YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CINEMA, DVDs, GAMES & MUSIC

STACK

.net.nz

ISSUE 83
Apr '17

INSIDE › MOANA • GOLDFRAPP • ASSASSIN'S CREED

Win COMPETITIONS
go to stack.net.nz for more details

JB HI-FI

Sign up for your STACK eNEWSLETTER at stack.net.nz

A LUCASFILM LTD. PRODUCTION "ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY" A GARETH EDWARDS FILM FELICITY JONES DIEGO LUNA BEN MENDELSOHN DONNIE YEN MADS MIKKELSEN ALAN TUDYK WITH JIANG WEN AND FOREST WHITAKER
MUSIC BY MICHAEL GIACCHINO ORIGINAL STAR WARS MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS VISUAL EFFECTS & ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC COSTUME DESIGNERS GLYN DILLON DAVE CROSSMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNERS DOUG CHIANG AND NEIL LAMONT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GREIG FRASER, ASC, ACS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN KNOLL JASON McGATLIN PRODUCED BY KATHLEEN KENNEDY, p.g.a. ALLISON SHEARMUR, p.g.a. SIMON EMANUEL, p.g.a. STORY BY JOHN KNOLL AND GARY WHITTA SCREENPLAY BY CHRIS WEITZ AND TONY GILROY DIRECTED BY GARETH EDWARDS

©2017 & TM Lucasfilm Ltd.

ISSUE 83 APRIL 2017

EXTRAS

• Mark Seymour's Kiwi connection; John Hamburg on *Why Him?*; *Fantastic Beasts* star Katherine Waterston **Pg 6**

• Technology: Dead zones are a thing of the past with Netgear's Orbi **Pg 8**

• Competitions, quiz, *STACK* Social. **Pg 10**

FEATURES

CINEMA

CHiPs: *STACK* met with stars Dax Shepard, Michael Peña and Kristen Bell to talk motorcycles, buddy cops and bringing the cheesy '70s TV series to the big screen. **Pg 10-11**

DVD

Rogue One: Committed Star Wars fan Gareth Edwards was determined that the first spin-off would have its own distinct identity. **Pg 12-13**

Moana: We spoke with our own Rachel House about how the latest Disney smash brings everyone together. **Pg 14**

Assassin's Creed: Australian filmmaker Justin Kurzel brings sophistication and historical detail to video game adaptations. **Pg 16-17**

GAMES

Sniper Ghost Warrior 3: Tomasz Pruski, senior level designer at Polish studio CI Games, takes us through the latest edition of the sniper game. **Pg 18**

Nintendo Switch: Our wishlist of sequels for Nintendo's cool new console. **Pg 20-21**

MUSIC

Goldfrapp: Graham Reid dives head first into the music of Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory. **Pg 22**

REVIEWS

DVD/Blu-ray

Trolls, Moonlight, Vikings: Season 4 - Part 2, Sing, Jackie, The Founder, Passengers, Monster Trucks, and more **Pg 27-31**

GAMES

Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Dragon Quest Heroes 2 **Pg 32**

MUSIC

Julia Holter, Future Islands, The Doors, and more **Pg 34**

RATINGS GUIDE

All information believed correct at time of printing. All images used for promotional purposes only. Copyright of respective owners is acknowledged. ©2017 Scribal Custom Pty Ltd. No part of this magazine may be reprinted without the written permission of the publisher.

THE END OF EVIL

How a surprise pregnancy caused a few complications on *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*.

With a shoot date already locked and ready to roll, the husband-and-wife team of Milla Jovovich and Paul W.S. Anderson didn't know how to break the news that they were about to become parents again.

"I thought the studio was going to hate us, but they didn't, they were so nice about it," Anderson confides to *STACK*. "They just said we'll put everything on hiatus and when you're ready we'll go back and shoot."

Jovovich was relieved the studio was so considerate. "I couldn't imagine doing all the stunts whilst being pregnant, although at the same time, I didn't want to have my stunt double do everything. I gained so much weight with both my pregnancies that I think half the special effects budget would've gone into making me look normal, and that would have been ridiculous.

"So it felt right to postpone it, but it was definitely very scary having to call the studio and the producers when Paul was literally about to leave to start prep the day after, and the day before we're sitting there and we're thinking, 'Are we seriously going to do this?' I mean honestly, I'm an older mom in that sense, and if anything happened to me or to the baby, we'd never forgive ourselves. No movie is worth it."

And so baby made four. "I have the most amazing photos of these dirty, derelict locations with like zombies and filth and burnt out cars," says Anderson. "Then in the foreground, there's Milla sitting on a little blanket breastfeeding and she's covered in dirt and blood."

Gill Pringle

➔ ***Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*** is out DVD and Blu-ray on April 26

WHY NO DELETED ROGUE ONE SCENES?

The *Rogue One* Blu-ray is chock full of bonus features, but fans will notice the absence of any deleted scenes, despite footage that didn't make the final cut featuring in early trailers (like the TIE fighter that rises in front of Jyn Erso).

Director Gareth Edwards set the record straight in a recent interview with *Fandango*: "There's not an individual scene that you can drag and drop and put on a Blu-ray," he explained. "There are little things that would come and go during post-production, but they're not scenes. They're more moments within the scenes or a single shot. So it's impossible to be able to do that, and that's why the decision was made."

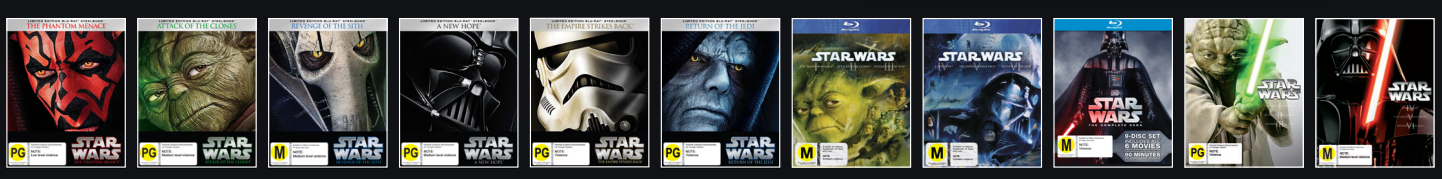
➔ ***Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*** is out on DVD and Blu-ray on April 5. Make sure you check out JB Hi-Fi's exclusive steelbook edition.

BUY & WIN

WITH STAR WARS™

BUY ANY OF THE STAR WARS™ TITLES SHOWN BELOW AND ENTER THE DRAW TO WIN A **LEGO STAR WARS DEATH STAR™**

SEE TILL RECEIPT FOR ENTRY DETAILS AND TERMS & CONDITIONS PROMO RUNS FROM 5 APRIL TO 5 MAY 2017



PROMOTION IS EXCLUSIVE TO **JB HI-FI**

shop.jbhifi.co.nz

BREAKING DAD

Director John Hamburg explains why Bryan Cranston and James Franco were always his first choice for the comedy *Why Him?*

In the movie, Bryan Cranston plays Ned, a concerned father who gets caught up in an escalating feud with his daughter's new boyfriend, tech billionaire Laird (James Franco).

For director John Hamburg, the two stars were the only actors he thought of for the parts. "I like making movies with actors who are brilliant comedians, but who also have real drama chops," he explains. "In my movies, the characters themselves think they're in a drama; it's only the world that is comedic," he says.

Cranston these days is best known for his role in *Breaking Bad*, but he first came to attention in the long-running sitcom *Malcolm In The Middle*. And Hamburg believes his character in *Why Him?* is almost a composite of those two parts.

"Walter White started as a pretty normal every day guy," he explains. "He became Heisenberg.What if instead he's the ultimate dad – but he's got an edge to him? In *Malcolm*, his character had less edge than Ned does in *Why Him?* He doesn't go as far as Walter White, but he does some fairly extreme things. It's kind of a merging almost of those two characters, in a weird way."

Hamburg is no stranger to the world of conflict between fathers and boyfriends, having a hand in all three *Meet The Parents* movies. However, he believes the dynamic is different now.

"I thought that the world had changed a lot since we made the first *Meet The Parents* in that the kids were in charge now. Whereas back then, the grown-ups seemed to have had all the power. I thought it would be interesting to explore those power dynamics, because it's still the idea of a young woman having her first serious boyfriend and having that nervousness of introducing him to her family. And the family going into this foreign world, which is Silicon Valley, in this case. That felt very of the moment and interesting ." **Adam Colby**

➔ ***Why Him?*** is out on DVD and Blu-ray on April 12. For the full interview, download the digital edition of *STACK*.

HEAR MORE OF SEYMOUR

Mark Seymour on his new live set *Roll Back The Stone.*

For New Zealand fans of Mark Seymour and his band The Undertow, their new greatest hits collection *Roll Back The Stone* is the closest you will get to seeing them live – unless you happen to bump into him in the South Island

"My wife is a Kiwi and I have got very strong ties to the extended family over there," the former Hunters and Collectors man explains over the phone from Melbourne. "We are over there all the time. I actually do this little secret gig in a café in Arrowtown every two years and no-one seems to know I do it. It's a tiny little bar called the Blue Door and my brother-in-law wrangles a PA and I do a little acoustic set there."

Keep an eye out for that, then, but in the meantime check out his new LP, which was recorded over three nights in a cosy loft in Melbourne, and features solo favourites along with a few Hunters and Collectors classics. However, it's actually more a live-in-the-studio album as opposed to an old school concert LP. "Essentially, it was a studio environment," explains Seymour. "We just converted the room into a studio. Basically we wanted to do what the band does on stage, but with people watching, so it was a bit edgy. "

John Ferguson

➔ ***Roll Back The Stone*** by Mark Seymour and the Undertow is out now. See the *STACK* website for the full interview.

POST AUDITION STRESS DISORDER

Katherine Waterston admits that she found the auditioning process for *Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them* a somewhat traumatic experience.

Once the decision had been made to cast Eddie Redmayne as J.K. Rowlings' latest wizarding hero Newt Scamander, it was essential that he and his female lead would have the right chemistry.

"It actually brings hot sweats back, just remembering our chemistry test," Waterson told *STACK*. "I feel this sort of PASD – Post Audition Stress Disorder! It's so nerve-racking, because you know the thing you're supposed to deliver, and you don't know if you will in that moment, and also you can't manufacture or fake it any way, so it's kind of not up to you, but we did find ourselves running around with wands in that moment.

"I don't think I would have gotten the job if Eddie hadn't also been a neurotic fiend, because it was a relief to not be the only nervous person in the room."

Gill Pringle

➔ ***Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them*** is out now. For more on the the latest J.K. Rowling blockbuster, visit **www.stack.net.nz**.

STACK SOCIAL

Listening to you lot chatting and interacting with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram is all kinds of awesome!

