



Monday, December 14, 2020 | No. 146

On December 14, 1993, the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles hosted the world premiere and benefit screening of *Philadelphia*, starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington and directed by Jonathan Demme. The film [broke ground](#) for Hanks' Oscar-winning performance as a gay man afflicted with AIDS and discrimination of the conservative society around him. One week later, the film's theatrical opening came one day after the Clinton administration issued its "Don't Ask Don't Tell" directive, a political compromise intending to provide space for homosexual service members to remain in the military as long as they did not openly declare their sexual orientation. Hollywood has struggled with its own reputation for presenting sanitized versions of reality – see [#OscarsSoWhite](#). However, as attitudes within broader society have changed, it is undeniable that movies have become dramatically more diverse in the stories they tell and the characters they portray. Case in point, Clea DuVall's [Happiest Season](#) starring Kristen Stewart is one of Hulu's hottest films of the season, a rom-com about a same-sex couple travelling home for the holidays to meet the family.



[\(Click to Play\)](#)

PHILADELPHIA

*Listen to [Mary Steenburgen](#) reflecting on the changes in cultural attitudes in the 27 years between her two roles in *Philadelphia* and *Happiest Season*. Enjoy listening to the title song from [Bruce Springsteen](#) and closing from [Neil Young](#).*

Weekend Box Office Results... 12/11 – 12/13

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	3	2,115	3,010,000	1,423	24,260,000
2	Half Brothers (Focus Features)	2	1,386	490,000	354	1,382,000
3	Freaky (Universal)	5	1,235	315,000	255	8,234,000
4	The War With Grandpa (101 Studios)	10	1,080	266,864	247	17,964,819
5	All My Life (Universal)	2	965	215,000	223	696,000
6	Come Play (Focus Features)	7	610	175,000	287	9,209,000
7	Die Hard (20 th Century)	1,692	823	136,000	165	81,030,298
8	Honest Thief (Open Road/Briarcliff)	10	625	135,000	216	14,020,771
9	Tenet (Warner Bros.)	16	478	125,000	262	57,800,000
10	Let Him Go (Focus Features)	6	765	120,000	157	9,206,000

More Notable North American Openers

- Bleecker Street opened **Wild Mountain Thyme** in 450 location to \$100.5K for a Per Theatre Average of \$223.
- RLJE Films' release of **Archenemy** grossed an estimated \$55.7K on 94 screens for a Per Theatre Average of \$590.

International

- Sony's **Monster Hunter** added \$1.3M this weekend with new openings in South Africa, Oman and Iraq. The cume stands at \$4.8M.
- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its third weekend earned \$8.4M in 12 international markets. When combined with the North American weekend of \$3M, the worldwide weekend was \$11.4M and the cume is \$76.3M.
- Universal's **Freaky** now in its fifth weekend grossed an estimated \$258K in 32 international markets. Combined with the North American weekend of \$315K the worldwide weekend generated \$573k and the global cume to date is \$14.195M.
- Warner Bros.' **The Witches** grossed an estimated \$2.2M in 37 overseas markets on 2,218 screens, bringing the international cume to \$22M. It debuted in Australia to an estimated \$1.2M and ranked #1 for the weekend.
- Warner Bros.' **Tenet** generated an estimated \$739K globally this weekend from 45 markets. This takes the international running cume to \$303.5M, the domestic total to \$57.8M and the worldwide total is currently \$361.3M.

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POPCORN PREVIEWS BOX OFFICE BUZZ...looking at the steady stream of holiday hits heading for theatres from Christmas through July 4th.

Notable Industry News and Commentary... 12/6 – 12/12

[Christopher Nolan Rips HBO Max as "Worst Streaming Service," Denounces Warner Bros.' Plan](#) (Hollywood Reporter)

Christopher Nolan has been Warner Bros.' most prominent and successful filmmaker since they began working together 18 years ago. Nolan's films have grossed \$5.1B at the box office, almost all of it made with Warner Bros. Despite their long and productive collaboration, Nolan came out swinging after the studio's unexpected announcement last week that it would release its entire slate of films in 2021 as simultaneous release to theatres and HBO Max streaming. The implications of the studio's "bold" decision are still being sorted out in Hollywood and across the country. Many analysts have commented that the studio's corporate owners AT&T and WarnerMedia saw this as a unique opportunity to lift the prospects for HBO Max in the high-stakes streaming wars. Currently, HBO Max has only 8.6M *activated* subscribers (all in the US) whereas Disney+ has 86M and Netflix has 190M worldwide.

