

TIME IN

Had enough time out on the town? Check out these home entertainment options

GAME REVIEW



On ya bike: Crusty Demons and motorbike fans will love *MX Vs ATV: Reflex*.

AS A card-carrying geek, I'm at a disadvantage with *MX Vs. ATV: Reflex*.

I don't follow motocross, let alone the Crusty Demons, closely; a lot of the work that developer Rainbow Studios put into making *MX Vs. ATV: Reflex* an entertaining approximation of the motorsport career experience is lost on me.

While the tutorial is serviceable, the game has a steep learning curve, mainly due to rider reflex. The left stick on the controller governs steering and triggers acceleration and braking, while the right stick controls rider reflex and my rider's lean on his (yes, you can pick a female rider) bike.

This allows me to lean into, or against, a turn and to shift my weight to extend a jump and land properly afterwards – it also provides a last chance to recover should I be about to stack.

This certainly gives me more direct control over the finer elements of steering and jumping, but it took a while to get used to using both sticks at once, especially when trying to avoid crashes. In the meantime, I

MX Vs. ATV: Reflex

(THQ / Rainbow Studios)
RRP: \$99.95
RATING: PG



REVIEW BY ROB FARQUHAR

found myself at the back of the pack after getting knocked off my bike by another rider or sent flying off the track by a jump.

It took me a few hours before I was placing at even the beginner event series.

The right stick also governs the game's trick system. If you hold down the left shoulder button while airborne and move the right stick in a particular sequence, your rider uses his bike as a pommel horse for some cool flying gymnastics.

Crusty Demons fans will be right at home here, but you need to put some work into learning the moves. Just wagging the right stick randomly might call up a longer stunt than you have air-time for, leading to a painful face-plant.

I think I also need to juggle the camera modes. Thanks to tight turns and swooping jumps, I wound up feeling motion-sick rather quickly.

But I am not bashing this game. Once I got the hang of it (and put some anti-seasickness bands on) I found it fun. The tracks look good, becoming torn and rutted after a lap, and there's a neat customisation system where winnings allow me to upgrade my 250cc starter bike into a beast pretty quickly, with plenty of other bikes available for purchase.

The game covers the "living vicariously" angle with parts and rider-wear from real-life motocross brands including FOX Racing, Troy Lee Designs and O'Neal.

The thrash rock soundtrack will keep Crusty Demons happy.

I might not make a concerted effort to plough all the way through *MX Vs. ATV: Reflex*, but I'm glad it's on my shelf for when I feel like some challenging, plot-free racing fun.

If you're a motocross head, get this and enjoy, but I do wish the gravelly-voiced narrator would stop ending sentences as though he's telling you something awesome, though. **TO**

TV REVIEW

Cougar Town
Channel 7



TONIGHT, 8.30PM

BY JOELEN BETTINI

THIS week in *Cougar Town*, Jules decides to take best friend Ellie's advice and put fun, namely with hunky toy boy Josh, before work. In the process, her party-girl assistant, Laurie, gets a promotion but, as one might expect, not all goes smoothly. Super hot paper-buddy neighbour Grayson falls prey to one of Jules' irresistible charms – persuasion – and is set up on a man-date with her ex, Bobby. While the date doesn't go so well for Bobby, it does have a positive effect on the "G-man".



CD REVIEW

Neon Heartache

Jess Harlen



(PLETHORA REC)

BY JESSE KUCH

WORDS cannot even begin to describe just how special Jess Harlen's debut, *Neon Heartache*, is on new soul imprint Plethora Records (a new sub-label of Obese Records). This is real, one hundred per cent pure soul music, not the commercially manufactured R'n'B that we are assaulted with on a daily basis. Her voice really needs to be heard to be believed: it's sexy, sultry, husky and totally her own. Backed up by strong songwriting and wicked production by Plutonic Lab, this really is a "must-buy".



TOP 5

With Johnny Depp playing a leading role as the Mad Hatter in Tim Burton's new rendition of *Alice In Wonderland*, timeOUT takes a look back at the top five Johnny Depp characters in film

1 EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

While *21 Jump Street* undoubtedly launched his stardom, Edward Scissorhands still enjoys the distinction of being Depp's defining role of his earlier career. The half-finished, artificial man with scissors for hands, who goes to live with a suburban US family, was always a tall order in the box office, but the Burton/Depp pairing proved to be a hit. Weird, funny and wonderful, this is a must-see.



2 RAOUL DUKE

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS

This portrayal of Hunter S. Thompson's classic book is Depp at his most madcap. Following Raoul Duke and his attorney, Dr Gonzo, on a drug-fuelled bender through the Nevada Desert and Las Vegas, it's a commentary on life and the American dream in post-60s USA. A cult classic that's well worth the watch, if you can stand Terry Gilliam's offbeat style of direction.



3 CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW

PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

While the movies received mixed reviews, their box office power and Depp's charismatic performance deserve credit. Swaggering, colourful and intoxicated, Captain Jack Sparrow proves that despite his faults, some pirates have a heart of gold. Just don't trust him with your daughter.



4 GILBERT GRAPE

WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE

Depp stars as Gilbert Grape in what is arguably the best film of his career. Set in the fictional small town of Endora, Iowa, Grape spends his days caring for his mentally handicapped brother Arnie (Leonardo DiCaprio). A tale of life in a dying small town, the movie scored an Oscar nomination for DiCaprio, but it is one of Depp's finest hours as well.



5 GEORGE JUNG

BLOW

Portraying real figures is always asking for trouble, but Depp's performance as infamous real-life cocaine importer George Jung is one of the most thoughtful of his career. Charting Jung's life as one of the world's largest drug traffickers, it's a tale of the effects of crime on loved ones.



djumbunji press
KickArts Fine Art Printmaking

INTRODUCTION TO COLLOGRAPHY
with Elizabeth Hunter Master Printmaker at Djumbunji Press

DATE: Saturday 20 March
DURATION: 1 day, 9am to 4pm
LOCATION: Djumbunji Press
ABILITY LEVEL: Adult beginners
MAX PARTICIPANTS: 10
COST: \$120.00
BOOKINGS: 4032 5598
studiocoordinator@kickarts.org.au

W O R K S H O P

A Collograph is a collage of tactile and relief textures on a backing board which, when inked and printed, will exaggerate the relief and transmit it to the damp paper creating a rich and varied surface. Different tonal effects and vibrant colour is also achieved because of the depth of relief and consequent shadow effects and the differential inking that results from the highly textured surface. Substances such as carborundum, acrylic texture mediums, sandpapers, string, cut card, leaves and grasses can all be used in creating the collograph plate used for printing.

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