



4/5

LOCKE

TOM HARDY, RUTH WILSON, ANDREW SCOTT

It's best to go in knowing as little as possible about writer-director Steven Knight's high-stakes drama, apart from the bare facts: Tom Hardy is a Welsh construction supervisor, he's speeding down the M6 while his wife (Wilson), sons, co-workers and baby mama (Olivia Colman) plague him with phone calls and the camera never leaves his side. Sinewy, compelling and magnificently acted by Hardy. Who knew a delivery of concrete could be so nerve-wracking? **MM**

RELEASED ON APRIL 18



2/5

THE LAST DAYS ON MARS

LIEV SCHREIBER, OLIVIA WILLIAMS, TOM CULLEN

The title says it all in this mildly creepy sci-fi thriller, in which a solid cast including Olivia Williams, Liev Schreiber and *Weekend* star/*Attitude* cover boy Tom Cullen fight, fret and fall away as a devious Red Planet bacteria turns them all into shrieking zombies.

Recalling a zillion space movies before it, *The Last Days On Mars* fails to make enough of its lean, mean spook-house set-up, not to mention wasting Cullen even more than *Downton Abbey* does. **MM**

RELEASED ON APRIL 11



4/5

MAGIC MAGIC

JUNO TEMPLE, MICHAEL CERA, AGUSTIN SILVA

Juno Temple is terrific as Alicia, a young American vacationing in Chile whose selfish cousin (Browning) leaves her in a house full of wankers, worst of all Michael Cera's sadistic creep. Cue Alicia's rapid descent into a highly disturbed fugue state and the film's into a realm that appears headed at any moment into slasher-movie terrain, only to become something far more insightful in the hands of gay Chilean director Sebastian Silva. **MM**

RELEASED ON APRIL 18



TOM AT THE FARM

4/5

XAVIER DOLAN, PIERRE-YVES CARDINAL, LISE ROY

At 24, Montreal-based hipster darling Xavier Dolan is just absurdly young to have written, directed and starred in four films by now, and seems altogether too fond of his hair. But let's not hold either of these things against him. Too much. His latest is a lean, mean step forward, particularly on the last one, the indulgently long transgender love story *Laurence Anyways*. Here Dolan plays a blond-mopped city slicker mourning the accidental death of a lover, whose funeral takes place in the countryside. He arrives to find the boyfriend's family – including his darkly attractive brother, Francis (Cardinal) – have no idea who he is, and gets drawn into some very peculiar power games with him and the mother, Agathe (Roy). The situation prickles with an ambiguous sexual charge, and Dolan's deliberately overwrought technique (with a great score by Gabriel Yared) makes it jaggedly unpredictable. You won't be expecting the tango in a barn. **TR**

RELEASED ON APRIL 4

POMPEII

2/5

KIT HARRINGTON, EMILY BROWNING, KIEFER SUTHERLAND

We had modest hopes for this historical disaster flick, in which Emily Browning's patrician beauty falls for Kit Harrington's slave-turned-gadiator thanks to his horse-whispering skills and sculpted abs. And who can blame her? Shame they're stuck in such direly written romantic pap. Had they amped up the camp, this might have been a scream, but it ends up preposterous, with the grumbling volcano out-acting both and lava showers failing to extinguish Sutherland's awful turn as an evil Roman senator until far too late. **MM**

RELEASED ON MAY 2

