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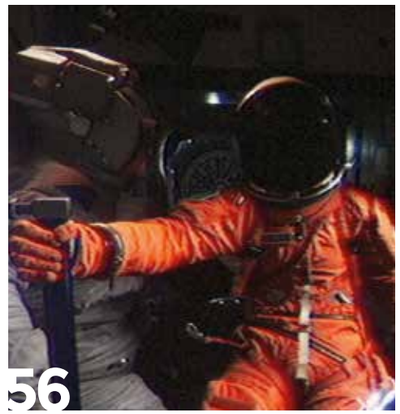

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WELCOME

As I write this, the internet is aflutter with the news that Keanu Reeves has a surprise role in CD Projekt Red's forthcoming *Cyberpunk 2077*. The revelation comes hot on the heels of *Death Stranding*'s recent eight-and-a-half minute trailer, which featured such entertainment industry lights as Norman Reedus, Mads Mikkelsen, Guillermo del Toro and assorted other Hideo Kojima chums scowling their way through an opaque sci-fi action epic. We're in a new golden age of celebrity video game appearances, it seems; forget about the likes of *Hollyoaks*' Gemma Atkinson and martial arts sensation Gina Carano in *Command and Conquer: Red Alert 3* – it's hard to remember a time when quite so many fancy actors and directors were last willing to be seen in a video game. Go back 20 years or so, and you probably wouldn't have expected, say, Stanley Kubrick and Tom Cruise lining up to appear in such a patently surreal game, even if it was helmed by one of the industry's most familiar names. It's further proof, surely, that it's cool to be associated with video games in 2019.

Certainly, it's all a far cry from the time when Gordon Ramsay apologetically showed up in his own Wii game (that'd be 2008's *Hell's Kitchen*), and his digital avatar looked like someone had placed a blonde wig on top of an angry pink space hopper. We live in a brave new gaming world, readers. Enjoy the new issue!

Ryan Lambie
Editor