

Finham Lion



Issue 8
Spring

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Les Miserables 2014: Looking Back

From the 12th-14th of February 2014, 80 students from Finham Park performed in the school production, Les Miserables. After year-long rehearsals, learning lines and mastering harmonies, show week had finally arrived- and it couldn't have gone better.

As we took to the stage on Wednesday night, our nerves slowly melted away - we were all in it together. And as a team, we were going to try and put on the best show Finham Park had seen yet. The audience's reaction to the show was phenomenal, with 300 seats filled each night by parents, peers and members of the public. Those who came to watch the show praised the talent of all the students who covered the full age range from 11 to 18.

"School show was first class. On Wednesday my wife and I had the pleasure of watching a performance of Les Miserables by the pupils of Finham Park Academy. After a difficult journey through high winds and heavy rain to the Warwick

School Theatre, we were rewarded with a brilliant show. The singing, acting, scenery, costumes, sound effects and music were first class"-Printed in the Coventry Telegraph on the 15th February.

"Saw Les Mis tonight! Completely blown away! Incredible. Well done to everyone who made this such a stunning performance." - Finham Park on Twitter.

"Finham Park School is amazing! Well done to everyone... that show was by far the best school show I have ever seen"- Member of the public on Twitter.

However, one thing the audience weren't able to see were the relationships that being involved in a school production builds. It is almost impossible to describe (but I'll try!) how much the whole cast felt like one big family. It was made clear on the Les Mis Awards Night when we

joined together for the last time after show week to give out awards and watch a DVD of our performance. Year 7's sat with year 11's. The sixth formers hopped from table to table, asking everyone to sign their programmes. Les Miserables was a wonderful experience for all of us, and for the sixth formers involved, it allowed us to end our time taking part in school productions on a high note (excuse the pun!). How can we top that?



By Tori Farley-Wood

Game Review: XCOM Enemy Unknown



Either we are alone in the universe, or we are not. Both are equally terrifying.

This quote from Arthur C. Clarke instantly sets the mood for XCOM Enemy Unknown making you think about what is really out there. If you're wondering why I'm reviewing a game that won game of the year in 2012, the reason is that 2K, 2K China and Firaxis games have been busy at work since early 2013 to convert their SI-FI tactical turn-based shooter to the App Store and its change has been glamorous. Apart from a few small cuts (that don't take away much from the game) this is the full version of XCOM Enemy Unknown.

If you have played Enemy Unknown you will feel right at home, apart from a few of the map cuts and the inability to change the colour of your soldier gear, it's the same architecture. The graphics have made a graceful move to touchscreen, however some of the textures of the maps and character models have suffered. Textures look matt which makes some materials look unrealistic, compared to the glossy textures on the pc.

In the main campaign you are the commander of XCOM, a sci-

ence powered military organisation which is given the task of protecting the future human race from alien threats. You will spend half your time managing your base doing things such as hiring troops, building new facilities, researching alien equipment, crafting weapons and many other things. For the other part of the game you are controlling your squad of human XCOM troops, directing their every move around large interesting maps. Missions vary from shoot anything that isn't human to search and rescue missions and discovering alien artefacts. Across the 8 hour campaign there were very few issues, only once or twice did the touch controls hinder me in my quest to destroy all aliens but this did not take away from the action.

XCOM's A.I is harsh but fair, you should prioritise the survival of your troops over the massacre of aliens. Be careful because a wrong move could cost you your best soldier, and possibly the game. Looking after your troops on the battlefield is a must, but you have to manage your base properly. Choosing the wrong project to fund or having unprotected satellites, could cost you large amounts of cash and could cost you the

game. If you want to do well consider each move carefully and save regularly. After you have completed the campaign you will unlock 'impossible difficulty' and 'ironman' mode. In 'Impossible difficulty', everything costs more and you receive less cash per month, so money is always tight. Choosing the wrong project to fund could cost you the game very early on. Aliens are a lot stronger, troops are weaker and you start with less facilities. Iron man mode stops you from reloading a previous save so if you make a wrong move it sticks forever so be extremely careful.

XCOM costs £13.99 on the App Store and works best on iPad 3 and up and iPhone 5 and up. It works on iPad 2 and iPhone 4S but there are lower frame rates and can sometimes crash the app. There is also an online mode which puts you and your customisable squad of humans and aliens against another player from around the world.

