Flashy production saves Peas from terrible E.N.D.
Racing genre takes new turn with explosive Trials

**GAMES**
Trials HD

**GENRE:** Racing

**CONSOLE:** Xbox Live Arcade

**DEVELOPER:** RedLynx

**RATING:** Teen

**RELEASED:** August 12, 2009

**OUR TAKE:**

By Danny Spiller
Senior Staff Writer

It turns out that the formula that made the original Excitebike so fun still holds up after almost 25 years. Trials HD, available on Xbox Live Arcade, keeps the classic combination of motorcycles, speed and ramps while adding a pretty HD polish and some wonderfully realistic physics.

The goal in Trials is to quickly drive your motorcycle from the beginning of each course to the end with as few crashes, or faults, as possible. Sounds simple, right? Hold on, Evel Knieval. You’ll be struggling over obstacles, flying off of ramps and combating the bane of your existence that is gravity. And you’ll be doing it all with a big grin on your face because Trials is very fun, extremely accessible and often hilarious.

Instead of taking place outdoors like most racing games, each level in Trials sets you in a large warehouse with planks, ramps, shipping containers and scaffolding that will both help and hinder you as you make your way to the finish line.

There are five levels of difficulty, ranging from Beginner to Extreme (believe me, it gets extreme), making for an enjoyable and fair learning curve. Considering it uses simple and intuitive controls, Trials is a great example of an “easy to learn, but hard to master” experience, with each consecutive level increasing the difficulty and expanding upon how to use the same basic movements.

It becomes apparent very quickly why the game is named Trials. You will crash. A lot. If you’re not a fan of trying things more than once, Trials is definitely not the game for you. But really, the crashes are what give the game its character.

Sure, you’ll be mad you missed the landing after that enormous jump, but you’ll be too busy laughing at the over-the-top, bone-crunching spills to really care. Watching your ragdoll rider hopelessly go skidding across the ground after a slight miscalculation is half of the fun. It sounds morbid, but it keeps it interesting and exciting, especially when explosive barrels are introduced.

Plus, each level is designed with checkpoints, so your recent face plant is only a minor setback – not something that sends you back to the starting line. Trials isn’t only about beating your best times, winning medals and finding out what cement does to skulls. No, Trials also has a slew of mini games to keep things interesting. See how far you can ride on top of a giant steel ball, how high you can climb up an endless hill or how fast you can drive while towing bombs. But that’s not all; there are 12 mini games total, and with your best score making it to online leaderboards, there is always motivation to come back and try again.

As though there was not enough to do already, there is the option to build your own track using the pipes, planks, ramps and explosives found in the regular game. This way, you can create your own personal warehouse wasteland if the other tracks start to grow stale. Best of all, you can share them with your friends online.

The only real problem with Trials is how frustrating it can become. There will be times on the harder levels when the crashes are no longer amusing and the amount of attempts to make it over some obstacle becomes absurd. It’s not unfair; the obstacles are not impossible, and the difficulty said it was going to be hard, but that doesn’t make it any less irritating. Earlier in the game, the focus is on going fast and flying high, while later the game focuses on precision and control – a much slower experience. Overall, it makes for a balanced experience, delivering fans of action and racing a fast-paced beginning, but still catering to those interested in the more cerebral and physics-focused aspects towards the end. However, this could be off-putting to gamers that aren’t interested in both.

At just $15, Trials HD delivers a ton of content. Whether picking up to play for 15 minutes or buckling down for a couple of hours, it is sure to keep you entertained.
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Summer acknowledges reality of relationships

By Kenny Phillips
Senior Staff Writer

Love stories alone just will not make the grade anymore, and it is rare when a romance like (500) Days of Summer deserves praise. Narrated as a story about love rather than a love story, it has given itself free license to explore other facets of love other than boy meeting a girl and the relationship that follows. Tom, the boy and a greeting card writer who never got his dream job as an architect, and Summer, the rather distant but loveable girl, one day find one another to be interesting enough to engage in a casual relationship. There is nothing really special about that, and I will admit it. The plot is not necessarily exciting. However, it is more in the way the film uses this as a springboard and gives a fascinating display of a real, imperfect relationship rather than making a deep and epic tale of two people who are in love.

