

FILM

CREED II

STARRING: MICHAEL B JORDAN, SYLVESTER STALLONE, TESSA THOMPSON **RATING:** 12A

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

It's a step back in time for *Rocky* fans as Adonis Creed, the heavyweight champion son of Apollo, takes on Russian hardman Viktor Drago. However, this is no straightforward fight for Adonis, who's mentored by a supportive, older Rocky...

WHAT'S GOOD?

It's got all the ingredients for a brilliant boxing flick, plus realistic snippets of what life is like outside the ring.

There's also an epic training sequence, which treats us to a semi-naked Jordan getting his sweat on in the desert. What's not to love?

WHAT'S BAD?

Make sure you brush up on your *Rocky* knowledge beforehand as there's bags of references. That said, it's still pretty straightforward with some really gripping, emotional and tense moments throughout.

new! VERDICT:
A KNOCKOUT ★★★★★



DISOBEDIENCE

STARRING: RACHEL WEISZ, RACHEL McADAMS, ALESSANDRO NIVOLA **RATING:** 15

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Following the death of her father, Ronit (Weisz) returns home to London and the Jewish Orthodox community she was cast out from years earlier. There, she's reunited with her childhood friend Dovid (Nivola) and is astonished to learn he's married to Esti (McAdams), the woman with whom she once had a passionate affair.

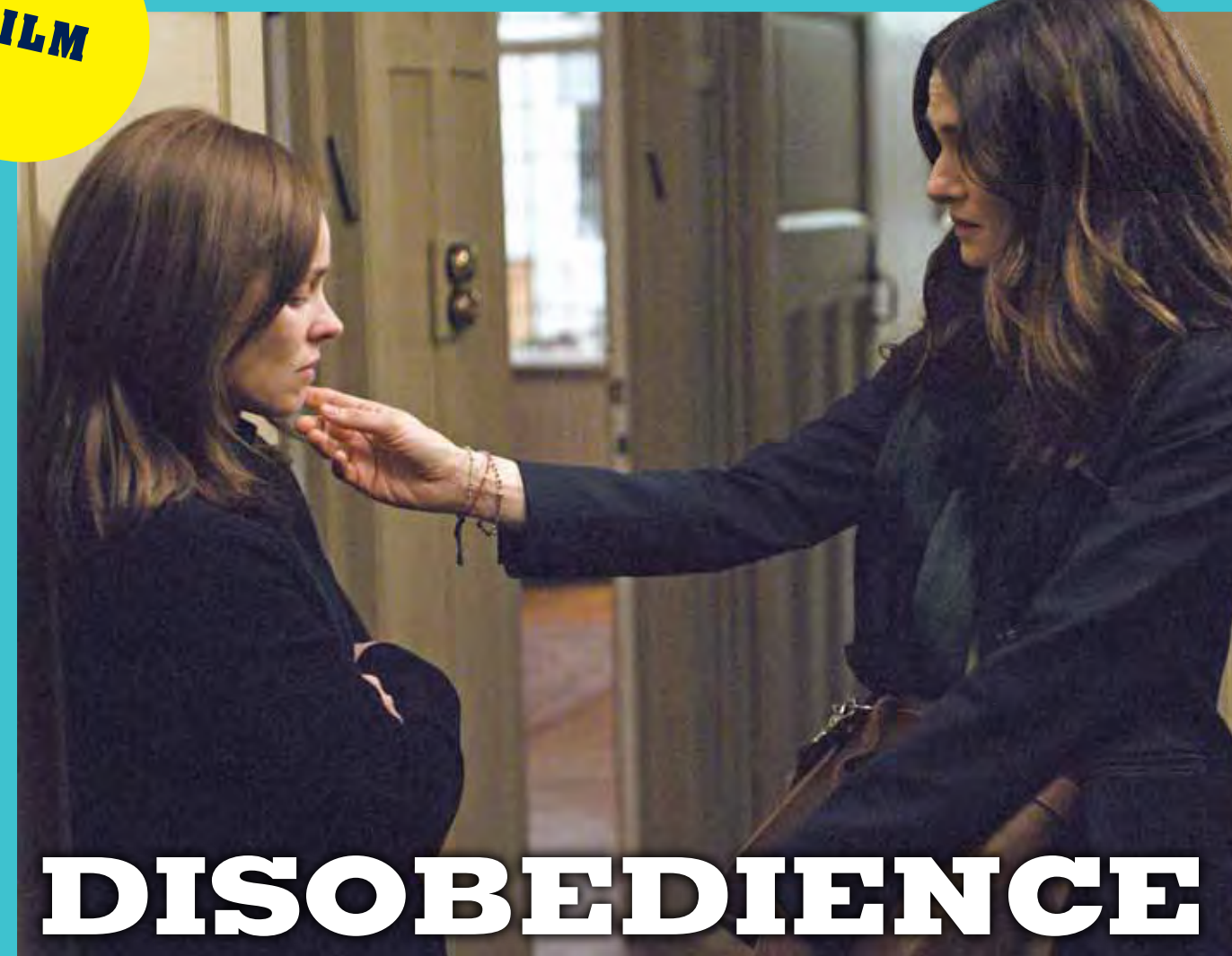
WHAT'S GOOD?

