Letter From Nintendo

Welcome to our holiday issue of the Inside Indie World Newsletter!

So many cherished childhood memories come from this time of year. Those great moments curled up on the couch with a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate and an exciting new game were foundational for so many players!

It’s inspiring to think that this year, so many more of these wonderful memories are about to be formed for a new generation of players and promising new game designers. We want to continue to shine a light on all the hard work and creativity the indie community pours into their games for the Nintendo Switch system. We hope you’ll enjoy this issue’s look at some of the exciting games and creators who have made this year special.

A huge thank you and best wishes for the season to the players and developers who bring dreams to life every year!

—Your friends at Nintendo
Indie Game Holiday Gift Guide 2021

It’s that time of year to start thinking about gifts for friends and family, and there are plenty of indie gems to consider as fun presents.

To help your search, we’ve put together a handy gift guide of some indie games that include special physical editions with cool bonuses. We’ve also added a collection of digital indies in Nintendo eShop, some of which are even available for under $20.

From caring for animals to battling your way out of the underworld – and even causing mayhem as a mischievous goose! – there’s something for everyone on Nintendo Switch. We hope the following games will help make your gift search a little easier as you dive into the joys of the holiday season.
GAMING GIFTS FOR COLLECTORS

**Hades:** This rogue-like dungeon crawler from the creators of *Bastion* and *Transistor* earned more than 50 Game of the Year awards. In it, you’ll wield the powers and mythic weapons of Olympus to break free from the clutches of the god of the dead himself, while growing stronger and unraveling more of the story with each unique escape attempt. The physical edition of *Hades* includes a download code for the *Hades* Original Soundtrack and a full-color 32-page character compendium booklet showcasing the game’s colorful cast of gods, ghosts and monsters. Available now!  
ESRB Rating: TEEN

**Among Us:** Do you have what it takes to hold your spaceship together and make it back to civilization? But beware – one or more random players among the crew are impostors bent on sabotaging everyone! This game of subterfuge can be enjoyed with players on any platform, so grab your friends and get to voting! Three special physical editions of *Among Us* – Crewmate Edition, Imposter Edition and Ejected Edition – are available for pre-order now, with each featuring bonus content such as DLC content, customized cases and one of 12 Special Mira HQ Holographic Access Cards.  
ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+

**Dead Cells:** You’re in control of a failed alchemic experiment, and it’s up to you to figure out what’s happening on a sprawling, ever-changing and seemingly cursed island. The *Dead Cells* Prisoner’s Edition features an embossed collector’s metal tin, a figurine of the Prisoner, enamel pin badges, metallic stickers, an exclusive print art card, an orange colored vinyl soundtrack and a *Dead Cells* – The Bad Seed DLC code. Available now!  
ESRB Rating: TEEN
**Stardew Valley:** You’ve inherited your grandfather’s old farm plot in *Stardew Valley*. Armed with hand-me-down tools and a few coins, you set out to begin your new life. Can you learn to live off the land and turn these overgrown fields into a thriving home? With a little dedication, you might just be the one to restore *Stardew Valley* to greatness! The *Stardew Valley* Collector’s Edition features plenty of bonuses such as an exclusive collector’s box, a wooden standee and wooden lapel pin, as well as a 14-page Junimo comic. Available now! **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE 10+

---

**Doki Doki Literature Club Plus!** Welcome to the club! Write poems for your crush and experience the terror of school romance in this critically acclaimed psychological horror story. With every poem you write and every choice you make, you’ll charm your crush and begin to unfold the horrors of school romance. *Doki Doki Literature Club Plus!* Premium Edition for Nintendo Switch includes bonuses such as two-inch chipboard character standees for all four club members, a sticker sheet, a download code for the game’s soundtrack and more. Available now! **ESRB Rating:** MATURE 17+

---

**Ori and the Blind Forest + Ori and the Will of the Wisps:** *Ori and the Blind Forest* tells the tale of a young orphan destined for heroics, through a visually stunning action-platformer. In *Ori and the Will of the Wisps*, embark on an adventure in a vast and exotic world, where you’ll encounter towering enemies and challenging puzzles on your quest to discover Ori’s true destiny. The *Ori Collector’s Edition* for Nintendo Switch features a premium “transforming” display box with glow-in-the-dark finish, a majestic stained glass style art piece, digital download codes for the soundtracks to both *Ori and the Blind Forest* and *Ori and the Will of the Wisps*, physical editions of both titles with reversible cover art and more. Available for pre-order now! **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE

---

**Untitled Goose Game:** It’s a lovely day in the village, and you are a horrible goose. *Untitled Goose Game* is a slapstick-stealth-sandbox, where you are a goose let loose on an unsuspecting village. Make your way around town, from back gardens to the high street shops to the village green, setting up pranks, stealing hats, honking a lot and generally ruining everyone’s day. *Untitled Goose Game – Lovely Edition* for Nintendo Switch features a hand-drawn foldout town map, a 24-page mail-order style circulation, a “No Goose” sticker and an exclusive reversible coversheet. Available now! **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE

---

**Stardew Valley:** You’ve inherited your grandfather’s old farm plot in *Stardew Valley*. Armed with hand-me-down tools and a few coins, you set out to begin your new life. Can you learn to live off the land and turn these overgrown fields into a thriving home? With a little dedication, you might just be the one to restore *Stardew Valley* to greatness! The *Stardew Valley Collector’s Edition* features plenty of bonuses such as an exclusive collector’s box, a wooden standee and wooden lapel pin, as well as a 14-page Junimo comic. Available now! **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE 10+
**Spiritfarer:** Build a boat to explore the world, then befriend and care for spirits before finally releasing them into the afterlife. Farm, mine, fish, harvest, cook and craft your way across mystical seas. Spend relaxing quality time with your spirit passengers, create lasting memories and, ultimately, learn how to say goodbye to your cherished friends. The [Spiritfarer Collector’s Edition](#) includes a fully functional Everlight replica, an innovative and premium constellation lantern display box, digital download cards for an artbook and theSpiritfarer soundtrack, and a physical edition of Spiritfarer with exclusive reversible cover art. Available for pre-order now! **ESRB Rating: TEEN**

**Overcooked! All You Can Eat:** Experience all the Onion Kingdom has to offer with *Overcooked! 1* and *Overcooked! 2* infused with online cross-play goodness. Both games have been taken to the next level with stunning, enhanced visuals fully remastered and cooked up from scratch. Enjoy 200+ levels (12 new) and 80+ chefs (three new). This is the ultimate *Overcooked!* experience. Available now! **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE**

**Subnautica + Subnautica: Below Zero:** Combining the award-winning game *Subnautica* with its sequel *Subnautica: Below Zero*, this Nintendo Switch exclusive allows players to fully immerse themselves in the full mystery surrounding the water world of planet 4546B. Craft tools, scavenge for supplies and outsmart wildlife to explore the lush shallows, volcanoes and cave systems - all while trying to survive in both unforgiving water zones and frozen terrain. Available now! **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**
**Cris Tales:** Experience the past, present and future simultaneously in this gorgeous, indie love letter to classic JRPGs. To stop the Time Empress and rewrite the future of the land, embark on a harrowing journey across the kingdoms, recruiting powerful allies to aid in the fight. Master their abilities and Crisbell’s unique Time Magic to overcome mighty foes. Peer into the past, act in the present and watch as your choices dynamically change the future.  
*ESRB Rating: TEEN*

**Eastward:** Escape the tyrannical clutches of a subterranean society and join Eastward’s unlikely duo on an exciting adventure to the land above! Discover beautiful yet bizarre settlements, and make new friends as you travel across the world by rail. Combine John and Sam’s skills to solve dungeon puzzles, take down unusual enemies and survive the deadly miasma. Can you uncover the truth behind Sam’s mystic powers and bring back harmony to Eastward’s ravaged lands?  
*ESRB Rating: TEEN*

**Cadence of Hyrule: Crypt of the NecroDancer Featuring The Legend of Zelda:** Keep the beat and keep Hyrule from meeting certain doom. In the latest rhythmic action-adventure from Brace Yourself Games, you can enjoy the gameplay of Crypt of the NecroDancer in the setting of the Legend of Zelda series. As Link – or even as Princess Zelda – you’ll explore the randomly generated overworld and dungeons on a quest to save Hyrule. Every beat of each remixed The Legend of Zelda tune is a chance to move, attack and defend, so stay one step ahead of each enemy and boss … or face the music.  
*ESRB Rating: EVERYONE*
**Tetris Effect: Connected:** Tetris Effect: Connected is Tetris like you’ve never seen it, heard it or felt it before – an incredibly unique and breathtakingly gorgeous reinvention of one of the most popular puzzle games of all time, from the people who brought you the award-winning *Rez Infinite* and legendary puzzle game *Lumines*. **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE

