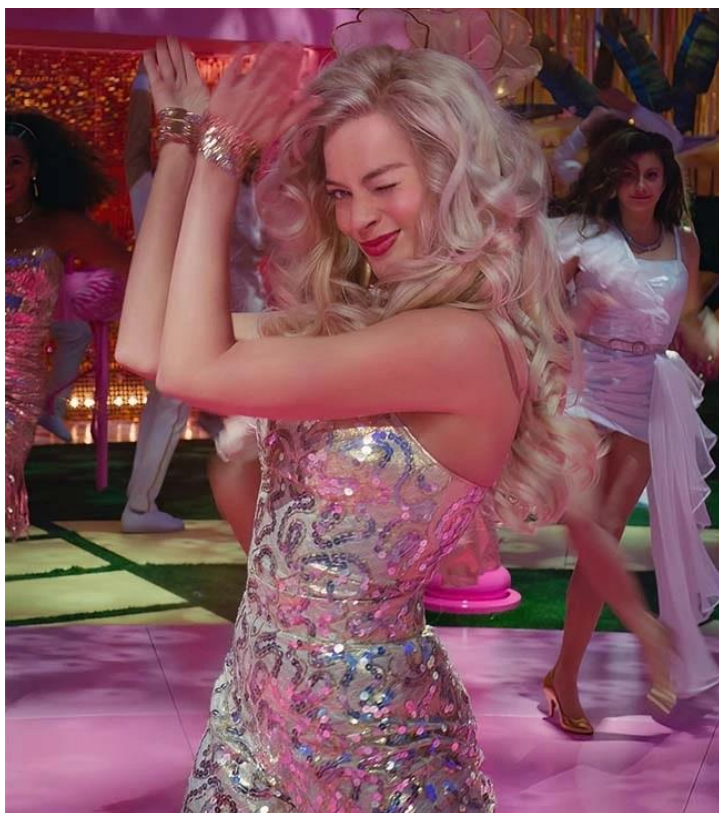




Issue No. 281



Weekend Box Office Results... 8/11 – 8/13

Courtesy of [Comscore](https://www.comscore.com)

Rank	Title	Wk	Theatres	Wknd \$	% Change	\$ Avg/ Theatre	Total \$
1	Barbie (Warner Bros.)	4	4,178	33,700,000	-36	8,066	526,308,894
2	Oppenheimer (Universal)	4	3,761	18,800,000	-35	4,999	264,269,475
3	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (Paramount)	2	3,950	15,750,000	-44	3,987	72,789,501
4	Meg 2: The Trench (Warner Bros.)	2	3,604	12,700,000	-58	3,524	54,136,917
5	The Last Voyage of the Demeter (Universal)	1	2,715	6,500,000	-	2,394	6,500,000
6	Haunted Mansion (Disney)	3	2,860	5,614,000	-39	1,963	52,871,146
7	Talk to Me (A24)	3	2,379	5,116,277	-18	2,151	31,321,266
8	Sound of Freedom (Angel Studios)	6	2,803	4,832,374	-36	1,724	172,813,772
9	Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One (Paramount)	5	2,135	4,665,000	-29	2,185	159,555,870
10	Jailer (INDIN)	1	450	2,578,411	-	5,730	2,578,411

BARBIE and OPPENHEIMER Continue to Dominate, Maintaining Box Office Momentum for 2023

Normal order has been restored as BARBIE and OPPENHEIMER finished #1 and #2 at the box office this weekend and for the third time in four weeks since their July 21st debut. Last weekend, MEG 2: THE TRENCH staged a brief coup by edging out OPPENHEIMER by a razor thin margin of \$900K on a \$30M total gross. By Monday, OPPENHEIMER had taken back second place and has held onto it every day since. The Christopher Nolan-directed drama has become the highest grossing WWII movie in history. BARBIE and OPPENHEIMER together have grossed \$790.6M in 24 days, amounting to a staggering 68% of all movie ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada during that time.



