



## UNTOUCHABLE GIRLS

Written by Arani Cuthbert

Irrepressible Kiwi entertainment double act the Topp Twins are the subject of a new documentary, *Untouchable Girls*.



The Topp Twins are truly a phenomenon. They have an extraordinary effect on people from all walks of life. I think the fact that they touch people's lives is why I still work with them after all these years. In their shows you can have a burly farmer or grey-haired grandmother laughing alongside a pierced lesbian, and it doesn't get much more political than that. The Topp Twin's style of humour and their ability to say important things without being threatening means they have built a bridge from the alternative left to the mainstream and helped ordinary people accept what used to be called 'radical' ideas, like gay rights.

I wanted to produce this documentary because these two women have had a huge impact on New Zealand. Their story is our story, really. All the struggles the Toppes were prominent in, the changes they agitated for, were the key events that have shaped our country. They were incredibly brave about being out when most people were still hiding in the closet. We forget how times have changed, and making a documentary like this reminds us - and the next generation - how important it is to take a stand about things that matter.

*The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls* screens exclusively at Cinema City on Monday 20 February, 8.15pm.

# THE ARTIST

(2012)

Reviewed by Daniel May

Already a winner of a multitude of awards and nominated for the highly illustrious Academy Award for 'Best Motion Picture', is *The Artist* really worthy of the intense publicity and hype it is receiving? Well, in my opinion - yes.

Written & directed by Frenchman Michel Hazanavicius and starring his chief collaborator and fellow countryman Jean Dujardin, *The Artist* is more than just homage to silent cinema.

Set during the golden age of Hollywood in the late 1920s, the feature centres around the excessively self-adoring silent film star George Valentine (Dujardin).

As the film commences, George Valentine is the toast of the town at his latest film premiere. With adoring fans screaming his name and vying for his attention, Valentine has the world at his feet - literally.

However, Valentine's world is about to be pulled from under him. With the imminent arrival of 'talkies' (talking pictures), Valentine finds himself fighting with the studios that made him famous, that now demand he talk in future features, which he refuses to do.

With silent films becoming a past love of cinema-goers, his unwillingness to speak on film and the arrival of new

film siren Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo), will Valentine simply become part of Hollywood's history?

Jean Dujardin plays the part of George Valentine masterfully. With effortless charm, elegance and humour, Dujardin's time on screen is 'over acting' at its finest. Currently a relatively unheard of entity in Hollywood, I wouldn't be surprised if we see more of Dujardin in mainstream flicks in the not to distant future.

Special mention must also be made for Valetine's canine pal (played by Uggie the dog). If there were ever an Academy Award for stand-out performance by an animal in a motion picture (which I think there should be!), Uggie would - undoubtedly - be the victor.

This film may not suit everyone due to the lack of dialogue, but if you are someone who appreciates supreme acting and the chance to experience the golden age of Hollywood then *The Artist* is certainly a film for you.

If by the time you read this review *The Artist* is not being shown at Cinema City, it will be out on DVD during Summer 2012. To find out what Cinema City are showing during February check their listings or visit [picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Cinema\\_City/](http://picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Cinema_City/)

## CinemaCity

### MAIN FEATURES

3-16 FEB	CARNAGE (15)
3-16 FEB	MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE (15)
10-23 FEB	THE WOMAN IN BLACK (12A)
17-23 FEB	CORIOLANUS (15)
17-23 FEB	EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE (12A)
FROM 23 FEB	THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (12A)

### VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIALS (14th FEB)

6.30pm	ROMANTICS ANONYMOUS (12A) *plus Chocolate Tasting*
8.30pm	BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S (PG) *Digitally Re-mastered*



Woman In Black

For full listing call 0871 704 2053 or visit [picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Cinema\\_City/](http://picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Cinema_City/)