**HOA:** HOA is a beautiful puzzle-platforming game that features hand-painted art, lovely music and a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere. Experience the magic of nature and imagination as you take Hoa on her journey through breathtaking environments back to where it all began. **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE

---

**INDIES UNDER $20**

**Hollow Knight:** Forge your own path in Hollow Knight! An epic action-adventure through a vast, ruined kingdom of insects and heroes, *Hollow Knight* is a classically styled 2D action-adventure across a vast interconnected world. Explore twisting caverns, ancient cities and deadly wastes; battle tainted creatures and befriend bizarre bugs; and solve ancient mysteries at the kingdom’s heart. **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE 10+

**Cuphead:** It’s the all-cartoon Magical Wondergame! *Cuphead* is a classic run-and-gun action game focused on screen-filling boss battles and classic arcade platforming. Inspired by cartoons of the 1930s, the visuals and audio are painstakingly created with the same techniques of the era - traditional hand drawn cel animation, watercolor backgrounds and original jazz recordings. **ESRB Rating:** EVERYONE 10+
**Into the Breach**: The remnants of human civilization are threatened by gigantic creatures breeding beneath the earth. You must control powerful mechs from the future to hold off this alien threat. Each attempt to save the world presents a new randomly generated challenge in this turn-based strategy game from the makers of *FTL*. **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**

**Undertale**: Fall into the underworld and explore a hilarious and heartwarming world full of dangerous monsters. Date a skeleton, dance with a robot, cook with a fishwoman ... or destroy everyone where they stand. The future is yours to determine! **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**

**A Short Hike**: Hike, climb and soar through the peaceful mountainside landscapes of Hawk Peak Provincial Park. Follow the marked trails or explore the backcountry as you make your way to the summit. Along the way, meet other hikers, discover hidden treasures and take in the world around you. **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE**

NEW TO NINTENDO SWITCH

While there’s plenty of holiday shopping to do, there are plenty of recent indie gems available to treat yourself to on Nintendo Switch today! Whether you’re a detective with a one-of-a-kind skill set or you’re ready to brave your way through mysterious forces to discover what lies beneath the Earth’s surface, we hope the following titles add some variety and intrigue to your gaming sessions this holiday season.

**Unpacking:** Unpack someone’s belongings at different stages of their life to learn their story in this zen puzzle game. Over the course of eight house moves, you are given a chance to experience a sense of intimacy with a character you never see and a story you’re never told. Part block-fitting puzzle, part home decoration, you are invited to create a satisfying living space while learning clues about the life you’re unpacking. **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE**

**Tunche:** A beautiful hand-drawn adventure awaits! Explore the breathtaking, hand-drawn magical world of Amazonia. Every playthrough will take you further into the story. Choose a hero that suits your playstyle the most and begin your journey through four different worlds, each filled with unique enemies. With five playable characters (featuring Hat Kid) and four-player couch co-op, this beat-em-up game will capture your heart! **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**

**Gang Beasts:** Punch your heart out in this silly multiplayer party game with surly gelatinous characters, brutal slapstick fight sequences and absurd hazardous environments, set in the mean streets of Beef City! **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**

**Disco Elysium – The Final Cut:** In this groundbreaking role-playing game, you’re a detective with a unique skill system at your disposal and a whole city block to carve your path across. Interrogate unforgettable characters, crack cases or take bribes. Will you become a hero or an absolute disaster of a human being? **ESRB Rating: MATURE 17+**
The Jackbox Party Pack 8: The eighth installment of the beloved Jackbox Party Pack franchise is here. Five hilarious new games will energize your next game night, holiday party or video call. No extra controllers needed – players use their phones or tablets to play along. Got a bigger group? Play with up to 10 players and up to 10,000 audience members. ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+

