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Black Panther

BY TOMMY MCCORMACK

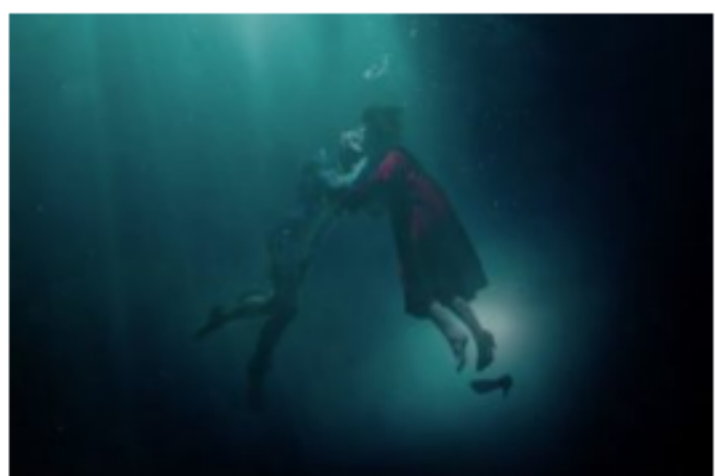
Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ There are plenty of superhero movies these days but, right now, few can boast to have pulled off the super-heroic feat...



Trailer Tease: Venom

BY MICHAEL DEVINE

So a week ago the new Venom trailer was released; yet another Marvel project millions of people wanted to get a glimpse of, curious of...



The Shape of Water

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ADIFF public interview with multi award winning costume designer Sandy Powell

BY PURE M MAGAZINE

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The Lodgers to be released in Irish cinemas on March 9th

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The Lodgers, a gothic ghost story directed by award winning filmmaker Brian O'Malley comes to Irish cinemas on March 9th 2018. Written by musician and...



The 15:17 to Paris

BY SHANE O'REILLY

Pure M Magazine ★★ Right from the offset, The 15:17 to Paris managed to raise a fair amount of intrigue, with the creative and experimental...



Trailer Digest: Solo – A Star Wars Story

BY MICHAEL DEVINE

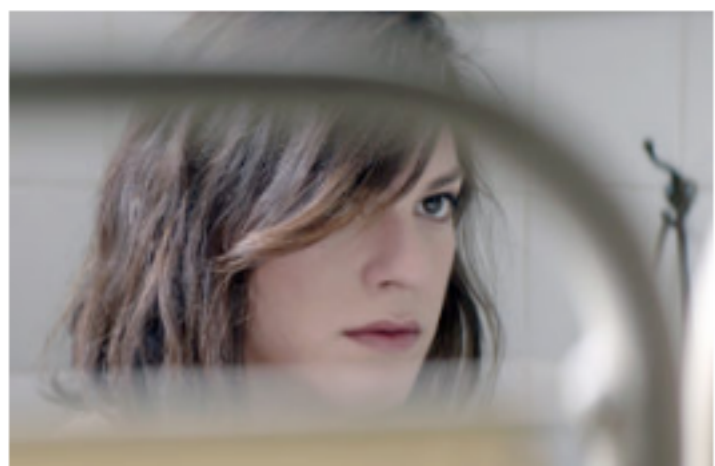
The resurgence of Star Wars in recent years has rekindled the spark of a globally adored franchise. Besides from The Force Awakens trilogy, spin offs...



Phantom Thread

BY MARIE-LOUISE CLOGHER

Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ I went into Phantom Thread not knowing what to expect. I deliberately avoided any mentions of Paul Thomas Anderson's latest creation....



A Fantastic Woman

BY TIM HANAN

Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ A Fantastic Woman is a Chilean drama about Marina Vidal (Daniela Vega), a transgender waitress and nightclub singer, whose older boyfriend...



First Look: Ocean's 8

BY MICHAEL DEVINE

It's been eleven years since Ocean's 13 was released, and now the franchise is making a return with a fresh look and an all-female cast...

Book Review – 'Distress Signals' by Catherine Ryan Howard

BY PURE M MAGAZINE ON MAY 22, 2016

Rachel Casey

Adam Dunne has the perfect life.

He has a girlfriend, Sarah, whom he loves and, after years of struggling as a screenwriter, he has finally had a script accepted. He can't imagine how anything could go wrong.

Until Sarah goes on a work trip to Barcelona and he doesn't hear anything from her other than a quick text to say she has landed. He starts to panic when she's not on her flight back, and when he gets home and finds her passport in the post, along with a note saying 'I'm sorry – S' he starts to think the worst.

He can't believe the stories that Sarah's friend tells him about the double life she has been leading, and gets irritated that the Gardai can do nothing to help him, so he starts to look into things himself. He finds out that Sarah was last seen on a cruise ship, The Celebrate, and the more he looks into the ship's sinister past, the more he is sure that Sarah's disappearance isn't as simple as everyone believes.