Weisz and McAdams play the forbidden love between Ronit and Esti with delicacy and sensitivity. While their community is cold and muted, their same-sex romance bubbles over with an electrifying, repressed passion. Rachel McAdams is particularly excellent as a woman denying her true sexuality and keeping her emotions closed off.

WHAT'S BAD?

We're led to believe that Ronit and Esti's relationship is a taboo, which if discovered, would lead to their ruin. Although the film isn't afraid to explore complicated issues about sex and religion, it doesn't ramp up the drama until the latter part of the movie.

new! VERDICT: MAKES LOVE, NOT WAR ★★★



EVENT



CHRISTMAS BY THE RIVER

Anyone thinking of heading to the capital over the festive period should get down to this fab Christmas pop-up, which lights up the River Thames by London Bridge this year.

As well as carols, market stalls, arts and crafts, there's an array of free workshops with everything from astrology masterclasses to Jenga speed dating on offer! In fact, we're pretty sure there's something for

everyone. How about this for a list: That's A Wrap is a gift-wrapping class led by a professional wrapper, while Story Time is basically storytelling for grown-ups. But our personal favourite is Jumper For Joy, a workshop in which you can make and decorate your very own Christmas jumper!

For info and to sign up to classes, see Londonbridgecity.co.uk/events

HOTEL



(RED) CHRISTMAS AT ANDAZ LONDON

We're big fans of Liverpool Street's super swish Andaz hotel – thanks in no small part to its delicious brunches, fab suites and excellent cheese and wine selection.

But as of this week, we have a reason to love Andaz even more. The hotel is launching its 31 Days Of Giving initiative alongside AIDS charity (RED) on December 1, with limited-edition (RED) cocktails and dishes (hello delectable seaweed salad!) on offer at the hotel's bars and restaurants throughout

the month. With every purchase, 10 per cent will go the The Global Fund to fight AIDS.

As well as that, punters can work up a sweat with yoga sessions led by teachers from wellness brand Wanderlust and get the chance to win an overnight stay at the hotel's (ANDAZ)RED Suite, designed by Sir Terence Conran. Have yourselves a very charitable Christmas and get down there ASAP.

Hyatt.com

ULI

If ever you needed an excuse to head to London's delightful Notting Hill, this über chic Asian restaurant is it. The menu is brimming with delicious dishes, such as spicy scallops (£14), pan-fried teriyaki black cod with asparagus (£35) and crispy shredded chilli beef (£15) – and everything we tasted was fresh and flavoursome.

Add to that the chic décor, cosy terrace, friendly staff and fab selection of wine, and you've got yourself an unforgettable lunch experience – with the melt-in-your-mouth chocolate coulant (£6) rounding it all off perfectly. It was

FOOD



exactly what we needed after a morning of bargain hunting in nearby Portobello Road's famous antiques and vintage clothing market. We'll definitely be going back!

Ullondon.com