



Monday, November 23, 2020 | No. 143

On March 5, 2021, Warner Bros. will release their animated comedy **Tom & Jerry**, featuring the cartoon characters introduced in 1940 by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera and made famous through hundreds of theatrical shorts that MGM distributed to theatres in the 40's and 50's to play before their features. During those years, the on-screen feuding between Tom the Cat and Jerry the Mouse matched the popularity of Warner Bros' famous Looney Toons characters created by Tex Avery, Chuck Jones and Friz Freleng. Since that time, animated characters



(Click to Play)



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featured in cartoon shorts have grown up to become headliners in their own Hollywood blockbusters. As one more example, this week MGM announced plans to produce a modern reimagining of the [Pink Panther](#) using live-action/CGI animation, directed by James Fowler, whose prior successes include *Sonic the Hedgehog*.

"Bill Hanna and I owe an awful lot to television, but we both got our star and built the first phase of our partnership in the movies." - Joseph Barbera

Weekend Box Office Results... 11/20 – 11/22

With Comments by Paul Dergarabedian, [Comscore](#)

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	Freaky (Universal)	2	2,057	1,220,000	593	5,592,295
2	The War With Grandpa (101 Studios)	7	1,688	733,067	434	16,182,660
3	Let Him Go (Focus Features)	3	1,907	710,000	372	7,929,300
4	Come Play (Focus Features)	4	1,364	550,000	403	8,054,665
5	The Santa Clause - 2020 Re-release (Disney)	1	1,581	461,000	292	461,000
6	Honest Thief (Open Road)	7	1,254	452,000	360	13,010,569
7	Vanguard (Gravitas Ventures)	1	1,375	400,000	291	400,000
8	Tenet (Warner Bros.)	12	864	360,000	417	56,900,000
9	The Last Vermeer (TriStar)	1	912	225,000	247	225,000
10	Gekijouban Fate/Stay Night: Heaven's Feel - III Spring Song (Fathom Events)	1	304	200,000	658	200,000
11	Elf - 2020 Re-release (New Line Cinema)	2	259	180,000	695	353,568
12	True to the Game 2 (Faith Media Distribution)	3	216	161,016	745	771,726
13	Buddy Games (Paramount)	1	401	140,000	349	140,000
14	Guardians of the Galaxy - 2020 Re-release (Disney)	2	815	136,000	167	542,000
15	The Forgotten Carols (Purdie Distribution)	1	58	120,300	2,074	120,300

International

- Universal's **Freaky** now in its second weekend grossed an estimated \$1.050M in 25 international markets. The global weekend generated \$2.270M. Combined with the North American weekend of \$1.220M the worldwide cume is \$9.244M.
- Warner Bros.' **The Witches** came in at an estimated \$1.2M in 23 overseas markets on 3,406 screens. The international cume to date is now \$15.1M.
- Warner Bros.' **Tenet** generated an estimated \$1.1M globally this weekend from 53 markets in release (including U.S. and Canada). Tenet is expected to surpass \$300 million internationally this week, having now grossed \$299.2m. The domestic total is \$56.9M and the worldwide running cume is \$356.0M.

Other Reported Openers

- Purdie Distribution opened **The Forgotten Carols** in 58 locations to an estimated \$120,300 in North America.

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"Click to play our POPCORN PREVIEWS BOX OFFICE BUZZ...time travelling this weekend to look at some of the biggest THANKSGIVING HITS over the past decade."

Notable Industry News and Commentary... 11/15 – 11/21

[Universal Sets Theatrical-PVOD Windows for Cinemark-AMC Based on Opening Weekend Gross](#) (IndieWire)
[Cineplex Joins AMC, Cinemark in Striking Shortened Theatrical Exclusivity Window Deal with Universal](#) (Boxoffice Pro)

This week, Universal announced that it had signed “dynamic theatrical window” agreements with two more North American theatre chains – Cinemark, the US’s 3rd largest exhibitor, and Cineplex, Canada’s largest exhibitor and North America’s 4th largest exhibitor. This comes on the heels of Universal’s announcement in July that it has reached a similar agreement with AMC Theatres, the US’s largest exhibitor. Under the AMC agreement, Universal committed that its films would maintain a minimum of 17-days (3-weekends) exclusivity for theatres, before they would be offered to viewers over streaming as a PVOD rental. AMC would also have access to offer Universal films on its own AMC-branded Video on Demand service, providing the exhibitor with an opportunity to earn revenues after its theatrical run. In this week’s announcements with Cinemark and Cineplex, Universal has expanded its commitments by agreeing to maintain exclusivity to theaters for its blockbuster films, which generate a minimum of \$50M in box office during its opening weekend. In 2019, these Universal titles met that \$50M threshold: “Us,” “Hobbs & Shaw,” and “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World”.



Cinemark CEO Mark Zoradi said, “We believe a more dynamic theatrical window, whereby movie theaters continue to provide an event-sized launching platform for films that maximize box office and bolsters the success of subsequent distribution channels, is in the shared best interests of studios, exhibitors and, most importantly, moviegoers.”



[“Wonder Woman 1984” Theatrical-HBO Max Day & Date Release: AMC Boss Adam Aron “Fully Onboard”](#) (Deadline)

This time last week, it was widely reported that Warner Bros. was debating two alternative strategies for releasing its thrice-delayed, much-anticipated tentpole *Wonder Woman 1984*. One approach was to hold on to a Christmas Day theatrical release, and then a few weeks later make it available to viewers as a PVOD rental on HBO Max. The

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other approach was to push back the theatrical release for a 5th time, with a new date likely to land sometime in the summer of 2021. In the end, the studio chose neither of these options, announcing this week that WW1984 would open on Christmas Day both in US theatres and on HBOMax. In international markets where HBOMax is not available, WW1984 will open in theatres nine days earlier on 12/16. While not all exhibitors have signed on to support WB's day-and-date release, both AMC Theatres and Independent Cinema Alliance (ICA) have made public statements in support of the plan, indicating that it is an opportunity to bring movie-goers back to the theaters.

See also: [Wonder Woman Set for Full Theatrical Release in China](#) (Hollywood Reporter)

[Survival Mode: Movie Theaters Brace for a Desolate Winter](#) (Variety)

It *feels* as if the film and exhibition industry has officially entered the mid-pandemic stage. The initial shock of March, transitioned into the summer of the drive-in, and we are now in a phase of two steps forward, one step back as theatres re-opened for the release of Christopher Nolan's *Tenet*, only to have some of them close down again after the grosses disappointed and studios got spooked and retreated on their plans for a holiday season filled with new releases. Thankfully, improvement in 2021 is almost assured, as the widespread availability of an effective coronavirus vaccine seems assured and studios have a cornucopia of blockbusters waiting in the wings.



