



Issue 5 February 2008

We all love an awards ceremony and joining the Oscars and BAFTAs on the red carpet this month are Blockbuster's Golden Tickets, celebrating the year's hottest movies, TV shows and games. You can win, too, in our fantastic Ratatouille competition for a HD telly. We've also got the best new release films and the sweetest Valentine's Day movies to inspire your leap year proposals!

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"A BREATHLESS, BONE-JARRING, SLAM-BANG FINALE TO THE TRILOGY"

\*\*\*\*

- ALLAN HUNTER, DAILY EXPRESS

MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE

APAIL GREEGASSIN

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#### .....

# HEADS UP

The hottest movies, games and entertainment news



## **INVASION OUTTAKES**

Not everything went to script with the filming of sci-fi thriller *The Invasion*. Not only was Nicole Kidman involved in a car crash, but her co-star Daniel Craig also narrowly avoided another vehicular mishap by grabbing the handbrake of a runaway car (also containing Kidman) as it began to roll down a hill.

The film was then delayed by reshooting. Originally billed as *Downfall* director Oliver Hirschbiegel's first English language effort, the Wachowski brothers of *The Matrix*-fame had to be brought in to tidy up the script, with their assistant James McTeigue helming the new shoots. Aliens at work? Make up your own mind: *The Invasion* lands at Blockbuster on 25 February.

#### The bear facts

More movie delays for Kidman and Craig: a scheduled follow-up to *The Golden Compass* looks like it could be held up by more writers' and actors' strikes this summer – and Craig says the sequel still doesn't have a complete script.

'There's already an outline,' he reveals. 'It's pretty good.' He's hoping to film it and his next Bond movie this year.

Craig's cool image was also given a bit of a knock recently when his *Golden Compass* co-star Dakota Blue Richards let slip that he prepares for scenes by jumping up and down.

#### **Further viewing**

Got a taste for zombie movies? Try the 1970s *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, or cult spoof *Shaun of the Dead*, available online at www.blockbuster.co.uk



#### **HEADS UP** WHAT'S HOT

#### **BRAD PITT IN COVER UP**

Brad Pitt has said that his days of baring all on film are over. 'I don't want to be embarrassed. when my kids get old enough to see my films,' he said. Pal and Ocean's 13 co-star George Clooney has his doubts, though: 'Brad

loves to strip off,' he laughed a great body. Let's hope that George is right.

Brad's six pack: not appearing near you soon

#### **JESUS: THE GAP YEARS**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John... Hollywood? Tinsel Town fills in the blanks in the Bible next year with The Aquarian Gospel, following Jesus Christ between the ages of 13 and 30. Their theory? Backpacking across India. For spiritual enlightenment, obviously.



### **GONNA CALL?** Fancy busting some heads, in a spiritual sense, of course?

Then grab your proton pack – the Ghostbusters are back in a brand new videogame. The original cast – Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson – will reunite to provide voices, with Aykroyd and Ramis set to pen the story. The game is due out on PS3, Xbox 360, Wii and DS later this year. Just remember: don't cross the streams.

YOU CAN RENT MOVIES IN STORE OR ONLINE AT WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.CO.UK



#### **GUITAR HERO: TOO REALISTIC?**

Be careful how you handle that air guitar you could end up in court. 1980s rockers The Romantics are suing the makers of Guitar Hero Encore: Rocks the 80s because the game's version of their hit 'What I Like About You' is 'virtually indistinguishable' from the real thing. They obviously haven't heard us trying to play the tune, which sounds 'virtually indistinguishable' from a bag of weasels being hit with a spanner.

Look out for an eye-popping Disney reworking of Alice in Wonderland, helmed by Gothic fairytale prince Tim Burton. The director has signed a deal to make 3D versions of both the Lewis Carroll classic and his own 1984 film Frankenweenie – the story of a reanimated dead dog. Ahhh!

# HOLLYWOOD BY NUMBERS

#### **CASH COWS** Who's Hollywood milking this month?

She might not be the most famous, prettiest or best actress in LA, but according to the latest stats, lantern-jawed Rendition star Reese Witherspoon is now the world's highest paid. averaging \$15-20 million for each movie. Hollywood's other big women (in terms of their purses, of course) are Angelina Jolie, Cameron Diaz, Nicole Kidman and Renée Zellweger. What, no Julia Roberts? That must be a first.



This round is on you, ladies



## **GREEN GAMING**

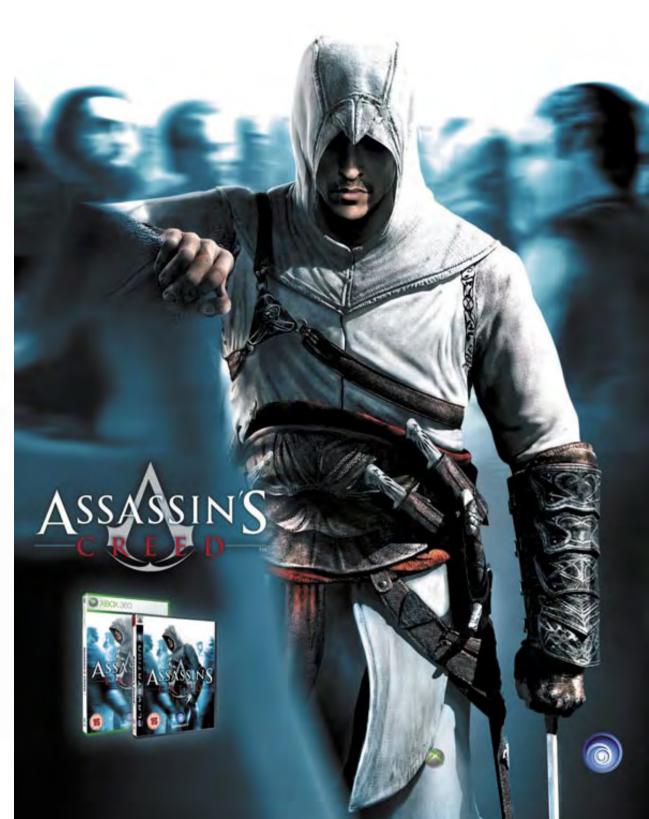
Sony has left other games companies green with envy, following a Greenpeace report that puts it miles ahead of rivals Microsoft and Nintendo on toxic chemicals and recycling. Poor old Nintendo got Greenpeace's lowest ever environmental rating - a big fat plumber-sized zero. Come on Mario, get cleaning those pipes!

# GTA ON THE WAY...

The year's loudest, fastest, most explosive game is nearly here... GTA IV finally has a release date: 25 April. Hijack a copy of Blockbuster Preview next month for an exclusive hands-on preview.









#### What about Stardust first grabbed your interest?

I loved the script – it's romantic, magical, dark and very funny. Matthew (Vaughn, the director) explained that he wanted to do a social commentary on our obsession with youth, beauty, perfectionism and the extremes that women go to to reach those ideals. Looking for the comedy in that was one of the big selling points for me.

#### Is playing a baddie as much fun as everyone says?

It's fun, but I had to watch that I didn't get carried away and

Pfeiffer

start chewing up the scenery she still has to be human, even though the audience hates her.

#### What's it like putting on all that makeup?

Miserable. It's not even makeup, it's rubber that I had glued on to my face. It took over four hours every day to put it all on.

#### It must have been odd looking in the mirror?

I cried. It was very freaky and quite upsetting to begin with. I even had breasts with mechanisms that could make them droop.

of what's really beautiful. Sometimes, I see people and I'm not sure what's strange about them, but there's something. It's becoming less obvious because our sense of what's normal has disappeared.

#### How do you cope with ageing yourself?

There's a hump you have to get over, when you realise that your face is going to show more and more signs of ageing. The first signs are upsetting, but now I'm over the hump and I move further away from it every year. You see people struggling with real issues in life and that puts things into perspective.

2006 and 2007 Universal Studios, Disney Pixar, Enter



fairytales enough to laugh at them

Based on the bestselling book by Neil Gaiman, Stardust follows in the footsteps of big screen charmers such as The Princess Bride and Time Bandits, serving up a post-modern fairytale that's fantastical, romantic and more than a little tongue-in-cheek.

**EDITOR'S** 

CH DICE

In an bid to win the affections of cold-hearted beauty Victoria (Miller), young Tristan (Cox) heads off on a quest to retrieve a fallen star – up there with demanding the moon on a stick. But he gets more than he bargained for when he tracks it down, discovering that it has transformed into the beautiful, spirited Yvaine (Danes).

