

OFFICIAL UK

ISSUE 55

# PlayStation Magazine

FEBRUARY 2000

RESIDENT EVIL 3 • GRAN TURISMO 2 • IN COLD BLOOD • DUKE FOR PS2 • GTA2 GUIDE

## RESIDENT EVIL 3 NEMESIS

IT'S THRILLS, CHILLS AND JILL BAIT IN OUR TERROR-IFIC EXCLUSIVE REVIEW!

## IN COLD BLOOD

Pssst... Want the inside scoop on the next Metal Gear? We unmask Sony's top secret project!

## INCOMING!

PlayStation2 overdose! Shiny new shots of Tekken Tag, GT2000, Ridge Racer V, ISS 2000 and too many more!



### REVIEW AVALANCHE!

- RESIDENT EVIL 3: NEMESIS
- GRAN TURISMO 2
- ISS PRO EVOLUTION
- F1 WORLD GRAND PRIX
- TRICK 'N' SNOWBOARDER
- HELLNIGHT
- OVERBLOOD 2
- RISING ZAN: SAMURAI
- NHL FACE OFF 2000
- MARY KING'S RIDING STAR
- ACE COMBAT 3: ELECTROSPHERE
- SHADOW MADNESS
- INTERNATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD 2
- SUPERCROSS 2000
- JURASSIC PARK: WARPATH
- VIGILANTE 8: 2ND OFFENCE
- REEL FISHING
- ARMY MEN: AIR ATTACK
- TRIPLE HIT BASEBALL
- NBA SHOWTIME
- AND MORE!

## GRAN TURISMO 2 REVIEWED!

We get under the bonnet of the ace racer. Huge review!



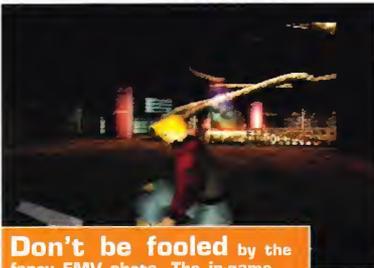
FEBRUARY 2000 £4.99

0 2 9 771367 447005

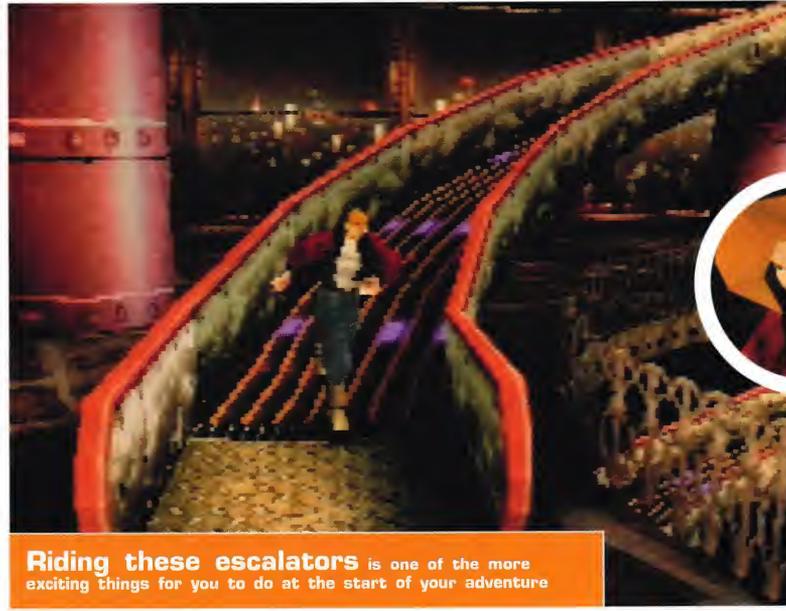
QUAKE II - FULL GUIDE ■ DUKE FOR PS2 ■ FIRST UNREAL SHOTS!  
SPIDER-MAN ■ THEME PARK WORLD ■ PREMIER MANAGER 2000  
DUKES OF HAZZARD ■ GTA2 - ALL CITIES MAPPED ■ F1 2000 INFO



Official UK PlayStation Magazine



**Don't be fooled** by the fancy FMV shots. The in-game scenery is frustratingly glitchy and unimaginative. The camera is of a similarly low standard



Riding these escalators is one of the more exciting things for you to do at the start of your adventure



Few of the characters are particularly strong or original. Here we see Mrs Token Unconventional Busty Bird along with Mr Slightly Moody Hero



HOW DO YOU FOLLOW *FINAL FANTASY*? BY IMPORTING SOME OF THAT MANGA VIBE...



# Overblood 2

“Imagine a pale imitation of *FFVII* with its heart ripped out”

## FACTFILE

PUBLISHER	PBH Systems
DEVELOPER	Riverhillsoft
RELEASE DATE	Out now
AGE RESTRICTION	15 and over
PRICE	£29.99
NUMBER OF PLAYERS	One

**T**he threat posed by cloning can't be underestimated. Forget Dolly the sheep, it's videogames that really suffer from indiscriminate body forging. Attempting to improve upon successful titles is nothing new, and clones often create desirable mutations that nudge gaming technology forward. But this Darwinian selection method also spawns a lot of doomed offsprings. Come in *Overblood 2*, your time is up.

Imagine a pale imitation of *Final Fantasy VII* with its heart ripped out. From the Cloud-quiffed main character and the dystopian planet kept alive by city-sized machines, to the external pre-rendered environments, so much of *Final Fantasy VII* has been transplanted to *Overblood 2* that you're tempted to check your old copy to see if it has been

nicked. Is *Overblood 2* at least a stronger, faster, fitter clone? Sadly, no.

It has only got a few new moves, most notably a free-camera 3D view and real-time combat. Most tragically of all, though, the compelling RPG elements have been ditched in favour of action adventuring. A poor design choice that turns *Overblood 2* into the videogame equivalent of the Dodo. While the 3D view is ambitious, it's jittery and riddled with collision problems. Puzzles are obscure, so you can easily wander around for ages without triggering the right piece of FMV. Combat is clumsy, and lacks either the grace of a *Tomb Raider* or the impressiveness of *FFVII*. But it's the terrible localisation that finally ruins *Overblood 2*.

True, it's hard to bring epic Japanese adventure games to the West, but that doesn't make it alright to do it badly.

*Overblood 2*'s dialogue is so bad it's hilarious. In the opening sequence, a thigh-booted, Asian cyber-minx wonders, literally, what she'll buy Auntie Jane for Christmas. It's absurd and destroys the atmosphere from the start. As does the scene-setting background story which begins, "Since the event known as 'the sudden death of the earth,' all life on Earth has become totally reliant on air cooling machines. It is 2115AD in the run up to Christmas and East Edge is looking particularly colourful."

If you're rich and you like your humour black, you might enjoy a game laced with such nonsense. Most of us, spoiled by atmospheric games such as Square's classic or *Silent Hill*, will find nothing worth exploring here. And certainly nothing worth cloning. ■

Owain Bennallack

GRAPHICS	Detailed pre-rendered scenes but a glitchy 3D camera	6
GAMEPLAY	Bereft of both atmosphere and excitement	3
LIFESPAN	Could drag on for ages if you wanted it to. You won't	5

**OVERALL**  
*Overblood 2* is not so much a poor man's *Final Fantasy VII* as a rich man's lavish waste of 3D quid. Lacking in both atmosphere and playability, it's best avoided

OFFICIAL UK  
**PlayStation**  
Magazine  
**VERDICT**

# 4

OUT OF 10