

● WE had leaks, but now Ubisoft has revealed the remake for Prince Of Persia. The Sands Of Time will land on Xbox One, PS4 and PC on January 21. You can play on PS5

and Xbox Series X via backwards compatibility. The remake is the first time Indian studios Ubisoft Mumbai and Ubisoft Pune have helped to lead development.



● BAD news for No More Heroes fans — the third game is being delayed until next year because of Covid-19. Game director Goichi Suda, aka Suda51, told Twitter:

"Now that we have managed to get back on our feet with development, we have decided to focus on prioritising quality, and to therefore push back the final release date."

ABOUT BUY BITS

appreciate the online battles more because your AI teammate actually plays well, using space and making openings. Off-court things start to lose their shine. The career mode tells a tale called The Long Shadow. It actually tackles an interesting idea of a young player trying to break out from under his dead NBA legend father's shadow. You go from high-school games to the NBA draft and beyond, but the tale lacks any real impact despite cameos from the likes of Damian Lillard and Zion Williamson. Now for the

BIG elephant in the room — those pesky microtransactions. The game's virtual brand of currency is used for everything and, if you pay up, then be prepared for a real grind. The look has a TV level of presentation and there are some really good player likenesses. Even the counts have a real-world feel with some of sport's racial equality messages. The tweaks here are fine, but they are not enough to forgive the microtransaction madness. **★★★**



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

UNION OF KNIVES
WHO: Anthony Thomaz (vocals), Chris Gordon (vocals, instruments, production), Peter Kelly (drums, percussion).
WHERE: Glasgow.
FOR FANS OF: Massive Attack, Nine Inch Nails, Radiohead.
JIM SAYS: Union Of Knives were always a difficult band to pigeon-hole with their blend of indie and electronica.

I first fell in love with them when I heard the track Evil Has Never back in 2005. They were a great fit for the radio station I was working for at the time, Beat 106.

They perfectly encompassed the new rock and dance format that we were touting. Some 15 years since their debut album Violence and Birdsong, they are back. And what a glorious comeback.

The first single High On Account Of 0 is already a contender for my single of the year.

Soulful and melodic with a driving beat, it oozes quality. Finally, something about 2020 to celebrate.

A lovely surprise as well, as main man Chris Gordon had reactivated his previous band Baby Chaos over the past few years. I assumed that was his focus.

I've had a preview of the upcoming album Endless From The Start, and it's a wonderful listen.

Chris said: "It was a lingering thought for many years to revisit the Union Of Knives sound."

"Perhaps I was waiting for a period when I could dedicate enough time to do it justice, or I was waiting for the inspiration of some new collaborators."

Chris is the only constant from the original line-up, though Pete was involved back in the day. New to the fold is American singer Anthony Thomaz, from Glasgow funk rock hybrid DopeSickFly.

Chris added: "About 2017, I started pulling bits and pieces of ideas together but it was probably more like 2019 before I had anything approaching a full track."

"It was about then that Anthony, whom I had worked with on a few things before, came on board."

"We tried a few tracks with his voice replacing my ideas and instantly I liked the music much more."

Also featured on a couple of tracks on the album is Ladytron singer Helen Marrie, who performs as Marrie in her solo guise.

Chris explained: "Pete, who was working with Helen and Ladytron, let her hear some tracks with a view to some kind of collusion and we worked on those tracks remotely earlier this year."

"Helen brings a kind of enigmatic dusky pop feel in terms of her performance and lyrics."

He added: "Obviously Ladytron have been blazing a trail from a time before Union Of Knives even existed so it was fantastic to work with her."

The next single A Tall Tale features Helen and Anthony sparring on vocals and works a treat.

"It sets things up for a monster of an album, and hopefully some gigs next year."

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

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch video of Union Of Knives at thescottishsun.co.uk

Duo rock it

SOME games just draw you in from the first time you switch them on.

No Straight Roads is one of them — it's a cartoon-type adventure with a dash of a boss rush, a slice of hack-and-slash and a good jug of rhythm gaming.

Malaysian firm Metronomik have blended it all with a wicked sense of humour. You fill the high tops of over-the-top duo Mayday and Zuke as they try to unleash their music in a world ruled by a corrupt and evil firm.

It is set in a high-tech metropolis called Vinyl City — the music capital of the world. It is governed by No Straight Roads, aka NSR, a corrupt electronic music label whose goal is to monopolise the industry and continue their hold on the city.

Vinyl City is powered by Qwasa, which is the by-product of turning music into energy, and NSR are always searching for talented artists who can provide a new source of energy for the city.

Enter Mayday and Zuke with their rock band Bunk Bed Junction.

However, NSR claim rock is dead and that EDM is the only acceptable music in Vinyl City. Cue the duo's attempt to bring down the ruling EDM artist as they venture across districts, all with

No Straight Roads

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £34.99

their own bad guy. It is a tale that is well-written and well-told.

Mayday and Zuke do feel like best mates as they bounce off each other. There is a solid support cast and an even better gang of colourful bad guys.

You get to roam around the city when you're not facing off against the bosses and their goons, but what you do can be fairly limited. It's just a few collectables.

The fights are more interesting because they bring the hack-and-slash action with a rhythm vibe. Enemies attack to the beat, so you can use that to your advantage, but it takes time to get to grips with it. You could just button mash if that's your thing.

The thought dungeons have a platforming section that can be a pain due to the fixed camera blocking your view.

But this really shines in the boss battles. Each delivers a unique fight that really mixes things up and is great fun. They are long and sometimes tough to follow, especially in the later stages.

It is all built on a stunning blend of 2D and 3D animation that gives it a Netflix series look. And, given that this is a music game, the soundtrack is an outstanding mix of genres.

The developers have gone for a new take and it is a success on many levels. There are areas where they could improve — from checkpoints to the open world — but it is a treat for your eyes and ears. **★★★**



● GAMERS got their EGX fix despite the Covid pandemic. The London show may have bitten the dust this year, but the week-long virtual exhibition offered a chance to get a sneak peek behind the industry curtain. EGX teamed up with America expo PAX to deliver almost 24-hour coverage on everything, from how to get started in devel-

opment to the role designers play and even the impact a soundtrack can have on a title. We got a number of in-depth chats, including Arkane — the team behind Prey and Dishonored. They talked about the studio's history on their 20th anniversary. Another highlight

was actor David Bateson, who played Agent 47 in IO Hitman, on life as the world's best assassin. There was also a virtual show floor with info on games and a chance to download demos. On the news front, there was a drip-feed of information over the

week. Borderlands 3 will hit the PS5 and Xbox Series X with four-player split-screen. Puyo Puyo Tetris 2 with have a new adventure mode and Godfall will be available in three editions. It was a different EGX, but it was revealing. And watching it all in your PJ's wasn't bad as well. Catch up on all the highlights at youtube.com/EGX