Make sure you get involved and follow us on:

- STACK Magazine NZ
- @STACKMag
- stackmagazine

Head here for more shenanigans...

What you've been loving on social this month:

Top Post

Rogue One Joke of the day:

"Mummy, why is my cousin named Harry?"
"Because your aunty loves Harry Potter"
"How about me?"
"Be quiet Jyn Cassian Bodhi Baze Chirrut Kaytoo"

Happy 70th Birthday, IGGY POP

born April 21, 1947
#STACKBirthday

Did you know: Iggy Pop was apparently the first performer to do a stage dive. Other on-stage antics of the bare-chested singer included exposing himself, rolling around in glass, bleeding over crowds and live vomiting.

STACK's Fave Movie Quote:

"Who needs a reason for betrayal? One must always think the worst Ragnar, even of your own kin. That way, you avoid too much disappointment in life."
– Floki, *Vikings*

COMPETITIONS

For details on how to enter all our competitions, head to stack.net.nz

ENJOY HIGH-SPEED WI-FI IN EVERY CORNER OF YOUR HOME WITH ORBI™ BY NETGEAR®

Valued at $799, Orbi uses Tri-band Wi-Fi to keep your internet running at max speeds no matter how many devices connect!

Visit **stack.net.nz** for your chance to win this amazing kit.

Thanks to **NETGEAR**

HIT THE ROAD WHEN YOU WIN *MARIO KART 8* ON NINTENDO SWITCH

Race and battle your friends when you score one of three definitive versions of *Mario Kart 8* on Switch. The games screeches in-store on April 28.

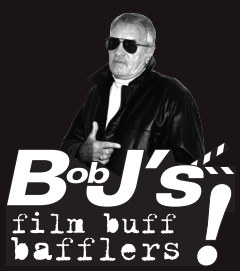
Thanks to **Nintendo**

SCORE THE FINEST *STAR WARS: ROGUE ONE* PRIZE-PACK IN THE GALAXY

The first of the Star Wars standalone films, *Rogue One* blasts onto JB shelves on April 5. To celebrate the release we have an ultimate visual guidebook and the film on Blu-ray up for grabs!

Thanks to **Disney**

QUIZ



Bob J's film buff bafflers!

Win a $100 voucher from JB Hi-Fi

visit **stack.net.nz** for terms and conditions

Q1 Which two film stars fell in love in 1936, appeared in a movie together in 1937 while married to other people. Got married in 1940, starred together in two further movies released in 1940 and 1941, and divorced in 1961?
Q2 Which actor's first line of his autobiography reads, "My mother didn't try to stab my father until I was six"?
Q3 In this 1993 film, a British actor/comedian based his character's stammer on his own father, who suffered with a stammer for most of his life. Film title please.
Q4 Name the film in which the Hollywood leading man suffers the naval punishment of being keelhauled.
Q5 "It was probably the closest I've ever come to getting lost in a part." What film role was Marlon Brando referring to?
Q6 In which 1993 movie does the protagonist violently lose his cool when the burger he orders looks nothing like the one shown on the menu?
Q7 "Airey, wake up! Stand to! We're surrounded. The French, they're in the yard" is a line of dialogue from which British historical film?
Q8 This Avengers star once auditioned for, and failed to land, the role of which other Marvel character? Actor and part please.
Q9 Which director in 1982 offered a film audition to a model whose picture he spotted whilst leafing through a lingerie catalogue? And name the model and the film she subsequently appeared in.
Q10 In which 2011 film does Charlton Heston appear on a television screen in his role of Michelangelo?

Quiz Answers March 2016 (issue 82) - A1. All have played POTUS onscreen - President of the United States **A2.** Ed Harris. *The Abyss* **A3.** *The Mephisto Waltz* (1971) **A4.** *3:10 to Yuma* (1957) starring Glenn Ford **A5.** John Huston starred his daughter Angelica in *A Walk with Love and Death* **A6.** Althea Gibson appeared in *The Horse Soldiers* (1959) **A7.** *Groundhog Day* (1993) **A8.** Gary Cooper in *The General Died At Dawn* (1936) **A9.** *The Man Who Never Was* (1956) **A10.** Big Cats: *Bringing Up Baby* (1938), *Born Free* (1966) and *Who's That Girl* (1987)

STACK

Founder Nic Short **Editor-In-Chief** Paul Jones **Editor** John Ferguson
Creative Director Karl Lock **DVD Consultant** Jason Hewitt
Games Consultant Sachi Fernando **Production Manager** Craig Patterson
Social Media Manager Sally Carlier-Hull
Contributors Graham Reid, Scott Hocking, Judy Ewens, Gareth Thompson, Tim Mackrell, Zoë Radas, Gill Pringle, Alesha Kolbe, Amy Flower, Ryan Huff, Simon Lukic, Michael Dwyer, Chris Murray, Denise Hylands, Simon Winkler, Adam Colby, Savannah Douglas

Disclaimer
STACK is published by Scribal Custom Pty Ltd (ACN 092 362 135).
© Scribal Custom Pty Ltd 2016
All rights reserved.
Correspondence
PO Box 326
Warkworth
Auckland 0941
Tel: +64 9 425 9995

Head Office
STACK PO Box 2051
Richmond South
VIC 3121

NETGEAR ORBI

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Words Paul Jones

I'm a tree-changer. Tired of relentless traffic jams, over-priced food and coffee and a public transport system about as reliable as a politician's promise, I bit the bullet and headed semi-rural – 45 minutes striking distance of Melbourne.

There are some sacrifices to make when considering such a move – Friday night drinks are no longer an option, the commute means earlier mornings and later evenings, and then there's the Internet… the cheap city deals simply don't exist.

Get the blanket effect and kick your dead zones into next week!

But the most significant problem lay in the connectivity of the home. The modem/router set-up I had was perfect for a two-bed city apartment. However, it wasn't until I put everything together in the new, substantially larger place, that I realised I had a problem; the Wi-Fi signal. With close to 20 devices connected to the Internet all over the house, dead zones negated essential 'sanctuary reading' places like the toilet and the garage.

I'd had a Netgear Orbi under my desk in the office for a while, waiting for a spare afternoon to put it together and review. That time had come. The Orbi is a two-piece, sleekly designed system consisting of a router and satellite component that utilises tri-band mesh networking technology. In a nutshell, it ensures that you have full coverage and optimum speeds wherever you are, for a house up to 370 square metres in size. Think of it as Wi-Fi on steroids.

As with all of the Netgear products we've reviewed, setting up Orbi requires very little technical nous. The router connects directly to your Internet connection, although you need to use your existing modem; the Orbi doesn't feature one. You simply place the satellite in the centre of the house, plug in the mains, download the app, follow the prompts and you're ready to go in less than five minutes. Different coloured lights on the rim of each device tell the user whether the signal is strong enough and when the two have paired.

On the rear of the router are three Gigabit Ethernet ports and a USB 2.0 for an external hard drive/printer. The satellite is similar and has four LAN ports for four wired devices.

Walking from one end of the 33 square house to the other with an iPad in hand, there wasn't a dead zone to be found anywhere, including prior problem areas. I could even get a strong signal 20 metres down the road.

Here at *STACK,* we are sent regular digital streams of films we need to review. I'd previously tried streaming *Hacksaw Ridge* but persistent buffering forced me to give up on it. Different story with Orbi engaged – it played fine. All the games consoles – situated throughout the house wherever a TV hangs – experienced no drop in performance. Lag issues had existed in the bedroom playing FIFA, but there has been no problems since; the signal has stayed consistent right across the board since the installation.

Orbi does come with a fairly hefty price tag attached, but you have to weigh up the value it brings to your connected home. In a house where just about everything bar the dog is hooked up to the Internet, there really is no substitute for a stable, fast, lag and buffer-free connection.

I rarely get excited about the tech that I review, but I did here. Orbi has provided an effortless solution the whole household is benefitting from. Now I've just got to work out how I'm going to keep it.

Meet NETGEAR®

orbi™

the only
TRI-BAND MESH
HOME WIFI SYSTEM

Better WiFi.
Everywhere.

NETGEAR®

Available at JB HI-FI

Get the ***STACK*** **MAGAZINE APP** for more digital content

ON YOUR BIKE

STACK **met with *CHIPS* stars Dax Shepard, Michael Peña and Kristen Bell to talk motorcycles, buddy cops and bringing the cheesy '70s TV series to the big screen.** **Words** Gill Pringle

When Dax Shepard told his wife he was planning on writing, directing, starring, *and* doing all the motorbike stunts in his next movie project, she gave him her full blessing.

"In truth, Dax is safer going 80mph on a motorcycle blindfolded than I am walking in a straight line," says Kristen Bell, who also snagged a role in her hubby's movie *CHIPS*, playing his heartless ex-wife.

"I always want to work with my husband. If I could only work with him, I would because I trust his moviemaking perspective. I think he's very smart. Every time he says something, it's very inspiring," says Bell, who has worked with Shepard on *Veronica Mars, The Boss* and *Hit and Run*.

***STACK*'s Gill Pringle with Kirsten Bell**

"We both believe that you have to make the kinds of movies you would want to see, otherwise you are guessing what the audience wants. He loves action and comedy and he also loves bikes, so this was perfect."

Shepard's *CHIPS* sees him as Jon Baker, a former X-Games star with a busted body and a painkiller habit who is teamed with Michael Peña's Frank 'Ponch' Poncherello, an oversexed undercover Fed.

Both rookies take to the California Highway Patrol – what could possibly go wrong when these two get a badge and a bike, and go in search of an inner ring of dirty cops?

Shepard and Peña share the same character names as their predecessors in the cheesy '70s TV series *CHiPs*, Larry Wilcox and Erik Estrada, but that's where the similarity ends in this (US) hard-R buddy cop comedy loaded with action and stunts.

Unlike Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson's send-up of another famous '70s TV cop show, *Starsky & Hutch*, Shepard had other ideas.

"They went the parody route, and we went the Bad Boys/Lethal Weapon route. There's two ways to skin that cat, and I think the previous versions the studio had developed of *CHIPS* were parodies. And this was the first time that someone had written a script that took itself seriously," says Shepard, who has since been hired to write and direct a live-action version of *Scooby-Doo.*

"I started this project knowing Michael and I were Ponch and Jon, so I could play to our strengths. My passion is motorcycles and cars, so I knew we'd be doing a lot of riding, and that gave me the freedom to write scenes where we're talking trash over a chase. All of that informed the kind of story I was going to tell."

Part of the gag lies in the fact Peña's Ponch is not a good bike rider. "I can drive a car much better than I can ride a motorcycle," admits Peña when *STACK* meets with the *CHIPS* team in West Hollywood.

"When I was doing *End of Watch*, we would do pit manoeuvres and stuff, and I wasn't bad, but when it comes to a motorcycle, all my powers dissolve. Even my dreams dissolve, of how good I am."

