

Family, film & books

Family



Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf

Key Theatre, March 19
Many of you know the tale of Little Red Riding Hood? But this time it will be a little different.

This is an interactive Raganiuke Theatre performance – where the children in the audience are invited to

take part.

The greatest secrets of the theatre are revealed to them – children can see with their own eyes how the theatre is created, appear on stage with theatrical costumes and theatrical make-up.

The actors of the Raganiuke Theatre will wittily give the acting children different

voices and playing together with the actors, the little ones can embody the characters and become real stars of the theatre.

In fact, the entire audience is involved in the creation of the performance – the rustling of the big trees, the cawing of the crows, the blowing of the wind...

This Raganiuke Theatre performance has travelled almost half the world. Both young and grown-up audiences in Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic, Austria, the United Kingdom, the USA cheered for him.

Performance is 45 minutes. Suitable for age 3+

DVD & BluRay

with Alex Gordon

LIVING

LionsGate, cert 12; Blu-ray £14.99 & on Digital

It had to happen eventually. One of Britain's most understated but never under-rated actors, Bill Nighy (pictured), was nominated for an Oscar and a BAFTA for this melancholy drama.

He didn't win either. Perhaps because *Living* - a re-imagining of Japanese classic *Ikiru* - was rolled over by more hyped titles, and the whims of judging panels. My guess is Nighy greeted disappointment with a shrug and a wry smile. The nominations made his point. He deserved to be in the running for his portrayal of a man crashing headlong into the brick wall of his mortality, even if it's a subject we all evade.

Nighy's bowler-hatted character Williams, is just another pen pusher in a council's public works department in 1953's grim post-war London. He's an invisible character who catches the morning train to work, then catches it home again after yet another day of drudgery. He's never made a positive impression on anybody.

But Williams' life hits the



buffers at speed when his doctor breaks the news he's got only months to live. Gulp! Now he has a choice, crawl home and pull the duvet over his head, or get a grip and try to build some kind of positive legacy. Certainly, a drunken night at a seaside town with a local lad-about-town (Tom Burke AKA TV sleuth Strike) doesn't cut it.

Williams gets more out of pushing young colleague

Margaret's (Aimee

Lou Wood - BAFTA

Rising Star nomi-

nee) campaign for

a children's play-

ground by slashing

his department's red-

tape-stranglehold which

is holding up the plans, de-

lighting young mums in the

process. A small triumph.

But a positive little legacy

nevertheless. I took my hat

off in farewell to him.

Our rating:

(out of 10)

★ 9

Books

ONE MOMENT

Becky Hunter; Corvus £14.99

A heart-warming, yet heart-wrenching, story around how 'one moment' in time can change everything.

The day Scarlett steps into the path of a car should have been one of the most important, if final, days of her life...But she's still 'here', just somewhere between life and death, having to watch the effect of her passing on her family and best friend Evie.

Evie can't imagine a life without her childhood friend and is battling with illness, while also battling against her feelings for Nate, the man she blames for Scarlett's death.

A beautifully written story about grief, hope and the force of love.

Julia Boggio; Home by Midnight £12.99

A must-read, racy rom-com with a leading lady

you'll be rooting for from the start. After an affair ended her copywriting career, Stella Price has hopes of becoming a wedding photographer, starting with lessons from the acclaimed Connor Knight, a photographer with celebrity status and an ego to match. As Connor's sessions turn into lessons in love, Stella wonders if she should learn from past mistakes, or learn to trust again.

Reviews: Lisa Hylton

Our rating: (out of 10)

★ 8



BELLEVUE

Alison Booth; Red Door £9.99

This fine Australian novel's set in 1972 when Clare Barclay inherits Bellevue, Aunt Hilda's rundown property in Numballa in the Blue Mountains. The descriptions of the area are breathtaking, but there's trouble in paradise. When Clare rejects a shifty developer's bid to buy Belle-

vue, he then tries to drive her out. She's also looking for a box of documents to solve a puzzle her late husband left behind. Luckily, she's been befriended by young Joe who forms a bond with her, and he tells part of the moving story.

Our rating: (out of 10)

★ 9

A JEWISH GIRL IN PARIS

Melanie Levensohn; Pan £9.99

This haunting story of a fated love is forged in Paris under the heel of Nazi occupation. Young Jewish library assistant Judith, discovers she has a secret admirer leaving notes for her. She and Christian fall for each other, but his father's a wealthy Nazi sympathiser who'll never

approve. They decide to flee France, but Judith disappears. Fast forward to Washington in 2006 and a death bed confession leads two women on a search to find out what really happened to Judith. It's a journey that'll touch your heart.

Our rating: (out of 10)

★ 9

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Signature, cert 12; DVD £7.99 & on Digital

There have been over 50 versions of the swashbuckling Dumas classic since 1916, but if you've been itching for another one, here you go. The Brit film looks good, there's enough sword clashing to satisfy action fans, and Malachi Puller-Latchman struts his stuff as the hero D'Artagnan with Ben Freeman from *EastEnders* as Athos, Porthos (David O'Mahony) and Aramis (Jake J. Meniani) and James Cosmo as the scheming bad guy Cardinal Richelieu, with James Oliver Wheatley as his cohort De Rochefort. The devious femme fatale of the piece Milady de Winter (Preeya Kalidas) is up to her pretty neck in the plot to bring down young King Louis XIII.

Our rating: (out of 10)

★ 7



THE IRISH MOB

101 Films, on Digital

Irish eyes aren't smiling in this brutal gangster film that doesn't pull any punches.

Val Fagan (Rob McCarthy) is rightly one of the most feared mobsters in Dublin, but if he wants to rise up the criminal ranks he needs a big result, so he commits his gang to carrying out an armed robbery that should net them five million Euros. However this shoots Fagan to the top of the Garda's most wanted list, and organised crime cop Liz Delahunt (Pauline O'Driscoll) is determined to bring him down.

McCathy pulls off the tough guy vibe so well he's a rival for Vinnie Jones. It's a fairly short film but it's kept tight and punchy.

Our rating: (out of 10)

★ 7