Variety takes the temperature of exhibitors at the onset of the holidays. Many are trying to stay relevant in their communities by offering private screenings rentals, curbside and popcorn and other concessions, pop-up drive-ins. Some exhibitors are even offering at home screenings to their loyal movie-goers. In parallel, NATO is enlisting the support of Hollywood luminaries such as Steven Spielberg and James Cameron to lobby Congress to provide the financial assistance necessary to see exhibitors through the winter of 2020-2021.

See also: [Cineworld Considers CVA in Struggle to Survive](#) (Financial Times) and [Hollywood To Get Its Own Drive-In Movies At Egyptian Theatre Parking Lot](#) (Deadline)

SLATE [We Have Glimpsed Into our Streaming Future, and it Sucks](#) (Slate)

Slate's senior editor Sam Adams reflects on the Streaming Future that we find ourselves living in, bereft of the steady flow of big-ticket theatrical releases, and he is not impressed. The process of studios distributing movie to theatres acts as a kind of "filter", presenting a slate of films that are worthy of a cinephile's attention. Imperfect and biased though this filter can be, "on balance, the movies that end up there are better than the ones that don't, and their limited runs create a sense of occasion and urgency that the boundless availability of streaming can't match." It's not that there aren't great movies being released in 2020, it's just that fewer people have heard of them. For studios, a movie that succeeds at the box office returns more overall than a movie that skips theatres. Even Netflix sees this logic, booking runs for its best new films in theatres, including *Roma* in 2018, *The Irishman* in 2019 and *Mank* and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* this year.

[COVID, Less Ads Impact Movie Viewers, But Other Reasons Persist](#) (MediaPost)

MediaPost offers this interesting perspective from the world of media advertising on the connection between a dramatic pull-back in studio marketing is having on theatre attendance. The [results from a Harris Poll](#) published last week indicate that many one-time movie goers are staying away from theatres in part because there's not much playing in theatres that they're interested in seeing. Obviously, studio marketing campaigns influence the consumer interest by generating excitement to see movies that are "Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You!" Without that promotion, there's less interest.

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GOWER STREET'S *Box Office Outlook*

Deep Impact: How Have Different Markets Been Hit By the Meteoric Threat of the Covid-19 Crisis?

The COVID-19 virus crisis has been a meteoric event for the theatrical industry. Over the past eleven months no market has escaped the impact. All markets have taken big hits and some doomsayers have suggested the threat of an extinction-level event. A coordinated global effort has been unfortunately absent across this tripartite business, which depends on real estate, operations and product to flourish.

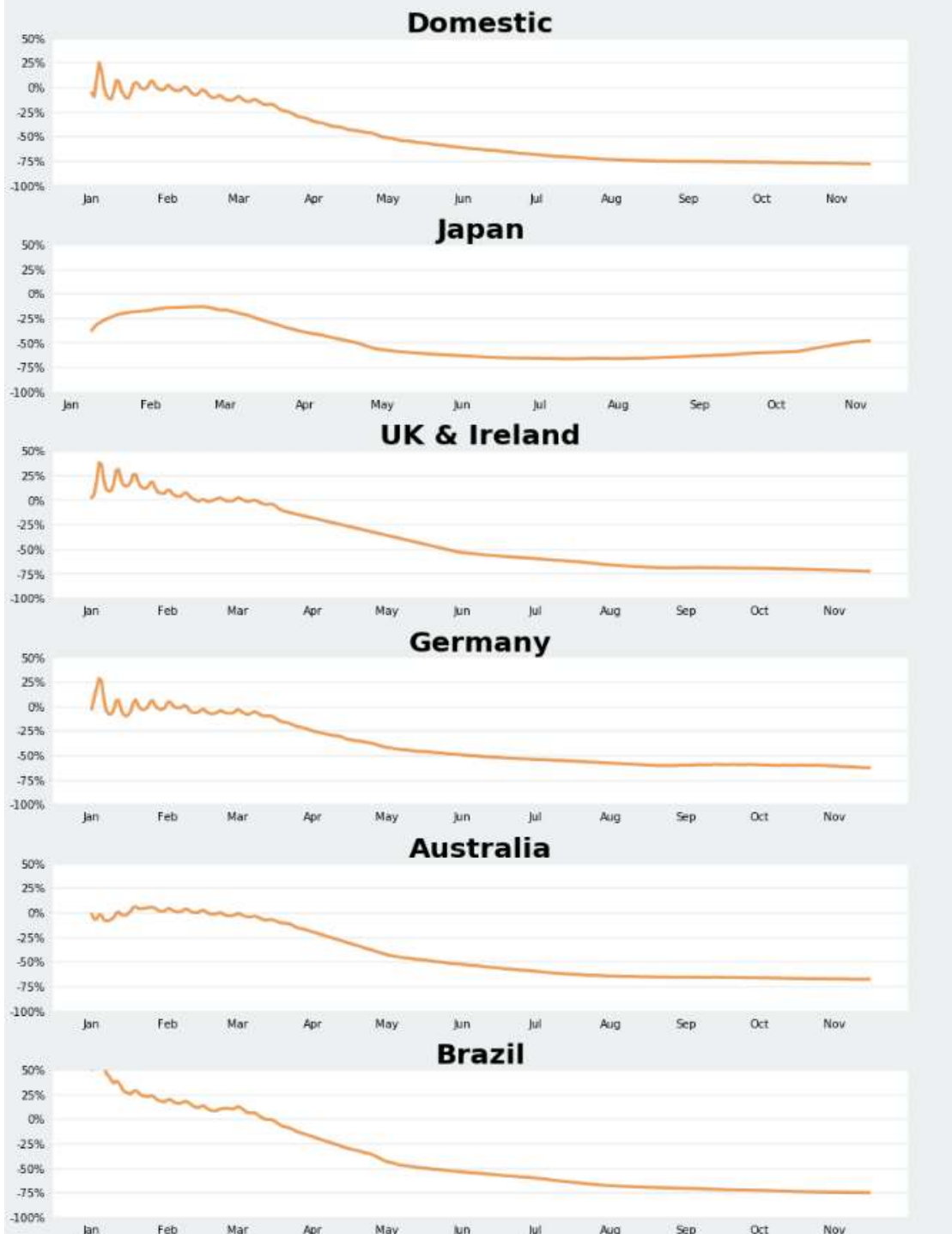
However, some markets have staged a comeback, showing it is possible to face the challenge and come through bruised but not beaten. This has largely been achieved in markets with strong local content, able to help fill the void left by the lack of Hollywood titles. These markets have effectively sent their astronauts (or oil-drillers!) to minimize the threat as best as possible. Some splash-down was, regardless, inevitable.

