



EXCLUSIVE
by COLAN LAMONT

A FUNK rock band are wearing false faces to protest against fake news.

Falkirk-based group Beldon Haigh And The Mother of All Bands perform while wearing incredibly lifelike masks of political figures.

And the prosthetics – bought last year – cost a whopping **£20,000**.

Lead singer Beldon says: “We decided to create an album with five or six political songs on it. They are quite powerful and one is about fake news and how it’s poisoning our lives and creating a massive division in society.

“Another theme is how society as a whole seems to lack compassion now. “I started writing songs about this because it’s what I thought about during the day and dreamed about at night.”

The frontman says the band put in a lot of consideration as to which band member would wear which mask – choosing from US President Donald Trump, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He says: “I thought we’d have Putin on the drums because he’s laying down the beat, he clearly interfered in the US election and probably Brexit. He and Trump



have a very close relationship so we put Trump on bass.

“Then Kim Jung-un seems to thrust himself into the limelight and lead guitarists by nature are often exhibitionists.

“He knows how to grab headlines so he seemed like a natural.”

Now valued at more than £30,000, the masks were created by sculptor Landon Meier, who is based in Denver, Colorado.

But Trump is worth more than the rest because of the detail that went into his infamous blond locks. Beldon says: “If you look at Putin or Kim Jong-un’s hair, there’s not as much work involved.”

The masks even feel like real skin but their material makes them very heavy. He adds: “We need to give the guys breaks every so often.

“The way our set is constructed, there are little times they can take the masks off quickly and get a breather. It gets pretty sweaty in there as well and they need to get some water.”

He’s already been offered good money from collectors – but is adamant they will remain with the band no matter how much people are prepared to cough up.

He says: “Some of these masks sell for £40,000 each because collectors love his stuff and they do look exactly like the real people so we did a deal to buy them. “The idea was these masks then become

Unmasking fake politics

FALSE START
... band stand out with masks they bought last year



part of our whole act, the way we do videos, the way we do live shows, and it summed up what we wanted in our visual look and the entertainment we wanted to give people.

“It’s almost like buying a stage show – if I invested this amount into that then people would probably think that’s all right. The masks sound incredibly extravagant but not really, it’s all about putting on an incredible show.”

Beldon has been stunned by the worldwide reaction to the group, which formed three years ago.

People all over the globe have tuned in

to watch their videos and the group has millions of views on social media.

Last month, they performed at the Liquid Room for the Edinburgh Fringe.

Beldon says: “They have a massive impact. It’s hard to describe, it’s a sort of jaw-dropping moment when people see them and it’s difficult to understand because they look so real.

“It’s hard to take your eyes off them.

“We are there to entertain people and I think that, as part of being in a band, you put on a show and don’t take yourselves too seriously – and that’s hard to do when wearing a Donald Trump mask.”

successive release our reach seems to have broadened, which is obviously very satisfying, and fans of the newer singles will go back and discover the older ones too.”

Pelts hope to release their debut album early next year. Graham said: “It’s effectively been fully written and arranged and is in the early stages of recording.”

Having previously supported cult acts such as Teleman and The Hidden Cameras, Graham’s pretty excited about their next live outing. Along with their label Ify Folk, they are promoting the debut Scottish appearance from Swedish-based electronic duo Us. They are fronted by former Geneva man Andrew Montgomery, originally from East Kilbride.

On Saturday Andrew will be playing a Geneva set at O2 Academy Glasgow as part of the Star Shaped Festival. Friday night sees Us and Pelts appear at Glasgow’s Glad Café.

Graham told me: “I’ve been a big fan of Andrew’s incredible voice ever since the very first time I heard a song by Geneva.”
More: www.pelts.band
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com



You can listen to the band at: thescottishsun.co.uk

PELTS

WHERE: Glasgow.

WHO: Graham McCarey (vocals/guitar), Natasha Radmehr (vocals), Stuart Brown (bass), Oily Stockman (guitar/keys/vocals), Ralph Hector (keys/vocals), Ben Brown (drums).

FOR FANS OF: The National, Camera Obscura, Arcade Fire.

JIM SAYS: Pelts claim to have got together through a shared desire to create “cheerful chamber pop”. They admit something went wrong as the sound took a turn in the other direction.

Graham explained: “We initially started making quite bright sunny music. It didn’t come entirely naturally, but we persisted and decided we had invented a new genre called ‘Gospel Shoegaze’.

“The music had other ideas however and slowly but surely became decidedly darker, but still with a wry sense of humour. That’s the direction it has continued to take, but we still surprise ourselves with some tonal tangents.”

What they have created is a sound that recalls classic Scottish acts like The Delgados and Belle & Sebastian, as well as early Snow



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

Patrol. Their latest double A-side single Who Could Love Me Now?/Another Place shows a band not afraid to experiment, but capable of creating something of beauty.

With two main vocalists there’s a lovely dynamic. Natasha takes the lead on Who Could Love Me Now?, a brooding melancholic anthem, while the dual vocals on the rockier Another Place work a treat.

Neither song deserves second billing, so a double A-side makes sense. Indeed, Steve Lamacq at BBC Radio 6 Music has elected to play both on his show.

