



Batman: Arkham City is one of the games in the mix for the PlayStation 3 Edition of the Player's Pick Awards. It's the best Batman game, says The Player Neil MacFarlane.

# PS3 celebrates inaugural Player's Pick Awards

2011 a solid year of gaming for Sony fans

## THE PLAYER



NEIL MacFARLANE

AFTER EIGHT YEARS of simply listing the best and worst of gaming at the end of each year, it is time to retire traditional lists and truly celebrate gaming for what it is.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the first ever Player's Pick Awards, PlayStation 3 Edition.

### BEST BATMAN GAME: *Batman: Arkham City*

OK, kind of a gimme category, but that is just how good this game is.

Coming off the heels of the incredible Arkham Asylum, Arkham City took the Caped Crusader to new heights in every sense of the word.

**Runner Up:** *DC Universe Online*

### BEST USE OF PLAYSTATION MOVE CONTROLLER: *Little Big Planet 2*

Forget dancing and shooting — if you aren't sure about the PS Move yet, you owe yourself some time with Little Big Planet 2.

This game shows how seamlessly PS Move controls can be blended into an already amazing gaming experience the whole family can access.

**Runners Up:** *Killzone 3*, *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 12*

### BEST PERFORMANCE BY A PS3 CHARACTER: *Wheatley (Portal 2)*

How good is Stephen Merchant's turn as the omni-ocular personality core Wheatley in Portal 2? So good that you don't even care when he turns on you later in the game.

If you didn't laugh through most of Wheatley's dialogue, you



### CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

- *Killzone 3* doesn't top *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* or *Battlefield 3* when it comes to shoot-'em up goodness but it's a runner up.
- *Little Big Planet 2* is the perfect way to hone your skills using a move controller.
- Excitement, adventure and action are wrapped up in *Uncharted 3*

are the one who needs a new operating system.

**Runners Up:** *Nathan Drake (Uncharted 3)*, *Cole Phelps (L.A. Noire)*

### BEST GAME THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE PS3 IN 2010: *Mass Effect 2*

Sneaking onto the PS3 in early 2011, this game won countless Game of the Year awards in 2010 on that other HDMI-capable console.

Better late than never, though; this starkly fascinating blend of sci-fi shooting and role-playing was worth the wait for PS3 owners.



**Runners Up:** *No More Heroes: Heroes' Paradise*, *The Ico & Shadow of the Colossus Collection*

### BEST WAY TO AVOID ALL HUMAN CONTACT: *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*

If someone told me this game broke up a million relationships between obsessed gamers and their significant others, I think I would believe it.

*Skyrim* is pure ambrosia for role-playing junkies who don't want to get off the sauce.

**Runners Up:** *Deus Ex: Human Revolution*, *Dark Souls*

### BEST WAY TO KILL DIGITAL REPRESENTATIONS OF PEOPLE: *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 / Battlefield 3* (tie)

Trying to choose between these two titans of online shoot-'em-up goodness is like trying to crown a winner between Coke and Pepsi: one has outsold the other, but you will find plenty of people ingesting both at incredible volume.

**Runners Up:** *Killzone 3*, *Resistance 3*, *SOCOM 4*

See PS3 / C11



Tom Petty and his band the Heartbreakers are coming to the Halifax Metro Centre in late May or early June.

## Tom Petty will play Halifax in spring

By STEPHEN COOKE  
Entertainment Reporter

The blond, guitar-playing cat is out of the bag: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers are coming to the Halifax Metro Centre this spring.

After running down the dream of presenting the Florida-raised rocker on his home turf for the past decade, East Coast concert promoter David Carver confirmed Friday that Petty and his legendary band will play their first shows in Halifax and St. John's in late May or early June 2012.

"I've been wanting to work with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, and I've been speaking to their agent on and off for quite a while, but I've been more persistent in the past two or three years," said Carver on the phone from St. John's.

"(This time) the timing was just right. They're leaving for Europe after the East Coast dates and they're bringing their full production to Atlantic Canada. From there they fly overseas, they load out all their gear, put it in a big cargo plane and head to Europe."

Currently, Petty's website only displays a graphic promoting his upcoming appearance with the Heartbreakers at the 2012 Isle of Wight Festival in the U.K., June 22 to 24.

Details of the St. John's show at Mile One will be officially released on Monday, while a firm date for Halifax is still being nailed down with a handful of days reserved at the Metro Centre.

Previously, Carver presented Halifax shows by Van Morrison and Petty's fellow Travelling Wilbury, Bob Dylan, as well as '90s rock acts Matchbox 20 and Goo Goo Dolls. He also produced outdoor summer shows in Charlottetown featuring the Black Eyed Peas' first Maritimes appearance, with the Pussycat Dolls, in 2006 and Aerosmith and Cheap Trick in 2007.

"People have been calling me over the past couple of days and I've been hearing great things," says Carver, after news of Petty's performances was leaked via social media sites and local radio stations.

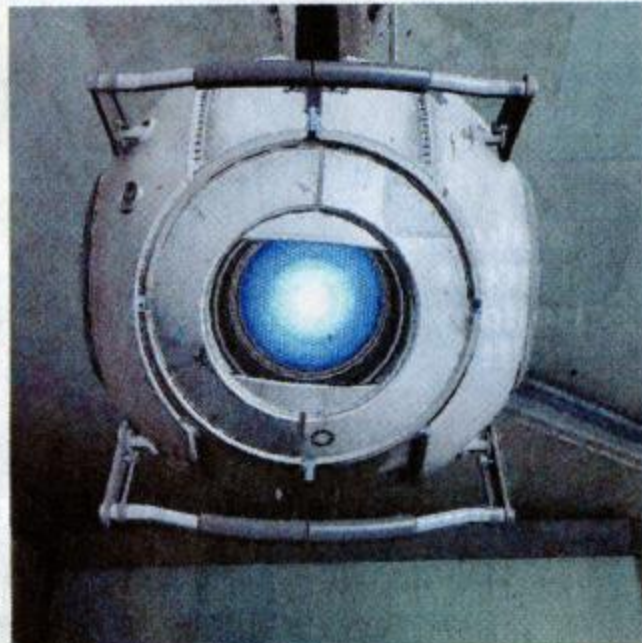
"They're telling me it's one of the best shows they've ever seen."

Petty's last studio release was the 2010 album *Mojo*, a bluesy, southern-rock-flavoured record featuring the Heartbreakers. It was followed by *Mojo Tour 2010*, a live recording available online to fan club members and anyone who bought a ticket to one of his concerts.

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*Skyrim* is pure ambrosia for role-playing junkies who don't want any human contact.



Best performance by a PS3 character goes to Wheatley, *Portal 2*'s omni-ocular personality.