



Monday, December 7, 2020 | No. 145

100 years ago, on 12/5/1920, United Artists released *The Mark of Zorro* starring Douglas Fairbanks as Señor Zorro. Fairbank's character lived a seemingly ordinary life as Don Diego Vega, a mild and unnoticeable rich kid, but when an injustice was perpetrated on the vulnerable common folk, he transformed himself into their swashbuckling defender. Zorro was one of the first movie superheroes, the original double-identity masked avenger. Recognizing its commercial potential, Zorro spawned remakes, spin-offs and sequels galore appearing in over 40 films, radio and TV series, comic books, stage productions and even video games. When *The Mark of Zorro* hit theatres in 1920, the US was beginning to emerge from the double shocks of World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic, and was sorely in need of escapism and renewal. Fairbanks and United Artists did their part to lift the mood and lead the country into recovery.



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"You know, the period of World War I and the Roaring Twenties were really just about the same as today. You worked, you made a living if you could, and you tried to make the best of things. For an actor or a dancer, it was no different then than today. It was a struggle.

— James Cagney

Weekend Box Office Results... 12/4 – 12/6

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	2	2,205	4,400,000	1,995	20,300,000
2	Half Brothers (Focus Features)	1	1,369	720,000	526	720,000
3	Freaky (Universal)	4	1,502	460,000	306	7,741,000
4	All My Life (Universal)	1	970	350,000	361	350,000
5	The War With Grandpa (101 Studios)	9	1,285	329,359	256	17,634,660
6	Come Play (Focus Features)	6	773	235,000	304	8,981,000
7	Let Him Go (Focus Features)	5	1,113	215,000	193	9,032,000
8	Honest Thief (Open Road/Briarcliff)	9	785	190,000	242	13,822,364
9	Die Hard – 2020 Re-release (Disney/Fox)	1	1,172	189,000	161	189,000
10	Tenet (Warner Bros.)	15	532	180,000	338	57,600,000

- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its second weekend earned \$13.566M in 10 international markets. Combined with the North American weekend of \$4.4M the worldwide weekend generated \$17.966M and the global cume is \$60.553M.
- Universal's **Freaky** now in its fourth weekend grossed an estimated \$357K in 30 international markets. Combined with the North American weekend of \$460K the worldwide weekend generated \$817k and the global cume to date is \$13.307M.
- Warner Bros.' **Superintelligence** grossed an estimated \$501K from 10 territories on 1,654 screens, with a modest -35% drop from opening weekend. This takes the international running cume to \$1.6M. The UK will release this weekend (Dec. 11th) with Australia up next the following weekend (Dec. 17th).
- Warner Bros.' **The Witches** produced an estimated \$1.2M in 28 overseas markets on 2,328 screens. The international cume to date is now \$16.9M. Holland opened to a strong \$514K, taking the #1 spot in the market.
- Warner Bros.' **Tenet** generated an estimated \$1.5M in 36 overseas markets on 2,373 screens, representing a strong -39% drop in holdover markets. The international cume to date is now \$189M. Japan opened to an estimated \$790K, coming in as the top U.S. title for the weekend.
- The IMAX Global network delivers \$3.4M box office driven by strong holdovers of **The Croods: A New Age** and **Demon Slayer**, with help from new openings **Monster Hunter** and **Soul Snatcher**.

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Click to play our BOX OFFICE BUZZ looking at Universal/ Playtone's NEWS OF THE WORLD starring Tom Hanks...braving an unforgiving wilderness to bring a young girl back to her home.

Notable Industry News and Commentary... 11/22 – 11/28

[Warner Bros. to Release All 2021 Films on HBO Max and in Theaters Simultaneously](#) (Wall Street Journal)
[Hollywood, Theater Owners Sound Off on Warner Bros.' Bold HBO Max Move: 'They're Playing With Fire'](#) (Variety)

WarnerMedia shocked the industry with its announcement on Thursday that the entire slate of Warner Bros. films scheduled for a 2021 theatrical release would premiere simultaneously on the company's HBO Max streaming service. The Warner Bros. 2021 release schedule is made up of 17 films, including likely blockbusters "Dune", "The Matrix 4", "Godzilla vs. Kong" and "The Suicide Squad". . In their announcement, Warner Bros. executives emphasized that this arrangement was for one year only, born out of the unique circumstances forced on the industry by the COVID-19 pandemic which is keeping audiences away from theatres. Most exhibitors expressed displeasure with WB's unilateral decision to eliminate completely the exclusive release window for theatres. Many had expected other studios to follow suit with Universal's recent arrangement with exhibitors, in which a 17-day minimum theatrical window would be maintained. Analysts commented that WarnerMedia's #1 priority was to boost HBO Max into the ranks of the leading streaming services, alongside Disney+, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+. However, it should be noted that the studio is re-affirming its commitment to release all its major films to theatres, rather than removing them from the theatrical release schedule, as other studios have done in some cases with certain titles.

