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20

QUESTIONS WITH

**Victoria
Elise**

What's in the future
LA Auto Show 2013

Exclusive Coverage
The Mowgli's

GAMES REVIEWED

THE LEGEND OF
ZELDA
A LINK BETWEEN WORLDS

BATTLEFIELD 4



Paul McCartney
NEW



Yo Gotti
I AM

R
December 2013

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6

Victoria Elise

December Cover Model
20 questions with Victoria
Photography by Andrew Gates
Makeup & hair by Bioanca Robinson

14

Pit Pass

Get In The Driver's Seat
Featured Event:
Los Angeles Auto Show 2013
By Andrew Gates

20

All Access

The Latest Albums Reviewed
Albums Reviewed:

Paul McCartney
NEW

By Silas Valentino

Yo Gotti
I AM

By Jeremy Weeden

On The Cover
Photo by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Bioanca Robinson



24

All Access Spotlight

Artist/Bands Featured:

Arcade Fire, Slim Thug and
The Avett Brothers
By Samuel Wendel

26

Live & Loud

Live Show Reviews
Featured Artists/Shows:

The Mowgli's
By Nicolas Bates and Dan Sinclair

28

Coming Up

Models To Keep An Eye On
Featured Models:

Deena Kacie
Anaheim Hills, CA

32

Game On

The Latest Games Reviewed
Games Reviewed:

Zelda: A Link Between Worlds
By Jesse Seilhan

Battlefield 4
By Josh Schilling

This Page
Photo by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Bioanca Robinson



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20 QUESTIONS

Get To Know Your Cover Model

Victoria Elise

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Bioanca Robinson



Victoria Elise was born on a military base in Wurzburg, Bavaria, Germany, but raised in El Paso, Texas. With a mix of African-American, Cherokee-Indian and French you know this girl stands out in a crowd. Growing up Victoria never thought of herself as the model type, but after meeting a model from Los Angeles, California, she found herself wanting to try her hand at it, the rest is as they say... is history. Since that fateful meeting she has been a ring-card girl, music video girl, trade-show model and glamour model. Currently, you can find Victoria behind the bar at one the hottest nightclubs in Las Vegas, inside Mandalay Bay. Her ultimate goal after her modeling career is done, is to become a Microbiologist. With her look and personality, we're not sure she'll need to pursue anything else in life.



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS

1. What's your Ethnicity?

My father is African American and Cherokee-Indian and my mother is French.

2. What's your zodiac sign?

Capricorn, we're all work and no play.

3. Where are you from originally?

My parents were in the military, I was born in Wurzburg, Bavaria, Germany but raised in El Paso, Texas. Now I live in fabulous Las Vegas.

4. What did you like most about growing up in El Paso, TX?

It was a very safe and quiet city, I never had to worry about shenanigans growing up.

5. What kind of mischief did you get into while growing up?

I liked being outside. I would always go out in the desert to catch lizards. I also enjoyed going into houses while they were still being built to explore and occasionally take some fancy tile. I never did anything with the tile, I just felt the need to take it. [laugh]

6. What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

I'm not one for excitement, but I did have a cardiac ablation procedure though and I had to be awake for it. They had a scope in my heart so I was watching the monitors literally looking at my heartbeating.

7. What's your favorite hobby and why?

I love to play video games. No I'm not talking about Xbox where everyone thinks I'm a 12 year old when I talk live. I've played World of Warcraft for 5 years, those were the dark ages, we won't talk about that. As of lately though, I've been keeping it pretty chill and play Pokemon White Version 2 on the DS Lite.

8. What's your guilty pleasure?

Sleep. I love to sleep all day. I'll cuddle with my dog and sleep whenever I can. I'm always tired and I have a wonderful memory foam mattress that is practically an orgasm for my back.

9. Who do you admire and why?

I admire two people actually; my mom and dad. They both came from literally nothing, dirt-poor and were told only rich white men go to college. They worked hard for what they have today and taught me to do the same. I can say they're living better than a lot of people nowadays and there aren't too many people who can say that their parents are still together. They are my motivation and because of them, I know anything is possible if you put your heart and mind to it.

