


NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

TOY MOUNTAINS
WHO: Callum McClune (vocals/guitar), Greg Leyden (vocals/guitar), Grant Malcolm (vocals/bass), Matthew Cowie (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Glassjaw, Deftones, Biffy Clyro

JIM SAYS: With two UK tours and airplay on BBC Radio 1 already under their belts, Glasgow rockers Toy Mountains are on a roll. Formed in Spring 2014, they released a collection of demos, For a Few Seconds, Came Harmony, later that year.

Callum told me: "At the beginning of this year we decided to take the band more seriously and released our first real high production value work, a double a-side single I Could Care Less/Destroy Everything You Love. Earlier this year we headed back into the studio and recorded our first EP I Swore I'd Never Speak of This Again.

The EP is finally set for release next Friday. It's explosive stuff, casually jumping from all out rock to more tender moments.

Callum added: "We feel this new record is the most accomplished piece of work we've put together as a unit. It documents different experiences we've had as 20-somethings struggling to make a living doing something we love. The sacrifices we've had to make in order to pursue that goal, how that affects your prospects, your relationships with others, your financial security and your sense of self-worth. It flows more like a



concept record, so it's best listened to from beginning to end. This isn't five throwaway songs. We wrote certain songs whilst bearing in mind the flow of the record as a whole once it was complete."

The first single from the EP, Old Friends, was picked up by the Radio 1 Rock Show. Callum said: "The support we've had from Daniel P. Carter and Phil Taggart at BBC Radio 1, Alex Baker at Kerrang! Radio, yourself on Amazing Radio and all of the independent shows has been very humbling and we appreciate it so much."

The EP is released through Cambridge label Crooked Noise Records. Callum said: "We contacted them after being booked as support for a band already on their roster. We reached out to Tom from the label to see if he'd be interested in putting out the record. Now we're part of an already great roster which boasts bands such as Lock And Key, I Cried Wolf and My Only."

Their I Swore I'd Never Speak Of This Again EP is launched with three live dates. They play Think Tank? Underground in Newcastle on Wednesday (Nov 23), Edinburgh's La Belle Angele next Friday (Nov 25) and Nice N Sleazy in Glasgow a week tomorrow (Nov 26). Support comes from fellow Glasgow outfit Donnie Willow.

More: facebook.com/toymountains

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

 www.amazingradio.com
 www.jimgellatly.com

 Watch video of band at:
 thescottishsun.co.uk

FILM OF THE WEEK
YOUR NAME

(12A) 106mins ★★★★★

I'll admit it, this award-winning anime is my first.

I was sceptical of the genre but I'm happy to say I was bowled over. This is a warm, funny and – if I can be a bit vom-inducing for a second – spiritual tale.

A girl named Mitsuha wakes one morning completely confused at her surroundings, body, family, her very existence.

Her family are equally confused as she's been acting strange for a while.

We then meet a boy, Taki, who is experiencing the same thing.

It slowly dawns on you the two are swapping bodies and living each other's lives.

This film goes off the scale of "WTF" but it's brilliant so seek it out. You won't have seen anything quite like it.


DOG EAT DOG

(18) 91mins ★★

I'm completely split about this film. It's a full-on crime drama starring two of the most infamously barking actors of a generation. Nicolas Cage is Troy and Willem Dafoe is Mad Dog.

Along with their mate Diesel, these ex-cons get hired to kidnap a baby, which obviously goes wrong.

Directed by Paul Schrader – who wrote many of Scorsese's classics – it has all the makings of a good film but something is not quite right. Both Cage and Dafoe seem to be running on half a tank and never quite go as mental as you want them to.

Anything with Nicolas Cage in is always worth a watch, though. I'm just not sure even he knows if this is being post-modern ironic or just a bit lame.

 Don't miss
JAMIE'S SHOW

10am to 1pm

 VIRGIN
 RADIO

AT THE MOVIES

Jamie East



It's simply the beast

NOW this really is a magical feat – a Harry Potter spin-off that is a worthy successor to the original and an absolute joy.

It has it all, including huge set pieces, surprises, fun creatures – the Niffler being my favourite – and a LOT to laugh at.

This includes a twerking routine from Eddie Redmayne, no less.

Eddie nicely underplays Newt Scamander, a British Ministry of Magic employee and expert on magical beasts.

The story is set long before Harry's time – in fact Newt will go on to write a textbook that the young wizard studies at Hogwarts – and in a very strange and differ-

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

(12A) 133mins ★★★★★

ent world. Namely, America. Newt is there to set free Frank the Thunderbird in his native land.

But it is the Twenties and Prohibition is in full swing – and not just for alcohol.

Magical beasts are also banned, which is a problem as Newt has smuggled in a suitcase full of them through customs. And he's not very good at keeping them in one place.

He is soon dashing around New York trying to round them up – and getting in trouble with the sinister US version of the Ministry

of Magic. But, with the help of ex-Auror – a special wizard catcher – Tina (Katherine Waterston), her mind-reading sister Queenie (Alison Sudol) and factory worker Jacob, Newt quickly starts tracking them down.

Jacob is the only "no-maj" (American for muggle) in the group, but actor Dan Fogler is pure magic and steals scene after scene.

Relentlessly fun

The quartet is soon dealing with more than just runaway beasts.

Evil is also afoot in the form of Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) – the second most dangerous wizard of all time after Voldemort.

As if that wasn't enough, Samantha Morton crops up as head of a

creepy cult. Think Scientologists with less of a budget and equally bad haircuts and you're there.

And they are not fans of wizards in the slightest.

More cheerily, Potterworld's familiar house elves are present and correct, as is the US branch of Gringotts – and Deathly Hallows and Hogwarts also get mentions to glue the universe together.

It's cleverly done.

Director David Yates has wisely kept as close to the winning formula as possible while soaking up new influences and introducing future classics such as giggle water. I'll take six shots.

It's relentlessly fun from start to finish and the two young Easts sitting next to me were completely transfixed. Truly fantastic.