

s f t w

MOVIES

TOP 5
DVDs1 Bil & Ted Face The Music
2 Star Trek Picard - Season One
3 Doctor Who - Revolution OfThe Daleks
4 The Doorman
5 Roald Dahl's The Witches
Officialcharts.com

THIS soothing sepia-toned watch set in rural Suffolk in 1939 is based on the true story of the discovery of treasures at Sutton Hoo - unearthed riches from the Dark Ages now on display in the British Museum.

Edith Pretty (Carey Mulligan) a well-to-do widow with a young son Robert (Archie Barnes), has a hunch something is buried beneath the unusual earth mounds on her country estate.

She enlists the services of self-taught, independent excavator Basil Brown (Ralph Fiennes) and as the country teeters on the brink of war Brown strikes gold.

As the dig grows in size and significance, it perfectly captures the sense of eerie calm before the impending worldwide storm.

Fiennes, as the quietly assured but under-acknowledged Brown, is kind yet always humble, especially when academic archaeologist Charles Phillips (Ken



THE DIG
(12) 112mins

★★★★

Stott) muscles in and takes credit for the find.

Mulligan appears youthful for a lady of the manor, particularly when offering advice to junior archaeologist Peggy Preston (Lily James) but her softly spo-

ken, determined Edith is still fine. With beautiful golden-hued landscapes and a great cast, just like a plate of warm buttered crumpets this is a gentle, comforting, nostalgic treat to savour.

● On Netflix

RIGHT now, it's nice to think there might be a parallel universe where we all live under blue skies enjoying good times.

And in this mind-teaser from sci-fi director Mike Cahill, that's almost the case. Recently divorced dad Greg (Owen Wilson) is a man sinking.

He's living in a motel, addicted to painkillers and, on the morning we meet him, he's fired then accidentally kills his boss.

Fleeing the scene he meets Isabel (Salma Hayek), who tells him, "You're my man", demands he kisses her and shows him he has kinetic powers that allow him to topple people over by pointing at them.

Nothing is real though as both are plugged into the Brain Box, a giant simulator that has transported them to this 'ugly' fake world as an experiment.

When they return to their



BLISS
(PG) 104mins

★★★

nicer sun-drenched true existence, a baffled Greg discovers he and Isabel are successful scientists living in a swanky villa together.

Ultimately, though, the two worlds collide and as boundaries blur we're left

never quite knowing what was real or imagined.

It's all quite silly but Hayek hamming it up with gusto and Wilson bumbling away believably means a good dose of escapist fun.

● On Amazon Prime

Dulcie Pearce

ON THE SOFA WITH THE REMOTE

NEWS OF THE WORLD
(12A) 119mins

★★★

READ all about it! One of the world's most loved actors in a gun-toting, horse-galloping country and western.

Tom Hanks stars as Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an American Civil War veteran who now makes a living travelling from town to town reading the news of the day to enthralled audiences.

Set 150 years ago, it is the work of Bourne director Paul Greengrass, adapted from the 2016 novel of the same name.

During his time touring the country with bundles of newspapers, Captain Kidd stumbles across an almost mute, feral orphan who he names Johanna (Helena Zengel).

Clammy-palm gunfight

Like a girl-version of ET, all she wants to do is go home. Both are lonely characters with no family between them.

Johanna's adopted family are dead - butchered in their home - so Kidd decides to take her on a 400-mile journey in a horse and cart to her relatives in San Antonio.

These are lawless times and the trip is littered with danger.

Behind rocky cliff edges and in forests thick with trees lurk cowboys with guns.

And the towns don't give any rest either. There's a particularly clammy-palm-inducing gunfight between Kidd and a group of rapists who have an eye on Johanna.

While News Of The World is a sturdy film with plenty to keep your eyes and ears entertained, it can't be compared to other great recent westerns like 2010's True



NO KIDDING... Hanks as war vet with feral orphan Johanna

Hanks's very civil war

Grit. The story holds little suspense and the relationships you are meant to care about fall short.

The performance of 12-year-old Zengel is enthralling, combining wild mania with a broken little girl.

Meanwhile Hanks is, well, Hanks. Always a superb and empathetic leading man, but he is not tested in this role.