When Bell first met her future husband ten years ago, she figured the way to his heart was through motorbikes. "I got my motorcycle licence the first year we were dating to impress him, because I was madly in love and was like, 'I am going to get this guy in my pocket. I'll become a biker babe.' So I got my licence and framed my certificate for him for Christmas. He thought it was the funniest Christmas present he'd ever received, and I have not gotten on a bike since in nine years. I am not good on a bike. I do not feel good while I am riding it. It's too much for me."

But she has no fears for her husband. "When we first started dating, before I knew his habits, before I knew his skill level, I used to worry. But he is told by stunt drivers all the time that he is ten times better than anyone they've ever worked with. He's also incredibly safe, despite how dangerous we all think motorcycles are. I know he values his life; I know he values the life we have with our kids and I know he'll take safe precautions when he's doing stunts and if he feels its out of his wheelhouse, I know he wont do it."

> **"I got my motorcycle licence the first year we were dating to impress him... I'll become a biker babe"**

Shepard takes the injuries in his stride. "I've been hit a few times. I had a very bad motocross injury and had to have my whole shoulder rebuilt, and then I've been hit twice in L.A. by cars. It's not all been without injury."

There's so much of Shepard in his *CHIPS* character that it's hard to know where one ends and the other begins. "I'm very into self-analysis, so that bled into it. I like to think of Jon as an emotional genius and Ponch as a physical genius; it's a very Mars vs. Venus female perspective. So when we argue, both people are making very valid points, they're just on two different planes," he says of their screen bromance.

"Our relationship also mirrored real life," ventures Peña. "We didn't really know each other at first but by the end of it, I was like, 'oh, I got a new friend, that's cool.' I was quite happy. A couple of times, I even showed up to his house, unannounced and uninvited, just with my kid."

• ***CHIPS*** *is in cinemas now*

Get the ***STACK*** **MAGAZINE APP** for more digital content

GOING ROGUE

Committed Star Wars fan Gareth Edwards was determined that the first spin-off *Rogue One* would have its own distinct identity. **Words** Adam Colby

Gareth Edwards was only two when the original Star Wars movie came out at the cinemas, but still remembers vividly when he first saw it.

"I do remember sitting in the back of a car after having a falling out with my mum and dad," the director of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* recalls. "They went somewhere and came back with a box. It was a Betamax player that played films. I remember instantly asking if we could get *Star Wars*. They were already ahead of me because my next door neighbor had it on Betamax. We went 'round their house to borrow it, and I don't think I ever gave it back. We went home, put it in, and I felt like I knew what I was doing for the rest of my life: I'm watching this over and over on a loop. Every morning I'd put it in, eating breakfast, then I'd have to go to school."

The first of the Star Wars standalone spin-offs, *Rogue One* is set between Episode III and IV of the blockbuster sci-fi saga and tells the story of a group of unlikely heroes who band together on a mission to steal the plans to the Death Star; the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction.

Although closely aligned with the original movie – now more commonly known as *A New Hope* – Edwards was determined to give the movie its own identity within the Star Wars

Director Gareth Edwards

universe. Although the British filmmaker directed the recent Godzilla reboot, he made his name with the acclaimed small scale alien invasion flick *Monsters,* and brings a similar gritty style to *Rogue One*.

"We're going for realism and naturalness to the environments and performances and characters we meet," Edwards explains. "It's also that we're part of the original films in terms of where our characters are. It had to marry to the films I grew up with. There's a classical style to those, which is very considered and stable. We were also excited about doing something more organic and more opportunistic that felt more real and immediate."

"What I wanted to do was to make *Rogue One* more natural, more realistic and a little more organic; to make it feel like a real world. This is a time with no Jedi, no god to come and help the people who are under this massive threat."

In order to create the look and feel they wanted for *Rogue One*, Edwards and his cinematographer Greig Fraser went back to the camera lenses of the 1970s and combined these with modern digital technology. According to the filmmaker, the cinematic feel and epic quality provided by the period lenses helped counter the cleanness and crispness of digital filmmaking.

Edwards and Fraser soon discovered that they also shared the same unusual approach to filmmaking, which is to light the background not the actors. "We're not trying to light the actors," he says. "We're lighting the environments so that the actors can go where they want and we'll find the cinematic beauty in it. We're giving them freedom and it's inspiring as every day you get something you weren't expecting; that's exciting, as it gives you something unique."

> "WHAT I WANTED TO DO WAS TO MAKE *ROGUE ONE* MORE NATURAL, MORE REALISTIC AND A LITTLE MORE ORGANIC"

Whether *Rogue One* stands the test of time of the original Star Wars movie remains to be seen, but Edwards was delighted to get the chance to take the saga in a slightly different direction.

"I love Star Wars," he reiterates. "I grew up with the original trilogy and to me they're the ultimate movies. I feel that a massive upside to not being a part of the saga is we have a license to be different. And hopefully we took that license and ran with it."

• ***Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*** *is out on April 5*

MALEVOLENT MENDELSOHN

Ben Mendelsohn on playing the evil Orson Krennic.

How do you compete with the ultimate villain Darth Vader? Don't even try. So says Ben Mendelsohn, who goes toe-to-toe with the dark lord in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*.

"When you've got Darth Vader on the playing field, no one is taking his spot," the Aussie star says. "He is one of the greatest villains of all time; no one's going to top Darth so you can relax and do what you need to do."

Consequently, Mendelsohn and the filmmakers decided to take the newest Star Wars' villain in a different direction. "Krennic believes in the Empire very thoroughly," says Mendelsohn of his character. "He sees it as a way of maintaining order and that the Empire is essentially correct in what it does. But he is someone from the outer colonies, a guy who has worked his way up. He's not officer class, but he's gotten to where he is because he's driven and can just do it, and he knows that."

Like Edwards, Mendelsohn has fond memories of the original movies. "I loved everything about Star Wars," he enthuses. "I still remember the bubble gum cards that you would get, and I still remember there was a card with Chewbacca and Han sort of like going, 'pew-pew'! It was number 77, I think, in the series. It was very hard to get, and I wound up getting two of them. It took a lot of chewing gum, but I was very glad I got two. Star Wars was a very big deal."

Get the STACK MAGAZINE APP for more digital content

HOUSE RULES!

Moana is the latest in a long line of culture-specific animated films from Disney. We spoke with Kiwi star Rachel House, the voice of Gramma Tala, about how the flick brings everyone together.

Words: Alesha Kolbe

Young Moana is the daughter of the village Chief, and has been chosen as the one to hunt down the Heart of Te Fiti – stolen by the Demigod Maui – in order to restore fertility to her island home.

While not the first Disney film to feature an Islander vibe, *Moana* does a wonderful job of capturing what it's like to live as a part of a tribe.

"This movie is about Ancient Polynesia – we all started off there together," observes Rachel House, the voice of Moana's Gramma Tala. "*Moana* is such a great reminder of that. What I loved is that the writers and directors and everyone else did their research around the contemporary Polynesia to figure out how [humanity] must have been back then."

Being an animated film, all of the actual 'acting' (recording) is done solo, meaning that despite their seemingly-close onscreen relationship, House rarely got the opportunity to spend time with Moana's voice actress Auli'i Cravalho in real life. In actual fact, the pair only met twice.

"We met for about five minutes one day at the studio, and it was such a beautiful moment to be able to meet such a gorgeous young girl."

House has nothing but praise for the 16-year-old, for whom Moana is a debut role.

"We met again at the premiere, which was such a crazy night and we barely spoke. Auli'i was very busy all night. It was her birthday, so we had a few celebrations for her. It's funny how in an animation it can seem like the cast all know each other when in reality, you barely ever get to see each other. It's a strange experience, but it's a lot of fun."

Being a Disney film, you can expect many a catchy musical number from *Moana*. A *STACK* favourite, 'I Am Moana', just so happened to feature House's character, even though it wasn't her personal favourite.

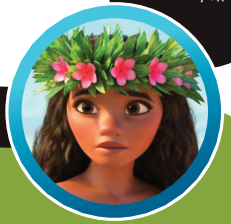
"I'll have to be kinda disloyal to Auli'i and Dwayne [Johnson] here because I think they were absolutely fantastic, but my favourite song was 'Shiny'. I'm not only very close with Jemaine [Clement], but I'm also a very big fan of him and his work. I adore him, so 'Shiny' was a highlight for me. It's such a brilliantly written song, a great ode to David Bowie, who was one of my heroes. I didn't mean to make a pun!" she laughs. "As far as the recording itself went, that was absolutely terrifying. I've been acting for ages, so being in the recording booth never bothers me anymore, but with this I was a bit of a mess. For 'I Am Moana', Lin [Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer] had Skyped in, and he was watching me and giving notes. I looked back at the computer at one point and he was gone, but later on he'd said that I was fine – I was worried he'd left because he thought I'd ruined his song!"

Despite her youthful appearance, House has a history of being cast as endearing elderly characters in films, and it's hard not to fall in love with *Moana*'s 'village crazy lady' Gramma Tala.

"I have been cast as old ladies since I was in my very early 20s. I guess I just have that vibe about me. In many ways, I guess I've had 25 years of preparation," she offers with a giggle. "Of course, New Zealand has no shortage of inspiring, elderly Maori women for me to embrace. I've actually played a 160-year-old woman before – this was pretty much a walk in the park."

• ***Moana*** is out April 12

MEET THE FAMILY



Moana The daughter of the village Chief, who will one day be in charge herself. She has a passion for the ocean, but is drawn, too, to the island she calls home.

Chief Tui The village leader, his heart lies with his people and with his family, and all he wishes for is his tribe to be safe and prosperous.

Sina Moana's mother and Chief Tui's wife, Sina is Moana's voice of reason, and is the one who encourages her to follow her dreams and go after what she wants.

Hei-Hei He's a fun-loving chicken, and even if his brain isn't in the right place, his heart sure is.

jbhifi.co.nz JB HI-FI

© 2017 Disney

ON BLU-RAY™ & DVD
APRIL 12

Get the STACK MAGAZINE APP for more digital content

GAME CHANGER

Australian filmmaker Justin Kurzel brings sophistication and historical detail to video game adaptations in *Assassin's Creed*. He spoke with Scott Hocking.

Justin Kurzel grabbed everyone's attention in 2011 with his brilliant and bleak debut feature *Snowtown,* and followed it four years later with arguably the best film adaptation to date of Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*.

He has since reunited with *Macbeth* stars Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard to bring Ubisoft's bestselling action-adventure game Assassin's Creed to the screen – a challenging prospect after helming smaller scale projects.

"I wasn't prepared for the enormity of it," Kurzel admits. "Shooting 92 days instead of 28 is a massive step up in terms of endurance. It's not as nimble as making smaller films. I had never done action sequences or worked with these kinds of visual effects, so I was constantly anxious and wary of whether I was doing the right thing. It was great, it kept me on my toes, but it was definitely stressful."

