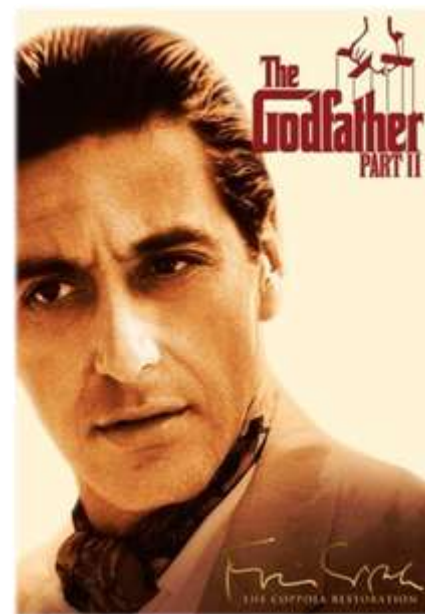




Monday, January 4, 2021 | No. 149

46 years ago on the Friday before Christmas in 1974, Paramount Pictures released **The Godfather Part II** in theatres across America. The film's release was eagerly anticipated both by the public and the industry, coming less than two years after the sensation Francis Ford Coppola had created with **The Godfather**. Part II is widely regarded as the best sequel in film history, perhaps even greater than the original. Both films won Academy Awards for Best Picture, remaining the only original/sequel combination to have done so. The second chapter in The Godfather saga came out at a time of transition for the film industry. In exhibition, single-screen movie theatres in downtown and main street locations were failing due to a general relocation of populations to the suburbs. They had not yet been replaced by the multi-screen Cineplexes which were just beginning to emerge, led by exhibitors such as AMC and General Cinema. In Hollywood, the traditional studio system was collapsing, with the fading appeal of tried and true genres such as Westerns and Musicals. Control of studios was being transferred from the aging movie moguls to corporate raiders such as Transamerica and Gulf + Western. Coppola emerged as a leader of a new generation of filmmakers and actors and actresses who created the films that pointed the way for the next 50 years of filmmaking.



(Click to Play)

See also: [Newly Re-edited, The Godfather: Part III Is the Masterpiece It Already Was](#)

– Richard Brody from the New York Times

“My father taught me many things here, he taught me in this room. He taught me... keep your friends close but your enemies closer.”

– Al Pacino as Michael Corleone in *The Godfather Part II*

## Weekend Box Office Results... 1/1 – 1-3

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.)	2	2,151	5,500,000	2,557	28,500,000
2	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	6	1,751	2,180,000	1,245	34,514,000
3	News of the World (Universal)	2	1,928	1,690,000	877	5,407,000
4	Monster Hunter (Sony)	3	1,807	1,250,000	692	3,916,575
5	Fatale (Lionsgate)	3	1,183	700,000	592	3,091,447
6	Promising Young Woman (Focus)	2	1,333	660,000	495	1,868,000
7	Pinocchio (Roadside Attractions)	2	795	284,035	357	772,873
8	The War with Grandpa (101 Studios)	13	305	113,983	374	18,667,688
9	Alien (Fox) 1979 re-release	1	505	75,000	149	75,000
10	Come Play (Focus)	10	110	55,000	500	9,560,000

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Studios opened a re-release of the 1979 original **Alien** to \$75,000 in 505 locations.
- Disney's **Soul**, now in weekend 2, earned \$16.5M in 11 material territories for a cume of \$32.5M. According to Disney, results for **Soul** are particularly impressive in China, where every day from Tuesday onwards increased from the prior day culminating in an estimated \$13.7M second weekend, 2.5x greater than the opening weekend, powered by a strong social reaction.
- Warner Bros.' **Wonder Woman 1984** took in an estimated \$15.6M globally from 42 markets (including US and Canada), with the international weekend tally coming in at \$10.1M and the domestic take at \$5.5M. This brings the international running cume to \$90.0M, the domestic total is \$28.5M and the worldwide cume to date stands at \$118.5M.
- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its sixth weekend earned \$7.621M in 17 international markets. Combined with the North American weekend of \$2.18M, the worldwide weekend generated \$9.8M and the global cume is \$114.955M.

