

MUSIC

'BLUE & LONESOME' ROLLING STONES

The oldest swingers in town are back with their first album in more than ten years. The Stones have gone back to their roots, covering old Blues songs just as they did in the early '60s. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts went into the studio to test some new material, and played Little Walter's *Blue & Lonesome* as a warm-up. They had so much fun, they decided to play some more covers – and in only three days had recorded enough material for a whole album! What you get are rip-roaring, off-the-cuff versions of classics like Lightnin' Slim's *Hoodoo Blues* and Howlin' Wolf's *Commit A Crime*. Sir Mick's howling vocals have never sounded so good and authentic, plus Eric Clapton – who just happened to be in the studio next door – popped in to feature on two tracks. **DL ★★★★★** OUT NOW



'CHRISTMAS PARTY' SHE & HIM

Zoëy Deschanel played a singing shop girl in Christmas classic *Elf*, so who better to cover all our favourite festive classics? As folksy duo She & Him, Zoëy and her musical partner M. Ward have teamed up to release their second Christmas album, five years after their first volume. Featuring more holiday favourites like *Winter Wonderland* and *All I Want For Christmas Is You*, this is perfect for those who like their Christmas carols mixed with a touch of indie spirit and kitschy nostalgia. **KH ★★★★★** OUT NOW



HOT TICKET! EMELI SANDÉ

'LONG LIVE THE ANGELS TOUR'

After reaching number two in the charts with her second album, *Long Live The Angels*, Emeli Sandé is heading out on the road for a 15-date tour around the UK and Ireland. From Dublin to Newcastle, the superstar singer will be turning her unique voice to her biggest hits including *Heaven*, *Hurts* and *Breathing Underwater*. With the March and April dates of the tour selling out in hours, the Sunderland-born star has added ten more evenings to the roster in October. Snap yours up quick! **KH**



FOR DATES AND TICKETS TO EMELI SANDÉ'S 'LONG LIVE THE ANGELS TOUR', SEE WWW.EMELISANDE.COM.

FILMS 'ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY' (12A)

Along with putting up the Christmas tree and overindulging in food and drink, the release of a new *Star Wars* film is synonymous with this time of year. Last year's *Episode VII: The Force Awakens* did so well both critically and commercially, it seemed there would indeed be good tidings for all. Then the stocking filler that is *Rogue One* happened. Set between *Revenge Of The Sith* and the original trilogy, this instalment unfortunately does things by half measures. Telling the story of how the fledgling Rebel Alliance attempts to steal plans for the Empire's Death Star superweapon, much of the film falls flat, plodding along almost as if it realises this isn't a proper *Star Wars* film, but rather a standalone filler keeping the seat (Luke) warm for *Episode VIII* in 2017. The leads – Felicity Jones and Diego



Luna [above], Riz Ahmed and Ben Mendelsohn – never recreate the on-screen chemistry of Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Harrison Ford of last year, and while it's nice to see cameos from familiar faces, it's only really the final 20 minutes that capture the imagination. The Force, sadly, is not strong in this one – but there's always new hope for next Christmas. **SU ★★★☆☆** OUT NOW



'A MONSTER CALLS' (12A)

Conor is struggling to accept his mum's terminal illness and is being bullied at school. His torment awakens the giant yew tree (voiced by Liam Neeson) outside his bedroom window, which becomes his confidante and helps him come to terms with her inevitable death. Based on the bestselling book by Patrick Ness, *A Monster Calls* is incredibly moving and compelling and a real antidote to typical fluffy, festive films. **CF ★★★★★** OUT JANUARY 1

HOT TICKET!

'CINDERELLA' THE LONDON PALLADIUM

Christmas wouldn't be complete without a trip to the pantomime, and the best of the bunch this year is *Cinderella* at the London Palladium. The superb cast includes Amanda Holden (right), Paul O'Grady, Julian Clary, Lee Mead, Nigel Havers and *America's Got Talent* winner, ventriloquist Paul Zerdin. An innuendo-heavy script means this isn't really one for the kids, but there are some hilarious gags and the special effects and incredible costumes make it a real spectacle. We left feeling properly festive with cheeks sore from laughing! **CF ★★★★★**

UNTIL JANUARY 15, SEE WWW.CINDERELLAPALLADIUM.COM.



BOOKS 'STRONG' BY ZANNA VAN DIJK

Instagram fame was just the start for fitness model and personal trainer Zanna Van Dijk. In her new release, the health fanatic talks food, nutrition and how to kick your body into shape. Sharing her top tips for staying fit and healthy, Zanna's musings are complete with delicious recipes and motivational quotes. With over 80 exercises and 40 meals included, Zanna dishes out the best advice to help us ditch the diet fads and achieve a better and balanced body in the New Year and beyond. **LR ★★★★★** OUT DECEMBER 29



'THE CHRISTMASAURUS' BY TOM FLETCHER

After previously penning three children's books with bandmate Dougie Poynter, the McFly musician returns with heartwarming children's book *The Christmasaurus*. The tale of a young boy named William Trundle follows Santa Claus, his elves and a special kind of dinosaur on a Christmas Eve adventure. To make the tale extra special, Tom will be taking it to the stage in December 2017, complete with a self-written musical soundtrack. We can't wait! **LR ★★★★★** OUT NOW, FOR TICKETS TO 'THE CHRISTMASAURUS LIVE ON STAGE' SEE WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK.

