

Something for the Weekend

FILMS MUSIC DVDs
GAMES BOOKS COMEDY

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- TOP 10 GAMES**
1. Lightning Returns: Final Fantasy XIII
 2. The LEGO Movie Videogame
 3. Tomb Raider
 4. Grand Theft Auto V
 5. Toukiden
 6. FIFA 14
 7. Killzone Shadow Fall
 8. Fable: Anniversary
 9. Battlefield 4
 10. Call of Duty: Ghosts

EDITED BY LEE PRICE
WITH DAVE MASTERS

APPS and GAMES

MOCK THE WEEK STAR TAKES OVER OUR GAMES PAGE



PAPERS PLEASE

AN interesting one, particularly as I have such difficulty getting into Steam.

It's a clever mechanic – I'm not sure I'd rush back to play it too many more times.

Also how picky is that border? Jesus wept, every day there's a new piece of paper – I was getting citations for not following. Don't get away with much, do you?



SUPER MARIO 3D WORLD

NINTENDO knows how to calibrate difficulty. The last Mario game I played, not this one, a gift appeared that allowed you to run through the level and not die.

Which is something I was complaining about in a routine – the only industry to deny you content if it doesn't think you are good enough. Nintendo may not have seen my act – but I was glad of that gift.



GRAND THEFT AUTO V

I HAVE a problem with GTA – I get bored driving around the cities. Getting stuck in traffic is more irritating in a virtual world.

I remember setting up a raid on the game. It was as if I was lying low for a week before it actually happened.

That may be life as a criminal, killing time before a job, but I'm not so sure it's what I want to be doing in my front room.

ASIDE from being one of TV's top funnymen, DARA O BRIAIN is a gaming fanatic – and this week he's taking over our column.

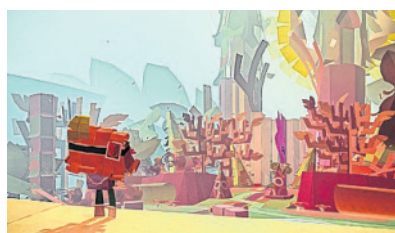
The Mock the Week presenter is hosting the Bafta Games Awards on Wednesday. Here, he looks at Best Game award contenders.

Dara says: "I've always loved games. As a child, I had a Commodore 64. There was an Atari console in the house, plus a Binatone at one time. I've got kids, so I usually get through one big game a year. Last year it was Far Cry 3, in 2014 it will hopefully be The Last Of Us.

"I play more Fifa than anything – this year I bought TWO copies, mainly because I wanted to see Arsenal's Mesut Ozil in high-definition."

● Dara hosts the Bafta Games Awards, to be streamed on Twitch.TV on March 12. Tickets from bafta.org/games.

Gaming is good for your Briain



TEARAWAY

I HAVEN'T played Tearaway, but it's fantastic that *something* is making the PlayStation Vita a necessary purchase – it's one of the great pieces of kit that hasn't quite found its niche.

● Sun Games man Lee agrees: The key isn't that Tearaway makes use of all Vita features – it's that it makes use of them and WORKS. The first Vita "must-have" game, helping the console to be, too.



THE LAST OF US

THIS is astonishing – the level of story-writing and the emotional involvement.

I often play video games at midnight when I get home from a gig, just to wind down for an hour, but this was a bit too intense for that, too overwhelming.

There really was a lot of cowering to be done and it plays like a very effective animated movie.



ASSASSIN'S CREED 4: BLACK FLAG

THIS was the game that most impressed me on the PS4.

I'd never quite got into the Assassin's Creed series. Black Flag is much more compelling, though.

There's a lot of shoulder contact, and elbowing people out of the way and getting away with it.

A terrible example for our children.



NEW MUSIC

WHO: Dan Willson
WHERE: Edinburgh
FOR FANS OF: Neil Young, Belle & Sebastian, Teenage Fanclub
JIM SAYS: I first encountered Dan in 2008 when he approached me in Glasgow's Ashton Lane with a Withered Hand demo CD.

