

# ANDY LEA & MIKE WARD'S BIG STREAM

## Fowl plots have little fairy dust

**ARTEMIS FOWL (NR, 94 minutes) ★**  
(Exclusively on Disney+ from today)

**A BRAVE investment in the future or a last-ditch attempt to cut their losses?**

This was the question that fans of Eoin Colfer's eight-book fantasy series were asking when Disney decided to move this blockbuster to their home-streaming service.

Most film adaptations cut subplots and cull characters. Here, director Kenneth Branagh goes against conventional wisdom by cramming the plots of the first two novels of the series into a single hour-and-a-half movie.

The result is a garish, confusing mess populated by characters we hardly know and powered by a mythology that we can barely understand.

### Evil

Artemis Fowl (Ferdia Shaw) is an arrogant, 12-year-old, suit-wearing child genius who is thrown into a magical world of mythical creatures when his Irish billionaire, burglar father (Colin Farrell) is kidnapped by an evil fairy.

To get his dad back, Artemis kidnaps a plucky fairy girl (Lara McDonnell) and ends up clashing with a dwarf (Josh Gad) and a fairy police chief (Judi Dench) and getting caught up in a sprite civil war.

As in the first book, he starts off as an anti-hero. But here it feels like the essential reversal has been edited out to make room for a bewildering array of subplots and minor characters.

Branagh tries to guide us through the fairy world but as there is nobody to root for, I'd lost interest well before he had given up on his narrator. *AL*



**CONFUSING:** Nonso Anozie, Lara McDonnell, Josh Gad and Ferdia Shaw in *Artemis Fowl*



## Livening up the Stats

**THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND (15)**  
(Digital from today)

★★★★★  
US comedian Pete Davidson teams up with *Knocked Up* director Judd Apatow for a freewheeling comedy-drama loosely based on his own upbringing. Davidson summons

up some big laughs as Scott, a 24-year-old jobless, amateur tattooist who lives with his mum (Marisa Tomei) in Staten Island, the least glamorous of New York's five boroughs.

It's a little over-long but Pete, left with co-star Maude Apatow, has the comedic and dramatic chops to keep us watching. *AL*

+ WIN ++ WIN ++ WIN +



### SIX SONIC THE HEDGEHOG DVDs

CAN the Blue Blur stop super-villain Dr Robotnik (Jim Carrey) in his tracks? Or is the evil genius set for world domination?

Based on the classic video game, the smash hit comedy adventure *Sonic The Hedgehog* (PG) is out now on DVD and Blu-ray, and we have six DVD copies to give away in this week's competition.

To enter, just complete the title of this Jim Carrey film from 1994 - *Ace Ventura: Pet...*

- (A) Whisperer
- (B) Detective
- (C) Shop Boy

Email your answer (with "Sonic" as the subject), plus your name, address and mobile number, to [starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:starcompetitions@dailystar.co.uk).

Entries close at midnight this Sunday, June 14.

Normal Daily Star rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.



## MY FAVOURITE STREAM

**DARRYL MORRIS** (talkRADIO presenter)

"NORMAL PEOPLE (BBC iPlayer) is packed with nostalgia for those formative years, when you were figuring out how to love and it felt like the world was at your fingertips.

"And there's enough eye candy to keep everyone happy."

● Hear Darryl on talkRADIO every Monday to Friday from 1am-5am

## BEEB'S BOWIE TREATS

FOR music fans there will be three excellent David Bowie documentaries popping up on the BBC iPlayer tomorrow.

Joining the comedy line-up, meanwhile, will be all seven series of *The Kumars At No. 42*. And just arrived on BritBox is ITV's recent *Van der Valk* reboot, starring Marc Warren as the legendary Dutch detective. *MW*

## Now available on all leading platforms

**THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD (PG)**  
(Digital from tomorrow)

★★★★★  
THE Thick Of It writer/director Armando Iannucci turns in a riotous adaptation of Charles Dickens's funniest novel.

Dev Patel makes a very likeable lead but all the supporting players weigh in with excellent turns as quirky oddballs.

Hugh Laurie turns back the clock to his *Blackadder* days to play the potty Mr Dick, Peter Capaldi makes a hilarious Mr Micawber and Ben Whishaw drips oily

menace as ever-so-'umble Uriah Heep. *AL*  
**QUIZ (12)**  
(DVD from Monday)

★★★  
MICHAEL Sheen makes an uncanny Chris Tarrant in this fine three-parter, recently shown on ITV.

It's based on the cheating scandal that engulfed *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* in 2001.

Matthew Macfadyen and Sian Clifford play Charles and Diana Ingram, the pair at the centre of the storm. *MW*  
**DA 5 BLOODS (15)**  
(Netflix from today)

★★  
IN this bloated Vietnam war movie, four elderly

African American veterans (Norm Lewis, Isiah Whitlock Jr, Clarke Peters and Delroy Lindo) return to south-east Asia to retrieve the body of their squadron leader (Chadwick Boseman) who was killed in action 45 years earlier.

When the son of one the men (Jonathan Majors) learns that they are also planning to unearth a cache of stolen gold, he blackmails his way into the team.

Along the way, director Spike Lee hits with two and a half hours of stilted flashbacks, stagey speeches, archive clips, and action scenes cut to

a jarringly ironic score. *AL*  
**RADIOACTIVE (12)**  
(Digital from Monday)

★★★  
ROSAMUND Pike is well cast in this handsome drama about Nobel Prize winner Marie Curie.

The film relates how she, along with husband Pierre (Sam Riley) shook the scientific world with their discovery of two radioactive elements as the 20th Century began.

It's quietly engrossing, although momentum is lost with flash forwards to historical milestones showing the future consequences of her discoveries. *AL*

**SUITS YOU:** Aneurin Barnard as Steerforth and Dev Patel as a likeable David Copperfield

