



Monday, December 28, 2020 | No. 148

**The Thin Man** (1934) is the first in a popular series of comic detective films starring William Powell and Myrna Loy as Nick and Nora Charles. The story was adapted from a 1933 novel of the same name written by Dashiell Hammett, the famous author of crime stories. Nick is a recently retired police detective and his wife Nora is a wealthy heiress, living in California but visiting New York City to spend the Christmas holidays. Their witty banter animates the story as they enjoy the high life while solving crime mysteries. The success of the original film led to the development of a series, the benefits of which Hollywood is well acquainted. In fact, MGM is well known for its franchises. The **James Bond** spy series (originating through what is now MGM's United Artists label) has spawned 25 films over 57 years grossing a whopping \$7B at the box office, not including blockbuster returns expected from the upcoming **No Time to Die**. The surprise success of the 1976 **Rocky** (also originated through MGM's UA label) starring Sylvester Stallone, led to seven sequels or spin-offs with two more reported to be on the way. With MGM's [announcement this week](#) that it is putting itself up for sale for a cool \$5 billion, the industry will witness just how valuable these film franchises have become.



(Click to Play)

“I don’t usually look like this, I've been Christmas shopping.”

- Myrna Loy as Nora Charles in *The Thin Man* (1934)



(1934)



(1936)



(1939)



(1941)



(1945)



(1947)

## Weekend Box Office Results... 12/25– 12/27

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.)	1	2,151	16,700,000	7,764	16,700,000
2	News of the World (Universal)	1	1,900	2,400,000	1,263	24,00,000
3	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	5	1,726	1,730,000	1,002	30,347,000
4	Monster Hunter (Sony)	2	1,817	1,125,000	619	4,216,000
5	Promising Young Woman (Sony)	1	1,310	680,000	519	680,000
6	Fatale (Lionsgate)	2	1,168	660,000	565	1,961,261
7	Pinocchio (Roadside Attractions)	1	764	274,605	359	274,605
8	The War with Grandpa (101 Studios)	12	515	90,882	176	18,446,439
9	Freaky (Universal)	7	255	50,000	196	8,660,000
10	Come Play (Focus Features)	9	123	40,000	325	9,468,000

- Warner Bros.' **Wonder Woman 1984** tops the North American chart with an impressive \$16.7M in box office. This weekend, the film took in an estimated \$36.1M globally from 42 markets, including US and Canada. This takes the international running total to \$68.3M and the worldwide tally to \$85M.

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- Universal's **News of the World** is on track to bring in an estimated \$2.4M at the domestic box office.
- Focus Features opened **Promising Young Woman** in 1,310 locations to \$680K
- Roadside Attractions opened **Pinocchio** to an estimated \$275K in 764 locations for a per location average of \$359.
- Disney's **Soul** opened well in a handful of international markets this weekend with \$7.6M, the key opening market being China where it took in \$5.5M. It opened at #2 in Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Thailand.
- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its fifth weekend earned \$9.2M in 16 international markets, opening in 4 additional markets this weekend. Combined with the North American weekend of \$1.7M, the worldwide weekend generated \$10.9M and the global cume is \$98.5M.



*Click to play our BOX OFFICE BUZZ look at Christmas Weekend's four new arrivals... WONDER WOMAN 1984, PINOCCHIO, NEWS OF THE WORLD and PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN.*

## Notable Industry News and Commentary... 12/20 – 12/26

[Lawmakers Reach Deal On Covid-19 Relief That Includes \\$15 Billion For Movie Theaters, Live Venues](#) (Deadline) and [House Efforts to Alter Coronavirus Package Fail, Leaving Aid in Limbo](#) (Wall Street Journal)

News on nationwide COVID stimulus relief looked promising when both the US House and Senate passed a \$900B economic relief package on the Monday before Christmas. The package included general relief such as \$600 stimulus checks for individuals, \$284B to recharge the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan program for small businesses and a target of \$15B set aside in emergency relief for in-person entertainment venues such as movie theatres and live music halls. This last amount offered was in response to the “Save our Stages” lobbying campaign championed by NATO and should provide much needed support for independent theaters. The Independent Cinema Alliance estimates without this additional government support 70% of all independent theaters are at risk of closing permanently in 2021. However, President Trump threw a wrench into the works by calling the relief package a “disgrace” and threatening to veto the entire bill unless the amount of direct payments to individuals were increased to \$2,000. As of this writing it is still unclear how this plays out, though most expect some version of the bill will be cleared eventually.