10. If you could change one thing in the world what would it be and why?

If there was an infinite supply of food for the entire world, I know it's cliché but there's a catch, no one would ever get fat either, so everyone wins. [smile]

11. What's one of your personal goals?

I have many goals. I like to set weekly, monthly and yearly goals for myself, but I would have to say the most important one is that I want to make an impact on the world. The purpose of moving to Las Vegas was to milk as much money as I can from bartending then set off and move forward with a career in Microbiology.

12. What do guys compliment you on the most?

My teeth. I'm told that I have a beautiful "Colgate" smile. Ironically, I used to be called "beaver" back in Elementary school.

13. What's your favorite body part on yourself?

My booty, it's huge. Obviously, I got it from my dad's side of the family. I say my back side is my black side. [laugh] Sometimes it's hard to find jeans that fit me properly though.

14. What do you look for in a guy?

Goals. A man has to have goals, if he doesn't and he is just wasting his life away then I'm not interested.

15. What's the first thing you notice about a guy?

How he carries himself. If he has confidence and intellect, he has my attention. I've never been one for meatheads.

16. What's your ideal first date?

I'm a simple girl who loves to eat. I'm happy with a home-cooked meal or even a hole-in-the-wall, candle lit, sushi joint.

17. What turns you on?

When a man doesn't try too hard, just be yourself, you should want a girl who likes you for you.

18. What turns you off?

Being arrogant and cocky. Everyone knows that one guy who thinks he's all that and a bag of chips with a Pepsi on the side...chill out bro.

19. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Getting hit on at work. I'm working! Yes, I'm nice to you, I'll smile and make your beverage how you want, but there are literally 100's of beautiful women waiting out there in the club for you. Never hit on a bartender, there's just no chance.

20. Who's your celebrity crush?

I'd have to say Jude Law, oh man, I'm a sucker for British accents!

RM

20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS
Your Cover Model Cont'd

“...I'm a
sucker
for British
accents!”



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



STATS:

Birthday: January 4
Height: 5'6"
Weight: 120lb
Measurements: 34C-24-38

See more of Victoria at
[instagram.com/VictoriaEliseXOXO](https://www.instagram.com/VictoriaEliseXOXO)

PIT PASS

Get In The Driver's Seat

Los Angeles Auto Show 2013

Written by Andrew Gates
Photos by Andrew Gates

It's that time of the year again where many of the car manufacturers show off their prized secret car builds of the year and show the world where they plan on moving forward for the future, I give you the Los Angeles Auto Show 2013. As I walked around the different halls I notice there are a few new models and concept cars, but nothing that really stood out for me aside from the Grand Turismo AMG that shined like nothing else.

There was the occasional new release, but the body styles didn't really change that much, maybe some new taillights or something, but I didn't see any remodels. I was a bit disappointed, overall. They did unveil the new Mustang Shelby, but from the outside it looked like the old Mustang, I guess under the hood is where the difference lies.

I did see many more Hybrid cars than last year, although they were kind of in the shadows of everything else. The one Hybrid car that stuck out for me was the Lexus, now that was a nice ride, inside and out. I was keeping my eyes out for the Tesla Model S, since this happens to be my favorite car to hit the market in a long while. I like that someone finally had the balls and gumption to make a car that is all electric with a decent amount of range before a recharge is needed and looks fantastic inside and out.

My hope for next year, 2014, is to see more all electric cars that are as sleek as the Tesla Model S, but go faster, further and still cost around the same amount, \$54,000. If you didn't get a chance to come out for the show as always I've got a montage of photos you might like. Enjoy.













ALL ACCESS

The Latest Albums Reviewed

The New Paul

Written by Silas Valentino

Paul McCartney is one of the most revered architects in the field of crafting love songs. From the sharp sadness of “For No One” to the epic “Baby I’m Amazed,” McCartney has been there like a Hallmark card for those moments when saying “I love you” can’t quite cut it. But he’s old—like 71-years-old old. He’s been through a lot of love since he originally saw her standing there. *New* are the sounds of fresh love rolling down the window. McCartney was recently remarried for the third time to an east coast businesswoman, Nancy Shevell, and she has Macca singing like he’s just seen a face again.

