

the **Sunday** GAMES & MUSIC



HIDEO KOJIMA STRANDS TALL

GAMING legend Hideo Kojima stole the show when he took to the stage at Gamescom.

The cult hero was in Cologne, Germany, to show off his new creation, *Death Stranding*, above.

He revealed some action scenes and revealed some new details like deep dive trailers on characters played by Margaret Qualley and movie-making icon Guillermo del Toro.

Hideo also showed gameplay where Sam — played by *Walking Dead* Star Norman Reedus — had to deliver a package to Geoff Keighley, pictured below with Hideo, who even has a cameo in the game.

It was all weird but stunning — there was a huge open world but you could pull a ladder out your back pocket.

Oh, and you can PEE and it can be weaponised. You also have to soothe a baby. And there is breast-feeding. See, we said weird.

It is all part of the Gamescom showdown — where the biggest names spill the beans on what's hot in the industry. More than half a million gamers wanted news and those who couldn't get over to Germany feverishly tuned into a series of E3-style conferences that where streamed.

The Opening Night show was hosted by Keighley and his team — who are also behind The Game Awards each year. It was a slick showcase of trailers and first sights.

The headlines...

● **CALL OF DUTY**, above, will feature 100 player matches as well as being truly a cross-platform effort.

If you are quick you can try the alpha test running on the PS4 this weekend.

● **MICROSOFT** dropped a lot of **GEARS 5** news ahead of next month's launch.

There was a story mode trailer and a look at the reworked horde.

It is now very character-focused with each member having a special skill.

You can play as Jack in

horde, with brave little bot playing more of a support role than a frontline hero although he can hijack enemies and fight them.

To celebrate Halo Reach joining the MCC bout, Noble members Emile and Kat, pictured bottom, are in the COG as an unlockable treat with the ultimate edition.

The new **Gears 5** hardware range includes a themed Xbox One and external hard drive and a frosty looking Razer Turret.

● **GEARS POP**, the Funko themed Gears of War free-to-download real-time multiplayer mobile title, launched this week on both Android and iOS.

● **MICROSOFT** shared details about their X019 event in London this November 14. Tickets are £19 and all takings will go to charity.

● **NINTENDO** used their Indie World show to break the news that both the Hotline Miami Collection, left, and Superhot are now out on the Switch.

● **THE** first DLC for **METRO EXODUS** was made available. Two Colonel is a linear mission that takes you back in time to experience the city of Novosibirsk during its downfall. It also adds a new flame-thrower to turn up the heat in the proceedings.

● **FREE-to-play** Battle Royale title **VIGOR** has come out of earlier than expected.

● **SONY** shadow launched **ERICA**, a sort of interactive movie where you shape the tale.

● **CYBERPUNK 2077** will be heading to Google stadia. A brief gameplay trailer showed hacking in action as well as riding a motorcycle.

● **NBA 2K20** will feature a star-studded roster in its new career mode. Expect performances from Idris Elba, Rosario Dawson, Thomas Middleditch, Ernie Hudson and LeBron James.

● **NEED FOR Speed** Heat has an app which lets you build and design your own wraps then transfer them to the game. Out now.

SET FOR A TITANIC FIGHT

THE first two games in the Attack On Titan series were faithful to the original tale.

Now Omega Force have served up a beefy update for the mass manga and anime hit with Final Battle.

It's worth noting that this can be bought as a full stand-out title or as a DLC upgrade for the second game.

But however you cut it, if you're a fan there is a lot to get stuck into.

Final Battle adds action from the third series of the anime or, if you're reading the manga, it's approximately

A.O.T.2 Final Battle

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £49.99

up to chapter 90. Our review of the core AOT 2 game earned it three-and-a-half stars — and we reckoned it was as close to being in the show as you can get.

Now you can play the third series content as set characters instead of your custom hero. That opens up a number of new paths on the timeline, but it can feel rushed and bogged down as you swap about. The

gameplay has had a few tweaks and feels a bit more accessible to newcomers, plus there are new attacks such as the Gatling gun and thunder spear. There is also a new mode — Territory — which is a bit of a "what if" mode where you build a base and team. It is a real time sink.

AOT 2 Final Battle is a strong addition to a great foundation.

Fans will lap it up. Newcomers should give it a go.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN



MARIO'S ON THE LEVEL

NINTENDO has never been a company that follows the crowd.

They are trailblazers in motion controllers, and even cardboard fun with Labo.

So it was no surprise when Super Mario Maker hit the Wii U.

It lets you build your own Mario levels from across the 2D series, but history tells us only **SIX** actually bought that system, so the game is greatly forgotten.

Well, that was until now. Super Mario Maker 2 has just hit the Switch.

It takes the core idea of the first games but adds some tweaks and twists to create something a little bit special.

The game now comes with a story mode where you have to

looking to dish out justice everywhere from neon-lit rooftops to seedy airport hangars and dirty sewers.

She travels with her trusty electric guitar on her back — and that isn't just for her musical talents. It lands with a hefty thud when she wields it against the thugs.

The cartoon vibe looks great. We can't wait.

● **ORI And The Blind Forest** will be heading to the Switch as part of the growing relationship between Microsoft and Nintendo — one that included Cuphead and Super Lucky's Tale.



● **SONY** have bought Marvel's Spider-Man developer Insomniac Games. The news comes as Sony revealed Marvel's Spider-Man had sold an eye-watering

13.2million copies. It wasn't all happy, happy, happy though because Sony and Disney have gone all huffy over who has custody of Spider-Man at the weekends.