So with this slightly lame premise, I might understand if there is confusion as to how this could possibly be a movie that deserves praise.

Therefore, to better understand my feelings, I say, I will give in my best ability an amalgam of films that will portray the substance of (500) Days of Summer. It would fall roughly as a combination of Ferris Bueller’s Day Off (without Ferris breaking the fourth wall), a genuinely funny romantic comedy (I cannot remember any in recent memory so feel free to fill in your favorite), and a complete work of non-linearity where the lack of chronological reference defining character growth brings a subtle freshness to each scene. The film even goes so far as to include some French New Wave in a small portion close to the end. Essentially, the plot becomes visual when paired with the non-linear presentation anyway, so just sit back and enjoy the snazzy writing and each wonderfully crafted scene. The amazing scenes and writing have Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber to thank for their creation. Although this is their second time working together and only their second time writing for a movie (the first being The Pink Panther 2), I feel they have pulled off perfect humor and made a lasting impression. The action and dialog on screen is witty and snappy.

The breaking up of Tom’s down periods and his happier moments allowed for the light-hearted aspects of his life to be preserved even through the moments of drama. Throughout the film I was able to keep a satisfied little grin on my face. I could not ask for more from a comedic movie.

Thus, it has allowed for an expansion on relationships to come inevitably gets girl.

RATING: ★★★★★

Director: Marc Webb

Deschanel, Joseph Gordon-Levitt

STARRING:

DIRECTOR: Marc Webb

RATING: PG-13

RELEASED: July 17, 2009

OUR TAKE: ★★★★★

SLIVER

www.nique.net

At TA orientation, we talked about how to raise students’ self-esteem.

We’re supposed to care about students’ self-esteem? This is NOT my Georgia Tech! Our goal is to crush them, break them, make them cry, then keep the survivors — not raise their precious “self-esteem.”

Why did you break my heart?

Don’t study abroad in a relationship, the only thing worse is when they break up with you when you got home.

Who’s that hottie at the table in front of a fraternity? AE 2220 prof told us his life story. Epic and awkward at the same time.

Man, campus is packed with all these new Frosh. I’m so excited about Fall semester starting! es gibt so viele Deutsche hier! Hey freshmen! You have no idea what you’re getting yourself into.

Our goal is to crush them, break them, make them cry, then keep the survivors — not raise their precious “self-esteem.”

Haha!!

Party hardy this weekend for it shall be your last.

Yay!

Is it mean if me and my friends are starting a betting pool on who will get into a sorority and who wont?

Fresmen: If you are going to work out, realize that you are not the only ones in the gym and learn how to put the weights back. Hell you go to this school, you should know your numbers already. If you already put them away correctly, welcome to tech.

Person who needs a German conversationalist partner, which level of German are you in?

Hey guys, how’s the first day? help meeeeee I’m drowning ...in homewwoooooook!!

ah roomie, i hate you already;) you smore SO LOUD they can hear from down the hall, only...to ms. “my baby is coming, yay.” I thought you meant your child, that was cute, but your b**ches viciously there are soooooo many FRESHIES swarming campus! Bill O’Riley has a falafel he wants to rub all over you.
ACROSS

DOWN

Across:
1. Kasparov’s game
6. Old Spanish card game
11. Sheds tears
16. Calif. lake, peak and county
17. Heroism
18. Head-table figures
20. Mailing container
22. Geometric lines
24. __ Pao
25. Low point
26. Gumshoe
27. Israeli parliament
28. Church feature
30. Thick, as vegetation
32. Sedate
34. Motion on Maui
35. TV pioneer Arledge
37. Staggers
39. Summertime in Saratoga
40. Colts
41. Historian’s source

Down:
1. Song from Pigalle
2. Possesses
3. Armchair quarterback’s network
4. Place filled by another
5. Power tool
6. Supervise
7. de mer
8. Soak up a spill
9. They’re known by the in-crowd
10. Builders
11. Waistcoat