The Little Theatre in Rochester, NY

[For movie theaters, the coronavirus stimulus bill is a tale of two industries](#) (Washington Post) and [Senator Amy Klobuchar Explains \\$15 Billion Save Our Stages Act](#) (Variety)

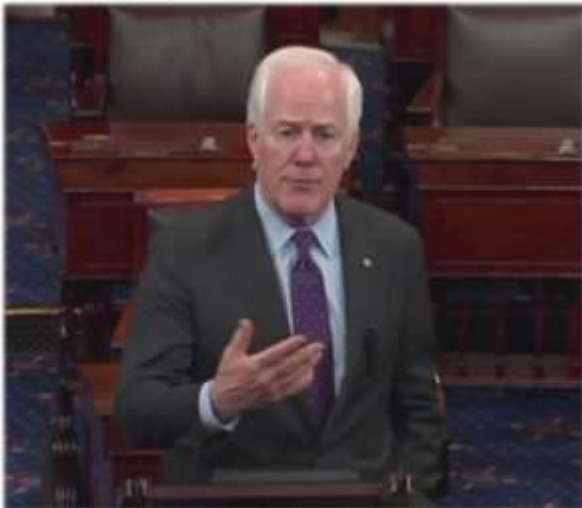
Last July, Senators John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Amy Klobuchar (D- Minnesota) and Representatives Peter Welch, (D-Vermont) and Roger Williams (R-Texas) introduced on Capitol Hill the [Save our Stages](#) act, a proposal to provide emergency financial assistance to live performance venues forced to close by the coronavirus pandemic. In the six months since its introduction, bi-partisan support for the measure has been building, culminating with it being included in the coronavirus stimulus bill which passed by Congress last week and now waiting for a presidential signature.

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Senator Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota



Senator John Conryn, R-Texas

Along the way, the scope of businesses eligible for relief has expanded to include independent movie theatres, museums, zoos and other “in-person entertainment” venues. Senator Klobuchar gave an interview this week to Variety Magazine to explain the provisions of the bill. The Small Business Administration will give grants equal to up to 47% of revenue from the pre-pandemic, 2019 period. Initially, applications will be processed from those businesses that have suffered the steepest decline in revenues, and gradually expand to include others. Notably, the country’s largest exhibitors including #1-AMC, #2-Regal and #3-Cinemark are not eligible for the relief under this program, which is targeted for support of small businesses. Studios also stand to gain, since wide theatrical releases have traditionally been an essential ingredient in the recipe for studios to recoup their large investments in making blockbuster films.

[Christmas 2020 Marks Historic Box Office-Streaming Mashup](#) (Hollywood Reporter) and [9 new movies to watch over the holidays](#) (Variety)

With Christmas falling on a Friday this year, the holiday weekend offered bountiful opportunities for movie fans to watch new films. Among theatrical releases, the highest expectations are for *Wonder Woman 1984*, the sequel to the 2017 blockbuster starring Gal Gadot. Warner Bros. is also making it available for home viewing on HBO Max, the in-house streaming platform of WB’s corporate owners AT&T/WarnerMedia. Another major weekend release is

Universal’s *News of the World* starring Tom Hanks, whose performance is generating buzz among critics as a worthy of an awards nomination. The biggest streaming-only release is Pixar’s animated comedy *Soul*, which debuted Christmas Day on Disney+ streaming. Disney had planned on a theatrical release at Thanksgiving for the Pixar original film, but announced in October that it would instead re-direct it to Disney+ for a Christmas opening. These three holiday releases - one theatrical, one streaming and one hybrid/day-and-date – demonstrate how unusual 2020 has become for the film industry, full of experimentation born from necessity.

[Bollywood, Reeling From the Pandemic, Shifts to Streaming](#) (NY Times)

It is not only Hollywood studios that have been forced to rethink film distribution in 2020. India’s Bollywood is responsible for the world’s second largest film output, totaling \$2.5B in box office sales in 2019. India’s studios had planned a full slate of theatrical releases for 2020, until the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March when the country’s 10,000 cinemas were forced to close. With many still shuttered and others operating at limited capacity, exhibition has had to make do by playing re-issues of popular releases from years past and new release, low budget films. Studios have moved 28 major releases to streaming services including Netflix, Amazon and Hotstar, India’s largest streaming service which is owned by Disney. Bollywood produced 1,800 features last year, so these 28 films represent only a fraction of its output. Nonetheless, experts predict that the role of streaming will continue to grow, becoming an important outlet for Bollywood film distribution.