BARBIE grossed an additional \$33.7M over the last three days, a drop of only 36% since last weekend, with its domestic run adding up to \$526.3M and worldwide at \$1.1B. BARBIE has been the top selling movie every day since it opened, which is the third longest streak of the year behind AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER which was the top movie for six weeks at the beginning of the year and THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE which held this crown for five weeks over April and May.

Here are some of BARBIE's records:

- 2nd highest grossing movie for 2023 in domestic market
- 2nd highest grossing movie for 2023 worldwide

- 2nd highest grossing movie all-time for Warner Bros.
- 18th highest grossing movie all-time in domestic market
- 33rd highest grossing movie all-time worldwide

Next weekend, BARBIE's crown may be challenged by a new movie from its own studio, Warner Bros., when the DC superhero movie BLUE BEETLE arrives. WB has more to gain from a successful debut for BLUE BEETLE than from another #1 finish for BARBIE. Still, this summer will be remembered for BARBIE's success, which should continue to perform through Labor Day.



OPPENHEIMER has also had a record-breaking run, taking second place with an additional \$18.8M this weekend, a drop of 35% from last weekend and a 24-day domestic total of \$264.3M. The movie has overcome any hesitancy from moviegoers about seeing an R-Rated film, as well as the dark subject of the making of the Atomic Bomb. Interestingly, it will almost certainly finish its run without ever having taken control of first place. It recently passed the previous holder of this distinction by out-grossing MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING that earned \$241.4M domestic during its run in 2002. OPPENHEIMER is currently the 9th highest grossing picture of R-Rated titles and is on track to cross \$300M by Labor Day.



After a fourth-place finish in its opening weekend, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM moved up one slot this weekend to third place, earning \$15.8M and dropping only 44% from last weekend. It is a positive sign for the longevity of the film that it managed to leap over MEG 2 and hold off any challenge from THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE DEMETER, the only new wide release of the weekend. After 12 days, TMNT has earned a solid \$72.8M and is poised to continue to draw the family audience, since next major animated movie release will be PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE on September 29th. Paramount is distributing both titles, and has done well by spacing out their release dates by almost two full months.

MEG 2: THE TRENCH suffered a steep drop of 58% from last weekend's opening, bringing in only \$12.7M. After earning a strong second place finish last weekend, the sour note from critics may have caught up to this shark, and could depress ticket sales from this point. However, international markets may deliver some good news for MEG 2, particularly in China where the film grossed \$53M over the three days of its opening last weekend. This compares to a meager response in China for BARBIE, which grossed only \$8M three weeks ago in its debut.

The original THE MEG in 2018 earned 72% of its \$530.5M in international markets, with a particularly strong return from China. This encouraged its producers at Warner Bros. to maintain the Chinese connection from the original, by casting global action hero Wu Jing to star alongside Jason Statham and to set the action in the South China Sea once again. While profits for MEG 2 will not equal those from THE MEG, solid foreign revenues should produce a good result. However, it is uncertain whether a third MEG movie is justified, since interest in the U.S. and Canadian markets seems to be waning.

This week's only wide opener was Universal's THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE DEMETER, which finished in a disappointing fifth place with \$6.5M. The screenplay is an adaptation of

one chapter from Bram Stoker's 1897 horror classic Dracula, entitled "The Captain's Log." The movie itself took a 20-year journey around Hollywood before Universal finally signed on to make it. It tells the story of a doomed merchant ship *The Demeter*, whose crew struggles to make it through a treacherous ocean voyage while being stalked by Dracula. By the time the ship arrives off the English coast, *The Demeter* has been reduced to a charred, derelict with no trace of its crew. In theory, a story about Dracula's arrival in London by ocean voyage should be interesting, but in practice the movie seems to have failed to find its audience, with a horrible 38% critics score and 73% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Until three weeks ago, DEMETER was scheduled to open together with Sony's GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A

TRUE STORY. However, Sony pushed its release date back by two weeks because of the strike by Hollywood's actors, who were forbidden from promoting the film through press and publicity appearances. Instead, Sony is trying to build interest by holding two weeks of advanced screenings (a.k.a. "sneaks") at theatres around the country. It will be interesting to see if this technique creates interest in the film. For now, the vacancy left by GRAN TURISMO does not seem to have helped DEMETER at the box office. With a production budget of \$37M, DEMETER still has a longways to go to reach profitability.