Ripples continue to be felt. This past week alone: Universal struck further deals with Cinemark and Canada's Cineplex, following its deal with AMC, to allow the studio to release movies grossing less than a \$50 million Domestic opening weekend to VOD platforms after a 17-day window, while those grossing \$50 million or more will be allowed to make the VOD move after 31 days; Warner Bros announced that, in the Domestic market, WONDER WOMAN 1984 would be released simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max on Christmas Day; it was revealed that Cineworld Group is exploring debt-restructuring and potential site-closure options in the UK; and PETER RABBIT 2 became the latest title to move out of Q1 to a, perceived, safer Q2 slot.

This week Gower Street looks at how each of the top 12 global box office markets has been impacted to data. The 12 graphs below compare how 2020 box office has tracked throughout the year to date (x-axis displaying months) compared to an average of the past 3 years in each market (y-axis displaying percentage change, ranged between +50% to -100%).

Pandemic Impact on Top Markets in 2020

Comparing 2020 Box Office to the 3 Year Average (2017-2019)



As can be seen on the y-axes, the markets in the strongest positions heading into the crisis were UK/Ireland, Russia and Brazil – all posting strong first quarters. **UK/Ireland** benefitted greatly from the January 10 opening of Sam Mendes' 1917 (\$57.4m) which helped ensure the market could begin the fateful month of March still slightly ahead of the average despite some disappointing February releases. At the beginning of March, **Russia** was 17% ahead of the 3-year average, only first showing deficit on March 28.

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Brazil got the best start to the year of any of the 12 major markets as local holdover hit MY MOM IS A CHARACTER 3 (a Dec. 26 release - \$35m in 2020) combined with the Jan. 2 release of FROZEN II (\$30.6m) to draw in massive audiences. Heading into February the market was tracking approximately 20% ahead of the average. The market held off moving into deficit until March 13 (cinemas began to close in the market ahead of the March 12 weekend). However, since then Brazil has been hit hardest of these three markets, having endured the longest period of closure of the three, and currently stands 74.7% behind the average.

UK/Ireland was never able to make significant in-roads upon re-opening, lacking a strong pipeline of local content and mass audience used to engaging with local product. The deficit has continued to steadily increase and is now over 72% behind the average. In contrast, Russia actually managed to marginally decrease its deficit in early October and currently stands 55.5% down. The Eastern European major benefitted not only from a few strong local titles but also a theatrical release for MULAN (\$5.3m), which the UK was denied.

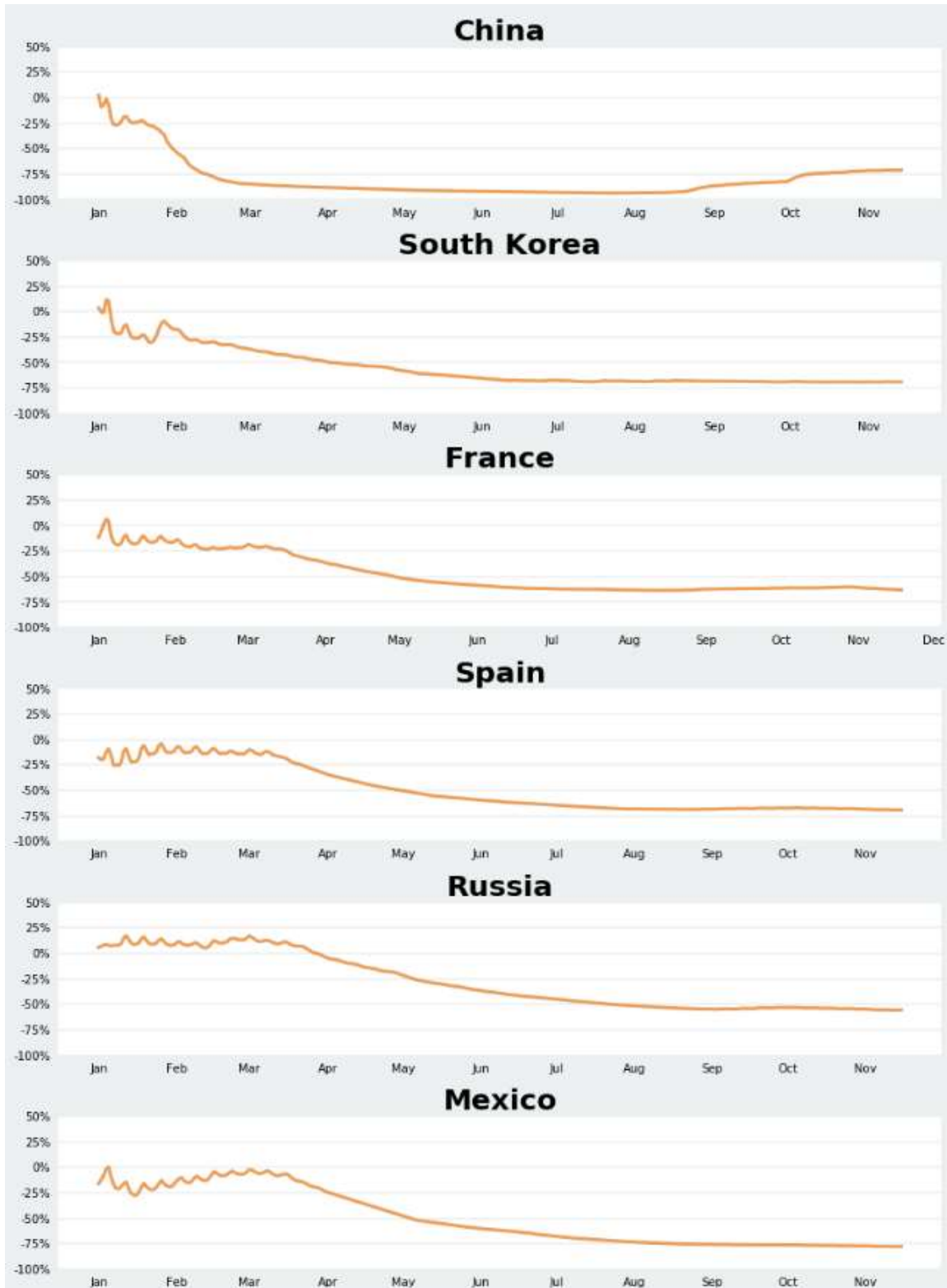
France also showed that it was making some limited success in fighting back. The market, which has the strongest pipeline of local content among the six European majors, at a poorer start to the year than the UK, showing deficit immediately. By the end of Q1, France was already tracking nearly 36% behind the 3-year average, however coordinated market re-opening and a steady stream of content (albeit smaller than normal) enabled the market to start decreasing its deficit slightly (from a nadir of -63.7% back to -60.2%) before a new national lockdown from Oct. 30 halted the positive progression. A similar, if smaller, trend was seen in **Germany**, although the market had a better start.