Skul: The Hero Slayer: Take part in this fast-paced action rogue-lite, where losing your head is encouraged. Featuring 100 playable characters, each with their own unique abilities, and a ton of items that can create wild synergies, the battles are as electrifying as they are challenging. ESRB Rating: TEEN

Hextech Mayhem: A League of Legends Story: This new rhythm runner is developed by Choice Provisions, creators of the BIT TRIP series. Set in the League of Legends universe, you must perform bomb-jumps and bomb-attacks to the beat of a toe-tapping soundtrack to avoid obstacles, disarm enemies and light fuses for satisfying and explosive chain reactions to achieve maximum mayhem. ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+

The Good Life: Having accepted a request from The Morning Bell newspaper to “uncover the mystery of a small English town,” Naomi Hayward finds herself in Rainy Woods and soon discovers an inexplicable phenomenon ... Join her as she attempts to reveal the truth about Rainy Woods. ESRB Rating: TEEN

Ruined King: A League of Legends Story: This single-player turn-based RPG is set in two regions of Runeterra – Bilgewater, a bustling port city, and the Shadow Isles, a land cursed with the deadly Black Mist. In order to defeat a common and mysterious enemy, you’ll form an unlikely party of beloved League of Legends champions – Miss Fortune, Iliaoi, Braum, Yasuo, Ahri and Pyke. ESRB Rating: TEEN

Dusk: Battle through an onslaught of mystical backwater cultists, possessed militants and even darker forces as you attempt to discover just what lurks beneath the Earth in this retro FPS. Don’t trust your eyes. ESRB Rating: MATURE 17+
INSIDE GAME DEVELOPMENT

In Inside Game Development, we’re going to pull back the curtain and give you a peek at the origins of some of the biggest names in indies. For this inaugural installment, we’re starting with none other than Mossmouth, its founder Derek Yu and the origin of the acclaimed *Spelunky* games. You may be familiar with the popular roguelike series, but how much do you know about the indie studio that created it?

For those who aren’t familiar, *Spelunky* is a unique platformer with randomly generated, fully destructible levels that offer players a challenging experience as they explore deep underground and encounter monsters, traps and treasure. *Spelunky 2*, which launched recently, has a world that is even denser – offering more areas, characters and challenges, as well as branching paths to get lost in. And while both *Spelunky* and *Spelunky 2* are now available to play on Nintendo Switch, neither would exist if not for the hard work and creativity of Derek Yu, the founder of Mossmouth.

Long before establishing his career in video games, Derek Yu was a nascent developer with a passion for playing games and creating art. Early on in life, he learned he wanted to be an active participant in his hobbies – reading comic books inspired him to draw, and playing video games gave him the spark to develop them himself. As an adolescent, even though he was interested in creating games, he had almost no experience in game development. Luckily, this didn’t stop him. Instead, he used beginner-friendly tools and game creator software to channel his curiosity and creativity to learn the ins-and-outs of game development and design. Over time, and with much trial-and-error, Derek was inspired to combine elements from both the roguelike and platforming genres (with a few influences from a certain mustachioed hero). Using this idea as a basis, he would go on to create *Spelunky Classic* on PC. Fusing these elements proved to be engaging to players and gained enough interest from the indie community that Derek decided to create an enhanced version of the game with improved visuals and mechanics.

This decision would lead him to establish his game development company Mossmouth in 2009, where he would work together with Andy Hull and Eirik Suhrke to remake *Spelunky Classic* into the version of *Spelunky* many are familiar with today. *Spelunky* soon exploded in popularity, and inspired many others to create their own roguelikes over the years. *Spelunky*’s intricate design and fun challenge captivated many – so much so that Derek even wrote a book about its development. Today, Mossmouth continues to develop games, recently launching *Spelunky 2* with BlitWorks in 2020, and both *Spelunky* and *Spelunky 2* on Nintendo Switch earlier this year – none of which would have been possible without Derek Yu, his passion to create and his willingness to try new things.

ESRB Rating: TEEN
Incredible and unique video game stories are being created by talented developers across the globe. Join us as we celebrate and welcome these studios and their exciting titles to the Nintendo Switch family of systems. For this issue’s Indie World Spotlight, we’re traveling to the city of Montpellier in Southern France, located on the sunny coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. Montpellier is the fastest-growing city in France, and home to DigixArt, a team of industry veterans and young talented developers responsible for the fantastic musical odyssey, *Lost in Harmony*, and the gripping World War One story, *11-11 Memories Retold*.