**COOLIE NO. 1**, a remake of the 1995 original, starring Varun Dhawan and Sara Ali Khan, now streaming on Amazon Prime Video

See also: [A year off script – Time for resilience: KPMG in India’s Media and Entertainment Report](#)

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## MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

2020 would work as the setting for an apocalyptic thriller when a world in turmoil desperately dispatches two scientists through a wormhole in space to a future universe where they must find a way to eradicate COVID-19 before it destroys life on earth.

The team, of course, would be a cute but brilliant young woman and an older but charming guy, who hate each other initially, but ultimately fall in love. They find the pandemic prevention prescription just in time to get through the fast-closing wormhole.

But returning to earth means their own doom from aging after having been away for centuries. Of course, it's only a movie – so love will conquer all. While heading back to earth, they accidentally find that injecting themselves with a corona virus mutation will save them and won't threaten life on earth for 100 years.

That scenario would be a shot in the arm for exhibition – with 100 pandemic-free years in which to play tentpoles like BLACK WIDOW (pictured – opening 5/7) and sell concessions.



For now, there's new hope on the horizon as, with vaccines and Champagne in hand, we head into what will hopefully be a Happier & Healthier 2021!

\* \* \*

Reading the tea leaves from the NY & LA film critics' votes points to some early frontrunners.

The critics aren't Oscar's best bellwethers, but 2019's LA picture winner, PARASITE, won 4 Oscars, including picture. NY applauded THE IRISHMAN.

LA's 2020 best picture: Amazon/BBC's 5 film series SMALL AXE. Runner-up: Searchlight's NOMADLAND. Directing: Chloe Zhao (NOMADLAND). Runner-up: Steve McQueen (AXE).

NY: A24's FIRST COW (picture) & Zhao (directing).

NOMADLAND's already in the awards conversation. Its NY/LA wins will build momentum.

LA's best actress: (pictured) Carey Mulligan (Focus's PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN). Runner-up: Viola Davis (Netflix's MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM). Davis is a likely Oscar nom. Mulligan's LA win puts her in the race. NY: Sidney Flanigan (Focus/BBC's NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS).



LA's best actor: Chadwick Boseman (MA) is already an Oscar frontrunner. NY's Delroy Lindo win (Netflix's DA 5 BLOODS) makes him a contender.

Supporting actor: NY – Boseman (BLOODS). LA – Glynn Turman (MA). Supporting actress: Maria Bakalova (BORAT 2). LA – Youn Yuh-jung (A24/Plan B's MINARI). Runner-up: Amanda Seyfried (MANK) could get boost.

*Note: The **Box Office Outlook** by Gower Street Analytics is taking a holiday this week. Look for it again in 2021.*

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## Update – Studio Release Calendar

### 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.



<b>Herself (Amazon Studios)</b> 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. Drama. <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
<b>Pieces of a Woman (Netflix)</b> A heartbreaking home birth leaves a woman grappling with the profound emotional fallout, isolated from her partner and family by a chasm of grief. Drama. <i>The film is directly related to director Kornel Mundruczó and Kata Wéber's 2018 stage play of the same name, performed by the artistic ensemble of TR Warszawa (Poland). Positive reviews especially performances.</i>	R	128	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited on 12/30 SVOD on 1/7/21
<b>Shadow in the Cloud (Vertical Entertainment)</b> A female WWII pilot traveling with top secret documents on a B-17 Flying Fortress encounters an evil presence on board the flight. Horror Action. <i>World premiere on 9/12/20 at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the People's Choice Award for Midnight Madness (cult and underground films).</i>	R	83	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited

### 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.

<b>The Bid (GVN Releasing)</b> Two Philadelphia rappers, Marquis Boone and Richard Harris get framed by an overzealous police officer. Comedy	NR	90	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited on 1/12
<b>Some Kind of Heaven (Magnolia)</b> 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
<b>The Reason I Jump (Kino Marquee)</b> The award-winning, immersive, cinematic portrait of five nonspeaking autistic young people, based on the bestselling book by Naoki Higashida, translated by KA Yoshida & David Mitchell (Cloud Atlas). <i>Winner! Sundance Film Festival - Audience Award, World Documentary.</i>	NR	82	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Virtual Cinemas

### 1/15-21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/18

(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.



