



ONE2WATCH
by CHRIS SWEENEY

COLOURFUL rockers Bang Bang Romeo are dreaming about being out of this world.

They want to play a gig in outer space. But their immediate plans involved getting a Dreamed A Dream singer Susan Boyle out for a bevy at the TRNSMT festival in Glasgow next month.

The Sheffield band also want SuBo to join them in studio.

The band has been picked by Jack Daniels as one of The Jack Rocks 7 – who'll be playing at a string of UK festivals this summer. Drummer Richard Gartland said: "They've put a lot of money into grassroots bands and we're this strange gang of reprobate musicians all going around together."

"We've got a local festival to us called Tramlines in the city centre in Sheffield and TRNSMT sounds a similar type thing."

Drama is all part and parcel of the show

"There's no camping, but the atmosphere is still great and it has a knock-on effect in the city, and creates a carnival atmosphere."

And lead singer Anastasia Walker revealed: "We'd love to get Susan Boyle on album number two doing backing vocals – we're serious."

"So if she's reading this – come to TRNSMT and have a few drinks with us backstage."

The band's debut single Chemical was released on Friday and is already a huge hit with their fans.

Anastasia added: "For a couple of years it's been a massive fan favourite, and it's a song we've held dear to our hearts."

"I know it sounds cheesy but we wanted to go out there with a bang and show people what we're about."

"The song is us in under three and a half minutes."

"It's exactly what we're about and we wanted to unleash it."

BBR are used to making a big noise with their flamboyant and outrageous style. And things are not about to change any time soon.

Bass player Joel Phillips explained: "It's something we embrace. If anything, it's something we see as a positive."

"A lot of the stuff around at the minute is indie by numbers and bland. We're big into old-school rock 'n' roll bands like Queen with stage shows."

"Drama is part and parcel of the show. We never shy away from it."

"You only see a censored version of us, but you should see what we get up to behind closed doors."



Bang on the money



ONE2HEAR

ANOTHER of The Jack Rocks 7 is explosive indie firecrackers The Wholls.

The Bedford band make a right racket, but they do it in superb fashion. Before getting ready to hear them at TRNSMT, check out their last single X21. It's a euphoric big rock tune that will sound gorgeous in the summer sunshine over Glasgow Green. Listen to it now at thewholls.com

ONE2SEE

CABBAGE are also part of The Jack Rocks 7. They've been crossing the country and offending and entertaining in equal amounts.

But the guys aren't shy of an opinion and have lined up their Healing Brexit Towns Experiment Tour in October. It's in Dundee and Dunfermline on October 11 and 12.

Get all the info at facebook.com/cabbagetelehou

After years of not being able to put their outrageous plans into practice they are now with a record label and have a budget so they are going for it big time. Joel added: "When you're on your way up then you have to scrimp and save. You're worried about having eight hours in a studio to get two songs recorded."

"But this time we could properly explore our creativity."

"There's not much money kicking around and people are not willing to take the risk of developing bands anymore so we've been lucky. Someone has allowed us to have that freedom and invested in us. It could be a bottomless pit with us."

He laughed: "We've got massive ideas – we have dreams of doing gigs in space. We do suffer from

gravity sickness but, apart from that, we're ready to go."

Bang Bang Romeo have a jam-packed 2017. After the summer festival season, they've got their own tour – which hits Glasgow's 02 A&C on October 6.

And they expect to release their debut album early next year.

But they've already mapped out their future plans beyond that although they are lapping up being in the eye of the storm at the moment.

Richard said: "It's a whirlwind for us at the minute. Even we don't know where we are for the next couple of weeks. It's full on. We've started talking about album number two already."

"We feel we're in a rich vein of form and want to keep on." ●For more, go to bangbangromeo.com



Donnie Willow

WHO: Arthur Piddington (vocals/guitar), Sam Peppiette (bass/vocals), Peter Bunting (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Biffy Clyro, Deftones, Arcane Roots

JIM SAYS: Glasgow-based alternative rockers Donnie Willow continue to go from strength to strength with their latest EP, Exhibition.

Veering from tender melodic sounds to all out rock, there's a subtle nod to early Biffy Clyro. Some bands bland out with age, but Donnie Willow have matured into a heavier affair. They sound all the better for it, as demonstrated on tracks such as Toys and Blessed Company.

Originally from Edinburgh, the band have picked up some healthy airplay from the BBC Radio One Rock Show and Kerrang! Radio, and great reviews from the rock press and blogs.