All movies playing in theatres this weekend earned \$116.6M domestic, compared with \$67.9M in the same week last year when BULLET TRAIN led the way with \$13.3M in its second weekend.

Where Are We as of 8/10

After 31 weeks, the year-to-date comparison of the current year to last year stands at 123%. The year-to-date results from 2023 are 86% compared to this point in 2019.

2023 VS. 2022	2023 VS. 2019
YEAR TO DATE – 31 WEEKS – 2023: \$ 6,089,897,000 2022: \$ 4,934,277,000 123%	YEAR TO DATE – 31 WEEKS – 2023: \$ 6,089,897,000 2019: \$ 7,044,520,000 86%

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AMC Stock Q2 Earnings: Best Results Since the Pandemic

The Street



AMC's Q2 earnings showed record-breaking results for the spring and summer movie season, despite lingering concerns over the amount of its long-term debt. The exhibitor exceeded Wall Street's expectations across all major areas, with a rise in attendance, profits, and revenue per patron. Overall revenue increased by 16% while expenses rose only by 2.5%. While attendance is still trailing 2019 levels, AMC is generating more revenue per-patron due to increased concession sales and higher ticket

prices, particularly from demand in its Premium Large Format auditoriums.

This report only shows results from the second quarter, in which THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE was the leading title, followed by FAST X, GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3, and SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE. More good news is expected for Q3, when an additional revenue bump from the success of BARBIE and OPPENHEIMER will be recorded. At this pace, some analysts see a path for AMC to return to pre-pandemic revenues over the next two years.

However, there are still two dark clouds hanging over the world's largest exhibitor. First, the current labor strikes in Hollywood could have a significant impact on earnings for the upcoming quarters if studios react by pushing back release dates for their major new releases between scheduled through the end of the year. Second, AMC is still on the hook for over \$5 billion in debt that it built

up in a spending spree of acquisitions before the pandemic.

AMC CEO Adam Aron has emphasized that the company "must be in a position to raise equity capital. I repeat, to protect AMC's shareholder value over the long term, we MUST be able to raise equity capital" or bankruptcy was "on the table." To this end, encouraging news came on Friday when a Delaware court approved a shareholder settlement that allows a special class of AMC Preferred Equity ("APE") shares to be converted to regular, common shares. This will clear the way for a reverse stock split, and then issuance of new shares to raise additional capital. This series of maneuvers was approved by a majority shareholders last March but its execution had been held up in legal wrangling until Friday's ruling.

See also: [AMC Entertainment Can Breathe Easier As Judge Approves Revised Shareholder Settlement; Means Theater Chain Could Raise Fresh Cash \(Deadline\)](#)

Studio Release Calendar (8/18– 9/14)

8/18/23 (Week 33)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 33 Box Office: \$80,630,147

Blue Beetle (Warner Bros./DC Comics) <i>Current interest shows a upward trend with potential to open over \$20M. Friday walk up ticket buyers (fan boys/girls, Hispanics) are main audience.</i>	PG-13 Action Adventure Sci-Fi	127	Digital, Scope, IMAX, 5.1/7.1 Atmos, 4K, Dolby Vision, 4DX, MX4D, DBox, TheatreEars	Wide (3,900) \$14M-\$17M Open \$49M-\$55M Total (Current)
Strays (Universal) <i>Awareness and interest have trended down currently. Closer to opening, marketing campaign should build better interest to a potential \$15M-\$20M range.</i>	R Animation Adventure Comedy	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1 TheatreEars	Wide (3,000) \$16M-\$19M Open \$48M-\$57M Total (Current)
Back on the Strip (Luminosity Releasing) <i>Comp is THE BLACKENING (1,775 locations, \$6M open, \$17M total).</i>	R Comedy	117	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (1,800) \$2M-\$3M Open \$5M-\$6M Total
Landscape with Invisible Hand (MGM)	R Sci-Fi	105	Digital, Flat, 5.1 4K	Moderate (250)