The **Domestic** market did not enjoy as strong a start but was just about managing to stay on par with the average until about mid-February (something Australia also managed). Then results started to decline steeply and by the end of Q1 box office as nearly 34% behind the 3-year average. Despite theaters re-opening the decline has at no point been arrested and the former #1 global market is now tracking 77.7% behind the average of the past 3 years – the second worst deficit of any of the 12 major markets, narrowly behind Mexico. **Australia** has followed a similar pattern to Domestic, holding roughly on par well into February but then experiencing a largely unfettered decline since (to -67.3%).

The market hit hardest early was **China**, although it is also the market to stage the greatest comeback. Chinese box office nose-dived in January due to a shutdown that came nearly two months earlier than most other territories. It also dropped to a deeper deficit (-93.4%) than any other market having missed out on the lucrative Chinese New Year week in late January. However, China displaying a notable comeback with the deficit now reduced to 71.2%.

Japan also shows a notable comeback and is currently in the most robust shape of any major market with a deficit against the average of under 48% (having reached over 66% at its nadir). This is all the more impressive when it is noted that Japan had been in deficit right from the start of 2020.

Like Japan, South Korea, France and Spain, **Mexico** was also in deficit from the get-go. By the end of Q1 the Latin American major was already nearly 24% against the average of the past 3 years. It is now 77.8% behind the average – the worst hit of the 12 major markets.



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MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

While the pandemic's knocked Hollywood for a loop, a vaccine driven recovery now seems likely and is a message of hope as Thanksgiving approaches.

Universal/DreamWorks Animation's THE CROODS 2 should play well to families who want to stick with the longtime Thanksgiving tradition of football + turkey & trimmings + post-pumpkin pie moviegoing. People living where movie theatres are still allowed to be open (with rigorous regulations) can head for the multiplexes and somehow manage to add a tub of buttered popcorn to the weight they now have to work off. Of course, with gyms shut these days, that's the best possible excuse for not working out!

It helps that moviegoers already know about CROODS 2 (pictured) from the success of the original, which opened 3/22/13 to \$43.6M (\$187.2M dom/\$400M intl). We won't be generating grosses that big again for a while, but with an uncluttered marketplace, good brand recognition, Universal's customary marketing strength at work and a fun escapist storyline, CROODS 2 should open well by today's standards. It's tracking great across the board, especially with -25M & -25F, and looks very strong with teens.



* * *

Thanksgiving's box office won't look like anything we've seen the past 25 years, but at least we can give thanks for Universal/DreamWorks Animation's THE CROODS 2.

Pre-pandemic release schedules had 7 wide Thanksgiving releases carving up 2 weekends. Pre-holiday starters 11/20: WB/Legendary's GODZILLA VS. KONG (now 5/21/21), Sony/Bron's MAN FROM TORONTO (now 9/17/21) & an untitled Universal/Amblin project. Main courses 11/25: WB/Overbrook's KING RICHARD (now 11/19/21), Disney's RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON (pictured - now 3/12/21), Sony/Tri-Star's HAPPIEST SEASON (now 11/25 on Hulu) & MGM/Universal/Eon's NO TIME TO DIE (now 4/2/21).

Before long, 11/20 had Disney/Pixar's SOUL (now Disney+ 12/25) & NO TIME while CROODS 2 became 11/25's multiplex magnet.

Given the latest encouraging virus vaccine news, next Thanksgiving should be happier -- with 2 major pre-holiday openings 11/19/21: WB/Overbrook's KING RICHARD & Paramount/ Skydance's MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 7. Plus, an untitled animated Disney release 11/21 & MGM/UAR's GUCCI 11/24.

Last year pre-Thanksgiving, Disney's FROZEN II opened #1 to what can now only be described as an enviable \$130.3M.



Update – Studio Release Calendar

11/27-12/3

(2019 Wk 48 Box Office: \$181,076,542)

2019 openings: Knives Out \$26.8M FSS, \$165.4M Total; Queen & Slim \$11.9M FSS, \$43.8M Total.

<p>The Croods: A New Age (Universal/DreamWorks) The prehistoric family the Croods are challenged by a rival family the Bettermans, who claim to be better and more evolved. Animation. <i>17/24-day release with direct move to VOD. A very good to excellent family film brought very positive reactions from exhibition. Lots of action, great voice talent, humorous with strong general appeal.</i></p>	PG	87A	Scope (2.35 : 1), 3D, Atmos, Auro 11.1, DTS: X	Wide 11/25 (2200 locations) VOD 17 days after theatrical
<p>Frozen 2 (Disney) Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven leave Arendelle to travel to an ancient, autumn-bound forest of an enchanted land. They set out to find the origin of Elsa's powers in order to save their kingdom. Animated Family. <i>Holiday reissue.</i></p>	PG	103	Scope (2.35 : 1), 3D, Atmos, Auro 11.1, Dolby Surround	Wide

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Hillbilly Elegy (Netflix) A Yale law student drawn back to his hometown grapples with family history, Appalachian values and the American dream. Drama. <i>Based on the New York Times best-selling memoir "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis," written by J.D. Vance in 2016. He wrote about the Appalachian values of his family and growing up in Middletown, Ohio, as part of a low-income family. The film is one of Netflix's award worthy 2020 productions.</i>	R	116	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Netflix/ Theatrical 11/24
The Christmas Chronicles 2 (Netflix) Kate Pierce who is now a cynical teenager, is unexpectedly reunited with Santa Clause when a mysterious troublemaker threatens to cancel Christmas forever. Kurt Russell, Goldie Hawn. Adventure Comedy Family. <i>Cinemark and Harkins among others testing day/date.</i>	PG	112	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited SVOD 11/25
Stardust (IFC Films) The story is an intimate glimpse into the creation of Bowie's first and most memorable alter-ego Ziggy Stardust), illuminating the turning point that cemented his legacy as one of the world's greatest cultural icons. Drama. <i>The story of the rise of David Bowie and his acceptance to audiences who at first didn't understand him later made him an indelible worldwide star.</i>	NR	104	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited VOD 11/25
Faith Under Fire (Iconic Releasing) Fireman Tom Hatcher is at the end of his rope. He saves lives in his job but could not save his wife from cancer, and now his daughter faces the same battle. From an unlikely friend, Tom is challenged to face grief and embrace faith in his darkest hours. Faith-based.	NA	88	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Last Call (K Street Pictures) Inspired by the life of Dylan Thomas, who was regarded as one of the twentieth century's most influential lyrical poets. <i>The fictional story begins in New York City on Thomas' final tour in 1953 – a tour that was meant to save him from ruin. Starring Rhys Ifans.</i>	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Markie in Milwaukee (Icarus Films) The story of a midwestern transgender woman as she struggles with the prospect of de-transitioning under the pressures of her fundamentalist church, family and community. Documentary.	NA	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Expansion Virtual and Cinemas
Princess and the Row (Gravitas Ventures) A young foster kid decides to run away to live with her mentally ill homeless father, hatching a plan to escape the city with him. Drama. <i>Executive produced by Morgan Freeman, this is a powerful, emotional story well reviewed and received numerous film festival accolades.</i>	NA	90	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Zappa (Magnolia) Interviews and archival footage provide insight into the private life of singer-songwriter Frank Zappa. Documentary.	NR	129	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Uncle Frank (Amazon Studios) Accompanied by his teenage niece, a gay literature professor reluctantly returns home to attend his father's funeral. Drama. <i>Vibrant performances and a well-intentioned story provide a roller coaster of emotion. Generally positive reviews.</i>	R	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD 11/25
12/4-10 (2019 Wk 49 Box Office: \$90,554,597) 2019 openings: Playmobil: The Movie \$.657M FSS, \$1.1M Total.				
All My Life (Universal) A couple's wedding plans are thrown off course when the groom is diagnosed with liver cancer. Romantic Drama. <i>Based on a true love story. Screenings show a sad and witty screenplay with good performances. A warm, heartfelt film skews female and should deliver moderate business where cinemas are open.</i>	PG13	91	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
Half Brothers (Focus Features) Renato, a Mexican aviation exec, is shocked to learn he has an American half-brother he never knew about, the free-spirited Asher. They are forced on a road trip together, tracing the path their father took from Mexico to the US. Comedy. <i>Screening reactions have been fair to average overall. Hispanic audiences will especially find the film appealing.</i>	PG13	96	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
Nomadland (Searchlight) Follows a woman in her sixties who, after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. Drama. <i>One of the best films of 2020 with a near certain Best Actress nomination for Frances McDormand and Best Picture across award platforms.</i>	R	108	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited to Moderate or Platform release
The Godfather Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone (Paramount) 30th Anniversary of The Godfather, Part III. <i>Director/screenwriter Francis Ford Coppola brings a definitive new restoration of the final film in the Godfather trilogy.</i>	R	158	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Event Cinema Theatrical

