

GOING OUT

GIGS CINEMA CLUBS BARS RESTAURANTS

Improv duo hit right note at festival

HIP-hop comedy improv duo Abandoman comes to The Central Theatre, Chatham tonight.

Rob Broderick and James Hancox use audience suggestions to fuel their ideas and within a flash will launch into an improvised track, with James on guitar and Rob taking off Eminem, Jay Z and many more along the way.

The pair, who are from Ireland, won the Hackney Empire New Act Of The Year award in 2010 and have been a hit with festival audiences.

It will be the second time Rob and James have appeared at The Brook.

They supported comedian Micky Flanagan in November last year.

■ Tickets cost £10. Call 01634 338338.

New showtime for missing Mina

THE Medway Little Theatre has had to postpone its production of Mina after rehearsals were disrupted by snow and ice. The performances have been rescheduled to the weekend of March 12 and 13 at 7.30pm. All those who had booked for the original dates should contact the box office to re-book.



GIRD YOUR LOINS: The Singing Loins are set to release their 11th album, *Stuff*

Gills ode on new album

THE Singing Loins began having a laugh 20 years ago with two live, vinyl releases on Billy Childish's record label.

The Medway band now has a growing fan base all over the world and is set to release its 11th album, *Stuff*.

The Loins, as their fans call them, are Chris Broderick on vocals, Chris Allen on guitar

■ Music

and Rob Shepherd on banjo, mandolin and accordion, with John Forrester on occasional stand-up bass.

Chris and Chris started The Loins as a raw, stripped down acoustic duo in 1990 and soon had Medway legend Billy Childish in their corner. He recorded their first two albums

live in his bathroom on a mono tape machine and released them on his Hangman label.

A couple more self-released albums and an album with Billy followed but the band split in 1999.

After a six-year break the Loins returned in 2005 with a triumphant comeback album, *Songs To Hear Before You Die*, and the same year were joined by Rob Shepherd.

Since then the group has gone from strength to strength with tours of Eastern Europe, Germany and France, as well as airplay on American radio.

They describe their style as punk/folk mixed with music hall, chorus, cabaret, melodrama and buffoonery. They take inspiration for their song-writing from their ordinary lives of day jobs, families and mortgages.

The new album includes the band's ode to Gillingham FC, *Ascending Chatham Hill*.

Rob, who has been a season ticket holder for 16 years, said: "The song is not the usual corny, cynical cash-in Gills fan song – it is a fun song with local references, like many of ours."

"It is imagining Gillingham as the promised land, it is as daft as that. It describes the walk up from Luton Arches, past Cash Converters and up to the second-hand Medway Motor Dealers, arriving at last in the Eden of Upper Gillingham. The chorus then descends into a rabble chant of 'sing Gillingham'."

The song has been regularly played on the terraces at Priestfield Stadium. Rob heard it first when the Blues took on Torquay in October.

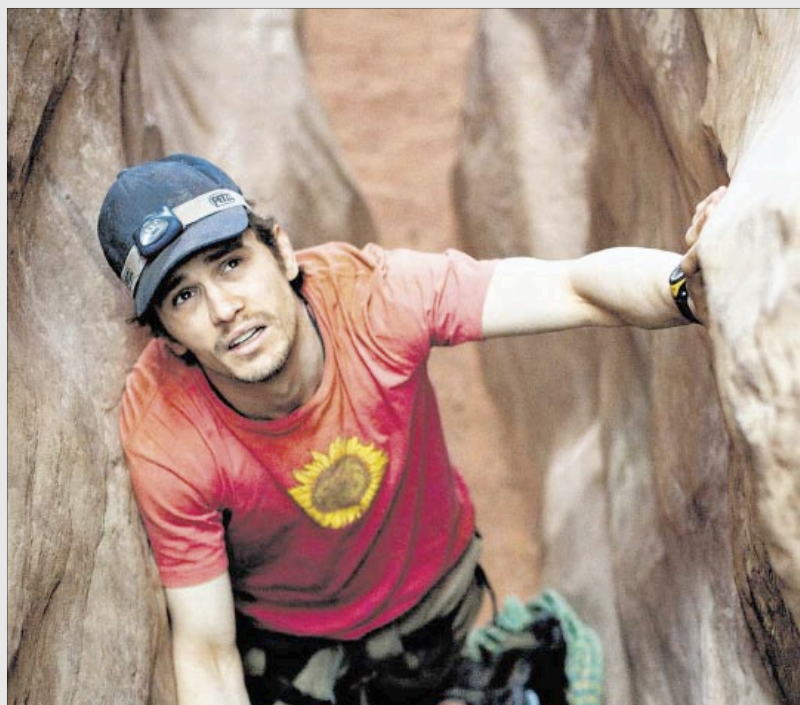
He said: "I just looked down and shuffled my feet, horribly embarrassing."

■ *Stuff* is out on Monday, January 24

The album launch takes place at Medway Little Theatre, High Street, Rochester, on Saturday, January 22. Doors open 7.30pm, music from 8pm. Tickets £5 on the door.

The album will be on sale half-price at £5.

CINEMA 127 Hours (15)



Aron Ralston (James Franco) is an avid mountain climber who made headlines in the summer of 2003 when he became trapped in the Blue John Canyon in Utah, his arm pinned against the wall of the canyon by a heavy boulder. After five days alone, with all hope seemingly lost and his strength evaporating in the sweltering heat, Ralston elected to amputate his trapped arm with a pen knife in the hope he could run for help before losing too much blood. Director Danny Boyle and screenwriter Simon Beaufoy reunite for this electrifying adaptation of Ralston's memoir, *Between A Rock And A Hard Place*.

School holidays fun at historic dockyard

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham has already announced its plans for activities during the February school holidays.

Interactive storytelling, arts and crafts with a shipwrecks and rescues theme will be held under cover in the RNLI Historic Lifeboat Collection gallery.

From Saturday, February 19 to Sunday, February 27, the crash of the waves and the cry of the seagulls will welcome visitors to the exhibition, where they will be inspired by the bravery of the people behind the gallant

rescues.

Interactive storytelling will feature some of the people now included on the new information panels around the gallery.

Other activities include arts and crafts, when children can try their hand at making their own self-righting lifeboat and test how it will cope with storm force conditions in a new simulation tank.

Families can also join an activity trail.

■ Information can be found at www.thedockyard.co.uk

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