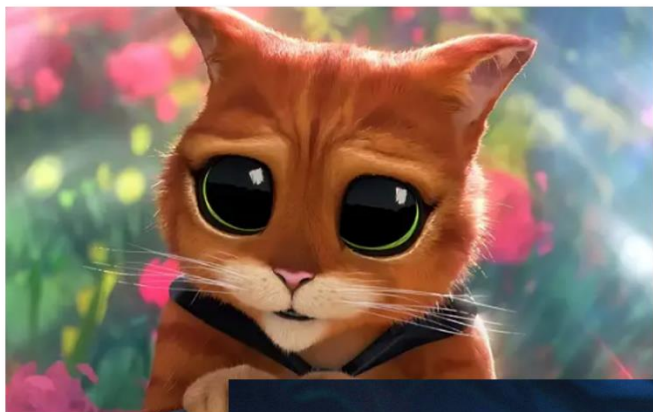




Issue No. 256



Weekend Box Office Results... 1/20 – 1/22

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	% Change	\$ Avg/ Theatre	Total \$
1	Avatar: The Way of Water (20 th Century)	6	3,790	19,685,000	-40	5,194	597,961,353
2	Puss In Boots: The Last Wish (Universal)	5	3,611	11,500,000	-21	3,185	126,460,470
3	M3GAN (Universal)	3	3,628	9,800,000	-46	2,701	73,287,510
4	Missing (Sony)	1	3,025	9,300,000	-	3,074	9,300,000
5	A Man Called Otto (Sony)	4	3,802	9,000,000	-30	2,367	35,346,249
6	Plane (Lionsgate)	2	3,060	5,250,000	-47	1,716	19,457,616
7	House Party (Warner Bros.)	2	1,400	1,775,000	-55	1,268	7,185,508
8	That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime the Movie: Scarlet Bond (Crunchyroll)	1	1,470	1,459,515	-	993	1,459,515
9	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (Disney)	11	1,525	1,397,000	-43	916	451,877,752
10	The Whale (A24)	7	1,591	1,281,249	-15	805	13,191,971

Weekend Review for 1/20 – 1/22

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER held onto the top spot at the box office for the sixth weekend in a row, with a three-day gross of \$19.7M and a decline of 40% from last weekend's results. James Cameron's Sci-Fi sequel has grossed \$598M since it opened on 12/16. Last week we projected that its total Domestic run wind up at \$650M and we are still holding to that number. However, AVATAR 2's streak of winning the weekend will most likely end in two weeks with the opening of M Night Shyamalan's suspense thriller KNOCK AT THE CABIN.

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH clawed its way back to second place with a gross of \$11.5M, which represents a gravity-defying drop of only 21% from last weekend's box office. The animated sequel is on track to earn at least \$160M from North American theatres, having already sold \$126M in the 31 days since it opened on 12/21. Both AVATAR 2 and PUSS 2 have held up exceptionally well throughout January.



	PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH	AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER
12/30 – 1/5	-20%	-29%
1/6 – 1/12	-30%	-47%
1/13 – 1/19	+20%	-23%



While AVATAR has grossed higher numbers since it opened, the swashbuckling PUSS has actually maintained its gross more successfully. Amazingly, PUSS 2 actually **increased its gross** by 20%, making the most of the MLK holiday week. What's more, Universal and Dreamworks will continue to have the family audience almost entirely to themselves for the next 4 weeks until the 2/23 release of MUMMIES from Warner Bros.

Universal's horror hit M3GAN took third place with \$9.8M, a drop of 46%. Sony's MISSING took fourth place in its opening weekend by earning \$9.3M. The mystery suspense tells the story of a mother gone missing in Columbia with her new boyfriend, and adult daughter trying to locate them from thousands of miles away using the latest technology. MISSING has received solid scores on Rotten Tomatoes with an 82% Tomatometer score from critics and a 90% audience score. It is guaranteed to be a financial win for Sony, having been produced on a budget of only \$7M. Also from Sony, A MAN CALLED OTTO starring Tom Hanks finished in fifth place with a gross of \$9M and drop from last week of 30%.

The momentum continued for 2023 compared to 2022. The total box office for all movies in theatres this weekend was \$73.9M, which compares to \$46.8M from the same weekend last year when studios had no new wide releases to offer.

