

"This is for the cuddly bear"

RELICS FROM THE WRECKAGE

FILMS

MAX PAYNE

OUT IN CINEMAS NOW (CERT 15)

Mark Wahlberg is Max Payne, a maverick cop thirsty for revenge, in this adaptation that sadly falls victim to the videogame-to-big screen curse. Bringing the now-famous 'bullet time' to its noir-ish setting, the film suffers from a severe lack of

coherence, with director John Moore choosing the (admittedly stunning) visuals over the plot and characters. Snowy cityscapes and *Sin City*-style monochrome/colour combos make the journey through the crime-filled underworld bearable, and at face value the film has an ample supply of guns and girls

(Bond girl Olga Kurylenko no less), but the illogical structure creates a disjointed mess. [5] KAT HALSTEAD

The anti-fur protests had finally gotten to her

COMING UP: *THE WRESTLER* (JANUARY 16), *JCVD* (FEBRUARY 2), *FRIDAY THE 13TH* (FEBRUARY 13), *DEATH RACE DVD* (FEBRUARY 2), *GOMORRAH DVD* (FEBRUARY 2)

ALL THE BEST DIGITAL PLAYGROUNDS THIS MONTH!

GAMES

The 'Kiss my ass' taunt was ill-advised

DEAD SPACE

EA GAMES

XBOX 360/PS3

When was the last time you shit your pants? We're not talking about a sneaky drinking night turned sour, but more the *Event Horizon* sort of explosion that comes from absolute bowel-busting fear. Been a while, right? *Dead Space* is proper sci-fi horror

thriving on an *Aliens*-sized budget, meaning strobe lights, heavy breathing and screeching machinery as deep space miner Isaac Clarke explores a derelict mining ship to discover an alien threat that infects the human dead and mutates the bodies. It's John Carpenter's *The Thing* in space. So it repeats its shock tricks over the 15-hour lifespan,



but how many times have you watched *Event Horizon* and never got bored? About 20 times? Yeah, exactly. [9] GILLEN McALLISTER



THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

SERIOUSLY ULTIMATE EDITION
OUT TO BUY ON DVD NOW (CERT 18)

He gave us death by power tool, killed off the guy in a wheelchair, made girls run around in tight outfits, but most importantly, director Tobe Hooper introduced us to Leatherface – one of the most iconic horror villains ever. Banned on its 1974 release, *Texas...* follows the journey of a group of teens lost in the back of beyond

pursued by a family of inbred, flesh-eating locals, and this metal-encased edition comes with 249 minutes of bonus material to satiate the true fans. [9] KAT HALSTEAD



BROTHERHOOD OF BLOOD

OUT TO BUY ON DVD NOW (CERT 18)

What's scarier than a vampire? A vampire demon, and that's what good and evil must unite to destroy in this monster/mobster cross-breed. There's a half-hearted trickle of gore, but you're more likely to feel sick from the plot's erratic timeline, which is strung together by some solid acting and a half-decent script, which would have worked better had the vampires been able to speak properly through their gawky, over-sized fangs – no wonder these creatures of the night are camera-shy. A low budget film with high ambitions, the result falls some where in between. [6] KAT HALSTEAD

COOL SHIT

AC/DC THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA
MALCOLM DOME AND JERRY EWING
CHROME DREAMS

This exhaustive A-Z of all things 'DC from the veteran Hammer scribes features the who, why, when, where and how of one of rock's best-loved, most successful and enduring names. Just in time for the release of their new album *Black Ice*, it's everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask.



BLACK METAL SATANICA

CLEOPATRA DVD

Once you get past the US narrator, *Black Metal Satanica* reveals itself as one of the more insightful examples of the ever-increasing number of black metal documentaries, emphasising philosophy over the music. The ample screen time given to Watain's Erik Danielsson, Onslaught's Acerbus and Shining frontman Niklas 'Kvarforth' Olsson offers a glimpse into BM's heart of darkness.



MARVEL MASTERS: THE WORK OF CHRIS CLAREMONT

MARVEL COMICS
Arguably, Chris Claremont's quality of work has diminished over the last few years, but here lies a collection of his very greatest stories. Best of the bunch is an X-Men tale as the team battle nemesis Magneto and fight for survival in the heart of an active volcano.



STEVEN TYLER: THE BIOGRAPHY

LAURA JACKSON

PIATKUS
Thinking you can write a better book about Aerosmith than *Walk This Way* is folly. The only bit of Tyler's life less documented is his youth, which this book doesn't go into, but its anecdotal nature will appeal to fans of *Walk This Way*.



GUITAR HERO: WORLD TOUR

ACTIVISION

XBOX 360/PS3

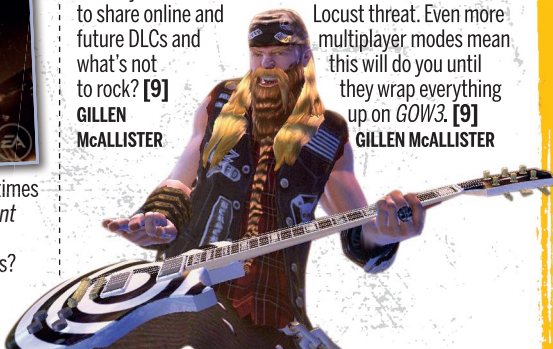
Guitar Hero has become a phenomenon, despite real guitar players sneering in disgust at regular folk bashing away on plastic instruments. Now drummers and singers can add to their collective hate as this adds drums and a mic to the set, imitating the full band extremely well. Stick in 86 rocking new songs, the ability to create your own music to share online and future DLCs and what's not to rock? [9] GILLEN McALLISTER

GEARS OF WAR 2

MICROSOFT

XBOX 360

Played the original *Gears...* last year – the grim sci-fi epic where you control a marine fighting amongst the ruins of civilisation against a horde of huge mutants? If you loved that, you'll love this. It's more of the same, duck and cover strategic gameplay but with bigger setpieces as Marcus and his squad join up with a massive battalion to tackle the Locust threat. Even more multiplayer modes mean this will do you until they wrap everything up on *GOW3*. [9] GILLEN McALLISTER



NEXT MONTH: The Spirit / JCVD / Prince Of Persia / Left 4 Dead / Harvey Birdman / GN'R: Watch You Bleed