See also: [Why Warner Bros. had to move its 2021 films to HBO Max](#) (The Verge)

[First Wonder Woman 1984 reactions hail](#)

['hugely ambitious' sequel as 'beacon of hope'](#) (Entertainment Weekly)

Warner Bros. is giving film critics a first look at WW1984, and the early reviews peg it as a veritable blockbuster. We have not seen much from the superhero tentpole genre in 2020, and it's somewhat heartening to feel that help is on the way, even if the returns will be shared between theatres and HBO Max (available in the US only).



[The CEO of Alamo Drafthouse on Going Back to the Movies](#) (The Verge)

Shelli Taylor picked up the reins as CEO of Alamo Drafthouse on April 30th, two weeks after the circuit had closed all 41 of its US theatres in the early days of grappling with the disruptions of COVID-19. Alamo is widely regarded as one of the innovators among exhibitors, having popularized movie-going with a robust in-theatre dining experience. In a long-form interview with The Verge, Taylor describes how Alamo has faced the pandemic and the key signs she is looking for that will signal a reboot and return of cinema. Taylor is confident

that Alamo is well-positioned to emerge with their business and their customer relationships intact. “Alamo’s secret sauce really is creating these communal experiences for people, bringing the community together to laugh, cry, gasp, whatever, but have fun together. That won’t go out of style.” She highlights a number of goals they had on their “roadmap” that they have brought forward into the present, including streamlining advanced ordering for tickets and food before the customer arrives as the theatre. They have also promoted Alamo-On-Demand as a way to present movies to their loyal customers while they are unable to or uncomfortable with going the theatre. The film industry needs theatres...really good theatres...because they provide the best presentation Hollywood can offer to the public.



Shelli Taylor, CEO of Alamo Drafthouse



[AMC Says it Might Go Bankrupt if You Don't Buy its Stock](#) (Wall Street Journal)

Warner Bros.’ announcement on Thursday darkened the already gloomy outlook for the nation’s motion picture exhibitors. Shares in AMC Theatres, the nation’s largest exhibitor, dropped 17% on

Thursday alone, and ended the week trading at \$3.51. One year prior, AMC shares had been trading at \$8.50. Meanwhile, the company has announced plans to issue new shares to raise up to \$700M to stave off bankruptcy. In its recent Q3 earnings announcement, AMC reported that it had \$500M in cash and liquid assets but was on a run rate to lose \$115M each month. Regal and Cinemark, the nations’ #2 and #3 exhibitors, appear to be operating from a somewhat more stable foundation, each having secured financing to see them through a more extended period of disruption from the pandemic.

See also: [Cineworld, owner of Regal, secures new financing to tide it over until reopening](#) (LA Times)

[Sundance Film Festival Director Tabitha Jackson On How 2021 Edition Will Play Out In Park City, Online And At An Art House Near You](#) (Deadline)

The show will go on for the 2021 Sundance Film Festival, with the one-week event scheduled to begin on 1/28/2021. This year’s format will be significantly altered from the traditional gathering in Park City, Utah, with most screenings and press events taking place virtually. Only one venue, the Ray Theatre, will hold in-person screenings while following strict safety protocols. A live awards ceremony is also being planned, though details have yet to be finalized. In addition to on-line screenings, a network of “satellite screens” made up of participating Art Houses and Drive-Ins will also simulcast a curated subset of this year’s premieres. In fact, the format of Sundance 2021 could allow a much larger audience to experience the festival buzz, while avoiding the health risks and cost of travel to Park City. Festival Director Tabitha Jackson remarked that an objective was to breathe some life back into independent cinemas, which have been one of the primary commercial outlets for Sundance titles. Jackson said, “We’ll see what works for us,



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the industry and the artists. I wouldn't want this [coming year's] festival to be seen as a blueprint for the future, but it's being responsive to the moment and allowing us to learn what we want the future to be."