Mank (Netflix) The story encompasses screenwriter Herman J. Mankiewicz's tumultuous development of Orson Welles' iconic masterpiece Citizen Kane (1941). Biography Drama. <i>Director David Fincher's long-awaited new film stars Gary Oldman as "Mank" in this black and white award worthy biographical drama.</i>	R	131	Scope (2.20 : 1)	Expansion Theatrical 12/4 SVOD
Free Lunch Express (Magnet Box Films) A very silly satire about the life and times of Bernie Sanders. Political Comedy. <i>While mostly fictitious, many scenes are based on real-life Bernie headlines.</i>	NR	80	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited VOD December
Dear Santa (IFC Films) A look inside the United States Postal Service's 100-year-old Operation Santa program. Family Documentary.	NR	84	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Legend of Baron To'a (Gravitas Ventures) When his late father's priceless championship belt is stolen by a ruthless gang, a displaced Tongan man must reconnect with his father's legacy to defeat the barbaric gang kingpin and get the title back. Action Comedy. <i>A New Zealand film production, this well received 2020 Hawaii International Film Festival Summer Fest, Fantasia Film Festival Montreal, ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival.</i>	NR	103	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Elyse (Gravitas Ventures) Memory and hallucination intertwine to expose a history of trauma, revealing Elyse is Catatonic and institutionalized in a State Hospital. <i>In this exploration of grief, memory and hallucination intertwine to expose a history of trauma, revealing the truth: Elyse (Lisa Pepper) is catatonic and confined to a State Hospital. Starring and produced by Anthony Hopkins, the story examines the care and love that gave her a new life.</i>	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Black Bear (Momentum Pictures) A filmmaker at a creative impasse seeks solace from her tumultuous past at a rural retreat, only to find that the woods summon her inner demons in intense and surprising ways. <i>Well reviewed film with many twists and turns and a creature creeping around.</i>	NR	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD
Black Bear (Momentum Pictures) A filmmaker at a creative impasse seeks solace from her tumultuous past at a rural retreat, only to find that the woods summon her inner demons in intense and surprising ways. <i>Well reviewed film with many twists and turns and a creature creeping around.</i>	R	104	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Breaking Surface (Music Box Films) During a winter dive on a remote part of the coast in Northern Norway, two sisters' lives fall into danger; when a rockfall traps one of the sisters on the ocean floor, a battle against time begins in the middle of the wilderness. Action Drama. <i>Swedish filmmaker Joachim Hedén's Breaking Surface premiered at the virtual Nightstream Film Festival.</i>	NR	82	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited 12/9 VOD 12/15
Let Them All Talk (WB/HBOMax) An author goes on a trip with her friends and nephew in an effort to find fun and come to terms with her past. <i>Sophisticated comedy drama from Steven Soderbergh starring Meryl Streep, Diane Weist and Candace Bergen. Mainly female interest.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	SVOD On 12/10
Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowen (Magnolia) Filmmaker Julien Temple examines the life and career of Shane MacGowan, lead singer of the Pogues. Documentary.	NR	124	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited

12/11-17: Hanukkah 12/10-18

(2019 Wk 50 Box Office: \$249,867,371)

2019 openings: Jumanji: The Next Level \$59.3M FSS, \$316.8M Total; Black Christmas \$4.2M FSS, \$10.4M Total; Richard Jewel \$4.7M FSS, \$22.3M Total.




Wild Mountain Thyme (Bleecker Street) A pair of star-crossed lovers in Ireland get caught up in their family's land dispute. Drama Romance. <i>John Patrick Shanley, who created the classic MOONSTRUCK, brings his sweeping romantic vision to Ireland with Wild Mountain Thyme. Beautiful cinematography and performances. Pacing is slow but effective to the story. the film is adapted from his Broadway play "Outside Mullingar" from 2014.</i>	PG13	102	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited to Moderate
Wander Darkly (Lionsgate) New parents Adrienne and Matteo are forced to reckon with trauma amidst their troubled relationship. They must revisit the memories of their past and unravel haunting truths in order to face their uncertain future. <i>A potent romantic drama with some thrilling elements. Outstanding performances are a highlight of this well reviewed drama.</i>	R	97	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Minari (A24) A Korean-American family moves to a tiny Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream. The family home changes completely with the arrival of their sly, foul-mouthed, but incredibly loving grandmother. Drama. <i>The film has received universal acclaim from film festival audiences and film critics.</i>	PG13	115	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select

