



By **ANNA GAULT**

ROCKERS Five Finger Death Punch told their lead singer he was going to die unless he quit the booze.

The band got tough with frontman Ivan Moody and told him to choose the band... or alcohol.

Founding member Zoltan Bathory revealed how they had to deliver the ultimatum after Ivan's problems interfered with touring.

Bassist Zoltan said: "It got to the point where the band actually had to have an intervention."

"We had to give him the ultimatum as it was the second tour that he couldn't finish.

"It was really about his life. We had to step in and say, 'It's 100 per cent you are going to die if this continues - it's not even a question'. In the last two or three years we have lost so many musicians - so many of them are gone to unnatural causes.

"We just had to step in and say, 'Look, you're next, if you are not going to stop' and it's not going to happen on our watch. It was tough love, we said, 'You have to choose the band or alcohol but you can't have both.'"

This is the first time we've seen him sober

Ivan appeared to quit the group during an on-stage meltdown in Tilburg, Netherlands, during the summer.

But instead he checked himself into rehab and returned to the band in August.

Zoltan explained that, now sober, Ivan is finally appreciating what it means to be in a rock band. He said: "He chose the band and went to rehab and it was a struggle for him as he has been doing it for decades now.

"He has sober coaches with him and the band around to guide and help him.

"This is the first time we have seen him sober.

"It's like he has woken up and realised he is a rock star - it's so much fun.

"It's great to experience everything through his eyes because we have been around the world but he doesn't remember it."

But it wasn't just Ivan who struggled, Zoltan admits the band's antics got so out of hand even ex-Motley Crue frontman Nikki Sixx couldn't handle it.

He said: "I was trying to keep it a secret from the world what a massive crazy circus this is.

"People know Motley Crue - those guys are out of their mind. We toured many times with Nikki



REFORMED ... Ivan performing on stage, main pic, the band with bass player Zoltan, second right,

Sixx, below, and he comes over to our dressing room shaking his head and goes, 'Guys, you are out of your mind'. That is kind of the seal of the approval, but if he is saying that then you should stamp on the brakes."

The five-piece have now slowed down their partying ways to make sure they can keep touring and their fans happy.

He added: "This is kind of the time when everyone in the band has sobered up. There is a

moment in your career when you realise this is for real and that the band have a responsibility that whatever we do, whatever we say, it immediately goes worldwide.

"We don't have to be goody two shoes, it's rock and roll, but when a band becomes this big, you become a role model in a way.

"We were one of the lucky ones, I guess, that all of the antics and crazy stuff we were doing didn't really

catch up to us to the point where it was full on destruction."

FFDF have gone gold and platinum across the world and are one of the most successful heavy metal bands of the decade.

The band are playing the SSE Hydro tomorrow night and, after humble beginnings, they are looking forward to giving fans a real show.

Zoltan, who is originally from Hungary, said: "We have been to Scotland before and, even in the very first tours, we played small clubs but they always sold out and

the audience was absolutely crazy. This is going to be the first time that we can come with a full production - the way a rock band is supposed to look.

"We have been promising this forever because in the States we blew up and we can headline arenas there and had a proper set-up with trucks and trucks and lasers and all that's needed for a proper rock show.

"I am looking forward to finally fulfilling that promise to our Scottish fans."

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RACHELLE RHIENCE

WHERE: Balloch, West Dunbartonshire
FOR FANS OF: Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift, Rita Ora
JIM SAYS: With her latest single Candle, Rachelle takes another stride towards stardom. She has been writing songs since she was 12.

The 24-year-old told me: "I really loved English in school and I was always writing stories in my free time and in class.

"The stories eventually transitioned into songs, putting melodies to them and making them rhyme. I love using metaphors and similes in my songs as I like to use lyrics that a lot of people can relate to for different reasons."

At 16 she became a professional singer and recording artist, starting to meet and network with others in the industry. That led to writing for other artists, collaborating with producers and writers as well as writing for herself.

Driven by her love of pop music, the songs are unashamedly commercial. She said: "I have always been passionate about pop music, but writing for other artists has helped develop my skills, taking in other genres like soul, R&B, reggae and dance. I've explored a couple of these for myself as an artist, but I'm now back to my roots



NEW MUSIC

By **Jim Gellatly**

writing and singing pop." Rachelle released her debut single Captivity in 2015 followed by the tracks Loving You Is Easy and Words Of Poison.

Last year she had a productive trip to France for the massive Midem event in Cannes. She hooked up with Kris Mitra, from London-based Bright Star Records. She said: "We decided to work together on my music, releasing a string of singles and music videos."

In August she released a new single When The Sun Goes Down. A summery slice of pop with a tropical feel, it came complete with a stunning video shot in Sardinia.

