

The Big Picks

FROM OUR TRUSTY EDITORS

LISTEN



NOTHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO ME **MITSKI**

Ahh, being perceived: why can't we all just bop through life incognito, our most vulnerable thoughts and smash-hit singles played privately for an audience of one?

On her eighth album, US singer-songwriter Mitski is beautifully torn between performing and unplugging, crafting some of her best songs yet. The music video and manic lyrics for 'Where's My Phone?' suggest a desire to go full *Grey Gardens* and withdraw from the scary outside world, while in 'Dead Women' she imagines a worshipful listener organising her funeral and ransacking her house in the event of her death. For a project about bone-deep, existential loneliness, it feels so good to feel bad with Mitski. **ELIZA JANSSEN**

DISCOVER

DANA AND THE WOLF **ON TIKTOK /** **YOUTUBE**

Thirty-something LA creatives Dana Hobson and Daniel Wolf are kicking couple goals: they live together, podcast together and tell each other absolutely everything. But, as a proudly poly couple, their other (often tricky) romantic relationships fuel endless drama – enough to fill a whole YouTube series loosely based on their lives. Together they navigate unrequited love, controlling exes, bad sex, poly politics and beyond, all while trying to get their podcast off the ground. Addictively edited cliffhangers and the goofy energy of the leads have helped win the show well over half a million TikTok followers. *Dana and the Wolf* has definitely found its audience. **MELISSA CRANENBURGH**



WATCH

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH **FILM FESTIVAL**

For Francophiles and film fans, it doesn't baguette much better than this: 38 films across 18 participating Australian cities, screening until mid-April in most regions. The 2026 line-up includes François Ozon's gripping new adaptation of Camus' *The Stranger* and a fresh portrait of *Les Misérables* protagonist Jean Valjean. Angelina Jolie stars as herself alongside hunky Louis Garrel in well-tailored drama *Couture*. Meanwhile, I'm most keen to ignore the critics and try out the coming-of-age



thriller *Alpha*, director Julia Ducournau's maligned follow-up to her Cannes winner *Titane* (2021). On y va! **ELIZA JANSSEN**

READ

DUNGEON CRAWLER CARL **MATT DINNIMAN**

Listen up nerds: the world is already your oyster, but it just got better. This Matt Dinniman series begins with Earth's population being almost completely annihilated, with the remnants descending into a D&D-style dungeon for the televised amusement of a universe packed with belligerent aliens. Overseen by a deranged AI, the dungeon is a kill-or-be-killed nightmare for a bizarro cast of "crawlers", led by the eponymous Carl and his newly sentient partner, Princess Donut the cat. It's hilariously swearsy, violent and transgressive, but the real heart of this anarchic tale is the strength of the crawlers' emotional bonds under genuinely horrible circumstances.

PETE CRUTTENDEN