[Best Movies of 2020](#) (New York Times)

The chief film critics of the New York Times offer their lists of the best movies of 2020 and reflections on the experience of watching movies during this

most unusual year. Manohla Dargis explains how she learned to watch movies without going to the movies, by taking steps to shut out the many distractions of home viewing. A.O. Scott laments how much he has missed going to the theatre to watch movies, but how much he needed the escape of movies and appreciated the opportunity to see so many good ones –virtually. Because these films missed out on theatrical releases, they may not have gotten the attention they deserved.

The New York Times

Movies Update

Manohla Dargis

- 1 **Martin Eden** by Pietro Marcello
- 2 **City Hall** by Frederick Wiseman
- 3 **Gunda** by Victor Kossakovsky

A.O. Scott

- 1 **Borat Subsequent Moviefilm** by Jason Woliner, starring Sasha Baron Cohen
- 2 **City Hall** by Frederick Wiseman paired with **Collective** by Alexander Nanau
- 3 **First Cow** by Kelly Reichardt

MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

A year ago, Hollywood was buzzing about who'd be getting Golden Globe noms.

Last Dec. 9 the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced noms for its 77th annual GG, which took place 1/5/20. GG noms for 2020 will be revealed 2/3 with the 78th show on 2/28. Oscar noms are 3/15 with the show on 4/25. Here's a look back at some winners for 2019 in categories where GG & Oscar overlap.

GG has two Best Picture categories, but neither of its winners (1917 for Drama & ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD for Musical or Comedy) matched up with Oscar's Best Picture winner (PARASITE).

The GG for Directing went to Sam Mendes (1917), but the Oscar winner was Bong Joon Ho (PARASITE).

Renee Zellweger won the GG for Best Actress-Drama (JUDY). She also won the Best Actress Oscar (not limited to Drama). Awkwafina won the GG for Best Actress M or C.

The GG Best Actor-Drama winner was Joaquin Phoenix (JOKER). He also won the Best Actor Oscar (not limited to Drama). Taron Egerton won the GG for Best Actor M or C.

Laura Dern (MARRIAGE STORY) won the GG & Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.

The Best Supporting Actor GG & Oscar went to Brad Pitt (pictured - ONCE UPON...).

* * *

The glass is always half-empty when Wall Street analyzes exhibition's future.

Not surprisingly, that's how the Street treated the news that WB's 2021 theatrical films would open day & date with a streaming release on HBO Max. In their rush to bury exhibition, analysts overlooked the fact that Max doesn't boast a paid subscriber base anywhere close to Netflix (about 195M) or Disney+ (about 74M). Max reportedly has 8.6M subscribers from a base of 28.7M HBO subscribers, who can get Max free if they just activate their accounts.





Many HBO subscribers reportedly don't know how to activate Max or how it differs from HBO. Frankly, those 8.6M subs don't pose a huge threat to exhibition. How many are likely to watch the new WB movies on Max? If 50% do – and that's a high rate of return – it would mean only 4.3M people were theoretically lost to streaming.

The good news Wall Street overlooked is that exhibitors will have 17 new WB titles – including DUNE (pictured) – to play as virus vaccines roll out and moviegoing heats up. That's very good news for exhibitors who haven't had anything to play until lately that people actually wanted to see.