Just to complicate matters, Tristan isn't the only one after the celestial siren - there's also a band of ghostly brothers and a wicked witch (Pfeiffer) seeking eternal youth.

One of the most visually arresting films of 2007 (and not just because of its easy-on-theeye cast), Stardust has an everything-but-the-kitchen sink feel to it. There's so much magic, so much enthusiasm and so many effects, that vou sometimes wish it had



adopted a stripped-down 'less is more' approach.

But while it's occasionally scattershot, it's also consistently entertaining, with some excellent performances (Pfeiffer is the standout here, but newcomer Cox more than holds his own). a host of likeable celeb cameos (step forward Robert De Niro and Ricky Gervais) and more than enough snappy dialogue to make you realise that it isn't taking itself too seriously.

Daft, yes, but great fun nonetheless - and fans of Gaiman will be thrilled.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

• Co-writer Jane Goldman is better known as Mrs Jonathan Ross

• Sarah Michelle Gellar turned down the lead to spend more time with hubby Freddie Prinze Jr

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#### **ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE** 15

Ruffs and tumbles

Rent/Buy 25 February

**Stars** Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Samantha Morton, Clive Owen

**Director** Shekhar Kapur

Perfect for Fans of full-blooded

Blanchett and Kapur reunite a decade on from Elizabeth to continue the story of Britain's most ginger monarch. The original presented us with a young gueen struggling with her new power, bamboozled by conspiracies (and Eric Cantona's Gallic mutterings). But a very different Elizabeth reigns here.

Gone is her hesitancy and lack of confidence. Absent too is Joseph

**ATONEMENT** 15

Think you're unlucky

Stars Keira Knightley, James McAvoy

Rent/Buy 4 February

**Director** Joe Wright

in British cinema. Again

Romola Garai, Saoirse Ronan

**Perfect for** Restoring your faith

This adaptation of Ian McEwan's

(Knightley at her least annoying),

spunky members of the stuffy

novel has 'classic' written all

over it. It follows the tragic

misfortunes of young lovers

Robbie (Turner) and Cecilia

turn-of-the-20th-century

in love?

Blanchett 1

Fiennes's Dudley. Instead, Clive Owen swaggers into court and Elizabeth's affections as hunky adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh.

Kapur delivers another riproaring vision of Elizabethan life, full of gripping sequences, colour and spectacle. Despite the efforts of adviser Walsingham (Rush), plots against Elizabeth are rife, with Mary Queen of Scots (a beautifully drawn

centre. Blanchett herself, whether haughty and regal or vulnerable and emotional, is never less than utterly convincing. And if her portrait of Elizabeth

performance by Morton) at their

is a study of a woman searching for purpose, then she finally finds it, in glorious fashion, as the pesky Spanish Armada heaves into view. Cometh the hour, cometh the woman.

Just as they finally lock stiff upper lips, Robbie is accused of wrongdoing by Cecilia's sister Briony (Ronan) and is sent to prison. Briony (later played by Garai) spends the remainder of the film attempting to make amends, hence the title. Sensually shot, with some of

scenes yet captured on film, Atonement is a truly beautiful and astonishing piece of work.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Keira Knightley was originally approached to play the part of Briony in her late teens
- The English towns Redcar and Grimsby stood in for the French town of Dunkirk







upper classes who find not just injustice but a world war coming between them.

the most impressive WW2

in the film



#### **WAR** 18 What is it good for? Explosions, of course!

Rent/Buy 4 February

**Stars** Jason Statham, Jet Li

**Director** Phillip Atwell

**Perfect for** Learning 143 ways to kill with your bare hands (or feet)

Any movie with Statham is sure to have shouting and motorbikes and lots of guns. Any movie with Li is sure to have swords and kicking and lots of bone crunching. A film starring both of them? You do the math. This is total war – over a hundred minutes of glorious all-out Triad versus Yakuza versus FBI combat on the streets of San Francisco. complete with classic car chases, kung fu and twists galore. And iust when you think it can't get any better, some ninjas show up. War may be hell, but this is pure action heaven.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

• Statham has two fast-paced sequels out next year: the high voltage Crank 2 and wheel-squealing Latin America





Cooper's

Oscar-

#### **BREACH** 12 A battle of wills to uncover an FBI traitor

Rent/Buy 8 February

Stars Chris Cooper, Ryan Phillippe, Laura Linney, Gary Cole

**Director** Billy Ray

**Perfect for** Cold War spies and conspiracy theorists

A little more than six months before 9/11 kick-started the War Against Terror, America's most damaging double agent, Robert Hanssen, was arrested for selling secrets to the Russians. That the Cold War was happening so recently might seem unlikely, but this tale of the unmasking of one of America's biggest traitors by a rookie FBI agent is based on a true-life case.

Phillippe is all grown up in his role as an ambitious young man desperate to serve his country, but the film belongs to Cooper as a coldly erratic

computer genius-turned-spy. Much of the tension is built in the bleak, quiet FBI offices, a setting that only amplifies the sparks that fly between the crotchety boss and the newcomer trying to keep a handle on his lies.

The leather chaps with the bottom cut out turned a few head:

Rather like his equally understated Shattered Glass, director Billy Ray pulls away from offering explanations as to why characters make their choices, instead creating room for the audience to form their own opinions.

There's much talk of another Oscar for Cooper for his humanising of such an icy character. And it wouldn't be undeserved.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- As hinted in the film, the real Robert Hanssen had a crush on Catherine Zeta-Jones and would watch her films when he should have been working
- The posters shown in the FBI hallways displaying spies that have been caught now feature Hanssen

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Stars George Clooney, Tilda Swinton

**Director** Tony Gilroy

or justice

shot New York attorney known as a fixer. His colleague Arthur defending a dodgy multinational, so boss Marty (Pollack) turns to him. Except that Clayton has enough on his plate, owing money to people you just shouldn't owe money to. What unravels is a riveting tale of corruption and moral dilemmas as Clayton discovers what tipped Arthur over the edge. Clooney has never been better, and watching Pollack ooze manipulative menace in just the sort of intelligent thriller he made in the 1970s is a joy to behold.

Michael Clayton (Clooney) is a hot-(Wilkinson) has a breakdown while

Tom Wilkinson, Sydney Pollack

**Perfect for** Legal eagles with a taste

# EASTERN PROMISES

EastEnders it ain't

'Now, I know it's not the BMX you wanted...

it's not an easy ride.

what they're caught up in. And

us to some disquieting places.

But that's also a strength - the

gripping stuff, showing London

but this belongs to Mortensen.

His lethal but morally conflicted

Nikolai manages to be at the

same time terrifyingly cool

and devastatingly charming.

Depending on your point of view

at its most gritty. But be warned:

The supporting cast is superb,

stifling intensity makes this

the violence can be extreme.

Once again, Cronenberg takes

Rent/Buy 25 February

**Also available on** Blu-ray

Stars Viggo Mortensen, Naomi Watts, Vincent Cassel, Armin Mueller-Stahl

**Director** David Cronenberg

**Perfect for** Ex-pat Russians wanting a (violent) slice of home life

Anna (Watts) is a midwife who plays guardian angel to a newborn baby girl after her teenage mother dies. Hoping to get the mother's diary translated to find the girl's family, she stumbles across the opulent Trans-Siberia restaurant in London's East End.

Unfortunately for Anna, the restaurant is a front for the Russian mafia where prostitution and murder are rife. It also brings her to the attention of enigmatic tough guy Nikolai (Mortensen), his volatile boss (Cassel) and his twinkly-eyed but menacing father (Mueller-Stahl).

Nikolai warns Anna off, but being the kind of feisty lady that makes for a good drama, she won't be told. Gradually, a grudging respect grows between the pair as they uncover the full extent of

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

• This is the first movie Cronenberg has made entirely outside of Canada



#### you'll either fall in love with him or want to be him. Or both.

• Next up, Clooney is voicing Mr Fox in Wes Anderson's animated version of Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox

DID YOU KNOW?



You did Funny Games and Eastern Promises back-toback. Didn't you fancy some light relief between them?

**SMALLTALK** 

NAOMI WATTS

The British-born actor on

Cronenberg and motherhood

I thought about it, but lighter stuff is harder to find and female roles in comedies tend to be guite silly. The filmmakers I'm drawn to are the ones telling darker stories, like Cronenberg or Michael Haneke.

#### Can you have fun on the set of such a dark film?

You have to, although I admit that I was surprised by this one.