But I reckon Candle is her best yet. She said:

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

"It's a fun-filled pop track written solely to inspire and bring joy to listeners and give them warm and happy vibes during the cold days of winter."

The track was co-written and produced alongside BAFTA-nominated Gary White, whose credits include Emma Bunton and Cheryl.

Aside from creating her own music, Rachelle presents From Rachelle With Love on Dumbarton-based Your Radio.

She said: "I'd been in a few times for interviews and live performances. A couple of years ago they offered me my own slot presenting love songs on Sunday nights."

Looking ahead to 2018, Rachelle has big plans. She explained: "Early next year, I'll be releasing another single and music video.

"I'll also be travelling to London, Birmingham and Sweden to write and collaborate with producers, building up more singles for release and working towards an album.

"The goal is to create a buzz around my music and build my fanbase."

MORE: rachellerhiennemusic.com
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com

GAMES



UBISOFT'S Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege has passed the 25 million registered player mark.

And there's more - the latest update, Operation White Noise, is out across all platforms. It adds the Myeok Tower map, which is set above the streets of Seoul in South Korea, and three new operatives - South Koreans Dokkaebi and Vigil and Pole Zofia.

Operation White Noise is the final update in the Year Two plans but, as we told you a few weeks ago, Ubisoft have already lined up Year Three.

It will kick off with Operation Chimera at the beginning of next year.

TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 Call Of Duty: WWII
- 2 FIFA 18
- 3 Star Wars Battlefront II
- 4 Super Mario Odyssey
- 5 Assassin's Creed Origins

STREETFIGHTER fans are in for a 2018 treat. Capcom are releasing Street Fighter 30th Anniversary Collection.

It has every Street-Fighter game from the original to 3: Third Strike.

There's also a museum mode, which lets you look at concept art, character bios and has lots of interesting info for each game as well as a music player so you can tune into the iconic series music.

The MEGA bundle is due out next May for Xbox One, PS4, PC and, interestingly, the Switch.

WORLD War Z is getting the game treatment. Saber Interactive is working on a four-player co-op based on the book and film series. No word yet if Glasgow will make a cameo role.



THE Game Awards have hailed the stars of 2017 in Los Angeles.

The biggest winner was The Legend of Zelda: Breath Of The Wild.

It bagged Game of the Year, Best Game Direction and Best Action/Adventure Game.

Microsoft indie darling Cuphead bagged Best Art Direction, Best Independent Game and Best Debut Indie Game.

Sony's Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice won Best Audio Design, Games for Impact and a Best Performance for Melina Juergen.

PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds took Best Multiplayer.



THERE are a lot of career racing games on the market, but sometimes you just go fast in a hot-looking motor.

Step forward Need For Speed.

Payback is wrapped in a Fast And The Furious-type tale which focuses on betrayal and vengeance. It tries hard to make you care about the characters, but it's really just the glue that holds together the over-the-top high-speed attack scenes.

You face off a mix of race crews while working your way to the top and getting revenge. It's standard stuff but it is not helped by some dreadful dialogue. It tries to be cool but often falls flat and is just naff.

The gameplay tries to save the day. You are let loose in an open world which has more than a hint of real life as you race through a mix of cities, deserts and forests.

The Fast And The Furious vibe is strong in the missions - you do OTT tasks but, instead of playing them to their conclusion, you race until a cut scene of a character being a hero. That's all well and good but I want to climb on a truck at high speed, not watch it.

The driving is pure arcade stuff. You can pull off epic drifts and smash cop cars off the road and then

Need for Speed Payback

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £49.99

try to escape. Racing games are all about the cars and this is no different.

There is a good garage with everything from American muscle to drift monsters and you can tweak and mechanic them to your heart's content. You get six speed-card slots on each car and you can tool them with a host of perks.

But there is an issue in that this system gives you a feeling you're grinding your way through the game. Even worse, there are microtransactions, but the developers are patching and improving things.

The game looks OK but it is not as smart as other racers out there.

The soundtrack left me wanting more and I can't accept the voice acting.

Need For Speed Payback is a bit like a blockbuster it's in your face and over the top.

It's at its best when you just play it and try to go as fast as you can. Enjoy the show.

★★★★ **STUART CULLEN**

Shoot for the Stars

STAR Wars fever is gripping the country with the launch of The Last Jedi.

But game fans are also getting their fix with DICE and EA's Star Wars Battlefront II.

This time you can sink your teeth into a campaign as well as lock and load for some full-blown online battles.

The campaign is a short affair - between four and five hours - but that is pretty much all you need. It kicks off well with you as Iden Versio, below, the leader of elite Imperial Special Commando Unit, the Inferno Squad.

The game aims to fill in the some of the story blanks between Return Of The Jedi and The Force Awakens as you watch the fall of the Empire but it doesn't quite hold your interest or imagination.

