

Something for the Weekend

NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

INK

WHO: Colin MacIntyre
WHERE: London
FOR FANS OF: Ellie Goulding, Aluna George, Kate Bush
JIM SAYS: INK first emerged with the track Ink Goes On in late 2012.

Cloaked in mystery at the time, the project has only recently been revealed as the work of Mull Historical Society's Colin MacIntyre. I'd been tipped off early on.

It's been a struggle keeping it secret! Hearing INK, it's easy to see why the Scots singer-songwriter should want to go undercover initially.

With female vocals on the tracks I've heard so far, it's far removed from his work as Mull Historical Society, or indeed his solo material.

Full of pop hooks with electronic undertones, it's further proof that Colin is one of our finest music creators.

Colin told me: "I began writing and programming the songs in 2012. I was at an artist's party in New York and I saw this piece of art that read 'Thinking Not Thinking'.

"I liked how 'ink' popped out of those words. Literally the next day I was standing outside Urban Outfitters in New York when the first song I wrote for INK popped into my head, Ink Goes On.

"I heard it as being sung from a female lead vocal. I bought some programming



software and within three weeks (the end of my stay there) I had a dozen songs programmed. It was immediately more electronic, more pure pop, more beats-driven, than anything I'd done before, and INK was born."

By not coming out as Colin MacIntyre immediately the project has had time to breathe, and the profile has grown organically.

Some positive early reviews set things up nicely. Without any preconceived ideas, it's the music that did the talking.

Colin explained: "I already have a music profile and I consider INK quite different to what I've done before, both musically and visually."

As for finally revealing himself: "It just seemed the right time. I didn't want the mystery to be the story so to speak, and people around me just said 'why not?' So I did too."

Currently working on the INK album, there is also a Mull Historical Society Best Of album forthcoming.

He's already writing songs for a new Mull album, so he doesn't plan closing that chapter of his career any time soon.

Colin's creative juices are certainly flowing at the moment, with his debut novel The Letters Of Ivor Punch due to be published next year.

MORE: www.inkmusic.tv

● Jim presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm. www.xfm.co.uk www.jimgellatly.com

Photo credit: Dan Massie

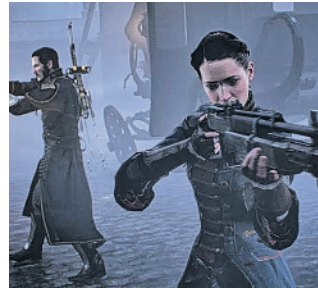
Sun Listen to the band at thescottishsun.co.uk

EDITED BY LEE PRICE
WITH DAVE MASTERS



APPS and GAMES

BEST VISUALS



THE ORDER: 1886
Release date: February 20, 2015
PS4

THIS is a stunning little title that really does look like a proper next-gen game.

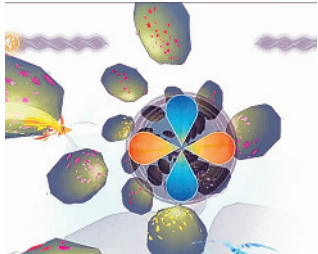
It's a cliché to compare gaming graphics to those of films, but it is actually true here.

The cut scenes could easily be lifted from a Hollywood blockbuster – and it's an entirely seamless transition to gameplay.

Absolutely beautiful.

Given that the release date is still some time away, it's exciting to think that there may still be some tweaks and improvements to come.

BEST NEWCOMER



ENTWINED
Release date: Out now
PS4, £6.49

A BEAUTIFUL puzzler that is as engaging as it is challenging.

You control **TWO** characters at once, using each analog stick to guide two halves of a dragon through a lengthy tunnel.

This year, inspiration has been drawn from Barcelona's "tiki taka" and "parking the bus".

But as ever, there's a period of adjustment with the new title, especially with the more intuitive passing interface. The player AI now reacts contextually, meaning teams seek to preserve their lead.

Despite being low-budget, this was the game we couldn't walk away from at the show. And Sony produced a shock by announcing it would be available immediately after their press conference.

Versions for the PS3 and Vita will follow.

30 DAY AB CHALLENGE

Free for iOS

STICK to this – and cut out the cakes and booze – and you just might have that toned tum in time for your hols.

Follow the programme of exercises, each with a tutorial, and a calendar charts your progress. There are also squad challenge and push-up challenge versions too.



FACETUNE

£1.99 for iOS

EVERYBODY moans about celebrities getting their photos airbrushed but plenty of people are snapping up Facetune which lets you do just that on your own pictures.

Effects include widening smiles, smoothing out your wrinkles and even filling in bald patches.



8 BALL POOL

Free for all

BRILLIANT little freebie where you can play against your mates – or random players – in live pool matches for virtual winnings. Compete in head-to-heads or tournaments.