It’s Pelts’ third double A-side release, following a couple of stand-alone digital singles.

Graham told me: “With each



Overcooked 2

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £19.99

THE first Overcooked game was a blast of culinary fun and a perfect co-op game – easy to pick up but hard to master with a partner.

Well, Ghost Town Games and Team 17 have dished up a second portion with Overcooked 2, building on the solid foundations of the first.

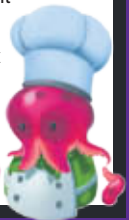
It’s an over-the-top story where you have to stop the un-bread – yes, zombie loaves – preventing you serving customers.

Starting off nice and easy, you’ll soon find yourself having to fight conveyor belt systems and kitchens built on floating rafts that split up every so often. Overall, the difficulty has been ramped up since the first game.

You have more tasks from tenderising meat to chopping veg, and even doing dishes, so planning your menu is key. But fear not, as you can team up with up to three pals, offline and online, although this highlights how important communication is – bring your mic.

The game has a colourful art style, packed with charm, and a soundtrack to match. On the downside, solo action loses some fun factor, but if you’re after a blast with a pal, it’s the perfect.

★★★★
STUART CULLEN



THE new season of Tekken 7 gets under way this week with fan favourites Lei and Anna returning along with new costumes, hairstyles and accessories.

Lei Wulong enters the fight in a bid to meet his idol Lucky Chloe, as well as investigate the G Corp-

ration and its shady leader Kazuya Mishima. Anna Williams wants answers after finding her fiancé dead and her sister Nina fleeing the scene.

They’re available as part of the Season Pass 2.

Version 2.0 also improves each character’s move set.



Dead Cells

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £19.99

EVERY so often a game takes the best parts of other titles and some original ideas to make something just a little special – and that’s just what Motion Twin have done with Dead Cells.

The game is a rogue-Metroidvania game at its core where you play as... well, a ball of green goo which brings a dead body back to life in a prison cell and sets about escaping.

Simple, but it’s more about the journey than the destination, as you’re thrown into a fast-paced world of combat and exploration.

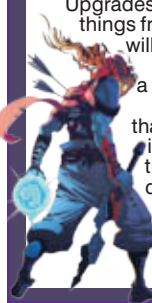
Expect to die a lot, but this gives you the opportunity for choices that unlock new areas.

Upgrades and new weapons help keep things fresh, and the wide range of enemies will keep you sharp.

With a moody pixel art style, there’s a fitting retro vibe to this.

Dead Cells is a challenging title that tries to blend a lot of different ideas together and, overall, it pulls them off. If you’re not a fan of Metroidvania games it may be a short-lived adventure for you – but fans will love it from start to finish.

★★★★
STUART CULLEN



ACTIVISION and Treyarch have finally shed some light on the new Battle Royale mode Blackout in Call of Duty: Black Ops 4. Teaser images of parts of Blackout were sent to content creators across

Europe and the US – and some bright cookies put them together. Nuketown Island, Array and Train Station are all there, hinting at past maps. Blackout Beta goes live tomorrow on the PS4.



XBOX, Square Enix and eBay teamed up to help US animal charity Best Friends with a very special auction. The three tech firms auctioned off a one-of-a-kind Shadow of the Tomb

Raider Xbox One with a Mayan-inspired 3D design and a custom controller. The lot raised an incredible \$8,300 (£6,419) for the charity, which prevents animals in shelters being put down.

Agents are going to be really special

REBELLION’S Ben Fisher reckons this is just the start of the jolly adventure for the Strange Brigade’s band of spiffing special agents.

The studio design lead says his team had a blast creating the classic Boy’s Own/Indiana Jones style co-op romp.

David, from Milngavie, near Glasgow, explained: “Myself and the team have really fallen in love with the world of Strange Brigade. We would love to see more adventures from our heroes.”

The game’s back story and world was influenced by the Strange Brigade book and comic – penned by Scot Gordon Rennie, who is also part of the Rebellion writing team.

But David says the initial idea came from one of their horror shooter multiplayer.

He said: “A few years ago we released a game called Zombie Army Trilogy, where you fight against hordes of Nazi undead. The game had a very ‘80s direct to VHS’ horror atmosphere, and we

wanted to try something that progressed from what we learned from that project, but brand new, brighter and with an atmosphere that would appeal to non-horror fans.

“The 1930s rip-roaring adventure soon came to life. The core characters are all inspired by the sort of archetypes you see in 1930s Saturday matinee movies and pulp adventure novels.

“We wanted them all to be cool, memorable characters, with a tongue-in-cheek old-fashioned atmosphere.

“We developed concepts for a wide range of characters that fit that tone, and chose the four that were the best fit for an adventure in the ruins of ancient Egypt.”

But it is not just the heroes David reckons fans will go crazy for – there are also the villains. He explained: “Starting from the idea of a classic 1930s

adventure in ancient Egypt, there were a good number of enemies that were the sort of thing that players would obviously want to face – mummies, scarabs, giant scorpions, and so on.