The newest title from DigixArt, *Road 96*, is a procedural narrative game, inspired by the road trip movies of the 1990s. Take on the roles of different teenagers and hit the open road for a path to freedom. On this perilous trip, you’ll meet incredible characters, and discover their intertwined stories and secrets in an ever-evolving adventure. Every mile opens a choice to make, and your decisions will change your adventure, change the people you meet and maybe even change the world!

“We put everything we love in road trips – strong emotions, surprises at every turn,” says 3D Animator Alicia Magistrello. “It’s travel memories that we’ve made just for you.”

“But where we’ll take you, no one knows, because your road is your own!” adds Tristan Hilaire, the game’s level designer.

*Road 96* is a crazy, beautiful road trip filled with exciting places and unusual people. There are thousands of roads across the authoritarian nation of Petria. Which one will you take? *Road 96* is available now on Nintendo Switch. **ESRB Rating: TEEN**
This issue’s Indie World Spotlight also features one of our partners in Mexico. Chihuahua, Mexico, is home to an industrious game development studio brimming with ideas. The game studio Lienzo was founded in 2012 to provide local talent with a place to develop and fulfill their creativity. After cutting its teeth on a few smaller projects, the studio decided it was time to move forward to something new and big that truly represented its team.

Lienzo began planning *Mulaka*, a game based on the Tarahumara indigenous tribe that lives in northern Mexico. Meanwhile, a couple of members of the studio also started designing a platforming game that would become *Hunter’s Legacy*, the first Lienzo game to be released to the public. After the release of *Hunter’s Legacy*, the team at Lienzo continued the development of *Mulaka*, imbuing the game with the flavor of northern Mexico, adding breathtaking landscapes inspired by real Sierra Tarahumara locations. Both games are now available on Nintendo Switch.

Lienzo’s latest game headed to Nintendo Switch is *Aztech Forgotten Gods*. “Our next project is an action-adventure game inspired by one of the most beautiful cultures on the planet,” says Lienzo’s Guillermo Vizcaíno. “We hope you like it!”

With influences from Aztec mythology, *Aztech Forgotten Gods* is a cyber-stone action-adventure following Achtli, a young woman who battles the colossal Forgotten Gods. To uncover the truth behind her far-future Mesoamerican metropolis, she’ll have to turn the Gods’ power against them, as she soars through the city with power and grace using an ancient artifact, remnant of a time long forgotten. *Aztech Forgotten Gods* soars onto Nintendo Switch in early 2022. **ESRB RATING: TEEN**

To learn more about the talented indie developers from around the world who are creating games playable on Nintendo Switch, visit [https://indieworld.nintendo.com/news/](https://indieworld.nintendo.com/news/).
HIDDEN GEMS

Who better to recommend some hidden gems on Nintendo Switch than a group of cool indie devs who have their ears to the ground? Find out which games inspired these creators, and give them a try yourself. You may just discover your next favorite!

“The Flame In The Flood is a beautiful game. It packs so much into a small experience. Overall, it’s just an amazing game with an amazing story that I love to watch, and that I love to watch other people play as well.” ESRB Rating: TEEN
-Neal Jones – Creator and Developer, Aerial_Knight’s Never Yield

“In Creaks, you play as a man with a hidden door in his apartment, and behind it there is a huge world that seems to get tormented by a monster. The whole 2D art style is a little haunting, but it’s a lovely style. And the gameplay and the puzzle design is so smart. So, I love everything about it. For me, it’s the perfect Nintendo Switch game.” ESRB Rating: TEEN
-Cornelia Geppert – Creative Director and Art Director, Sea of Solitude: The Director’s Cut

“If you like hot weapons, dating sims and combat, then Boyfriend Dungeon is the game for you. This game is a dungeon crawler dating sim where your weapons turn into beautiful people, and you take them out on dates to make them grow stronger. One of my favorite things in games is creative genre mashing and I think this does it really well.”
ESRB Rating: TEEN
-Victoria Tran – Community Director, Among Us