However, the complications for WB have multiplied since they made their unexpected announcement, with many suspicious about impact to payouts for filmmakers, actors and agents. Exhibitors are aghast that the studio would decide to obliterate the exclusive theatrical window on a single day, without consultation. Warner Bros. execs explain that the change will give consumers more choice on when and where they watch these new, exciting films and that watching them in theatres is one of those options. In the end, it will come down to the bottom line for the studio, and how that settles out is quite uncertain.



Christopher Nolan said, "some of our industry's biggest filmmakers and most important movie stars went to bed the night before thinking they were working for the greatest movie studio and woke up to find out they were working for the worst streaming service."

See also: [Christopher Nolan Calls Warner Bros.' Shift To Streaming New Movies 'A Great Danger'](#) (NPR) and ["Dune" Producer Legendary Entertainment May Sue Warner Bros. Over HBO Max](#) (Variety)

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Rune Fisker for Variety

[Streaming Salvation: How Studios Made Bank Selling Movies to Netflix and Amazon During the Pandemic](#) (Variety)

It is understandable that exhibitors are upset with decisions taken by Universal and now Warner Bros. to prioritize streaming at the expense of theatrical distribution. But it is equally understandable that studios would take such steps, in an extended period when theatres have been forced to close or operated with dramatically reduced capacity. The fact of the matter is that streaming is booming and is where all the money in the industry is being made. For studios that do not have an in-house streaming platform such as Paramount and Sony, the only

way during the pandemic to generate income from their films has been to sell their distribution rights to streamers. Several prominent examples of this phenomenon are Sony selling distribution rights in May for Tom Hanks' *Greyhound* to Apple TV+ for \$70M and Paramount selling right in October for Eddie Murphy's *Coming 2 America* to Amazon for \$125M. Originally, both films had been planned as theatrical releases. These production studios are adapting to the pandemic economics by taking what they can get, and the streamers are only too happy to acquire original studio content to showcase for their subscribers. One studio lawyer explained, "my life now is selling films to Netflix, Amazon Prime and the streamers." Studios such as Disney and Warner Bros. that have their own in-house streaming platform are using them to showcase their own films and attract new subscribers.

[NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell Says Peacock Hit 26M Signups; Defends Theatrical Window Busting For "Stuck In The Mud" Film Business](#) (Deadline)

NBCUniversal CEO Jeff Shell gave his take on Warner Bros. day-and-date distribution strategy for its 2021 films. He said that movie theaters have been "stuck in the mud" when it comes to defending the 90-day window. He cites a "growing segment of the population...that want to watch movies in a non-premium, way, which is at home... the more windows can collapse so there are other ways to see things at home in a less premium fashion, the more money is going to be made by everyone involved in the movie business." This analysis of course is heavily disputed by many in the industry and it's worth keeping in mind this is coming from the head of Universal, the studio that started the streaming trend by releasing *Trolls World Tour* straight to PVOD. Universal has been pushing for streaming release for years, but the difference this year is that the balance of power has shifted to studios to make their own decisions, especially those which have in-house streaming platforms.



Jeff Shell, CEO of NBC Universal

See also: [Would Cinemas Be Hypocritical Playing Warner-HBO Max Movies After Continual Netflix Rebuff? Let's Count Exhibition's Headaches Right Now](#) (Deadline)

[NATO's John Fithian on the Cinema Recovery Effort, Theatrical exclusivity Windows](#) (BoxofficePro)

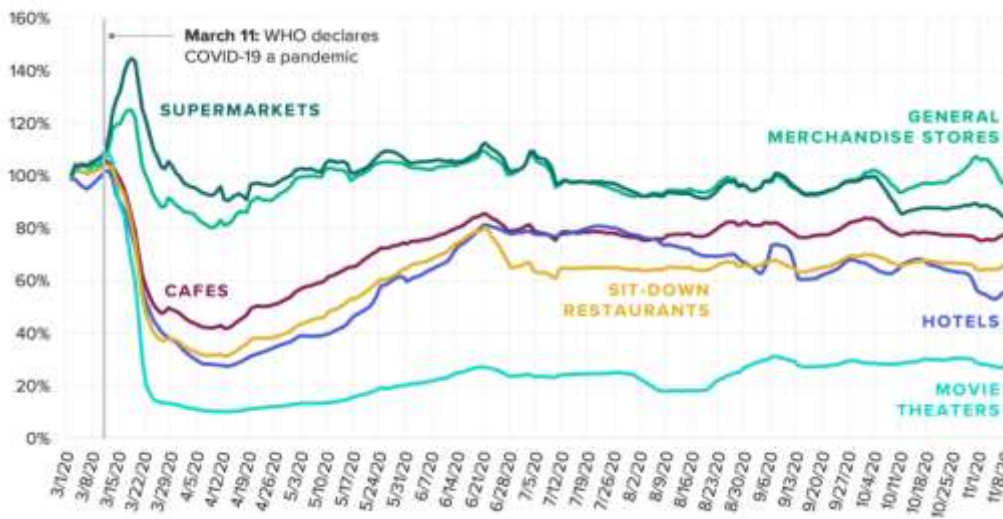
John Fithian, CEO of National Association of Theater Owners, gave an exclusive interview to BoxofficePro this week on the association's lobbying efforts to secure disaster relief for beleaguered theatres, his reaction to changes from studios on theatrical release windows and his outlook for exhibition. This is Fithian's first interview in several months, and he provides extensive commentary on all these topics.