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Outlaw Johnny Black (Samuel Goldwyn)	PG-13 Comedy Western	135	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (300-500)
Old Boy (NEON) <i>Remastered 20th Anniversary re-release of Park Chan-Wook's 2003 masterpiece.</i>	R Drama	120	Digital, Scope, 5.1	8/16 Limited
Metallica: M72 World Tour Live (Trafalgar)	NR Live Concert	165	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/18 & 20 Event
UFC 202 Sterling vs O'Malley (Iconic Releasing)	NR MMA Fighting	180	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/19 Event
Dark Windows (Brainstorm Media/DaDa Films)	NR horror	80	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Birth/Rebirth (IFC Films)	NR Horror	99	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Engineer (Lionsgate Premiere)	R Drama	120	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Simone: Woman of the Century (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Drama	140	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Mutt (Strand Releasing)	NR Drama	87	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NYC
Aliens Abducted My Parents (Vertical Ent.)	NR Family Sci-Fi	83	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
The Haunting of the Queen Mary (Vertical Ent.)	NR Horror	125	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Adults (Variance Films)	NR Comedy Drama	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Dead Shot (Amor Media) <i>British production</i>	NR Action Thriller	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Moon (Well Go USA) <i>Korea: Hangul: 달 문</i>	NR Sci-Fi Thriller	129	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
The Eternal Memory (MTV Documentary Films) <i>Original title: La memoria infinita</i>	NR Documentary	85	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Expansion
Porco Rosso (Studio Ghibli/Fathom Events)	PG Anime	115	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/20 & 8/22
Beanie Bears: Guardian Code (Fantawild)	NR Animation	94	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Eugene Onegin (Fathom Events)	NR Opera	171	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/16 Encore
Riffrax Live: RAD (Fathom Events)	NR BMX Racing	103	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/17 Live Event
The Wind Rises (GKids/Fathom events) <i>Kaze Tachinu (2013) 10th Anniversary</i>	PG Documentary	140	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/21 & 8/23 Event
Junior (Rhythm Boyz Ent.) <i>Punjabi</i>	NR Action	122	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited to Moderate
Aurora's Sunrise (Venera Films)	NR Documentary	96	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/18 LA 8/25 Expand
Madeline Collins (Greenwich)	NR Drama	102	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Strangers in a Room (IND)	NR Drama	N/A	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Third World Romance (ABS-CBN) <i>In Filipino</i>	NR Romance	112	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
8/25/23 (Week 34)				
Prior Year Results				
2022 Week 34 Box Office: \$52,972,118				
Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story (Sony) <i>Based on the Playstation video game. Sony's marketing and a sneak preview program have increased awareness. The film's extensive racing scenes are the core of predominantly male appeal.</i>	PG-13 Action Adventure Drama	135	Digital, Flat 1.90:1, 5.1, IMAX 2D, D-Box, Dolby Vision, ScreenX, 4K, CGS, ICE, Atmos, DTS:X	Wide (3,500) \$11M-\$14M Open \$28M-\$30M Total (Current)
Retribution (Roadside Attractions) <i>Remake of "Retribution (2015)" Liam Neeson</i>	Crime Drama	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (2,500) \$2M-\$3M Open \$4M-\$6M Total
The Hill (Briarcliff/Open Road) <i>The remarkable true-life story of Rickey Hill's improbable journey to play Major League Baseball.</i>	PG Sports Biography	126	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (1,200) \$1M-\$2M Open \$2M-\$4M Total
Golda (Bleecker Street) <i>Early access screening 8/23, 4pm & 7pm, Fathom Events special screening 8/23</i>	PG-13 Biography Drama	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (750)
KANG DANIEL: MY PARADE (Trafalgar)	NR Documentary	102	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/30 & 9/2 Event

