



● LISTEN up Platinum Games fans, Sega has revealed that Vanquish and Bayonetta are getting the remastered treatment as a 10th anniversary present. Vanquish hit

PS3 and Xbox 360 in October 2010 while Bayonetta's second game was remastered for Switch. This is its first outing on PS4 or Xbox One. Out on February 18.



● 2K have let slip that a new BioShock game is in the works. Hooray! But it is still "several" years away. Boo! The new game is under 2K's newly-named Cloud Chamber

studio, headed up by former XCOM and Firaxis star Kelley Gilmore. No word yet about series lead writer and creative director Ken Levine having any input yet.

SWORD SWITCHED ON

IT is fair to say the Pokémon series is a gaming phenomenon.

One peek at the huge queues waiting to get into the London pop-up Pokémon store in summer proves that.

So a move to the Switch was always going to be a big deal.

The Let's Go games were just testing the water but now it has gone full-blown with Pokémon Sword or Shield.

If you have played a Pokémon game in the past you'll soon click with Sword or Shield as each game sticks to the traditional formula but has been streamlined and had a few bells and whistles added.

You pick your starter Pokémon from three new options before heading out into the British-inspired Galar region to become a Pokémon Master by fighting other trainers and the region's eight gym leaders.

So far so Pokémon, as you'll sink about 40 to 50 hours into this adventure trying to become the very best. But... and it's a big

Pokémon Sword and Shield Switch £49.99

BUT. The game has divided the fan base. Hardcore fans are not happy.

The selection of Pokémon isn't based on a whole new list — instead it's more of a "best of" and that means a lot of characters have missed the cut.

And, unless you're a fan of the most popular ones, then the odds are that your favourite will not be there and that is a shame.

To be fair, there are a good few new ones but, after years of creating them, some of the characters do feel like the developers are running light on ideas. We will, however, pay tribute to the punk-inspired Toxtricity. That is gaming genius and a must for you to hunt.

As for the game, there have been a lot of tweaks to improve your time in the world — the biggest is how random battles are

handled. They have gone for a Let's Go style system where the Pokémon can be seen in the overworld before starting the battle.

Also new is the ability to superize one of your Pokémon by dynamaxing them. That is an interesting idea because your Pokémon becomes a super-powered giant and looks tremendously cool.

There is also a new four-player raid mode where you can team up to take down one dynamaxed wild Pokémon. It is a fun addition that lets you bag some goodies when you beat it.

Whether you go for Sword or Shield you'll get delivered a fun and enjoyable Pokémon tale that sticks to its guns.

Yes, some people have had their noses put out of joint by the changes but most will not be stopped by this.

Grab your Switch, try Pokémon and you will be converted to the phenomenon.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN



NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly

SHHE

WHERE: Dundee
FOR FANS OF: PJ Harvey, Portishead, Björk
JIM SAYS: SHHE may be a relatively new project, but Su Shaw first came to light while winning critical acclaim as Panda Su.

Her track Alphabet Song even appeared in the 2012 movie House At The End Of The Street, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Max Thieriot.

Reinvented as SHHE and going down a more electronic route, the musician and producer has linked up with One Little Indian Records for her self-titled debut album.

It sees her on the same label as Icelandic star Björk, and a catalogue that includes The Shamen, Chumbawamba and Skunk Anansie.

She said: "A friend posted my video online and someone from the label saw it. They got in contact and I went to meet them the following month. It was all very natural. I was already a fan of a lot of the artists on the label."

Born in Wick, she was raised in Fife and based in Dundee. She said: "My parents' house in Fife is home. It's the house I grew up in. Dundee is my adopted home, but I also feel at home every time I visit Lisbon. I am half Portuguese. My mum was born in Lisbon."

Her album is a beautifully textured affair, described by The Skinny as "hushed yet atmospheric and affecting electronic music."