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### MARVELOUS MOMENTS – PART 1

*Click to play our POPCORN PREVIEWS BOX OFFICE BUZZ... looking at some of those marvelous Marvel movie moments we've been missing at the box office for too many months. In Part 1 of our four part series recalling two dozen Marvel memories, we start with a look at 2012's THE AVENGERS.*



### MARVELOUS MOMENTS – PART 2

*Click to play our POPCORN PREVIEWS BOX OFFICE BUZZ... looking at some of those marvelous Marvel movie moments we've been missing at the box office for too many months. In Part 2 of our four part series recalling two dozen Marvel memories, we start with a look at 2014's THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2.*



## Notable Industry News and Commentary... 12/27 – 1/2

[How live music venues, theaters, and talent managers can get up to \\$10 million of \\$15 billion COVID relief grants — with no requirement to pay it back](#) (Business Insider)

Government financial assistance for beleaguered movie theatre operators is on the way. Funding for independent theatres that had been championed through the Save our Stages initiative was included in the \$900B Coronavirus Response and Relief Act signed into law last Sunday evening by President Trump.

Within the package, a special allocation of \$15B is earmarked for live performance venues, museums and motion picture theatres. Talent representatives and promoters may also qualify for these grants. Excluded from the program are large entities, including any publicly traded company or those operating internationally or in more than 10 US states. Details on the application process will be forthcoming quickly, since the intention for the program is to provide *emergency* financial relief to arts and entertainment venues which have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unlike with last spring's Paycheck Protection Program, the new aid will be provided as grants, rather than loans which can be forgiven if the recipient uses them for payroll expenses primarily. This restriction has been problematic for many



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theatres because the payroll needed to be paid during a period when many had been forced to remain closed by local health authorities.

Note: Business Insider is a subscription only website. For non-subscribers, a reprint of their article is available [on Fresh News Now](#) and related coverage is also available [on MSN Money](#).



### [‘Wonder Woman 1984’ Opening Boosts Movie Theater Stocks, But AMC Loses More Ground – Update](#) (Deadline)

Last weekend’s encouraging box office results from the opening of *Wonder Woman 1984* prompted an increase in the share prices for most public companies involved in exhibition. Shares in Cinemark, IMAX, Marcus and National CineMedia all rose at the prospect of a brighter 2021. AMC was a notable exception, with its shares wallowing at \$2.38, with continued concern from investors about liquidity at the nation’s largest exhibitor. The opening \$16.9M weekend box office for Wonder

Woman 1984 was better than results from any other film released during the pandemic, even with Warner Bros. also releasing the film at the same time for home viewing on HBO Max. Analyst Eric Wold from B Riley wrote, “We believe this helps support the thesis that when consumers are allowed back to theaters with attractive content, they will once again become moviegoers—with the industry having the potential to begin returning to normal in 2022.”

### [Movie releases next year could make for an ‘embarrassment of riches,’ Imax CEO says](#) (CNBC)

In an interview with CNBC last Monday, IMAX’s CEO Rich Gelfond predicted a strong recovery in 2021 for his company and the film entertainment industry. 2020 was a brutal campaign for exhibition, stunned by the largest year-over-year declines in revenue and attendance in history. Gelfond’s optimism is founded on three factors: (1) the near-term, widespread rollout of an effective COVID-19 vaccine, (2) a backlog of studio blockbusters scheduled to release in 2021, many of which were delayed from planned 2020 release dates and (3) the pent-up demand from consumers to emerge from lockdown and enjoy themselves once again by going to the movies. The Easter releases of the James Bond spy thriller *No Time to Die* and the animated family sequel *Peter Rabbit 2* may herald the beginning of a significant recovery at the box office.



Comments from other Industry Leaders

- Disney’s CEO Bob Chapek declared at the studio’s 12/10 Investor Day presentations: “We had a \$13 billion box office [in 2019], and that’s not something to sneeze at. We built [our most valuable] franchises through the theatrical window.”
- Universal’s Vice Chairman Peter Levinsohn said, “We are very bullish on the prospects of the domestic box office once the cinemas are back up and running at full capacity; some level of exhibition consolidation is likely, but we believe ticket sales will be redistributed amongst the remaining theaters and have little impact on box office going forward.”