Drummer Peter Bunting told me: "We all met in school when we were around 15. Myself and Arthur decided to start jamming after playing Guitar Hero together."

We started playing music with Sam a few months later after becoming mates on a school trip. We began to learn some covers, eventually



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

writing our own music. It was a fun hobby for the next few years. It wasn't until we all moved to Glasgow in 2012 that the band became something that we really wanted to do with our lives."

After some well-received releases, including last year's Inhale. Exhale. mini-album, they've now signed to Sunbird Records. They hooked up with Sunbird in July when playing a tour date at their venue in Darwin, Lancashire.

Peter said: "We immediately became good friends with all the team there. We've played their venue a number of times since. We're all on the same page when it comes to music and I think that's why we enjoy working with them so

much." The four-track Exhibition EP again saw them in the studio with renowned Glasgow producer Bruce Rintoul (Twin Atlantic, Fatherson). Peter said: "We've worked a lot with Bruce."

"The recording experience and end result has got better each time. He brings so much to the table and really pushes us to produce the best music we can. I believe we've achieved that with Exhibition. It exhibits our best and most passionate work to date."

"We wrote most of it during the summer of last year, with one song written right at the end of the year before recording. I feel it's definitely Arthur's best work so far."

Donnie Willow launched the EP on Friday at Nice N Sleazy in Glasgow, followed by a hometown launch last night at The Mash House in Edinburgh.

They tour across the UK for the rest of the month on a co-headline tour with Brighton's Rory Indiana. Tonight they play Think Tank? in Newcastle. The band are back in Newcastle on July 1 for the multi-venue NARC Fest.

MORE: www.donniewillow.co.uk

●Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazon Radio Sundays 2-4pm. www.amazonradio.com www.jimgellatly.com



Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk



THE new Need For Speed racing out of the shadows will be called Need For Speed Payback.

It will be developed by Ghost Games, the studio behind NFS Rivals and the 2015 NFS Reboot.

Payback looks to be a very story-driven game that has a Fast And Furious vibe. Prepare to drive the likes of a Nissan 350Z, Chevrolet Camaro SS and Ford F-150 Raptor and there is a hint to the customisation on offer.

Need For Speed Payback will be on Xbox One, PS4 and PC and is due out on November 10.

TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 Tekken 7
- 2 Overwatch
- 3 Injustice 2
- 4 Grand Theft Auto V
- 5 FIFA 17



JUST when it looked like the Forza Horizon 3 adventure was over, Turn 10 Studios and Playground Games have released a new car pack.

The Mountain Dew pack features seven cars including the 1951 Holden FX Sedan and the AMC Gremlin X. But the standout car has to be the 2016 Lotus 3-Eleven which does 0-60 in 3.3 seconds and tops 170mph.

Download the pack now for £5.79.



THIS year's London Pride event will be sponsored by PlayStation. The celebration for the LGBT community will run for two weeks, starting on June 24. Watch for #forALLthe-gamers.



THE wait is almost over – Sonic Mania has a release date.

The game – which is inspired by the classic game – is out on August 15 on Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC.

It will offer tonnes of retro levels from the classic 16-bit Sonic games along with new zones.

You'll also have a choice of three characters – Sonic, Tails and Knuckles.

The developers, Headcannon and PagodaWest Games, are huge Sonic fans so hopes are high that Mania will do the blue hedgehog the justice he deserves so we can forget about Sonic Forces.



IF I was in a real-life horror story I would want more help than a video camera.

But those were the rules for Outlast when it launched in 2013. You got a camera and your wits.

Now we have Outlast 2 and Red Barrel Games are sticking to the same theory.

You are journalist Blake Langermann and you and your wife are in a helicopter crash over Arizona. You recover consciousness to find the missus is missing – cue a 13 to 14-hour tale that is not exactly happy days.

You have to find your wife and uncover the truth behind what has happened amid a backdrop of religious cults and zealots.

It is all very unsettling and tense with a number of really scary moments, especially as you only have that camera.

It now has a directional mic to help you hear nearby enemies and it can help you flesh out the story by recording things which unlock extra audio. But you need

Outlast 2

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £23.99

to hunt for batteries to keep it running. Those hunts also uncover notes and fragments that help you solve the mystery but it's all a risky business.

The game has a more open feel than the first, with fields and cave systems to avoid the locals though it's easy to get lost. You must work your way around a mix of enemies but there's a handful who never stop chasing. That ramps up the fear factor.

The game is dark in more than looks but the character development is outstanding and the stuff of real nightmares, especially when the sound effects kick in.