John Fithian, CEO of NATO

How the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacted Foot Traffic Across Six U.S. Industries

U.S. foot traffic relative to March 1



[Movie Theaters Need New Films and Sanguine Customers. What Will Next Year Bring?](#)

(Morning Consult)

Morning Consult offers an interesting overview of the cross-currents pushing around the business of motion picture exhibition. First and foremost, a large majority of consumers remain concerned about the health risks of going to a movie theatre. Ironically, those consumers are much more at ease shopping at a supermarket or retail store, or even dining out at a restaurant. Another important factor is that exhibitors have limited films choices to play that would lure

customers back to their theatres. How eager would people be to go to a restaurant if they could only order leftovers? But help is on the way, with the imminent rollout of the coronavirus vaccine and Hollywood beginning to loosen up its embargo on releasing new films to theatres. At this point, the trick for exhibitors is to hold out long enough to be around when the recovery hits. Theatre owners are hopeful that government will come through with disaster relief and that their investors and landlords will be equally understanding to help them survive.

[Disney shows off the unstoppable power of its franchises as stock hits an all-time high](#) (CNBC)

Disney's four-hour Investor Day presentation was a big hit with the markets, bringing the company's stock price to an all-time high, effectively matching the trading multiples of Netflix. One year ago, pre-pandemic, this feat would have seemed impossible. What's next, TESLA? A secret to Disney's recent success has been its ability to adapt its deep bench of fan-favorite characters and franchises to multiple consumer outlets, including TV series, movies, theme parks and merchandise. The hub of the wheel is streaming, with the company introducing a streaming bundle made up of Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+ for \$18.99/month.



Watch these [Amazing Sizzle Reels](#) from Disney's Investor Day (12/10)

[ANDOR](#) (Star Wars Original Series)

[THE BAD BATCH](#) (Star Wars Animated)

[LOKI](#) (Marvel Original Series Exclusive Clip)

[MS. MARVEL](#) (Marvel Animated Series)

[THE FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER](#) (First Look)

[THE MANDALORIAN SEASON 2](#) (Star Wars Original Series)

[WANDA VISION HOMECOMING](#) (Marvel Original Series)

[WHAT IF?...ENDLESS](#) (Marvel Original Series)

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An Exhibitor-Led Premium Video On Demand Service Offering At-home Viewing of Major Studio Hollywood Films

2020 has forced all organizations to re-examine their place in the industry and the way in which they serve their customers. While consumers have shifted their movie viewing on-line, forward-thinking exhibitors now have an opportunity to meet them there by providing their own on-line movie viewing service.

Screendollars is partnering with Premium Video On Demand provider ROW8 and Exhibitor Relations firm Paper Airplane to provide a turnkey solution for exhibitors. Using the ROW8 digital screening platform, exhibitors can offer their customers a branded service for at-home movie viewing, showcasing the latest Hollywood releases fresh from their theatrical runs, at the same time when they become available on the major streaming platforms.

Exhibitors can launch their new service in a matter of weeks or months and with no up-front cost by leveraging ROW8's established technology and licensing agreements with all major studios. Customers can access the service and browse movies from widely available smart TV platforms, such as Apple TV, Roku and Samsung Smart TV.



ROW8 gives exhibitors a path to expand existing customer relationships to on-line, capitalizing on the new movie viewing habits formed during this year's pandemic. For more information, e-mail Screendollars at contactus@screendollars.com or call (978)494-4150.

