







## Welcome to P3/4 me



There are a few interesting questions raised by the games in this issue. Firstly, why have we waited so long for Gran Turismo 5? And will the wait have been worth it? Secondly, why hasn't more been made of Singularity from the publishers, when it's clearly one of the better first-person shooters you'll play this year? And, finally, will Toy Story 3 suffer the fate of some many movie-licensed games in the past?

We can't claim to always have the answers for you, but we can guarantee that each issue of P3Zine will be packed from cover to cover with the latest reviews and previews. We're going to be tweaking the mag over the next couple of months, so if there's anything you'd really like to see, then do write in and let us know.

**MAGAZINE** FEEDBACK! Click here to tell us what vou think of the magazine

Enjoy the issue.

Dan Hutchinson, Editor p3zine@gamerzines.com

There's nowt they don't know about *PlayStation..* 







Jon Denton While Jon's quietly confident that True to be an improvement. Crime will be the dog's.

## This month's highlights...

The latest & greatest titles on PS3









## **QUICK FINDER** © Every game's just a click away

**Guitar Hero: WoR** nail'd **Need for Speed HP** 

**Ghost Recon: FS** True Crime: HK Deus Ex: HR Mafia II

Kane & Lynch 2

**NBA Elite 11 Gran Turismo 5 LEGO Harry Potter** Toy Story 3 Singularity **Tiger Woods 11** 

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### **WARNING! MULTIMEDIA DISABLED!**

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We recommend you close and re-open the magazine and select "Play" when asked about the multimedia to enjoy the magazine as intended.





























Another secret six heading your way...



#### **PES 2011**

Publisher: Konami | ETA: Autumn

ES has had its day, right? Well, while FIFA continues to wow us with its lifelike simulation of the beautiful game, Konami's still plodding



#### **Metal Gear Solid: Rising**

Publisher: Konami | ETA: 2011

veryone's favourite cybernetic ninja gets the starring role in Kojima's next Metal Gear, as Raiden steps up to the plate and slices his way through brick walls, watermelons and a bunch of Privates' privates. This is Metal Gear Solid as you've never seen it before, with the series' usual stealth switched for all-new katana-swinging gameplay. One thing that hasn't been confirmed, however, is PlayStation Move support, but if there's one core game that could actually benefit from using the motion controller, it's this. Make it so, Konami.

#### **Journey**

Publisher: SCEE | ETA: 2011

aving already worked on two of PSN's greatest (and most peculiar) titles, we can't wait to see what thatgamecompany can come up with for their third

adventure, which sees a lone adventurer awakening in an unknown world, crossing paths with online players as they embark on an incredible journey. Can't wait.



#### **Twisted Metal**

Publisher: SCEE | ETA: 2011

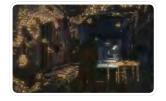
affe may have fooled the majority into believing that his next game would be anything but a revival of his classic PSone car destroy 'em-up, but lucky for us it is. And it looks fantastic to boot, with some brand new modes that see players taking out 100-foot flying statues, while the introduction of characters allow for an all-new way to play. Free up your bandwidth, ladies and gents – Twisted Metal is the new Warhawk.

#### Silent Hill (Working Title)

Publisher: Konami | ETA: 2011

re you scared of things that go bump in the A night? You should be, because it may be an escaped convict lurking in the shadows with a screwdriver or, you know, a guy with a giant sword and a pyramid for a head. This eighth Silent Hill introduces

Murphy Pendleton, an inmate who's gotten away after his prison transport careers off the road, before finding himself stranded in the spooky Silent Hill...



#### **Rayman Origins**

**Publisher:** Ubisoft | **ETA:** Late 2010

ayman's returning to his 2D side-scrolling roots, in what could be the most beautiful game to hit