The director also admits he isn't a gamer. "My level of gamesmanship was *Double Dragon* in the early '90s. But when I sat down and played Assassin's Creed with a gamer, I was pretty blown away by how sophisticated games have become and how rich they are.

"I started reading the Assassin's Creed books and understanding all the detail that's put into it – all based on history. I thought it was extremely cinematic.

"The script was centered around genetic memory and the idea of someone learning who they are through the experience of their ancestors; I thought that was a cool idea and quite original for a film."

Assassin's Creed – both game and film – concerns the centuries-long conflict between a secret society of Assassins and the Knights Templar, who are determined to eradicate free will. Death row inmate Cal Lynch (Fassbender) is given a second chance by the shadowy Abstergo Industries, whose attempts to curb human aggression involve a device called the Animus, which synchronises Cal's mind with his Assassin ancestor, Aguilar, in 15th century Spain.

The Spanish Inquisition (a period as yet unexplored in the AC games) and the enormity of the religious persecution during that time provided the ideal historical backdrop for the film. "Torquemada and the King and Queen of Spain… those figures were wonderful for the Assassins to rally against, and that definitely helped to create a political and religious landscape that fed into the ideologies of the Templars and Assassins," notes Kurzel.

The director wasn't concerned about the stigma attached to video game adaptations when taking on *Assassin's Creed* – he doesn't watch them. "That's not deliberate," he clarifies, " I just haven't come across them. And I kept my distance from them to focus on *Assassin's* and try to continuously see it as a film.

"Video game films maybe feel like an extension of what people play, and at the end of the day they aren't offering anything deeper than the gaming experience, which is probably the most important thing."

jbhifi.co.nz JB HI-FI

• ***Assassin's Creed*** *is out on April 26*

Recognising this fact, Ubisoft approached the *Assassin's Creed* film as if they were adapting a book or a play; developing the script with Fassbender but relaxing creative control once the film went into production.

"They were interested in finding the cinema in it and a point of difference from the game in terms of the experience," says Kurzel. "They were determined there be a whole new set of characters and a different time period that hadn't been in the game. They were excited to engage with it like you would make an independent film and really allow the actors involved to find the story, as opposed to a checklist of what's in the game.

"Obviously there are some iconic things within the game that we celebrated, but a lot of the discussion was about 'how do we make these Assassins really hit the ground hard, do real parkour, leaps of faith, and create a city in which they can live and breathe as opposed to using endless visual effects?' Fortunately Ubisoft were very keen on that and thought it was a great point of difference from the game."

Assassin's Creed is certainly different – visually and creatively – from other video game adaptations, being grounded in the real world through historical context and the always topical issue of violence in society.

"I think tonally we wanted to bring a sophistication to *Assassin's Creed* that felt possible," he continues. "The way in which the Animus works, and the notion that you can somehow connect to your DNA and relive the experiences of your ancestors, is not such a far-fetched concept. I love that about the film – the period stuff happened, there was a real Torquemada and these environments did exist, so I thought it should be handled in an adult way. It should be mature and sophisticated, not hammy.

"We always had support from Ubisoft to push the envelope a little bit in regards to making *Assassin's Creed* feel real and not just an extension of the video game in look and style."

Having tackled true crime, Shakespeare and now a video game adaptation, what this versatile filmmaker will do next is anyone's guess. Even Kurzel isn't sure, admitting that he chooses his projects impulsively.

"I guess I'm conscious of not repeating myself. The directors I admire are those who cross genres and styles. I usually pick things in a rush, too, and then kind of fall into them and love them more once I start work. I'd love to do a comedy next."

TEMPLAR TIME

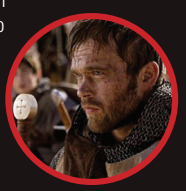
This medieval military order has left its mark on movie history throughout the ages...

THE DA VINCI CODE

Dan Brown took considerable historical licence in his bestseller, making the Templars the keepers of the secret documents of the Priory of Sion, which reveal the bloodline of Jesus and Mary.

ARN: THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR

Arn Magnusson is the fictional hero of author Jan Guillou's Crusades Trilogy – a Swedish Templar separated from his fiancée by kingdom politics and sent to fight the Saracens in the Holy Land.



KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Ridley Scott's historically dubious epic on the Third Crusades casts the Templars – led by Grand Master Gerard de Ridefort – as the villains; provoking war between Christians and Muslims because "God wills it."

TOMBS OF THE BLIND DEAD

Executed for practicing witchcraft, the skeletal and sightless corpses of the Knights Templar rise from the grave to drink the blood of the living in this creepy cult curio, which spawned three sequels. Scream and they will find you!

CHECK OUT OUR ASSASSIN'S CREED NAME GENERATOR AT.... stack.net.nz/assassin/

SETTING SIGHTS

If you're a fan of sniper games, you'll be enjoying 2017. Back in February we had *Sniper Elite 4* and this month, Polish studio CI Games is bringing out *Sniper: Ghost Warrior 3*. We caught up with senior level designer, Tomasz Pruski, to chat about the game. **Words** Adam Colby

What is it about sniping in video games that we enjoy so much?

TOMASZ PRUSKI: I think it's that feeling of being in total control, silently deciding the fates of your opponents from afar, and the precision and skill required to pull off a long range shot.

What was the studio's mission statement before development on the game began?

The mission statement was to deliver the ultimate sniper game where players would be free to choose how they want to approach their objectives, how they gather their intelligence, and how and when they strike.

This is the first Sniper Ghost Warrior on Xbox One and PS4. What were the challenges involved in bringing the game to these consoles?

The biggest challenges were tied to fitting our enormous levels full of gameplay onto the screen. The amount of assets and enemies appearing simultaneously would not have been possible on the older generations. The two consoles also have some similarities in their architecture, but ultimately are two different pieces of hardware, so each had to be treated individually.

How expansive is the open-world element of the game?

The open-world is an integral part of the experience, but it's worth remembering that it's a shooter game, and not an RPG.

The open-world aspect is most useful when going on a mission and really choosing your own approach. There's also a bunch of activities that players can do outside of regular missions.

> **"The amount of assets and enemies appearing simultaneously would not have been possible on the older generations"**

What is the secret to keeping players focused in an open-world title?

A solid story and player progression.

Can you talk about the three gameplay styles in *Sniper: Ghost Warrior 3*?

The three play styles are a natural consequence of the game going open-world. The players are always equipped with a sniper rifle, but it is not a requirement to neutralise your targets from afar. A lot of players enjoy stealth gameplay and run-and-gun action, so we wanted to accommodate that kind of style without compromising any of the elements.

What can we expect from the multiplayer?

The multiplayer component will come as a free update some time after the release and will be focused on competitive multiplayer. We have already confirmed deathmatch and team deathmatch modes when the update launches. The season pass included in all the day one editions will also unlock two additional maps for multiplayer. *Sniper Ghost Warrior 3* Season Pass brings you access to the entire range of downloadable content by the end of 2017.

• ***Sniper: Ghost Warrior 3*** is out April 26

jbhifi.co.nz JB HI-FI

PREY®

FIGHT THE INVASION

5.5.17

WWW.PREY.COM

PRE-ORDER NOW AND GET THE JB HI-FI GIFT PACK

WHICH INCLUDES:
AN OFFICIAL FULL SIZE TRANSTAR™ COFFEE MUG

ALSO INCLUDES:

MERCHANDISE DESIGN NOT FINAL. FINAL ITEMS AND DIMENSIONS MAY DIFFER.

RESTRICTED 13 — Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993

Restricted to persons 13 Years and over

NOTE:
Violence,
horror scenes &
offensive language

PREY GAME

XBOX ONE PS4 PC GAME

ARKANE STUDIOS Bethesda

© 2016 BETHESDA SOFTWORKS LLC, A ZENIMAX MEDIA COMPANY. DEVELOPED IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARKANE STUDIOS. PREY, ARKANE, BETHESDA, BETHESDA SOFTWORKS, ZENIMAX AND RELATED LOGOS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OR TRADEMARKS OF ZENIMAX MEDIA INC. IN THE U.S. AND/OR OTHER COUNTRIES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ALL OTHER TRADE- MARKS OR TRADE NAMES ARE THE PROPERTY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OWNERS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

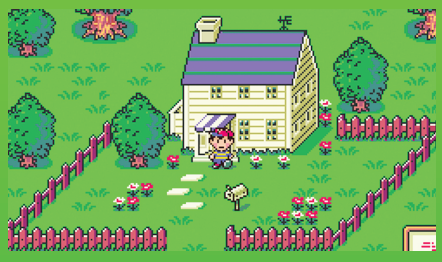
11 SEQUELS WE WANT FOR THE SWITCH

If you've been lucky enough to get your hands on one of Nintendo's new Switch consoles, you've undoubtedly been thinking about what games you'd like to see on it. We've put together a list of sequels from the rich reserves of Nintendo's back catalogue that we believe should make a comeback on the Switch.

Words Alesha Kolbe

Donkey Kong Country

Everyone who had a Super Nintendo console had a copy of *Donkey Kong Country 2*. Sure, Kong returned to consoles in 2010 (with a sequel a few years later), but an entry onto the Switch would be a welcome one.



Earthbound

Earthbound was the sequel to *Mother* (that didn't get an English release until two years ago), and is the game that introduced us all to Lucas and Ness. Perhaps a multiplayer instalment on the Switch could be interesting? We can only hope.

jbhifi.co.nz JB HI-FI

Metroid

Samus Aran, like Yoshi, has somewhat been left behind as far as solo games go. We think the Switch is the Prime time for Samus to return to consoles.

Yoshi's Island

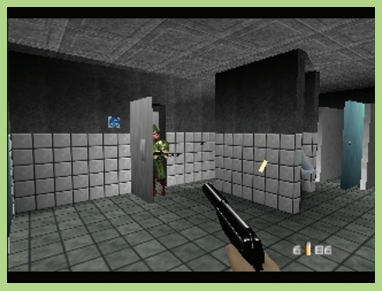
Despite appearing in the Mario Kart and Super Smash games, Yoshi's standalone adventures have petered out. Let's rectify this on the Switch, bring back *Yoshi's Island*, and shake it up by having each of the Joy-Cons controlling Mario and Yoshi independently.

Ice Climber

Debuting in 1985, *Ice Climber* made its way to the NES, and its protagonists have since been featured in the Smash Bros. games. Each Ice Climber controlled by a different Joy-Con? The Condor with independent controls? Endless possibilities.

Super Mario Galaxy

The *Super Mario Galaxy* games were an out of this world departure for Mario and very well received. The second one came out in 2010, so surely it's reasonable to consider a third for the Switch seven years later? Fingers crossed.



