

... will see you now —
... ayed console port of
... Point Hospital will
... February 25.
... e, PS4 and Switch will

get their own versions of the
hospital management sim.
A recent trailer also revealed that
the game should also be on Xbox
Game Pass at some point.



● YOU'LL soon be able to slit, gut
and save to your heart's
content — Bossa Studios' popular
Surgeon Simulator is getting a
sequel on the PC next year. A new

trailer follows Bob's severed head
as he travels through a medical
facility that features conveyor belts
and bowling alleys. There is a hint of
co-op too. We're on a scalpel edge.

WELL IN CONTROL

Astro C40 TR Controller
PS4 and PC £189.99

standard PS4 controller, but we are not
weight shaming. The Astro makes
those grams work.
You get a neat carry case which
comes loaded with goodies like
replacement thumb sticks and wireless
fongle plus a trick screwdriver that is
key to changing the controller's layout.
The front has a carbon faceplate that
clicks in the sticks and d-pad but, once
you unscrew it, you can swap and move
them around till your heart's content.
However, it is worth saying that the
face buttons can't be moved. Turn the

controller over and you'll see a grip
texture as well as physical trigger
locks.

That's a mega plus because you
can flick them on the fly instead
of having to use your PC to set
them and, unlike other con-
trollers, it only has one
set of back triggers
instead of two.

You can switch wired
or wireless use, which
is another nice touch,
plus you can connect it
to your PC to create your
own pre-sets for bottom
layouts using an Astro



programme which is clear, easy to use
and packed with other settings to
tweak as you hunt for that perfect
set-up. The C40 TR controller isn't a
cheap bit of kit but it's
a solid, well-rounded
controller that really hits
the mark as a first outing
for Astro.
Make no mistake, this is a
real challenger to the other
custom controllers out there.
You'll need to drop a few
hints if you want a special
last-minute Christmas gift
from Santa. ★★★★★

TRILLED BY RYO

TIME travel normally needs a
mad scientist, a blue phone box
or an 80s gull-wing sports car.

But what if we said you just needed
a PS4 or a PC? That would spark
your explorative curiosity.

Well, Shenmue 3 is like a portal back
to the 2000s. It was a different era in gaming
and that will be the defining factor for
many when they play this long-awaited
third game in the series.

The 18-year-old tale was left on a cliff-
hanger and fans have been chomping at
the bit to see how it all pans out.

The wait has succeeded in turning the
series into a cult gaming classic, but
time doesn't stand still for anyone
and, first and foremost, it has to
show that it has transferred to
the modern-day game arena.

We felt Shenmue 3 was the
game fans wanted back
then rather than a new
cutting-edge title that
has fully embraced the
changes between then
and now. That will be a
deal-breaker for many
people.

It follows on directly
from the events in the
second game. Hero
Ryo Hazuki is still
on a mission to
avenge the death of
his father and get
Lan Di.

Being a Shenmue
game, this means
the core tale will
involve walking
around the
good-size open
areas asking

Shenmue 3
PS4 and PC £44.99

the locals about anything that will give you
the info to get to the next part of the story.

You will do a bit of training and get into
a few brawls, but that just highlights the
fact that the fight system feels like a
downgrade from the past two games.

Then there are the distractions, like
gambling, collecting figures from capsule
machines and doing day jobs to earn cash
— yes, you'll be driving a forklift for way
too long.

That sums up the gameplay — it is
mundane and boring — although there is a
certain charm in spending an age chopping
wood or walking around in a circle to bag
a health boost. It is great but it just
takes way too long to complete a lot
of the tasks.

It's certainly not a game where you
race around at 100mph all the time —
this is about taking the time to perfect
a task and a pride in the achievement.
The QTE events from past games
return to spice things up, but there is
no real impact if you fail.

The graphics are a real mixed bag — the
world looks great but the characters are
all over the shop once you go beyond the
main cast.

Then there is the voice acting, which is
actually shocking. It is also a blast from
the past because it was awful then as well.

We get that this game is primarily aimed
at the huge number of fans from the first
two games. We get that this is a love letter
to the original games.

But this is a 30-hour hard sell to anyone
who is new to the series.

Yes, it tells a story but its gameplay and
the core are straight out of the year 2000
and nostalgia will only get it so far. ★★★★★



... chapters in solo
... yer co-op, all
... leased content
... witch-specific
... ng with other
... Switch owners
... in local wire-
... less, motion
... control sup-
... port and HD
... Rumble.

TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare
- 2 Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order
- 3 FIFA 20
- 4 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe
- 5 Luigi's

● REMEDY'S supernatural thriller
Control has just been gifted a
FREE Expeditions update.

It adds challenging time-limited
combat experiences that are
designed as end-game content
if you've completed the
main story and hanker
for more action.

Three difficulty tiers
are available with a new



previous one has been completed.
Each tier introduces a new range of
modifiers, like increased weapon
damage or more resistant Hiss, and
players can earn new mods, rare
crafting materials and
even an outfit for Jesse.

Expect two paid story
expansions next year,
with the first, The Founda-
tion, out on March



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

POST IRONIC STATE

WHERE: Perth.
WHO: Jai McCann (vocals/guitar/
synth), Josephine "Jojo" Hawley
(synth/vocals), Calum Doig (guitar/
vocals), Elliot Johnson (bass/
vocals), Ross Stewart (drums/synth/
vocals).

FOR FANS OF: Joy Division, The
Cure, The Ninth Wave.

JIM SAYS: My favourite album of
2019 is Infancy, the epic debut from
Glasgow's The Ninth Wave.

Perth's Post Ironic State are hot on
their heels with their own brand of
goth pop. Laying down an atmo-
spheric blend of shimmering guitar
and melancholic synths, they create
some glorious soundscapes.

The band officially formed in Janu-
ary, but the ideas had been floating
around for a while. Ross, Jojo and
Jai first met when attending a "pre-
pare to study" course at Perth Col-
lege UHI in 2016.

Jai said: "Jojo and Elliot are child-
hood friends, and first met in
England before both coincidentally
moved to Fife years later."

"I approached Jojo about forming
an 80s-styled New Wave band, and
we practised together in a bedroom
through the summer of 2018 before
searching for a bass player."

When the bassist they recruited
failed to show up to a couple of
rehearsals, Jojo suggested Elliot.
Guitarist Calum Doig was the final
member to join. Jai explained: "After
a few small gigs and recording our
debut single, we unanimously
decided getting a guitarist would be
a good plan."

"Doig was one of our best friends,
as well as a committed guitarist."

In the short space of time that
they've been together, Jai reckons
the sound has developed consider-
ably. He said: "Of our earlier efforts,
just two songs have stuck around,
although we're currently in the pro-
cess of rewriting one of them. We've
looked more at our live presence,
and as a result our songs have
become grander and more intense."

Released in June, Post Ironic
State's first single What The Hell Is
Going On? exceeded their own
expectations.

Jai said: "We released it expecting
a few people to listen and say they
enjoyed it, but instead it blew up. An
LA-based social influencer even
added us to his monthly playlist that
had over 11,000 followers."

It's now been followed by Revela-
tion, which is already starting to turn
heads. A soaring, dark affair it's got
hints of The Twilight Sad. Majestic!

For the new single they've teamed
up with Perth College UHI's student-
run label Vadana which has previ-
ously released some great music
from Pyro, Amu Lou, We Came From
Wolves and Indigo Velvet.

Going ahead the lads are plan-
ning another single with Vadana.

Jai added: "We have already
decided what singles we're record-
ing next year, and we have a tour in
the works. We're hoping to have our
debut English show in the coming
months too."

MORE: facebook.com/
PostIronicState

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com