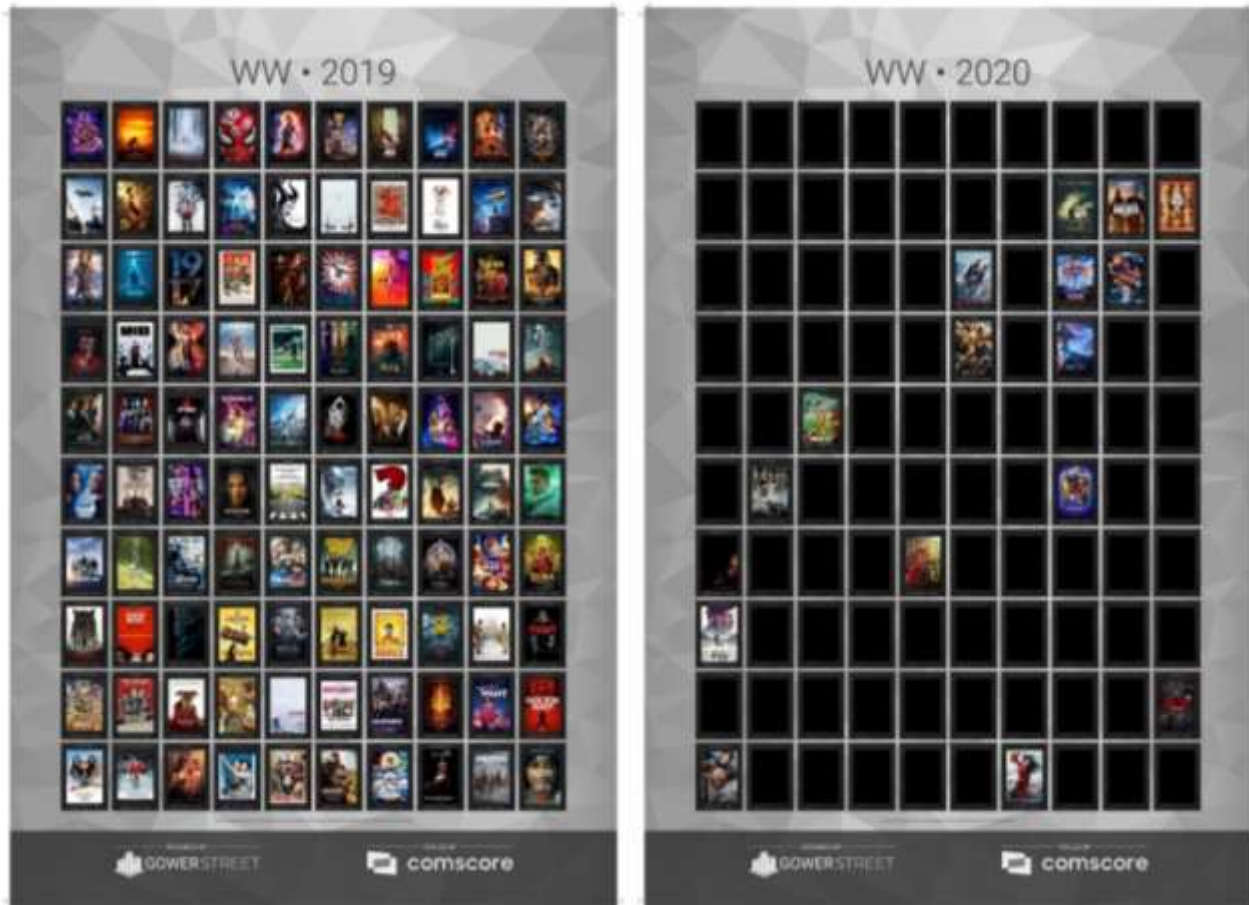
GOWER STREET'S *Box Office Outlook*

2020 Vision: Part 1 - How Top Global Performers Compare to 2019

As 2020 winds to a close, the devastation wrought on the global box office by the COVID-19 crisis becomes only more evident. Gower Street estimates global box office to have lost \$26.2 billion compared to an average of the past three years up to December 6. By the close of the year this figure is likely to stand around \$29-30 billion.

How do titles released stack up on a global basis? This week we take a look at how 2020's top performing titles compare to those of 2019. The "WW 2019" image (below left) displays the top 100 global performers released in 2019 tracking left to right and top to bottom, from AVENGERS: ENDGAME at #1 with \$2.8 billion (top left) to horror MA at #100 with \$61.2 million (bottom right).

The comparative "WW 2020" image (below right) shows the titles released in 2020 that (as of Dec. 6) have achieved a global box office performance equivalent to those of 2019. Each 2020 title is placed in the position that its global box office corresponds to in the 2019 image.



To explore the images more closely you can access downloadable hi-res versions of both. This will enable you to zoom in to see data on each title with Domestic, International and Global box office displayed beneath each individual poster image.

You can access the 2019 image here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/jhmf6s2hnnw9bqd/WW_2019.jpg?dl=1

You can access the 2020 (to Dec. 6) image here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/a4eu3uqoujde5ac/WW_2020.jpg?dl=1

The sheer amount of black space tells a clear story. As of December 6 only 17 titles released in 2020 have achieved grosses that would have scored them a position in the top 100 global titles the previous year.

