

AUTHORS' TOP 10 FAVOURITE GAMES

TAMMY'S PICKS



1. *Viva Piñata* - Build a garden and attract animal piñata to it, then breed and sell them to make your garden even better! [Xbox 360]

2. *World of Warcraft* - This is a MMORPG so rich in content I haven't been able to escape the world. [PC]

3. *Civilization* - This series is all about world domination. I was addicted to the 3rd release at one time and still play it, but since then Civ IV and a version for the Xbox 360 has been released. [PC and Xbox 360]

4. *Mortal Kombat* - This is a combat game that can be played single or multi-player. I have been playing this series since it first hit consoles in 1992. [Xbox]

5. *Dance Dance Revolution* - Dance alone or in competition. This is great for exercise and improving your coordination. Also, the better you do, the more songs you can unlock. [PS, PS2, Xbox and Wii]

6. *Legend of Zelda* - One of Nintendo's oldest titles, I especially enjoyed "Ocarina of Time" and "Majora's Mask", however any incarnation of this series is a good bet. [Nintendo Platforms]

7. *Halo* - This is a shooter game that can be played single or multi-player. Basically you battle aliens on the artificial halo planets in order to save humanity. [Xbox, Xbox 360]

8. *Portal* - Oddly creepy, this is a puzzle game that involves a gun that makes portals. It starts off innocent enough, but as you use the gun to move from one room to another, things the situation becomes more and more sinister. [PC, Xbox 360 and PS2]

9. *Rock Band* - This is a single or multi-player game that allows anyone to be a singer, drummer, guitarist or bassist. You'll need the equipment that goes along with it, but it's worth the price as you can get several people to play at once. [PS2, PS3, Xbox 360 and Wii]

10. *Rayman Raving Rabbids* - This is another dance game, but it is for the Wii. You have to do particular dance moves involving your arms and your legs, and have to execute the moves at command in order to impress a panel of judges. [PC, Wii, and Xbox 360]



KATHLEEN'S PICKS

1. *Wario Ware: Smooth Moves* - Proceed through a series of micro-games that take advantage of the Wii's motion-sensing capabilities. They're silly in nature and will have you and your friends laughing and saying "WTF?" [Wii]

2. *Katamari* series - More goofiness. The *Katamari* series has you rolling a sticky ball, picking up progressively larger objects. You start out in a house, gathering paper clips, and erasers, and in the end you roll around the globe, picking up landmarks and clouds. [PS2]

3. *Wii Sports* - This game makes a great introduction to the current generation – or even to video games in general for the first-timer. You can play six sports, taking a turn batting, pitching, bowling, and boxing among other things, using the motion-sensitive controller. A lifelong gamer, I was still awed that first moment when I leaned to the left and my boxer mirrored my real-life movements. [Wii]

4. *Mario Kart Wii* - The act of driving your kart by steering with a wheel never gets old. Great music and innovative race tracks make this a joy to play and the inclusion of some popular tracks from previous *Mario Kart* games makes it even more fun. [Wii]

5. *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* - getting to play as your favourite video game character in levels inspired by hit games over the years makes *SSBB* a value-added fighter game. Funny items make it more light-hearted than its gory competitors. [Wii]

6. *Mario Galaxy* - Rich colours and cute characters make it fun, and it starts off easy but some levels towards the end are diabolical. One neat feature is that a second player can pick up a controller at any time and help out by collecting star bits or immobilizing enemies. [Wii]

7. *LittleBigPlanet* - Using the materials they find in the game, users can create and upload levels. It is visually stunning, a true milestone in the history of video games. Levels incorporate features of platformers, racing games, and puzzle games. [PS3]

8. *Shadow of the Colossus* - Just incredible. A game that flouts conventions of the medium and keeps you in a state of awe. [PS2]

9. *Resident Evil 4* - The Wii version incorporates the motion controls during certain events, giving you a chance to escape the blows of zombie enemies. It's fun to aim and shoot at the screen, and the game is truly scary in parts. [Wii, also available for PS2 and PC]

10. *Wii Fit* - The balance games are fun, the aerobics games a workout. I noticed a difference in a matter of weeks. This very popular game is worth checking out, and was useful as a supplement to non-virtual sports during a long Canadian winter. [Wii]

