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## MOVIES

TOP 5 FILMS  
THIS WEEK

1. Zack Snyder Justice League  
2. Tom & Jerry: The Movie  
3. Godzilla vs Kong

4. Raya And The Last Dragon  
5. Wonder Woman 1984  
●Source: Officialcharts.com

IF your spirits are already lifted by the sunshine, get ready to send them galloping into a frenzy with this feel-good British movie.

Based on the true story of a race horse called Dream Alliance, it offers inspiration to anyone wishing to take on the big guns.

Toni Collette, excellent as always, plays supermarket worker Jan Vokes, who decides to raise Dream on her allotment in Wales.

Initially, both her husband Brian (Owen Teale) and former racehorse owner Howard Davies (Damian Lewis) doubt Jan's scheme.

Davies nearly lost his home the previous time he got involved with the sport of kings, so he tries to warn her off.

But a loveable gang of local oddballs are persuaded to sign up to Jan's syndicate.

As you would expect in a film like this, the script includes more ups and



**DREAM HORSE**  
(PG) 113mins

★★★★

downs than a jump jockey completing the Grand National.

Some, such as the personal problems of Davies, have been fictionalised, but much of the plot remains true to life. Sticking

to the winning formula of other films such as Brassed Off, this is a celebration of community that feels natural.

And by the end you'll feel like your horse has crossed the line in first place.

**AFTER LOVE**  
(12A) 89mins

★★★★

TO lose the love of your life unexpectedly is devastating enough, let alone discovering once they have gone that they have been lying to you for decades.

Mary Hussain (Joanna Scanlan from The Thick Of It and No Offence), converted to Islam when she married childhood sweetheart Ahmed and the couple settled happily in Dover, Kent, where Ahmed worked as a cross-Channel ferry captain.

But behind the seemingly humdrum domesticity of their long life together lies a startling secret.

Following his sudden death, Mary discovers her husband has a teenage son, Solomon (Talid Ariss), and a girlfriend, Geneviève (Natalie Richard) 21 miles away, across the water in Calais.

Grappling with his duplicity, Mary sets out to confront the "other woman" on her doorstep. But when Geneviève wrongly assumes she is a cleaner and invites her in, Mary instead finds herself thrust directly into the heart of the other family of the man she loved.



# Dulcie Pearce

AT THE MOVIES



**SILENCE**  
... Emily Blunt.  
Right, with Noah Jupe

FILM  
OF THE  
WEEK

**THERE** has been a dusty, faded poster advertising **A Quiet Place Part II** on my train station platform for 18 months.

During those eerily silent days of lockdown, I would look longingly at it in the hope that one day life would return to normal so I could watch this film about... well, an eerily silent world.

Finally that day has come and, whisper it, it's well worth the wait to see it on the big screen.

This follows on from the success of 2018's **A Quiet Place**, where staying silent is the only way of surviving in a post-apocalyptic world of blind monsters with an acute sense of hearing.

This sequel from writer-director John Krasinski begins as a prequel, showing just how the world got into this mess.

A gentle opening quickly descends into monster mayhem, with the blind beasts wrecking a sleepy American town.

After an opener that's full of popcorn-spilling jumps, the film soon takes us to where we left the Abbott family at the end of the last film.

Evelyn (Emily Blunt) along with her kids Regan (Millicent Simmonds), Marcus (Noah Jupe) and a

## Ace sequel is Quiet an achievement

**A QUIET PLACE PART II**  
(15) 97mins

★★★★

new-born baby in a soundproof box are desperate to find safety.

Having lost their dad Lee (Krasinski) they seek help from old family friend Emmett (Cillian Murphy) who has been living on the other side of town.

But first they have to make a tiptoe commute to get to him — and so the clammy-palmed scenes continue.

My cinema seat soon felt like a rollercoaster carriage, as the film

caused the audience to screech and scream at every adrenalin-filled turn.

Once again, Blunt is wonderful as the broken, desperate mother. While her lines are obviously few, her eyes reflect a woman whose soul left her long ago.

Her entire existence is about keeping her children alive.

Despite some patchy sections, the tension constantly ratchets up and you barely catch your breath in what is a compact 97-minute film.

This is a sleek and very scary monster movie that will have you reaching for the beta blockers.

### LATEST NEWS

● **AFTER** the success of **The Joker** starring Joaquin Phoenix, below, director Todd Phillips is co-writing a sequel.

● Director Eli Roth is shooting an adaptation of the video game **Borderlands**.

● Sony has bought the film rights to Don Winslow's long-awaited trilogy of crime novels **City On Fire**.



## BOOKS

Edited by NATASHA HARDING

### BOTH OF YOU

Adele Parks, £14.99

PICK  
OF THE  
WEEK

**LEIGH** Fletcher is a stepmum who does everything to ensure her family's lives run well when she's away working. Now she's missing.

Kai Janssen also disappears the same day. She appears to have left a life of luxury behind.

DC Clements has a gut feeling that the disappearances are connected, and is proven right.

But someone has a plan that they'll never be seen again. A dark, sinister read.

★★★★



## GAMES

By STUART CULLEN

**FIGHT** fans can celebrate — Sega's **Virtua Fighter** series is back with **Virtua Fighter 5 Ultimate Showdown** and it packs a punch as one of this month's FREE titles on PS Plus.

You may have a déjà vu feeling because this is a remaster of the 2012 **Final Showdown** game on the PS3, Xbox 360 and in arcades.

What you do get is proof of a quality series which blends arcade

### Virtua Fighter 5 Ultimate Showdown

PS4 FREE with PS Plus this month

thrills with timing and learning moves. If you are not a button-bashing master then you've had it.

The polished core system stays the same, but the visuals have been given the treatment. This now has the **Yakuza 6/Judgment** games' Dragon Engine and is now popping

with colour and velvety smooth. The same can't be said for the audio — it's unbalanced and the voice clips have poor sound quality.

Gameplay is boss and that serves up a classy brawler where you'll taste a few KOs before mastering the moves. Once it clicks you can learn each fighter's strengths

and how to get the best out of them. The modes are light on the ground — there's no team battle, survival or even a story mode but arcade is a winner before you head online.

Fans will love it. Newcomers will have a blast. Hopefully this hints at a new title in the way too.

★★★★