There are a few missions that will excite you - you can play as fan-favourite characters, which is quite good fun.

The biggest selling point

Star Wars Battlefront II

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £49.99

for Battlefront II is online, where you'll fight it out over a mix of classic Star Wars locations from all the films.

You can be a Clone and fight droids, take on AT-AT walkers on Hoth or take to the sky for epic dogfights in starfighter assaults.

The core gameplay is built around a system where you can pick from different classes, getting the right man for the mission in hand. There are plenty of challenges across a handful of modes, including having to escort transport and having to blast your way to victory in a team deathmatch.

Brownie points go to the developers for the look - it is simply stunning. It is a real visual treat, although it has to be said that the faces on some of the more famous characters face are a little odd.

For instance, I'm not sure

what happened to Luke Skywalker but it is just not right.

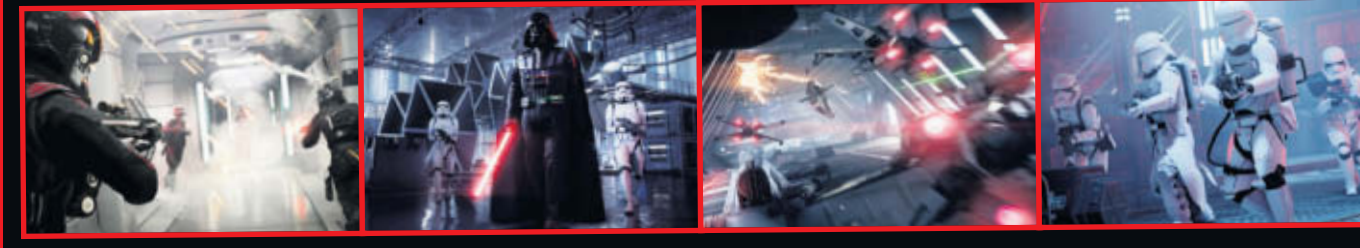
The sound is much better. If you close your eyes you'd think you were watching the movies as lasers whirl and explosions erupt around you, plus the voice acting is solid.

Now we come to the elephant in the room - the loot system. There have been plenty of headlines and none of them have been good. You can't have a system where you have to play for hours and hours in a bid to get a major character, or worse, shell out for a loot box that may, or may not, unlock that figure.

It is a massive mistake from EA and they will have their work cut out to recover from it. They are working hard to fix things, but they are not there yet.

If you are a fan, then Battlefront II is an epic firefight. The big question is how long it will take to sort the poor choices made at launch.

★★★★ **STUART CULLEN**



TURN 10 and 343 Industries are teaming up to bring Halo-themed race suits to Forza 7. This first one can be unlocked if you'd played Halo 5: Guardians, Halo: The Master Chief Collection, and/or Halo Wars 2 before November 30. A Master Chief and Vale suits

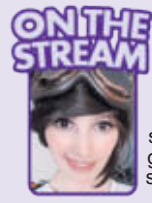


are up for grabs if you complete the December Car Pack Challenge, December Bounty Hunter, Make A Run or Cold Runner over December. Sadly, no word if the Warthog will be added to the game, but it does come after a Gears Of War suit was released, so expect more.

ALICE Perry is best known as Squeakehb in the streaming and cosplay world - and she loves having a laugh.

She is a fan of the likes of Overwatch and Horizon Zero Dawn but also enjoys general chat about gaming and cosplay.

She feels her community is the



most important part of the show and hopes it grows in the future.

She also wants to break some of the stigmas around how women are seen within gaming and streaming.

She said: "It's really important to show that us 'girl gamers' are just as great as the guys." Go to twitch.tv/squeakehb or follow @squeakehb



Oh My Godheads

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £11.99

TAKE a break from the Christmas movies by firing up Oh My Godheads and having a blast with some pals.

The Titutitech game is a fast and frenetic multiplayer affair which sees up to four players fight in different arenas in a bid to be crowned champion.

There are five modes - from Capture the Head to King of the Head - and a series of trials where you can polish up your skills.

Or you can add AI bots to the other modes if you want some "me" time.

You pick the Godhead to fight in the match and winning the head will give you different powers. However, some powers are good and others are not so welcome.

It all spices up the overall gameplay, especially as you also have other players trying to stop you.

There are ten arenas - from Egypt to Cambodia. There is even a Scotland map. You also get a good mix of characters - from for an explorer to a penguin with a monocle - but they all play the same.

There is a cute, colourful art style which actually mixes well with the OTT violence. The soundtrack adds a neat beat that is inspired by the location of the arena. And the Mortal Kombat-style announcer is a nice touch.

It is more of a group game than a bit of solo fun, so roll on Christmas.

★★★★ **STUART CULLEN**