There are issues – you can jump over some things but not others and some of the escape points are hit and miss.

But, as a horror story, it's a scream.



★★★★
STUART CULLEN



GET your Injustice 2 hit on the move with a special mobile version. You pick three heroes or villains to fight different modes as well as unlocking new kit. Everything is controlled by a swipe or a tap. Plus you can link your account to console version to unlock extra goodies for both versions. Free to download from the app store but there are some micro transactions.



WHEN I was at school we were always told it was a battle between good and evil.

But now it is not that simple – everything has different shades.

Even the DC Comics' superheroes have dark sides and murky secrets. Oooh my head. How can I deal with all this?

Well, a sharp dose of Injustice 2 could sort everything. It is certainly no PC parlour game. This is DC raw.

It follows on five years after the events in the original game where Superman went a bit off-piste and Batman was forced to jail him. The world is in a bad way. Bruce Wayne is trying to rebuild it while stopping the forces of evil from taking over. Then Brainiac turns up and everything goes sideways.

The story is still dark. That won't sit well with some fans but it does add a new layer to the game. The storyline is actually

Injustice 2

Xbox One and PS4 £44.99

very good and encourages you to see what happens next. It also gives a taster to the 30-plus roster of characters because you play someone new in each chapter.

NetherRealm Studios have decided the original worked so well that there was little need of changing the formula, but there are plenty of new bits like Clash battles or being able to block environmental attacks.

And the core gameplay seems to have had a speed boost. It's very smooth.

The game has a solid fighting system which is good for newcomers and more casual fighting fans.

But there are hidden depths that hard-core fighting fans will enjoy mastering, especially the combo system. There are your usual fight-

ing modes then there is multiverse which is an interesting take on daily challenges. You have a set time to complete sets of fights with twists that can help you or hang you out to dry.

There is also a huge role-playing side. You can build loadouts for your heroes from gear you win or find in loot boxes. You can buy stuff with real money but you do get a fair bit by playing the game.

Beware, any boost you may get is removed when you go online to keep things fair but you do keep the gear.

The graphics are stunning, especially the facial animation which will blow your mind and put other games to shame – looking at you, Mass Effect Andromeda. The soundtrack frames each brawl and is all backed up by some outstanding voice acting.

The game will teach you what you need to know to survive in the game but if you want to pull off 20-plus epic combos then you'll have to put in the hours.

But if you want to see whether good still triumphs over evil then check it out.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN



BUTCHER

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £7.99

BUTCHER is a meaty challenge that tests your skills and your nerve.

It is the brainchild of Polish developers Transhuman Design and it is gruesome, tough, and sweet, sweet satisfaction to play.

It takes the standard sci-fi story and flips it on its head – you aren't the space hero sent to save the day. No, you are a cyborg who is out for revenge on a space station.

There is not much story. This is all about 22 levels of a blast bonanza. It's Doom meets Super Meat Boy as you work your way through each level blasting anything that moves.

The controls are super tight as you dodge enemy fire. You can get virtually any weapon from a chainsaw to flame-throwers but the shotgun is the star of the show.

You know you're in for a rough ride when the tag line is "the easiest mode is hard" and it's true, you will die a lot.

But Butcher pushes you to get better and faster and it is super-addictive.

The graphics embody the retro look and there are some insane death animations. The gore is heavy duty – it's not youngster-friendly.

The soundtrack does a top job in setting the mood with a Doom-inspired metal vibe and the screaming audio adds to the terror.

The game needs a couple of minor tweaks – collectables let you unlock even tougher levels but you can't grab them until you finish the level. And if you die every four seconds then that soon becomes a hassle.

This is a retro blast from the past from start to finish – but it is tough and it is gory.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN



IT'S fun time next weekend in Brae-head, as Play Expo Glasgow returns.

The two-day festival will give you a chance to play some of the latest games as well as classic arcade hits and pinball machines.

There will be an indie zone where you can

check out future games being made in Scotland and further afield. And there will be a host of tournaments and cosplaying, with special guests such as Scotland's own Tiny Tigress and Lunacille. Check out play-



expoglasgow.com

RYAN Ellingham started his YouTube channel last October to beat his shyness.

Ryan, from Ayrshire, is known as The Dukez and he specialises in Gaming Let's Play videos for games like Party Hard and The Culling. He said: "I have always been a really shy person but

making these videos has enabled me to come out of my shell. The YouTube community is so supportive, which has been a massive confidence boost." He wants to create a like-minded community and some charity fundraising livestream events. Search The Dukez on YouTube.