**AUGUST KANE & LYNCH 2: DOG DAYS** 

MAFIA II

**SEPTEMBER** F1 2010

PLAYSTATION MOVE

**OCTOBER** 

STAR WARS: TFU II MEDAL OF HONOR

CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS

**NEED FOR SPEED: HOT PURSUIT** 

NOVEMBER









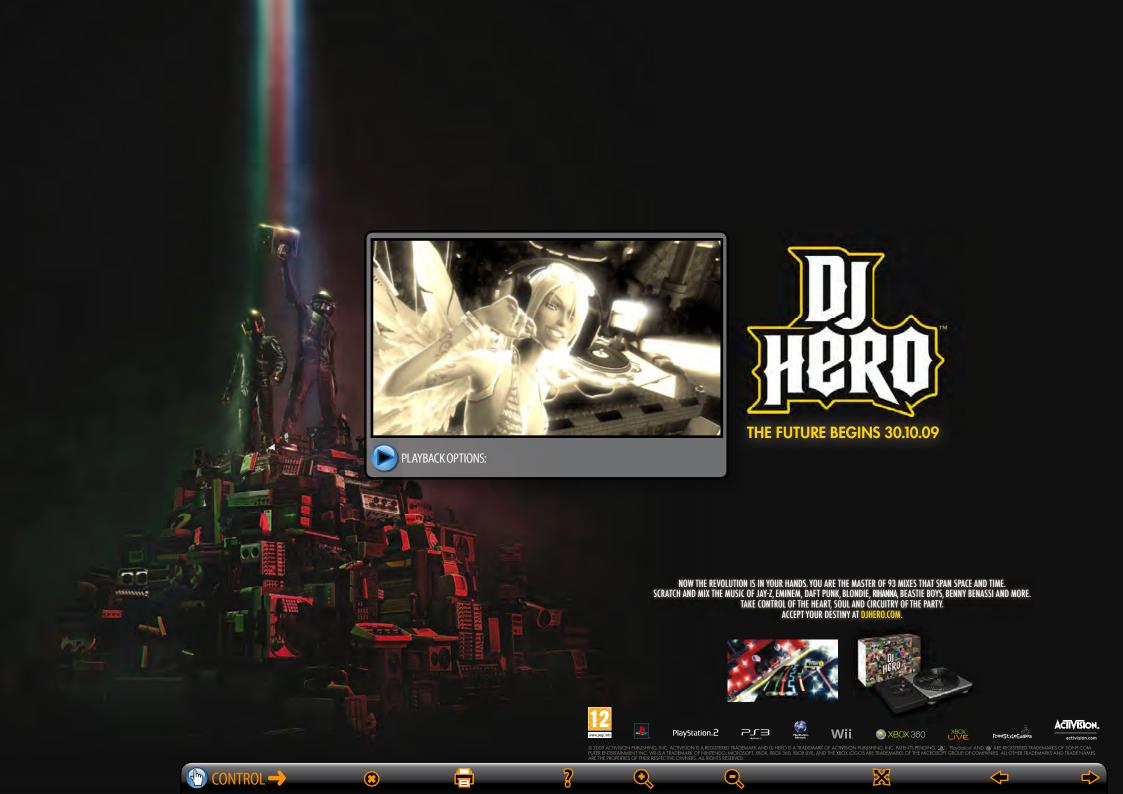














Publisher: Activision Developer: Neversoft Heritage: Guitar Hero 5, Guitar Hero: World Tour, Band Hero PS Move Compatible: TBC Link: www.guitarhero.com ETA: September

PREVIEW
FEEDBACK!
Click here to
tell us what
you think of
Guitar Hero:
Warriors of Rock

The art style is a lot grittier and

more gothic than any recent

Guitar Hero. Do you like it?



## Guitar Hero: Warriors of Rock



Knickerrocker glory?

#### What's the story?

Well, surprisingly there actually is one this time around, with Warriors of Rock being the first Guitar Hero game to implement some sort of story-driven narrative into its structure. It's called Quest mode and follows each of the game's characters on a journey to save rock 'n' roll, tracking their exploits from real-world venues like New York's CBGB into a fantasy rock world, eventually joining forces with the Demi-God to slay 'The Beast' threatening their world. Eat your heart out, Brutal Legend.

#### What's the tracklist looking like?

Neversoft is keen to bring back Guitar Hero's identity and distance the game from rivals like Rock Band and Band Hero. As a result, Warriors of Rock's soundtrack is geared predominantly towards the rock and metal crowd – and with an art style to match. Over 90 tracks feature on the disc, of which 35 have been revealed so far, including Black Sabbath's Children of the Grave, Metallica & Ozzy Osbourne's Paranoid and a track written exclusively for the game by Megadeth frontman Dave Mustaine.

#### Is there a new guitar?

Yep, and it's completely customisable. All of the electronics have now been placed in the neck of the guitar meaning you can switch the actual body for alternative designs released by Activision, including an awesome battle axe design and fire wings.

#### Anything else I should know?

As well as the usual array of multiplayer options, a new feature called Quickplay+ encourages replayability by offering 13 unique challenges for every track on the disc – which should keep you going until next year, at least.





9000





















Publisher: EA
Developer: Criterion
Heritage: Burnout Paradise,
Burnout Revenge
PS Move Compatible: TBC

Link: www.hotpursuit. needforspeed.com ETA: 19th November



"Hot Pursuit's bright yellow Lambos are back, but this time the cops have brought a new weapon: a sleek Bugatti Veyron"



## Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit

Police, camera, action

#### What's the story?

Hear those sirens? Seacrest County's about to get a wake up call – and so is Need for Speed, as the game's going back to its racer-chaser roots with Hot Pursuit, pitting supercars up against supercops as they speed across Seacrest County, a sprawling open-world California-alike environment filled with hundreds of miles of open road to explore and tear up. And who better to reimagine Need for Speed than the team behind Burnout, Criterion Games.

#### Wait, wasn't Hot Pursuit a PSone game?

Yeah, and rather than being a direct sequel to the stellar 1998 arcade racer, Hot Pursuit's a remake of Need for Speed's classic pursuit formula. The bright yellow Lambos are back, but this time the cops have brought a new weapon: a sleek siren-equipped Bugatti Veyron, and given Criterion's heritage, the comparison's with Burnout are

immediately obvious, with the deadly high-speed game of cat and mouse working similarly to the classic crash-'em-up series.

## So it's Burnout Paradise's cops and robbers mode?

Almost, but there are pretty major differences.

Depending on which side of the law you decide to hit the streets with, evading the cops or taking down the criminals is still the name of the game. But besides just slamming into your opponent to ram him off the road, you're also given access to a variety of power-ups to weigh the odds in your favour. The cops have access to a police helicopter which can keep tabs on your opponent if they disappear out of your line of sight, or organise road blocks or stingers to significantly slow him down.



















PREVIEW
FEEDBACK!
Click here to
tell us what
you think of
Need For Speed:
Hot Pursuit



"Autolog automatically updates your friends' scores, times and challenges in real-time"



#### > Need For Speed: Hot Pursuit continued

The 'robbers', meanwhile, have access to their own including decoys, which confuse cops by putting out a ghost image of your car, and radar jammers that wipe you off the map completely.

#### It'll be more fun online though, right?

Well, what isn't? And Criterion's expertise in the online field has led them to create 'Autolog', a system that automatically updates your friends' scores, times and challenges in real time. Again, it's similar to Burnout Paradise's Road Rules system but is something that'll significantly affect how you play Hot Pursuit.

#### I'm convinced. When can I play it?

Hot Pursuit's already been dated for a 19th November release, so we'll be strapping into our Lambos and speeding through Seacrest County in next to no time.

#### Anything else I need to know?

Seriously, don't let that Need for Speed name put you off. We've all been burnt by the likes of Undercover and ProStreet, but Hot Pursuit's our most anticipated arcade racer of the year.













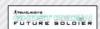




Both cars have health points. Bash them about a bit to ram them off the road.



## Ps/4me/Previews



Publisher: Ubisoft **Developer:** Ubisoft **Heritage:** Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter, Rainbow Six Vegas **PS Move Compatible:** TBC **Link:** http://ghostrecon.

uk.ubi.com

ETA: Spring 2011



"The Ghosts are sent in to clear out hostiles from a Russian coastline, spearheading the assault ahead of a US convoy's



## **Ghost Recon: Future Soldier**



Arabians vs. Predator

#### Middle East meets West

We're not, nor have ever been, soldiers here at P3Zine, but from what we understand, the biggest problem a soldier faces on the battlefield is being spotted by the enemy, and thus being shot at by the enemy. But what if you could avoid that problem altogether by making your infantry invisible to the naked eye? That, apparently, is the theory behind the tech currently being prototyped for real-world warfare, and in usual Ghost Recon-style, something the next game's looking to make significant use of.