New can bounce around giddy and loose (“Alligator,” “New”) and then have its reigns pulled to a nostalgic halt (“On My Way to Work,” “Early Days”) within its roughly 45 minutes of contemporary rock. McCartney worked with four separate producers throughout the *New* sessions, most notably Paul Epworth of Adele fame and Giles Martin, son of legendary Beatles producer Sir. George Martin. The album’s production is clear and masterful, but would you expect anything else from the man who wrote “Yesterday?”

In a recent issue of *Rolling Stone*, McCartney touched on his legacy and how he views himself. “I just don’t wanna get smug—but of course on the other hand, I want to think I’m great. Because when the hell am I going to bask in this? What am I going to do, wait till I die and go, ‘Oh fuck, I should have taken a week!’” He’s well past the age of 64 and McCartney is treading into unfamiliar waters of elderhood. With a new wife and his nine-year-old daughter, Sir Paul begins to untangle the messy feelings of growing old and the outcome sounds pretty dang good.

“Save Us” begins McCartney’s 16th solo album with a roar and beat. Using a razor-edged guitar riff, McCartney bangs around a quick ditty about harnessing vitality through love.

The past has never sounded as cheery as it does in “Early Days,” a song that will surely have you looking out in a gaze of wonder swimming through an old shoebox of memories. McCartney’s voice sounds raw and honest as he spills his guts about the Beatles’ early days with their “hair slicked back with Vaseline, like the pictures on the wall of the local record shop.” The long and winding road continues its progression and McCartney is along for the ride. He does, though, get in a jab at critics and historians who pretend to know more about his past than he does: “Now everybody seems to have their own opinion/ Who did this and who did that/ But as for me I don’t see how they can remember/ When they weren’t where it was at.”

Titles track “New” could very well be “Got to Get You into My Life” pt. II. It’s jubilant harpsichord melody and sunny day mentality would serve as the ultimate radio alarm in the morning. The last 30 seconds of the track sound like McCartney sat through the entire outtake sections of the Beach Boy’s *SMiLE* and decided he could too.

A Paul McCartney album released in 2013 could have very well been the noises of a formerly great artist splashing around in their own filth, but instead *New* is superb. There’s a reason Paul McCartney is still one of the world’s greatest and the secrets to his success are scattered throughout this album.

Artist: Paul McCartney

Album: *New*

Website: paulmccartney.com

★★★★★

Label: Hear Music

Release Date: October 11, 2013



ALL ACCESS

The Album Reviews Cont'd



On the Rise

Written by Jeremy Weeden

Yo Gotti returns to the scene with his second major studio album *I Am*, and it may be his best album yet. Memphis native Yo Gotti has been on the underground rap scene since the early 2000s and has released a handful of independent albums to much success. Yo Gotti's major label debut, 2012's *Live from the Kitchen*, introduced him to the mainstream and with *I Am*, Yo Gotti hopes to continue this success.

The album begins with "I Am" an introduction for those who don't yet know Yo Gotti. Over a slow soulful beat Yo Gotti tells his story with lyrics like "I am the struggle, I am the hustle/I am the city, I'm the pot in the kitchen/I used to save pennies now I stay next door to Penny/Hardaway/nigga got my meals the harder way/Selling crack music now I run some smarter ways/Exit the game and got rich that's a fade away."

Yo Gotti teams with newcomer Rich Homie Quan for "I Know," an appealing song with a hypnotic beat that samples Club Nouveau's "Why You Treat Me So Bad." This song sounds like a definite future single with the catchy Rich Homie Quan-helmed chorus.

"Sorry" is a song about trifling women and the reasons Yo Gotti finds it hard to trust women. In his view "A ho gone be a ho they ain't a hundred/And when a nigga broke them hoes act funny/Money hungry bitches they can smell it/loyalty them hoes can't even spell it/You can give that ho the world that don't mean shit/Cause you can rent a ho but you can't buy a bitch/I give it to you raw straight up and down/If she complaining and accusing probably fuckin around."