You think that when you know someone's work, you know what they'll be like. I thought David would be this intense, very brooding man, but that couldn't have been further from the truth. He's got a wicked sense of humour.

#### Did Viggo's Method acting have an impact on you?

Not really. I didn't know Viggo that well before, but he was pretty much connected to his character the whole time. I mean. he didn't ask us to call him by

the character's name or anything - it's just very natural for him to work like that.

'My work makes me

happy and if I'm happy.

I'll be a good mum, too'

#### Was playing a midwife helpful with your own pregnancy?

I learned a lot by reading up and shadowing different midwives. Seeing live births made me think I would have a very pure birth, without a c-section or epidural. But then I didn't know I was actually pregnant at the time.

#### How are you managing motherhood with your busy career?

I haven't gone back full time yet. But it's nice to say I can only do three hours of press because of feeding intervals. My first question now is 'Where does it shoot?', not 'Who's directing?'

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#### RUN, FAT BOY, RUN PG

Catch this if you can

Rent/Buy 18 February

**Also available on** Blu-ray

**Stars** Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, Hank Azaria, Dylan Moran

**Director** David Schwimmer

**Perfect for** Fans of the underdog and of Simon Pegg

Simon Pegg has pulled off the almost impossibly perfect CV. He's astonishingly funny, has made the switch from the small to big screen and yet has retained his credibility. We still love him as much as we did when he was the sad loser in *Spaced*.

In this charming comedy (a first time in the director's chair for *Friends* star David Schwimmer), Pegg is perfect as everyman Dennis, a free-spirited security quard (OK, another

loser) who suddenly realises that he made the biggest mistake of his life when he walked out on his pregnant fiancée (Newton) on their wedding day. Trouble is, that was six years ago and she's moved on and up in the shape of successful charmer Azaria.

Is it too late for our hapless hero to win her back? Maybe if he runs a marathon she'll fall back into his flabby arms – yeah, that sure-fire romantic trick!

Worth watching too for Pegg's bonkers sidekick, played shambolically by the wonderful Dylan Moran: 'The only serious relationship I've been in ended in a broken collarbone and a dead meerkat.' And keep your eyes peeled for another very funny cameo from David Walliams.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

• Simon Pegg was the drummer in a rock band called God's Third Leg when he was 16. These days, he's godfather to Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow's daughter Apple

Idenly realises that iggest mistake of e walked out on nancée (Newton) ng day. Trouble is,

◆ Happy
Birthday
Si! Pegg's
birthday
falls on St
Valentine's
Day

'That's the spot'

#### THE HEARTBREAK KID U

The honeymoon is over

Rent/Buy 4 February

**Stars** Ben Stiller, Malin Akerman, Michelle Monaghan

**Directors** Bobby and Peter Farrelly **Perfect for** Laughing at the misfortune of others

Gross-out comedy kings the Farrelly brothers' latest offering stars Ben Stiller as Eddie, a single guy approaching 40 who panics and marries the next hottie he meets. This turns out to be a mistake. Like, duh. Lila (Akerman) drinks, swears and is a bit kinky – sounds like a catch to us, but for Eddie, she's a total nightmare. Things get worse on the honeymoon when he falls in love with Miranda (Monaghan). This remake never really hits its stride, although Ben's dad Jerry Stiller steals every scene he's in. Eddie on the other hand, comes across as a whiny misogynist who deserves everything he gets. In fact, Lila is way too good for him. Go Lila, we say.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

 Ben Stiller was nominated for a Razzie award for Worst Actor in five movies in 2004. Not a record to be proud of, but a record nonetheless

www.blockbuster.co.uk/preview

**MOVIES** NEW RELEASES



**RATATOUILLE** U

Three Michelin-starred comedy

Rent/Buy 11 February

Also available on Blu-ray

Stars Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano. Janeane Garofalo, Peter O'Toole

**Director** Brad Bird

**Perfect for** Fans of gourmet animation and a feast of laughs

When it comes to the recipe for a perfect family movie, Pixar can usually be trusted to cherrypick the right ingredients. And this tasty morsel doesn't disappoint, using a dash of humour, a glug of cutting-edge animation, a dollop of technical wizardry, a pinch of sugar and a rat.

Whoa! A rat? Yep, the star of this sumptuous kitchen-based comedy is Remy, a rodent with pretensions to be the next Gordon Ramsay – he doesn't

swear every other sentence (this is family fare) but he can cook up a storm. Or at least he would if he had opposable thumbs.

Enter the helpless but lovable garbage boy Linguine. He can't cook but he is perfectly willing to let a rat sit on top of his head and teach him. French kitchens are a little leftfield, clearly. The resulting team effort gets everyone's attention – the public loves his soup, the critics are intrigued and even his boss is jealous.

The problem is that, should health inspectors learn the identity of the rodent culinary genius, the restaurant would be closed down. This movie is about aspirations and challenging stereotypes but leaves such a sweet taste in the mouth that you'll be craving more.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

• Do you recognise the voice of the health inspector? It's none other than mockney TV chef Jamie Oliver

**NANCY DREW PG** Little Miss Crimebuster hits Los Angeles

Rent/Buy 11 February

**Stars** Emma Roberts, Tate Donovan, Josh Flitter, Rachael Leigh Cook

**Director** Andrew Fleming

Perfect for Nostalgic mums and their do-gooder daughters

Small town sleuth Nancy Drew (Roberts) has plenty of wholesome teenage hobbies: practicing first aid; advanced sandcastle making; and running up a wardrobe of kitsch outfits. But when she and her father (Donovan) move to LA, it's her old-fashioned investigative powers that are put to the test. This light-hearted yarn is aimed squarely at younger girls, skipping through the usual party/shopping/ boyfriend clichés with innocent abandon. Mum will enjoy tonguein-cheek nods to the original books, but if it's juvenile crimefighting smarts you're after, hunt out the classic Lemony Snicket's

> A Series of Unfortunate Events or even the fun Scooby Doo.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

• Bruce Willis pops up in bizarre cameo,

playing himself plavina a grizzled 1950s cop

NANCY DREW

Some people take Cluedo too seriously



#### SICKO<sub>12</sub>

If you visit America, don't get sick

Rent/Buy Out now

Stars Michael Moore

**Director** Michael Moore

**Perfect for** Encouraging sales of nealth insurance

Moore has spent the past two decades bringing documentary filmmaking from the margins to the multiplexes. His latest target is the US healthcare system. This enlightening film is less aggressive than its predecessors, although scenes of price-tagged body parts or old and infirm patients being dumped in front of homeless shelters because they can't afford to pay for treatment are pretty distressing by any standards. It might be aimed squarely at an American audience, but for us Brits, it's a chance to say thanks for the NHS. And it's not often you get to do that.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

 The owner of an anti-Michael Moore website closed it when his insurer refused to cover his wife's medical bills. Moore sent him \$12,000 to help get it running again





CONTROL 15 Love will tear us apart

Rent/Buy 11 February

**Stars** Sam Riley, Samantha Morton, Alexandra Maria Lara

**Director** Anton Corbijn

**Perfect for** A powerful insight into the talent behind the indie legend

Based on the memoirs of his widow, this is the tragic tale of legendary British post-punk band Joy Division's enigmatic and tortured vocalist, Ian Curtis. Barely out of his teens, yet married with a small child, Curtis and his band were poised for success in 1980 when, on the eve of their first US tour, he took his own life.

This is a fabulously impressive cinematic debut from rock photographer Anton Corbijn, who stylishly matches the bleak, industrial landscape of 1970s Manchester with the drama and melancholy of the band's music. Filmed in black and white, every frame has the look of a carefully crafted portrait composition.

But there's also a gritty realism at play. Where music biopics generally glamorise their subjects, Control delivers a stark portrait of a troubled young man. struggling with the impact of his personal demons on those around him. Rilev is superb as Curtis, while Morton simply shines as his anxious wife.

Even if you've never heard of Joy Division or their music, you can't fail to be moved by what is surely the finest British film to appear in several decades. Absolutely unmissable.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

• Riley appeared in 24-Hour Party People, an alternative take on the Manchester music scene from which Joy Division emerged. His role was a contrast, though - he played Mark E Smith of the Fall

• It was love at first sight when Riley met co-star Alexandra Maria Lara on set – the couple are now living together in Berlin





Blood runs thicker than water

Rent/Buy 11 February

Stars Malcolm McDowell, Scout Taylor-Compton, Sheri Moon Zombie

**Director** Rob Zombie

**Perfect for** Getting under the skin of the *Halloween* legend

Mike Myers (of mask-wearing fame, not the Austin Powers variety) is back, with Rob Zombie taking on a slice-and-dice remake of John Carpenter's genre-defining classic. This fleshes out (sorry) the tale from Myers's point of view, delving into his white trash past and his 20 years banged up in a sanatorium, where he grows up to be a very big boy indeed. Following his escape, the film settles into a sub-standard

rehash of the original with Myers returning to his hometown to search for his baby sister, killing all in his path. Taylor-Compton reprises the Jamie Lee Curtis role and McDowell holds his own as misguided psychologist Dr Loomis, but this time around Halloween belongs to the bad boy himself. And like the film. he's a nasty piece of work.