In summary, I think Enemy Unknown is a good port from the pc to mobile devices, but it can never be a substitute for the richer, deeper experience you get on pc or console, i'm sure they are working on it and they will get there soon. Until then.....

By Jack Brazil

How to spot a Fan-girl

By Eve Flude

Fandoms. Whether you like it or not, they're taking over the world. No matter what it is, a band, tv, actor, or film, there will always be someone sat eagerly by the computer, waiting and waiting for the news that Gerard Way has dyed his hair a new colour, or that Tom Hiddleston has announced his new movie. Whatever you fangirl, (or fanboy) about, there is probably at least one person out there who shares your excitement. When a group of fans come together, it is referred to as a fandom. The members of said fandom normally have a specific name. For instance, Whovians are fans of Doctor Who, Hunters are fans of Supernatural, Sherlockians are fans of Sherlock, etc. You get the drift. But how do people outside of these fandoms recognise a person who is in one? Here a few steps on how to spot a fan:

1) The 'squee'

You can learn a lot about a fan by the way

he/she sounds. The 'squee' is a loud, high-pitched squeal that is usually accompanied by frantic jumping up and down, over enthusiastic hand clapping, and just general hyper activeness. In my experience, it's really only fangirls that do this, as opposed to fanboys, who tend to express their love for a certain thing in more manly ways. If you see any girl doing this, anywhere, it means they are definitely a fangirl. The 'squee' is also sometimes joined with incoherent babbling.

Example: 'Ohmygoshohmygosh they are SO perfect together! *squee*'

2) Merchandise

Fan merchandise, or 'merch', is normally worn or used by fans who want other people to know and respect how simply awesome their fandom is, or just because they think it represents themselves. The merch can be absolutely anything, from One Direction T-shirts and Justin Bieber hats all the way to customised Teen Wolf phone cases and pillows with Benedict Cumberbatch's face on them. Whatever it is, small, large, bright, dull or just a tiny bit creepy, wearing merch is a clear sign of being a fan.

Example: 'You'll never guess what! My mum just bought me loads of Dan and Phil merch!'

3) Cosplay

If you come across someone wearing a hand-made shirt with references you don't get on it, or wearing an enormous, intricate costume at the shops, and it's not even close to Halloween, they are probably a fan of some sorts. This is called cosplaying. Cosplaying, though, is not the same as merch, and definitely not the same as fancy dress. (At least that's what we say to make ourselves feel less sad when people ask us what on earth we're wearing). Cosplaying is usually dressing up as a fictional character, or a character with a twist. Fans usually do this when going to conventions like Comic-con, or on Halloween. Some fans, however, will just cosplay whenever they like. At the shops, in restaurants and just out and about.

Example: 'What are you cosplaying as for Comic-con? I'm going as Captain Kirk, mixed with a Weeping Angel. I'm sure I'll pull it off.'

4) Fanfiction and Fanart

The whole concept of things like Fanfiction and

Fanart can be very misunderstood by people who are not in fandoms or have experienced anything like them. It's not just idiotic children writing things like, 'omg so lyk john and sherlock were lyk doin a case and then sherlock was all lyk i luv you john'. It's really more complex and sometimes more emotional than that. Fanart and Fanfiction are ways of expressing how different people feel about these characters who they think are the perfect pairing, or should interact more with each other. People put time and effort into these things, and they actually mean something to them. Who cares if it's never going to happen? And, as a message to those who think fanfiction is stupid and not at all important and emotional - Go and read Alone On The Water. I dare you.

Example: 'Look at this amazing Frerard fanart! It must have taken ages to draw!'

5) The lingo

Do you ever hear people out and about talking about shipping? Or their OTP? Or maybe that "The feels are too much!?" Yeah, that means

they are definitely a fan. Fangirls and fanboys (on the internet especially) have their own way of speaking. To help you understand, here's a quick, mini-guide to fandom slang.

Shipping: Shipping is when you like the dynamic/relationship between two characters and you'd like them to get together or stay as a couple. The couple name is usually a merge of both of the character's names.

Example: 'Do you ship Thorki? They're my OTP!'

OTP: OTP stands for One True Pairing. This is the ship that you love the most, or the one you ship most above the others. TIP- Don't insult someone's OTP. If they kill you, it's your fault.

Example: 'Did you catch last week's episode of Sherlock? Johnlock is my ultimate OTP!'

ASDFGHJKL: This term is most commonly used in texts or over the internet. If you 'asdfghjkl', it means that someone or something is just so perfect that they just can't think of any words to describe them,

and have just practically rolled about on the keyboard.

