

# ANDY LEA & MIKE WARD'S BIG STREAM

# The power of para heroes..

**RISING PHOENIX (12)**  
(Netflix from Wednesday)

★★★★  
**THIS** is by no means the first documentary on the Paralympics, but it surely has to be the most powerful, poetic and visually arresting.

It focuses on a selection of top athletes, drawn from different countries and disciplines, each with their own personal story to tell - from Aussie swimmer Ellie Cole, who had to lose a leg at the age of three, to French sprinter Jean-Baptiste Alaize, who suffered life-changing injuries during the Burundian Civil War.

With London 2012 largely the focus, there's a particular poignancy to sprinter Jonnie Peacock's tale of how he out-ran his then-hero Oscar Pistorius, driven on by a packed and inspiring partisan crowd.

Britain, we're also reminded, was the Paralympics' birthplace, dreamed up here in 1948 by German Dr Ludwig Guttmann, a Jew forced to flee his homeland by the Nazis.

His daughter Eva brims with pride as she reflects on her pioneering father's extraordinary foresight, recognising the potential of people with injuries and disabilities, routinely written off, and creating what's now the third biggest sporting celebration on the planet.

Watching footage of Peacock's victory lap, which saw him mobbed by an ecstatic crowd, Eva remarks: "They weren't clapping and shouting and cheering because they were seeing disabled people."

"They were shouting because they were seeing a great sporting event."

"That just brought it home to me, what the Paralympics mean." - MW



**SPORT STARS:**  
Bebe Vio, Ryley Batt and Jonnie Peacock

## ANIMAL TALE LACKS ACTION



**TAME:** Ivan and Mack (Cranston)

**THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN (PG)**  
(Disney+ Now)

★★★★  
**LIKE** Artemis Fowl, this talking animal flick has been moved from cinema schedules to Disney+ and Now TV.

It's a strange beast. The characters (both human and CGI) feel underdeveloped, the jokes tame and, until the final act, its message confusingly elusive.

Ivan (voiced by Sam Rockwell) is a laid back, silver-

back gorilla who lives in a cage in the Big Top Mall.

Backstage he is best pals with Danny DeVito's stray dog and Angelina Jolie's elderly elephant.

Cruel but big-hearted circus master Mack (Bryan Cranston) is harder to get a handle on.

The drama finally comes alive in the final act with the mournful tone giving way to something more rousing.

It's something to nod off to during a rainy Sunday. - AL

◆ WIN ◆ WIN ◆ WIN ◆



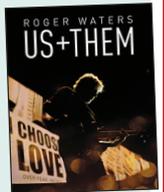
**WIN** A Sony soundbar worth £450

**ROGER WATERS: US + THEM**, a remarkable film about the legendary Pink Floyd founder's 2017-18 tour, is out now to download and keep.

Captured with state-of-the-art sound technology are Floyd classics such as *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Animals* and *Wish You Were Here*, plus tracks from Waters' most recent album *Is This The Life We Really Want?*

And for one lucky reader to enjoy the film at its very best, we're giving away a powerful Sony HT-G700 3.1ch soundbar worth £450. This slim, stylish device offers modes for every type of viewing, and an immersive experience.

For your chance to win, just complete the title of Pink Floyd's biggest hit single: Another ... In The Wall (A) Hole (B) Brick (C) Breeze block. Email your answer (subject: "Sony") with your name, address and mobile number, to [starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk). Entries close at midnight this Sunday, August 23. Normal Daily Star rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.



## MY FAVOURITE STREAM

**Mimi Slinger (Leana Cavanagh in Emmerdale)**  
"I'm loving the crime thriller *Money Heist* (Netflix). I was apprehensive at first, as it's in Spanish (with English dubbing or subtitles), but the intensity and excitement completely distract you."  
● *Emmerdale* is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7pm on ITV

## Now available on all leading platforms

**MESSAGE MAN (18)**  
(On major platforms)

★★★★  
**THIS** Aussie-made action film takes a while to get going but the slow-burn set-up gave me a chance to check out the action hero credentials of its leading man.

I never caught Paul O'Brien in *Home & Away* but as he has the look of a peak fame Nick Knowles, his moody entrance felt a bit underwhelming.

However, as the bodies piled up, all thoughts of DIY punditry faded. By the end, I could see a bit of

Clint Eastwood in the former Summer Bay bobby.

The plot is pure spaghetti western. O'Brien is Ryan, who rolls up on an Indonesian island to get his yacht repaired and ends up fighting a gang of sex traffickers.

After butchering a handful, Ryan discovers that they are working for his nemesis and heads to Jakarta to finish off the crazy Mr Lee (Verdi Solaiman).

The finale, an explosive siege in a strip club, is wildly inventive and Solaiman

makes a refreshingly original villain.

His bow ties and shiny waistcoats give him the air of an over-excited snooker player driven mad by the polite silence of *The Crucible*. - AL  
**COUP 53 (NR)**

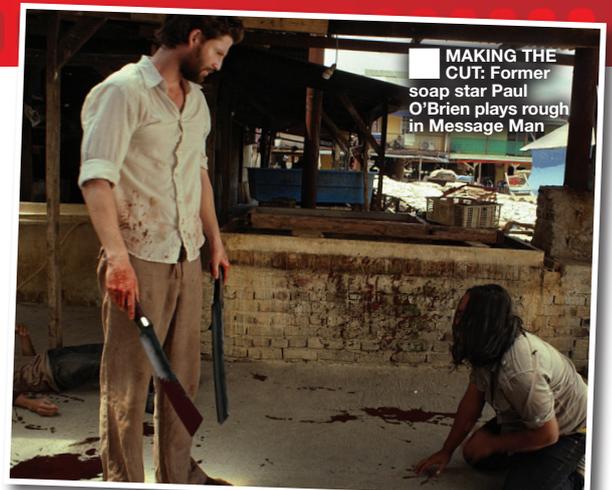
★★★★  
(Major platforms now) **DIRECTOR** Taghi Amirani uses secret documents and unseen interviews to tell the story of MI6's role in the 1953 Iran coup.

Ralph Fiennes helpfully recreates a spook's explosive testimony that was

mysteriously cut. It's like watching an out-take from a John le Carré drama. - AL  
**WEIRD BUT TRUE** (Disney+ now)

★★★★  
**BACK** for its third run, this Emmy award-winning science series for kids features all manner of guest boffins and is crammed with facts even grown-ups will happily drop into their conversation. Like, did you know the universe contains more stars than planet Earth has grains of sand?

No, you didn't, don't lie. - MW



**MAKING THE CUT:** Former soap star Paul O'Brien plays rough in *Message Man*