**MOVIES** 

NFW RFI FASES

#### DID YOU KNOW?

• The original Halloween mask was a modified William Shatner face mask



Mike Myers: not happy with the jumper he got for Christmas

The zombie fest devours vet more brains

Rent/Buy 18 February

Stars Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Ashanti, Oded Fehr

Director Russell Mulcah

**Perfect for** Boys who like tough models with guns

You might think a threequel based on a videogame would be a reason to run for the hills as if you were being chased by zombies yourself. But the third Resident Evil is great fun, with Jovovich slinking her way through a story combining bits of Mad Max 3, 28 Days Later and Heroes, with a touch of Hitchcock's The Birds. The infected flesh eaters have now

taken over the world, leaving little food but plenty of death - administration clearly isn't one of their strong points. With good production values and some slick touches. Extinction is low on dialogue and high on atmospherics, rather like the games. Mixing the plot of the first film with the explosive action of the second, this is easily – and surprisingly - the best of the trilogy. The question now is: will the films ever outclass the games?

#### DID YOU KNOW?

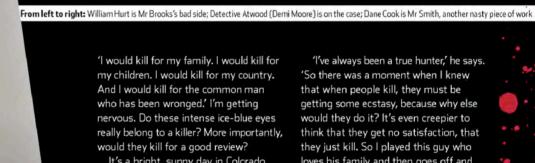
 Milla's character wears a variation on the 'Alice Star' shorts from the Spring 2007 collection of her Vogueadored fashion label, Jovovich-Hawk

• Legendary director Wim Wenders is the godfather of Milla's daughter with the film's writer, Paul W Anderson



www.blockbuster.co.uk/preview





It's a bright, sunny day in Colorado and I'm talking mass murder with Kevin Costner. Mr Brooks is quite a departure for America's most wholesome family actor, and it's hard to link this ruggedly handsome cowboy to the ruthless serial killer he plays in his latest film.

'There's blood,' Costner admits. 'Yeah, there's a lot of blood. But that's not what this movie's all about - there's tenderness, too. Mr Brooks has a disease and when it isn't affecting him, he's a nice guy. We may not like serial killers but he creates a kind of empathy, because we get a level of understanding of why he's doing it.'

Did he find anything inside himself to help with the role? 'As a kid, I guess I was a loner. I thought I could make my living off the land, so when other kids were playing, I would head up into the hills and try to take the venom out of rattlesnakes.'

Seeing Costner relaxing on his secluded ranch outside Aspen, where elk, bears and mountain lions roam the hillsides, his affection for the wilderness is clear.

"I've always been a true hunter," he says. 'So there was a moment when I knew that when people kill, they must be getting some ecstasy, because why else would they do it? It's even creepier to think that they get no satisfaction, that they just kill. So I played this guy who loves his family and then goes off and perpetrates these insidious murders. And I didn't want to be afraid of what that would look like on screen."

Is the world ready for Costner as an anti-hero? 'It's a challenge and



l understand all the things that come with it. But I feel that if I'm going to continue to make movies, then I should try to make different kind of films. And this seemed to fit in a positive way.'

Such a positive way, in fact, that Costner is even considering making his first ever sequel. 'Mr Brooks was written as a series of a films. Look, we're a very modestly budgeted (\$18 million) movie,' he explains. 'If we do make a second one, then it's possible that we can build an audience."



At home on the range with the ever-so-slightly sinister Kevin Costner



From left to right: Demi Moore: armed and dangerous; a pre-murder peptalk

Finding that audience hasn't usually been a problem for Costner, despite a rollercoaster career that's included the lead in Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, winning Best Director and Best Picture Oscars for Dances with Wolves, and being savaged by critics for the overblown sci-fi epics Waterworld and The Postman.

"I've had success and films that haven't been successful,' he says. 'But my choices haven't been about commercial success, they've been individual movies that I thought

#### **11'VE ALWAYS BEEN** A TRUE HUNTER'

could prove very popular. Failure is an underrated experience."

'It's about being fearless. I've never been afraid of whether or not I'm number one at the box office. I don't think that money or box office success determines what makes a good movie. It's about being true to yourself. Our job as actors and film makers is to make movies as well as we can and not to bow down to conventional wisdom."

Conventional wisdom suggests that, given the acclaim heaped on Dances with

Wolves, Wyatt Earp and Open Range, Costner should try another Western. He's enthusiastic about the dea: 'I do like to do cowboy movies. They play into my sensibility of going alone, with all the possessions you own on the back of your horse. I know that I'm kind of suited to that kind of film.

And to the lifestyle, by the sound of it. 'I was a carpenter before acting, and do a lot of work building and repairing on the ranch, he says groudly, 'I hauled the wood for this house. I built the deck around it, drove the tractor and dug ditches. I painted all these buildings. I love hard manual work. I'm at peace here.'

But as Costner climbs back onto his guad bike to 'go look at what needs to be fixed, his white Labrador Jewel trotting by his side, I can't help thinking that this is one cowboy who's not ready to be put out to pasture just yet.

Most Rented Kevin Costner

2006 The Guardian

2003 Open Range

1991 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves

1991 JFK

1991 Dances with Wolves

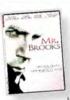
MR BROOKS No more Mr Nice Guy

Rent/Buy 11 February

Stars Kevin Costner, Demi Moore, Dane Cook, William Hurt

**Directors** Bruce A Evans

Perfect for Fans of dark, twisted chills



Clean cut Kevin Costner as a ruthless serial killer? It's an interesting change of direction for family favourite Costner as he plays Earl Brooks,

a wealthy Bruce Wayne-type who. instead of dressing up like a bat and bashing villains, slaughters people for kicks. But wait, it's not all his fault, as sinister, imaginary alter ego Marshall (Hurt) is the one egging him on to ever more dastardly deeds.

One thing leads to another and before he knows it, the killing spree turns into a habit. Can he shake it off before Detective Atwood (Moore) catches him red handed? Costner and Hurt bring some serious acting muscle to an occasionally ludicrous storyline that includes subplots with a voyeuristic blackmailer (Cook) who's onto Brooks and misadventures with his daughter - are psychopathic tendencies hereditary?

Lock all the doors and windows and settle in for a thrilling, if slightly creepy, night's entertainment.

DID YOU KNOW

As a child, Kevin Costner had his own imaginary pal called the Black Knight

Costner's Pee-wee Herman: understated



a screening, and one of my best friends - who knows I love my life and my comedy point and said: 'I hate you. I really do.' It was great.

Was it easy to ignore an 'imaginary' William Hurt in your scenes with him? You can't ignore William

Hurt, He's William Hurt! There was a scene in the car where he leant between Kevin and me, and I didn't know he was going to do that - it was hard to shut him out. But I could feel him - he's got the Force and could flick me out of a scene if he wanted.

Is there anyone you would kill? Maybe hecklers?

Not hecklers. I love them they remind you that you're a comedian. Even when they're

annoying, something in my brain is going: 'This guy's yelling out because I'm a - turned around to me at one comic. This is what I do, and it's the coolest thing ever."

What's next for you?

I've got a dark comedy called Bachelor No. 2 (with Kate Hudson) coming out. I'm playing a real jerk who seems to have no emotional attachment to anything.

Will you go back to stand-up?

Always! I'd do stand-up tonight if I could, It's like my baby.

Most rented Dane Cook

2006 Employee of the Month

2003 Stuck on You

1999 Mystery Men



or rental online at

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### **★ FIGHT CLUB**

If you haven't yet figured out Ed Norton and Brad Pitt's 'two'-man revolution, there's bound to be a support group with a name-tag waiting for you.



#### **★ DONNIE DARKO**

Unless you're troubled teen Jake Gyllenhaal, try not to let time-travelling rabbits goad you into committing crimes. This is one smart, dark sci-fi.

...............



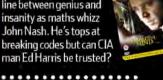
#### ★ HARVEY

A far sweeter imaginary bunny accompanies James Stewart through this charming 1950 comedy about family, romance and friendship.