Slotherhouse (Iconic Releasing)	PG-13 Horror Comedy	93	Digital, Flat, SRD	8/30 Special Engagement
Bottoms (MGM)	R Comedy	92	Digital, Scope, 5.1 4K	Limited
Landscape with Invisible Hand (MGM)	R Adventure	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Dive (RLJE/IFC)	NR Suspense	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Adults (Variance)	NR Comedy/Drama	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Owners (Big World)	NR Comedy	97	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Fremont (Music Box) <i>Afghanistan Female translator</i>	NR Documentary	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Warrior King (Cineverse) 雪域少年 格萨尔王之磨炼	PG-13 Animation	78	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Bank of Dave (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Drama	108	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Our Father, the Devil (Cineverse) <i>In French</i>	NR Drama	107	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Engineer (Lionsgate Premiere)	R Action	94	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited, Stream, Blu-Ray
Goldfish (Outsider Pictures)	NR Drama	103	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
King of Kotha (Wayfarer Films/Zee Studios)	NR Thriller (India)	123	Digital, Scope, 5.1	8/24 Limited
Renee Fleming Cities that Sing: Paris (IMAX)	NR Documentary	86	Digital, IMAX, 5.1	Event
Beaten to Death (Welcome Villain)	NR Horror	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Elephant 6 Recording Co. (Greenwich)	NR Documentary	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Jurassic Park (Universal) 30th Anniversary 3D	PG-13 Fantasy	127	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Event
American Graffiti (Fathom Events) 50th Anniv.	PG Comedy	120	Digital, Scope, 5.1	8/27, 8/30 Event
Scraper (Kino Lorber)	NR Drama	84	Digital, Scope, SR	NYC

9/1/23 (Week 35)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 35 Box Office: \$72,401,854

The Equalizer 3 (Sony) <i>Very good interest/awareness for Denzel Washington's popular character (Robert McCall). THE EQUALIZER: 9/26/14, 131m, \$34M open, \$129M total, 3.0 multiple. THE EQUALIZER 2: 129m, 7/20/18, \$36M open, \$117M total, 2.8 multiple.</i>	R Action Sequel	103	Digital, Scope, IMAX, 5.1/7.1, PLF, Atmos	Wide (3,500+) \$37M-\$42M Open \$102M-\$115M Total (Current)
Bottoms (MGM)	R Comedy	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate Expansion (500)
Ernest And Celestine: A Trip To Gibberitia (GKids)	NR Animation	80	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Good Mother (Vertical Ent.) <i>AKA: Mother's Milk</i>	R Thriller	84	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate
What Doesn't Float (Circle Collective)	NR Comedy Drama	70	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
On Fire (Cineverse) <i>Formerly Cinedigm</i>	PG-13 Drama Thriller	N/A	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Perpetrator (Shudder)	NR Horror	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Radical Wolfe (Kino Lorber)	NR Documentary	76	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NYC
Mr. Jimmy (Abramorama) ミスタージミ	NR Concert	112	Digital, Flat, 5.1	9/1 Event
They Live (Fathom) <i>John Carpenter</i>	R Sci-Fi Action	100	Digital, Scope, Surround	9/3 Event
Orca (Blue Fox) <i>Iran, Qatar</i>	NR Drama	103	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate
the Mountain (Strand Releasing) <i>France (In French with English subtitles)</i>	NR Drama	113	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

9/8/23 (Week 36)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 36 Box Office: \$44,110,214