#### Invisible War?

Well precisely, and the Ghosts really are living up to their name in Ubisoft's next Ghost Recon, strapping on an optical camo suit to effectively make themselves invisible, and heighten the element of stealth and surprise teased in previous games. You won't just be stuck in the same sand-ridden environment this time either, with Future Soldier taking the Ghosts on a tour of Asia and Northern Europe alongside the usual Middle Eastern locations. The demo we've seen shows the Ghosts sent in to clear out hostiles from a Russian coastline, spearheading the assault ahead of a US convoy's deployment on the beaches.

It starts off much slower paced than what you might expect from a Ghost Recon game, and seems to have been fairly heavily influenced by Sam Fisher's most recent outing on Xbox 360, with a big emphasis on sneaking around the battlefield before taking combatants down hand-to-hand. But stealth operations can only last so long, of course, and Ghost Recon's awesome cover-based shooting – which now switches to a first-person view while targeting – will leave you both shocked and awed.





















PREVIEW (h) FEEDBACK! Click here to tell us what you think of **Ghost Recon: Future Soldier** 



#### > Ghost Recon: Future Soldier continued

#### Are there any new toys?

Absolutely. Besides the new optical camo suit, players will also be able to get to grips with drones and an enhanced version of the cross-com visor, which now gives a detailed description of each troop – friend or foe – lined up in their crosshairs. Meanwhile, the weapons themselves will have around 30+ attachments to play around with. Expect plenty of futuristic death aids.

#### What about multiplayer?

Future Soldier's campaign will fully support four-player online co-op, and Ubisoft has also confirmed to us that there will be an adversarial six-versus-six online mode. The details of which, however, are still to be revealed by them.

When can we expect to see more?
We're going hands-on with the game just in time for the next issue of P3Zine, so expect plenty more on Future Soldier next month.





















P3Zine Previews

Publisher: Activision
Developer:
United Front Games
Heritage: ModNation Racers

TRUE

PS Move Compatible: TBC Link: www.truecrime.com ETA: October

before using their weapons back on them.

# True Crime: Hong Kong



Hong Kong Phooey?

#### What's the story?

Having conquered the blocks of New York City and given the inhabitants of LA a taste of police brutality, True Crime's switching its North American backdrop for a distinctly Oriental flavour for its PS3 debut, with this third game in the series attempting to recreate the thrill of a Chinese action flick, as players are thrust onto the crime-ridden streets of Hong Kong. As per the PlayStation 2 games, True Crime: Hong Kong remains an openworld affair, as players take control of Wei Shen, an undercover cop trained in martial arts, parkour and outfitted with advanced driving skills who lets his fists, feet and bullets do the talking. Imagine Jackie Chan fused with El Mariachi and Evel Knievel and you've got the right idea.



"Players take control of Wei Shen, an undercover cop trained in martial arts and parkour"

You can disarm enemies



## Jackie Chan and Evel Knievel? How does that work?

There are three core elements to True Crime: third-person shooting, hand-to-hand combat, and driving. Each component is seamlessly integrated into the game with the player able to decide which method to use in any given situation. If you want to slap someone around before putting a bullet in their head, so be it. The combat mechanics are relatively deep too, with a lengthy move list and plenty of options for environmental kills dotted around the city. Fancy putting someone's head through a TV? Now's your chance.

















TRUE

PREVIEW (b) FEEDBACK!

Click here to

tell us what

vou think of

True Crime: Hong Kong







#### But aren't you the good guy?

Technically yes, but whether it stays that way is up to you. Along the way you can choose to side with the Triads and make morally ambiguous decisions that directly affect the plotline and your reputation on the streets.

#### When do we get more?

We're going to be looking a lot closer at True Crime in the coming months, bringing you a standalone magazine dedicated to Wei Shen's escapades in the build up to the game's release this autumn.

#### Anything else I should know?

True Crime's strictly a single-player experience, but besides the core story-arc (which Activision reckon will last most players a good 12-15 hours), there are plenty of side-quests and mini-games to engage in in too. We've been told that you'll be able to gamble at local casinos, have a good sing-song at a karaoke bar and, most intriguingly, take girls out on dates.



























**Publisher:** Square-Enix **Developer:** Eidos Montreal Heritage: N/A **PS Move Compatible:** TBC

**Link:** http://deusex.com ETA: 2011

**PREVIEW FEEDBACK!** Click here to tell us what you think of **Deus Ex: Human** Revolution



"Human Revolution is set 25 years before the original Deus Ex, introducing players to Adam Jensen, a private security officer"

## Deus Ex: **Human Revolution**

Augmented reality

#### Day-us Ex?

You'll need to use cover

effectively to survive.

The correct pronunciation of Eidos' futuristic shooter-RPG may have troubled the gaming populace for an entire decade, but regardless of how you say it, Deus Ex and its hi-tech, nano-augmented gameplay is back for a third round, and it's bringing some jaw-dropping visuals.

#### It looks a bit orange...

Well, as a certain company's catchphrase goes, the future's bright, the future's orange. Human Revolution is set in 2027, 25 years prior to the original Deus Ex, introducing Adam Jensen, a security officer working

> for the corporation behind the augmentations. When the company is unexpectedly attacked, Jensen endeavours to get to the bottom of the assault and unravel the conspiracy unfolding before him – using the corporation's cutting-edge augmentations to help him on his way.

#### When do we get more?

Though it looked gorgeous in the demonstration at last month's E3, that 2011 release date is still a fair way off, so don't expect much on Human Revolution for a while yet. As soon as we get our hands on it, we'll let you know.

#### Anything else I need to know?

Human Revolution is mainly viewed from a firstperson perspective, but pulls back into a thirdperson view while performing takedowns (melee and sneak kills) and when hiding behind cover. You'll also get to roam around populated cities with NPCs reacting appropriately to your actions.























