

Something for the Weekend

EDITED BY LEE PRICE
WITH DAVE MASTERS

APPS and GAMES



Web feat

ALL too often, the latest movie blockbusters have a disappointing tie-in game. But anyone taking the risk with The Amazing Spider-Man 2 will have something to enjoy. I'd decided not to see the movie until after playing the game. While some may find that a dealbreaker, it's never going to impact on the gameplay. Attempts to always give the player something different to do are initially interesting – with car chases, robberies and fires for you to help New York's finest with. But they soon become repetitive – thanks to a morality system you'll have to complete these side activities every now and again. Swinging around the city can take some getting used to, but once you're clued up on how it all works it's a wondrous thing and has never been so much fun. Swooping past the yellow cabs filling the streets, keeping momentum and effortlessly arriving at your destination brings genuine moments of exhilaration. The city – the same as most of the game – looks great. Views of skyscrapers go on for miles and as you're swinging the streets look alive. Combat is fluid and easy, while still giving the occasional challenge if you're not giving the action enough attention. For anyone fascinated with the web-slinger or for people who have just seen the movie, this is the perfect way to get a regular helping of your friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man. Even with a few issues – it still provides a good experience. **JAMIE NIGHTINGALE**



NEW MUSIC

WE WERE KINGS
WHO: Jim McGowan (vocals), George 'Ringo' Aitken (guitar), Kevin 'Speedy' Waite (guitar/vocals), Dougie Scott (bass/vocals), Martin Walker (drums)
FOR FANS OF: Oasis, Pearl Jam, Pearl Jam, Pearl Jam
JIM SAYS: Back in March I took on the Simon Cowell role at the new Hard Rock Café in Glasgow for the Scottish final of the global Hard Rock Rising competition. After the hotly contested heats featuring acts who'd applied through the Edinburgh and Glasgow cafes, rock acts We Were Kings, The King Lot and Artie Ziff secured their place in the final. It was a tough decision for the judging panel to select an overall winner to represent Scotland. But though it was close, it was a unanimous decision. We Were Kings' explosive set mixing Brit Pop with Classic Rock won us over. Originally formed in the Scottish Borders, with members scattered across the Central Belt, the win secured We Were Kings a place in the next stage of the competition. More than 10,000 acts had entered worldwide with 750 bands performing at over 70 Hard Rock Cafés across the globe. All the winners were then up for a public vote to secure an all-expenses trip to play the Hard Rock Live festival in Rome in July. I'm delighted to say that We Were Kings made the final 25.

BOUND BY FLAME

PS4/PS3/360/PC, £39.99 **2**
RPG fans have been desperate to pit their wits on the next-gen consoles. Bound By Flame is the first to try to give RPGers their fix – but fails at every turn. As Vulcan, you are one of a group of skilled warriors who is accidentally bestowed with the powers of a demon. These allow you to harness the power of fire and you're pushed centre stage in the war engulfing the land. Performance issues are apparent early on on the PS4 and distract from the interesting and varied locations. When running smoothly, the world can be something to behold but character detail and animations are often lacking and uninspired.



Attempts to create a dark and gritty world fail due to the constant use of swearing that stands out like a sore thumb with the below-par voice acting. Very rarely does anyone say anything with true emotion. Combat quickly becomes



uninteresting when most of the time you are repeating the two-button combination of attack and then dodge or parry. While you have other tools at your disposal, this seems to be the only true method to be able to complete with the mobs that are thrown your way. For everything BBF does right, two things seem to be wrong. So if you're looking for a RPG for your new console this is not the one worth spending hours – or much cash – on. **JN**

MICRO SOFT IN THE HEAD

MICROSOFT is releasing a £349 Xbox One from June 9. The catch? It will not come with the Kinect motion sensor, which was championed as the console's major USP over the PS4. The consoles now start at the same price, though most gamers are still likely to prefer the more powerful PS4. This is another major step backwards for Microsoft but though some had learnt to love using Kinect's voice commands for system navigation, all attempts to integrate the camera into games fell short. In better news, Games With Gold is finally being taken to Xbox One, letting Xbox Live Gold users download titles for free each month, starting with Halo: Spartan Assault and Max: The Curse Of Brotherhood in June. We love free games!