GOWER STREET'S *Box Office Outlook*

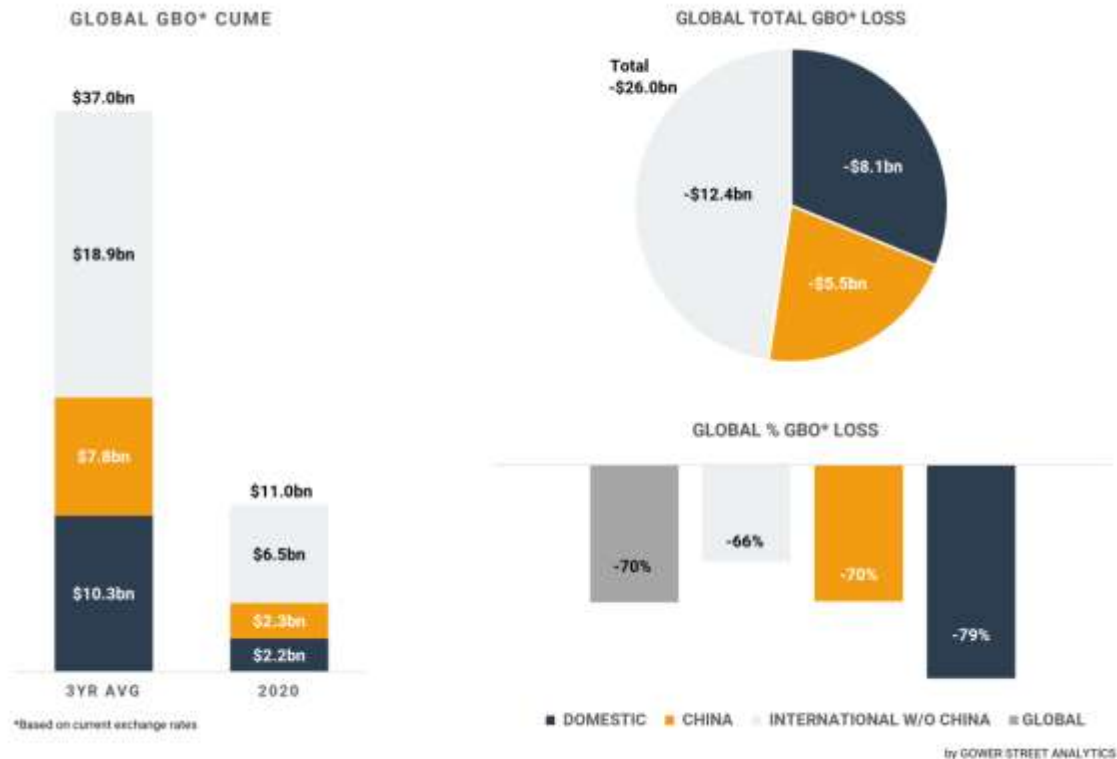
November Rain – Global Box Office Generates \$0.8 Billion Despite European Closures

In November, global cinemas accounted for \$0.8 billion box office. This is the lowest result since July. While being at the low end of the last four months, the November box office isn't a sign of a new dramatic downwards trend. It is more an illustration of the current dependency of global results from the size of new released Chinese blockbusters in the remaining absence of Hollywood studio titles.

The latest update of Gower Street's Global Box Office Tracker (GBOT) shows that the 2020 global box office grew to \$11.0 billion in November from \$10.2 billion a month ago. From the beginning of April, when it stood at \$5.9 billion, until the end of November, box office grew in total by \$5.1 billion.

The main part of the global box office growth in November was delivered across the International market (excluding China) with \$0.5 billion. This is the same ballpark as in the prior months, bringing the cume to \$6.5 billion by the end of November.

Compared to the performance in prior months China is showing the biggest variance. Coming out of the historically hugely lucrative October that delivered \$0.9 billion, November came in at just \$0.3 billion. This was driven by the traditionally weaker season of the year and the lack of outstanding-performing releases like THE EIGHT HUNDRED (now at \$437m) in August and September. The Chinese 2020 cume grew from \$2.06 billion to \$2.33 billion within last month.



The Domestic market clearly continues to be the slowest growing among these three, again contributing only \$0.1 billion. Domestic box office in November increased from \$2.13 billion to just \$2.20 billion.

The stacked bar graph on the left shows total box office levels split out by the three key global markets: Domestic, China and International (excluding China). The pie chart indicates the current deficit compared to the average of the past three years and where those losses are currently coming from. The bar graph on the bottom right displays the percentage drops globally.

In China, the month of November saw no movie crossing \$100 million in contrast to previous months. Its highest grossing title in November was the performance of holdover release THE SACRIFICE, which did \$68 million of its current \$165 million total. Just one new release, local crime thriller CAUGHT IN TIME, came near that number with \$62 million in November. Still mainly driven by these two titles China has further reduced its percentage box office loss compared to the average box office over the previous three years from a peak of -94% in July to -70% now. Total loss grew slightly from -\$5.3 billion to -\$5.5 billion.

At the same time the International market (excluding China) lost another -\$1.2 billion, which adds up to a loss of -\$12.4 billion until the end of the month. That this number isn't even bigger is down the positive development of APAC (excluding China) in general and Japan in particular. Over 80% (82%) of the International box office in November was generated in APAC (excluding China) and over half of that in Japan (54%). Mainly due to that, Japan, like China, has made significant headway in recouping market losses. Full-market box office in Japan is currently tracking -45% behind an average of the past three years, having been -65% behind in early July.