#### ............... \* A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Russell Crowe treads the line between genius and nsanity as maths whizz John Nash. He's tops at breaking codes but can CIA man Ed Harris be trusted?





**SMALL TALK** 

Is it true you had to

videotape your audition?

Yeah, it was like auditioning

for American Idol. I was

filming Employee of the

Month and had to do it

between scenes. I got a friend

to read with me, but he's not

awful, I had to keep stopping

to tell him how to act. I was

What was it like having

like: 'God, you suck!'

to follow a script?

It's the polar opposite of

comedy, where you're in

where Kevin and I started

Did you think you'd be

able to pull off such a

I didn't know but I brought a

few of my closest friends to

nasty character?

control. There was one scene

improvising - that was great.

an actor and he was really

Dane Cook

From stand-up comic to Hollywood's

being a wannabe killer in Mr Brooks

hot new talent, Dane Cook talks about

















1000's of movies to choose from







For: Cutting-edge animation, a sizzling script and making the idea of a rat cooking you supper an appealing prospect. Pixar's culinary caper follows the fortunes of Remy, a rat blessed (or cursed) with a delicate palate and a burning desire to cook. After losing his family down a sewer, our hero finds himself in Paris. Here, he teams up with kitchen garbage boy Linguine to set about resurrecting the fortunes of the former gastro institution Gusteau's and make critic Anton Ego (Peter O'Toole) eat his words.

**SIMPSONS MOVIE** 

For: Bringing America's

funniest family to the

**big screen.** The most

eagerly awaited cartoon

You'll have to watch it

again and

again if you

all the gags.

want to catch

ever was totally worth it.



#### SHREK 3 For: One more 'happily ever after'. Fiona's

got a bun in the oven, Shrek's got the

> jitters, Prince Charming is planning a coup, and our ero also has to find an heir to the throne...

Ogre's heads: not all that slipper

#### **MORE TOON FAVES**

#### **FLUSHED AWAY** For: Familyfriendly toilet humour.

Pampered pet rat Roddy (Hugh Jackman) finds how the other half lives when he's flushed into

London sewer by his loutish rival Sid (Shane Richie).

GOLDEN NUCCET Walt Disney was nombated for a record 64 Oscars



'I didn't realise Tesco stocked shot

#### **WINNER HOT FUZZ**

For: In-jokes, spoofs, side swipes and great one-liners.

Met supercop Nicholas Angel (Simon Pegg) is 'promoted' to sergeant – the only catch is that his new post is in sleepy

Gloucester, Soon, he finds enough 'accidents' to rival Midsommer Murders. Can he and his dimwitted chum get to the bottom of things?



#### **COMEDY SIDEKICKS**

#### **KNOCKED UP**

For: Proving that a one-night stand ending in pregnancy can be

funny. Slacker Seth Rogen gets Katherine Heigl in the family way.

#### **BORAT**

For: Making us laugh, when we know we

shouldn't. Sacha Baron Cohen's Borat's every utterance is breathtakingly offensive. Thankfully, it's also very funny.

#### **BLADES OF GLORY**

For: A spectacularly silly plot and gruesome costumes. Will Ferrell

and Jon Heder kick some ice as rivals forced to dance together.



#### WINNER 28 **WEEKS LATER**



For: A terrifying opening sequence that sees the ragefuelled, sprinting flesh eaters attack the cottage where our heroes are **holed up.** Cowardly

Robert Carlyle deserts his wife in the face of this onslaught and returns to London to be reunited with his kids. But things don't end there, and soon the brain munchers are rampaging again...

#### **MOMENTS LATER**

#### SAW 3

For: Creating the 21st century's first horror icon – Jigsaw. Bedridden due to a brain tumour, Jigsaw's intent on playing one last game...

#### ZODIAC

For: Reminding us that the Zodiac killer is still out there somewhere.

Based on real events, this thriller charts the deaths of a serial killer's victims with brutal reality.

#### THE HITCHER

For: Making sure we'll never pick up another hitchhiker again. Ever!

Sean Bean is sinister as the stranger picked up by college kids



For: Creating a thoroughly thought-provoking and scarily realistic, worst case scenario action movie. This thriller is set in a nightmarish and violent future where pollution has rendered humanity infertile (the world's youngest person is 18). Clive Owen is gloriously grizzled as a former activist reduced to a husk of his former self. He's trying to regain some of his lost idealism by helping former girlfriend (Julianne Moore) save the world, in the shape of miraculously pregnant Claire-Hope Ashitey.



#### SECOND BEST OF BRITISH

#### SUNSHINE

For: **Impressive** effects and making such a wild plot idea

plausible. Danny Boyle's gripping sci-fi drama sees Cillian Murphy head up a team of astronauts on a mission to reboot the dying sun by throwing a huge nuclear bomb at it.



'Did I leave the gas on?'

**RUN, FAT BOY, RUN** For: A street level tour of London without leaving the sofa, and very funny gags. Simon Pegg is superb as a loser with the plan of winning back his former fiancée

by running the

marathon.



For: Slapstick set pieces in the sun with the gurning goon. He may drive some people nuts but Bean is loved by children, and the French. So what better place to send him to than





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# **GOLDEN TICKET** MOST EXPLOSIVE ACTION Don't guestion the choice of shirt WINNER CASINO ROYALE

#### FULL-ON RUNNERS UP

#### **BLOOD DIAMOND**

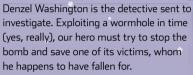
For: Proving that Leonardo DiCaprio is no wimp. This seat-of-pants tale stars Leo as a nasty diamond smuggler who gets involved in a kidnapping plot while searching Africa for a giant gem, hidden by Diimon Hounsou, Bling with a sting in its tail.

DiCaprio: a natural hopper

#### DÉJÀ VU

For: A heart-stopping opening sequence that sees a Mississippi river boat blown to bits.

bomb and save one of its victims, whom he happens to have fallen for.





For: Relentless, non-stop action from start to finish. Jeremy Piven is a magician who's got the goods on the mob. Cue a multitude of assassins trying to silence him.



Not how you play Texas Hold 'Em

#### COLDENNUCCEL

For: Bringing us the best Bond in years.

and gadgetry, replaced by full-on, relentless

action. From the moment Daniel Craig hits the

screen, you're left gasping: the opening chase

physically impressive sequences ever. And people

thought a blonde Bond would be a mistake...

through a building site is one of the most

This is back-to-basics 007. Gone are the gizmos

Daniel Chain is the first actor to be BAFTA sucunitaritied Complaying Bond - yent Custno Royally Instargation

# 'Just imagine the haircut this will buy me'

#### WINNER CHARLIE COX

For: **Stardust.** Charlie wows in this enchanting fairytale playing a young man who promises his girlfriend that he'll retrieve a fallen shooting star as proof of his love.



#### **NEARLY NEW FACES**

#### **SHIA LABEOUF**

For: Transformers. A great performance from this rapidly rising star, in the explosive hit of the summer. He's also in Disturbia and the new Indiana Jones due for

elease

#### **EMILY BLUNT**

For: The Devil Wears For: Little Miss **Prada.** Praised by Meryl Streep as 'the best young actress I've worked with in some time, perhaps ever', Emily delighted audiences n this comedy.

#### ABIGAIL BRESLI

Sunshine. One of the youngest stars ever to be nominate for an Oscar - sho was just 10 when she got the Academy nod for her performance in this DOM: NO. offbeat road movie.



#### WINNER JUDI DENCH **AS BARBARA COVETT**

For: Being the devil in disguise in Notes on a Scandal. Dench is chillingly entertaining as a woman whose friendship with Cate Blanchett turns into a scarily intense obsession.



Dame Judi: more evil than Idi Amin

#### **NOT-OUITE-SO-EVIL VILLAINS**

#### FRANK COSTELLO For: Being a deeply

psychopathic gangland boss in The Departed. Nicholson puts in an outrageous and thoroughly enjoyable

performance as the unflinchingly nasty Frank in Scorsese's ace mob

movie.

#### **AS IDI AMIN**

For: Monstrous actions as the Ugandan president in The Last King of Scotland. Whittaker puts in a towering, charismatic performance. with solid support from

#### JACK NICHOLSON AS FOREST WHITTAKER RODRIGO SANTORO

**AS XERXES** For: Arrogance. violence and trying to ride roughshod over the brave Spartans in **300.** Santoro is brilliant as the delusiona

Only one person usined Oser les ever won one-Oser/Hammerstein von twice, in 1942 and 1943



Bourne was unimpressed with his motorised pogostick

For: Nerve-jangling car chases, globetrotting action and high adrenalin paranoia. Never letting up for a second, the action is riveting from the moment Damon's amnesiac assassin appears, with a plot that involves him dodging killers while trying to unravel his past. Look out for a heart-in-mouth chase through Waterloo station that'll leave you breathless.