Where Are We as of 1/19

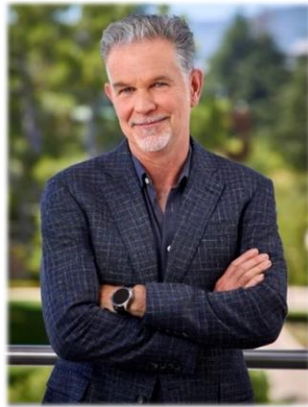
After the first two weeks of the year, 2023 continues to compare very favorably with 2022, with this year earning 161% compared with last year. It's also useful to measure the current year's results against 2019, the last full year prior to the pandemic. With that in mind, the first two week of 2023 came in at 79% of the same period of 2019.

2023 VS. 2022	2023 VS. 2019
1st QUARTER – 2 WEEK – 2023: \$291,962,000 2022: \$181,184,000 161%	1st QUARTER – 2 WEEK – 2023: \$291,962,000 2019: \$369,953,000 79%

Notable Industry News & Commentary

[Netflix Earnings Takeaway: New Ad-Supported Tier Is a Hit \(Forbes\)](#)

Netflix delivered a one-two punch with last week's dual announcements of better-than-expected fourth quarter earnings and a reorganization at the top level of the company's leadership. Taken together, these updates convey a company that is accelerating through a fundamental transition.



Netflix's Q4 earnings and growth were significantly better than expected, adding 7.7 million new subscribers worldwide during the period. This surge in subscribers was attributed in part to a successful launch of a less expensive ad-supported tier of service, which debuted in early November. In the first few days of its availability, the Netflix saw the fastest growth in new subscriptions since the early days of the pandemic. Company execs also point to the success of new programming such as the high-profile series "HARRY & MEGHAN" and "WEDNESDAY" and the feature GLASS ONION, Netflix's blockbuster sequel to Lionsgate's 2019 original KNIVES OUT. In 2023, Netflix expects substantial new revenues and subscriber growth to come from a successful crackdown in unauthorized password sharing.

As for the executive suite, Founder and Co-CEO Reed Hastings will cede his CEO role to Greg Peters, who has previously served as the company's Chief Operating Officer and Chief Product Officer. Hastings will continue as executive chairman. He explained the move to hand off his CEO responsibilities as "long-in-the-making succession plan." In 2020, Hastings elevated his long-time collaborator Ted Sarandos to the role of co-CEO, and now he is handing his remaining day-to-day responsibilities to Greg Peters.

Some are speculating that another factor in Hastings' decision was that he was cool to several new initiatives at the company. For years, he had vowed that Netflix would never show advertising to its subscribers, and would not undertake a draconian crackdown on password sharing.

See also: [Netflix's Reed Hastings Will Cede Co-Chief Executive Role \(New York Times\)](#)

[39 more Regal theaters are closing in the US amid bankruptcy. See the full list. \(Business Insider\)](#)

The impact of Cineworld's bankruptcy continues to play out with theatre closures announced for an additional 39 Regal Cinemas across the U.S. These sites include a number of marquee locations such as Union Square in New York City, Fenway Park in Boston and Sherman Oaks in Los Angeles, which Regal had taken over from ArcLight only 18 months ago.

Most of the locations were deemed to have unaffordable leases relative to their attendance and revenue. The closures are estimated to save Cineworld \$22 million annually, which is essential to the exhibitor's long-term survival. Regal had already closed 11 locations shortly after [declaring bankruptcy last September](#).

Of course, not all theatres that Regal vacates will remain closed permanently, as mid-sized exhibitors with more financial flexibility swoop in to pick up these locations. One example is Regal's former 12-screen theatre in Niagara Falls, which has will see new life as the newest Dipson Theatres location. The local cinema chain will rename the theatre to the Capitol Theatre 12, using the name of the original theatre which opened in Niagara Falls in 1926. Dipson also announced that ticket prices would be lowered from Regal's average of \$13-19 to a budget-friendly \$8. Dipson's Owner Mike Clement summed up his reason for the price cut by saying, "\$19 to see a movie in Niagara Falls is not sustainable. This is not New York City."



See also: [Regal Cinemas signs come down, as Dipson prepares to take over Niagara Falls theater \(Niagara Frontier Publications\)](#)

China: 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever', 'Ant-Man And The Wasp: Quantumania' Secure February Release Dates; First Marvel Movies In Market Since 2019 (Deadline)

China's unofficial ban on Marvel movies will finally be lifted next month with the 2/7 release of BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER followed ten days later on 2/17 by ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA. This marks the end of a three-year hiatus from China for Marvel titles, which limited Disney's earnings on these



films. In fact, no Marvel movie has topped \$1 billion worldwide in box office since 2019.