Distress Signals is a fantastic debut from Cork-born Catherine Ryan Howard. She has managed to take a basic 'girl-gone-missing' plot and turn it into a gripping story that you won't be able to put down. The cruise ship setting is original and would make you think twice about going on a cruise. The main premise deals with the problems that can arise from the part of maritime law that says if a crime happens on a ship, the jurisdiction is with the country that the ship is registered to. It's a unique and interesting angle to look at, and definitely not something I've come across before.

While this is Howard's first fiction book, she has self-published non-fiction work before, and it's clear this has given her a lot of confidence in her writing. *Distress Signals* doesn't read like a debut novel. The writing is strong and the pacing is fantastically done so that you're kept on your toes throughout. You're there with Adam as he tries to figure out what has happened to Sarah. His reactions are authentic every time a new piece of information comes up and you feel exactly what he is feeling.

If I had to fault something, it would be the second narrative that comes with Adam's story. It follows Romain, a French boy and his troubled childhood and relationship with his mother. While it does all connect by the end of the book, it can be a bit jarring up until then, and takes you out of the main story. As a story in itself it keeps you hooked, but in the context of the book, it seems to just plod along beside the main event, distracting you from what's going on with Adam.

One of the biggest things that stuck out to me about *Distress Signals* are its comments on our reliance on mobile phones and social media and how dangerous they can be. Most of the information used by some characters against others are found online somehow, including telephone numbers and addresses, and it gets people into a lot of trouble. It's an important message – to be aware of what information people put online – that the book really gets through to you.

The ending is something that I didn't see coming, and it is slightly heartbreaking, so have some tissues ready. But overall, *Distress Signals* is an enjoyable read. A thriller that has come out at a time when thrillers are abundant, and still manages to stand out and stay in the readers mind long after they've finished.

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Interview – Bridgett Devoue



Interview: Anne Cassidy



The 500 Hidden Secrets of Dublin – book review



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Sabrina Benaim live at The Academy 2, Dublin

Keith Barry adds two extra shows at The Olympia Theatre, Dublin

Trainspotting Live at The Olympia Theatre

Celebrity guests confirmed for The Grand Tour series 2

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Midwich Cuckoos – We Are Everywhere (Album Review)

BY DAVE SIMPSON

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The Inoculated Canaries – Trying Times (EP Review)

BY DAVE SIMPSON

Pure M Magazine ★★★ Comprised of guitarist/vocalist Michael Rubin, bassist Dylan Gross, drummer James Terranova and keyboardist Brian Sweeney, New York based band The Inoculated...



Julia Michaels 'Heaven' (Single Review)

BY DANIELLE HOLIAN

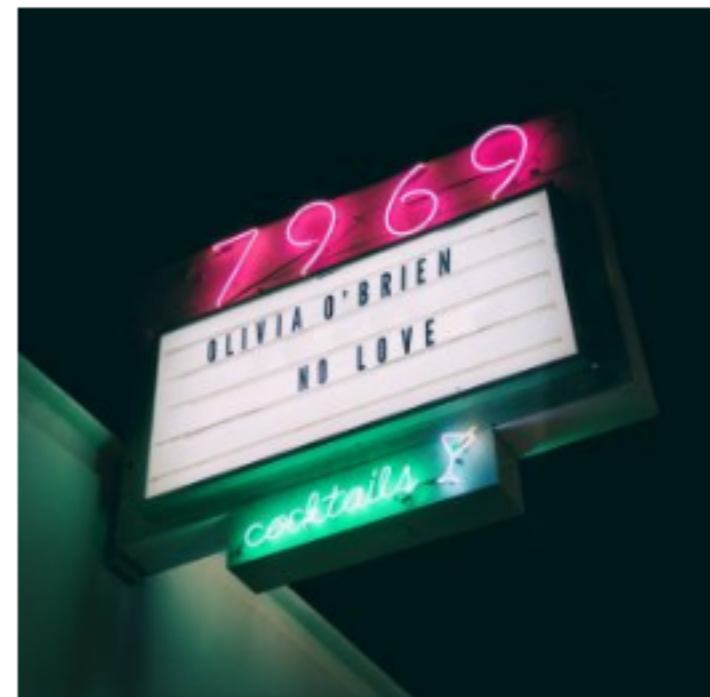
Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ by Danielle Holian - Julia Michaels penned her latest single 'Heaven' for the third and final movie of the Fifty Shade...



LA River Bend – Summer Wind – (Single Review)

BY SEAN COYLE

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Olivia O'Brien 'No Love' (Single Review)

BY DANIELLE HOLIAN

Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ by Danielle Holian - Olivia O'Brien's new single 'No Love' is heartless in a captivating way. 'No Love' opens with a...



Halo Tora – Man Of Stone – First Chapter (EP Review)

BY DAVE SIMPSON

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Donal Quinn – Precious (Single Review)

BY SEAN COYLE

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Marshmello & Anne Marie 'Friends' (Single Review)

BY DANIELLE HOLIAN

Pure M Magazine ★★★★★ by Danielle Holian - The anti-love anthem 'Friends' by Marshmellow and Anne Marie is a banger. The tune is a friend-zone...