<b>The Marksman (Open Road) (formerly titled The Minuteman)</b> 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>	R	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
<b>Wrath of Man (MGM/JA Releasing)</b> 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. Action Thriller. <i>Written and directed by Guy Ritchie, based on the 2004 French film, Cash Truck by Nicolas Boukhrief. It is Ritchie's fourth directorial collaboration with lead actor Jason Statham.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
<b>The Dig (Netflix)</b> Depicts the discovery of the Sutton Hoo burial site on the property of Edith Pretty. Biographical History Drama. <i>Based on the 2007 novel of the same name by John Preston, which reimagines the events of the 1939 excavation of Sutton Hoo. Part of Netflix book series adapted for the screen.</i>	PG13	113	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
<b>Goodbye Butterfly (Gravitas Ventures)</b> 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 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

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<b>MLK/FBI (IFC Films)</b> Based on newly declassified files, Sam Pollard's resonant film explores the US government's surveillance and harassment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Documentary. <i>The film won the Best Documentary Award at the San Diego International Film Festival in October 2020. Very good reviews.</i>	NR	104	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<b>Acasa, My Home (Kino Lorber)</b> A rural Romanian couple and their children must learn to live in the big city. Documentary. <i>"Lyrical and provocative... Timeless and of-the-moment, vividly specific and universally resonant." - The Hollywood Reporter.</i>	NR	86	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>Bloody Hell (Entertainment Squad)</b> Held captive in a mysterious basement, a man on the run must find a way to escape from a violent and demented family. Horror Comedy. <i>Well reviewed film is certain to make audiences laugh at inappropriate times and gross some out. Playable in drive ins and indoors.</i>	R	94	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>Rock Camp: The Movie (MTuckmanMedia)</b> Summer camp meets Spinal Tap as we journey to Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp, where dreamers from across America and around the world gather to shred with their heroes - and learn to rock like the legends. <i>Rock Camp is an institution and cultural phenomenon that has been going on in L.A., New York and other cities since 1996. The brainchild of music producer David Fishof, Rock Camp boasts a jaw-dropping array of rock star "counselors" that include Roger Daltrey, Alice Cooper, Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons, Nancy Wilson, Joe Perry, Jeff Beck, Slash and countless other rock legends. The counselors teach, inspire and jam with the campers over the course of four days.</i>	NR	87	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Virtual
<b>The Wake of Light (Independent)</b> 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
<b>1/22-28</b> (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.				
<b>Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures)</b> 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>	R	126	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Moderate (300)/VOD
<b>The Human Factor (Sony Pictures Classics)</b> 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. <i>"As significant as it is drop dead fascinating, offering not only intimate personal stories, but also potent insights into what went wrong so many times in that most incendiary part of the world." – Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES.</i>	PG13	108	Flat (1.78 : 1)	NY/LA
<b>No Man's Land (IFC Films)</b> 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
<b>Identifying Features (Kino Lorber)</b> Middle-aged Magdalena (Mercedes Hernandez) has lost contact with her son after he took off with a friend from their town of Guanajuato to cross the border into the U.S., hopeful to find work. Desperate to find out what happened to him—and to know whether or not he's even alive—she embarks on an ever-expanding and increasingly dangerous journey to discover the truth. <i>"Combines stunning cinematography, evocative sound design and hints of magical realism to create a visionary work of devastating power." - Sight &amp; Sound</i>	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
<b>Brothers by Blood (Vertical Entertainment)</b> Brothers By Blood is set in Philadelphia and follows Peter (Matthias Schoenaerts), who helplessly watches on as his sister is killed. His father ultimately takes revenge, which leaves lasting generational wounds on Peter. 30 years later, Peter tries to distance himself from the family business. Action Crime Drama.	NR	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD

**1/29-2/4**

(2020 Wk 5 Box Office: \$84,115,579)

2020 openings: Gretel &amp; Hansel \$6.2M FSS, \$15.3M Total; The Rhythm Section \$2.7M FSS, \$5.4M Total.



<b>The Little Things (Warner Bros.)</b> A burned-out deputy sheriff with an eye for detail teams with a detective to reel in a wily serial killer. Written and directed by John Lee Hancock, and produced by Hancock and Mark Johnson. The film stars Denzel Washington, Rami Malek and Jared Leto. Crime Thriller.	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/HBO Max
<b>Finding You (Roadside Attractions)</b> 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. <i>Coming Of Age comedy drama. The film was shot in Ireland, in Dublin, Clare, Offaly, and Kildare locations.</i>	PG	97	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Moderate
<b>Supernova (Bleecker Street)</b> 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. <i>As always, two respected actors give excellent performances in this human interest drama with beautiful natural scenery. Overall a very melancholy art film. Specialty audience.</i>	R	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>Balloon Man (Gravitas Ventures)</b> The rubber met the road in the early 1970s for Bill Costen. After being drafted by the Buffalo Bills, tragedy forced him out of his dream. Saying goodbye to a career on the turf, he took to the air, becoming the first African American Hot-Air Balloon Master Pilot in the world. Documentary. <i>An intimate portrait of a former NFL athlete who learned how to navigate through the clouds, told through the lens of his daughter, award-winning filmmaker, Chantal Potter.</i>	NA	98	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/Virtual VOD 2/2
<b>Palmer (AppleTV+)</b> An ex-convict strikes up a friendship with a boy from a troubled home. Drama. <i>Justin Timberlake returns to acting in this highly praised story. Apple TV+ is available on all Apple devices as well as on Amazon Fire and Google Chromecast.</i>	R	110	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
<b>The Night (IFC Films)</b> 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. Farsi-Language Horror Thriller Set in an L.A. Hotel Delivers Classy Scares (Variety). a chilling tale of past secrets breaking into the present in a truly haunting way. <i>Well reviewed.</i>	NR	105	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited

**2/5-11**

(2020 Wk 6 Box Office: \$96,113,570)

2020 openings: Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn \$33.0M FSS, \$84.2M Total.

<b>Cinderella (Sony)</b> A modern musical version of the classic fairy tale "Cinderella". A poor, ambitious orphan gets her wish to meet a prince granted. Comedy Fantasy Musical Romance. <i>Based on the classic fairy tale.</i>	NA	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1), IMAX, 3D, Dolby Cinema	Wide
<b>Minamata (UA Releasing/AIP)</b> War photographer W. Eugene Smith travels back to Japan where he documents the devastating effect of mercury poisoning in coastal communities. Based on the book of the same name by Aileen Mioko Smith and Eugene Smith. Drama.	R	115	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Human Factor (Sony Pictures Classics)</b> 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 (1.85 : 1)	Limited

<b>Days of Jasenovac (101 Studios) (Serbian: Дара из Јасеновца)</b> After the Axis-led Kozara Offensive the majority of local Serb population ends up in Croatian Ustaše concentration camps. With no information about whereabouts of her father, twelve-year-old Dara, her mother and two brothers end up in Jasenovac. Her mother and older brother are killed by Ustaše. Dara makes it her personal mission and goal to insure the survival of her younger brother. Drama. <i>The film has been chosen by Serbia as its official submission for the 2020-2021 Academy Awards. Said 101 Studios CEO David Glasser: "Dara Iz Jasenovca (Dara of Jasenovac) is the first feature film to expose the atrocities of the notoriously brutal Jasenovac concentration camp. We have a responsibility to tell this incredible story and 101 Studios feels privileged to introduce American audiences to the film."</i>	R	130	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Mimic! (Gravitas Ventures)</b> Based on a true story, this clever, intriguing, and hyperbolic comedy follows the main character - 'the Narrator' (Thomas Sadoski) who is befriended by his young new neighbor 'the Kid' (Jake Robinson), after he joins the local newspaper team. Comedy. <i>"Sociopaths have been portrayed as a shady bunch up until now. Inspired by true events, this confrontational comedy explores the uncharted territory of the lighter side of a sociopath," says writer/director Thomas Mazziotti.</i>	NA	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<b>Two of Us (Magnolia Pictures)</b> 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. <i>Well-acted chamber piece on the subject of lesbianism among seniors. (Harvey S. Karten). Specialized film.</i>	NR	95	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<b>M.C. Escher: Journey to Infinity (Kino Lorber)</b> Celebrated Dutch artist MC Escher redefines his work as he speaks about his hopes, dreams, inspirations, fears, doubts. Documentary. <i>Narrated by Stephen Fry, based on more than 1,000 letters, diaries and lectures the famous Dutch graphic artist wrote during his lifetime.</i>	NR	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>Little Fish (IFC Films)</b> A couple fights to hold their relationship together as a memory loss virus spreads and threatens to erase the history of their love and courtship. Romance Sci-Fi Drama.	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<b>2/12-18: Valentine's Day 2/14; President's Day 2/15</b> (2020 Wk 7 Box Office: \$184,695,385) 2020 openings: Sonic the Hedgehog \$58.0M FSS, \$146.1M Total; Fantasy Island \$12.3M FSS, \$27.3M Total; The Photograph \$12.2M FSS, \$20.6M Total.  				
<b>Land (Focus Features)</b> Edee Holzer, a cosmopolitan lawyer, is consumed with grief after enduring a personal tragedy. She departs her life to live apart from humanity. As she learns to live in a harsh environment, she finds the woman in herself that she felt had long since died. Drama. <i>Robin Wright stars and directs this highly anticipated drama premieres at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.</i>	NA	89	Flat (1.66 : 1)	Wide
<b>What About Love (JPSLD)</b> Two young lovers change the lives of their parents forever when the parents learn from the joyful experience of their kids, and allow themselves to again find their love. Drama Romance.	NA	114	NA	Wide
<b>Judas and the Black Messiah (Warner Bros.)</b> FBI informant William O'Neal infiltrates the Illinois Black Panther Party and is tasked with keeping tabs on their charismatic leader, Chairman Fred Hampton. Biography Drama. <i>Originally announced as Jesus Was My Homeboy, the film was later reported as being titled Judas and the Black Messiah before being described as untitled.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide/HBOMax
<b>Minari (A24)</b> A Korean American family searches for a better life when they move to a small farm in Arkansas. Drama. <i>Well reviewed, award worthy.</i>	PG13	115	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
<b>Breaking News in Yuba County (AIP/UAR)</b> A woman buries the body of her husband after he dies of a heart attack when caught cheating on her and struggles to keep it secret. Comedy Drama. <i>American International Pictures releases its first film since How to Beat the High Cost of Living (1980).</i>	R	NA	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited
<b>French Exit (Sony Pictures Classics)</b> An aging Manhattan socialite living on what's barely left of her inheritance moves to a small apartment in Paris with her son and cat. Comedy Drama. <i>The film directed, by Azazel Jacobs, based on the novel of the same name by Patrick Dewitt, who also wrote the screenplay. Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges star. Early reactions very positive. Wide audience appeal possible.</i>	R	110	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited



<b>The World to Come (Bleecker Street)</b> Somewhere along the mid-19th century American East Coast frontier, two neighboring couples battle hardship and isolation, witnessed by a splendid yet testing landscape, challenging them both physically and psychologically. Drama. <i>Premiered in Competition at the 2020 Venice Film Festival. Well reviewed by critics.</i>	R	98	NA	Limited
<b>Assassin in Red (CMC Pictures)</b> <i>Chinese Title: 刺杀小说家</i> Desperate to find his missing daughter, a father agrees to help a mysterious woman assassinate a novelist. At the same time, the young hero in the book's alternate universe has also put his revenge plan into motion, and his actions affect the real world. Chinese Fantasy Thriller. <i>Adapted from the short story "Assassination of the Novelist" of the same name in Shuang Xuetao's short story collection "Aviator".</i>	NA	90	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>2/19-25</b> (2020 Wk 8 Box Office: \$103,994,807) 2020 openings: The Call of the Wild \$24.8M FSS, \$62.3M Total; Brahms: The Boy II \$5.8M FSS, \$12.6 Total.				
<b>Nomadland (Searchlight)</b> A woman embarks on a journey through the American West after losing everything during the recession. Drama. <i>The film is based on the 2017 non-fiction book Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century by Jessica Bruder, and stars Frances McDormand as a woman who leaves her small town to travel around the American West. One of the best films of 2020.</i>	R	108	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited
<b>Silk Road (Lionsgate)</b> A DEA agent pursues Ross Ulbricht, founder of the darknet website Silk Road. Drama thriller. <i>Director Tiller Russell is a Texas native who directed The Seven Five (Netflix) and Operation Odessa, which garnered rave reviews at SXSW before debuting on Showtime. His next limited-series documentaries, The Last Narc (Amazon), and The Night Stalker (Netflix) further explore Russell's interest in power. Lionsgate acquired the film from The Tribeca Film Festival.</i>	R	112	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Mauritanian (STXFilms)</b> 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. Based on "The Friend: Love Is Not a Big Enough Word" by Matthew Teague. Drama Thriller.	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>Joe Bell (Solstice Studios)</b> The true story of a small town, working class father who embarks on a solo walk across the U.S. to crusade against bullying after his son is tormented in high school for being gay. Biography Drama.	NA	90	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>Test Pattern (Kino Lorber)</b> An interracial couple's relationship is put to the test after a Black woman is sexually assaulted and her white boyfriend drives her from hospital to hospital in search of a rape kit. Thriller Drama. <i>The film analyzes the effects of the systemic factors and social conditioning women face when navigating sex and consent within the American patriarchy, along with exploring institutional racism from a black female point of view.</i>	NR	82	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited
<b>Blithe Spirit (IFC Films)</b> A spiritualist medium holds a seance for a writer suffering from writer's block but accidentally summons the spirit of his deceased first wife, which leads to an increasingly complex love triangle with his current wife of five years. Comedy Fantasy Romance.	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Courier (Roadside Attractions)</b> A Cold War spy and his Russian source try to put an end to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Thriller. <i>The film is the Benedict Cumberbatch Cold War spy drama that premiered in Sundance as "Ironbark."</i>	PG13	101	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>2/26-3/4</b> (2020 Wk 9 Box Office: \$99,662,073) 2020 openings: The Invisible Man \$28.2M FSS, \$64.9M Total.				
<b>Nobody (Universal)</b> 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. <i>Bob Odenkirk goes wild in this nonstop action film. Ilya Viktorovich Naishuller (Russian: Илья Викторович Найшуллер) a music video and film director (Hardcore Henry, \$16.8M gross).</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide

<b>Tom and Jerry (Warner Bros.)</b> Tom is disowned from the house after failing to do his job as a house cat and destroying the home because of his incompetence for the final time with his longtime rival Jerry, a mischievous mouse, who has now been left without a source of food. Now homeless, the cat and mouse duo are left wandering in the streets and decide to call a truce to their rivalry then go their separate ways and have a fresh start in their lives. <i>Live-action/computer-animated slapstick comedy film produced by Warner Animation Group and based on the characters of the same name created by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera.</i>	PG13		Flat (1.85 : 1)	Wide/HBOMax
<b>The United States vs. Billie Holiday (Paramount)</b> Follows Holiday during her career as she is targeted by the Federal Department of Narcotics with an undercover sting operation led by Federal Agent Jimmy Fletcher, with whom she had a tumultuous affair. Biography Drama Music. <i>Directed by Lee Daniels, based on the book Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs by Johann Hari.</i>	NA	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Father (Sony Pictures Classics)</b> 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 outstanding performance.</i>	PG13	97	Scope (2.39 : 1)	NY/LA
<b>The Vigil (IFC Films)</b> A man providing overnight watch to a deceased member of his former Orthodox Jewish community finds himself opposite a malevolent entity, in writer-director Keith Thomas' electrifying feature debut. Horror Mystery Thriller. <i>The film was acquired by Blumhouse Production and was premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival. During 2020, the film had a limited release in a number of international markets. Well reviewed.</i>	PG13	89	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<b>The Killing of Two Lovers (NEON)</b> David desperately tries to keep his family together during a separation from his wife. They agree to see other people, but he struggles to grapple with his wife's new relationship. Drama. <i>Robert Machoian (whose short The MINORS won a Sundance Special Jury Award for Directing) has a storytelling style that requires your full attention and an open mind.</i>	R	85	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited on 2/23
<b>Cherry (Apple TV+)</b> An Army medic suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder becomes a serial bank robber after an addiction to drugs puts him in debt. <i>Inspired by the best-selling novel of the same name this is a darkly humorous, unflinching coming-of-age story of a man on a universal quest for purpose and human connection. Tom Holland, Ciara Bravo.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Theatrical WW Apple TV+ 3/12
<b>My Zoe (Blue Fox Entertainment)</b> Isabelle, a single mother raising her only daughter, takes matters into her own hands after tragedy strikes. <i>Julie Delpy had begun conceptualizing the film 20 years prior to the December 2016 announcement she was set to write, direct and star in the film. Generally favorable reviews though this is Julie Delpy's film and her audience bolsters the film's profits.</i>	NR	100	Scope (2.4 : 1)	Limited

## MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
<b>Colors of Love (Paramount)</b>	G	
<b>Dara of Jasenovac (101 Studios)</b>	R	Strong and disturbing violent content, and some sexual content
<b>Falling (Quiver Distribution)</b>	R	Language throughout including offensive slurs, crude sexual references, brief sexuality and nudity
<b>Far from the Tree (Disney) Short Subject</b>	G	
<b>Us Again (Disney Animated Short Subject)</b>	G	
<b>Freak Power: The Ballot or the Bomb (VOD Platforms)</b>	R	Language, some graphic nudity, drug use, violent images, and smoking
<b>Julia (Sony Pictures Classics)</b>	R	Brief strong language/sexual reference, and some thematic elements
<b>Locked Down (Warner Bros./HBOMax)</b>	R	Language throughout and some drug material
<b>Me You Madness (STX Entertainment)</b>	R	Language throughout, some violence, sexual content, brief drug use and nudity
<b>Phobias (Vertical Entertainment)</b>	R	Violence including some disturbing material, language throughout and some sexual references
<b>Pixie (Saban Films LLC)</b>	PG	Violence, language, drug content and some sexual references