“I love A Short Hike. This game gives me flashbacks as a kid in the middle of summer playing video games on a rainy day. And because of that, it just makes you feel comfortable and at home. I love this game so much and I recommend it to anyone.”
ESRB Rating: EVERYONE
-Neal Jones – Creator and Developer, Aerial_Knight’s Never Yield
“In *Baba Is You*, you have objects like a cute dog and rocks. You also have words which you can move around, and with the words you can form new sentences, which of course have new meaning so that you can change the rules of the world. And it just blew my mind that such a simple mechanic can have such profound impact on the game.” **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE**
-Cornelia Geppert – Creative Director and Art Director, *Sea of Solitude: The Director’s Cut*

“*Slime Rancher* is a game where you are a rancher who gathers slimes and raises them on the ranch. It’s just so much fun exploring the world, finding different slimes and creating a ranch that’s actually able to house them. Because they definitely try to bounce out of it! And also, I think the storytelling in the game – it really surprised me and it really meant a lot to me. It’s a lot of fun and I hope you can try it out.” **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**
-Victoria Tran – Community Director, *Among Us*

“The first *No More Heroes* inspired me to do what I’m doing today because of its creativity, its rule breaking and just the overall awesomeness of the entire game. It is truly inspiring to see that game, even now, and how different it is from everything else that exists.” **ESRB Rating: MATURE 17+**
-Neal Jones – Creator and Developer, *Aerial Knight’s Never Yield*

*Spiritfarer* is one of those games that made me go through deep emotions. The game focuses on the dead while they try to find peace in the afterlife. I needed to cry quite a lot throughout this game, and I have friends who also told me they were deeply moved by *Spiritfarer*. And I just recommend you try to play it and follow this beautiful and sweetly told story.” **ESRB Rating: TEEN**
-Cornelia Geppert – Creative Director and Art Director, *Sea of Solitude: The Director’s Cut*

“In *Garden Story*, you get to play as a grape with a pickaxe. And it’s basically an adventure RPG where a rot has affected various towns and it’s up to you to help out the community. And I think the beauty of this game is that it is about community as a whole and not just like this lone hero kind of thing that we typically see. And the newer systems like the skill tree and the weapons and the potions are really fun to discover. Plus – awesome music. Definitely check it out if you’re looking for a fun game to grind away at.” **ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+**
-Victoria Tran – Community Director, *Among Us*
LOOKING AHEAD

The upcoming release calendar of indie games for Nintendo Switch is stacked with new adventures. From cozy puzzles to combative chaos, there’s an indie title perfect for you – no matter what you’re in the mood for.

Make sure to add any titles that spark your interest to your Wish List in Nintendo eShop, so that when they launch you can purchase the game and hop right in. We hope you look forward to many hours of new worlds to explore with your Nintendo Switch system.

*Loop Hero:* The Lich has thrown the world into a timeless loop and plunged its inhabitants into never-ending chaos. Strategically place building, terrain and enemy cards along each loop to create your own dangerous path. Find balance between the cards to increase your chances of survival while recovering valuable loot and resources for your camp. Overcome a series of unholy guardian bosses over a grand saga to save the world and break the time loop of the Lich on Dec. 9. Pre-order in Nintendo eShop today! ESRB Rating: TEEN

*Shovel Knight Pocket Dungeon:* Delve with Shovel Knight into the depths of the Pocket Dungeon in an action-packed puzzle adventure mashup like none other! Join your mysterious guide Puzzle Knight as you shovel through scads of foes, procure new equipment and battle bosses both familiar and new. Explore a tale with endless twists and turns, quest as your favorite heroes and even challenge a friend for fast-paced head-to-head competition in *Shovel Knight Pocket Dungeon,* launching Dec. 13.
ESRB Rating: EVERYONE

*OXENFREE II: Lost Signals:* Five years after the events of *OXENFREE,* Riley returns to her hometown of Camena to investigate mysterious radio signals. What she finds is more than she bargained for. To learn more about Riley and the characters of *OXENFREE II: Lost Signals* before the game launches, check out *The Characters of OXENFREE II: Lost Signals* video. *OXENFREE II: Lost Signals* will be available in 2022. ESRB Rating: TEEN
ASTRONEER: On this adventure, work together to build custom bases above or below ground, create vehicles to explore a vast solar system and use terrain to create anything you can imagine. Your creativity and ingenuity are the key to seeking out and thriving while on exciting planetary adventures. Explore and reshape distant worlds this January!
ESRB Rating: EVERYONE

