

WE don't want to hear the L word again but that hasn't stopped Hollywood. They're making a rom-com called *Locked Down* with Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor. It's out in March . . . Richard

Donner, who directed all four *Lethal Weapon* movies, is on to direct the fifth . . . Disney's live-action *Little Mermaid* will feature a new character played by *The Undoing* star Noma Dumezweni.

GAMES By **STUART CULLEN**

IT'S a tough gig remaking a much-loved game. Developers walk a fine line — do too much and you've changed it forever. Don't do enough and it's stuck in the past. Then there are the fans. Some have rose-tinted specs. Others are impossible to please. That's especially true with *Panzer Dragoon: Remake*. The 1995 Sega Saturn smash has acquired a bit of a cult status, so Polish firm MegaPixel Studio had a challenge to buff up a 25-year-old gem. The game takes place on a

Panzer Dragoon: Remake
Xbox One, PS4, Switch, PC and Stadia £20.99
post-apocalyptic planet where you battle for land, resources, and the technology of the Ancients — a people who once controlled a hyper-advanced civilisation many thousands of years in the past. Two dragons are fighting — the rider of the blue beast dies in the battle and entrusts his mission, and his dragon, to you so you must stop the Dark Dragon reactivating an ancient ruin. The story is an

alright frame for a game that clocks in around two hours. The gameplay is very much an on-rail affair as your dragon flies around and you blast enemies and dodge attacks. It all plays like the original over seven levels, but they have now been filled with colour. The problem is that, as an arcade title, there is a limit to the fun. You can only ramp up the difficulty for replay value. That's tough considering the price. Some new content would have been welcome. ★★★



NEW MUSIC
By **JIM GELLATLY**

TOM MORRIS
WHERE: Elgin, Moray
FOR FANS OF: Teenage Fanclub, Elliott Smith, Jack Johnson
JIM SAYS: One positive from this pandemic is that it has let the creative juices flow.

Helped by the advances in technology and the relative cheapness of home recording, there has been a surge of new names coming through. At the top of the pile for me is Tom Morris. At 38, he may be a late-comer, but his emotional and beautiful compositions have certain freshness. Initially inspired to pick up a guitar in his teens by Nirvana, he played in local bands. Later, he performed in function bands and amateur musical productions. He said: "I was always happy to be in the background. When lockdown



came along, I had lots of time to play guitar for myself. I had always written songs but never did anything with them." July's *The Dark Hours* was one of the finest debuts I heard last year. It's a melancholy but stirring acoustic number with proceeds donated to SAMH, Scotland's national mental health charity. His latest track *Take Care, You're Doomed!* is just as good. Once we get back to normality, he's looking to get out gigging as a solo artist for the first time. He added: "I've only played one gig and that was a Facebook Live performance. Strangely, I was as nervous about that as I've ever been." MORE: tomorrisongs.com
Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com jimgellatly.com

ON THE SOFA WITH THE REMOTE
Dulcie Pearce



ONCE again, our local cinemas have been closed. But that doesn't mean the joy of film has to stop. Here's some movie magic to enjoy in your home.

LIFE AFFIRMING



ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI
(15) 114mins, Amazon Prime

IN February 1964, in a Miami hotel room, boxer Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali), civil rights campaigner Malcolm X, singer Sam Cooke and American Football legend Jim Brown meet in secret. If you haven't heard of this pivotal coming-together, no wonder: It is a fictional event. The genius of director Regina King's Oscar-tipped adaptation of Kemp Powers' 2013 play is that it feels so believable. The dialogue is sparky, darting from intense and heavy to light and witty, while the performances from Eli Goree (Clay), Leslie Odom Jr (Sam Cooke), Aldis Hodge (Jim Brown) and Kingsley Ben-Adir (Malcolm X) carry plenty of weight.

JUST OUT

Good for your Soul

SOUL
(PG), 100 mins, Disney Plus

THIS charming, beautiful and very quirky latest offering from Pixar is the story of Joe (Jamie Foxx), a burned-out music teacher. His life has never really got started . . . and then it quickly ends when he falls down a manhole, taking his soul to the Great Beyond. With the wonderful writing and wizardry of Pixar, *Soul* is both entertaining and thought provoking — and will leave you wanting to press replay the moment it's over.



IRENE'S GHOST
(PG) 81 mins, Sky Documentaries

EVERY family has a story to tell. And in this intimate, gentle and thought-provoking documentary of his family history, film-maker Iain Cunningham tells his. He turns detective to discover the truth about his mum, Irene, after being told as a child that she had simply slipped into a coma and died. With some remarkably emotional and honest scenes — and beautiful illustrations — this true story will stick with you.



CITIZEN KANE
(U), 119 minutes, BBC iPlayer

THE pressure is on when people call a movie "the greatest film ever made" and it might feel a bit like a chore to tackle something that has such deep history in film land. But fear not. Orson Welles' 1941 film still stands up today. His portrait of a sometime-psychotic tycoon is a thing of wonder — and it will help when watching the recent Netflix masterpiece *Mank*, about its writer. Two films, one afternoon in.



UNCLE FRANK
(15), 95mins, Amazon Prime

THIS American beauty of a film is from writer-director Alan Ball of — you've guessed it — *American Beauty*. Set in 1973, it's the story of well-read and gentle Frank (Paul Bettany), who has escaped his hick, small-town family to work as a teacher. But when his father dies, he has to take a road trip back with his partner, and his very inquisitive niece. There are tears, laughter and warm acceptance in this slickly shot road-trip movies.



SCHOOL OF ROCK
(PG) 108 mins, Sky Cinema

THIS comedy for all the family provides more of a feel-good hit than a perfect guitar solo. Jack Black gives one of the finest leading comic performances of all time as wannabe rock-star and fake teacher, Dewey Finn, who cons a bunch of private school kids to be in his band. Laugh-out-loud funny with a brilliant soundtrack, this 2003 film will charm even the biggest music snob.

BOOKS
Edited by **NATASHA HARDING**

THE PUSH
Ashley Audrain, £12.99

THE birth of baby Violet was meant to be the icing on the cake for Blythe. But those intense feelings of love don't arrive. She knows something isn't right with her daughter and she is left wondering what awful deed Violet will commit next. The most tense, thrilling read that will chill and enthrall in equal measure. ★★★★★

PICK OF THE WEEK

