

s f t w

MOVIES

TOP 5 FILMS

1. A Quiet Place Part II
2. Peter Rabbit 2
3. Cruella
4. The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It
5. Dream Horse

Source: Film Distributors' Association

COMMUNITIES in the north of England have been the inspiration for some of our biggest home-grown comedy hits. But where heart-warmers *The Full Monty* and *Calendar Girls* triumphed, *Me, Myself and Di* sadly flops.

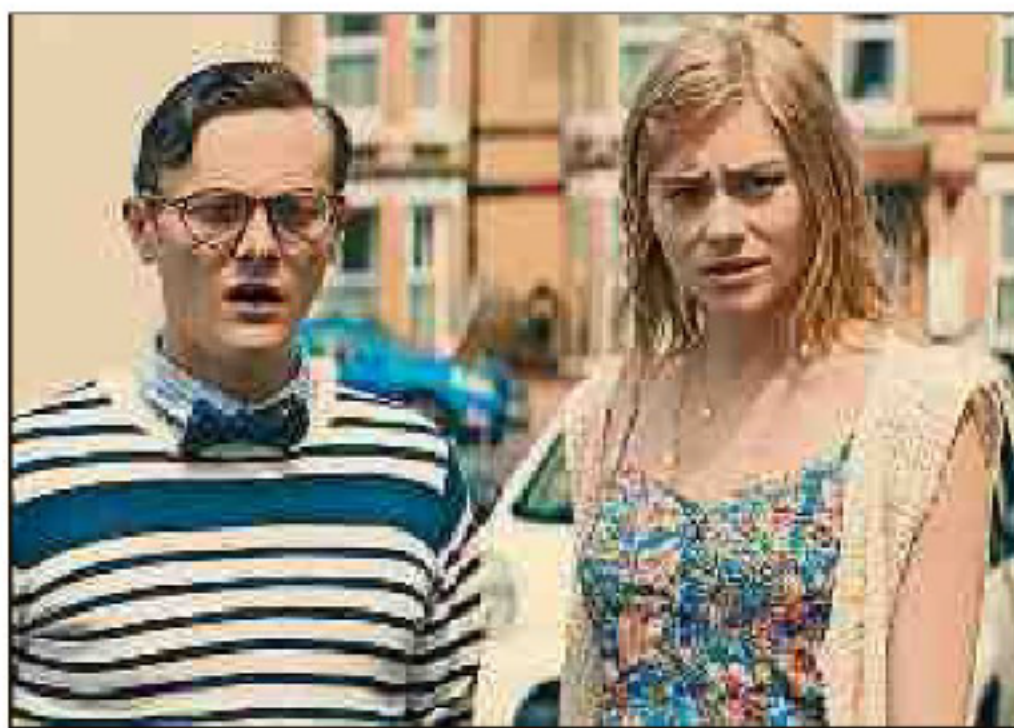
When single, naive Janet Brown (Katy Clayton) from Bolton wins a break in a caravan park, her brother's sexpot girlfriend Diana, played by Lucy Pinder, decides to intervene.

She persuades Janet to become Jeanette, a posh girl on the hunt for love.

When she meets genuine upper-crust nerd Jonty (Tyger Drew-Honey), the two fall for each other – but will she come clean to him?

There are some funny moments and the cast – also including Will Mellor and Larry Lamb – seem to be having a lot of fun.

But characters lacking in nuance are the real



ME, MYSELF AND DI
(12A) 93mins

★★

downfall. Everyone is either a caricature working-class Lancastrian, who works in a mini-mart, drinks in working men's clubs and says "owt and nowt", or a snobby, caviar-loving southerner. Like the retro holiday camp with a bikini pageant

and a talent contest for entertainment, it all feels very dated.

Until a smartphone appears and there is a reference to Lady Gaga, you could easily believe that this film was set 20 years ago.