Goldeneye 007

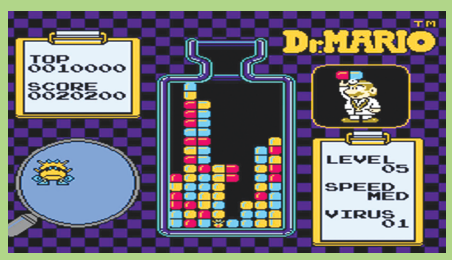
Goldeneye 007 came out in 1997. That's 20 years ago, which means it's time for an anniversary revival. Though the Joy-Cons as controllers might be a strange addition, it'd be fun to watch.

Mario and Sonic at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

As popular as the *Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games* series is, we are well aware how unlikely it is for the franchise to get a Commonwealth Games instalment. However, since next year's is on the Goldie, we are rallying behind it. For King and Country.

Pokemon Battle Revolution

With the overwhelming success of *Pokemon GO*, Nintendo should definitely consider developing a Pokemon title – of any description – for their latest home console. Even a companion app that allows you to store Pokemon you don't need, like *My Pokemon Ranch* on the Wii...



Dr. Mario

Essentially Nintendo's own version of *TETRIS*, Dr. Mario could well do with a return to consoles - as it has every generation prior - and the touchscreen would make a fine control option. Maybe even using the gyroscopes?

Duck Hunt

Like *Goldeneye*, *Duck Hunt* is a classic that deserves a return to its heyday. Think how responsive the HD Rumble Packs in the new Joy-Cons would be every time you fired off a shot! Or is that too violent?

OOH LA LA!

Graham Reid dives headfirst into the music of the ever-changing Goldfrapp.

Let's give British singer Alison Goldfrapp and synth/composer Will Gregory – who perform as Goldfrapp – their due. If nothing else, they always made their career an interesting and unpredictable ride for us these past 17 years.

They might have started life working the area between ambient, electronic and cinematic sounds with their still impressive debut *Felt Mountain*, but across seven albums they've explored everything from glam rock, dancefloor electronica, Euro-trash disco, retro-'80s pop (every writer said, "Van Halen's *Jump*" about their 2010 single *Rocket*) and even "British folk" of their last album *Tales of Us* three years ago.

> "Right from the start they were what marketing people call "the complete package"

Oh, and did we mention influences and ideas drawn from European cabaret and film soundtracks, the inclusion of orchestras and choirs, borrowing the riff from Norman Greenbaum's classic *Spirit in the Sky* for their T.Rex-like 2005 single *Ohh La La*? The first single from their new album *Silver Eye*, *Anymore*, takes them right back to stripped down and gritty dancefloor electro-pop.

You'd be forgiven for thinking there's a Goldfrapp for every taste, which has made their award-accumulating career well worth following.

They've been nominated for Grammys and the Mercury Prize, a couple of Brits and International Dance Music awards; then there was the fascinating album *We Are Glitter* which comprised remixes of their songs by The Flaming Lips, Carl Craig, Francois K and others.

In the landscape of contemporary music their sales mostly remain on the margins of massiveness, but – in terms of respect from peers and delivering on their early promise to do exactly what they wanted – they are right there in the centre of the frame.

Their albums also come with classy photos and graphics, and their eye-candy videos slew between arty and odd (check out the clip for *Number 1*, from a decade ago).

Right from the start they were what marketing people call "the complete package."

In part, that's because of Alison Goldfrapp's background, which includes not just pop and rock music but also performing in a dance troupe, studying fine art, appearing in a student film and presenting performance pieces.

Like David Bowie (who similarly assimilated diverse influences), she has also frequently and abruptly changed her appearance – from Marlene Dietrich to cabaret rock chick via circus clown – and has a hand in designing the band's album covers and artwork. Their stage shows have included strangely-dressed dancers.

The clip for that new single *Anymore* – pale women in a bleached-out desertscape and barren canyons with references to sexual anger, love and conflicted emotions – confirms Goldfrapp's statement that "music is a visual experience."

Equal credit too must go to Will Gregory, who studied classical music at university and plays saxophone, and in the decade before he hooked up with Goldfrapp performed with Peter Gabriel, Portishead, the Cure, Tears for Fears and the London Sinfonietta at a performance of the contemporary opera *Nixon in China*. He also created the soundtrack to the Philip Davis film *I.D.*, about a cop going undercover to join a bunch of British football hooligans.

Six years ago he premiered his own opera *Piccard in Space* and he has written classical music outside of Goldfrapp hours.

Throw all those diverse influences together – you'll hear Gregory's soundtrack ideas as far back as *Oompah Radar* on that debut album – and you can see why Goldfrapp and Gregory were never going to stick with just one style.

It just wasn't in their mixed-up, shook-up DNA.

Because of that strange journey they've taken us on, it's impossible to point to just one Goldfrapp album and say, "They are like this," because on the next one they are like "that."

Or sometimes like "This and that."

But that debut and its follow-up *Black Cherry* (where the glam-cum-dance was pushed to the fore) gives some hint of their breadth.

At the quieter end of their spectrum is their lovely 2008 effort *Seventh Tree* which, of course, they followed with the upbeat *Head First* complete with Van Halen and disco references.

With Goldfrapp it's always been a case of "You pays yer money and you takes yer chances."

Chances are you'll get your money's worth though.

BLACK CHERRY 2003

SUPERNATURE 2005

SEVENTH TREE 2008

HEAD FIRST 2010

SILVER EYE 2017

For more interviews, overviews and reviews by Graham Reid see: elsewhere.co.nz

MOANA

The ocean is calling

TOP HITS

Hang on, we don't remember any Grimm tales of plucky Polynesian princesses – probably because unlike many Disney animations *Moana* is an original story, based on Polynesian mythology. Adhering to Disney's musical template – you know, *Frozen*, *Tangled*... actually, it'd be quicker to list those where characters don't spontaneously burst forth in song - the tale revolves around the daughter of the chief of idyllic little island Motunui. As a toddler Moana developed a special relationship with the sea, chosen by the vast watery mass to receive a pounamu stone, which doubled as the heart of the island goddess Te Fiti. It was once stolen by demigod Maui, who subsequently lost it, along with his power-giving fishhook. Jump to Moama's teenage years and she's developed a burgeoning wanderlust, which is handy as somebody has to face the encroaching darkness that's spreading from island to island. She sets sail with trusty chook Heihei to find Maui. He turns out to be a bit of a dick, but obviously that's not the end of this epic tale... Stunning animation and The Rock's dulcet tones are mere tasters for this brilliant Disney adventure which even anti-musical types should survive. It's Maui time! **Amy Flower**

RELEASE DATE: 12/04/17
FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D 4K

EXTRAS

DVD & BD
- Short Film: Inner Workings
- "How Far I'll Go" Performed By Alessia Cara
- Audio Commentary by directors John Musker and Ron Clements

BD ONLY
- Maui Mini-Movie: Gone Fishing
- Voice of the Islands
- Things You Didn't Know About… - Ron, John, Auli'I & Dwayne - Mark, Opetaia & Lin-Manuel
- Island Fashion - featurettes
- Deleted Scenes
- Deleted Song: "Warrior Face"
- They Know The Way: Making The Music of Moana
- "How Far I'll Go" Around the World
- Fishing For Easter Eggs

JB HI-FI EXCLUSIVE
- Limited Edition Steelbook

FURTHER VIEWING

- ***Frozen***

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

Rebellions are built on hope

TOP HITS

Expanding five lines from *A New Hope*'s crawl into a spin-off feature (and you thought *The Hobbit Trilogy* was ambitious), *Rogue One* tells a Star Wars story we sort of know already – the theft of the Death Star plans by the Rebel Alliance. It all hinges on info imparted by the Imperial battle station's designer, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), whose daughter Jyn (Felicity Jones) discovers her father has built an inherent weakness into the Death Star which the Rebels can exploit. Leading a mission to the planet Scarif, where the Empire's archives are kept, Jyn and the Rebels face opposition from the Death Star's head of security, Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn), who answers to a certain Imperial Governor we've met before... Closer in tone to WWII films like *The Guns of Navarone* than *A New Hope*, *Rogue One* is undeniably grim for a Star Wars film – even more so than *The Empire Strikes Back*. Director Gareth Edwards ensures the look matches the 1977 original and shoots the relentless battle scenes – AT-AT ground assaults and TIE fighter/X-wing dogfights – with the undisguised glee of a fanboy in his dream job. *The Force Awakens* was a worthy Star Wars sequel, and *Rogue One* is the first worthy prequel. **Scott Hocking**

RELEASE DATE: 5/04/17
FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D 4K

EXTRAS

BD ONLY
- A Rogue Idea
- Jyn: The Rebel
- Cassian: The Spy
- Baze & Chirrut: Guardians of the Whills
- Bodhi & Saw: The Pilot & The Revolutionary
- The Empire
- Visions of Hope: The Look of Rogue One
- The Princess & The Governor
- Epilogue: The Story Continues

JB HI-FI EXCLUSIVE
- Limited Edition Steelbook with Bonus DVD containing extra material:
  - Inside the Creature Shop
  - Digital Storytelling

FURTHER VIEWING

- ***Star Wars: A New Hope***

PASSENGERS

Rude awakening

RELEASE DATE: 12/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D UV 4K

The much-missed Douglas Adams duly noted, "Space is big." As such, it takes a mind-bogglingly long time to get anywhere. The starship Avalon is on a 120-year journey to the colony of Homestead II, so its manifest of 5,000-plus passengers has been put into stasis, to be woken four months out from arrival. But an asteroid storm has other ideas, damaging the ship and causing one stasis pod to prematurely evacuate. Its contents, Jim Preston (Chris Pratt), soon realises that he's alone, and he makes do. But when he sees fellow passenger Aurora Lane (Jennifer Lawrence), his loneliness wins through and he takes her life into his hands by waking her. He doesn't tell her this, naturally, and they bond. But she's probably going to find out... *Titanic* sees stars in this romantic drama that masquerades as a slick sci-fi adventure. **AF**