#### SLIGHT RETURNS

#### **ROCKY BALBOA**

For: A very welcome surprise. Thirty years after Sylvester Stallone's original Oscar-winning movie, the gloriously damaged but dignified Italian Stallion is back for one more crack at the big time.



#### **FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER**

For: Amazing comic book action and a great new adversary. Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis, Ioan Gruffudd and Jessica Alba are back and this time they're not only up against their old foe Dr Doom but a shiny new alien, too.

DIE HARD 4.0

For: Proving that you can't keep a good action hero down. Bruce Willis dons the sweaty vest and returns as witty John McClane to take on internet terrorists. The CGI sequences are amazing.

Sneaking out of the retirement ho

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Video trailers of the latest movies and game releases to rent or buy in store! www.blockbuster.co.uk/preview



#### **WINNER 300**



For: A relentless blood-splattering sensory assault. Buried deep amongst the sixpack torsos, there's a love story to be found, but it's the

superb CGI action you'll be getting this for. Based on the work of Frank Miller, 300 is the visceral account of a clutch of well-oiled Spartans standing up to the might of the Persian army.

#### **CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR**

#### **PIRATES OF THE** CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END

For: Battle scenes that look and sound amazing. Johnny Depp reprises his rum-soaked rock 'n' roll pirate turn for the grand finale.

#### OCEAN'S 13

For: Giving the smooth boys a whole new glossy sheen. George, Brad and the rest turn the tables on cocky Vegas big shot Willie Bank (Al Pacino).

#### HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

For: Super sharp, very dark sorcery. Harry sets out to thwart Voldemort by rustling up his own army. Can he defeat evil and win the girl?

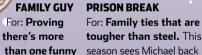


brilliantly twisted plot. Meet the 'heroes', a group of seemingly random people from all walks of life who suddenly develop extraordinary powers. They include a flying politician, an indestructible cheerleader, a mind-reading cop and Hiro, a time-bending office worker from Japan. Expect a world of plot twists and revelations as we slowly discover whether it's evolution, a conspiracy or something else...



**GOLDEN TICKET** 

#### **BOX SET BACKUPS**



season sees Michael back behind bars and Lincoln cartoon family in the world. freed. What's the betting Bumbling Peter Griffin it won't stay that way? and his brood return and These boys are harder to their irreverent humour is hang on to than a greased





#### LOST

For: Mind-boggling yet addictive plots. More questions than answers have always been the order of the day for this enigmatic island-based series, and fans wouldn't have it any other way. This season, it's all about the Others..

COLDENNUCCET

as near the knuckle as

Peter getting 'molested'

ever. Season six sees

by his doctor, Stewie

getting married

and Lois going

mad with power

as mayor.

Sylvester Stallone has been nonlinited for 30 threates

#### **MORE FAMILY FORTUNES**

#### SCENE IT? LIGHTS. CAMERA, ACTION

For: Delivering the ultimate movie trivia game. Boasts four big button buzzer pads for individual or team play. Enjoy movie clips as well as nundreds of photo

stills and

audio

THE GAMES FOR **EVERYONE RANGE** For: A broad range of titles for all

ages. Everything

Be a Millionaire? to

from Who Wants to Word Coach. You can

> For the first time,

#### WINNER SINGSTAR PS3

For: Bringing a whole new meaning to entertaining at **home.** Up to eight players can pass around the mic to sing and dance along to one of the thirty tracks that come with the game. Or go online for hundreds more.

•



#### even brush up your language skills with the My Spanish or My French Coach titles.

#### **LEGO STAR WARS:** THE COMPLETE SAGA

For: **Bringing** together two all-time family

favourites. gamers can play through

BAFTA first rewarded video games in 1998. The winners ware Golden Eye 307, Gran Turismo and Mind Gym



The Crusades: promoting Christian values of peace, love and tolerance

#### WINNER ASSASSIN'S CREED

For: Bringing us Altaïr, the hottest new character since Lara Croft. Slip into the robes of a medieval assassin and blend into 12th century Jerusalem as you explore a world that's shaped by your choices and actions. Do you help a random citizen or ignore their plight? Who knows what the consequences will be? In a game where your decisions help define the narrative, the eventual outcome is never certain.



#### **OTHER THUMB-TWIDDLERS**



**BIOSHOCK** For: Flipping the script. Biologically modify your body

for special abilities like telekinesis, hack machine gun turrets, upgrade weapons and even craft new ammo variants while trying different battle techniques in an underwater city.

#### STRANGLEHOLD

For: Creating the first successful Hong Kong action game. The sequel to movie classic *Hard Boiled* delivers in a big way, thanks to intuitive controls, and eyepopping graphics. This is a rollercoaster ride of slick gunplay and complete mayhem!

**SUPER MARIO GALAXY** For: Setting a new benchmark for 3D platform action. Mario takes to the stars, allowing great use of the motion sensor remote controller combined with 3D visuals that can even induce a mild dose of vertigo.

# Violence is golden: Master Chief scoops top gaming honours

#### **WINNER HALO 3**

For: Creating the best shooter, bar none. Take on intergalactic nasties in an epic space odyssey involving huge scenic maps, nickable vehicles and more state of the art weaponry than you could fire a Spartan Laser at. But the best bit that is it just plays so well. Whether you're a hardcore gunslinger or a spray-and-pray enthusiast, you won't be disappointed. And look out for the rumoured upcoming movie, too.



**OR TRY** 

## Burt Reynolds: the video game

#### **KANE & LYNCH: DEAD MEN**

For: Giving anti-heroes centre stage. Not all games are for kids and Kane & Lynch offers a highly entertaining, yet dark and uncompromising tale, that insists you leave your morals back in the real world. Aimed squarely at the adult market.

#### **MEDAL OF HONOR: AIRBORNE**

For: Taking the long-running series to new heights (literally). Question: How do you keep an ageing shooter series entertaining? Answer: Start every level jumping out of a plane, landing anywhere you want to in the world below, constantly keeping the action fresh. Genius!

#### **CALL OF DUTY 4: MODERN WARFARE**

For: Serving up an authentic slice of nextgeneration warfare. The action is so realistic and compelling in this high-tech soldier shooter that even hardened armchair generals and weekend warriors might want to duck and cover now and again. The online game, with role playing elements and character development, is even more addicti

Halo 3 sold over 5 million contes world with a light significant weeks Its available to buy now at your local Blockbusterstors

# BEST SPORTS GAME

#### WINNER FIFA 2008

For: Placing you in the boots of a Premiership pro. Choose a player and guide him through league and cup matches, facing computer teams with superb AI skills, plus gameplay and graphics that are more realistic than ever.



#### RATTLING THE WOODWORK

#### For: Catapulting you to golfing stardom. Upload your photo and you'll soon be sinking putts alongside Tiger himself, with the ability to post your best shots

online for

#### **TIGER WOODS 2008 PRO EVOLUTION SOCCER 2008**

For: **Being as** fun as chucking down jumpers for goalposts. Intuitive passing and shooting and BBC commentary means even more atmosphere than

a match at Just add a

#### SKATE

For: Creating a totally immersive skateboarding heaven. Get chased by security guards or wow the people of San Vanelona as you master new moves in a free-form

environmen





#### FEAST OF LOVE Rent 11 February

What's the story? When your wife leaves you for another woman, what's a boy to do? Hook up with the nearest blonde estate agent, obviously. Except that she's involved with someone else – who's married. And now your employees are getting it on, too. Things are emotionally complicated in Oregon – let Morgan Freeman be your guide in this intelligent, grown-up love story.

Who's the eye candy? Selma Blair and Alexa Davalos will have the boys' pulses racing while Greg Kinnear and Toby Hemmingway

should get the girls all aflutter.
If it was a Valentine's
gift it would be:
Jewellery. Something to
treasure forever.