THIS ambitious, insightful feature documentary from filmmaker Jerry Rothwell takes on the daunting task of adapting Naoki Higashida's biography of the same name, which discusses his experience of being a mute, autistic teenager in Japan.

It's no easy thing to capture a condition that even those living with it struggle to explain.

But through first-hand accounts, observations and interviews with a family of five young people living with non-verbal autism, the result is an eye-opening, compassionate film that crosses continents to try to define what happens inside the mind of someone on the autistic spectrum.

In Noida, India, Amrit produces beautiful artwork to express herself in a way words won't allow. Her mother's pride when she exhibits in a gallery is utterly joyful. In Virginia, US, Ben communicates using an



THE REASON I JUMP
(12A) 82mins

★★★

alphabet letter board, while in Sierra Leone, Jestina's family have to contend with a society that still demonises the condition.

Cinematography is used to further evoke these sensory journeys, from dappled sunlight to

crashing waves. Whether you have first-hand experience of autism or not, there is a lot to learn here. Sensitive done, this is an educational and rewarding watch.

Dulcie Pearce

AT THE MOVIES



NO drama about dementia is an easy watch. But this exquisite film captures the heartbreaking cruelty of the illness so poignantly, it will linger in your mind long after the credits roll.

Things begin innocuously as Anne (Olivia Colman) faces a hard conversation with her 80-year-old father Anthony (Anthony Hopkins). Exhausted, she's reached the point where phone calls always begin: "Hello, what's the matter?"

In the throes of the disease, and declining, her dad is struggling to live alone in London. His latest carer has left so they must find a replacement he'll tolerate. Or he will move into a nursing home.

But things then get puzzling as key characters change, reflecting Anthony's confusion. His daughter is suddenly a different woman (now played by Olivia Williams), who is married to a man he does not recognise (Mark Gatiss). Then things switch again, the former are gone and Colman returns but is married to Paul (Rufus Sewell).

Haunting portrayal

Conversations end where they began, locations and characters change, days scramble. The constant confusion is seamless and it's this that makes the film brutally believable as a glimpse into Anthony's state of mind.

With his superb screenplay – adapted from a 2012 play – French director Florian Zeller leads us down Anthony's daily rabbit hole of disorientation, fear and bewildering anger, until we are just as befuddled and jumbled as he.

It feels about as close to losing your grip as you could come – and is terrifying. All the cast excel and

Hopkins is dad good

FILM OF THE WEEK

THE FATHER
(12A) 96mins

★★★★

Hopkins has already been rightly rewarded with this year's Oscar for Best Actor – for his haunting portrayal of a proud man clinging on to the certainty of knowing the time of day, and as rattled by each shift in environment or character as we are. As his faculties wane,

then briefly sharpen, we can never be sure what is real and what is not. Anthony describes it lucidly – this desperate vulnerability is like being a tree and "losing my leaves".

As new carer Laura (Imogen Poots) arrives, we see glimpses of the wily charmer Anthony once was. He thinks he has outwitted her but soon it is clear that in the end, as always, it is this merciless disease that has the upper hand.

AWARD WINNER
... veteran star is in top form

ALSO OUT THIS WEEK

- **BILL SKARSGARD** has been cast in *John Wick 4*.
- **CAREY MULLIGAN** and **ZOE KAZAN** will play reporters in *#MeToo* drama *She Said*.
- **STEPHEN KING's** story about killer car Christine is to be adapted again for the big screen.

NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

THE QUILTER

WHERE: Glasgow.

FOR FANS OF: Arcade Fire, Franz Ferdinand, New Order.

JIM SAYS: Emerging in 2019, *The Quilter* is the latest project from Glasgow musician Stuart Dougan.

Formerly frontman with critically acclaimed indie outfit French Wives, he's enjoying the liberty of going out on his own.

He said: "I started *The Quilter* as I wanted to take ownership of my work and have the freedom to do what I want with it."