● **IT'S** time to set your sights on the new Sniper Ghost Warrior instalment — Contracts is out on PC, PS4 and Xbox One on November 22. It aims to be a back-

Clone Wolf is fun blast

REMASTERS are as much a way of giving games a facelift as a chance for forgotten hidden gems to shine once again.

FromSoftware's (yes, the team behind Dark Souls) Metal Wolf Chaos XD — which has been an exclusive to Japan for the past 15 years — is just that.

And there lies the pros and cons of the game.

The whole saga clocks in at round seven hours as you play as the 47th President of the United States, Michael Wilson, who has to take back the country from his Vice-President.

Oh, and you also pilot a mech suit that is so armed to the teeth it would make Arnie blush.

As tales go it's cheesy, over the top and well...total non-

Metal Wolf Chaos XD

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £20.99

sense. Some truly dreadful B movie voice acting just adds to the whole feel.

Beyond the visuals getting a bump, Metal Wolf Chaos XD has a lot of the hangovers you'd expect from a 15-year-old game, such as dull mission structure and poor checkpoint placement.

That said, in the heat of battle it is fun blasting enemies and clearing the streets with all the toys at your disposal.

Metal Wolf Chaos XD is an odd beast, as it is a true dinosaur

in gaming terms and was a real myth of a title, but it now has a second wind beyond its home shores.

★★★

STUART CULLEN

Light show

We Happy Few: Lightbearer

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £6.47

IT may only be rock and roll but We Happy Few likes it — as it returns with its second DLC tale, Lightbearer.

You are thrust into the groovy shoes of Nick Lightbearer — the series' rock star.

Imagine The Beatles and you'll have a good idea of what's in store.

The tale evolves around you waking up after a bit of a "rough" drug-and-drink-fuelled night to find you have no memory of the night before.

You must retrace your path to find out what happened — and it all evolves into a murder mystery.

Fans will feel at home straight away, but Nick does have a few new attacks with his trusty guitar. He can also throw a gold record or two.

There are a number of unlocks to grab along the way as well as golden statues which help guide you along the right path.

Like the first DLC, *They Came From Below*, this is a very condensed return.

It clocks in at just under two hours and isn't as tight in some areas as you would hope given the time since the game's launch.

However, if you're hungry for more We Happy Few thrills, then this encore is a hit.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN



RAINBOW STOKES THE EMBER

COLOUR us a Rainbow — the new Six Siege session, Operation Ember Rise, has broken cover. You get attacker Amaru from Peru. She has a grappling hook launcher which is great for taking out careless

enemies in windows. Then Mexican defender Goyo has a shield that can block pathways and he can attach a bomb to it — making a great trap or last line of defence. The Kanal map is being reworked to make it easier to navigate and two new staircases

make it more vertical. The game also looks to be adding Fortnite-style Battle Passes — where you can earn bonuses and a paid-for pass where you can earn more goodies more quickly. There is also a Mini Battle Pass called Call Me Harry.

TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 Crash Team Racing Nitro-Fueled
- 2 Super Mario Maker 2
- 3 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
- 4 Grand Theft Auto V
- 5 F1 2019



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

MARK SHARP & THE BICYCLE THIEVES

WHERE: Whitburn, West Lothian
WHO: Mark Sharp (vocals/guitar), Cameron McKay (guitar), Conor Ward (bass), Darren Moran (keyboards/synth), Michael McCrossan (drums)

FOR FANS OF: Stereophonics, The Verve, Courteeners

JIM SAYS: In his hit song Bruises, Lewis Capaldi sings: "There must be something in the water." That could be said of Whitburn.

At Edinburgh Summer Sessions this month, Lewis was supported by two bands from his home town.

It was not just a favour for pals but acts already starting to make a big impact. The Snuts have a major record deal while Mark Sharp & The Bicycle Thieves are going from strength to strength.

Along with Edinburgh favourites Indigo Velvet, another West Lothian act Luke La Volpe from Bathgate completed an all Scottish line-up at his two Princes Street Gardens concerts. Mark said: "The whole experience was incredible. To share the stage with Lewis as well as our other good mates was something special."

The fact Lewis invited all his friends to support him at such huge gigs just goes to show the type of person he is, so hats off to him."

He said: "It's good to see local acts finally get the credit they deserve. We've always looked after each other over the years."

Mark Sharp & The Bicycle Thieves have built up a considerable following. The launch gig for debut single Fools in 2017 sold out in a matter of days, and the venues are getting bigger. Mark said: "It started out just myself. The songs and gigs grew then so did the band. That brought the recordings to life, so we decided to put a title on it and became Mark Sharp & The Bicycle Thieves."

"It comes from an old 50s Italian film that I came across one day in a record shop. It jumped out at me."

On Friday the band appear at The Shed in Glasgow's Southside as part of the four-day Indian Summer festival, featuring a different venue each day and also taking in SWG3, Broadcast and BAAd.

The Shed gig is headlined by Kyle Falconer of The View fame. Mark Sharp & The Bicycle Thieves have a busy weekend ahead. Saturday WD On The Pitch, the music and beer festival in Coatbridge, then back to West Lothian on Sunday to headline Bathgate's free Party In The Park community festival.

Mark said: "Party In The Park is celebrating its 10th anniversary and we're honoured to be asked to headline in such an important year. The event has showcased some of the best upcoming acts over the past decade, including Lewis."

Meanwhile, the latest single Tippy Toes is another cracker and already a live favourite. Mark added: "It's possibly my favourite so far and a perfect example of how versatile we can be with our music."

MORE: facebook.com/marksharp-musician

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

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