Sun man Ricky Field has potted himself so far up the rankings his earnings are in the millions – but that takes time.



NOTIFYR

£2.49 for iOS

THIS app is great for anyone who tends to work on a Mac all day and finds themselves missing calls, messages and alerts on their phone.

It uses Bluetooth to sync with your Mac and create pop-up alerts when there's something incoming on your mobile. Useful stuff.



SPORTING MOUTH

Free for iOS and Windows

COOL idea for the World Cup where you can bet your match predictions against your mates for wagers of your choosing.

It could be buying each other beers, doing humiliating forfeits or whatever else you fancy.

Could prove more fun than betting at a bookies – and might save you a few quid, too.



OUR GONGS FOR E3 EXPO

We're ahead of the game

BEST GAME



DESTINY
Release date: September 9
PS3/PS4/Xbox 360/Xbox One

THIS has been on everyone's radar since its first announcement. From the creators of Halo and the publisher behind Call Of Duty, Destiny is a FPS built from the ground up to have you interacting with players all around the world.

We were able to get our hands on this exciting title and, from what was shown, it's been worth the wait. Destiny brings exciting and varying gameplay, and it seems it's going to offer countless hours of fun.

● Read more about Destiny in The Scottish Sun on Sunday.

BEST MULTIPLAYER



CALL OF DUTY: ADVANCED WARFARE
Release date: November 4
PS3/PS4/Xbox 360/Xbox One/PC

ADVANCED Warfare obviously looks great, but CoD's key sell is the exaggerated, in-your-face, all-out warfare that its cult following so adores. Still, there's plenty of intricacies beyond the usual crash, bang, wallop style.

The single player mode offers plenty of value, but who are we kidding? It's all about the multiplayer and Activision have really upped their game.

Legions of loyal fans will buy the world's best-selling game regardless – and, unlike some of its precursors, Advanced Warfare will be befitting of that title.

BEST FOR KIDS



DISNEY INFINITY 2.0
Release date: September, 2014
Wii U/PS3/PS4/Xbox 360/Xbox One/PC/IOS

THE first Disney Infinity brought the world of Disney characters into our homes. Now the Marvel heroes come out to play.

Kids can play as their favourite Marvel icon whenever and however they want.

The Toybox mode has been expanded. When creating your own levels now, you can set the game to procedurally generate content, saving time if you want to explore something new.

It might have won our Best For Kids award, but any fan of Marvel is going to fall in love with the detail of the characters and the beautifully crafted models.

BY CHRIS SWEENEY

Indie end, we wanted to be different



THE countdown is on. It's four weeks until T in the Park 2014.

From now until then, every week I'll speak to one of the 16 unsigned acts who'll play the famous T Break stage. It's where the likes of Biffy Clyro, Amy Macdonald and Paolo Nutini all started.

INDIE music is what T in the Park's 21-year golden legacy is built on.

But it was trying to get AWAY from that scene that's sending Glasgow trio Atom Tree to Balado.

Main man Shaun Canning admitted: "It came to a point where everybody I knew was making indie music."

"I wanted to do something different. Two years ago, I decided to start doing this electronic thing."

"I got a laptop and it had some software on it, so I started dabbling. And it's gone from there."

"I put a song up online and it did well. From there I got a manager, then one of my mates Michael became the drummer."

"Then last December, I met Julie at a Christmas night out and she's our singer. It just came together."

"We're still trying to find our feet. Julie has only done seven gigs in her life – but it's going well."

The band were stunned to get the call saying they'd bagged a precious T Break slot. That was after a long wait with their fingers crossed.

Shaun, 24, said: "It's been a long process, waiting a few months to hear about it. We'd heard initially that we had not a bad chance."

"But until it's confirmed, you're still on edge. It's real a privilege to be part of it."

"T in the Park is one of those ones every year, I've had difficulty getting time off work. So I've never been. It's going to be a pretty cool experience for the first time to go and to be playing it."

And now Atom Tree want to kick on. They're looking at the masterplan their Glasgow counterparts Chvrches have followed – and want to replicate it.

Producer Shaun explained: "They're the big ones for us."

"They've been all over the world and are providing an inspiration."

"We've looked at their formula, how they went from the level we are at and took that step up."

"The fact we've come around now and electronic music is doing so well is a bit of luck. We're here at the right time."

'We need to build on it and get touring'

While T Break will be a big night. The band don't want it to be their biggest.

Shaun said: "We need to make sure we build on it. It's good to have got it but we need to build on it."

"The plan is get our touring. And the more gigs we do, the tighter it's going to get live."

"Nowadays there's not that many people buying music."

"So we change it up live, and it's not just us playing the tracks."

"Especially with electronic music, a lot of people don't do much live – but we're trying to work at that."

"We need to take it on further – and we're trying hard to do that."

● For more check out www.facebook.com/atom-treemusic

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