SOUND THRASHING

Berberian Sound Studio is a unique, dreamlike “thriller” where noise becomes a weapon. A meek English sound engineer finds himself in Italy, smashing vegetables with a hammer to simulate the sounds of decapitation and recording blood-curdling screams for a low-rent “giallo” horror. All the while, he is openly mocked and ripped off by sinister Continentals wearing some really quite ballistic 1970s outfits. Wracked with homesickness and nightmares about the film, his mind slowly begins to crack. Despite that schlocky setup, Berberian Sound Studio never takes the easy route – there’s no blood; no grand revelations. Instead, director Peter Strickland and his brilliant cast, headed by Toby Jones, work a seam of nightmarish unease that recalls Nic Roeg at his most subtle. Fittingly, the unsettling soundtrack, primarily by Broadcast but with contributions from Nurse With Wound among others, is fantastic.

£14 Blu-ray, £14 soundtrack CD, out now

(BEST OF THE REST)

He is the law, they are not...

DREDD Blu-ray
Future lawman and UK comics legend Judge Dredd hits the screen, hard. Like The Raid, it’s more like an unremittingly violent computer game than a film. Next wrong with that.

£17 BD, out Jan 14

LAWLESS Blu-ray
Another blood-soaked collaboration between writer Nick Cave and director John Hillcoat, this arty, 1920s gangster flick burns too slow to satisfy but is nicely nasty in places.

£14 BD, £14 HD DL, out now

SEARCHING FOR SUGARMAN Blu-ray, HD download
This documentary about the hunt for a lost, wholly obscure folk “legend” is so fantastical, it can only be true. Touching, inspiring and unmissable.

£16 BD, £14 HD DL, out now

Zombie Flesh Eaters Blu-ray
Lucio Fulci’s legendary, undated “video nasty” is the sort of film they’re working on at Berberian sound studios – eye-gougin’, shark-bitein’, boob-showin’ fun for all the family.

£14 BD, out now

(HD MOMENT)
The endless cracking, smashing and mulching of veg to signify on-screen horrors we never see...

STILL ROLLING...
Stones mark 50 years of excess with suitably massive documentary

They look a tad rough and they’ve not put out a good album since Some Girls. No matter: this Rolling Stones documentary is a blast. In two-and-a-half hours, director Brett Morgen peers into the maelstrom of endless tours, drugs, sex, death, money and madness; of instantly-dated fashion statements and immortals tunes. Mick and Keef talk with impressive lucidity throughout in their weird, cockney/posh/drunk-old-man voices.

£12 BD, out January 7

(BEST OF THE REST)
Prog-hop-indie inna dub stylee

VARIOUS DREADLOCKS
When Reggae was King volume 3
Into your bass? This compilation from reggae and dub’s golden era in the 70s mixes low frequencies and spiritual vibes to timeless effect.

£6 CD, £5 MP3, out January 28

BIFFY CLYRO
Opposites
Blistering neo-prog with the worst album art since 80s Marillion. Like this? A deluxe CD of Rush’s enjoyably ludicrous 2112 is also out this month.

£12 2CD + DVD, £9 CD, £8 MP3, out January 28

RZA
The Man with the Iron Fists
The Wu Tang’s ninja-skilled producer serves up the hip-hop-heavy soundtrack for his new film. Ha! Your tiger style is no match for my iron fist!

£10 CD, £8 MP3, out now

YO LA TENGO
Fade
Produced by Tortoise’s John McEntire, this is a skewed, beautiful, gently insistant return to form for the American indie veterans.

£14 CD, £8 MP3, out January 14