## P3zine Previews

## MAFIAN

Publisher: 2K Games Developer: 2K Czech Heritage: Mafia, Vietcong, Hidden & Dangerous Link: www.mafia2game.com ETA: 27th August











#### Gangster's Paradise

#### What's the story?

Goodfellas meets Grand Theft Auto would be the best way to describe 2K's epic action crime thriller, which finally launches onto store shelves next month. The extra time in development seems to have paid off for 2K Czech who, going by our recent hands-on play time, appear to have one of the biggest games of the year on their hands – and another open-world sandbox game well worth getting exciting for.

The developer has placed a huge emphasis on telling a classic gangster story in Mafia II, documenting the rise of Vito Scalleti, an Italian-American who finds himself thrust into a life of organised crime in an attempt to escape poverty. Expect plenty of classic car chases, bone-crunching hand-to-hand combat, great gunplay and a story worthy of the silver screen.

#### Why should we be excited?

The PC original is still one of the most fondly remembered titles of the decade, and although there have been plenty of similar games to hit the shelves since then, Mafia still has a certain quality to it that others in the genre just haven't been able to realise. The game does an enviable job of actually making you feel like part of an organised crime syndicate, with its unprecedented authenticity to the 50s time period, fantastic

setting and well-written script working wonders to put you in the boots of a mafioso. And who doesn't like the sound of that?

#### When do we get more?

We'll have the review of Mafia II in next month's issue of P3Zine and will be bringing you more on the PS3-exclusive DLC in later issues.

#### Anything else I need to know?

Forget pigeons and hidden packages, Mafia II's collectibles are vintage issues of Playboy magazine, complete with fully-viewable nude centrefolds. Blimey.





















KANE& 2

**Publisher:** Square-Enix **Developer:** 10 Interactive **Heritage:** Hitman series, Kane & Lynch: Dead Men **PS Move Compatible:** No Link: www.kane&lynch.com **ETA:** 27th August

PREVIEW 6

**FEEDBACK!** 

Click here to

tell us what

vou think of Kane & Lynch

2: Dog Days



# Kane & Lynch 2: Dog Days

Flops and robbers

t's almost impossible to start talking about a sequel to Kane & Lynch without mentioning the IP-destroying fiasco that met the launch of the original all those years ago. But wipe away any preconceptions you may have, as Dog Days is actually rather good. In an attempt to sweep the shortfalls

and embarrassments of the original to one side, IO has taken the criminal couple back to the drawing board for their first seguel to prove their worth, putting players in control of the shade-wearing psychotic Lynch over the original's relatively more human

> appears to have worked. But the ol'character

seguel to look and feel like an authentic homemade movie. using footage from Michael Mann movies and amateur happy slappers Kane. And it as inspiration to add a sense of character and individuality to the Shanghai-shooting sequel – two things, of course, that the overly generic original completely switcheroo

"Wipe away any preconceptions you may have, as Dog Days is actually rather good"



isn't the biggest shake-up you'll

find in Dog Days. IO wants the



#### **BURNING ROBBER**

Rather than simply settling for a standard throwaway Team Deathmatch option, Dog Days' online multiplayer is home to some of the most innovative online modes in years...



FRAGILE ALLIANCE Work as a team to bag the cash, or turn on your allies to take it all for yourself.



UNDERCOVER COP Kill the rest of your 'team' sneakily without them working out who did it.



**COPS & ROBBERS** Whoever you decide to play as, securing the cash is still your prime objective.





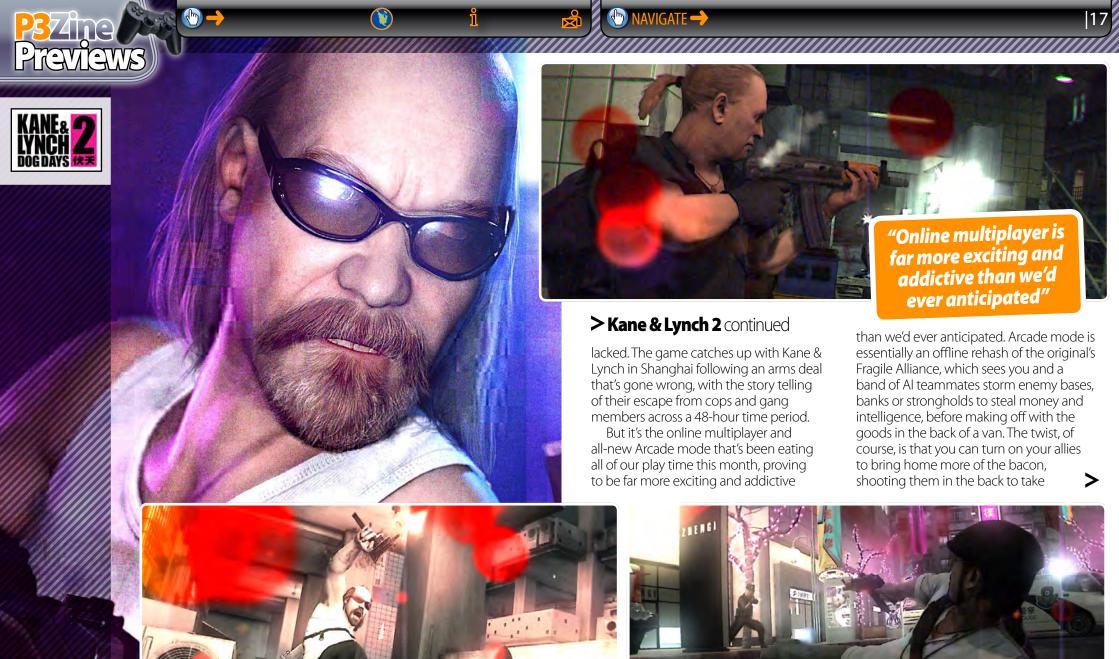
























MAJE





#### > Kane & Lynch 2 continued

whatever money they've got. They can do the same of course, so be careful.

Online multiplayer throws up a few variations on the same concept, one including the option for a team to play as the cops attempting to thwart the heist, and another putting a randomly chosen undercover cop amidst the robbers before telling them to sneakily take out the rest of their own team. It's one of the most innovative online game types in years.