I Am continues with "F-U", which samples "Phuck You Symphony" by Millie Jackson and features Meek Mill and his trademark hyper flow. This is one of the better songs on the album as Yo Gotti and Meek Mill trade barbs over the Infamous-produced beat.

"King Shit" is another standout track on the album. This track, the second single off of *I Am*, is a bass and drum heavy track featuring King of the South T.I.

With "Respect That You Earn" Yo Gotti slows things a bit with Wale and Nayo. Yo Gotti raps about the scandalous behavior of some women and the ways in which he feels they disrespect themselves while simultaneously seeking love and respect. As Nayo explains "She lives for the night life but that's alright/But she wants to be treated like somebody's wife/But you can't be table hopping in the club trying to drink free/Then come up to my table trying to stand next to me." This song is sure to be a hit should Yo Gotti choose to release it as a single.

Yo Gotti has effectively gone from being an underground rapper to a more well-known presence and with *I Am*, he shows he intends to keep it that way. *I Am* debuted at number 7 on the *Billboard 200 Chart*, Yo Gotti's highest charting album so far, which proves he is definitely trending in the right direction. *I Am* has catchy singles for the radio as well as quality album cuts and is sure to continue Yo Gotti's climb up the ladder of success.

Artist: Yo Gotti

Album: I Am

Website: yogottimusic.com

★★★★★

Label: Epic

Release Date: November 19, 2013

ALL ACCESS SPOTLIGHT

Written by Samuel Wendel

[Facebook.com/arcadefire](https://www.facebook.com/arcadefire)



Arcade Fire, *Reflektor*

Coming off the success of their Grammy-winning album *The Suburbs*, Arcade Fire easily could've stuck to the same formula when approaching their next album —and fans and critics alike probably would have rewarded them. Instead, they've thrown the pastoral-indie-rock themed *The Suburbs* out the window and revamped their entire sound. *Reflektor* is populated by epic jams that bring to mind everything from funk to disco, with plenty of guitars in between.

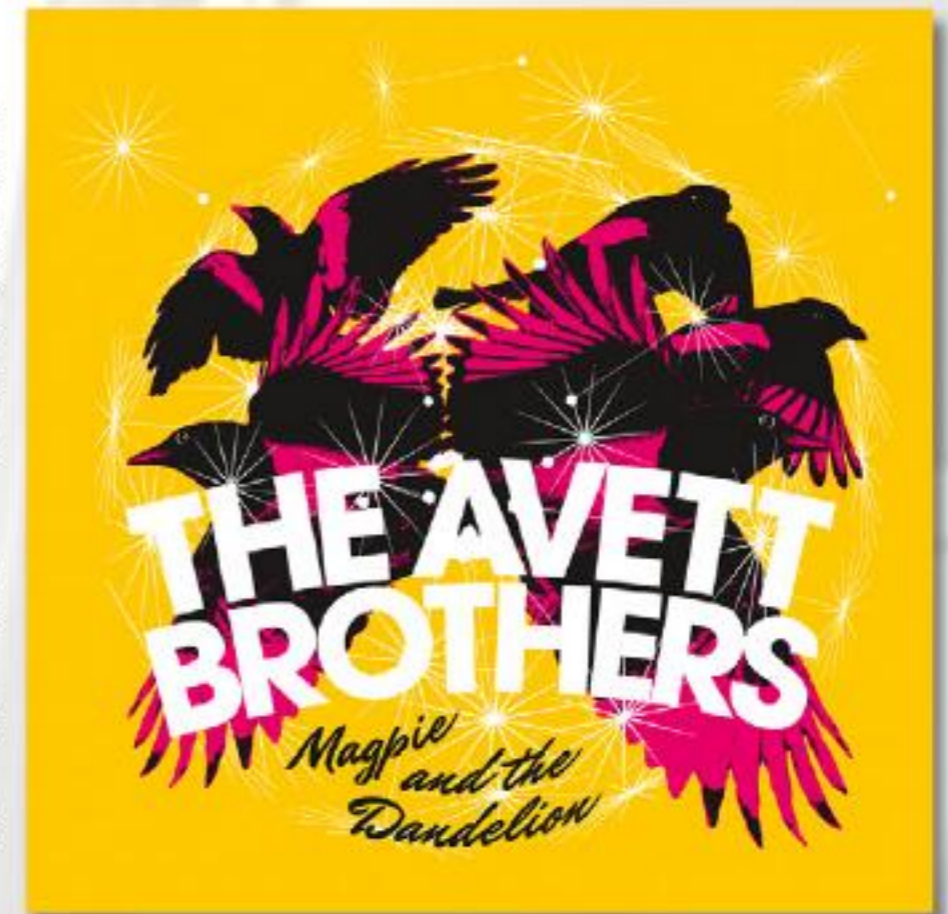
Lead single "Reflektor" is a funky seven-minute statement that says, "We're headed in a new direction." And they do. Other standout tracks are "Here Comes The Night Time," which sports a very catchy piano riff, and "We Exist," with a bass-line that sounds like it was ripped from a Michael Jackson song, and also "Awful Sound (Oh Eurydice)." The entire album surges and pulses with a level of cool Arcade Fire has never come close to reaching in their previous three albums. Some of this is probably due to James Murphy, of the LCD Soundsystem fame, producing *Reflektor*, and David Bowie singing back up vocals. Either way, on *Reflektor*, Arcade Fire proves that winning a Grammy was no fluke: these indie rockers have serious musical chops, and they're not scared of taking chances.