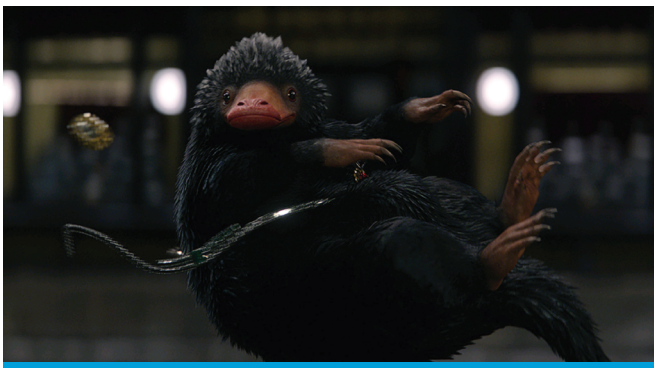
ASSASSIN'S CREED

Creed is good

RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D UV 4K

This lavish, big budget adaptation of Ubisoft's best-selling video game franchise was assassinated by critics during its cinema run. However, viewers should take a leap of faith and trust us – Australian director Justin Kurzel (*Snowtown, Macbeth*) has done for video game movies what Christopher Nolan did for Batman comics, delivering a dark and dazzling fantasy-adventure grounded in the real world. Michael Fassbender plays a death row inmate who mind-melds with his 15th century Assassin ancestor using a device called the Animus – his mission being to retrieve a powerful artifact before the Knights Templar can use it to eliminate free will. Like a Dan Brown thriller packed with parkour, *Assassin's Creed* is a rare breed – a smart and sophisticated video game adaptation that's destined to find an appreciative audience on DVD and Blu-ray. **SH**

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM



RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D UV 4K

Harry Potter fans will instantly recognise the title of J.K. Rowling's screenwriting debut, for it was a Hogwarts textbook. Now we meet its author, Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne). He's a British magizoologist who's visiting New York on his way to Arizona. He spends much more time in the Big Apple than intended, however, when a shiny thing-obsessed Niffler escapes his clutches. But bigger things are afoot as a darkness tears up the town. With disgraced auror Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston), her mind-reading sister Queenie and No-Maj (that's American for 'Muggle') wannabe baker Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler) in tow, Newt becomes embroiled in a gathering storm between the magical and non-magical worlds... and baked goods! Potterphiles will love this wild, fantastical adventure, as will anybody else in possession of a vivid imagination and lust for escapism. **AF**

RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER

The beginning of the end

RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray Blu-ray 3D UV 4K

Spanning 15 years and six films, this franchise has been harder to kill than the resident undead, who here continue to overrun the world. This time, Milla Jovovich's kick-ass Alice awakens in the ruins of Washington D.C. and following a confrontation with a flying dragon-like creature, receives a message from the Red Queen – the childlike AI that controls the evil Umbrella Corporation, who unleashed the T-virus that sent everything to hell. The now seemingly benevolent Queen offers Alice a miracle cure - an airborne anti-virus that will eliminate the infected hordes and wipe the slate clean. But to get it, Alice must return to Raccoon City and the subterranean Hive. which is crawling with zombies and monstrous beasts. If this really is The Final Chapter (don't bet on it), it's a great way to bow out. **SH**

JB HI-FI

shop.jbhifi.co.nz

JACKIE

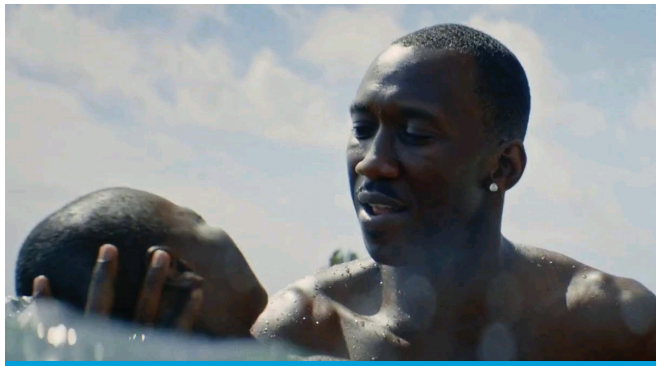
We are all connected...

RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D Ultra HD 4K

Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larraín's portrait of iconic First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy is less a biopic than an intensely intimate character study. There's a lot of life to cover, but like *The Queen*, which took place in the aftermath of Princess Diana's death, *Jackie* narrows its focus to the week immediately following the assassination of JFK, and its devastating impact on his widow (Natalie Portman). With her striking physical resemblance and distinctive diction, Portman owns the role, personifying a woman both fragile and strong, and fiercely resolute in her desire to preserve the Kennedy legacy; in any other year, she probably would have ended up winning an Oscar. *Jackie* keeps us in the immediate sphere of its subject and the result is a melancholic experience that runs contrary to expectations for a film of this type. Highly recommended. **SH**

MOONLIGHT

This Oscar-winning drama shines bright



RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D Ultra HD 4K

The film that quite literally snatched the Best Picture award at this year's Oscars – as well as winning Best Adapted Screenplay and Supporting Actor for Mahershala Ali – is a life in three chapters. The subject of this intense character study is the taciturn Chiron, a fatherless African-American youth. Growing up in a tough Miami neighbourhood, his formative years are shaped by his relationship with his mother's drug dealer, Juan (Ali). Moving on to adolescence, the alienated and introverted Chiron is bullied by his peers and experiences sexual awakening with his best friend. Ten years later finds him following in the footsteps of Juan, living a gangsta lifestyle that's at odds with the gentle character we've come to know intimately. Shot with an almost dreamlike quality, Barry Jenkins measured and moving drama is a journey of self-discovery and sexual identity. Touching and remarkable. **AF**

TROLLS

Find your happy place

RELEASE DATE: 05/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D Ultra HD 4K

When Lisa Simpson tripped out at Duff Gardens and declared, "I can see the colours!" we suspect that she was hallucinating Trolls. The gaudily-hued little folk with backcombed hair that make Robert Smith look comparatively hairless have existed for some 60 years, entertaining kids and often horrifying parents. There's no need for the latter to freak out about Trolls the movie, however, as it's a hearty – and very colourful, naturally – slice of relentlessly happy musical kiddie fun (with a few morsels for patient grown ups). The little guys even maintain good humour when a grumpy old Bergen kidnaps their friends, embarking upon a rescue mission that's both bold and, of course, colourful. Featuring original songs from Justin Timberlake, plus everybody from Simon & Garfunkel to The Notorious BIG getting covered, this could be the cheeriest movie ever. C'mon get happy – and colourful. **SH**

SING

They're the voice

RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D Ultra HD 4K

There's no false advertising in this latest from Minions peeps Illumination, as numerous anthropomorphic creatures stretch their vocal chords hoping to win $100,000. However, financially bereft – yet eternally optimistic – theatre owner Buster Moon (a koala that sounds like Matthew McConaughey) meant to offer a mere $1,000, but one typo later... Anyway, he sees an opportunity to save his beloved theatre, and we're treated to everything from prawns getting their Beyonce on to a gorilla with built-in Auto-Tune and something that cracks us up every time: a snail perched atop a microphone letting rip Christopher Cross' AOR wail-fest 'Ride Like the Wind'. Will everything turn out much like it did for The Muppets in their eponymous flick with a tres similar plot? Maybe sometimes you just need a little song. Unless you're the King of Monty Python's Swamp Castle, natch. **AF**

RESIDENT EVIL
THE FINAL CHAPTER

ON BLU-RAY™ & DVD
APRIL 12

© 2017 Constantin Film Produktion GmbH. All Rights Reserved.
© 2017 Layout and Design Sony Pictures Home Entertainment Inc. All Rights Reserved.

WHY HIM?

Why not? It's James Franco!

RELEASE DATE: 12/04/17 **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

Recycling's good. Just ask writer-director John Hamburg, who takes *Meet the Parents* (which he co-wrote) and gives it a 17-years-on remix. Bryan Cranston is Ned Fleming, who discovers his precious daughter Stephanie is seeing somebody when he crashes a webcam conversation, sans pants. The 'somebody' is Laird Mayhew (James Franco), whom Ned assumes is a no-hoper. Actually, he's a crazy-rich video game developer – but still a no-hoper in Ned's eyes, of course. Laird tries everything to impress, but daddy's having none of it. Then Ned discovers Laird's intentions... While the Focker family frolics embraced ultra-cringe comedy, *Why Him?* is more awkward – often sweetly so. Laird may be socially extreme, but you easily get why Stephanie loves him. Cranston's great, half of KISS appear, and Keegan-Michael Key steals the show as the madcap Gustav. **AF**

VIKINGS: SEASON 4, PART 2

The sons of the father

RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW **FORMAT:** DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

Writing about the second half of *Vikings*' fourth season without spoilers is like trying to predict what Floki will do next – difficult, but here goes... Ragnar Lothbrok has returned but it's his sons who take centre stage in these ten episodes, in particular the blue-eyed and brooding Ivar, who may be crippled but is no less dangerous than his brothers – perhaps more so. Lagertha attempts to reclaim Kattegat from Queen Aslaug, while Rollo, now a French noble, feels the stirring of his Viking blood when Bjorn arrives with an offer he can't refuse. And over in Wessex, Ragnar makes a deal with King Ecbert that will have dire repercussions for Englishmen and Norsemen alike. A word of warning – *Vikings* is just as ruthless as *Game of Thrones* when it comes to culling cast members, so be prepared to bid farewell to a few familiar faces by season's end. **SH**

MONSTER TRUCKS

RELEASE DATE: 12/04/17

FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

What if a monster truck was actually a truck with a monster powering it? That's the premise of *Monster Trucks*, and if you think it sounds like something from a four-year-old's fertile mind then bingo. It was Paramount president Adam Goodman's kid and, well, Goodman no longer works at Paramount... The idea makes for a delightfully dumb-fun adventure though, whereby teenaged Tripp (Lucas Till) discovers what's been stealing the town's oil – it's the choice tipple of a monster which suggests that Flipper and *The Little Mermaid*'s Ursula may have once bumped uglies. Naming him 'Creech' (as in 'creature'), the unlikely pair – and truck – take on big oil to save a very special habitat. **AF**

SHERLOCK: SERIES FOUR

RELEASE DATE: 05/04/17

FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

Although it's a bit of a stretch to call this three-episode run a 'series', as this is the fourth outing of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved dick and sidekick, Holmes and Watson, we're used to it. We certainly won't complain about the dramatic punch contained in the movie-length episodes contained within, either, each of their own but also supporting overarching intrigue. The finale – appropriately named 'The Final Problem' – is a trip. Family matters, and this possibly final episode – despite Cumberbatch being signed for a fifth outing – is, well, it is what it is... **AF**

THE FOUNDER

RELEASE DATE: 12/04/17

FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

You've likely never considered the history of Maccas while scarfing down a Big Mac. McDonald's had humble beginnings, though, as brothers Richard and Maurice 'Mac' McDonald started a small burger joint which they reinvented via automation for speedy service in 1948. Cue the arrival of struggling salesman Ray Kroc and the rest is, well, history. Michael Keaton delivers substantial sleaze as Kroc, who enlarges the brothers' (John Carroll Lynch and Nick Offerman) vision exponentially, before elbowing them out of their creation completely. Equally spellbinding and sordid, file *The Founder* under 'McGekko'. **AF**

COLLATERAL BEAUTY

RELEASE DATE: 26/04/17

FORMAT: DVD Blu-ray 3D UHD 4K

After losing his young daughter, grief-stricken adman Howard (Will Smith) retreats from life, spiritlessly constructing elaborate domino-toppling creations and penning missives to love, fear and death. His business partners – Whit (Edward Norton), Claire (Kate Winslet) and Simon (Michael Peña) – need him back, so, they hire actors to portray the three concepts he's mail-bombing, and a private dick to film the results. But are they trying to snap him out of his fugue, or just snap him? Unashamedly sentimental, *Collateral Beauty* boasts a cracking cast and plentiful triggers for weepie worshippers. **AF**

GENRE: RACING PLATFORM: SWITCH
RELEASE: 28/04/17 MULTIPLAYER: YES

MARIO KART 8 DELUXE

When the original Mario Kart dropped for the Super Nintendo way back in olden times (well, in video game years), it blew our minds – in fact it remains an all-time fave to this day. As that '8' in the title there attests, Mario Kart has taken several forms over the years, but the core racing excitement remains a constant. The Switch is treated to an updated Wii U version, including all of its DLC and plenty of new stuff. Out on the road (in real life)? Hand one JoyCon to a friend and play split-screen anywhere you like (although ideally not on an actual road). Got a heap of Switch units in one place? Get down on the LAN party route with up to 12 players. Or play on the couch, battling others locally or online in the updated battle mode. Hold two power-ups at a time and flip between them, or get some assistance if you're new to the world where Mario and karting collide. Choose your racer from 42 characters (or your Mii), including newcomers inkling girl and boy, tackle 48 courses, brave five speed levels. So many everything! So much ace! This really is the biggest, baddest Mario Kart yet. Let's-a go!

