

s f t w

MOVIES

TOP 5
DVDs

1. The New Mutants
 2. Roald Dahl's The Witches
 3. Vanguard
 4. Tenet
 5. The Blackout - Invasion Earth
- officialcharts.com

WATCHING the story of the early days of China's initial Covid outbreak might be the last thing you fancy during lockdown.

But put aside pandemic fatigue for this deeply affecting documentary. Filmed in Wuhan's hospitals across February and March 2020, the harrowing fly-on-the-wall account transports you to the terrifying epicentre of the virus.

As the infection takes hold, cameras witness the panic and chaos on already-full wards as frightened patients hammer on locked doors. Despite the distress and heart-wrenching grief borne out as life after life is claimed, director Hao Wu ensures it is the courage and calm devotion of those caring for patients, the 'fearless soldiers' that prevails. Be it for 'grandad', a sobbing OAP fisherman who eventually recovers, a young first-time mum



76 DAYS
(12) 93mins

★★★★★

quarantined from her newborn daughter, or a dying grandma, clutching the hand of a nurse, the tenderness and dedication of the exhausted staff is very moving. As they are clad in PPE, we rarely see

their faces or learn their names, and there are no interviews or commentary. Unforgettable, important and historically significant footage. ● Streaming at watch.dogwoof.com

THERE are plenty of comedies about modern and freaked-out parents-to-be – but this offering from director Curtis Vowell holds its own in the genre.

Free-spirited New Zealand couple Zoe (comedian Rose Matafeo) and Tim (Harry Potter's Matthew Lewis) both work as tree surgeons and are preparing for the World Tree Climbing Championships in Vancouver.

But a little pink line on a pregnancy test changes all that. While Zoe stays in denial about her growing bump – still wanting to swing from trees and travel to Canada – Tim fits into the now clichéd character of manchild-becomes-dad, by knuckling down to put preparation in place.

There are a few laugh-out-loud moments in this romcom, one being when Zoe tries to arrange a threesome with her best friend, but the whole thing



BABY DONE
(15) 91mins

★★★

is ruined when the baby bump is unleashed.

While the couple are often sweet, they can also be a little annoying – being rude at parties, abandoning each other and overdoing the 'kooky mates' side of

their relationship. The breakout star from this is Matafeo, who I can imagine Knocked Up writer Judd Apatow will have an eye on already.

● Released on all digital platforms

Dulcie Pearce

ON THE SOFA WITH THE REMOTE

THE WHITE TIGER
(15) 126mins

★★★★★

IT is a tale as old as the days of Dickens – a man desperate to break free from the poverty he has been born into.

He wants to be accepted in a world of wealth, someone deemed worthy of great expectations.

But while the basic storyline to *The White Tiger* has been told many times before, this film brings something more.

It has an enthralling energy and deep sadness that will have you thinking about it long after the credits roll.

The adaptation of the 2008 best-seller and Booker Prize-winning novel by Aravind Adiga starts in the slums of India, where a boy called Balram grows up with a longing for a different life.

Such darkness

He doesn't want to work for nothing and live in a hut with his huge family. He wants more.

Balram does not enter a TV game show, though.

Unlike Danny Boyle's film *Slumdog Millionaire* – which is like a fairy tale in comparison – *The White Tiger* shows just how money is often made in India: Crime, corruption and exploitation.

And Balram is not afraid of breaking the law to break free.

Adarsh Gourav gives an outstanding performance as lead Balram, who is compared to a rare white tiger by his village teacher as he shows such academic potential.

Getting a job as a driver to an Indian mafia family, he decides that his way to wealth is through the

STARS AND STRIPES...
Adarsh Gourav and Priyanka Chopra in *The White Tiger*



High of the Tiger

youngest and more liberal son (Rajkumar Rao) and his Indian-American wife Pinky (Priyanka Chopra). Balram becomes their servant, consistently showing he is completely devoted to them and smiling relentlessly.

And what a smile it is. But behind his nodding, sweet grin is such darkness and resentment that can be unleashed with such a force it will give even this criminal family a shock.