See also: [How The Box Office Will Power Back In 2021 Despite Covid Woes & Streaming Obsessions](#) (Deadline)

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**THE EIGHT HUNDRED (Huayi Brothers) earned \$440M in 2020 box office**

## [It's Official: 2020 Domestic Box Office Fell 80 Percent to \\$2.3B Behind China's \\$2.7B](#)

(Hollywood Reporter)

The impact of COVID-19 has been shared globally, bringing with it a steep decline in box office in every territory. Even in those territories which have done relatively well in managing the spread of the virus, the global studio releases have been choked off, limiting availability of the product that draws moviegoers to theatres. The North American box office came in at \$2.3B, down a whopping 80% from the \$11.4B generated in 2019. For the first time, the take for the Domestic market came in below that of China, which earned \$2.7B in 2020, largely on the strength

of local productions such as the patriotic WWII epic *The Eight Hundred*, which earned \$440M. The Chinese market was *only* off by 70% from its 2019 level, a relative success in a very bad year.

See also: [France, Europe's Largest Cinema Market, Drops 70% in 2020](#) (Variety)

## [Cannes Director Thierry Fremaux Marks 125th Anniversary of First Cinema Screening: 'Cinemas Died Often, Yet They're Still Alive'](#) (Variety)

125 years ago, on 12/28/1895, the Lumiere Brothers conducted the first-ever commercial movie screening in Paris, using their camera/projector the *cinematographe*. To mark the anniversary, the director of the Cannes Film Festival Thierry Fremaux offered a guest column to Variety Magazine, looking back at the invention of movie going and forward to its post-pandemic future. The 125 year history of exhibition proves that going to the movies is fundamental to our nature, merging our desire to be entertained with our need to be social.



**Thierry Frémaux, Director of the Cannes Film Festival**

See also: [Will the film industry please stop predicting its own demise?](#) (Los Angeles Times)

## **MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report***

With a strong slate of product heading to theatres in 2021, Wall Street should stop assuming streaming will kill exhibition.

Exhibition's demise has been predicted since the '50s. First it was TV, then cable TV & videocassettes & DVDs that would be the theatrical giant killer. Well, theatres survived, grosses mushroomed, and studios made tons of money from the new ancillary markets.

Streaming and theatres can show the same movies, but they meet different audience needs. In 2020 with few theatres open and nothing new playing, streaming was really the only game in town.

As vaccines roll out and theatres re-open, people will want to escape their homes and be with their friends. Moviegoing's a favorite way to do that. For years, sports fans have met



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friends at sports bars to watch games they could see at home on cable. But some days people want to get out and have fun and other days they just want to sit on their couch at home with a beer. People may have PVOD at home, but that doesn't mean they're ready to give up the shared experience of watching big movies like WONDER WOMAN 1984 (pictured) the way they were meant to be seen in theatres.

\* \* \*

2021's barely begun, but it's already clear that it will be a year of race and gender diversity on the awards front.

Here's a quick look at how very diverse the contenders already are for noms in 4 key races -- picture, directing, actor & actress:

- **BEST PICTURE & DIRECTING:** MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM (George C. Wolfe), ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI (Regina King), DA 5 BLOODS (Spike Lee), NOMADLAND (Chloe Zhao), SMALL AXE (Steve McQueen), JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH (Shaka King), PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (Emerald Fennell), MINARI (Lee Isaac Chung), SOUL (Pete Doctor & Kemp Powers), THE UNITED STATES VS. BILLIE HOLIDAY (Lee Daniels), NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS (Eliza Hittman), ON THE ROCKS (Sofia Coppola) & THE 40-YEAR-OLD VERSION (Radha Blank).
- **BEST ACTRESS & ACTOR:** Viola Davis (pictured - RAINEY), Yeri Han (MINARI) & Rashida Jones (ON THE ROCKS)...Chadwick Boseman (RAINEY), Delroy Lindo (BLOODS), Riz Ahmed (SOUND OF METAL), Steven Yeun (MINARI), Kingsley Ben-Adir (MIAMI), Eli Goree (MIAMI), Dev Patel (PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD), LaKeith Stanfield (JUDAS), Denzel Washington (THE LITTLE THINGS) & John David Washington (TENET, MALCOLM & MARIE).