From the people who brought you...
Super Mario Maker (3DS), Paper Mario

SNIPER GHOST WARRIOR 3

GENRE: FPS PLATFORM: PS4 | XBO | PC RELEASE: 26/04/17 MULTIPLAYER: YES

As US marine captain Jon North, who's faced with three hostile factions duking it out, civil war erupting in Georgia and the threat of another Cold War breaking out, you're swamped. The first SGW to boast a truly open world, things are anything but linear. You can go where you want to go, employing various modifiable implements of shooty destruction, vehicles, reconnaissance drones and more to take down your many targets. Need a break from the current operation? Assail side quests (aka 'war crimes'). With a military veteran as creative director, SGW3 might be the closest yet to a real warfare experience that can be fought from your couch.

From the people who brought you...
Lords of the Fallen, Dogfight 1942

DRAGON QUEST HEROES II

GENRE: RPG PLATFORM: PS4 RELEASE: 28/04/17 MULTIPLAYER: YES

Taking two popular game series and banging them together isn't a new concept, but damn it's a good one. We discovered this when Omega Force's Warriors series crashed into the venerable Dragon Quest last year, which kicked out some of the more time-taking turn-based RPG stuff in favour of manic hack and slash, combo-infused nirvana. If you were savvy enough to catch the equally cumbersomely titled *The World Tree's Woe and the Blight Below* then you'll know what to expect here, as up to four players aim to stop the previously peaceful seven kingdoms from their sudden waging of all-out war. Watch you don't get Slimed!

From the people who brought you...
One Piece: Pirate Warriors 3, Berserk and the Band of the Hawk

Body Count
Bloodlust

Considering the ills currently facing the world, a new Body Count record seems like the perfect response. Political and in your face, the band – led by rapper Ice-T – haven't softened their approach, making *Bloodlust* a release fans will eagerly embrace. Ice-T rapping over metal riffs was always going to be intriguing, but it didn't always work; the presence of Vincent Price (AKA Vince Dennis of Steel Prophet) and most recently, Juan of The Dead (AKA Juan Garcia of Agent Steel) have upped the metal credentials, giving *Bloodlust* the musical crunch to back up the verbal rhetoric. Guest appearances from Dave Mustaine (Megadeth), Randy Blythe (Lamb Of God) and Max Cavalera (Sepultura), as well as a cover of Slayer's *Raining Blood*, add to the experience.

Simon Lukic

Father John Misty
Pure Comedy

Josh Tillman continues to satirise the concept of being an entertainer with this, his third album under the moniker Father John Misty. While *I Love You, Honeybear* was a portrait of Tillman's marriage, *Pure Comedy* is full of political rhetoric. Now backed by stunning orchestral arrangements, Tillman's sound possesses a new, profound quality. Highlights include *Leaving LA*, a 13-minute insight into Tillman's career and easily the most transparent we've ever heard him. His comedic timing is razor sharp, delivering iconic lines like "The dying man takes his final breath, but first checks his news feed to see what he's about to miss" (*Ballad Of The Dying Man*). While we may not always think to turn to him for words of wisdom, Tillman is proving to be a voice of reason, here to stay.

Holly Pereira

Future Islands
The Far Field

If there's a more soothing record to enter the alt-mainstream this year, show your hand now. While Samuel T. Herring threw the band into the international spotlight back in 2013 after their captivating *Letterman* performance, on record, Future Islands are considerably more reserved. On paper that's an unlikely statement: sprightly bass lines dance around wails of noise and Herring's gravelly delivery, but it's mixed so tightly together that *The Far Field* becomes almost hymn-like. Which is suitable; the record is predominantly hopeful and empathetic, optimistic in a time that offers plenty of reasons for pessimism. These sneakily seductive earworms will envelop you like a womb – shutting out all the bad, keeping in all the good.

Jake Cleland

Julia Holter
In The Same Room

Julia Holter is a skilled sculptor of songs and scripter of stories. Combining classical, jazz, and experimental modes, her records offer originality that is rare. Needless to say Holter's songs are dense with ideas that reward close attention and reveal themselves over time. *In The Same Room* is a live album that illustrates clearly just how dynamic and inventive they are. Recorded over two days in London, the LP captures new arrangements of previously released tracks. In their sometimes subtle, and occasionally vastly modified states, there are many more secrets to be discovered.

Simon Winkler

HOW TO BUY

THE DOORS

Many consider 1967 to be rock's greatest year: albums became more important than singles, and there were groundbreaking debuts by Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Velvet Underground, and not least The Doors, who brought Jim Morrison's baritone poetics into rock with a great band. To celebrate the 50th anniversary reissue of their self-titled debut, let's re-open The Doors…

Words Graham Reid

The Doors (1976)

In retrospect, this album mapped territory previously unexplored in rock: the challenge and optimism of *Break On Through*, a celebration of life and death; two exceptional covers, Weill and Brecht's *Alabama Song* (AKA *Whisky Bar*) and Willie Dixon's sexualised *Back Door Man*; and the album closer, *The End* – a nightmare vision used by Francis Ford Coppola in his film *Apocalypse Now*, which only added to its sinister allure. Essential.

Strange Days (1967)

Released just nine months after their debut, this was almost its equal – although it followed much the same pattern – and contained the hit *Love Me Two Times*. (In the era of album stars, The Doors always nailed the radio hits, and most were written by guitarist Robby Krieger.) It also featured the bad trip paranoia of *People Are Strange* and the 11-minute nihilism of *When The Music's Over*. These first two albums stand up even now, 40 years on.

Morrison Hotel (1970)

After seriously losing their way over the course of a couple of albums, they returned with this: more rock'n'roll, and infused with raw blues. It sprung no hit single but it's the Doors album that real fans find one of their most rewarding, even if it can be a dark ride.

L.A. Woman (1971)

And three months later, Morrison was dead in a bathtub in Paris. More than just the end of his career (it wasn't the end of The Doors, who kept recording without him, sometimes using his unreleased vocals), this was a major return to form in the poetic blues rock where the band began. It gave them hits (Krieger's *Love Her Madly, Riders On The Storm*) and great tracks like the spoken word *The WASP (Texas Radio And The Big Beat)*. They began and ended on highs.

And also… Might be cheating, but the expansive *Weird Scenes Inside The Goldmine* is an excellent collection of 22 studio songs including hits and great album tracks, and the double CD *In Concert*, recorded at different venues but programmed like a show, best gives you the flavour and breadth of The Doors live.

For more overviews, interviews and reviews by Graham Reid see:
www.elsewhere.co.nz

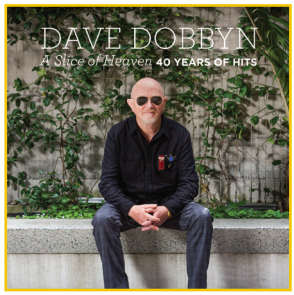
JB Hi-Fi RECOMMENDS

Music That We Think You Should Check Out

THUNDERCAT

Drunk

The latest LP from the Grammy-winning bassist takes in everything from jazz fusion and R&B to New Wave-y synth jams. Guests include Kenny Loggins and Pharrell. **Out Now**



DAVE DOBBYN

Slice Of Heaven: 40 Years Of Hits

The Kiwi icon personally chose the 21 songs on this new Best Of collection, which includes both solo favourites and classics from Th' Dudes and DD Smash. **Apr 7**

FUTURE ISLANDS

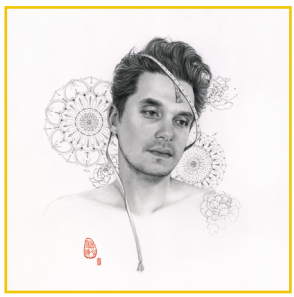
The Far Field

Produced by John Congleton, this is the first LP from the electronic popsters to feature live drums and boasts 12 chest-pounding love songs and odes to the road. **Apr 7**

FATHER JOHN MISTY

Pure Comedy

Josh Tillman's follow-up to his acclaimed debut finds him exploring themes of fame, aging, social media and human nature with his usual grace, wit and candour. **Apr 7**



JOHN MAYER

The Search For Everything

Refreshed by his stint playing guitar with former members of the Grateful Dead, Mayer's new studio album is a glorious throwback to the golden music era of the 70s. **Apr 14**

HAYSEED DIXIE

Free Your Mind

Classic tracks from the likes of Michael Jackson, Bob Marley and Elvis Costello are given a bluegrass makeover on the latest album from the country covers specialists. **Apr 14**

IMELDA MAY

Life. Love. Fresh. Blood.