No title has achieved a gross equivalent to a top 15 title of 2019. Of course, 2019 was a record-breaking year with an astonishing nine \$1 billion+ global grossers.

The top performing title of 2020 is China's THE EIGHT HUNDRED (\$440m), coming in at a position approximately equivalent to #18 on the 2019 table. To put this in, what would now seem a bizarre, context there was more than one \$400 million+ global grossing film in 2019 that was branded a disappointment in the press. What a difference a year, and a global pandemic, has made.

This year marks the first time on record that a non-US title has achieved the global #1 position. But even this is a far cry from the top earning Chinese titles of 2019 NE ZHA (\$728m) and THE WANDERING EARTH (\$700m) – neither of which made the global top 10 in 2019.

The top performing US title has been the pre-pandemic release of BAD BOYS FOR LIFE with \$427 million. It is followed in a '2019 top 20 equivalent' position by China's MY PEOPLE, MY HOMELAND, also topping \$400 million.

Both THE EIGHT HUNDRED and MY PEOPLE, MY HOMELAND are post-lockdown releases. They are two of 10 titles displayed in the 2020 image that have been released post-lockdown. Seven of them are Chinese titles, further demonstrating the newly-crowned #1 global market's success in rejuvenating consumer confidence in returning to cinemas after a full six-month shutdown from late January to late July.

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Of the remaining three post lockdown titles featured one is MULAN where the lion's share of its \$67 million theatrical box office was delivered in China (\$40m); while another is the Japanese mega-hit DEMON SLAYER THE MOVIE: MUGEN TRAIN. Unsurprisingly Christopher Nolan's TENET, with \$358 million to Dec. 6, is the best performing post-lockdown US title.

It should be noted that another title will now have entered the 2020 image. THE CROODS: A NEW AGE had grossed \$60.6 million globally to Dec. 6 putting it just outside the 2019 chart, in an equivalent position to China's MY BEST SUMMER (\$60.8m). But the CROODS sequel has overtaken MA's grosses since Dec. 6.

It is also feasibly a couple more titles may enter, most notably WONDER WOMAN 1984 which begins its international roll-out this coming week. Despite this potential it is most likely that 2020 will finish the year with no more than 20 titles delivering a box office equivalent to a top 100 title in 2019.

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>

MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

Content, as Sumner Redstone famously said, is king.

But in the new world of streaming, not all content is equal. Theatrical films draw great media attention, but original content seems most effective when it comes to attracting and keeping subscribers.

Original streaming content's high value was evident at Disney's four-hour Investor Day presentation Thursday, focusing in depth on what Disney+ streaming audiences will see in the coming months. Among these were 3 Disney/Lucasfilm projects ([THE MANDALORIAN](#), [ANDOR](#) & [THE BAD BATCH](#)) and 5 Disney/Marvel projects ([LOKI](#), [THE FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER](#), [MS. MARVEL](#), [WANDA VISION](#) & [WHAT IF?](#)).

Theatrical films are high profile one-time events, but some subscribers will cancel right after seeing them. Original series content keeps subscribers engaged for seasons as they binge view or return regularly to catch up. In particular, the STAR WARS driven MANDALORIAN series (pictured) is an amazing asset for Disney+, which now has 86.8M subscribers and is still growing.

Understandably, Disney stock soared Friday, closing at \$175.72 as Wall Street applauded the company's phenomenal success with Disney+.



* * *

After many months with no promising new product, exhibitors are about to have a merry Christmas.

We're not expecting the hefty ticket sales Christmas used to bring, but tracking reports indicate moviegoers want to see the holiday openings.

Lionsgate's R thriller FATALE, arriving 12/18, stars Hilary Swank & Michael Ealy. It's tracking best with -25M and next best with +25M.

Three new films and 1 reissue will hit theatres 12/25. WB/DC's PG-13 action fantasy WONDER WOMAN 1984 reteams Gal Gadot with Patty Jenkins, director of the 2017 original. It's tracking huge with +25M and nearly as well with +25F—and is scoring well above the norms with all 4 demos.



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Sony/Tencent's PG-13 MONSTER HUNTER stars Milla Jovovich in an action fantasy based on the Capcom video game. It's tracking well and almost equally with +25M, -25M & +25F.

Universal/Playtone's PG-13 awards contender drama NEWS OF THE WORLD reteams Tom Hanks with his CAPTAIN PHILLIPS director Paul Greengrass (pictured). It's tracking best with +25M & +25F.

Roadside's reissue of the 2002 G rated family fantasy PINOCCHIO is from director/co-writer/star Roberto Benigni. It's tracking best with +25M.