[Facebook.com/theavettbrothers](https://www.facebook.com/theavettbrothers)

The Avett Brothers, *Magpie and the Dandelion*

Magpie and the Dandelion, the eighth studio effort from the folk rockers The Avett Brothers, picks up right about where 2012's *The Carpenter* called it quits. The album is full of cleanly produced folk rock songs driven by gorgeous vocal melodies. The Avett Brothers are continuing their trend away from the minimalist bluegrass tunes that defined their earlier albums, and like Mumford and Sons and other current folk revivalists, are pounding out tunes that would sound at home in an arena or in a car commercial; some of this probably due to Rick Rubin returning as the band's producer, but he hasn't completely warped their sound.

Magpie starts with a bang — the first four songs are all quite catchy and roll together seamlessly; the back end of the album tails off a bit, but as whole the album is pleasant enough. Lyrically, the Avett Brothers stick to their guns, singing about love, death, hitting the road and all their other usual themes. The Avett Brothers have always been particularly great making gorgeous melodies and harmonizing at the perfect moment, and they're still doing a fine job. Standout tracks are "Never Been Alive," "Another is Waiting," and "Open Ended Life."



[Facebook.com/slimthughbo](https://www.facebook.com/slimthughbo)



Slim Thug, *Boss Life*

Houston rapper Slim Thug —of "I Run" fame— is up to his usual mischief with his fourth LP *Boss Life*. With production from Big K.R.I.T., G Luck 'n B Don, Mr. Lee, Play-N-Skillz, and Ralo, *Boss Life* clocks in at over an hour, and though it occasionally gets bogged down, overall it's a worthy addition to Slim Thug's discography. *Boss Life* is classic Houston hip-hop; it has a distinct pulse, but Slim Thug slows it down, his delivery is syrupy —a departure from other southern hip-hop and rap, which prefers a faster tempo and delivery.

At times *Boss Life* gets a bit repetitive — some of the songs sound the same— but that's probably a result of the disc's long run time. And it doesn't feature a surefire hit like some of his previous work, but regardless, standout our tracks are singles "Coming Down (Every Town)," and "Flex 4Eva," and anything that features Big K.R.I.T. But, for fans of Slim Thug's previous work, *Boss Life* should work. His delivery is just as impactful as ever, and it's a showcase of a Houston hip-hop institution doing what he does best.

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LIVE & LOUD

The Live Show Reviews

The Mowgli's

Photos by Nicolas Bates
Written by Dan Sinclair

December 11th marked the last official show covered of RUKUS's 2013 "Nick and Dan Cover a Show Season." This season was quite grand if I do say so myself, and I'm sure you'd agree if you'd been reading along all year. So it's fitting the year should end in the same place it started. Yes, what started with Pinback back on January 17th ended on the very same stage eleven months later with Los Angeles's own The Mowgli's.

