

same evil lurks in him. Surrogate dad Gordon (Peter Mullan) has helped him channel the aggression into a boxing career but when his family comes under threat Clayton might succumb to his DNA.

Along the way there is a romance with Gordon's daughter Alexia (Michelle Ryan), twisted loyalties, teenage pregnancy, stabbings and a bad case of flashback syndrome.

Peter Mullan adds gruff authority and class but there is not much else to commend this effort from writer/director/producer Dan Turner.

EL BULLI: COOKING IN PROGRESS ★★★★★

(Cert 12A; 108mins)

BEFORE it closed last year El Bulli was one of the most famous restaurants in the world, earning three Michelin stars and an unparalleled reputation as the home of molecular gastronomy.

In any given year it served 8,000 customers and turned away around a million. You gain a strong flavour

of the magic of the Spanish establishment and creativity of chef Ferran Adrià in this documentary.

Director Gereon Wetzel followed the annual six-month period when the restaurant closed and chefs headed to Barcelona to let taste buds run wild and experiment.

The attention to detail and commitment to creativity is staggering. Who knew there was so much you could do with a sweet potato? The impossible standards are maintained when the restaurant re-opens and nothing is overlooked, not even the last pebble in the immaculate grounds.

The film is more observational than analytical but even if your signature dish is beans on toast this is still a fascinating account of the quest for culinary perfection.

SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN ★★★★★

(Cert 12A; 86mins)

DOES anyone remember American singer-songwriter Sixto Rodriguez?

His career briefly flourished and fizzled in the early Seventies when he released two albums that earned him comparisons with Bob Dylan.

Then he disappeared. There were rumours that he had shot himself onstage. What really happened is much more interesting as we discover in the documentary.

Unknown to the wider world Rodriguez's music was hugely popular in South Africa where he was considered "bigger than Elvis".

Two of his biggest fans, Steve Segermen and Craig Bartholomew, were determined to find out the truth about him. Director Malik Bendjelloul makes their story as compelling as an Agatha Christie mystery. Myth-making confronts harsh reality and we really start to care about Rodriguez and the cruel ironies that befell him.

An excellent, uplifting piece of storytelling with the added bonus of the chance to discover just how wonderful some of the Rodriguez music was.

WOMAN IN A DRESSING GOWN ★★★★★

(Cert PG; 93mins)

THE new wave of British cinema in the Fifties and Sixties was all about angry young men and working-class rebels, at least if you were watching

Saturday Night And Sunday Morning or This Sporting Life.

A re-issue of *Woman In A Dressing Gown* proves there were equally provocative films being made about women.

Yvonne Mitchell gives a heartbreaking, award-winning performance as Amy, a scatterbrained housewife frantically failing to impose order on a chaotic daily life and blindly devoted to husband Jim (Anthony Quayle) and their son Brian (Andrew Ray).

Her world comes tumbling down when Jim finally finds the courage to tell her he has fallen in love with beautiful young secretary Georgie (Sylvia Syms). What follows is almost a kitchen sink Brief Encounter with decent Jim torn between loyalty to his marriage and his guilty hopes for a better future.

A film that deserves to be better known and a welcome reminder of what a fine actress the late Yvonne Mitchell was.

RED DESERT ★★★★★

(Cert 12A; 117mins)

ITALIAN maestro Michelangelo Antonioni was born in September 1912. The centenary is marked with a big screen re-issue of *The Red Desert/Il Deserto Rosso*, his first film in colour and a haunting

STAR RATINGS

★ Don't bother ★★ Poor ★★★ Worth a look
★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Excellent