China is currently the second largest theatrical market in the world, with approximately 80,000 cinema screens. The last three years have taken it on a roller coaster ride, rising to become the top-grossing global market due to the relative success of the Chinese government at the outset of the pandemic in controlling the spread of COVID and a strong slate of domestic releases.

However, the government's zero-tolerance, zero-COVID policies to control the virus have led to rolling shutdowns throughout the country, halting moviegoing among many other public activities. The Chinese box office fell 36% in 2022 to \$4.6 billion, which allowed the U.S. to retake its position as the world's largest theatrical market. Now that COVID restrictions have been loosened, Chinese exhibitors are sorely in need of content that will attract moviegoers back to theatres. This may explain the sudden willingness of the government's China Film Administration to lift its three-year ban on Marvel titles, which had previously drawn large audiences to local cinemas.

Studio Release Calendar

1/27/23 (Week 4)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 4 Box Office: \$34,885,705; No wide openings.

Infinity Pool (NEON) Young males (25-34) are the primary audience for formerly X rated Brandon Cronenberg sci-fi horror thriller. Specialty film.	R Psychological Horror	118	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (1,500) \$1M-\$1.5M FSS \$4M-\$6M total
Fear (Hidden Empire Releasing) This independent horror film is riding the wave of the recent genre success. Look for short run, fair business.	R Horror	97	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Wide (1,000) \$500K-\$750K FSS \$3M-\$4M Total
Maybe I Do (Vertical Entertainment) Emma Roberts, Luke Bracey ("Elvis"), Diane Keaton, Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and William H. Macy.	PG-13 Romantic Comedy	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (300-350) 2/1 Streaming
Women Talking (UA Releasing) Female interest increasing incrementally. Award worthy film.	PG-13 Drama	104	Digital, Scope, 5.1 4D	Expansion \$4M-\$6M Total
Left Behind: The Rise of the Antichrist (Fathom)	PG-13/R Apocalyptic Thriller	120	Digital, Flat, 5.1	1/26-29 Special Engagement

Pinkfong Sing Along Movie 2: Wonderstar Concert (Fathom)	NR Family Animation	75	Digital, Flat, 5.1	1/28 Special Engagement
Pathaan (Yash Raj Films) <i>IMAX</i>	NR Drama Mystery	160	Digital, Scope, 5.1	1/25 Moderate
Billie Eilish Live at the O2 (Trafalgar) <i>Extended Cut</i>	R Concert	105	Digital, Scope, 4K Dolby Atmos	1/27 Special Engagement
Close (A24) <i>Belgium's Oscar selection</i>	PG-13 Drama	105	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Blood (Vertical Entertainment)	NR Horror	108	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Life Upside Down (IFC Films)	NR Drama	104	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Worlds Apart (IFC Films)	NR Romance Comedy Drama	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
One Fine Morning (Sony Classics)	R Romantic Drama	112	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NY/LA
The Man in the Basement (Greenwich)	NR Thriller Drama	114	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Filmmakers for the Prosecution (Kino Lorber)	Documentary	52	Digital, Flat, 5.1	1/27 NYC
Cairo Conspiracy (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Political Thriller	120	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NYC/ Limited
Kompromat (Magnolia) <i>France</i>	NR Suspense Thriller	127	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

2/3/23 (Week 5)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 5 Box Office: \$59,574,437; Openings: Jackass Forever (\$23.1M FSS; \$57.7M Total), Moonfall (\$9.9M FSS, \$19.0M Total)