“When we had the base set worked out, and rounded it out with some memorable set-piece monsters and boss fights, we had a nice range of enemies for the player to face.”

A big part of the game is the tale behind the action and Fisher feel that it grabs that timeframe perfectly.

He said: “Each mission is like an episode of a serial movie that goes from cliffhanger to cliffhanger. The adventure takes the Strange Brigade through many different locations in North Africa, and their adventures link together to tell their story as they try to track down Seteki, the ancient witch queen.” Rebellion are well



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Fired-up Brigade



YOU can download a fifth member of the Strange Brigade for FREE right now – Winston Bey, a gentleman explorer with a talent for poisons. But be quick – he’s only FREE for the first 30 days of the game’s launch, £5.59 to buy afterwards.



STRANGE BRIGADE is an action-packed co-op third-person shooter that will have you hooked.

This adventure across the globe with Rebellion’s latest tale is a blast from the first shoot to the last reload.

The studio is best known for the Sniper Elite series of games and its DNA also runs through this game.

The player takes on the role of one of four different adventurers working for a shadowy wing of the British Secret Service which deals with the occult.

The game takes place in the 1930s with the Brigade heading to Egypt after an incident at a dig site.

Cue tons of action with bags of British wit and charm, and more than a splash of the supernatural, as you unearth more than you expect – and end up having to save the world from an ancient evil.

The tale is a fun romp where charm and cheese stay just on the right side of the line.

It’s all backed up by the games narrator who adds an extra layer of Britishness to the game as well as more than a few laugh-out-loud

Strange Brigade

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £39.99

moments. On the gameplay front, things are split into two main focusses.

The first is simply shooting everything that moves – from mummies and zombies to huge scorpions and swarms of scarabs.

The second is puzzles and, for the most part, the game strikes a good balance between them. Most of the puzzles are linked with finding bonus areas and extra loot.

More often than not, the puzzles will need a healthy dose of teamwork to be completed as the hints are often on the other side of the area and you often only get three attempts to solve them before it becomes locked.

As for the gunplay? Well, it’s fun and enjoyable as you get an arsenal of firepower to choose from – such as sub-machineguns, shotguns and snipers.

Each weapon has its pros and cons, so talking to your team before a mission can help you pick the right set-up.

On top of that you also get a magic amulet which gives you a special attack once you have filled the meter. The attacks are OK, and while they never really hit as hard as you would have hoped, they can save your bacon

in a bind. Each character has their own amulet, which create unique attacks.

Outside of the main story, there is a horde mode (where you’ll have to fight off wave after wave of nasties) and also the score attack mode (which does what it says on the tin).

Visually, the game looks great at times with a nice level of detail, both in the world and on the characters – although we did get a little slow-down when things really got going.

Soundtrack-wise, it all fits the tale while timeframe and the voice acting are solid and really add to the game – with the narrator stealing the show.

On the downside, the biggest issue is that this is a co-op game and is great with friends but when you play it on your tod the game doesn’t give you AI back-up, so you have to go it alone. That’s great if you are looking for collectables or just want to explore the world – but it’s just not as fun.

Also, there are a number of boss fights in the game which, nine times out of ten, end up feeling like a bit of a grind as they are just big bullet sponges, which is a shame.

But these issues never really take away from the fun of Strange Brigade when you are in the thick of it with your friends battling the forces of evil. It’s a blast and a must-play.

★★★★
STUART CULLEN



THE Battlefield V beta is in full swing and DICE also released more details about the upcoming game.

The cinematic trailer details a number of key features for the new shooter as well as the first details on the new battle royale mode, Firestorm.

Sixteen teams of four will battle it out on what DICE are calling Battlefield’s biggest ever map – which looks to be a HUGE sandbox with dozens of vehicles. The video also shed light on the single-player War Stories which, like Battlefield 1, will each have a chapter as a standalone tale.

Four stories will be available at release with another, The Last Tiger, hinting that you fight as Axis forces instead of Alias.

TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

1. F1 2018
2. Pro Evolution Soccer 2019
3. Grand Theft Auto V
4. Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy
5. Yakuza Kiwami 2

THE PlayStation 2 is officially dead as Sony has pulled the final plug on the system. It’s been some years since the firm built the console but now Sony have stopped the aftercare service.

PlayStation Clinic stopped accepting and fixing broken consoles on September 7 with any sent after that date not being serviced.

So if your PS2 packs up in the future you can’t go to Sony to get it fixed.

The PlayStation 2 still stands as the world’s most successful console, having sold more than 150million units worldwide.

NETFLIX have announced that Superman and Mission Impossible: Fallout star Henry Cavill will play the lead role of Geralt in the web-based subscription service’s Witcher series.



RAINBOW Six Siege’s latest update Operation Grim Sky has landed with some beefy improvements.

Two new operatives have been added to the ever-growing roster and the Hereford Base map has been reworked from the ground up. And a host of balance changes, including Thatcher and Twitch, have been tweaked. It also adds dynamic resolution scaling on console to improve looks and performance.

The two new characters – Maverick and Clash – both pack a punch. Maverick has a blowtorch which can burn holes in walls while Clash is the first shield-based defender in the game.