

★ ALSO SHOWING ★

THE MAN INSIDE (15)

WHEN Peter Mullan tells aspiring pugilist Ashley Thomas his now jailed father David Harewood is "one of the most evil bastards I ever met" he's not kidding.

Unfortunately for him, Thomas ends up having to go to his father for advice.

Give writer-director Dan Turner his due, watching his glum tale convinced me he hadn't missed a single low-budget crime melodrama cliché.

Thomas is trying to go straight, Mullan's black lipstick-wearing daughter Michelle "The Bionic Woman" Ryan is trying to go after him but fate and violent troubles land luckless Thomas in deep trouble when he has to save his family. It's not actually awful, simply dull, over-familiar and truly belongs on late-night TV.

VERDICT: 4/10

SEARCHING FOR THE SUGAR MAN (12A)

MICK Jagger and his mates should steer well clear of this fascinating documentary since it shows its extraordinary subject, Detroit-based singer Sixto Rodriguez, was more famous in South Africa than the Rolling Stones.

And more popular than Elvis too, as Cape Town record shop owner Stephen "Sugar" Segerman and journalist Craig Bartholomew learn while researching Rodriguez, who apparently killed himself when his US career stalled.

Swedish film-maker Malik Bendjelloul's blend of detective story and documentary grips from start to finish, is packed with fascinating characters and, in addition,

exposes the appalling censorship of apartheid South Africa. And, a real surprise, it proves it is possible to research without the internet.

VERDICT: 8/10

WOMAN IN A DRESSING GOWN (PG)

WHEN it was first released in 1967, this then cutting-edge drama of forbidden love and adultery earned itself an A for adults-only certificate. Now, in an age of four-letter words and full-frontal sex, the movie simply rates a PG.

Scripted by Ted Willis, creator of legendary TV policeman Dixon Of Dock Green, who also wrote the original play, the film showcases Yvonne Mitchell, who deservedly won several awards playing the downtrodden title character.

She is superb, battling to save her marriage to stodgy Anthony Quayle, who is having an affair with Sylvia Syms and wants to end their marriage. A still fascinating film.

VERDICT: 7/10

EL BULLI: COOKING IN PROGRESS (12A)

OVERLONG documentary about Spanish chef Ferran Adrià, owner of El Bulli, reportedly the world's best restaurant but now closed. It left me hungry for more normal food.

VERDICT: 5/10



DARK LADY: Michelle Ryan in her lipstick