri*

**H Hawkline**  
The excellent Welsh singer-songwriter from

the Super Furry Animals school of melodic eccentricity. *Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff (029 20232199), today; Moth Club, London E9, Mon*

**Chastity Belt**  
Feminist slacker rockers with a sharp sense of humour, this Seattle four-piece tour their second album, *I Used to Spend so Much Time Alone*. *Exchange, Bristol (0117 9304538), Mon; Bodega Nottingham, Tues; Garage, London N5, Thur*

### Book now

**Robert Plant**  
The former Golden God heads off on a solo UK tour presenting his new album, *Carry Fire*, plus a few Led Zep classics for old times' sake. *Plymouth Pavillions (0845 1461460), Nov 16, then touring*

## Classical **Richard Morrison**

### Top pick

**London Symphony Orchestra**  
Simon Rattle officially opens his innings as the LSO's music director with an 11-day festival, starting with this concert of British music from Elgar to Adès. Beamed live to an outdoor cinema screen as well. *See feature, page 4. Barbican, London EC2 (020 7638 8891), Thur*

**Lammermuir Festival**  
Enterprising ten-day venture opens with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra playing Wagner, Mozart and Mahler under Martyn Brabbins. *St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington (lammermuir festival.co.uk), Fri*

**Last Night of the Proms**  
Sakari Oramo conducts a typically eclectic selection, the highlights probably

being Nina Stemme singing the *Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde* as well as *Rule, Britannia!* *Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0845 4015040), tonight, also live on BBC TV and Radio 3.*

**Hallé**  
Popular Russian classics, including Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 with Barry Douglas, and the Symphony No 6, the *Pathétique*. *Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (0161 907 9000), Thur; King George's Hall, Blackburn (01254 582579), Fri*

### Book now

**A Child of Our Time**  
Tippett's wartime oratorio and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto performed by top names raising money for child refugees. *Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (020 3879 9555), Jan 15*

## Theatre **Ann Treneman**

### Top pick

**Follies**  
Imelda Staunton is dazzlingly good in this revival of Stephen Sondheim's homage to the old-fashioned Broadway revue show. Dominic Cooke directs a night with showgirl-stopping glamour that is sure to be a hit. *Oliver, National Theatre, London SE1 (020 7452 3000), to Jan 3*

**A Brief History of Women**  
Alan Ayckbourn is 78 and this is his 81st play, set in the Downton-esque Kirkbridge Manor and following the life of Spates, played superbly by Antony Eden, whom we first see as a 17-year-old footman and lastly as a 77-year-old hotel manager. It's a bit wobbly at the start but ends beautifully. *Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough (01723 370541), to Oct 7*

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**  
Sienna Miller slinks and sizzles in this stripped-down (in every way) production of Tennessee Williams's story of one Mississippi family's scheming and greed. Jack O'Connell and Colm Meaney also star. *Apollo, London W1 (0330 3334809), to Oct 7*



Imelda Staunton in *Follies*

**Half Breed**  
Natasha Marshall, at just 26, is terrific in this semi-autobiographical monologue about what it's like growing up as the only black person in a West Country village. It's funny, poetic and angry. A hit on the Edinburgh Fringe, it now transfers to London for a limited season. *Soho Theatre, London W1 (020 7478 0100), Sept 11-30*

### School of Rock

Back to school never felt as much fun as this smash hit musical from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Julian Fellowes, about a failed guitarist who turns a class of ten-year-olds into a band. Students and school groups get special rates. *New London Theatre, London WC2 (0844 8110052), to Jan 13, 2019*

**Loot**  
Michael Fentiman's robust production of this authority-baiting morbid farce highlights Joe Orton's stunning wit, as piquant as ever, 50 years after his death. *Park Theatre, London N4 (020 7870 6876), to Sept 24; Watermill Theatre, Newbury, Sept 28-Oct 21*

### Book now

**A Christmas Carol**  
Forgive me for looking ahead to (whisper it) Christmas when the leaves are only just turning, but the Old Vic's artistic director, Matthew Warchus, is directing the Dickens classic in an adaptation by Jack Thorne. Rhys Ifans may be perfectly cast as Scrooge. *Old Vic, London SE1 (0844 871 7628), Nov 18 to Jan 20*

## Opera **Neil Fisher**

### Top pick

**La Bohème**  
And we're off! The Royal Opera season starts with arguably the best-loved opera, restaged for the first time at Covent Garden since 1974. Richard Jones directs; Antonio Pappano conducts a cast including Michael Fabiano and Nicole Car. *Royal Opera House, London WC2 (020 73044000), Mon & Wed, to Oct 10*

**Die Zauberflöte**  
David McVicar's intelligent Mozart staging returns to the Royal Opera, with Roderick Williams as the lonesome bird collector, Papageno. Julia Jones conducts. *Royal Opera House, London WC2 (020 73044000), Tues & Thur, to Oct 14*

**The School Of Jealousy**  
Bampton Classical Opera

dusts off this bitter comedy by Salleri – a composer who was wildly acclaimed during his lifetime and is now utterly eclipsed by Mozart. *St John's Smith Square, London SW1 (020 7222 1061), Tues*

### Book now

**Russian Revolution**  
Wales is celebrating the centenary of the Russian Revolution with particular gusto. Welsh National Opera's hefty contribution is Mussorgsky's epic drama about religious liberty and repression, *Khovanshchina*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Janáček's sombre but ultimately uplifting *From the House of the Dead* – not Russian, but set in a gulag. *Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff (029 2063 6464), from Sept 23*