

● **DESPERADOS 3**, the Wild West tactical stealth sequel, rides onto the Xbox One, PS 4 and PC on June 16. We say sequel, but it is actually a prequel to the 2001 game

and saddles up over a decade after *Desperados 2: Cooper's Revenge*. It's by Mimimi Games, who gave us *Shadow Tactics: Blades Of The Shogun*, so expect similar mechanics.



● **SCOTLAND'S** sim racers are the best in the world according to a new survey. The report, by mobile developer Kawlee, looked at factors like completion time and

achievements in *Forza* and *Gran Turismo*. No real surprise to us — Graham Carroll is a serial winner, Dario Franchitti won his debut eSports race. England was fourth.

classic is a lesson in gameplay

Persona 5 Royal
PS4 £49.99

dungeons. Now, that's a way to fill your day. You and your team invade the minds of corrupted adults with the goal of changing their hearts — and each one delivers a handmade dungeon themed around the target.

That all means no two are the same — an idea that spices up the challenge you face as well as keeping everything feeling fresh.

The combat is a turn-based affair focusing on a mix of range, melee and magic attacks.

But the original game has been tweaked for the Royal edition, so the combat is rebalanced. They have looked at how you use firearms and given them a major upgrade that makes them a handy — if not vital — attack option.

Another new aspect is the ShowTime attack — a powerful special assault that launches you into epic and stunning animations which change depending on which two characters are doing the move. It is a fun and massively over the top way to end an epic battle.

However, Atlus have done more than give the battle

system a nip and tuck — the game has also been extended. That means a whole new semester tacked on to the school term. It adds a palace, areas to explore and a storyline to discover. It all adds significantly to the running length and the value.

When you're not caught up in battle your time management will be key to your success. You can buff your skills by picking from a number of side tasks like heading to the movies, getting a part-time job or just hitting the books at home.

But you also have to get to know more than 20 confidantes and it really is worth taking the time to work out each one because they can reward you with a meaningful buff as well as giving each a neat backstory to discover.

Just as in real life, there are only so many hours in the day so your choices are vital. Do you spend time with a friend? Head to the movies? Earn some cash working a job? It's not easy but this creates a replay edge because you can't spot everything on your first play through.

Royal adds two new confidantes to the mix —

Maruki and Kasumi come with tales to tell and plenty of baggage for you to work through. The edition has also reworked some of the tales from the existing confidantes — with one in particular getting a heavy overhaul. So, if you have played *Persona 5*, things may not go as you remembered.

The game is simply stunning to look at — it drips with style and razor-sharp detail from start to finish. Add in an outstanding soundtrack with some stonking tracks that have more than a few strong jazz vibes and you have a winner on your hands.

Kudos to Atlus — they have listened to fans and taken on board what they wanted. That has helped them turn a great game into an outstanding title. This is easily the ultimate edition of the game.

If it is new to you, then track it down. If you played *Persona 5*, forget what you know. This is better. This is a better. Just be ready to lose more than a few hundred hours in its world.

★★★★



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

SARA 'N' JUNBUG

WHERE: Glasgow
WHO: Sara Rae (vocals/guitar), Junbug Nicoll (guitar), Daniel Scott (bass/violin/keyboards), James Gil-mour (drums)

FOR FANS OF: Lucy Spraggon, Fatherson, Gerry Cinnamon

JIM SAYS: If you caught the excellent Emeli Sandé's *Street Symphony* on BBC Scotland last year, you'll know all about Sara 'N' Junbug.

The premise was the Aberdeenshire pop star scouring Scotland for the nation's best busking talent.

Sara 'N' Junbug were one of five acts invited to perform at the finale concert with Emeli and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at Glasgow City Halls.

Emeli said at the time: "Sara and Junbug were real standouts for me. They have an immediate energy and I thought they were really tight together. I really admired how in sync they were with each other and they just had a real punch."

It was an amazing platform, and an incredible experience. Junbug said: "It gave us an insight on the professional world and how we need to raise the bar."

"We like to be a chilled band and always will be, but we have pulled our socks up an inch since the show."

Sara added: "It was always an ambition of mine to play with a full orchestra because they always sound so dramatic and epic. It has definitely made us work harder and helped us not to be afraid to just ask folk for things and take responsibility."

Their reputation was further enhanced when they supported Tom Walker earlier this year. Despite the name, and their roots as a duo, Sara 'N' Junbug are a four-piece.

Sara, Junbug and Daniel first met at Langside College in the south side of Glasgow. Sara was doing drama while Junbug and Daniel were studying music.

Sara and Junbug became pals and started making music together. Daniel joined during the recordings of the first two singles, with James coming on board last year.

Daniel said: "The music has evolved from just acoustic duo stuff to a full and vibrant sound but maintains its raw edge."

That's the beauty of what Sara 'N' Junbug do. Clever lyrics we can relate to, plus great hooks. The secret is it has folk music at its core, branching out to give more of a pop feel. Ed Sheeran would be an obvious reference point.

Sara 'N' Junbug have just released their wonderful seventh single *Final Fantasy*, which has been likened to Avril Lavigne.

It's got a rockier edge than some of their previous tracks, but just as compelling.

Daniel said: "It's a bonkers pop tune with rock, pop and even romantic era classical music on the piano part. Proper summer vibes with a sense of drive of purpose!"

MORE: facebook.com/SaraNJunbug

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

Watch video of Sara 'N' Junbug at thescottishsun.co.uk

Final word is the strongest



● **MACMILLAN** Cancer Support is looking for Game Heroes to go that extra mile and raise money for the charity by taking part in a 24-hour gaming marathon either solo or as part of a team. You don't have to do it all in one go — you

can spread it out over the year. Receiving a cancer diagnosis impacts every part of a person's life, and Macmillan offer financial, physical and emotional support. Get more info or sign up at gameheroes.macmillan.org.uk



TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 FIFA 20
- 2 Animal Crossing: New Horizons
- 3 Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare
- 4 Final Fantasy VII Remake
- 5 Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order

● **DING, ding...** Bus Simulator fans are in for a treat as the Official Map Extension DLC has just landed.

Rubbish name, but two extra city districts and a new transportation hub with an airport. So loads of extra miles to drive and missions to tackle around Seaside Valley. The Kerstadt and

Sonnstein districts are in the south — one is a university area while the other is a mountain village.

Nine new missions will see you visit the airport and a host of tourist attractions with 20 bus stops. You can also unlock new skins and stickers for your fleet of buses. The DLC is out now £10.74... all aboard.