Japan's phenomenon DEMON SLAYER THE MOVIE: MUGEN TRAIN is still the main cause of that while it continues to dominate. It has now been on top of the Japanese box office for seven weeks in a row and is already the #2 highest grossing movie of all-time in its home country (\$261.1m), behind only 2001's SPIRITED AWAY. The film has also held the #1 spot in Taiwan for five consecutive weeks and is now that market's highest grossing animated film of all-time (now at \$18m). Last, but not least, in Hong Kong DEMON SLAYER has led the charts for three weeks (now at \$4m).

The main brake to further international recovery in November was Europe. The region delivered the lowest box office since June as its cinemas shut down in the majority of countries. After the rapid rise of COVID-19 cases in Europe, Italy and France were the first to re-close their cinemas in the final week of October. The UK, Germany, the Netherlands and

Austria, among others, followed in November. At the end of the month the market share of theatres open across the EMEA region had fallen to 24%, a dramatic drop from a peak of 89% at the start of October!

The recovery from this second closure will take longer than December as the COVID-19 cases remain on a significant level around the continent. The Netherlands already re-opened their cinemas again at the end of November, while the UK (Dec. 3) and France (Dec. 15) follow in December. However, business will stay limited with even more severe restrictions put in place than before being re-closed. Germany and Italy are forced to sit out the usually very lucrative holiday season, as their cinemas won't be allowed to re-open before the beginning of next year.

A more positive outlook comes from Latin America. Mexico and Brazil have further re-opened cinemas and in November they were joined by Colombia. Despite cinemas being allowed to re-open there with significant restrictions from late August few did so. Only on the Nov. 26-29 weekend did multiple circuits began their re-openings, which increased the number of cinemas open by market share to 32% and pushed Colombia to be the latest market to achieve the Stage 2 target of Gower Street's Blueprint To Recovery as Latin America continues its slow return. Other Latin American heavyweight countries like Argentina, Chile and Peru are yet to comeback.

In the domestic market place the number of cinemas open by market share has unfortunately further come down in the period of November to just 41% for the Thanksgiving weekend. It had stood at 55% at the start of November, having hit 61% at the end of September. An additional rise in virus cases brought further lockdowns across a number of US states and Canadian provinces.

As a result of that the Domestic losses added another -\$1 billion up to their now -\$8.1 billion total. The percentage box office loss compared to the average box office over the previous three years grew too from -77% to -79%.

Especially impacted by the re-closure of many cinemas in the Domestic market and across Europe, the number of global cinemas open by market share dropped further to 60% at the end of November. This is down from 70% at the beginning of the month and a peak of 79% at the end of September.

At least Thanksgiving gave some hope with the rarity of a new studio release. Universal's THE CROODS: A NEW AGE topped global business with \$35 million from 8 markets, including \$18.9 million in China on its opening weekend. The sequel had the biggest post-lockdown Domestic 3-day opening (\$9.6 million) for any film to date. This shows that when attractive mass-audience titles are on offer there remains an audience appetite. In Domestic that seems even the case with a shortened window in place, as A NEW AGE will be available to rent digitally by Christmas. No numbers to rave about, but given the circumstances we're in, this is a good sign for the future. WONDER WOMAN 1984, here we go.

If you have comments or questions about Gower Street's charts and articles; to see higher-resolution images; sign up for our free newsletter; or subscribe to our Road To Recovery reports, which track all the latest news and information around the world, please visit our website at: <https://gower.st>

Update – Studio Release Calendar

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.



Wonder Woman Reissue (Warner Bros.) When a pilot crashes and tells of conflict in the outside world, Diana, an Amazonian warrior in training, leaves home to fight a war, discovering her full powers and true destiny. Fantasy Action Adventure.	PG13	141	Scope (2.39 : 1), IMAX, Atmos, 7.1, Auro 11.1, DTS	Wide
Wild Mountain Thyme (Blecker 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

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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
Captain Sabertooth and the Magic Diamond (Solo Media) Kaptein Sabeltann og den magiske diamant (original title) 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.	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. The musical was nominated for six Tony Awards in 2019.</i>	PG13	104	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Theatrical/SVOD
Parallel (Vertigo Entertainment) A group of friends stumble upon a mirror that serves as a portal to a 'multiverse.' They soon discover that importing knowledge from the other side in order to better their lives brings increasingly dangerous consequences. Science Fiction. <i>Positive reviews from the 2018-19 delayed release. A heady multi-dimensional sci-fi and a self-conscious discourse on originality and alteration - Sight And Sound.</i>	NR	104	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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) El Cuento de las Comadres (original title) 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