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ENJOY YOUR GARDEN
82. Ben Gurion arrival
83. Calculator
86. One of the Windward Isles
89. “The Queen of Soul”
93. Aquamarine mineral
94. WWII agcy.
95. Spell
97. Razor sharpsenr
98. Swail
99. Dignitaries
101. Softened, as a sound
103. Carolina rail
104. Do surgery
105. Skid Row nightmares
108. Scottish island
110. Campaign org.
111. Subscriber’s decision
112. Election winner
115. Meet a higher standard
116. Asthmatic
117. Where it started
118. Money in the bank
119. Diagonal spur
120. Can’t see the forest for the __

Wear appropriate attire
Piled Higher & Deeper by Jorge Cham

CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 21

CHESS OMBRE WEEPS
SHASTA VALOR EMCEES
CLASPENVELOPE SECANTS
LINNADIR TEC KNESSET
APSE DENSE STAID HULA
ROONE REELS EDT FOALS
ANNALS SEINERS MOOLAH
MODE HIPS WORT
CHOPINETUDE GAS METER
MOIRE FUR EEYORE ROSE
URN ROBOT SOGGY RTE
FADS ELIDED GOAT TIMED
FLIPSIDE PAPALMASSSES
IONS GEMS ELAL
ABACUS GRENA DA ARETHA
BERYL OPA SLOSH STROP
HEMP SCANS MUTED SORA
OPERATE DTS BRAES PAC
RENEWAL POPULARCHOICE
RISE TO AMAZE SOURCE
ASSET SPRT TREES

Quick! Form a Committee!!

The Birth of Corporate Leadership
**COMICS**

**TODAY**

**DILBERT**

*by Scott Adams*

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**WELL, LET’S LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE... HOW MUCH WORSE CAN IT POSSIBLY GET?**

**TECHNIQUE**

*August 21, 2009* • 23

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**DOGBERT THE CEO**

WE’LL START TEN MUTUAL FUNDS, EACH WITH RANDOMLY CHOSEN STOCKS.

LATER, WE’LL BUILD OUR ADVERTISEMENTS AROUND WHICHEVER ONE DOES THE BEST PURELY BY CHANCE.

MY GOAL IS TO BE THE PREMIER PROVIDER OF IMAGINARY EXPERTISE.

---

**I SPENT THE FIRST PART OF THE WEEK INSTALLING OUR NEW PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE.**

THEN I USED THE REST OF THE WEEK TRYING TO MAKE IT INTERFACE WITH OUR TIME REPORTING SYSTEM.

SO FAR ALL I CAN DO IS TELL ME HOW MUCH TIME I’M WASTING IN THIS MEETING.

---

**THERE WERE YEARS OF CUTBACKS, GURANTEES, AND I CAN RETURN**

**MODERN LONG-TERM PLANNING**

---

**MY PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE TURNED ON ME.**

**IT KEEPS CRASHING MY COMPUTER. BUT THAT’S OKAY BECAUSE I DON’T NEED A COMPUTER TO DO MY JOB.**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE SORT OF PRE-INDUSTRIAL?**

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**PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

YOU NEED TO GET BETTER AT ANTICIPATING PROBLEMS.

IF I COULD ANTICIPATE PROBLEMS, I WOULDN’T HAVE AGREED TO WORK FOR YOU.

YOU SEEM ANGRY. I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING.

---

**AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I YANKED A CABLE JUST TO FIND OUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.**

**HOW MANY INANE STORIES DO I HAVE TO HEAR BEFORE I CAN SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS SOMETHING?**

**SHE’S A STORY HATER.**

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**I JUDGE POTENTIAL MATES BY THEIR CELL PHONE APPS. HAND IT OVER.**

**YOU HAVE AN APP THAT DOES NOTHING BUT HURL PIRATE INSULTS. THAT IS SO STUPID. THIS DATE IS OVER.**

**DON’T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU IN THE BOOTY. AAAAAAGH!**

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*by Wiley*