Singer Jim McGowan told me: "The heats were a great experience. Our fans showed everyone why they are so special, and as always turned out in numbers. "The global stages have been amazing. We were the smallest nation in the competition. It included winners from cities like New York, Tokyo and London. We were the only UK act left in the final list." Sadly the band didn't quite make it, with Seattle's Joyfield announced as overall winners on Tuesday. It must've been tight. The judges delayed their decision by 24 hours. All isn't lost though, as We Were Kings now play the first couple of dates on the Hard Rock Rising On The Road tour, which will visit 15 locations in Europe ahead of the festival in Rome. We Were Kings play the first two dates, here in Scotland. It launches tomorrow from 4-8pm at Soar INTO Braehead, near Glasgow, then on to Edinburgh. Jim said: "We can't wait to get out there. Our goal is simple. Make great music and get in front of people." We Were Kings are nearing completion of an EP called The Rising, which should be out in the next few weeks. Also, they are set to appear at July's Summer Nights Festival at King Tut's in Glasgow. More: www.facebook.com/wkings ● Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm. www.xfm.co.uk www.jimgellatly.com

RED HERRING

Free for all (in-app purchases)
FUN and challenging word puzzle from the guys behind the hit app 7 Little Words. It's all about grouping four related words together into a column – but watch out for the red herrings. Free version has 50 levels on easy, normal and hard. You get hints but can buy more.

DEXTRIS

Free for all
SOME reckon this could become as popular and addictive as Flappy Bird. It really tests your hand-eye co-ordination as you guide two blocks through a fast-moving maze of nasties by tapping the screen. The graphics are crisp and you'll be battling to beat your own score.

KIWANUKA

£1.49 for iOS
FANS of the original Lemmings game will love this. You move a civilisation of tiny coloured people around their world, unlocking their pals who are trapped in little prisons. Point a ray of light anywhere and they'll follow, turning themselves into towers and bridges to help each other.

FTL

£6.99 for iOS (iPad2 upwards)
THIS might just be the toughest app on the App Store right now. A tense, time-sapping challenge set in space which will take every drop of your gaming ability to progress. This RPG feels as deep as deep space, with dozens of parts and tasks to complete – all while keeping ahead of chasing rebels.

VOICE CHANGER

Free for Android
SILLY fun for all the family which lets you record things and play them back in a range of potty voices. Crowd favourites include the Minions from Despicable Me, Smurfs and Helium. Plus you can also record lines and have it play them in reverse. Good laugh if you can put up with the ads.



ONE2WATCH

NEW boy George Ezra stepped into the cut-throat music world like he was having a pint in his local.

He's come from nowhere to make serious waves all over Europe. And this week, he rocked out on Jools Holland. It's all building up to a big summer and the release of his debut album Wanted On Voyage. George, 20, said: "My whole project has happened naturally. It doesn't feel I've been catapulted into some weird world. It's all moved quite gradually. "The main thing is surrounding yourself with people you ultimately trust – which is what I did. They'll help you achieve what you want to achieve in a comfortable way."

Buzz

"I was only introduced to this industry two years ago. "The best thing I did was go with my instinct. "It's just like meeting someone in the pub – you're only going to keep talking to them if you get on with them. "I think I'm a good judge of character and it seems to have worked." The Bristol folk rocker has welcomed the buzz. But he has got a bit sick of being told that 2014 is his year. He snapped: "While this is all good fun, you hope you can do it as long as you can. "It started to wind me up a bit when people were going 'Oh, this is your year'. "I was like 'What do you mean?' "I hope I have got a chance in 2015 as well. "I understand they're saying it's my chance to break and show people who I am. But I plan to be here a lot longer than a year." The album – out on June 30 – is almost like the singer's diary. George penned the tracks after he spent time dotting all across the continent. He explained: "I took myself travelling, inter-railing around Europe. I wrote a lot of little stories in my notebook and when I came back, I wrote the songs about them." And while it's going great

Ezra is on track



ONE2SEE

ONCE again it's time to ditch the evening BBCs and get into King Tut's Summer Nights. It's coming back for the fifth time. The venue puts on special jam-packed gigs, showcasing the hottest talent from around the UK. It all kicks off on July 17 and wraps up 10 days later. Over 20 acts in total will play over the run. Get the info at: www.kingtuts.co.uk

ONE2HEAR

IT'S going on five years since La Roux released their debut album. And the follow-up is finally here. The first track being played from it, Let Me Down Gently, is a cracking way to come back. Just what you expected from them – punchy and in your face. Listen to it now at: soundcloud.com/la-roux-official

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