Before the days of MP3s and instant downloads, bumping into musicians was a common way for me to be exposed to new music.

I usually don't remember where and when, but Dan made a lasting impression.

I remember a quiet, softly spoken guy who seemed almost embarrassed to present his work. When I heard the tracks, it was clear he was special. A fragile crackling voice singing beautiful, delicate songs, packed with emotion.

Originally from Bishop's Stortford, Dan's called Edinburgh home for nearly two decades.

He said: "I moved here in 1996. It's woven into the fabric of who I am. It's a place full of ghosts."

"You can't escape the past here. I've got a melancholic temperament so it appeals to me. There's certainly a streak of melancholy in everything I make."

In 2011 Dan went to the States for the first time to play the huge SXSW festival in Austin, Texas. He featured heavily in a BBC Scotland Artworks documentary Scotland Rocks At South By Southwest. You couldn't fail to fall in love with him after seeing that. He was the reluctant star.

It told the story of how he was turned down for a US visa at the last moment because he was deemed to not be an artist of "extraordinary ability", a criteria for being granted a visa.



It prompted a surge of social media support and Dan was finally granted permission.

He returns to SXSW this year with a full band. His second album New Gods was certainly shaped by his first American adventure.

He explained: "I have a few dates around SXSW again, even though I swore I'd never go back."

"Some of the songs are heavily influenced by things that were going on for me around that time."

"It seems like a symmetry to go back and play some of those songs in America. I wouldn't be doing them justice if I didn't do that."

Withered Hands' New Gods is released on Monday through Fortuna POP! Records.

On his return from the States he appears at Edinburgh Liquid Room on April 17, and the following night at the CCA in Glasgow.

MORE: witheredhand.com
● Hear Withered Hand on Jim Gellatly's InDemand Uncut this Sunday from 7pm on Clyde 1, Forth One, Northsound 1, Radio Borders, Tay FM & West FM. Jim also chats to Elbow, plus Chvrches in session. indemandscotland.co.uk

Listen to the band at: thescottishsun.co.uk



BY CHRIS SWEENEY

THINKING man's rock is how I'd describe the new EP from Broken Records.

The Edinburgh band have four songs on Toska, officially released on March 24.

All start off slow and build from there. Nothing is left to chance, very tightly packed and with lots of emotion.

Listen to it now at brokenrecords-band.com

ONE
2
HEAR

NOT only have The Amazing Snakeheads got a cracking name.

They've got a sharp arsenal of songs to do it justice.

Current single Here It Comes Again is a prime example.

Raw, aggressive and to the point.

They're a band who bring it live too, and in spades.

Plus they are on tour all over Scotland this month – go to facebook.com/theamazingsnakeheads

ONE
2
SEE

Songs are like pups..Rihanna is a good home

YOU'VE probably never heard of him.

But if you've got a radio or TV – then you HAVE heard his work.

Nashville-based singer Mikky Ekko's single Stay has sold over five million copies – and topped the charts in lots of places including US, Israel, Denmark and Bulgaria.

But it wasn't him, singing it – it was Rihanna. Mikky said: "It's been madness."

"Me and my team have worked really hard to get to this point, so to see it come to fruition has really humbled me."

"It's been a crazy ride. It's the kind of thing I wouldn't have dreamt of in my wildest dreams."

But you just keep your nose to the grindstone and sometimes you catch a break. I've found if I get an honest, good song, that's the best I can hope for.

"The funny thing about the Rih thing is I still don't know how she heard it. And I haven't pursued it as it's kept it magical to me. I got a call saying Rih wants the song. I thought whatever and hung up."

"Then they called back and said they were serious, they wanted it on her record which was coming out in a month and a half."

'I'm not one to get starstruck'

"So I ran around and got it all prepped."

"I'm not one to get starstruck but there's some people you don't expect to be in a room with and she's one, arguably the biggest pop star on the planet."