## Update – Studio Release Calendar

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>Music (IMAX)</b> Zu is newly sober when she receives news that she is to become the sole guardian of her half-sister named Music, a young girl on the autism spectrum. The film explores two of Sia's favorite themes: finding your voice and creating family. Starring Juliette Lewis, Kate Hudson, Hector Elizondo, the musical drama was directed by singer-songwriter Sia. The screenplay was co-written by Sia and children's book author Dallas Clayton.	PG13	107	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
<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)</b> (formerly titled <i>The Minuteman</i> ) 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. the film is 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 (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. <i>"A thirst for retributive justice is a base human drive in the face of tragedy. Filmmaker Tyler Wayne has taken this and run with it, creating a taut, morally nuanced thriller that keeps you guessing to the end," says Megan Huggins of Gravitas Ventures.</i>	NA	NA	NA	Limited/VOD
<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 nine 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 Los Angeles, 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>"A tale of friendship and a wholly special one at that." – Joey Magidson, Hollywood News. 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 United States' 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."</i> – Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES.	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."</i> - Sight & Sound	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
<b>1/29-2/4</b> (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.				
<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 forces him out of his dream. Saying goodbye to a career on the turf, Bill takes 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). <i>a chilling tale of past secrets breaking into the present in a truly haunting way. 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, based on the classic fairy tale.	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 United States' 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 gives new meaning to his work as he speaks about his hopes, dreams, inspirations, fears, and 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

**2/12-18: Valentine's Day 2/14; President's Day 2/15**

(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 is 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>Marighella (ArtMattan)</b> The story is set in 1969 and is based on the life of Afro-Brazilian politician and guerrilla fighter Carlos Marighella. Facing a violent military dictatorship and with little support from a timid opposition, writer-turned-politician Carlos Marighella organizes a resistance movement. Action Drama History. <i>Positive reviews. "Marighella is an urgent film in its commitment and cinematic intensity, and it could hardly be more timely," Jonathan Romney (Screen International). INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT CRITICS PRIZE (Premio Giuseppe Becce).</i>	NR	155	Scope (2.00 : 1)	Select/Virtual Cinema
<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 begin to 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> Cold War spy Greville Wynne 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 gets 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 while 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 and 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 of six together during a separation from his wife. They both agree to see other people but David 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

## Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
<b>The Boss Baby: Family Business (Universal)</b> Tim (James Marsden) and his Boss Baby little bro Ted (Alec Baldwin) - have become adults and drifted away from each other. Tim is now a married dad. Ted is a hedge fund CEO. But a new boss baby with a cutting-edge approach and a can-do attitude is about to bring them together again ... and inspire a new family business. Animation sequel.	Wide	9/17/21	3/26/21
<b>The Bad Guys (Universal)</b> After a lifetime of pulling legendary heists, five notorious bad guys - Mr. Wolf, Mr. Snake, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Shark and Ms. Tarantula - attempt their most challenging job yet. Animation based on a book.	NA	Unset	9/17/21

## MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
<b>Colors of Love (Paramount)</b>	G	
<b>Raya and the Last Dragon (Disney)</b>	PG	Some violence, action and thematic elements
<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 (WB/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
<b>Silk Road (Lionsgate)</b>	R	Pervasive language, and drug content

## 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 is 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: Gabriela Cowperthwaite (Morgan Leavey)

Starring: 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. Drama. *“A look at an extraordinary friendship, based on a true story.” – Joey Magidson, Hollywood News*



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

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Wide/HBOMax

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. *“Judas and the Black Messiah” was initially scheduled for August of 2020, however, it was postponed because of the pandemic.*



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

Release Date: 1/29/21 - Wide/HBOMax

Director: Jonn 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: 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. Comedy. *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.*