There are moments when you could be watching him as Captain Miller in Saving Private Ryan

dealing with the toll of war, or reading the papers with the kind authority of Walt Disney in Saving Mr Banks.

That's not to say this is a paint-by-numbers performance.

But it would be nice to see such a great actor pushed to play a character the audience wouldn't normally expect.

This makes News Of The World a substantial story, but it won't be making headlines.

● On Netflix

MOVIE NEWS

● **JENNIFER LOPEZ**, below, is to star in action thriller *The Mother*, to be made by Mulan director Niki Caro.

● **A SEQUEL** to 2008's *Cloverfield* will have *Giri/Haji* creator Joe Barton writing the script.

● **TILDA SWINTON** stars in ghost story *The Eternal Daughter*. Directed by Joanna Hogg, it was filmed in Wales last year.

GAMES
By STUART CULLEN

WORLD OF Darkness has concentrated on vampires so far in its move from table-top game to the virtual universe.

But it has a number of levels that are ripe for new games. Cue *Werewolf: The Apocalypse - Earthblood*. This is the first offering on the fur-and-claws side.

French studio Cyanide offers the chance to play as Cahal - who is basically an eco-terrorist who must save his tribe after accidentally killing another member.

He returns to help fight the powerful Endron Corporation which is killing the planet, serving the evil forces of the Wyrms and installing a drilling platform near

Werewolf: The Apocalypse - Earthblood

Xbox One, Series X/S, PS4, PS5 and PC £44.99

where Cahal and the tribe call home. The tale is interesting but has a weird feel because of the voice acting and the overall writing. Unless you're a die-hard fan, you'll never get a grasp of what's totally going on and it isn't about to explain anything to you.

The gameplay is split into two sides - stealth where you are a wolf - and full-blown combat as the hulking furry hell beast. You get a location with a number of goals to unleash the beast.

Combining both styles is fun as you stealth around taking out bad guys and cutting off reinforcements. Then you go all werewolf and rip up everything.

That said, the combat is all very floaty and the AI just stands there waiting to be chewed up. The boss fights are pretty good though.

This is fun, but it does feel dated and shallow, which is a shame given its rich roots.

● Read our exclusive chat with Cyanide Studios games director Julien Desourteaux at thescottishsun.co.uk/tech/gaming/

NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

SEAN FOCUS

WHERE: Edinburgh.
FOR FANS OF: Burna Boy, J Hus, AJ Tracey.

JIM SAYS: Laying down a compelling blend of Afro-pop, hip-hop and dancehall, Sean is set to take his career to new levels after becoming the only artist from Scotland included on the list of six UK acts on Amazon Music platform +44's ones to watch.

The Zimbabwe-born musician will benefit from the +44 Development Fund and has already recorded a video for them with a glorious rendition of the track *You In My Way*.

He said: "+44 is a huge brand in black music culture and Amazon Music have done an incredible job. I was the only Scottish artist too, which was kinda crazy. Streaming platforms are such a key part to an artist's journey now and Amazon Music stepping up to help develop talent is incredible." The 30-year-old's musical journey started in his homeland



before he settled in Edinburgh. An independent artist, Sean's releases come through his own label Invaize. It recently tied-up with Warner Music's ADA distribution wing and Apple Music radio hip hop show host Charlie Sloth's Grimey Limey label. Sean has just unleashed his brilliant track *Mulholland Drive*. A summery pop gem, it's far removed from a grey winter's day in Edinburgh. He said: "My manager had just come back from LA and we were talking about how that was my dream to get out there."

"The record is about dreaming for a better life and to keep going. It also features my son Koda, which makes this record so special." He also appears in the video. So cute.

MORE: facebook.com/officialseanfocus
Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays at 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

BOOKS

Edited by
NATASHA HARDING

THE SANATORIUM

Sarah Pearce, £12.99

DETECTIVE Elin Warner is hoping a holiday in the Swiss Alps will help heal a rift with her brother.

But from the moment they arrive at the former sanatorium, Elin has an uneasy feeling - then the murders begin. As the weather worsens, the local police can't get through, so Elin has to put herself in grave danger to try to catch the killer.

Tense, chilling and full of surprises.

★★★★



PICK OF THE WEEK