

GAME REVIEW

by Costantino Oliva

Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes

WHY IS *Metal Gear Solid V* one of the most relevant games of the season? After all, new iterations of this franchise have been released for the past 25 years. Sure, *Ground Zeroes* boasts a new graphic engine and a vivid open-world structure. Enough to keep the tech savvy fan happy. But it's Hideo Kojima's authorial take that makes the difference.

Kojima's strong hand is clear when you hear Baez and Morricone's *Ballad of Sacco and Vanzetti* in the emotional opening sequence. Themes of freedom, detention, and torture are presented in a raw fashion and the game questions post-9/11 methods of

security. All of this is juxtaposed against the exaggerated hyperbole of a Hollywood blockbuster. Kojima dances between popular culture and authorial ambitions: a tension embodied by the medium of digital games.

Critics have commented that the game is really short, but this is a misunderstanding. For all its cinematographic inspiration, *MGS5* is not about the plot. This is a game of *space*: you are buying a Guantanamo-inspired military base populated with guards, traps, and secret passages. By the end of the experience you will be familiar with the space and left haunted by feelings of loss and powerlessness. ●

Developer:

Kojima Productions/Konami

Platform:

Playstation 4 (version tested)/
Xbox One

Game Rating: ★★★★★



FACT or FICTION?

Why do banana-flavoured sweets taste differently from real bananas?

by Alexander Hill

The flavour profile of banana sweets was created using the Gros Michel banana. This variety was the original reference banana flavour. In the 50s the fungal Panama disease wiped it out.

Why did the Gros Michel banana fall prey to disease?

Well, commercial bananas are clones—identical copies to one another—so when a disease infects one banana it can quickly spread through-

out plantations. Couple that to a globalised world and the fungal infection spread like wildfire. With no resistance and time to adapt, this banana variety was doomed.

The Cavendish banana was introduced to meet commercial demands. Unfortunately for us, this banana is a bit bland. The superior taste of the Gros Michael banana was relegated to artificial flavours leaving us with a hint of the original banana taste.