Example: 'ASDFGHJKL DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW PIATD TOUR?'

Feels: Feels is basically an abbreviation of 'feelings'. People tend to use the word feels when they are trying to describe a certain piece of art, writing, gif or something that is a part of the fandom that made them particularly emotional. Example: 'Did you see The Time Of The Doctor? It gave me serious feels.'

Canon: Spelt with one n, not two, canon basically means that the ship is confirmed, or happening, and that it's not just invented by the fandom. For instance, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley would be canon, whereas Molly Hooper and Greg Lestrade wouldn't be canon. Example: 'I really wish Destiel would become canon.'

Top Five Easter Eggs

These are our top five Easter eggs which we hope you get for Easter 2014.

5) The Mars Bar Easter Box. This delicious Easter egg will delight your taste buds and the companion Mars Bars will give you an oozy taste.

4) The Smarties Egg House. This cute treat will bring out the joy in the children and the inner child within the adults. With tons of Smarties inside, you're bound to get a sugar rush.

3) The Galaxy Easter Egg. This particular Easter Egg will make you melt away into a world of pure delight from the dreamy chocolate.

2) The Maltesers Easter Egg. They are based on the wonderful Maltesers Rabbits with them placed within the egg itself.

1) The Lindt Luxury Egg. The melt worthy chocolate and the creamy texture makes this egg irresistible and leaves you wanting more.

These are our top five Easter eggs. What are yours?



By Eleanor Hughes and Lucy Gill

Harry Potter Sets Trip

All potential and current GCSE and A Level Media and Film Studies students went to visit the Harry Potter sets for a unique talk about either cinematography or script writing with an employee. The workshop was extremely helpful, as we heard about the basics, and of other happenings at the Warner Brothers Studios, from a professional who was more than happy to talk to us.

The initial day was fantastic. After the workshop, we went on the Harry Potter tour and saw all the fantastic props, costumes and sets taken from the Harry Potter films. I took plenty of photos, ensuring I didn't miss out on a single thing. Some took the chance to ride the broom simulator, whilst others tried the wand simulation. Nearly

everyone flocked outside to try the iconic Butterbeer, which has a caramel taste to it, so I've been told.

After the initial tour, which took a few hours here and there, it was time to step inside the Harry Potter shop. Like Harry Potter himself entering the wand shop for the first time, I simply didn't know where to look first, or what to buy. So many things presented themselves to me. I settled on a wand, a chocolate frog or two, something for my brother and a t-shirt. I had saved up, which I would highly advise, considering nothing in that shop is cheap. But for a Harry Potter fan, it is a unique opportunity to see, touch and buy Harry Potter merchandise, and it is worth the expensive price.

It was well worth the visit. If you have a chance, go. It's a must for any Harry Potter fanatic, and shows you the inner workings behind what went into Harry Potter.



By Laura Broadberry

Top Films to See in 2014

1. Robo Cop

A man turns into a robot cop, ready to save crime. A must-see for any sci-fi fans, with action on the side.

Release date: 5th February

2. Captain America: The Winter Soldier

A continuation from the successful Avengers franchise, this is a must-see film for any Avengers fans.

Release date: 25th March

3. Muppets Most Wanted

The Muppets are once more in the spotlight with yet another film to add to their success. But this one is surprisingly not about a show...

Release date: 15th March

4. Ride Along

A fantastic comedy about two police officers. A must-see for any comedy fans, or

anyone in need of a laugh.

Release date: 28th February

5. I, Frankenstein

For an action packed film based on Dr Frankenstein's monster, this is a the perfect film to see.

Release date: 17th March

6. The Amazing Spider-man 2

The sequel to the successful Marvel Spider-man series. A must-see for any Marvel fans, or anyone who simply enjoys superhero films.

Release date: 18th April

7. Transformers: Age of Extinction

The fourth film in a successful franchise of films, this is a must-see for anyone who has watched the previous films.

Release date: 10th July

8. X-Men: Days of Future Past

A prequel to the equally amazing X-Men franchise, it is

a must-see for any fans of X-Men.

Release date: 23rd May

9. 300: Rise of an Empire

From the sequel to 300, this film is a bit gory for those under the age of 15.

A must-see for any fans of the first film.

Release date: 7th March

10. Non-stop

An action thriller set on board a airplane. A must-see for fans of action thrillers.

Release date: 28th February

By Ellie