Song of Nunu: A League of Legends Story: This heartwarming single-player adventure game from developer Tequila Works features beloved champions Nunu and Willump as they embark on an epic journey to find Nunu’s long-lost mother. Unearth the secrets, myths and legends buried deep in the frozen tundra alongside your best friend, a wise and playful yeti named Willump, and unfold an inspiring story one puzzle at a time. Song of Nunu: A League of Legends Story will be available in 2022.
ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+

CONV/RGENCE: A League of Legends Story: Explore and traverse through the spectacular city of Zaun as Ekko, a young inventor with an ingenious device to manipulate time, in this story-driven action platformer. Developed by Double Stallion Games, CONV/RGENCE: A League Of Legends Story is a 2D action platformer with an incredible art style that focuses on tight dynamic combat and unique exploration. CONV/RGENCE: A League of Legends Story will be available in 2022.
ESRB: Rating Pending
Sky: Children of the Light: The enchanting world of Sky is a beautifully animated kingdom waiting to be explored by you and your loved ones. Experiencing the main story is just the beginning. A range of human emotions and self-discovery await.

- Sky is about friendship and collaboration. Make new friends by offering and receiving candles. Together, you and your friends can discover new areas or just hang out. It’s up to you.

- Helping others and showing compassion can be rewarding. Hold hands with fellow players to show them around and make meaningful connections.

- When flying, change to open wing mode to make better use of your flight energy and fly farther.

- Light up the spirits you meet in your travels to learn emote expressions from them, and then use them to communicate and have fun with other players you meet.

- Traveling Spirits visit Sky every other week and offer players the chance to unlock cosmetics, emotes and more from prior seasonal spirits.

- Spirits glowing purple are spirits from prior seasons. Complete their unique quests to learn the first level of their emotes.

- Collect light to unlock advanced interactions with other players.

- Hold ZL to pull up a list of controls. Tap R while flying to do a barrel roll!

- Sky regularly has in-game events that celebrate different parts of the year. Check back regularly to see what’s up!

Sky: Children of the Light is available now in Nintendo eShop.

ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+
OXENFREE: Immerse yourself in a supernatural thriller about a group of friends who unwittingly open a ghostly rift. Play as Alex, a bright, rebellious teenager who brings her new stepbrother Jonas to an overnight party on an old military island. The night takes a terrifying turn when you unwittingly open a ghostly gate spawned from the island’s cryptic past. How you deal with these events, your peers and the ominous creatures you’ve unleashed is up to you.

OXENFREE II: Lost Signals, the follow-up to this critically acclaimed game, comes to Nintendo Switch in 2022.

- Pick your dialogue choices wisely. What you choose impacts the game’s narrative, your relationships with other characters, and even the story’s final outcome. You can even choose to stay silent or interrupt others, as well.

- Use Alex’s radio to tune into radio frequencies that open portals, allowing you to communicate with mysterious ghosts. Surf the radio dial to discover radio broadcasts like a guided radio tour, otherworldly music and cryptic coded messages.

- Discover OXENFREE lore by searching for notes left behind by Maggie Adler, a mysterious character who was an army comms officer during World War II. Find note locations by listening to radio station 140.1 and decrypting the hints. Some of them may even be relevant to OXENFREE II.

- When in doubt, get your radio out. Look for environmental clues that may indicate you need to tune into something. Flickering lights, glowing red orbs ... you never know what kind of signal you might pick up.

- Play the game multiple times. OXENFREE offers New Game+ content that can only be uncovered on subsequent playthroughs.

- Impact the way characters relate to one another and their futures. Will Clarissa hate Alex for all eternity? Does Alex stay in town for college? Will Nona date Ren ... or Jonas (a fan-favorite hidden option)? Who you choose to spend time with and how other characters spend time together changes OXENFREE’s story.

OXENFREE is available now in Nintendo eShop.

ESRB Rating: TEEN
**Slime Rancher: Plortable Edition**: Slime Rancher is the tale of Beatrix LeBeau, a plucky, young rancher who sets out for a life a thousand light years away from Earth on the Far, Far Range where she tries her hand at making a living wrangling slimes. Here are some tips to help you while you explore a sprawling world loaded with lots of secrets and hidden treasures.