The Nun II (New Line/Warner Bros.)	Horror Thriller	N/A	NA	Wide (3,500) \$28M-\$30M Open \$84M-\$90M Total (Current)
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (Focus Features) <i>Predictable, enjoyable film for all ages.</i>	PG-13 Sequel	92	Digital, Scope, 5.1/7.1 4K	Wide (3,500) \$9M-\$11M Open \$20M-\$25M Total (Current)
Satanic Hispanics (Iconic Releasing) <i>Re-release</i>	R Horror	105	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited to Moderate
Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (Trafalgar)	NR Ballet	120	Digital, Flat, 5.1	9/13 Event
AXCN: Perfect Blue 25th Anniversary Satoshi Kon Fest (Iconic Events)	R Anime	82	Digital, Flat, 5.1	9/6 (Sub) 9/7 (Dub) 9/10 Encore Event
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Universe (Blue Fox)	NR Drama	96	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Amerikatsi (Variance) <i>Language: Armenian, English, Russian (w/ English subtitles)</i>	BR Comedy	117	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA 9/15 Expand
Jawan (Yash Raj)	NR Action	165	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Moderate
Perpetrator (Shudder)	NR Horror	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Winter Kills (Rialto) <i>Reissue</i>	R Thriller Drama	117	Digital, Flat, 5.1	8/11 NY 8/25 LA
Joyce Carol Oates: A Body in the Service of Mind (Greenwich)	NR Documentary	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited, Stream
UFC 293 Adesanya vs Strickland (Iconic Releasing)	NR Live Martial Arts	180	Digital, Flat, 5.1	9/9 Event
Hunting For The Hag (Into The Night MP)	NR Horror	86	Digital, Flat, 5.1	9/10 Select
Christine (Fathom) <i>40th Anniversary, John Carpenter-D, Stephen King-Author, screenwriter</i>	R Horror Thriller	115	Digital, Scope, 5.1	9/10 Event

The Screening Room



NOTABLE TRAILERS



[Back on the Strip](#)
Luminosity Releasing
8/18/23 - Wide



[All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt](#)
A24
4Q 2023

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[The Storms of Jeremy Thomas](#)

Cohen Media Group
9/22/23 - Limited



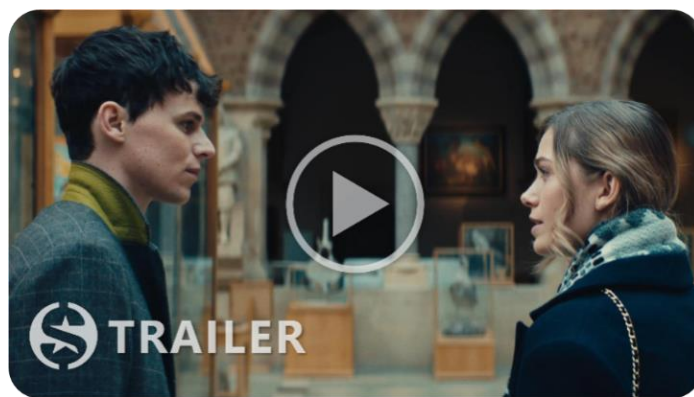
[The Good Mother](#)

Vertical Entertainment
9/1/23 - Limited



[Senior Year: Love Never Fails](#)

Atlas Distribution
9/29/23 - Limited



[Surprised by Oxford](#)

Trafalgar Releasing
9/27/23 - Event

TICKET TO RIDE | EP. 34

In this episode Paul & Mike discuss the "Barbenheimer" phenomenon and what it means for the industry as a whole and movie theaters in particular while also recognizing other films that have contributed to this amazing summer at the box office. They also discuss headwinds presented by the ongoing strikes and give a nod to Musso & Frank as a classic Hollywood haunt while giving a shout out to Pixar's "Elemental" as an underrated performer in theaters.



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GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A TRUE STORY

VERDICT: This biopic of a gamer-turned-racer delivers sports-movie uplift and racing-movie thrills while never letting up on the product placement.

Alonso Duralde, August 8, 2023

2023 is shaping up to be the year of the product-placement biopic, about subjects ranging from shoes (Air) to spicy snacks (Flamin' Hot) to hand-held digital devices (Blackberry) and even video games (Tetris). *Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story* doesn't focus on the creation of the popular PlayStation driving simulator, but it's no less of a feature-length advertisement for it.

Still, even as they're crafting a piece of marketing propaganda, director Neill Blomkamp and screenwriters Jason Hall and Zach Baylin slip a relatably human triumph-of-the-underdog story amid the corporate-mandated product-pitching, with some solid auto-racing thrills for extra pleasure. (This is the kind of movie that benefits from a booming cinematic sound system where one can feel the engines revving along the back of one's neck.)

The based-on-a-true-story part centers on Jann Mardenborough (played here by Archie Madekwe, *Midsommar*).

[Full Review](#)

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