It includes the stunning singles Eyes Shut/Boy, Emma and Saint Cyrus. The latter is named after the area of Dundee where the album was conceived. She said: "It was produced and recorded in the house I was living in at the time. I did most of the recording at night to avoid background noise. This meant at times I felt half-awake, half-asleep which made me more relaxed and open to exploring."

As for the name, Su explained: "It's a solo project musically but a collaborative project in other ways. There's an obvious pairing of she/he. The projects I've been working on aren't gender specific. One of the main drivers has been opening myself up to different forms of expression — dance, photography, film. I get inspiration from exploring different perspectives."

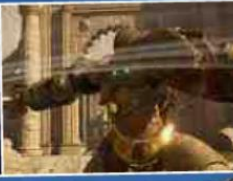
Su's music has also been inspired by Iceland. She said: "I first went there last year to take part in a residency. It was in a remote village about seven hours' drive from Reykjavik. It was winter. A few days in, heavy snowfall cut off the village. I was writing music in response to the landscapes. The reduced daylight hours during winter can really affect your body, mood and behaviour and I wanted to use all those things to create something."

SHHE will perform the album live in Scotland for the first time at Summerhall in Edinburgh on January 23, then in Dundee on the 24th. That's followed by The Hug And Pint in Glasgow on January 25 as part of the Celtic Connections festival. The following night she's at the Tunnels in Aberdeen.

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

Watch video of band at thescottishsun.co.uk



ROCK ON SISTERS

GOLEM is the dream band of a breakaway group that worked on Halo and Destiny.

They formed Highwire Games and this is their first VR offering.

It was first announced in 2015 and had a few kickbacks along the way but this has been eagerly awaited.

You start with a 15-minute story blast that introduces us to sisters called dreamers. One of them, Twine, was injured in an accident but she has the power to control huge rock creatures called golems.

Twine uses them to explore a forbidden city for relics and treasure but the kicker is that you never actually leave your bedroom. To avoid spoilers, we'll leave it there.

It's fun filling the stone boots of the golems as you

Golem

PSVR £34.99

swap between little Twine and a 15ft giant. It has a real Metrovania vibe as you find masks to open up new areas.

That often means fighting other golems where you can wield a massive sword that fairly mites it out. You can also grab other weapons, such as an axe or a spear, on your journey. But the only real threat is other golems and each one has different moves and attacks.

Combat has a real focus on blocking and reading your enemies but it takes practice to get your head around the control system.

Away from battle, things are a bit of a pain. General movement is via a new system that sees you lean to move. After a short while your head

and neck really feel the strain. However, a post-launch patch removes that issue by letting you use a controller. The game doesn't hold your hand over the seven-hour run-time and that could put some people off as you are thrown in at the deep end.

We saw a lot of positives. Arguably the best-looking PSVR game yet, it is highly polished and Marty O'Donnell does an outstanding job with the soundtrack.

Golem may have been in the works for some time but Highwire Games have crafted a title that could be PSVR game of the year. There are a few pacing issues but stick in and it's a rich adventure.

★★★★

STUART CULLEN

CAPCOM'S Resident Evil 3 remake has officially been revealed and will be out on April 3, according to the latest Sony State Of Play.

The quarterly update gave fans an idea what's in the pipeline and Resident Evil news was an early Christmas treat.

However, Capcom baited the trap with a trailer about spin-off game Project Resistance which was confirmed as Resident Evil 3's multiplayer mode. It will now be called

State of Play SPECIAL REPORT

Resident Evil Resistance. Other news. Predator: Hunting Grounds will be out on PS4 and PC on April 24. It promises an asymmetric multiplayer experience like Evolve.

Dreams will finally be released on Valentine's Day next year. February 14

for those not on the Love Boat. A new trailer for Platinum Games' Babylon's Fall offered our first proper look at the game. There's a few Dark Souls vibes.

Ghost Of Tsushima got a trailer of a trailer as the full one was at the Game Awards.

Finally, the current indie darling, Untitled Goose Game, will hit the PS4 this Tuesday. It will also be added to the Xbox Games Pass too.

HONKING.