The Irish rockabilly queen finds an intoxicating new groove on her fifth studio album, which is produced by T Bone Burnett and features the likes of Jeff Beck and Jools Holland. **Apr 21**

RAY DAVIES

Americana

The legendary Kinks frontman teams up with alt-country icons Jayhawks on the new album, which reflects on his love/hate relationship with the US. **Apr 21**

JOHN MELLENCAMP

Sad Clowns & Hillbillies

Featuring Carleen Carter, album #23 from the master roots storyteller boasts more bittersweet songs of happiness, melancholia and fervent political dissent. **Apr 28**

Get into JB Hi-Fi and grab yourself a copy, quick! JB HI-FI

Gorillaz
Humanz

28.04.17

Parlophone

WARNER MUSIC

JB HI-FI

CONTENTS

Thanks for downloading your FREE digital version of *STACK* Magazine –
we do hope you have enjoyed the fantastic features, reviews and stories within the magazine and have had time to play with the embedded movie trailers, behind-the-scenes film photos, music videos, games trailers, links to JB Hi-Fi, and the oodles of extra digital content we have hand-picked for your enjoyment…

Win

***MARIO KART 8* FOR SWITCH**

STACK APP EXTRAS *This month:*

DVD&BD: *WHY HIM?*

DVD&BD: *ROGUE ONE* FUN FACTS

STACK APP EXTRAS COMPETITION

HIT THE ROAD WHEN YOU WIN *MARIO KART 8* ON NINTENDO SWITCH

Win

Race and battle your friends when you score one of three definitive versions of ***Mario Kart 8*** on Switch. The games screeches in-store on April 28.

Thanks to **Nintendo**

Simply answer this question...

Q: If you could create your very own Mario Kart 8 Deluxe special item, what would it do?

TAP HERE
TO ENTER YOUR ANSWER

OR,

simply visit www.stack.net.nz and enter on the competitions page (you must remember the above question though).
Good luck and thanks for downloading the BEST free entertainment magazine app in New Zealand.
Well... we think so anyway :)

MEET THE BOYFRIEND

Writer-director John Hamburg has been a fixture of the comedy scene since his debut feature, *Safe Men*, premiered in 1998. He has since written and directed the popular comedy *Along Came Polly*, the commercial and critical hit *I Love You, Man*, and has also co-written *Meet the Parents*, *Zoolander* and *Meet the Fockers*.

His latest movie, ***Why Him?***, was written by Hamburg and Ian Helfer, based on a story by Hamburg, Helfer and Jonah Hill. The film follows Ned Fleming (Bryan Cranston), a Midwest father who brings his family along for Christmas to the Silicon Valley home of his daughter's new boyfriend, Laird (James Franco). Ned takes an immediate dislike to Laird, a wealthy tech mogul with more eccentricities than a traditional Midwest patriarch can stomach, and hilarity ensues as the pair get to know one another.

Fresh from post-production on the film, Hamburg explains his interest in the story and the joys of improvising new material on set.

MEET THE BOYFRIEND

> “Bryan Cranston and James Franco were the only two guys I ever wanted for the parts”

James Franco, Zoey Deutch, Bryan Cranston, Megan Mullally and Griffin Gluck

Director John Hamburg

What's the history behind this project?

JOHN HAMBURG: There was a story that Shawn Levy and Dan Levine, the producers, sent to me of a tech mogul who falls in love with a woman from a normal background, and conflict ensues once her family comes into the picture. The details of the story were quite different from where we ended up in *Why Him?*, but the concept spoke to me.

Having worked on *Meet the Parents* and the two sequels, I knew that territory, but I thought that the world had changed a lot since we made the first *Meet the Parents*, in that, in essence, the kids were in charge now whereas back then, the grown-ups seemed to have had all the power. I thought it would be interesting to explore those power dynamics, because it's still the idea of a young woman having her first serious boyfriend and having that nervousness of introducing him to her family. And the family going into this foreign world, which is Silicon Valley, in this case. That felt very of the moment and interesting and that there could be a lot of comic fireworks, as well. At that point, I had worked on several scripts with my co-writer, Ian Helfer, and together, he and I developed the premise Shawn and Dan brought to me, into our own story.

The movie seems perfectly cast. Were Bryan Cranston and James Franco your first choices?

Absolutely. Bryan Cranston and James Franco were the only two guys I ever wanted for the parts. Bryan, I had known his comedy from *Malcolm in the Middle*, and of course, like everybody else, was obsessed with *Breaking Bad*, and thought it was the greatest performance I'd ever seen, in anything.

I like making movies with actors

MEET THE BOYFRIEND

John Hamburg on set with KISS

who are brilliant comedians, but who also have real drama chops, because in my movies, the characters themselves think they're in a drama. It's only the world that is comedic.

So I really wanted Bryan, and James perfectly embodied a guy who has no filter and says what he wants. He is really sweet and has a heart of gold, and is smart and thoughtful. But you may just not quite understand him at first blush. I didn't know James well. We knew each other a little bit, but what I knew of his work and knowing him a tiny bit, it felt like he would be perfect. That to me was the dream cast.

The two characters at the centre of this film really don't get on, but they're both really nice guys deep down. How essential was that to making the story work?

The idea wasn't that there's a villain and a hero, or that their characters are black and white, because I find

that people aren't like that in real life. One happens to be this extreme, quite wealthy tech mogul, but he's still a human being. That was really important to me, to try to create these dynamic, fully-fleshed out characters, and have the audience's perceptions change almost while they're watching the movie.

You might, in the early scenes, think that James's character is so extreme and how could anybody be with him? How could any woman really be in love with him? But as it goes on, I think you start to realize, "This guy, he's sweet. He wants a family. He really loves this woman. He loves this dad and mom and brother."

And Bryan's character is kind of an everyman type of dad who is struggling to hold on in a world that is evolving faster than he can process. He can't accept that life involves change.

Because he had it all five or ten years ago. His life was perfect, everything was going well. He had a business. But the world changes so rapidly, and I thought that was an interesting thing to explore, through these two flawed, but ultimately good-hearted, humans.

> "Walter White started as a pretty normal every day guy"

Bryan was well-known for *Malcolm*, but it's another level after *Breaking Bad*. Is it fun to play with the iconography he brings to it?

Absolutely. That happened in *Meet the Parents* with Robert De Niro. It was like, "What if the guy from *Raging Bull* and *Taxi Driver* and *Goodfellas* was your father-in-law?" Obviously people know Bryan as Walter White, and we're saying, you know, Walter White started as a pretty normal every day guy. He became Heisenberg, but what if instead he's that guy and he's the ultimate dad. But he's got an edge to him. In *Malcolm* his character, I think, had less edge than Ned does in *Why Him?* He doesn't go as far as Walter White, becoming Heisenberg. But he tries to hack into Franco's computer. He does some fairly extreme things. It's kind of a merging almost of those two characters, in a weird way.

MEET THE BOYFRIEND

James Franco with Keegan-Michael Key

Similarly, with James Franco, we know him as this brilliant, eccentric artist, so you play on that as well.

It's probably taking what the world might think of James Franco, which is that he's brilliant, he's a little strange, he's hard to pin down. But he's thoughtful and sweet. In our movie his character does a lot of different stuff. He does parkour training. He brings in a famous chef to cook for the family. A lot of James's actual art peppers the house in the movie. We don't say that his character painted it, but it was fun to put a lot of that artwork in that James actually did. I wanted him to feel comfortable on this set that was his character's house. Humping Capybaras which hangs above Ned and Barb's bed in the movie is a Franco original.

On set, there's a tremendous amount of improvisation, and you throw in lines into the middle of a scene. How important is it to create new material when you're on set?

It is very important. It's a high wire act. We have a script that we've worked on for a long time, that we care a lot about, and we'll always start there. But we don't know where we're going when the day begins, because it's always about being open to new ideas and feeling the moment.

When you get these amazing actors, I can throw ideas out or they can. It's a real collaboration. There are so many things in the movie that came up through the process. Maybe we came up with something on one day and decided to call it back on another day. I love it. It's my favourite thing about making these kinds of movies, that you just don't know what's going to happen. It's my job to guide it, so it's not a complete free for all, it's kind of controlled chaos.

> "There are so many things in the movie that came up through the process"

• ***Why Him?*** *is out on April 19*

STACK
APP
EXTRAS
1
2
ROGUE ONE
FUN FACTS
Five things you may not know about the making of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*.
stack.net.nz

ROGUE ONE

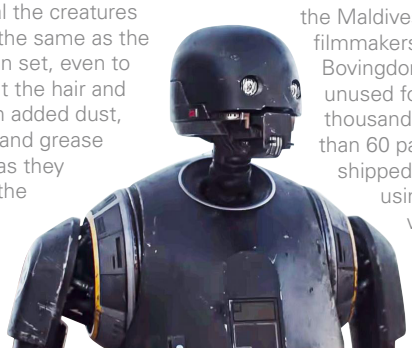
FUN FACTS

REBUILDING DARTH VADER

Recreating the look of Darth Vader was a challenge for costume designers Glyn Dillon and David Crossman as in each Star Wars film there would be some subtle changes to the villain's attire. For example, the helmet worn by Vader in *The Empire Strikes Back* is shinier than its predecessor, but after much discussion, the director decided that he preferred the matte version as first appears in *A New Hope*. The end result is a faithful reproduction of Vader's look, with the boxes on Vader's belt matching exactly those in *A New Hope*, even down to the little scratches. And the chest box is again painted wood with buttons stuck on.

REALITY CHECK

The director wanted the *Rogue One* creatures to be organic and fit realistically into the environments, so to meet that goal the creatures were treated the same as the other actors on set, even to the extent that the hair and make-up team added dust, grime, sweat and grease to them, just as they would any of the other cast.



WELCOME TO YAVIN 4

One set familiar to fans will be the rebel base on Yavin 4 first seen in *Star Wars: A New Hope*. But whereas, for budgetary reasons, Lucas was only able to build a part of the rebel base, relying on a matte painting to give the illusion of size, the *Rogue One* production was able to go all out on its construction. In addition, the team was able to revisit the exact location of the original Yavin 4 set – Cardington Airfield in the UK. The enormous hangars offered the production designers the opportunity to actually build Yavin 4 to scale. The completed set measured approximately 350 feet in length by 200 feet in width. The Yavin 4 hangar set was fully dressed on all sides, with even the crew in costume. The Jedha set was done in a similar way, and filmmakers did as much on-location shooting as they could to keep the film grounded and follow director Gareth Edwards' vision. Even when blue screens were required, production built as much of the set as possible so that they would have real-world references to help inform how the visual effects should look and feel.

SCARIF: NOT JUST A TROPICAL PARADISE

Another old airfield base provided the location for the planet of Scarif. Although some of the scenes were filmed in the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, the filmmakers also built a replica set at Bovingdon Airfield, an old RAF base unused for nearly half a century. Two thousand tons of sand and more than 60 palm trees from Spain were shipped in and a beach was created using recycled water from the water tank at Pinewood so it wouldn't be wasted. When the Maldives set at Bovingdon Airfield was finished, it measured a staggering 700 feet by 500 feet, or about eight acres.

INTRODUCING THE DEATH TROOPERS

In addition to the iconic Stormtroopers, director Gareth Edwards wanted to give fans something new and intimidating. And so were born the Death Troopers. The Death Troopers are a completely new design specially created for "Rogue One." They are an elite group of fighters costumed in black. Whereas Stormtrooper costumes were made for anyone over five-foot- nine inches, the fearsome Death Troopers each stand at well over six-feet tall.