Knock at the Cabin (Universal) Early reactions indicate another above average success for M. Night Shyamalan. Business similar to OLD (\$48.3M) and The Visit (\$65.2M).	R Horror Mystery Thriller	99	Digital, Scope, 5.1/7.1 Atmos, Dolby Vision	Wide (3,500) \$15M-\$20M FSS \$45M-\$50M Total (Current)
80 For Brady (Paramount) Entertaining female oriented comedy Currently has moderately successful potential. Expect incrementally higher numbers by opening weekend especially if older females remember "Nine to Five" and boost the box office.	PG-13 Comedy Drama	98	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (3,500) \$5M-\$7M FSS \$15M-\$20M Total (Current)
The Amazing Maurice (Viva Pictures)	PG Family Animation	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (1000)
Sword Art Online The Movie: Progressive - Scherzo of Deep Night (Crunchyroll) Core anime audience showing main support. Box Office looks similar to SHIN GODJURA (\$1.9M)	Sci-Fi Action Anime Japanese with English subtitles; English dubbed	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (950+) \$1M-\$2M FSS \$4M-\$6M Total
Let It Be Morning (Cohen Media Group)	NR Drama	101	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA
Unexpected (Blue Fox)	R Comedy Drama	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/1 Limited
Baby Ruby (Magnet Releasing)	NR Suspense Thriller	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/ Streaming
She Is Love (Brainstorm Media)	NR Romantic Comedy	79	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Ocean Boy (Gravitas Ventures) <i>Bosch & Rockit (Бегающие за волной) (Russia) (CIS)</i>	NR Drama	104	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Stars Fell Again (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Romantic Comedy	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Who Invited Charlie? (Vertical Entertainment)	NR Comedy	101	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
As Far as I Can Walk (Art Mattan) <i>English and Serbian with English Subtitles</i>	NR Narrative Drama	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

2/10/23 (Week 6)

Prior Year Results

2022 Week 6 Box Office: \$54,073,002; Openings: Death on the Nile (\$12.9M FSS; \$45.6M Total), Marry Me (\$7.9M FSS; \$22.4M Total), Blacklight (\$3.5M FSS; \$9.6M Total)

Magic Mike's Last Dance (Warner Bros.)	R Sequel	110	TBA	Wide (3,500) \$10M-\$15M FSS \$50M-\$55M Total
Titanic 25th Anniversary (Paramount) TITANIC: 2674 loc. \$28.6M FSS, \$659.3M Total (\$1.2B adj. for inflation). The film will be available in cinemas in 3D 4K HDR and high-frame rate.	PG-13 Drama Romance	194	Digital, Scope, 5.1 Dolby Vision 3D/2D, 4K, Motion, D-Box, 4DX	Wide (2,500) \$10M-\$12M FSS \$20M-\$25M Total
Consecration (IFC Midnight)	R Psychological Horror	90	Digital, Flat, SRD	Moderate (500-700)
Sharper (A24/Apple TV+)	R Comedy Thriller	116	Digital, Flat, SRD	Limited 2/17 Apple TV+
UFC 284: Makhachev vs. Volkanovski	NR Special Engagement	180	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/11 Live Event
Cinema Sabaya (Kino Lorber) (Hebrew: סינמה סבאיא)	NR Drama	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Daughter (Dark Star)	NR Suspense Thriller	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Seriously Red (Gravitas Ventures)	NR musical Drama	94	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Untitled Crunchyroll Film #4	Anime	N/	NA	NA
What About Love (XWS)	NR Drama	114	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/14 Limited
Winnie The Pooh: Blood and Honey (Fathom)	NR Horror	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/15 Special Engagement
2/17/23 (Week 7)				
Prior Year Results				
2022 Week 7 Box Office: \$111,440,788; Openings: Uncharted (\$44M FSS; \$148.6M Total); Dog (\$14.9M FSS; \$61.8M Total)				
Ant Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (Disney) The third in the series continues to have a high level of interest and awareness. ANT MAN: 3856 Loc. \$57.2M FSS, \$180.1M (\$223M Adj for inflation), ANT MAN AND THE WASP: 4,200 loc. \$75.8M FSS, \$216.6M (\$267.5M adjusted for inflation)	PG-13 Action Adventure	125	Digital, Scope 2.39, IMAX (2D/3D), 3D SDR, Atmos, 4K, Motion, Screen X, Dolby Vision	Wide (4,000) \$75M-\$100M FSS \$225M-\$250M Total
Marlowe (Open Road)	R Action	110	Digital, Scope, 5.1	2/15 Wide (3,000) \$1M-\$3M FSS \$8M-\$10M Total
Of an Age (Focus)	R Drama	100	Digital, Flat 1.37, 5.1	Limited
Emily (Bleecker Street)	R Drama	130	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA 2/24 Expansion
Return To Seoul (Sony Classics)	R Drama	119	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NY/LA
The Confession Musical (Fathom)	NR Musical	165	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/20 Event
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (Sony Classics) \$128M, 2,027 locations at highest week, opened 12/8/2000.	PG-13 Martial Arts	120	Digital, Scope, 5.1 Dolby Digital Surround	Reissue
88 (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Political Thriller	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Pacification (Grasshopper Film) France	NR Drama	162	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