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## Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
<b>Furiosa (Warner Bros.)</b> The origin story of renegade warrior Furiosa before she teamed up with Mad Max in 'Fury Road'. Action Adventure Sci-Fi.	Wide	6/23/23	NEW
<b>Coyote Vs. Acme (Warner Bros.)</b> A story set in the ACME warehouse, the manufacturer of anything and everything used by the Looney Tunes characters. Animation.	Wide	7/21/23	NEW
<b>The Color Purple (Warner Bros.)</b> Musical adaptation of Alice Walker's novel about the life-long struggles of an African American woman living in the south during the early 1900s. Musical Drama.	Wide	12/20/23	NEW

## Screening Room – New Trailers



### Title: **Nomadland (Searchlight) Trailer #2**

Release Date: 2/19/21 - Limited

Director: Chloé Zhao (The Rider, Songs My Brothers Taught Me)

Starring: Frances McDormand, Gay DeForest, Patricia Grier

Synopsis: A woman embarks on a journey through the American West after losing everything during the recession. Drama. *The film won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, making it the first film ever to win the top prize at both Venice and Toronto. It began a one-week virtual release on December 4, 2020 and won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, making it the first film ever to win the top prize at both Venice and Toronto. It began a one-week virtual release on December 4, 2020, One of the best films of 2020.*



### Title: **Land (Focus Features)**

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Limited

Director: Robin Wright

Starring: Robin Wright, Demián Bichir, Kim Dickens

Synopsis: After a woman experiences a near-death experience in the wilderness, she must become comfortable living again. Drama. *Robin Wright's big screen filmmaking debut follows her acclaimed directing work on Netflix's "House of Cards."*



### Title: **Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures)**

Release Date: 1/22/21 - Limited/VOD

Director: Brad Ingelsby

Starring: Dakota Johnson, Casey Affleck, Jason Segel Dakota Johnson, Casey Affleck, Jason Segel

Synopsis: 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. *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).*



### Title: **Judas and the Black Messiah (Warner Bros.)**

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Wide

Director: Shaka King (TV, shorts director, writer, actor)

Starring: Daniel Kaluuya, LaKeith Stanfield, Jesse Plemons

Synopsis: The story of Fred Hampton, Chairman of the Illinois Black Panther Party, and his fateful betrayal by FBI informant William O'Neal. Civil rights biographical drama.



### Title: **The Beatles: Get Back**

Release Date: 2021 - TBD

Director: Peter Jackson (The Hobbit series, The Lord of The Rings series, The Lovely Bones, King Kong)

Starring: The Beatles

Synopsis: The Beatles are featured in-studio footage shot in early 1969 for the 1970 feature film 'Let It Be.' Documentary. *This is a 5:50 minute featurette narrated by director Peter Jackson. The film is currently in post-production to be released in 2021.*

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**Title: The Little Things (Warner Bros./HBOMax)**

Release Date: 1/29/21 - Wide

Director: John Lee Hancock (The Highwayman, Saving Mr. Banks, The Blind Side, The Alamo)

Starring: Denzel Washington, Jared Leto, Rami Malek

Synopsis: Clashes between a Kern County deputy and a Los Angeles detective occur during the investigation of a serial killer. Crime Thriller. *"It's the little things that rip you apart," Denzel Washington's character tells his new work buddy (Rami Malek). "It's the little things that get you caught."*



**Title: Coming 2 America (Amazon Prime Video)**

Release Date: 3/5/21 - SVOD platforms

Director: Craig Brewer (Dolemite Is My Name, Footloose, Black Snake Moan, Hustle & Flow)

Starring: Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, Jermaine Fowler

Synopsis: The African monarch Akeem learns he has a long-lost son in the United States and must return to America to meet this unexpected heir and build a relationship with his son. *Eddie Murphy is back into his royal homeland of Zamunda. James Earl Jones returns as Akeem's father, says in the trailer: "You must heed my words before I'm gone, my son. Now you will be king. But the throne must pass to a male heir. Akeem, it appears, you have a son. He must be found."*



**Title: The Mimic (Gravitas Ventures)**

Release Date: 2/5/21 - Limited

Director: Thomas F. Mazziotti (Charlie Hoboken, Undertow)

Starring: Thomas Sadoski, Jake Robinson, Austin Pendleton and Gina Gershon.

Synopsis: Based on a true story, this clever, intriguing, and hyperbolic comedy follows the main character - 'the Narrator' (Thomas Sadoski) who is befriended by his young new neighbor 'the Kid' (Jake Robinson), after he joins the local newspaper team. *The bulk of the film relies on the back and forth between the two leads, a non-stop barrage of rapid-fire dialogue. Sadoski and Robinson are delightful to watch, carrying The Mimic with their constant banter.*

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