With that having been said, we're still going to remain fairly hesitant until we see the final version next month. We're still not entirely convinced that the art direction isn't as a direct result of an ugly engine and poor texture work, but at this stage, Dog Days seems to be a far superior sequel in every area. The shooting's tighter, both the Story mode and online multiplayer look inspired, and most importantly, Dog Days plays well - something that certainly couldn't be said for Dead Men.

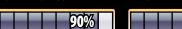












K&L 2 could well be the most improved sequel of all time



















**Publisher:** Deep Silver **Developer:** Techland Heritage: Call of Juarez, Call of Juarez: Bound in Blood PS Move Compatible: No **Link:** www.naildgame.com **ETA:** Winter

**PREVIEW FEEDBACK!** Click here to tell us what you think of nail'd

#### HANDS-ON

## nail'd

#### Pure and simple

f we didn't know any better, we'd swear blind that nail'd was a side project of Evolution Studios. It is MotorStorm, and we don't just mean in terms of its off-road quad bike racing concept, but in its aesthetics too. The bright yellow text and grungy fonts of the menu screens all scream of Evolution's title even before you've booted up a race, while the option to take part in a Festival – nail'd's name for a Quick Race – only rams the point home.

We needn't point out the obvious similarities with Pure's art style, either. Indeed, if Techland's nailed anything, it's how to rip off the competition.

So nail'd's borderline plagiaristic, but some of the best games are. Singularity (reviewed this issue) is

proof enough that putting your own spin on existing ideas can work, but the jury's still out on whether Techland's racer is going to be able to pull it off with so much aplomb.

The studio wants to keep nail'd simple. Unlike Pure or MotorStorm,



#### **BIGGING IT UP**

Four things you need to know about nail'd.

"The bright yellow text and grungy fonts of the menu screens



**BIG AIR** 



**BIG BIKES** As well as ATVs, you'll also be able to get on a bike. They feel the same, though. insane speed.



**BIG SPFFD** nail'd's mountain drops will have you building up some



LITTLE CUSTOMISATION Forget the intricacies of Pure's customisation system, nail'd's is far less detailed.





















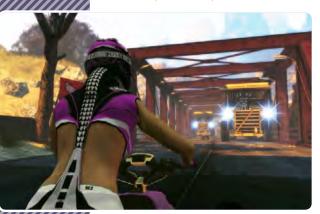




#### > nail'd continued

there are no fancy mechanics, no stunt system nor an attack option, instead just equipping players with accelerate, brake and boost buttons for a pure arcade racing experience. The tracks, however, could barely be described as basic, littered with hazards, jumps and fairly openplan routes. Each of them, of which we've been told there'll be around 11 in total, are inspired by a realworld location, with Sawmill, for example, set amidst the woodlands of Yosemite National Park, while the dusty plains of Railroad have been based on the Grand Canyon.

Furthermore, each track is set around a central theme, too. Sawmill takes place around exactly that, weaving racers in-between stacks of timber, falling trees, lethal buzzsaws and workmen's shacks, while Railroad follows a set of a train tracks across a canyon, complete with a moving train that you can jump onto - or, of course, into.



They're incredibly lengthy too, thanks in no small part to Techland's technical achievements with Call of Juarez, but you'll be whizzing through them far too quickly to soak up the view. nail'd's fast – much more so than the relative sluggishness of Evolution's racer – and it's incredibly easy to pick up and play.

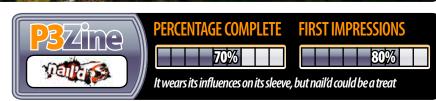
It seems that Techland's followed the definition of an arcade racer to the letter, with the twitchy handling of the ATVs and MTXs instantly gelling and immediately fun. But because of that arcade approach, nail'd also seems quite lightweight. There doesn't seem to be a career mode to sink your teeth into, instead relying on a very early-noughtiessounding Tournament mode, while a split-screen option, too – something we'd expect from an arcade racer – appears to have gone AWOL, leaving us solely with the game's online option for our multiplayer kicks.

But despite the shortcomings in design and the obvious lack of creativity, you can't criticise nail'd for what it is, a frivolous dash of oldschool arcade racing that's great fun to pick up and play for 15 minutes at a time. Whether it's anything more than that remains to be seen.

"There are no fancy mechanics, just accelerate, brake and boost buttons for a pure arcade racing experience"

























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**Publisher:** EA Sports **Developer:** EA Sports Canada Heritage: NBA Live series, NHI series

**PS Move Compatible: TBC** Link: http://nbaelite.

> easports.com ETA: October

PREVIEW (17) FEEDBACK! Click here to tell us what vou think of NBA Elite 11



## **NBA Elite 11**

#### EA's awesome baller alley-oops the rulebook

efore you discard this year's NBA as another one purely for the fans, we've got one thing to say: NBA Elite 11 changes everything you know about basketball games.

Okay, maybe not everything – this is no NBA Jam – but that statement is at least true of everything you know about the way your typical basketball simulation feels. Reflected by EA's decision to drop the 'Live' moniker the series has utilised since its 1995 inception, this year's NBA is home to the biggest change the series has ever seen, which EA hope

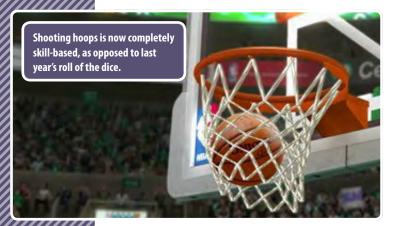
won't just revitalise interest in the series, but open up the game to both casual fans and non-fans of the sport alike.

An impossible task? Well, you might think so, but going by our recent hands-on, the studio appears to have achieved the unthinkable. It's all thanks to a new control method similar to NHL 07's genre-changing skill stick, placing control of the player's legs on the left stick, and control of his hands on the right. It's a revolutionary new interface, being both simple to use yet difficult to master. Much like the sport itself.