The Stand In (Saban Films) A stand-in takes over an actress's career and identity after performing her community service for tax evasion. Comedy. <i>Saban Films acquired distribution rights to the film. Drew Barrymore stars in this comedy originally scheduled to premiere at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival that was cancelled due to the pandemic.</i>	R	101	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited/VOD
On-Gaku: Our Sound (Gkids) Ongaku (original title) 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. Documentary. Directed by Frank Marshall ("Seabiscuit", "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"). <i>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
The Hex (Cleopatra Entertainment) A grieving British girl Dilanne (Coco Lloyd) who unravels her murdered mother's secrets connected to a South African witch doctor's curse. She wants to put an end to this haunting hex by traveling to South Africa – but instead gets cast into even deeper sinister depths. Horror.	NR			Limited/VOD DVD Platforms 12/15
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
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>	NR	84	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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.				
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. Screening: Good action and story. Plays well with enough good suspense and surprises.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
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>	R	93	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
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>	PG13	97	Scope (2.39 : 1)	NY/LA



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. <i>The story is about the pursuit of a predator, the dangerous task of chasing after something that isn't designed to run.</i>	NR	94	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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>	NR	99	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited VOD 2/16/21
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>	R	110	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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>	NR	98	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
Tazeka (Art Mattan) A young Moroccan man is inspired to leave home to become a chef. France/Morocco, 2018 (French, Arabic). <i>A charming simple film about a man following his passion, in this case, cooking. the film is also about friendship and how it can help a person not only survive, but flourish. Specialized.</i>	NR	95	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
Nasrin (Kino Marquee) An immersive documentary, 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. English and Farsi with English subtitles.</i>	NR	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
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 (2000)/ 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 (2000) 17-24-day 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) (2000)
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 (2000)
Pinocchio (Roadside Attractions) Pinocchio, played by nine-year-old Federico Ielapi, gets caught up in a series of adventures that bring him into contact with bandits, the belly of a giant fish, the Land Of Toys, and the Field Of Miracles. Roberto Benigni. Live Action. <i>Premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and has already been released internationally (\$20.31M) Pinocchio looks incredible — so convincing you'd think it was CGI, but is the work of British prosthetics master Mark Coulier, who turned Tilda Swinton into an old man on Luca Guadagnino's Suspiria, and here makes Pinocchio look like he really is made of wood. Robert Zemeckis in Early Talks to Direct 'Pinocchio' Live-Action Remake at Disney.</i>	PG13	125A	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide (2000)



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>	NA	117	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Moderate
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
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)	Theatrical SVOD 12/23
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
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 One You Feed (Gravitas Ventures) The story is a sort of mirage. The Stranger is lost and he's running from something. Ultimately, what he runs away from, he runs into. He finds someone he cannot leave. These two people, the Stranger and the Man, spend lifetimes finding and losing each other. Written by Drew Harwood (Drifter, God Send) and based on a story by Harwood and Gareth Koorzen (The Bone Box). Specialized film.	NR	86	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited 12/29 All video platforms
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
Lost Girls: Angie's Story (Freestyle Digital Media) AKA: Angie: Lost Girl. After escaping from a sex trafficking ring, one teenage girl struggles to reconnect with herself and her family. To rescue her helpless friends, she must confront her own fears and help lead the police to her traffickers - at all costs. Drama. <i>Julia Verdin's 'Lost Girls: Angie's Story' is a powerful story with a gripping real-world message revolving around the victims of sex trafficking. Specialized film.</i>	NR	Naq	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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
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1/15-21

(2020 Wk 3 Box Office: \$207,632,898)

2020 openings: Bad Boys for life \$62.5M FSS, \$206.3M Total; Dolittle \$21.8M FSS, \$77.0M Total.