Update – Studio Release Calendar

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 (2000+)
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. Early Shows on Thursday, 12/17, 7pm.</i>	PG13	103	Scope (2.35 : 1), 3D, IMAX, Atmos	Wide (2000+)
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
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 pursuit of a predator encompasses the dangerous task of chasing after something not designed to run.</i>	NR	94	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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 on 12/20 SVOD on 1/7
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 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>	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. <i>Early reviews have been outstanding for this major worldwide box office hit.</i>	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). One of the best audience films of 2020.</i>	PG13	119A	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide (2000+) 17-24-day VOD
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 in fact 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. Screenings indicate a film with beautiful scenery and settings with a purposeful pacing. Moderate business.</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 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.				
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.				
The Devil's Light (Lionsgate) A nun prepares to perform an exorcism and comes face to face with a demonic force with mysterious ties to her past. Horror.	NA	NA	NA	Wide
The Bid (GVN Releasing) Two Philadelphia rappers, Maurquis Boone and Richard Harris get framed by an overzealous police officer. Comedy.	NR	90	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited on 1/12
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 is returns to theatres.</i>	PG13	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/HBO Max IMAX
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
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
The Dig (Netflix) Depicts the discovery of the Sutton Hoo burial site on the property of Edith Pretty. Based on the 2007 novel of the same name by John Preston, which reimagines the events of the 1939 excavation of Sutton Hoo. Biographical History Drama.	PG13	97	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

Goodbye Butterfly (Gravitas Ventures) Ryan, a loving family man 5-year-old daughter is murdered. When the police investigation hits a dead end, he has a chance encounter with an oddball neighbor named Stan (Andy Lauer) and becomes convinced he is the killer. After the police ignore his suspicions, Ryan's obsession with Stan quickly turns violent. It begs the question: Just how far would you go for justice? Thriller.	NA	NA	NA	Limited/VOD
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
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
Untitled Trafalgar Event Film (Trafalgar Releasing)	NR	NA	NA	Event Cinema
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
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
Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures) An 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. 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
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
1/29-2/4 (2020 Wk 5 Box Office: \$84,115,579) 2020 openings: Gretel & Hansel \$6.2M FSS, \$15.3M Total; The Rhythm Section \$2.7M FSS, \$5.4M Total.				
The Little Things (Warner Bros.) A burned-out deputy sheriff with an eye for detail teams with a detective to reel in a wily serial killer. Crime Thriller.	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/HBO Max
Finding You (Roadside Attractions) Finley, a talented aspiring violinist, meets Beckett, a famous young movie star, on the way to her college semester abroad program in a small coastal village in Ireland. An unexpected romance emerges as the heartthrob Beckett leads the uptight Finley on an adventurous reawakening, and she emboldens him to take charge of his future, until the pressures of his stardom get in the way. Drama Romance.	PG	97	NA	Moderate
Supernova (Bleecker Street) Sam (Colin Firth) and Tusker (Stanley Tucci), partners of 20 years, who are travelling across England in their old campervan visiting friends, family and places from their past. Following a life-changing diagnosis, their time together has become more important than ever until secret plans test their love like never before. Drama Romance.	R	93	NA	Limited

The Night (IFC Films) An Iranian couple living in the US become trapped inside a hotel when insidious events force them to face the secrets that have come between them, in a night that never ends. Horror Mystery Thriller.	NR	105	NA	Limited
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Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Coming 2 America (Paramount) <i>Distribution moves to Amazon Prime Video.</i> Akeem learns he has a long-lost son in the United States and must return to America to meet the unlikely heir to the throne of Zamunda. A sequel to the 1988 comedy 'Coming to America'. Comedy.	SVOD	3/5/21	12/18/20
Breaking News in Yuba County (UA Releasing) When an overlooked pencil pusher catches her husband in bed with another woman, the shock causes him to die of a heart attack so she buries his body and takes advantage of the growing celebrity status that comes from having a missing husband. Comedy Drama.	Limited	2/12/21	1/22/21
Nobody (Universal) A bystander who intervenes to help a woman being harassed by a group of men becomes the target of a vengeful drug lord. Action Thriller. Action.	Wide	2/26/21	2/18/20
Raya and the Last Dragon (Disney) In a land called Kumandra, split into five different regions, a warrior named Raya searches for the last dragon in the world. Animation.	Wide/ Disney+	3/12/21	NEW
Boogie (Focus Features) A Chinese-American basketball phenom who struggles to balance the expectations of his immigrant family with his own dreams of becoming a player for the NBA. Coming of age drama.	Wide	3/5/21	NEW
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.	NY/LA	2/26/21	12/18/21
French Exit (Sony Pictures Classics) A widowed New York socialite and her aimless son move to Paris after she spends the last of her husband's inheritance. Comedy Drama.	NY/LA	2/12/21	NEW
The Human Voice (Sony Pictures Classics) A woman watches time passing next to the suitcases of her ex-lover (who is supposed to come pick them up, but never arrives) and a restless dog who doesn't understand that his master has abandoned him. Two living beings facing abandonment. Drama Short.	NY/LA	3/5/21	NEW
The Truffle Hunters (Sony Pictures Classics) A handful of men search for rare, expensive and delicious white Alba truffles deep in the forests of Piedmont, Italy. Documentary.	NY/LA	3/5/21	12/25/20
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.	NY/LA	TBD	1/8/21
Nine Days (Sony Pictures Classics) A reclusive man conducts a series of interviews with human souls for a chance to be born. Drama Fantasy.	NY/LA	TBD	1/22/21