Flicking the right stick from left to right naturally bounces the ball from hand to hand, while pulling diagonally downwards weaves the ball between the player's legs. Hold the left stick back and flick from side to side and he'll effortlessly juggle the ball left to right behind his back, while letting off a shot is as easy as pushing the right stick forward and releasing

























#### > NBA Elite 11 continued

at the peak of his hop. The closer to the peak, the higher the shot accuracy, while dunking the ball is as simple as running to the backboard and flicking up the right stick. More advanced moves come via holding down L2, forcing our player into a jump. Combine a jump with a shot and, if it goes in, you've got one of the most satisfying sensations in sports games. If you've played one of the recent NHLs, you'll know exactly what we're getting at.

The same mechanics are true of defense. Swing the right stick left and you'll throw in your left hand; throw the right stick right and... well, you get the idea.

It's a wonderfully natural and thoroughly convincing evolution, and though it's still very early in development, the mechanic already appears to do exactly as intended, adding a sensation of accuracy, flexibility and realism to a series previously dictated by roll of the "NBA Elite 11 could end up being the most accurate and most exciting basketball sim ever created"

dice button presses and canned animations. More importantly, the technology won us over much the same way it did in NHL 07 four years ago. We're not particularly basketball fans, yet we found ourself returning to Elite 11's demo pod time and time again. It really is that good.

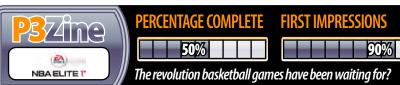
NBA Elite 11 is still a way away from its targeted October release, but it's already evident that NBA is something worth getting excited for. The control system works exactly as you'd expect it to, and though there are still the obvious kinks to work out – we were scoring three pointers all the way from the other end of the court in this early code – NBA Elite 11 could end up being the most accurate and most exciting basketball sim ever created.





























Publisher: SCEE
Developer:
Polyphony Digital
Heritage: Gran Turismo 4,
Tourist Trophy

PS Move Compatible: TBC Link: www.gran-turismo.com ETA: November

PREVIEW
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Gran Turismo 5

#### FRETLOOK

## **Gran Turismo 5**

#### Vorsprung durch Technik

here are over a thousand licensed cars in Gran Turismo 5 (seriously, go and count them; we'll still be here when you get back), but while 200 of them carry all the next-gen wizardry you've come to expect from your PS3 (photo-realistic chassis, fully modelled cockpits and perfectly detailed exteriors, for example), it might sadden you to learn that over 800 of them do not. Instead they're what Sony call 'Standard Cars' updated and included from

previous series' – upscaled PS2 assets, in other words.

But while that may be a rather large bombshell to start on (and a rather feeble attempt from Sony to brush a pretty major oversight under the carpet), there are still plenty of things to be excited about in Polyphony's latest super sim. Day-to-night transitioning is the latest addition to send race fans into a tizzy, with the sunswept skies gradually giving way to darkness while racing, as Gran Turismo's

"GT5's glorious lighting paints an utterly mesmeric picture on your 3DTV. Yep, GT's gone 3D"

glorious lighting paints an utterly mesmeric picture on your 3DTV. Yep, you read that right, Gran Turismo 5 is the latest title to step into the third dimension, offering a whole new way to play if you've got the cash to have upgraded to a snazzy new 3D-compatible television.

Of course, there's still an unrivalled degree of finesse beneath Gran Turismo 5's snazzy exterior, with cars that feel as real as they look, thanks to the game's brand-new physics engine that replaces the three-year-old one found in GT5: Prologue to add an unrivalled sense of detail





















GT5's lighting and particle effects are second to none.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS





#### > Gran Turismo 5 continued

and unmatched vehicle handling. Sports cars delicately hug each corner, rally cars glide around dust-swept tracks and NASCAR cars power around their oval arenas, picking up dents, dust and body damage as they wrestle for position - the first time vehicle damage has featured in the series. A track editor, too, and an all-new weather system - though still to be seen at the time of writing – both further help justify GT5's long development process.

And the new features don't stop there. Head-tracking lets players use their PlayStation Eye to look around their vehicle exactly as they would in real life – a mouth-watering prospect when combined with the game's 3D capabilities – and if you've already played through the PSP version of Gran Turismo, you'll be able to transfer your vehicles directly into your Gran Turismo 5 garage. You'd better get on it now if you want a

"The product of elegant design and delicate engineering; a driving game worth waiting for"

headstart come November. And if you're an avid YouTube uploader, prepare to be excited, as GT 5 lets you save replays and upload them to your YouTube account in high definition directly from your PlayStation 3, while an alternative photo mode lets you create a photo album from in-game snapshots before sharing them online, presumably via Gran-Turismo.com.

So, Polyphony's latest looks certain to be firing on all cylinders when it finally launches this November, with a 16-player online mode bound to dominate your playtime over Christmas. It wouldn't be Gran Turismo if we weren't made to wait, and like many of the cars themselves, Gran Turismo 5 appears to be the product of elegant design











**Publisher:** Warner Bros **Developer:** Traveller's Tales Heritage: LEGO Star Wars, LEGO Indiana Jones PS Move Compatible: No **Link:** http://games. kidswb.com/official-site/ lego-harry-potter **OUT NOW** 

# **LEGO Harry Potter**

Does Potter spell doom for the LEGO series?

t is the turn of the Harry Potter franchise to cast its magic upon Traveller's Tales popular LEGO-themed ventures, faithfully transforming the film adaptations of J.K. Rowling's first four books one brick at a time.

Those who've dabbled with previous iterations of the LEGO games should find that the basic foundations of this latest outing aren't too dissimilar, the majority of your time being spent blasting objects with your wand, amassing LEGO studs, building contraptions and seeking out collectibles. The unique element here is to throw the world of wizardry into the mix. Players can utilise a selection of seven spells as well as the Invisibility Cloak and a number of potions to concoct, drip fed to you in relation with the story. You'll have to switch regularly between these spells depending on your situation. Countering Dementors will have you conjuring up the Expecto Patronum spell, whereas Riddikulus must be used to dispel the shapechanging abilities of Boggarts.

Of course, cast favourites make an appearance equipped with unique



abilities. For example, Hermione can use a book to decipher symbol combinations on bookcases, while Ron can navigate his pet rat Scabbers through a series of pipe work. The story mode will make up for a solid 12 hours of playtime.