Mortal Kombat (Warner Bros.) Feature film based on the popular video game. Action Adventure Fantasy Sci-Fi. <i>Finish him! A live-action movie from producer James Wan (The Conjuring, Aquaman) will reboot the iconic fighting game franchise for the big screen. Finally, after so many years, Mortal Kombat returns to theatres.</i>	PG13	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/HBO Max IMAX
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Wrath of Man (MGM/UAR) A cold and mysterious character working at a cash truck company is responsible for moving hundreds of millions of dollars around Los Angeles each week. Action Thriller. Jason Statham, Scott Eastwood. Guy Ritchie W/D. Contemporary fiction.	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
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Some Kind of Heaven (Magnolia) Filmmaker Lance Oppenheim examines life at The Villages, a Florida retirement community where seniors enjoy their golden years. Documentary. <i>The film presents issues that make the viewer, regardless of age, think of aging, self-fulfillment, love, and happiness.</i>	NR	83	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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The Dig (Netflix) Depicts the discovery of the Sutton Hoo burial site on the property of Edith Pretty. Biographical History Drama. Based on the 2007 novel of the same name by John Preston, which reimagines the events of the 1939 excavation of Sutton Hoo.	PG13	97	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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MLK/FBI (IFC Films) Based on newly declassified files, Sam Pollard's resonant film explores the US government's surveillance and harassment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Documentary.	NR	104	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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The Wake of Light (Independent) In this timely, heartfelt film, a young woman has to choose between caring for her aging father or a chance at love. Romantic Drama. <i>The film has won over 20 Film Festival Awards during its festival run. The film is written, directed, and produced by Renji Phillip and stars Rome Brooks and Matt Bush ("The Goldbergs").</i>	NR	80	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Select/Virtual VOD 2/15
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Untitled Trafalgar Event Film (Trafalgar Releasing)	NR	NA	NA	Event Cinema
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1/22-28

(2020 Wk 4 Box Office: \$123,000,798)

2020 openings: The Gentlemen \$10.7M FSS, \$36.5M Total; The Turning \$7.0M FSS, \$15.5M Total.

Chaos Walking (Lionsgate) 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. Adventure Science Fiction. <i>The series is named after a line in the first book: "The Noise is a man unfiltered, and without a filter, a man is just chaos walking." The series consists of a trilogy of novels and three short stories.</i>	PG13	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide
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The Marksman (Open Road) (formerly titled The Minuteman) A rancher on the Arizona border becomes the unlikely defender of a young Mexican boy desperately fleeing the cartel assassins who've pursued him into the U.S. Action Thriller. <i>Open Road has experienced success with previous Liam Neeson action films such as The Grey and recently Honest Thief. The film combines the action expected along with a deeply-drawn character study of the human condition.</i>	NA	NA	NA	Wide
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Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures) An inspiring and extraordinary true story of the Teague family—journalist Matt, his vibrant wife and their two young daughters—and how their lives are upended by Nicole's heartbreaking diagnosis of terminal cancer. Dakota Johnson, Jason Segel, Casey Affleck. Drama. <i>Devastated by his wife's passing, Matthew Teague wrote an article that dared to describe the death, and now it's become a disingenuous tearjerker.(TIFFreview). Specialized film.</i>	NA	126	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Moderate (300)/VOD
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The Human Factor (Sony Pictures Classics) The epic behind-the-scenes story of the U.S.'s 30-year effort to secure peace in the Middle East. Recounted from the unique perspective of the American mediators on the frontlines. Documentary.	PG13	108	Flat (1.78 : 1)	NY/LA
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Nine Days (Sony Pictures Classics) A reclusive man conducts a series of interviews with human souls for a chance to be born. Drama Fantasy. <i>Not for everyone, but one of the striking directorial debuts of recent years (Todd McCarthy, HR).</i>	R	124	Flat (1.78 : 1)	NY/LA
No Man's Land (IFC Films) When a vigilante border patrol turns fatal, a man flees on horseback to Mexico, seeking forgiveness from the victim's father. Action Adventure Thriller Western. <i>Well written screenplay creates a story of redemption and forgiveness in a journey across deserts and mountains to seek forgiveness from a dead boy's vengeful father.</i>	NR	115	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD

Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Nomadland (Searchlight) A woman embarks on a journey through the American West after losing everything during the recession. Drama. <i>The film is playing a one-week Academy virtual run at Lincoln Center in New York.</i>	12/4 NYC, 1 Wk Virtual	Expand 2021 TBD	12/4/2020 Platform
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.	Moderate	12/25/20	12/18/20
The Marksman (Open Road) A rancher on the Arizona border becomes the unlikely defender of a young Mexican boy desperately fleeing the cartel assassins who've pursued him into the U.S. Action Thriller.	Wide	1/22/21	NEW