Update – Upcoming Disney/20th Century Release Schedule

Title	Runs	New	Former
Everybody's Talking About Jamie (20th Century) Feature film adaptation of the musical about a teenager from Sheffield, England who wants to be a drag queen. Musical	Wide	2/26/21	NEW
Raya And The Last Dragon (Disney) In a land called Kumandra, split into five different regions, a warrior named Raya searches for the last dragon in the world. Animation	Wide/ Disney+	3/5/21	NEW
The King's Man (20th Century) In the early years of the 20th century, the Kingsman agency is formed to stand against a cabal plotting a war to wipe out millions.	Wide	3/12/21	NEW
Bob's Burgers (20th Century) The further adventures of hamburger restaurateur Bob Belcher and his quirky family. Animation comedy.	Wide	4/9/21	NEW
Ron's Gone Wrong (20th Century) In a world where walking, talking, digitally connected bots have become children's best friends, 11-year-old Ron finds that his robot buddy doesn't quite work. Science fiction adventure.	Wide	4/23/21	NEW
Black Widow (Disney) Following the events of Captain America: Civil War (2016), Natasha Romanoff finds herself alone and forced to confront a dangerous conspiracy with ties to her past. Pursued by a force that will stop at nothing to bring her down, Romanoff must deal with her history as a spy and the broken relationships left in her wake long before she became an Avenger. Fantasy.	Wide	5/7/21	NEW

Free Guy (20th Century) A bank teller called Guy realizes he is a background character in an open world video game called Free City that will soon go offline. Action comedy	Wide	5/21/21	NEW
Cruella (Disney) A live-action feature film following the evil exploits of Cruella de Vil, the villain from the Disney film, "101 Dalmatians". Adventure	Wide	5/28/21	NEW
Luca (Disney) On the Italian Riviera, an unlikely but strong friendship grows between a human being and a sea monster disguised as a human. Family animation adventure.	Wide	6/18/21	NEW
Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings (Disney) When Shang-Chi is drawn into the clandestine Ten Rings organization, he is forced to confront the past he thought he left behind. Marvel superhero action.	Wide	7/9/21	NEW
Jungle Cruise (Disney) Set during the early 20th century, a riverboat captain named Frank takes a scientist and her brother on a mission into a jungle to find the Tree of Life which is believed to possess healing powers. All the while, the trio must fight against dangerous wild animals and a competing German expedition. Adventure.	Wide	7/30/21	NEW
Deep Water (20th Century) A married couple who has fallen out of love with each other begins playing deadly mind games against one another and sees those around them dying. Psychological erotic thriller.	Wide	8/13/21	NEW
The Beatle's Get Back (Disney) Directed by Peter Jackson the film covers the making of the Beatles' 1970 album Let It Be. Documentary	Wide	8/27/21	NEW
Death On The Nile (20th Century) The peace and tranquility that was temporarily existent on the S.S. Karnak is destroyed after one of the passengers is found murdered. Renowned Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is entrusted with the important task of identifying which one of the passengers is the killer before they strike again.	Wide	9/17/21	NEW
The Last Duel (20th Century) In 14th-century France, best friends Jean de Carrouges and Jacques Le Gris are ordered to fight to the death after Carrouges accuses Le Gris of raping his wife. Historical drama thriller.	Wide	10/15/21	NEW
Eternals (Disney) After an unexpected tragedy following the events of Avengers: Endgame (2019),[3] the Eternals—an immortal alien race created by the Celestials who have secretly lived on Earth for over 7000 years—reunite to protect humanity from their evil counterparts, the Deviants. Superhero film.	Wide	11/5/21	NEW
Encanto (Disney) A Colombian girl named Mariana grows up as only non-magical member in her family. Computer-animated musical fantasy	Wide	11/24/21	NEW
Untitled 20th Century	Wide	12/3/21	NEW
West Side Story (20th Century) adaptation of the 1957 musical, West Side Story explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Remake of 1960 Academy Award Best Picture.	Wide	12/10/21	NEW
Untitled Disney Live Action	Wide	12/17/21	NEW