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Captain Sabertooth and the Magic Diamond (Solo Media) <i>Kaptein Sabeltann og den magiske diamant (original title)</i> Two young pirates on the search for a lost brother, a vampire with heavy sunburns, a shape shifting queen and a raging ape army. Captain Sabertooth will face plenty of challenges when he sets out to find a lost magic diamond. Family Animation. <i>Popular Norwegian franchise is aimed at very young children.</i>	NR	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited to Moderate/VOD
I'm Your Woman (Amazon Studios) A woman is forced to go on the run after her husband betrays his partners, sending her and her baby on a dangerous journey. Crime Drama. <i>Generally good reviews. Skews female and older adult.</i>	R	120	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD 12/11
Songbird (STX Films) In 2022 a pandemic ravages the world and its cities. Centering on a handful of people as they navigate the obstacles currently hindering society: disease, martial law, quarantine, and vigilantes. Comedy Drama Romance.	PG13	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	PVOD (\$19.99 for 48 hours) VOD After
Farewell Amor (IFC Films) Reunited after 17 years, an Angolan immigrant is joined in the U.S. by his wife and daughter. Now strangers sharing a one-bedroom apartment, they discover a shared love of dance that may help them overcome the distance between them. Drama. <i>A hit on the festival circuit, Tanzanian-American filmmaker Ekwa Msangi's feature directorial debut "Farewell Amor" tells the story of an Angolan immigrant who, after nearly two decades apart, is joined in the USA by his wife and daughter. One of the year's best films.</i>	NR	95	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Prom (Netflix) To support a high school girl who wants to bring her girlfriend to the prom a group of self-obsessed theater stars go to a small conservative Indiana town. Musical Comedy. <i>The Broadway edition, with music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and a book by Bob Martin and Beguelin, bowed in New York in October 2018 after launching in Atlanta in 2016. Musical was nominated for 6 Tony Awards in 2019.</i>	PG13	104	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Theatrical SVOD
Archenemy (RLJ Entertainment) Max Fist, who claims to be a hero from another dimension who fell through time and space to earth, where he has no powers. No one believes his stories except for a local teen named Hamster. Action Adventure.	NR	90	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Assassins (Greenwich Entertainment) An account of the two women convicted of assassinating Kim Jong-un's half-brother, Kim Jong-nam. Documentary. <i>The film follows the women's trials in an attempt to understand whether they are trained killers or simply pawns. Highly reviewed.</i>	NR	104	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Weasel's Tale (Outsider Pictures/Strand) <i>El Cuento de las Comadreas (original title)</i> A group of four old friends conformed by a film director, a film writer, an actress and her husband share a big house in the country. Their coexistence is menaced by a young couple who resourcefully and deceitfully seek to get them to sell the house to develop a real estate project of their own. Dark Comedy. <i>Audience Awards at AFI Latin American and Chicago Latino Film Festivals; Miami Film Festival Official Selection and Four Nominations for Platino Awards for Iberoamerican Cinema.</i>	NR	129	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/Virtual VOD 3/21
On-Gaku: Our Sound (Gkids) <i>Ongaku (original title)</i> Three young misfits decide to form a band to impress girls. Animation Drama. <i>"On-Gaku," which simply means "music" in Japanese, was adapted from a revised draft of the cult manga "Ongaku and Manga".</i>	NR	71	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited to Moderate
The Bee Gees: How Can You Mend A Broken Heart (HBO/HBO Max) An exploration of the history of the Bee Gees, featuring revealing interviews with oldest brother Barry Gibb, and archival interviews with the late twin brothers Robin and Maurice. <i>Documentary directed by Frank Marshall ("Seabiscuit", "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"). Official selection of the 2020 Telluride Film Festival.</i>	NR	111	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select VOD 12/12
Wetware Gravitas Ventures) in the near future people down-on-their-luck get genetic alterations that help them take on tough and undesirable jobs. Programmer Hal Briggs also experiments with high-end models – improvising on his first two prototypes, especially Kay, to whom he becomes emotionally attached. Then Kay escapes and everything changes. Romantic Drama. <i>Character-driven film made urgently relevant since the pandemic. Art house.</i>	NR	100	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited VOD 2/9
Paint (Gravitas Ventures) A group of young NYC artists as they struggle to sell their first paintings and get discovered. Comedy. <i>Paint was based on the TV pilot, Paint, which premiered at Sundance in 2018.2020 Dances with Films Grand Jury Prize Winner, Best Feature Film.</i>	NR	95	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD

<p>Ip Man: Kung Fu Master (Magnolia) During his time as a police captain in Foshan, Ip Man is targeted by a vengeful gangster just as the Japanese army invades the region. Action. <i>Ip Man, a Hong Kong film based on the life of Ip Man, starring Donnie Yen as the martial artist, was released in cinemas in 2008. The film takes a number of liberties with Ip's life, often for dramatic effect. The sequel Ip Man 2 focuses on Ip's beginnings in Hong Kong and his students, including Bruce Lee.</i></p>	NR	84	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>12/18-24: Hanukkah 12/10-18 (2019 Wk 51 Box Office: \$249,867,371) 2019 openings: Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker \$177.4M FSS, \$515M Total; Cats \$6.6M FSS, \$27.2M Total; Bombshell \$.3M FSS, \$31.8M Total.</p> 				
<p>Fatale (Lionsgate) In this suspenseful and provocative psychological thriller, a successful sports agent, Darren (Michael Ealy), watches his perfect life slowly disappear when he becomes entangled in a police investigation led by a discredited, disgraced and determined detective (Hilary Swank), with whom he had a wild one night stand. Suspense. <i>After multiple release changes, This film has the heat and erotic appeal of relationship-gone-wrong thrillers like Unfaithful, Fatal Attraction or Basic Instinct. Character driven thriller.</i></p>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
<p>The Father (Sony Pictures Classics) A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality. Drama. <i>Based on Florian Zeller's 2012 play. Anthony Hopkins likely to be nominated for his excellent performance.</i></p>	PG13	97	Scope (2.39 : 1)	NY/LA
<p>The Dissident (Open Road/Briarcliff) When Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi disappears in Istanbul, his fiancée and dissidents around the world piece together the clues to a murder and expose a global cover up. Documentary Drama. <i>This is a documentary both tragic and poignant, not to mention maddening in that only a few underlings, and not the perpetrators, will pay for the crime committed in Istanbul. The evidence is all here for the world to see. (HR).</i></p>	NA	117	Flat (1.85 : 1)	NY/LA/SF/DC Expansion 12/25, 1/15
<p>Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Netflix) Tensions rise when trailblazing blues singer Ma Rainey and her band gather at a recording studio in Chicago in 1927. Music Drama. <i>Chadwick Boseman and Viola Davis star in this extraordinary well told story of Chicago 1927 music and the "mother of the blues." Based on Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson's play. Excellent early reviews</i></p>	R	93	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
<p>Bad Impulse (Gravitas Ventures) In the aftermath of a traumatic event, a suburban husband and father buys a cutting-edge home security system, only to find that it slowly destroys that which he most wants to protect. A psychological thriller about family secrets exposed as result of modern technology. In the aftermath of his attack by loan sharks. <i>The film won Best Narrative Feature at the 2019 International Independent Film Awards and the Best Director Award at the 2019 Culver City Film Festival.</i></p>	NR	99	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited VOD 2/16/21
<p>Skylines (Vertical Entertainment) AKA: Skylin3s When a virus threatens to turn the now earth-dwelling friendly alien hybrids against humans, Captain Rose Corley must lead a team of elite mercenaries on a mission to the alien world in order to save what's left of humanity. Action Adventure. <i>Liam O'Donnell (Skyline, Beyond Skyline) returns as writer/director with the third movie Skylines.</i></p>	R	110	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>Finding Yingying (Mtuckman Media) After a young Chinese student goes missing on a university campus, her family travels to the US for the first time. While unraveling the mystery of her disappearance, they discover how much her life touched others. Documentary. <i>Well reviewed film festival audience favorite.</i></p>	NR	98	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
<p>Nasrin (Kino Marquee) An immersive documentary portrait, secretly filmed in Iran, of the world's most honored human rights activist, Nasrin Sotoudeh. Documentary. <i>Nasrin Sotoudeh requires every ounce of her extraordinary courage to avoid being silenced herself." - The Guardian. In English and Farsi with English subtitles.</i></p>	NR	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
<p>Hunter Hunter (IFC Midnight) Joseph and his family live in the remote wilderness as fur trappers but their tranquility starts to be threaten when they think their traps are being hunted by the return of a rogue wolf and Joseph leaves them behind to track it. Horror Thriller.</p>	NR	94	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