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
Dreamland (Quiver Distribution)	R	Drug content, violence, and language throughout
Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures)	R	Language
Rams (Samuel Goldwyn Films)	PG13	Language
Supernova (Bleecker Street)	R	Language
The Velvet Underground (Apple)	R	Language, sexual content, nudity and some drug material

Screening Room – New Trailers



Title: The Mauritanian (STXFilms)

Release Date: 2/19/21

Director: Kevin Macdonald (The Eagle, State Of Play, The King Of Scotland, How I Live Now)

Starring: Jodie Foster, Tahar Rahim, Zachary Levi, Saamer Usmani with Shailene Woodley and Benedict Cumberbatch

Synopsis: A detainee at the U.S military's Guantanamo Bay detention center is held without charges for over a decade and seeks help from a defense attorney for his release. Thriller. *Based upon the Book: "Guantanamo Diary" by Mohamedou Ould Slahi*



Title: Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures)

Release Date: 1/22/21 Moderate

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite

Starring: Jason Segel, Dakota Johnson, Casey Affleck

Synopsis: the inspiring and extraordinary true story of the Teague family—journalist Matt (Casey Affleck), his vibrant wife Nicole (Dakota Johnson) and their two young daughters—and how their lives are upended by Nicole's heartbreaking diagnosis of terminal cancer. *Based on "The Friend: Love Is Not a Big Enough Word" by Matthew Teague.*



Title: Pinocchio (Roadside Productions)

Release Date: 12/25/20 Wide

Director: Matteo Garrone (Tale Of Tales, Gomorra, Dogman)

Starring: Federico Ielapi, Roberto Benigni, Rocco Papaleo

Synopsis: Live-action adaptation of a 2019 Italian fantasy film, co-written and directed by Matteo Garrone, and based on the 1883 book The Adventures of Pinocchio by Italian author Carlo Collodi. *A lovingly made take on Pinocchio, in thrall to goodness and kindness, with beautiful creature creations and eccentric humor. It lacks a little weight, but it brings big smiles (Empire Magazine).*

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Title: Fatale (Lionsgate) Official Trailer

Release Date: 12/18/20 Wide

Director: Deon Taylor (Black And Blue, The Intruder, Traffik)

Starring: Hilary Swank, Mike Colter, Michael Ealy

Synopsis: A married man's life turns into a living nightmare when he has a one-night stand with a manipulative woman. Thriller. *In August 2019, Lionsgate acquired distribution rights to the film. It was initially scheduled to be released on June 19, 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was then scheduled to be released on October 30, 2020; however, it was pushed to 2021 in early October. However, on November 23, 2020, it was moved up to December 18, 2020.*



Title: Two of Us (AKA: Deux) (Magnolia Pictures)

Release Date: 2/5/21 Limited/VOD

Director: Filippo Meneghetti (Maistrac: lavorare in Cantiere (Documentary), also screenwriter)

Starring: Barbara Sukowa, Martine Chevallier, Léa Drucker

Synopsis: Pensioners Nina and Madeleine have hidden their deep and passionate love for many decades, but their bond is put to the test when they are suddenly unable to move freely between each other's apartments. Comedy Drama. *An absolutely beautiful and refreshing story of two older women as sexual beings in all their yearning. Positive reviews all around for this French production.*



Title: Mank (Netflix) Latest trailer in monochrome black and white

Release Date: Currently playing theatrical and globally SVOD

Director: David Fincher (Gone Girl, The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, The Social Network)

Starring: Gary Oldman, Amanda Seyfried, Lily Collins, Arliss Howard,

Synopsis: A scathing social critique of 1930s Hollywood through the eyes of alcoholic screenwriter Herman J. Mankiewicz as he races to finish the screenplay of Citizen Kane. *Directed by David Fincher, based on a screenplay by his late father Jack Fincher. The film is often mentioned as a strong candidate for Best Picture as well as numerous acting roles and production work.*



Title: The Marksman (Open Road Films/Briarcliff) First Trailer

Release Date: 1/21/21 Wide

Director: Robert Lorenz (Trouble With The Curve, producer of American Sniper, Gran Torino)

Starring: Liam Neeson

Synopsis: A rancher in an Arizona border town must help a young boy escape a Mexican drug cartel. Action Thriller. *The latest Liam Neeson action film looks to be among his best and is a theatrical release only.*