The pace is fast, the voiceover

engaging and some of the performances so realistic it feels like you could be watching a documentary.

While director Ramin Bahrani has done a superb job adapting this much-loved book, he is a little too faithful, with some scenes stalling the flow and falling a bit flat. This absorbing, engaging and thought-provoking movie is a true insight into the lengths a man will go to, driven by the desire to break free from the shackles of poverty.

● Out now on Netflix

MOVIE NEWS

- A PREQUEL to *Charlie And The Chocolate Factory* will be directed by Paul King and out in 2023.
- Steven Knight, the creator of *Peaky Blinders*, will continue the story in a movie, after the hit TV series ends.
- Matt Damon, right, is set to star alongside Christian Bale, Natalie Portman and Chris Pratt in Thor: Love And Thunder.



GAMES

By STUART CULLEN



HITMAN has gone on a long journey from opening game to the latest adventure.

Developer IO Interactive even broke their links with the mainstream and went independent. But, throughout it all, Agent 47 has stayed as one of the coolest characters in gaming.

Agent 47 is at a crossroad in life – he has to face ghosts from the past while finding out who he can really trust.

The game has six new locations which follow the set Hitman framework – you get dropped in with a set of targets to eliminate before being left to your own devices. Each mission breaks the mould

Hitman 3

Xbox One, Series X/S, PS4, PS5, Switch, and PC £54.99

slightly in that there is some fun and inventive experiences along the way.

For instance, chapter two lets you disguise yourself as a detective and take part in a full-blown Knives Out murder mystery.

From Dubai to China, and even a Yorkshire mansion, each sandbox level is huge and is different from the place you have just left. But they are just the backdrop to the real thrill – the kill. Preparation is key – getting the right

information is the only way to complete your mission. Once the kill is done, you get teased with all the options you could have taken – and that gives a real replayability feel.

You can also load up Hitman and Hitman 2 levels to create the ultimate package and play it on the PSVR. This is a fitting finale for a stunning series. It's a perfect hit.

● Read our exclusive chat with IO Interactive's Forest Swartout Large and Travis Barbour at thescottish-sun.co.uk/tech/gaming/

★★★★★

NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

LEMONTEETH

WHO: David Arthur (vocals/guitar), Matt Kern (guitar/bass).

WHERE: Glasgow/London. FOR FANS OF: The National, The Lumineers, Passenger.

JIM SAYS: Lemonateeth have just released their debut EP, but have been honing their craft for years.

David is originally from Bishopbriggs and Matt from Reading, but they first got together in London.

I first came across them in 2015 as part of the band Face at the Wickerman Festival in Dumfries & Galloway. It never really happened for Face, but they hooked up with long-time Killers collaborator Stuart Price as the first signing to his Warners-affiliated label AOA. Sadly, things started to unravel after a fall-out with management.

David said: "It felt like a huge weight had been



lifted off our shoulders. We could get back to being our authentic selves and make music again, albeit without a label."

Splitting time between London and Glasgow, Lemonateeth is a fresh start.

They debuted last year with the infectious single *Forgive Me Father*. Along with the follow-up *Lazy*, and new single *Numb*, it features on their four-track *Nuevo Rey EP*. Matt said: "We took the title from the Spanish 'Nuevo Rey, Nueva Ley' which translates as 'New King, New Laws' which we felt signified a new chapter for us."

It's out through indie label Young Poet Records.

David said: "After meeting label head Hugh Worrell we knew we wanted to work together. He really cares."

MORE: lemonateeth.com ● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays at 2-4pm. amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com

BOOKS

Edited by NATASHA HARDING

ADULT VIRGINS

ANONYMOUS

Amber Crews, £8.99

KATE MUNDY is 29, lonely, jobless and a virgin.

Freddie Weir suffers from OCD and worries his social interactions will only ever consist of comic book signings.

When they meet at a self-help for adult virgins, they decide to help the other find love.

A gorgeous feel-good read. ★★★★★

PICK OF THE WEEK