As you may have guessed, the entire game is divided into four parts, each segmenting into a further six levels. Each of these chart the more significant events throughout Harry's early life, extending right from escaping the care of the Dursley's at Privet Drive through to the challenging tasks of the Triwizard Tournament. This time around, players will also find sections that intersperse the

#### **BRICKING IT**

The key ingredients to Potter's brick adventure







Sprinkle of humour

### **Platforming for all**

As with previous entries in the LEGO series, much of the gameplay encompasses navigating past straightforward platforming sections as well as solving simplistic puzzles, meaning that it is easily enjoyable to players of all ages.





















#### > LEGO Harry Potter cont.

story by traversing you through the corridors of Hogwarts Castle, rather than solely depending on the Hub.

In an effort to ensure that you don't end up in Potions class rather than Transmogrification, Nearly Headless Nick also guides you to your next objective. This allows for a more continual flow through the on-going narrative, although you are free to ignore him and explore at your leisure. However, even the most intrepid explorers will unfortunately find access to certain areas of the Castle blocked by obstacles. These will remain inaccessible until you are provided with the necessary spell to bypass it. Nevertheless, Hogwarts is full of life



spend your time gazing at all the detail – wizard portraits adorn the walls and hordes of students line the school's lengthy corridors. Making the experience feel all the more authentic is the inclusion of John Williams' sweeping orchestral score, and the whole design immediately begins to exuberate the charm

and character of Rowling's literary creation from start to finish.

Free Play also returns, providing you with the opportunity beyond completing the story to revisit each level in your continuing search for an assortment of collectibles. You'll have to hunt high and low for four Hogwarts Crest pieces, a 'Student in Peril'and hidden characters to unlock within each – all the while hoarding a certain number of studs to achieve the 'True Wizard' target. It is within the Hub world that you'll then spend your time unlocking extras, with three shops along Diagon Alley allowing you to purchase additional characters, hexes and cheats, provided by the Red Bricks you discover. Along your journey you'll also begin to collect Gold Bricks for your efforts that allow access to Bonus levels and the LEGO Builder found within Gringotts Bank.

While the blend of exploration and simple puzzles can't be faulted - the visible success of the previous Star Wars, Batman and Indiana Jones titles are clear evidence of LEGO's mass appeal – we still feel it is perhaps time for the series to receive a fresh coat of paint in relation to design.

LEGO Harry Potter: Years 1-4 easily provides the best videogame homage for fans of the source material, with plenty of Traveller's Tales' quirky humour present in abundance. This is truly an enjoyable experience throughout, but for fans of previous LEGO titles it is a shame that there really isn't much that is new here.































# **Toy Story 3**

#### Disney toy with the concept of a movie tie-in

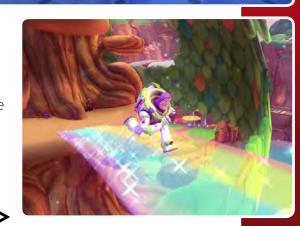
fall the games that we **Publisher:** dreamed of playing while Disney Interactive Studios growing up, a faithful Developer: videogame conversion of Toy Story Avalanche Software - CGI-quality graphics included -**Heritage:** Meet the ranked pretty high up there. At the Robinsons, Bolt time it simply wasn't possible, and **PS Move Compatible:** Yes in the 16 years since, attempts at Link: http://disney.go.com/ capturing the look, charm and feel toystory/#/products/ of Pixar's animated flick just haven't video-games been as successful as they promised. **OUT NOW** Don't get us wrong, they were good – the original game offering cutting-edge tech for the 16-bit era,

fun PSone game – but they were lacking that 'Pixar magic' we associate with the films. Until now.

Toy Story 3, then, is the Toy Story game we've always dreamed of, and one that's just as much fun for adults to play as it is children. Via its superb animation, excellent atmosphere, witty script and fabulous design, Avalanche has jolted Pixar's characters to life in your living room and capture the core components of the IP almost effortlessly. It just feels like a Toy Story game that Pixar would be proud of.

It's a game of two halves: one comprised of levels inspired by the

films, and the other an open-world quest-driven sandbox mode called 'Toy Box'. The primary story mode is fairly standard, comprising of a sequence of disparate levels, each inspired by the films, with Avalanche translating particular scenes into gameplay with much aplomb. The second film's Buzz Lightyear videogame, for example, has been turned into a full-length level here, effortlessly blending rail shooting with typical 3D platforming,



This Buzz Lightyear level is one of the best in the game.







and Toy Story 2 being a surprisingly















#### > Toy Story 3 continued

top-down platforming, sidescrolling and finally an into-camera chase sequence as Buzz battles against the evil Emperor Zurg. Others aren't quite as successful, with the mission directly after feeling more of an afterthought, as Buzz, Woody and Jessie each take part in timed racing challenges and minigames, and later ones often consisting of fairly dull gameplay mechanics. While the variation is good for a mode you'll likely finish in a single afternoon, it flits between being genuinely exciting and utterly tedious far too many times for comfort, and you'll wonder why Avalanche opted to take the jack of all trades route rather than focus on

Creating one particularly strong area.

given the most attention. Toy Box offers a completely different style of gameplay to that presented by the story mode, offering an open world to explore, quests to complete and a town to build. It follows a fairly simple structure – completing missions earns you gold with which to buy new toys, new toys bring new missions, and new missions mean more gold, all the while picking up collectibles to deck out the town and its plastic inhabitants. It's marvellous, and proof that movie tie-ins can be good when publishers are prepared to experiment.

Slight technical problems mar the experience, as texture pop-in can be fairly obtrusive, and there's a slight fuzziness to the whole thing, but you'll be too busy enjoying what the game has to offer to care. In fact, one of our biggest disappointments with the game is Tom Hanks and Tim Allen's decision not to reprise their roles, something highlighted by the relative lack of dialogue uttered by Woody and Buzz, and a tremendous shame considering Avalanche's success in making Toy Story 3 otherwise feel completely in tune with the franchise. And that's ultimately testament to how well Avalanche has pulled it off. If you're a Toy Story fan then Toy Story 3 is a must-have.





Jumping on Bullseye reduces your travel

time across Woody's Round-Up significantly.



















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This mutant's vomit leaves a nasty sting.