12/25-31: Christmas 12/25

(2019 Wk 52 Box Office: \$199,821,873)

2019 openings: Spies in Disguise \$13.4M FSS, \$66.8M Total; Little Women \$16.8M FSS, \$108.0M Total.



Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.) Fast forward to the 1980s as Wonder Woman's next big screen adventure finds her facing two all-new foes: Max Lord and The Cheetah. Action Adventure Fantasy.	PG13	151	Scope (2.39 : 1), 3D, IMAX, Atmos	Wide/HBO Max
News of the World (Universal) A Texan traveling across the wild West bringing the news of the world to local townspeople, agrees to help rescue a young girl who was kidnapped. Drama Western. <i>Directed by Paul Greengrass (The Bourne franchise, Captain Phillips) and based on the 2016 American Western novel by Paulette Jiles (nominated for the National Book Award for fiction).</i>	PG13	119A	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/VOD
Monster Hunter (Sony/Screen Gems) When Lt. Artemis and her loyal soldiers are transported to a new world, they engage in a desperate battle for survival against enormous enemies with incredible powers. Feature film based on the video game by Capcom. Action Adventure Fantasy. <i>A film adaptation based on the series has been in conception since 2012 by director Paul W. S. Anderson.</i>	PG13	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1), 3D, IMAX, Atmos	Wide (Weds)
Promising Young Woman (Focus Features) A young woman, traumatized by a tragic event in her past, seeks out vengeance against those who cross her path. Crime Drama Thriller. <i>Originally scheduled earlier this year and interrupted by the pandemic. Look for generally profitable business with strong female appeal.</i>	R	113	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
Soul (Disney/Pixar) Joe is a middle-school band teacher whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz -- and he's good. But when he travels to another realm to help someone find their passion, he soon discovers what it means to have soul. <i>Available on Disney+ and International theatrical. Award worthy, highly praised family comedy.</i>	PG	100	Scope (2.39 : 1), 3D, Atmos, 4K, Motion	Disney+/ Theatrical
Kung Fu Mulan (Gold Valley Films) Whether or not the film becomes a hit, the creators' views on the project illuminate the style of patriotism being encouraged in Chinese storytelling and on full display in this year's biggest films. <i>A Chinese studio recently released a new "Mulan" film called "Kung Fu Mulan" in China, but the film saw little to no success at the box office. The film's studio — Gold Valley Films — said the film was being pulled because the studio didn't have enough resources to promote the film during the holidays.</i>	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Sylvie's Love (Amazon Studios) Sylvie has a summer romance with a saxophonist who takes a summer job at her father's record store in Harlem. When they reconnect years later, they discover that their feelings for each other have not faded with the years. Romantic Drama. <i>Writer/director Eugene Ashe delicately melds romance and music into a sweeping romantic story that transcends changing times, geography, and professional success.</i>	PG13	114	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/ Amazon Prime
The Midnight Sky (Netflix) A lone scientist in the Arctic races to contact a crew of astronauts returning home to a mysterious global catastrophe. Sci Fi Fantasy Drama. Directed by George Clooney, based on the novel Good Morning, Midnight by Lily Brooks-Dalton.	PG13	122	Scope (2.22 : 1)	Limited SVOD 12/23
The Truffle Hunters (Sony Pictures Classics) Deep in the forests of Piedmont, Italy, a handful of men, seventy or eighty years young, hunt for the rare and expensive white Alba truffle-which to date has resisted all of modern science's efforts at cultivation. Documentary. <i>Positive reviews from film critics.</i>	PG13	84	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
One Night in Miami (Amazon Studios) A fictionalized story of Cassius Clay, Malcolm X, Jim Brown and Sam Cooke, as the group celebrate Clay's surprise title win over Sonny Liston in a Miami hotel room in February 1964. <i>The world premiere was at the Venice Film Festival on 9/7/20 and was the first film directed by an African-American woman (actress Regina King) to be selected in the festival's history. It received overwhelmingly positive reviews, with critics praising King's direction, the performances and the writing.</i>	NA	110	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Theatrical/ Amazon Prime
1/1-7: New Year's Day 1/1 (2020 Wk 1 Box Office: \$144,110,143) 2020 openings: The Grudge \$11.4M FSS, \$21.2M Total.				
Pieces of a Woman (Netflix) A grieving woman embarks on an emotional journey after the loss of her baby. Drama. <i>Award worthy drama by director Kornél Mundruczó (Johanna, White God) is well reviewed and an excellent female drama.</i>	R	126	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/SVOD



Herself (Amazon Studios) A young mother escapes her abusive husband and fights back against a broken housing system. She sets out to build her own home and, in the process, rebuilds her life and re-discovers herself. <i>'Mamma Mia!' director Phyllida Lloyd's latest, about a battered wife who builds her own house, is the standout of the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.</i>	R	97	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Theatrical/ Amazon Prime
1/8-14 (2020 Wk 2 Box Office: \$137,097,370) 2020 openings: Like a Boss \$10.0M FSS, \$22.2M FSS; Underwater \$7.0M FSS, \$17.3M Total.				
I Carry You With Me (Sony Pictures Classics) Ambition and societal pressure propel an aspiring chef to leave his soulmate in Mexico and make the treacherous journey to New York, where life will never be the same. Drama.	R	111	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited

Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
United States Vs. Billie Holiday (Paramount) AKA: <i>Untitled Lee Daniels Billie Holiday Film</i> . Follows Holiday during her career as she is targeted by the Federal Department of Narcotics with an undercover sting operation led by black Federal Agent Jimmy Fletcher, with whom she had a tumultuous affair. Drama.	Wide	2/26/21	New Title
Scream (Paramount) AKA: <i>Scream 5</i> . A future slasher thriller film directed by Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett, with James Vanderbilt and Guy Busick serving as writers on the project. Horror.	Wide	1/14/22	New Title
Dutch (Faith Media) It is the urban-lit cult classic from the Teri Woods series Dutch that breaks all the rules. Drama.	TBA	TBD	11/26/20
Peter Rabbit: The Runaway (Sony) Thomas and Bea are now married and living with Peter and his rabbit family. Bored of life in the garden, Peter goes to the big city, where he meets shady characters and ends up creating chaos for the whole family. Adventure.	Wide	4/2/21	1/15/21
Fatherhood (Sony) A father brings up his baby girl as a single dad after the unexpected death of his wife who died a day after their daughter's birth. Drama.	Wide	4/16/21	4/2/21
Coming to America (Amazon Prime) Sequel to Coming To America (1988 romantic comedy film directed by John Landis and based on a story originally created by Eddie Murphy, who also starred.	Global SVOD	3/5/21	NEW
Promising Young Woman (Focus Features) A young woman, traumatized by a tragic event in her past, seeks out vengeance against those who cross her path. Comedy Crime Drama Thriller.	Wide	12/25/21	Previously Moderate
The Asset (Lionsgate) Rembrandt (Michael Keaton) and Anna (Maggie Q), two of the world's premier assassins, traverse the globe, competing for high profile contracts. When Anna's mentor (Samuel L. Jackson) is murdered, she and Rembrandt must form an uneasy alliance to track down the killer and avenge his death. Action Crime Thriller.	TBA	TBD	4/23/21
The Devil's Light (Lionsgate) Sister Ann, a novice nun who devoutly believes performing exorcisms is her calling, confronts a demonic force that infests those around her and has mysterious ties to her past. Horror	TBA	TBD	1/8/21
Fatale (Lionsgate) In this suspenseful and provocative psychological thriller, a successful sports agent, Darren (Michael Ealy), watches his perfect life slowly disappear when he becomes entangled in a police investigation led by a discredited, disgraced and determined detective (Hilary Swank), with whom he had a wild one night stand. Suspense.	Wide	12/18/20	NEW
The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent (Lionsgate) An Obsessive fan forces actor Nicolas Cage to recreate his most famous characters and scenes during a birthday party. Comedy.	TBA	TBD	3/19/21
Black Panther 2 (Disney/Marvel) Beginning production after the passing of Chadwick Boseman and the pandemic delayed the start until July 2021 in Atlanta. Production is expected to last six months. This also marks the first year since 2009 there were no Marvel films released. Action.	Wide	2022-23	NEW

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
Birds Like Us (Grindstone Entertainment) <i>Animation</i>	PG	Thematic elements
Dutch (Faith Media Distribution)	R	Language throughout, violence, some drug use, sexual references and nudity
Fatale (Lionsgate/Summit)	R	Violence, sexual content and language
If Anything Happens, I Love You (Netflix)	PG	Strong thematic material involving gun violence

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Long Weekend (Sony) <i>Acquisition</i>	R	Language throughout
One Night in Miami (Amazon Studios)	R	Language throughout
Strain 100 (Amazon Prime)	R	Bloody zombie violence, and language including a sexual reference

Screening Room – New Trailers



Title: Monster Hunter (Sony/Screen Gems) *Newest Trailer*

Release Date: 12/25/20 *Wide*

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson (Resident Evil series, Death Race, Alien Vs. Predator)

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Tony Jaa, T.I.

Synopsis: A portal transports Lt. Artemis and an elite unit of soldiers to a strange world where powerful monsters rule with deadly ferocity. Faced with relentless danger, the team encounters a mysterious hunter who may be their only hope to find a way home. *Sci fi action has been a hallmark in Paul W. S. Anderson's career. In his latest film, special effects are the core of an action film with worldwide appeal and hope for a rejuvenated box office into 2021.*



Title: Wild Mountain Thyme (Bleecker Street)

Release Date: 12/11/20 *Limited/VOD*

Director: John Patrick Shanley (Doubt, Joe Versus The Volcano, renowned screenwriter)

Starring: Emily Blunt, Jamie Dornan, Christopher Walken, Jon Hamm

Synopsis: A pair of star-crossed lovers in Ireland get caught up in their family's land dispute. Romantic Drama. *Written and directed by John Patrick Shanley, based on his play Outside Mullingar. A great cast and renowned writer/director combine to create a winning cinematic story.*



Title: Tom and Jerry (Warner Bros.)

Release Date: 3/5/21 *Wide*

Director: Tim Story (Shaft, Ride Along, Think Like A Man)

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Michael Peña, Rob Delaney

Synopsis: One of the most beloved rivalries in history is reignited when Jerry, a mischievous mouse who has taken up residence in New York City's finest hotel on the eve of "the wedding of the century," forcing the event's desperate planner and young employee named Kayla, to hire an alley cat named Tom to get rid of him. However, the ensuing cat and mouse battle threatens to destroy her career, the wedding and possibly the hotel itself. But soon, an even bigger problem arises: a diabolically ambitious staffer conspiring against all three of them. Animation. *Tom And Jerry are resurrected in a thoroughly contemporary and hilarious story for all ages.*



Title: One Night in Miami (Amazon Prime)

Release Date: 12/25/20 *Limited*; 1/15/21 *VOD*

Director: Regina King (renowned actor and TV director, feature film debut)

Starring: Kingsley Ben-Adir, Eli Goree, Aldis Hodge

Synopsis: On the night of Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami, Cassius Clay joins Jim Brown, Sam Cooke and Malcom X, and they discuss the responsibility of being successful black men during the civil rights movement. *The celebrated debut to critical acclaim at the Venice and Toronto International Film Festivals has brought much attention to actor Regina King's debut as film director. This award worthy film will very likely be a contender for Best Picture of 2020.*



Title: Chaos Walking (Lionsgate)

Release Date: 1/22/21 *Wide*

Director: Doug Liman (Edge Of Tomorrow, Swingers, Fair Game, The Wall)

Starring: Tom Holland, Mads Mikkelsen, Daisy Ridley

Synopsis: A dystopian world where there are no women and all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in a stream of images, words, and sounds called Noise. Science Fiction. *This young adult sci fi action adventure set in a dystopian world where all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in a stream of images, words, and sounds called Noise. A strong cast will draw the young demographic both theatrical and VOD audiences.*



Title: Kung Fu Mulan (Gold Valley Films)

Release Date: 12/25/20

Director: Leo Liao

Starring: Vivian Lu

Synopsis: Disguising herself as a man to take her father's place, Mulan is a wild and rebellious soldier in the army. As a gifted swords-woman, she also dreams about going out and exploring the world. Animation (China). *This is the Chinese animated version of Mulan.*