Apparently the band got its name from a former band member's dog that was named after the *Jungle Book* character. What is also apparent is that The Mowgli's are very bad with grammar. Seriously, the English major in me really wants to punch stuff every time I have to type that goddamn apostrophe. This tour is in support of the band's major label debut album, *Waiting for the Dawn*, released over the summer, which featured several re-recorded fan favorites off their previous indie records from last year.

The El Rey was jam packed that Wednesday night and much of the support was for the opening band Hunter Hunted, who delivered a great set for the ever grateful crowd. Well, I say "great" as long as you pretend they didn't do an awful cover of The Pixies "Where is my Mind" (which they did). But other than that, yeah, they were pretty impressive. You will be hearing more from them in the future for sure. The drunk guy dancing around and bumping into people before his pants fell down was a fan... at least, I think that's what his loud slurs translated to in English.

But soon after they leave, the El Rey gets dark and audio from the *Jungle Book* plays over the speakers, and the crowd goes nuts knowing it's time to sing and dance. And when The Mowgli's take the stage, they take the whole fucking stage. In case you weren't aware, there's a shit-ton of people in this band. Here are some of their names: Dave Appelbaum, Collin Louis Dieden, Katie Jayne Earl, Josh Hogan, Matthew Di Panni, Spencer Trent, Michael Vincze and Andy Warren. Some bang percussion, many play a guitar, all have a microphone. The bassist looks out of place with his big, bushy beard. It looks like a bunch of hippies kidnapped this dude from a metal band and forced him to smile and play happy songs about love and peace. I hope they didn't do that. That would be pretty mean.

"Emily" is the first song of the night, and it's apparent from the get-go, tonight will be a sing-along as the entire band puts their mics to use while encouraging the fans to join in in the fun. Everyone is proud to chant "Emily" over and over again as loud as their lungs will muster.

The Mowgli's finish the song and are like, "What's up, Los Angeles?" And Los Angeles is all, "Yo, what's up Mowgli's?" And then the Mowgli's play "Slowly, Slowly," and Los Angeles sings along, "It's only you, it's only me, it's only love and it's only fair that you find your peace." Yeah, it's become quite the party here at the El Rey with everyone dancing and singing. Hard to tell where stage ends and dance floor begins.

Next song is "Love Is Easy" because The Mowgli's believe it is, followed by "Waiting for the Dawn" and its bluesy guitar and bass intro. Next are the co-ed dueling vocals on "Hi, Hey There, Hello."

Singer Dieden then asks the crowd if they're ready to sing. I assume it's rhetorical since they've pretty much been singing along the whole time, but he thanks them all the same: "Good, because we need your help on this one." And they do help as they instantly recognize one of the favorites in "The Great Divide."

Then the crowd is given some Mowgli's inspiration that starts with "You need to believe in yourself and know you are capable of everything." Well, thank you, Mowgli's. I do believe in myself... now!

The fun continues with "Carry Your Will," "Leave It up to Me" and "Clean Light" before they do a Christmas song in preparation for the approaching holiday season. But they save for the best for last, closing the night with their two most popular songs, "Say It, Just Say It" and, of course, "San Francisco." The crowd jumps and dances and sings along until they can jump, dance or sing no more.

And then just like that, 2013 is over. Here's to more great shows in 2014!

Venue: El Rey Theatre
Website: themowglis.net

Date: December 11, 2013
City: Los Angeles, CA



Josh Hogan



Katie Jayne Earl



Spencer Trent



Michael Vincze



Colin Louis Dieden

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On

Deena Kacie

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Kim Hill

D

Deena Kacie was born and raised in Orange County, California. Her ethnicity is a mix of Russian, Norwegian and Swedish. Deena got her start in modeling at a young age, but decided to put it on hold until she graduated high school. Her inspiration comes from her grandmother, since she was also a model and taught Deena a lot about the industry. After graduation Deena quickly signed with a modeling agency and started booking work including; runway shows, music videos and TV work. Not only can you find Deena in the states, but she has also expanded into the international market with a spread in an international fashion magazine and traveling to Japan for an elaborate and imaginative stage production. Deena can also be found at various tradeshows promoting different companies from around the world. Although, she travels between both Los Angeles and Las Vegas, she feels she's got the best of both worlds.



COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd





THE STATS

Birthday:

April 14

Zodiac Sign:

Aries

Measurements:

32C-25-35

Height:

5'9"

Weight:

114lb

Ethnicity:

Russian, Norwegian and Swedish.

Hometown:

Anaheim Hills, CA

Turn Ons:

My man, but for anyone who needs some tips, it turns me on to know I'm safe.

Turn Offs:

There's a difference between admiring a woman's beauty and being a creepy pervert.

Ideal first date:

Though I love to eat, I don't want to get to know someone while their mouth is full, so ideally, a movie date at one of those new movie theatres with reclining chairs that serve beer on tap.

Guilty Pleasure:

Going to the shooting range with the guys, no hunting, just clay pigeons. I have a 20 gauge Mossberg shotgun at home and I love going drifting, I love the adrenaline rush.

Pet Peeves:

Bad breath.

Celebrity Pass:

Well, John Cena, but since he's currently taken...Vin Diesel, hands down. C'mon, I get to watch sexy cars be driven by a sexy man...who could refuse. [wink]

See more of Deena at
[instagram.com/deenakacie](https://www.instagram.com/deenakacie)

GAME ON

The Latest Games Reviewed

Return to Glory

Written by Jesse Seilhan

For many gamers, the glory days of the 1980's encapsulates the pinnacle of gaming, mostly due to the delightful imagination of Nintendo. They gave us icons, archetypes, and adventures that lived long after that cartridge got dirty or the controller stopped working. Perhaps the most ambitious franchise in Nintendo's cap is The Legend of Zelda, a revolution of action and adventure that had not been seen by the average gamer, as those genres did not work in the arcade and gave the home consoles a reason for existing. While debates rage over which title in the catalogue is the best, the SNES classic A Link to the Past still remains a timeless game. This year, Nintendo decided to give the top-down classic a true sequel. And A Link Between Worlds is a true sequel, as the map, the enemies, and the heart are exactly the same. While this might seem lazy to some, the new gameplay wrinkles and updated graphics are a fantastic way to breathe new life into a game that never got old.

A Link Between Worlds takes place in the same kingdom as all Zelda games, Hyrule, and Princess Zelda has, of course, been taken hostage by an evil wizard and it's up to Link to save her. How you will be saving her is the real fun, as the biggest addition to this game is the ability to flatten yourself against the wall. This lets you get between cracks in the wall, scoot past big boulders, and dodge enemy attacks with quick reflexes and good timing. A bunch of secrets, a staple of the Zelda universe, can only be accessed while in this 2D state and some of the more complicated puzzles will test your dimensional intelligence throughout the 15-hour adventure. This ability is also how you get to the Lorule Kingdom, a parallel universe where the princess has been taken and a bunch of baddies have been let loose to do their evil tasks. Things are dark here, as the familiar places of Hyrule have been broken, destroyed, shifted, or just plain removed. All of this has to do with the Triforce and whatnot, but the story isn't really that different than any other Zelda. It's pretty straightforward and the game literally asks you if you already know the story, saving you time and patience when all you wanna do is slash some stuff.

One of the biggest differences between this and every other Zelda game (and most games in general) is that almost all the weapons and items are available from the start. You can rent them at anytime, with the only downside being you lose those items when you die. If you are looking for permanence, you can purchase the stuff, and even death won't keep you apart, however the price is much, much more than a single rental. The standard items are there (boomerang, bomb, hookshot) and can be upgraded by completing a side quest that involves finding 100 lost octopus babies lost in the world. Fire, sand, and ice wands help access new areas and new secrets, and of course the classic dungeons are back in full form. This is where the game really shines, as each dungeon is a multi-level magic trick, forcing you to use a variety of tools and your flattening ability to get yourself around. Each one contains a secret item that makes the game that much better and of course a fun boss awaits you when you finally make it to the end. With about a dozen of these dungeons to conquer, two kingdoms to explore, and so much minutia to get caught up in, this is one of the best handheld titles to come out in ages. You may even find yourself putting down your next-gen controller to see what's behind the next exploding rock.