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
The Boy from Medellin (Amazon Studios)	R	Language
Brothers by Blood (Vertical Entertainment)	R	Pervasive language, some violence, sexual references and brief drug use
Cosmic Sin (Saban Films)	R	Language including some sexual references, and violence
Dune (Warner Bros.)	PG13	Sequences of strong violence, some disturbing images and suggestive material
Halloween Kills (Universal)	R	Strong bloody violence throughout, grisly images, language and some drug use
Lamb (A24)	R	Some bloody violent images and sexuality/nudity
Malcolm and Marie (Netflix)	R	Pervasive language, and sexual content
The Marksman (Briarcliff)	PG13	Violence, some bloody images and brief strong language
Next Goal Wins (Searchlight)	PG13	Strong language and some crude material
Nona (Disney) short subject	G	
Operation Mincemeat (See-Saw Films)	PG13	Strong language, some sexual content, brief war violence, disturbing images, and smoking
People Just Do Nothing (Focus Features)	R	Language throughout, drug content and some crude sexual references
Tortured for Christ (Vision Video) Documentary	PG13	Disturbing thematic content including depictions of torture

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Under the Stadium Lights (Paramount)	PG13	Some thematic elements, violence and bloody images, drug material and language
The Vault (Saban Films)	R	Language

Screening Room – New Trailers



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

Release Date: 1/22/21 - 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 theatrical only. David Leitch is an American filmmaker, actor, stunt performer and stunt coordinator who made his directorial debut on the 2014 action film John Wick.*



Title: Nobody (Universal)

Release Date: 2/26/21 - Wide

Director: Ilya Naishuller (Hardcore Henry, Biting Elbows, I Am Losing Weight)

Starring: Bob Odenkirk, Connie Nielsen, Christopher Lloyd

Synopsis: A bystander who intervenes to help a woman being harassed by a group of men becomes the target of a vengeful drug lord. Action Thriller. *David Leitch is an American filmmaker, actor, stunt performer and stunt coordinator who made his uncredited directorial debut on the 2014 action film John Wick (executive produced the two John Wick sequels) and later Atomic Blonde. Originally scheduled for an August 14, 2020 release by Universal Pictures, the film's general release was rescheduled to February 26, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bob Odenkirk goes wild in this nonstop action film. Charles Bronson would be proud.*



Title: French Exit (Sony Pictures Classics)

Release Date: 2/12/21 - NY/LA

Director: Azazel Jacobs (Momma's Man, Terri, The Lovers)

Starring: Michelle Pfeiffer, Lucas Hedges, Tracy Letts

Synopsis: A widowed New York socialite and her aimless son move to Paris after she spends the last of her husband's inheritance. Comedy Drama. *A surreal comedy film directed by Azazel Jacobs, based on the novel of the same name by Patrick deWitt, who also wrote the screenplay. A close-to-penniless widow moves to Paris with her son and cat, who also happens to be her reincarnated husband. Michelle Pfeiffer has one of her best performances in this well reviewed sophisticated comedy.*



Title: Dune (Warner Bros.) Trailer #2

Release Date: 10/1/21 Wide/HBOMax

Director: Denis Villeneuve (Blade Runner 2049, Arrival, Sicario)

Starring: Timothée Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson, Oscar Isaac, Josh Brolin, Stellan Skarsgård,

Synopsis: In the far future of humanity, Duke Leto Atreides accepts stewardship of the dangerous desert planet Arrakis, also known as Dune, the only source of the most valuable substance in the universe, "the spice", a drug which extends human life, provides superhuman levels of thought, and makes faster-than-light travel possible.

Science Fiction. *The film is the first of a planned two-part adaptation of the 1965 novel of the same name by Frank Herbert, which will cover roughly the first half of the book. Filmed in IMAX, 3D.*



Title: The Suicide Squad (Warner Bros.)

Release Date: 8/6/21 - Wide/HBOMax

Director: James Gunn (Guardians of The Galaxy, Vol.2, Guardians of The Galaxy, Sliver)

Starring: Margot Robbie, Taika Waititi, Sylvester Stallone

Synopsis: Imprisoned convicts from Task Force X are sent on a new, sentence-easing mission to the South American island of Corto Maltese to destroy Jotunheim, a Nazi-era prison and laboratory which held political prisoners and conducted experimentations. Action Adventure. *The film is intended to be a soft reboot and standalone sequel to Suicide Squad (2016), and the tenth film in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU). Director James Gunn looked to the 1980s Suicide Squad comics for inspiration to focus on new characters rather than continue the prior film's narrative.*