- Always remember to balance your adventure between maintaining your ranch and exploring the wilds of the Far, Far Range. Spending too much time tidying your corrals will mean your ranch never changes, and spending too long out on the range hunting treasure will leave you with corrals overflowing with angry, hungry slimes! Balance is key to success.

- Use your Slimepedia to learn everything you need to know to become an expert rancher. It’s chock-full of all kinds of useful information about slimes’ favorite foods, their unique behaviors, Slime Science gadgets and more!

- Make time to head home and check your Starmail when you’re notified of new mail. Starmail can be accessed at your ranch house and may include rewards for your progress, heartwarming letters from back home, and is ultimately key to reaching the story’s conclusion.

- Use ranch expansions’ natural features to your advantage. The Grotto is dark and can protect light-sensitive slimes from fading away, while the Overgrowth’s wandering chickens is a perfect place to free-range, meat-eating slimes.

- Don’t feel bad about sending troublesome or unwanted slimes into the Slime Sea. While Beatrix can’t survive within its depths, slimes use it as a superhighway to get where they need to go around the range.

- Pay close attention to the Plort Market. Its prices fluctuate every day in part based on what you’ve sold in prior days. Overflow the market with one kind of plort and you’ll see its value drop significantly. Diversify what you sell to make the most profit.

- Once you have a grasp of slime ranching and a profitable ranch built out, spend the cash on purchasing The Lab and begin your career as a slime scientist! It contains a whole new set of slimetastic features that will bring your experience in Slime Rancher to the next level.

*Slime Rancher: Plortable Edition* is available now in Nintendo eShop.

ESRB Rating: EVERYONE 10+
NAMES BEHIND THE GAMES

Every indie game has its own unique story behind its creation. That’s what makes them all so fascinating to play! Each issue we like to hear directly from developers themselves to help put a face on the teams behind the games we love. For this issue, we’re excited for you to learn all about the origins of the underground sensation that’s taken the indie world by storm this year.

"Here’s a little insight into how Eastward started just over six years ago ... At that time, I was still a hobbyist developer with a crazy dream to break into the industry. My friend Hong Moran, an amazingly talented pixel artist, had recently quit his job at a mobile games company. Somehow, I managed to convince him to co-found the studio with Feng Ye, an experienced Game Designer, and myself. In the beginning, the Pixpil ‘studio’ was just the three of us crammed into a tiny apartment, investing our savings to make our dreams come true.

Early on we tried our hand at mobile games, but after a couple of not-so-great attempts, we decided it would be best to try and make the kind of games we truly love. The actual name Eastward came from an idea I had a long time ago about travelling east along a railway in a post-apocalyptic world. We thought it was an interesting setting, and it soon became a starting point for our game idea. Moran had made a pixel art RPG mock-up a couple of years earlier that we had always wanted to turn into a real game. He was really into the aesthetic of ‘urban decay’ and had sketched some weird monsters in a landscape that looked similar to the design of the Kowloon Walled City. A former military outpost, the Kowloon Walled City was an extremely densely populated cluster of towering urban, dormitory-style buildings in Hong Kong, demolished in 1994.

For us, ‘decay’ doesn’t just mean doom and gloom; the concept of rebirth and new life is a huge theme in Eastward. Moran has a very strong art direction instinct and a fantastic sense of color. We wanted to make sure Eastward felt full of life; a world packed with unique and quirky characters to meet, sprawling beautiful towns to discover and an emotional and heartwarming story to immerse yourself in, despite the impending miasma. We all fell in love with the visual concept and started coming up with a game design to suit it, which eventually evolved into the game you see today!"

- Tommo Zhou, Pixpil, lead programmer of Eastward

For more fun info about the making of Eastward, check out Tommo’s full interview at https://indieworld.nintendo.com.
ESRB Rating: TEEN
Thank you for joining us for this issue of the Inside Indie World Newsletter!

Wishing you all the best for the rest of 2021, and a wonderful year of gaming as we head into 2022. For all the latest news and updates about indie games on Nintendo Switch, be sure to follow the Indie World Twitter account @IndieWorldNA.