Game Title: The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds

Producer: Nintendo

Platform: Nintendo 3DS

Website: zelda.com

★★★★★

Ratings: Everyone

Genre: Action-Adventure

Release Date: November 22, 2013



THE LEGEND OF
ZELDA
A LINK BETWEEN WORLDS

GAME ON

The Game Reviews CONDT'D



BATTLEFIELD 4

This is WAR!

Written by Josh Schilling

Entertainment is intended to elicit emotions. Whether they are good or bad, the feelings we receive when watching a movie, reading a book, or viewing a painting are how we eventually decide how much we love or hate what we experience. Video games are no exception, and as with other forms of art, the more memorable the emotions that are felt, the more the subject creeps up the favorites list, or descends into the realm of loathing. With Battlefield 4, I have had perhaps the most numerous memorable experiences I have ever had in a video game, although unfortunately, too many of those emotions were of the teeth-gnashing-frustration variety. But whether my arms were raised in consternation or celebration, the experiences I had playing this game were truly memorable and I can't wait to jump in for another match.

This is a multi-player, military, first-person shooter on a grand scale. It has a single-player storyline as well that is epic and mind blowing as it is with all these types of games, but the intent of the developer as to the solo campaign can be best summed up with their Battlefield 4 game guide. The 400+ page book has about 6 pages devoted to single-player at the very end, and the rest is dedicated to multi-player. The developer has no qualms about showing which side their bread is buttered.

In multi-player, you have some choices about which style of match you want to jump into, but the star of the show is Conquest, a mode where it's full scale battle with up to 32 individuals on each side battling it out on foot, in land vehicles, in the air, or even water. You can coordinate with a squad of four other like-minded compatriots or try to go alone all Rambo style, and the variety of play makes it easy to get overwhelmed. One minute you'll be parachuting from a burning helicopter, and the next moment you'll be yanking the dog-tags off of an unsuspecting sniper. You can even jump into Commander Mode if you like, where you can coordinate the troops, assign targets and defense points, and call in gunships or missile strikes. If vehicles aren't your style, there is still your typical Team Death Match mode with smaller troop counts and slimmer locations, but there is one Conquest map that is a must try. "Operation Locker" has 64 soldiers battling it out in tight quarters with no vehicles whatsoever. It is a concrete hell of explosions and death that is quite stunning and most of all memorable.

When discussing Battlefield 4, the elephant in the room is the numerous bugs that ravage the gameplay. The most prevalent one is being booted from the server to the main screen, although I have had a litany of other weird and distressing things happen. My campaign save was lost, I've jumped into empty servers, and I've had odd black blotches appear and disappear from the screen. These bugs would be absolute deal-breakers in a lesser game, but if you can overlook them, (like I've done in the past with certain Bethesda games,) then the fun you will reap will be well worth any angst you might feel when getting dumped from a match time after time.

The differences between the next-gen console/PC versions versus the old-gen are mainly cosmetic, as the level of detail is amped up considerably in the higher-end machines. The maximum number of combatants is also halved on the older consoles which leads to some wide open spaces in Conquest mode and therefore a much less intense experience of battle. This game is still fun on the 360 and PS3, but it is clearly intended for the newer and more powerful units. The Battlefield franchise has played second fiddle to Call of Duty for quite a while now, and Battlefield 4 could very well be the turning point that pushes them into the forefront. Some heavy duty patching needs to be done, and hopefully it is done fast, because I want to jump in and create a bunch of fun memories and not simmer on a bunch of bad ones.

Game Title: Battlefield 4
Producer: Electronic Arts
Platform: Xbox One, PS4, PC, Xbox 360, PS3
Website: battlefield.com/battlefield-4

★★★★★
Ratings: Mature
Genre: First-Person Shooter
Release Date: October 29, 2013



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