Romance Rating





Chill the champagne, choose some chocolate truffles and enjoy a first date on the sofa with the most romantic movies around – all available at Blockbuster this month

#### # THE SINGER

Rent 25 February

What's the story? An ageing French nightclub singer falls for a winsome member of his audience (and estate agent), but both have second thoughts. Can buying a house bring them closer together? A touching and subtle love story with two beautiful performances at its heart. Who's the eye candy? Lads will adore bubbly Belgian beauty Cécile De France, who's as sweet as her homeland's chocolate. For *les filles*, it's wonky-nosed lothario Gérard Depardieu. We don't know why he's sexy, but he is. If it was a Valentine's gift it would be: A bouquet of flowers. Beautiful to look at and guaranteed

to brighter up your day.

Romanic Rating

## PARIS JE T'AIME Rent 4 February What's the story? Love can comform and often at the most upon

What's the story? Love can come in any way, shape or form, and often at the most unexpected time. That's the lesson you'll learn from this enchanting collection of 18 love stories from more than a dozen directors. It's a delicious love letter to the most romantic city in the world. Who's the eye candy? Take your pick! Boys can have Juliette Binoche, Natalie Portman or Emily Mortimer. And girls can go with Steve Buscemi, Rufus Sewell or the delightful Melchior Beslon.

If it was a Valentine's gift it would be:
A box of chocolates. Some gooey, some fruity,
some nutty, but all gorgeous.

What's the story? A power-crazy chef's meticulously ordered life is thrown into chaos when she suddenly has to play mum to her recently orphaned niece. Things are further complicated by her feelings for her opera loving and relentlessly upbeat sous chef – expect the kitchen to get steamy in this tasty little comedy.

NO RESERVATIONS

Rent Available now

Who's the eye candy? Gorgeous Welsh beauty (and wife of Michael Douglas) Catherine Zeta Jones and the boyishly charming Aaron Eckhart

lf it was a Valentine's gift it would be:



# Romance Ra



#### **WEDDING DAZE**

Rent/buy 4 February

What's the story? Boy proposes to girl, girl dies of heart attack (stay with us), a year later boy proposes to waitress he's only just met, and waitress says yes. Nothing can go wrong there

then. Quirky romantic comedy with enough laughs to stop you drowning in syrup.
Who's the eye candy? For the boys – mother of Borat's kid, Isla Fisher. And for the girls – er, Jason Biggs, who is lovely in his own special way.

If it was a Valentine's gift it would be: Champagne. It's fizzy, frothy and you're sure to go gildy, in a good way.

Romance Rothin

WRONG SINGER

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#### **OUTIN MARCH**

Vampires, gangsters, gun-slinging action and flights of fancy – there's something for everyone at Blockbuster this March





#### DAYS OF NIGHT

modern day yampires. led by Danny Huston in dark, wintery Alaska



#### **TANGSTER**



#### LIONS FOR LAMBS

Robert Redford's thought-provoking drama about the war on terror stars neavyweights Tom Cruise and Meryl Streen



#### **BEOWULF**

Dragons, romance and digital gore with Ray Winstone and Angelina Jolie in this visually stunning sword and sorcery adventure



#### JESSE JAMES

**Brad Pitt is the** legendary outlaw and Casey Affleck the heroworshipping ally who eventually kills him



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All the best gaming action, news and reviews



It's a seguel that's been in development for longer than a Hollywood production. But if our eyes aren't deceiving us, next month's Mercenaries 2: World in Flames stands to be the first blockbuster game of the year.

Not familiar? Lock, load and scream 'fire in the hole' to a free-roaming military action game, delivering megatons more strategic gameplay and trigger-happy combat than you enjoyed in the award-winning original.

Take two parts Grand Theft Auto, one part Call of Duty, shake it up, pull the pin and toss it into a world where you really can do whatever you please. If you see it, you can buy it, steal it, blow it up - or all three if you've got cash to burn! There's a wealth of new toys to play with, ranging from shiny new cars, tanks, boats and even bunker-busting mini-nukes to help you fulfil contracts. You can even slash and burn the scenery - world in flames, indeed.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Pandemic Studios, the development team behind Mercenaries 2, have made their name in soldier shooters. They're the talented guys behind Full Spectrum Warrior, Army Men and a host of Star Wars titles.

Unlike the original, Mercenaries 2 has a full-blown multiplayer mode. which means you'll be able to play through the whole campaign with the help of your (violently disturbed) friends.



Use the new grappling hook tool to latch on to flying vehicles and commandeer them in the sky. It sure beats buying a ticket



If using a hook is too much hassle, just grab a handy rocket launcher and do things the old fashioned way



Rent/Buy 8 February

Format Xbox 360, PS3

**Publisher** Capcom

**Perfect for** Fans of hack 'n' slash action and stylish gunplay

Let's get this out of the way first: Devil May Cry 4 looks incredible. It also moves at such a blistering pace that your eyes might have trouble keeping up. Of course, fans of the series have come to expect gameplay that's slicker than a lubed-up WWE wrestler on fight night, but on next-gen hardware it truly shines.



In terms of gameplay, the biggest change is the retirement of lead character Dante, who's been sacked in favour of a vounger model called Nero. Despite being named after a High Street coffee chain, Nero's 'Devil Bringer' arm is a badass alternative to the traditional sword 'n' gun combo. He can use it to summon spirit attacks, scale great heights and grab enemies in mid-air before slamming them to the ground.

Thankfully, Dante makes a return halfway through the game with a couple of neat tricks himself. Biggest and most enjoyable of his ludicrously obscene weapons is Pandora's Box – a suitcase that opens up into a huge airborne tank that rains rockets from above.

It's rare to find a game that plays as good as it looks, but single-player gamers will find

Cry 4 is from the as 2005's

**Devil May** 

same team

Evil 4

Resident

Nero tries not to spill his cappuccino

Devil May Cry 4 an excessively playable and stylish treat.

#### GAMES GURU

 Devil May Cry 4 is one of the most gorgeous games on the Xbox 360 and PS3, running at a silky smooth 60 frames per second on both consoles. The PS3 has the advantage of a motion-sensitive controller, but the game itself remains the same on 360

• Tactically-minded players can set traps for their opponents by leaving floating swords strategically placed and then triggering the surprise when the enemy stumbles across it



Rent/Buy 15 February

Format Xbox 360, PS3

holed up for World War 3

**Publisher** THQ/Kaos Studios

**Perfect for** Pessimists already

The future looks very bleak indeed

if Frontlines: Fuel of War is to be

believed. Set in 2024, fossil fuel

reserves are severely depleted

and isolated skirmishes have

escalated into a full-scale global

conflict. Not good. Still, at least

us occupied until the apocalypse.

we've a cracking game to keep

Frontlines is the work of

the veterans behind PC gem

they certainly hit the ground

Battlefield 2. On the consoles.

running – this mighty first-person

shooter really gets to grips with

gen hardware. It looks pretty, in a double-hard way, obviously.

FRONTLINES: FUEL OF WAR

Think today's petrol prices are steep?

The single-player campaign has you marching on Moscow, completing missions and battling in open-ended combat arenas. Be brazen in bitter street warfare, blow up a few walls, scale rooftops and seize ammunition

There are lots of high-tech toys to play with - clearly, in the near future, research into alternative energy has been cut to pay for an ever-expanding military budget.

depots. So far, so bish, bash, bosh.

But the real treat here is the multiplayer action. And when we say multi, we mean multi. Get stuck into some truly colossal online games - we're talking a small army of up to 32 players at once! Epic is too small a word to do this excellent game justice.

#### **GAMES GURU**

• Futuristic weapons include drones that you can remotely control - neat little toys should you want to cause havoc to enemy lines from a distance. But make sure vou're in a secure area when handling them, as enemies have a habit of sneaking up on you

**♦** Kaos Studios is the new THQowned for the legendary

Trauma

Studios

LOST

LOST

Cult TV show gets creditable game

**Rent/Buy** 22 February

Format Xbox 360, PS3

**Publisher** Ubisoft

**Perfect for** *Lost* fans desperate for a few more clues

Play hide and seek with The Others, chase the Smoke Monster, eat coconuts, Yes, Lost the videogame is here, and hot stuff it is, too. As a iournalist with amnesia, vou'll need to sniff out clues or chat with and (occasionally) fight the inhabitants. Part of the action involves taking photos, but this is no tourist junket - your aim is to unearth the island's secrets. Look out for characters from the show, while the realistic graphics capture the sun-drenched tropical splendour - and creepy undertone - of the environment. Some challenging puzzles might have you scratching your head, but if you've any interest in the show, then Lost the game is a must.

