
Searching for Sugar Man (12A) ★★★★★

Dir. Malik Bendjelloul, 86mins
Sixto Rodriguez was a Mexican-American folk musician from Detroit who released two albums of working-class blues and protest music in 1970 and 1971, that no one in his home country bought. Yet somehow, a decade later, these records provided the soundtrack to the political awakening of Apartheid-era white South Africa. "We didn't know what 'anti-establishment' meant until it cropped up on a Rodriguez record," recalls one South African fan. But by the time he could legitimately have claimed to be bigger than Elvis and the Rolling Stones – albeit on the other side of the world – Rodriguez was missing, presumed dead. This documentary re-telling the story is a fascinating

film about serendipity, integrity, second chances and the wide-reaching effect of good art.

The Man Inside (15) ★★

Dir. Dan Turner
Starring Ashley Thomas, Michelle Ryan, 99mins
Ashley "Bashy" Thomas gives a creditable performance as a young boxer having to negotiate the lure of violence. A well-intentioned but crazily overwrought urban melodrama, it involves its hero with several stabbings, three victims of domestic abuse, an abortion, heroin addiction, his 16-year-old brother's slide off the rails and the evil legacy of his jailed psychopath father. The script is a jumble of exposition and strange non sequiturs. And although everyone in it but Peter Mullan has a London accent, it is set in Newcastle.

El Bulli: Cooking in Progress (12A) ★★

Dir. Gereon Wetzel
113mins
With a suitable mix of curiosity and scientific detachment, a German documentary crew observes Ferran Adrià and his team during a six-month fallow period at his Catalan restaurant elBulli, when they were locked away in its kitchen-cum-laboratory preparing a new menu. It's a welcome alternative to the manufactured drama of personality-based television cookery shows, but unfortunately quite boring. For the first 20 minutes, they do nothing

Food for thought: Oriol Castro stars in El Bulli: Cooking in Progress



but play with mushrooms. Moreover, the restaurant's closure means that the film is past its best-before date.

Red Desert (12A)

★★★★
Dir. Michelangelo Antonioni
Starring Monica Vitti, Richard Harris, 116mins
Monica Vitti plays a factory-owner's wife, recently released from psychiatric care, who wanders, dazed, around northern Italy's industrial landscapes in this modernist study in alienation, dislocation and ennui. Originally released in 1964, it was Michelangelo Antonioni's first film in colour. And what colours! Painting real-world locations as if they were sets, he

created an almost sci-fi landscape, with a brutalist alien beauty as vast and vivid as the characters' emotional lives are pallid and small.

Woman in a Dressing Gown (PG) ★★★

Dir. J Lee Thompson
Starring Yvonne Mitchell, Sylvia Syms, 93mins
Perhaps this early kitchen-sink drama seemed frank and daring in 1957, but all it offers today is overstatement and a terrifying vision of pre-feminism Britain. Yvonne Mitchell gives a weirdly manic performance as a cockney woman whose husband (Anthony Quayle) is having an affair with Sylvia Syms. But she deserves it, the film seems to suggest, because she has let herself go and leaves unironed clothes around their cramped flat. Andrew Ray also stars.