# Singularity Singularity

Presumed lost

Publisher: Activision **Developer:** Raven Heritage: Wolfenstein, X-Men Origins: Wolverine PS Move Compatible: No Link: http://singularitygame.com **OUT NOW** 

t the time of writing, Singularity has just debuted in the UKTop 40 charts at a dismal number 38. It's no surprise really, as the game's pitiable pre-release coverage and uncharacteristically slack marketing campaign, leading to an almost complete lack of fanfare and expectation commonly associated with a title from one of the biggest names in the business. But it's a great shame, considering Raven's latest is one of the best games you'll never play this year.

Singularity could best be described as a first-person horror shooter mixed with an uninspiring yet wonderfully chilling timeshifting sci-fi plot. Those pesky Russian scientists have once again found themselves playing with things they don't quite understand, this time an energy source known as E99 which Stalin believes can be used to manipulate time, pushing their experiments to the point of creating a catastrophic time rift dubbed 'Singularity', and sending the island of Katorga-12 spiralling



into chaos - and guarantined off

from the rest of the world. 55 years later, following intelligence reports of activity on the island, a US recon team is sent in to find out what's happening on the mysterious island, before discovering that they're not the only one determined to get to the bottom of it.

So far, so early-noughties TV show, but Singularity's influences don't end there. It rips off almost

every major game of the last decade, and some of the not so big ones, too. Its BioShock-alike tendencies are obvious from the get go, from Singularity's crash-landing into an unknown civilisation to the frequent radio chatter, while Wolfenstein appears to have been Raven's proving ground for some of the features of the game's Time Manipulation Device, which





















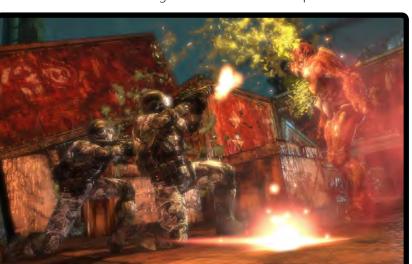
#### > Singularity cont.

can be used to slow down time, rip open time rifts, and punish the island's ghouls with a Force Unleashed-alike push. The game also frequently flirts with ideas from Half-Life, System Shock and TimeShift, with the player seamlessly switching between 1955 and 2010 on the fly, while the new abilities regularly paced throughout the entire game are similar to the gameplay-changing elements seen in Metroid Prime.

More impressively, Raven have presented a previously untapped Valve-alike quality in Singularity, with some perfect pacing, a harrowing atmosphere and an initial sense of player vulnerability that gradually transcends into an unstoppable, telekinesis-abled one-man killing



machine. Whether being stalked by time-manipulating predators, plucking rockets out of the sky or walking through abandoned schoolyards complete with visions and haunted screams of slaughtered children, it'll have you gripped all the way up to the final mindblowingly awesome end sequence.



The odd kinks do occasionally show – a brief section where the player is tasked with outrunning an army of explosive spiders proves to be utterly frustrating and ultimately unnecessary, while the reliance on using the same puzzle mechanic to prop open gates and security shooters goes someway to prove that Raven lacks an ability to think outside of the box.

But to focus on these elements would be to discredit Raven's forte - its ability to set up jaw-dropping set-pieces and boss battles. Imagine a fantastic armament of weaponry, and scenarios that will remain with you long after the credits roll around. It deserves to live in the memory alongside the games it so desperately seeks to imitate, and indeed, it seems almost criminal that so few will likely get round to experiencing one of the better shooters we've seen this generation. But if you're one of those gamers

#### **FUTURAMA**

Raven's time-bending shooter in a nutshell



**TMD** 

Time team

Multiplayer

#### **TMD**

As well as Singularity's array of Raven-typical heavy weaponry, you'll always have your trusty Time Manipulation Device (TMD) to fall back on once you acquire it around an hour into the game. The TMD has multiple uses, from reverting time to repair crates and bridges, advancing time to turn soldiers into dust, creating spheres energy to slow down time or to grab objects.

prepared to give it a try, rest safe in the knowledge that Singularity will likely prove to be one of the games of the summer.





























Publisher: EA Sports Developer: EA Sports Heritage: Tiger Woods PGA Tour 10, FIFA 10 PS Move Compatible: Yes Link: www.tigerwoods

pgatour.easports.com

OUT NOW

## Tiger Woods PGA Tour 11

#### Any hole's a goal

iger Woods 11 is the biggest argument yet for annualised sports games to be shipped as incremental DLC updates, rather than as full-priced boxed releases. Just take a look at the feature list for this year's game: PGA Tour Season, Ryder Cup, GamerNet Challenges, Skill Challenges, Performance Tuning, True Aim, Online Team Play, Live Weather, Photo Game Face, an XP system, and that's largely it. Recognise most of it? Sure, that's because the vast majority is almost exactly the same as what you saw in PGA Tour 10. The new stuff? Well, it's

content that could have been fairly easily crammed into a title update.

The new Ryder Cup option does exactly as it says on the tin, offering players the chance to compete in the Euro/US face-off for the first time in the franchise, while True-Aim, though touted by EA as an 'all-new, more authentic way' to play Tiger Woods, simply adds the option to remove the targeting reticule. Lazy.

Of course, the biggest new addition to this year's Tiger Woods is the one that nobody's able to put to the test yet: support for Sony's upcoming motion controller PlayStation Move. We briefly tried Tiger with Move a few months back, and though it was competent at the time, we're not going to be able to know exactly how well EA has managed to translate an authentic golfing experience to the device until final retail units of the motion controller come along next month. Of course, it's fairly safe to assume that it'll be on par with Tiger's recent Wii outings, which we felt were fantastic.

But even with all that having been said, Tiger Woods PGA Tour 11 is still the greatest golf game on the green.

Though the amount of new features may be relatively lacking, the polish and subtle tweaks made to the franchise keep it head and shoulders above the rest of the competition – especially the new Focus element, which introduces a fresh tactical element to activating ball spin and power shots by dictating how much 'juice' you've got to play with across a round. Simply put, if you're in the market for a golf game, you won't find any better than Tiger Woods. The question is, do you lay down a premium to have this year's model, or settle for last year's older, yet almost identical version? If you've no intention of picking up Move, we'd suggest the latter.



























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