#### GAMES GURU

• Lost has been developed using the Yeti graphics engine, which was previously used in the rather more violent Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter series of shoot 'em ups

 Most of the stars of the show – including Kate, Locke, Sawyer and Jack - feature in the game

Sawyer turns out to be a secret Harry Potter fan



#### **TUROK**

Jurassic Park meets Halo in this dino-packed shoot 'em up

Rent/Buy 8 February

Format Xbox 360, PS3

**Publisher** Disney Interactive

Perfect for Angry palaeontologists

If you're a Special Forces soldier. it's fair to say you'll have no problem taking out bad guys - but how about dinosaurs? Joe Turok is about to find out. While searching for a war criminal on a mysterious new planet, he comes face-to-fangs with some huge and extremely frightening creatures. You'll use a mix of weapons, from guns to a cool bow, in this sci-fi shooter, navigating the dark world in an attempt to survive.



There's plenty to fire at, difficult challenges to overcome and vou can even trick dinos into attacking your enemies. It's also full of different vehicles - handy. as this strange environment is far too massive to walk around.

Visually, Turok stretches the graphical power of even the PS3 and Xbox 360. But while this adventure is far

**BURNOUT** 

series is as crazy as ever. This

next-gen version drops drivers

darker than previous *Turok* titles, the dinosaurs are still the stars - scarv, awesome and towering over every aspect of the gameplay. Bitingly good fun.

#### **GAMES GURU**

- Top online action lets you take on up to 16 mates in a furious showdown
- Watch out for 'dino mauling', where lizards pounce on Turok by surprise

in the middle of Paradise City (where, yes, the grass does seem to be green and the girls are real pretty), letting you pick challenges from race, stunt and car-slicing combat modes.

One big advance is that Burnout Paradise is entirely free-roaming, replacing individual tracks with a gigantic urban sprawl of freeways, palm trees and beaches – a virtual Los Angeles without smog, traffic iams or pesky speed restrictions. So put your pedal to the metal and take me home...

#### **GAMES GURU**

• Burnout Paradise was built from the ground up for Xbox 360 and PS3, and is the first game the developers have produced without any race tracks

As the title suggests, teamwork is the name of *Army of Two*'s game. You take the controls of either Salem or Rios, a lean, mean, tough-talking tag-team of mercenaries dodging bullets and bombers in the name of profit. But if your mates aren't around to play, stepping into the other character's boots is an Al partner

**Rent/Buy** Coming soon

Format Xbox 360, PS3

**Publisher** Electronic Arts

**Perfect for** Warmongers who like a

bit of company with their carnage

**ARMY OF TWO** 

Putting the operation into co-operation

The more carnage a player is able to unleash, the more his 'aggro' level builds up. This focuses enemy fire towards him, allowing his partner to sneak

to help you tackle the missions.

around to take out the enemy and complete the objectives.

Test match cricket just got serious

The fantastic Al means that this is just as much fun to play on your own, even if the 'buddybuddy' cut-away scenes slow the action down a bit. More tactical than most combat-zone shoot 'em ups, Army of Two certainly doesn't let vou down on the action front as you tear about current warzone hot-spots armed to the back teeth with more hardware than Homebase. A smart blast that proves that two heads are better than one.

#### **GAMES GURU**

- Players can customise their weapons and armour as the game progresses, pimping out their gear with laser sights and grips
- An online mode allows up to four different players to compete - and battle - against each other. The first player to complete the mission wins extra money to buy better weapons

A real contracted soldier' helped EA perfect the aame's authenticity COOKING MAMA 2

There's more culinary fun to be had with this tasty handheld sim

**Buy** 15 February

**Format** Nintendo DS

**Publisher** 505 Games

**Perfect for** Under 10s, mums and celebrity chefs needing some practice

Cook up an even bigger storm in this seguel to the superb handheld sim that mixes food with gaming. There are new recipes galore and it's still as fast and furious as ever - just don't spill anything! Enjoy 150 mini-games (double the last outing) and now you can use the DS's fantastic wireless multiplayer mode against friends. challenging them to a 'cook off'. But watch out: your food will be judged by characters as harsh as Gordon Ramsay (but without the swearing), so make sure your kitchen skills are as hot as the chilli sauce.

#### **GAMES GURU**

• An excellent diary feature allows you to save pictures of the food you've rustled up as well as success stickers vou've collected



**PARADISE** Sat nav not required Rent/Buy Out now Format Xbox 360, PS3 **Publisher** Electronic Arts Perfect for Anyone with an acute case of road rage At a time when most racing games look as polished as the best bits of Top Gear, it's good to know that the combat racing Burnout

Stripes officially do make you go faster

Olyphant,

Wahlberg

and Powers

Donnie

Boothe

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www.blockbuster.co.uk/preview



Available on both the PS3 and Xbox 360. Assassin's Creed delivers a heart-racing mix of action, adventure and stealth. Master the skills, tactics, and weapons of history's deadliest and most secretive clan of warriors. Plan vour attacks. strike without mercy and fight your way to escape - now that's what we call a real weekend break.

#### DODGE AND WEAVE

Defence is often the best form of attack. Whenever possible, it's worth trying to evade an incoming assault by tapping the Dodge button at the exact moment your enemy steps forward. This allows you to quickly take a step back before launching a devastating counter attack.

Hack vour wav to victory with energy drink Relentless, now sold at Blockbuster. Relentless delivers stamina. focus and drive to help vou keep on gaming

#### DEATH FROM ABOVE

Rooftops rule! When facing a tough adversary, do your best to lure your opponent to higher ground, where you have the added option of trying to throw them to their deaths. Don't worry if you suffer from vertigo - or, if you both end up falling, there's every chance the enemy will take more damage. With odds like that, it's worth the risk.



A view to die for, but mind your footing

#### TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Forget guns – this game is all about blades and body blows. Fisticuffs will ensure you never run out of ammo or make too much noise. Throwing knives are ideal for long range kills (and can be stolen from thugs), while the long sword is perfect for moments of controlled mayhem.



Slice and dice as you master cold steel



Climbing can save lives - yours!

#### **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

The early levels can be tough as many of the cooler combat manoeuvres are unlocked only as the game progresses. This means it's not always a good idea to stand and fight. If cornered, make best use of the walls by running up them - it'll give you a valuable few seconds to make good your escape.



Drawing attention to yourself isn't wise

#### **KNOW YOUR ENEMY**

A variety of different guards stand between you and your main target - and they're not all the same. If you want to know what you're up against, check their helmets: bizarrely, the shinier the headgear, the tougher your opponent. Avoid silver and gold-plated helmets - these denote the strongest guards.



THE BIG FIVE GAMES

Finally the big guns hove into view – check out next month's *Preview* for a taste of the most anticipated titles yet to hit the next gen consoles



#### **GTAIV**

ong awaited? No 'arf. The all-new GTA will hijack your life again when it arrives in April



#### METAL GEAR SOLID 4

Solid Snake is back



#### **RESIDENT EVIL 5**

The thing about the undead is that they don't seem to die. Chris Redfield is back to give them a hand



#### **MIDNIGHT CLUB:** LOS ANGELES

Tear through LA in your choice of muscle car – just don't get stuck in traffic



#### **ALONE IN THE** DARK 5

Enjoy new supernatural kicks with this zombie franchise

Speed and accuracy are vital

# When anyone can play, everyone can play.



Spend quality time together with friends and family through fun and social games. And with over 300 games available by this Christmas, there's something for everyone.





**MOVIES** 

'You know how some babies are born addicted to drugs? Well, I was born addicted to attention'

#### NACHO LIBRE (2006)

'I just look so goddang ridiculous. I would rather have been naked. But then I thought: "Wait, that's my job. The stretchy pants are my friends. I love the stretchy pants!""

JACK'S PREVIOUS FILMS ARE **AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL STORE** OR WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.CO.UK

#### **SHOWREEL**

### JACK BLACK

Irrepressible and downright irresistible, Jack Black is a one-man comedy tornado. Currently hitting cinemas in Margot at the Wedding, here are his career peaks so far



#### MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (2007)

Jack moved in with Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Jason Leigh to get their portrayal of clashing in-laws just right. Or that was his excuse, at least.

#### THE PICK OF DESTINY (2006)

'We've been called the heavy metal Simon and Garfunkel,' says Black of his band Tenacious D. 'I've actually ripped off a little Meat Loaf, his theatricality."

#### KING KONG (2005)

'You wait your whole life weet a call like that.' That didn't stop him refusing make-up throughout filming because he heard that Clint Eastwood never uses it.

#### SCHOOL OF ROCK (2003)

'I played a year of piano until I learned the Pink Panther theme. Once I was good enough, I quit. Now my music has to have some rock."