"We met up in LA, she told me she'd sang it half a step up which was funny, as I thought it needed to come a half step down for me to sing it."

"She asked me if that was OK. I mean, what do you say that?"

"Song are like puppies, if they find a better home – I'm open to that."

The tweaks didn't take away from what it was – a superb pop song. Now big things are expected of Mikky's debut album, due out later this year.

He said: "Nobody puts more pressure on me than me. I do this as I love music."

"But this record, I want what I do to be well presented and well groomed – that's my primary focus. You got to put out some-

thing you can stand by and defend." Next up for Mikky is a UK tour – where he'll be alongside band One Republic.

They hit Glasgow's O2 Academy on March 22 and it'll be his Scots debut.

Mikky, 30, raved: "I'm super-excited to be coming out there. I have a lot of respect for small venues."

While he releases music as Mikky Ekko, his real name is John Sudduth, but he said: "In Nashville, everybody calls me by my name. I'm no idiot, anybody can look up my name on the internet. The way I see it is as a nickname and something I represent on another level."

"If people want to call me by real name or Mikky – it's whatever feels comfortable."

Despite the huge success of Stay and all the hype, Mikky is keeping his challenger mentality. He said: "Yeah, I've done that song but I'm still low on the totem poll – I know it's a battle."

● Get tour info at mikkyekko.com



MIKKY EKKO

ONE2WATCH

WIN Tickets to see Michael Bublé at the SSE Scottish Hydro

SCOTLAND'S new home of live entertainment, The SSE Hydro, will host one of the biggest artists in the world this month as Michael Bublé brings his arena tour to The SSE Hydro.

With his new album To Be Loved entering the UK chart at number one, he is sure to delight the Scottish crowd with his compelling blend of timeless classics and his own hit singles at The SSE Hydro.

Thanks to venue sponsor SSE, we're giving two winners the chance to win a pair of tickets to Michael Bublé on Monday March 10. To be in with a chance of win-

ning, just answer the following question: What nationality is Michael Bublé? Please email your name, address, daytime contact number, date of birth & answer to win@the-sun.co.uk with the competition name SSE — MICHAEL BUBLE in the subject heading.

● Over 18s only excluding any employees and their families or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. Competition closes 2pm Friday March 7, 2014. The prize is two winners receiving a pair of tickets each. The promoter reserves the right to substitute any prize with one of equal or greater value. Two winners will be selected at random after the closing date from all correct entries received. Usual Scottish Sun rules apply. Editor's decision is final. For full terms and conditions visit www.hydro.co.uk/AboutUs/Sponsorship/SponsorshipTermsAndConditions

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DUET GAME

69p for iOS

SENSORY treat where you navigate two vessels at the same time through 50 levels of falling shapes. Both sit on the diameter of a circle. You can rotate them in two directions – but as you move one, the other swings round too. The game is accompanied by trance tunes, which will swallow you up.

DISCO ZOO

Free for iOS

THE team behind Tiny Death Star and Pocket Trains have just released this fun zoo builder, where you earn dosh for rescuing animals from habitats all over the world to add to your collection. The cute disco bit helps keep them awake – earning you more moolah from visitors.

MATCHPOINT

Free for all

TELLS you which pubs near you are showing the sports event you want to watch. Covers football, cricket, rugby, tennis, F1 and US sports, plus it informs you if the boozer has HD, big screen or 3D. Showing it gets you a FREE pint of Guinness at 300 participating pubs – until March 16.

MOSHI KARTS

Free for iOS

ALL your favourites from the world of Moshi Monsters – including Shoney the Amazon' Blazin' Raisin – hit the race track for this easy to play steering challenge. Looks like an endless runner but is broken up into levels, through which you progress by collecting stars during your races.

PAPER OCEAN

£1.99 for iOS

LEARN how to make origami versions of marvellous marine animals. Yes, it's easy to say it's aimed at kids – but you show me an adult who doesn't wish they could knock up a paper whale to impress all their mates and I'll show you a liar. Has 20 animals to create, plus six mini-games.