Release Changes

MPA Ratings Updates

Upcoming 2023 Wide Releases

Release Date	Title	Release Date	Title
1/27	Fear (Hidden Empire)	6/30	Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (Disney)
2/3	80 for Brady (Paramount)	7/7	Insidious 5 (Sony)
2/3	Knock at the Cabin (Universal)	7/14	Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning - Pt. One (Paramount)
2/10	Titanic 25th Anniversary (Paramount)	7/21	Barbie (Warner Bros.)
2/10	Magic Mike's Last Dance (Warner Bros.)	7/21	Oppenheimer (Universal)
2/15	Marlowe (Open Road)	7/28	The Marvels (Disney)
2/17	Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (Disney)	8/4	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (Paramount)
2/24	Cocaine Bear (Universal)	8/4	The Meg 2: The Trench (Warner Bros.)
2/24	Jesus Revolution (Lionsgate)	8/11	Challengers (UA Releasing)
2/24	Mummies (Warner Bros.)	8/11	Gran Turismo (Sony)
3/3	Creed III (UA Releasing)	8/11	Haunted Mansion (Disney)
3/10	Scream 6 (Paramount)	8/11	The Last Voyage of the Demeter (Sony)
3/17	65 (Sony)	8/18	Blue Beetle (<i>DC Universe film</i>) (Warner Bros.)
3/17	Shazam! Fury of the Gods (Warner Bros.)	8/18	The Hill (Briarcliff)
3/24	Champions (Focus Features)	8/18	Untitled Please Don't Destroy Buddy Comedy (Universal)
3/24	John Wick: Chapter 4 (Lionsgate)	8/25	They Listen (Sony)
3/24	The Lost King (IFC)	9/1	The Equalizer 3 (Sony)
3/31	A Good Person (UA Releasing)	9/8	The Nun 2 (Warner Bros.)
3/31	Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (Paramount)	9/15	A Haunting in Venice (20th Century)
4/5	On a Wing and a Prayer (UA Releasing)	9/22	Next Goal Wins (Searchlight)
4/7	Chevalier (Disney)	9/22	The Expendables 4 (Lionsgate)
4/7	The Pope's Exorcist (Sony)	9/22	Untitled DC Event Film 4 (Warner Bros.)
4/7	The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Universal)	9/29	Untitled Universal Film (Universal)
4/14	Mafia Mamma (Bleecker Street)	10/6	Kraven The Hunter (Sony)
4/14	Renfield (Universal)	10/6	True Love (20th Century)
4/28	Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret (Lionsgate)	10/6	Untitled WB/Event Film (Warner Bros.)
4/28	Heart of a Lion (Sony)	10/6	Untitled Focus Film (Focus Features)
5/5	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (Disney)	10/13	Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (Warner Bros.)
5/12	Book Club: The Next Chapter (Focus Features)	10/13	Untitled Exorcist Film (Universal)
5/12	Love Again (Sony)	10/20	Underdogs (MGM/UAR)
5/19	Fast X (Universal)	10/27	Untitled Saw Film (Lionsgate)
5/26	About My Father (Lionsgate)	11/3	Dune: Part Two (Warner Bros.)
5/26	The Little Mermaid (Disney)	11/10	Untitled Focus Film #2 (Focus Features)
5/26	The Machine (Sony/Legendary)	11/17	Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds... (Lionsgate)
6/2	Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (Columbia)	11/17	Trolls Band Together (Universal)
6/9	Strays (Universal)	11/22	Wish (Disney)
6/9	Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (Paramount)	12/15	Wonka (Warner Bros.)
6/16	Elemental (Disney)	12/20	Ghostbusters Afterlife Sequel (Sony)
6/16	The Blackening (Lionsgate)	12/22	Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (Warner Bros.)
6/16	The Flash (Warner Bros.)	12/22	The Color Purple (<i>Musical</i>) (Warner Bros.)
6/23	No Hard Feelings (Sony)	12/22	Migration (Universal)
6/30	Harold and the Purple Crayon (Sony)		

Screening Room



[Magic Mike's Last Dance](#)

Warner Bros.
2/10/23 - Wide
Poster, Trailer



[Emily](#)

Bleecker Street
2/17/23 - Limited
Poster, Trailer



[Scream VI](#)

Paramount
3/10/23 - Wide
Poster, Trailer



[Renfield](#)

Universal
4/14/23 - Wide
Poster, 1st Trailer



[Evil Dead Rise](#)

Warner Bros.
4/21/23 - Wide
New Poster, 1st Trailer