



pandemic, but it was finished during the first months of lockdown.

"I spent the first four months of lockdown in New York with my wifey and we literally didn't go anywhere."

Skin finally made it to London before arriving in Ibiza about a fortnight before we speak.

For now, at least, hers is a happy ending. In September, she announced her engagement to her partner Rayne Baron.

"Yeah, life is good," she smiles.

● **It Takes Blood And Guts by Skin and Lucy O'Brien is available now.**



NEW RELEASES

EMMY THE GREAT APRIL

An ode to her native Hong Kong, Emma-Lee Moss's fourth studio album as Emmy The Great is also simply a lovely record. The influence is evident from Chinese-language opener Mid-Autumn – the English title referring to a trip back to her birthplace in 2017 – and continues throughout, with Chang-E taking its title from the Chinese goddess of the moon. Musically, it's broadly folk embellished with percussion and hypnotic chants. Songs of hallucinations and fortune tellers give an otherworldliness feel to this offering.

MACHINEDRUM A VIEW OF U

Machinedrum never stands still for long, and his ninth solo album – along with numerous collaborations and remixes over two decades – burnishes his reputation as one of electronic music's most innovative talents. The prolific LA producer, aka Travis Stewart, fuses IDM, UK rave and bass culture with US regional hip-hop and club music styles on 11 tracks. The diversity is held together by the concept of having an out-of-body experience. If you want to know where electronic music is going next, Machinedrum shows the way.

TELEVISION

NEW TO STREAM

THE SPANISH PRINCESS – PART TWO 8 EPISODES, STARZPLAY

DRAMA/ROMANCE

This lavish period drama concludes with eight episodes of courtly intrigue and betrayal at the turn of the 16th Century.

Teenage bride Catherine of Aragon (Charlotte Hope) is betrothed to Arthur, Prince of Wales (Angus Imrie) – a powerful political alliance that will hopefully usher in a period of peace between Spain and England. Catherine receives a chilly reception from her new homeland. However, Arthur dies suddenly, Henry ascends the throne and love blossoms between the enigmatic king and Catherine.



A BABYSITTER'S GUIDE TO MONSTER HUNTING (12)

NETFLIX

COMEDY/FANTASY/ADVENTURE

Joe Ballarini published the spooky children's book A Babysitter's Guide To Monster Hunting in 2017 and has released two further adventures in the series. He adapts his own work for the screen, bringing to life his plucky heroine: high school student Kelly Ferguson (Tamara Smart). On Halloween, she agrees to babysit Jacob Zellman (Ian Ho), unaware that she will be recruited by a secret society of babysitters dedicated to protecting gifted children from monsters including the menacing Grand Guignol.



Summertime blues

SUMMERLAND (12) BUY, DOWNLOAD OR STREAM

DRAMA/ROMANCE/WAR

Alice Lamb (Gemma Arterton) lives alone in a remote cottage in a close-knit community not far from the white cliffs of Dover, where anyone who dares to set themselves apart from the gossip-mongering crowd risks being labelled a Nazi spy.

She devotes her waking hours to investigating the fata morgana optical illusion, which causes mirages of islands and cities to shimmer in the sky.

Alice is rudely dragged away from her thesis by the unexpected arrival of rosy-cheeked London Blitz evacuee Frank (Lucas Bond) as part of Operation Pied Piper.

The boy's sense of wonder, untainted by cynicism or grief, slowly penetrates Alice's prickly exterior and reawakens her sense of adventure.

She dares to unlock bittersweet memories of studying history in Oxford alongside the luminous Vera Wilbond (Gugu Mbatha-Raw). Summerland is an elegantly constructed drama set on the Kent coast under threat from the Luftwaffe, which takes its title from Norse mythology's notion of heaven as an astral plane where souls linger invisibly after they depart the mortal realm.



Plot machinations in the film's tear-drenched final third skirt perilously close to emotionally manipulative contrivance. Still waters run deep in Arterton's purse-lipped curmudgeon, providing the actress with a rich and fulfilling character arc. She catalyses simmering on-screen chemistry with Mbatha-Raw and writer-director Jessica Swale reflects discriminatory behaviour towards the couple in gentle brushstrokes without labelling the point.

THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR 9 EPISODES, NETFLIX

HORROR/THRILLER

Drawing inspiration from the work of Henry James, the story centres on Henry Wingrave (Henry Thomas), who lives in Bly Manor with his orphaned niece Flora and nephew Miles. The estate's staff includes housekeeper Mrs Grose, groundskeeper Jamie and chef Owen. When the children's au pair passes away suddenly, American nanny Dani Clayton (Victoria Pedretti) arrives to take charge of the youngsters in their time of grief. Dani quickly discovers that the Wingraves' gothic property is home to some chilling secrets.



LEGACY OF LIES (15) BUY, DOWNLOAD OR STREAM

ACTION/THRILLER/ROMANCE

M16 agent Martin Baxter (Scott Adkins) turns his back on the spy game after a mission in Kiev results in the death of his sweetheart.

Twelve years later, he is working as a London nightclub bouncer and earns extra cash by bruising his knuckles on the fight club scene and gets involved with his former spymasters. Written and directed by Adrian Bol, Legacy Of Lies is a solid spy caper which confirms martial artist Adkins as heir apparent to Jason Statham's action man crown. However, a police car chase barely shifts out of first gear compared to the turbo-charged Bourne franchise.