"It is a solo project in that I've written everything and play all the parts, with the exception of the drums. I leave that in far more competent hands. It sounds like a band though and is played live as a five-piece."

Stuart admits there have been some challenges in the creative



process. He said: "Very much so as there isn't really anyone to bounce ideas off in the writing stage. Producer Paul 'Gal' Gallagher is an essential part of the process without whom I don't think *The Quilter* would exist."

The Quilter last year created *Dark Cloud/Grey Area*. It's a captivating film, encompassing live performance and documentary footage. And the momentum continues with the freshly released debut EP *Bolt The Door*. It offers six tracks, ranging from euphoric alt. pop to darker soundscapes. Latest single *The Long Weekend* is a total banger and one of the finest tracks out of Scotland this year.

More: www.facebook.com/thequiltermusic

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

www.amazingradio.com
www.jimgellatly.com

BOOKS

Edited by NATASHA HARDING

THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER

Bill Clinton and James Patterson, £10

PICK OF THE WEEK WHEN the daughter of a former president is kidnapped, there begins a race against time to get her back safely.

Frustrated by the lack of progress, dad decides to do the job himself. What could possibly go wrong when he goes head-to-head with the terrorist behind so much of his pain? Full of glorious details into the inner workings of the White House, this is action all the way in a fast and furious tale.

★★★★★



GAMES

By STUART CULLEN

The PS5 is slowly building a library of killer titles that make splashing out on the new hardware a must.

And a much-loved duo have returned to showcase what a next-gen game can be like in *Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart*.

Blending third-person shooting with platforming in a Pixar-esque world, it's a well-written story that perfectly balances emotion with the pair's trademark comedy. Rifts opening across different worlds in multiple realities mean our heroes must stop their arch-enemy Doctor Nefarious exploiting the sudden cata-

Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart

PS5 £69.99

strophic dimensional collapse. They are helped by Rivet, a fearless female resistance group leader, who stands against the self-styled Emperor Nefarious. Yeah, emperor – a big crown for a big head.

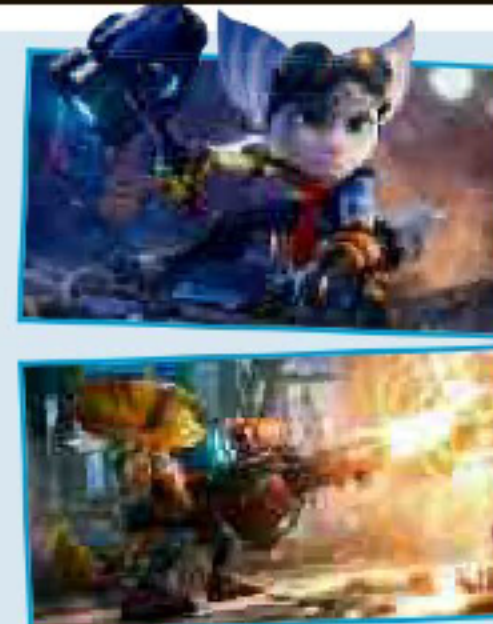
Gameplay is fast, frantic and tonnes of fun as you go from gunning down enemies to bashing them with your wrench attacks. Movement is buttery smooth as you

explore the ever-changing worlds you find yourself in.

This is a truly stunning game (perhaps the best-looking game we've ever seen, packed with cool effects and detail, such as the fur moving on our heroes) with a Mark Mothersbaugh soundtrack and which also makes full use of the Dualsense controller features.

If you have a PS5, buy *Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart* now. If you don't, buy one and get this game. Now.

★★★★★



● **SCOTS** train SIM fans are in for a real treat as Dovetail have added the Cathcart Circle to Train Sim World 2 today. Glasgow to Newton & Neilston adds the modern suburban network, linking them with Glasgow Central. The 20-mile route features BR Class 314 EMU in ScotRail Saltire livery. Out now, priced £24.99

