

 B I J O U C I N E M A S	7/19 THU	Air conditioned! for 7.19-26	7/20 FRI	7/21 SAT	7/22 SUN	7/23 MON	7/24 TUE	7/25 WED	7/26 THU
	4:15 7:00 9:30	WOODY ALLEN'S TO ROME WITH LOVE	4:15 7:00 9:30	1:30 4:15 7:00 9:30	1:30 4:15 7:00 9:30	4:15 7:00 9:30	4:15 7:00 9:30	4:15 7:00 9:30	4:15 7:00 9:30
	5:00 7:45	THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL	5:00 7:45	2:15 5:00 7:45	2:15 5:00 7:45	5:00 7:45	5:00 7:45	5:00	5:00
	SOON: NEIL YOUNG JOURNEYS BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD TRISHNA CELESTE & JESSE FOREVER SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN								CHASING SARASOTA \$9 w/ director Q & A (no passes) 8:00

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MOVIES BY MOLLY TEMPLETON



Elderly and Beautiful

Bill Nighy plays nice in charming British comedy

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL: Directed by John Madden. Screenplay by OI Parker, based on the novel *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach. Cinematography, Ben Davis. Editor, Chris Gill. Music, Thomas Newman. Starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton, Ronald Pickup, Celia Imrie and Dev Patel. Fox Searchlight, 2012. PG-13. 124 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

I would like to see Bill Nighy be a nice guy in more movies. He's so effective as a ragged, aging musician (*Love Actually*) or as, say, a creepy ancient vampire (the *Underworld* series) that I forget what a wonderful actor he is in ordinary roles. He made an excellent bureaucrat (in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part I* or *Hot Fuzz*), and shone in an uncredited role as a Van Gogh expert in the heartbreaking *Doctor Who* episode "Vincent and the Doctor." And he's a perfect miserable husband in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, a mostly charming British comedy in which fine actors make the most of a pat script with an uncomfortably typical streak of cultural tourism in its storyline.

Nighy plays Douglas, whose taut features seem to wind even tighter every time his wife, Jean (fellow *Doctor Who* alum Penelope Wilton), snips at him. They're among the English retirees who, in search of something different for their golden years, opt to move to Jaipur's Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, a retirement joint "for the elderly and beautiful" run by Sonny (Dev Patel), a young man with more enthusiasm than business sense.

The hotel, when the crabby, delayed travelers arrive, isn't quite what they expected. On the surface, it appears past its prime, but isn't that how the world sees its new residents as well? And might everything not be quite as it seems? Racist, sullen Mrs. Donnelly (the brilliant Maggie Smith)

watches everyone from her wheelchair; her redemption isn't a quick turnaround but a series of expressions and reactions, quiet and internal yet gracefully displayed. Douglas, breaking free of his sullen wife, goes exploring, lights up and lets the smile playing around his thin lips break free. His attraction to recently widowed Evelyn (Judi Dench) is awkwardly overt; the way it cracks Douglas' defensive shell is as obvious as the twinkle in Dench's eye. (Dame Judi handles her character's awkward, *Sex and the City: 30 Years Later* blog-post voiceovers as well as anyone could.) And Tom Wilkinson, so flustered and blowhardy in recent great roles, has a quiet, lovely turn as a man who's finally started to tell long-held secrets; you can see his shoulders slumping a little less with each utterance.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel builds as predictably and stably as a stack of blocks, each scene set solidly atop the last until they inevitably tumble over into a slightly more dramatic conclusion. The set-in-their-ways Brits learn from the idealistic young Indians, and vice versa, and if the characters on both sides are largely clichés, they're somewhat enlivened by the efforts of the actors — though these efforts can't quite keep an uncomfortable patronizing streak from pervading the parts in which the nice old British folks use superior communication and accounting skills to teach Sonny how to get his life together. Like its predecessors — from *Kinky Boots* to *Tamara Drewe* to *Keeping Mum* to more films than I have room to list — *Hotel* charms while you're watching it, lightly pushes a few buttons (some unintentionally), and gives you little to chew on when you leave the theater. Apart, that is, from a newfound appreciation for Bill Nighy. **EW**

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE (DIGITAL) (PG-13) 11:25AM 2:40PM 5:55PM 9:10PM	AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE (3D) (PG-13) 10:20AM 12:30PM 1:35PM 3:45PM 4:50PM 7:00PM 8:05PM 10:15PM	MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED (DIGITAL) (PG) 12:00PM 2:20PM 4:40PM	ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (3D) (PG) 11:35AM 1:15PM 2:05PM 4:35PM 6:15PM 7:05PM 9:35PM	DARK KNIGHT RISES, THE (DIGITAL) (PG-13) 10:45AM 12:00PM 12:35PM 1:30PM 2:25PM 3:30PM 4:15PM 5:10PM 6:05PM 7:00PM 7:55PM 8:50PM 9:45PM 10:30PM	BRAVE (DIGITAL) (PG) 11:50AM 2:20PM 4:50PM 7:20PM 9:50PM	

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