



Issue No. 257



Weekend Box Office Results... 1/27 – 1/29

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)	7	3,600	15,700,000	-22	4,361	620,580,771
2	Puss In Boots: The Last Wish (Universal)	6	3,452	10,620,000	-10	3,076	140,834,910
3	A Man Called Otto (Sony)	5	3,957	6,750,000	-23	1,706	46,052,864
4	M3GAN (Universal)	4	3,416	6,370,000	-34	1,865	87,273,725
5	Pathaan (Yash Raj Films)	1	695	5,947,369	-	8,557	8,548,444
6	Missing (Sony)	2	3,025	5,675,000	-38	1,876	17,569,417
7	Plane (Lionsgate)	3	2,852	3,825,000	-28	1,341	25,374,765
8	Infinity Pool (NEON)	1	1,835	2,725,000	-	1,485	2,725,000
9	Left Behind: Rise of the Antichrist (Fathom)	1	1,388	2,362,074	-	1,702	2,972,648
10	The Wandering Earth II (Well Go, USA)	2	170	1,355,000	155	7,971	2,718,023

Weekend Review for 1/27 – 1/29

For the seventh consecutive weekend, AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER claimed the top spot at the box office with a three-day gross of \$15.7M, a drop of 22% from last weekend. While this sets a new post-pandemic record for consecutive weekends at number one, the streak will probably end next weekend with the opening of the M. Night Shyamalan suspense thriller KNOCK AT THE CABIN. Since its opened on 12/16, AVATAR 2 has amassed \$621M in the U.S. & Canada and \$2.1B worldwide, making it the fourth highest grossing theatrical release of all time.

We stand by our previous projections that AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER will wind up earning \$650M in the U.S. & Canada, which would be 87% of the \$750M box office that AVATAR earned in its initial run from 2009. The gap in attendance between the two films is even higher, considering a substantial increase in ticket prices over the past 13 years and the relatively higher portion of this year's ticket sales coming from Premium Large Format Screens (PLFS), which are sold at a premium price. After factoring this in, we project that AVATAR 2 will wind up selling approximately 70% of the number of tickets that AVATAR sold in the Domestic market.

This shortfall in ticket sales has the greatest impact on exhibitors, whose bottom line depends on highly profitable concession sales. After grossing more than \$2B worldwide, Disney and Twentieth Century Studios will certainly move forward to make more sequels in the AVATAR franchise, which is welcome news for exhibitors. One hopes that the much quicker appearance of the next sequel – AVATAR 3 is scheduled to hit theatres in December 2024 – will keep interest levels high resulting in more tickets sold.

PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH continued its hold on second place with a gross of \$10.6, which was a very modest drop of 10% from last weekend's box office. The animated sequel has earned \$141.8M in North American theatres over the 38 days since it opened on 12/21, and it appears to be on track to gross \$160M for its complete

run. Results for the DreamWorks-produced animated feature compare favorably to the \$149M earned by the original PUSS IN BOOTS from 2011. With a production budget of \$90M and a worldwide gross of over \$300M thus far, we can expect to see more of PUSS in the not-too-distant future.

A MAN CALLED OTTO starring Tom Hanks moved up into third place with a weekend gross of \$6.8M, a drop of 23% from last weekend. Sony has followed a platform release strategy for OTTO, with the number of locations increasing gradually over its first three weeks in theatres. The film has grossed \$46M to-date, and is on its way to an overall North American total of \$60M. Carrying a production budget of \$60M and having sold approximately \$70M worldwide, OTTO will need to hold well in the weeks ahead in order to achieve profitability.

Universal's M3GAN finished in fourth place, with a gross of \$6.4M and a drop of 34%. The horror hit is the number one Domestic grossing movie to open in 2023, with \$82.2M to date.

PATHAAN from Yash Raj Films was a surprise fifth place finisher, earning \$5.9M at only 695 locations, giving it by far the highest per location average of \$8,557. The film is a high-octane Bollywood thriller starring Shah Rukh Khan and John Abrams. It has received strong support from critics, with a Tomatometer score of 93% on Rotten Tomatoes. Moviegoers are not far behind, with a positive 82% audience score. In the past, comparable films have opened in North America with strong results, but not been able to sustain them beyond the first several weeks. We'll watch to see if PATHAAN has the legs to buck that trend.

2023 continues its winning ways compared to 2022, having topped last year's results for all four weeks thus far. The total box office for all movies this weekend was approximately \$75M, compared to only \$35.8M for the same weekend in 2022 when exhibitors struggled with no new wide releases for the second weekend in a row.

Where Are We as of 1/26

After three weeks, the 2023 film year is comparing very favorably with 2022, having earned 164% compared with results at the same point last year. On the other hand, the 2023 total is only 70% compared to the first three weeks of 2019.

2023 VS. 2022	2023 VS. 2019
1st QUARTER – 3 WEEKS – 2023: \$397,433,000 2022: \$242,661,000 164%	1st QUARTER – 3 WEEKS – 2023: \$397,433,000 2019: \$567,427,000 70%

[Regal Parent Cineworld Has Reached Out To 30 Potential Buyers as It Pursues Sale; Initial Bids Due Next Month \(Deadline\)](#)

This week, more headlines emerged from Cineworld's chapter 11 bankruptcy process. The exhibitor is actively engaged in talks with up to 30 separate parties to sell off its Regal Cinemas locations. Among the potential acquirers are certain competitive circuits, though there can only be a handful of prime candidates from this group since Cineworld has stated a strong preference to sell off its entire network to one buyer rather than piecemeal to multiple parties.

Cineworld also signaled that any interested party should have direct communication with the company, rather than "outside parties." This statement may refer to news reports that AMC has attempted to negotiate terms with Cineworld's lenders rather than with Cineworld directly.

As the desperate state of Cineworld's finances is becoming clearer, there may be opportunities for savvy exhibitors to pick up attractive sites and increase their scale as the box office continues to recover in 2023.



[Sundance, Once a Hotbed for Film Deals, Tries to Find Its Footing \(New York Times\)](#)

This week, the Sundance Film Festival wrapped up its first fully in-person event since January 2020. While the festivalgoers were happy to get together for ten days of in-person screenings and festivities, many also expressed anxiety over the outlook for the industry. Sundance is best known for showcasing independently produced, original dramas and documentaries but these types of films have had a difficult time since the pandemic in finding their audiences, especially in theatres.

In the years before the pandemic, Sundance was renowned for making headlines when studio execs signed expensive distribution agreements for festival hits, only to fall flat at the box office a few months later. Some prominent examples included flashy distribution deals for HAMLET 2, BLINDED BY THE LIGHT, Mindy Kaling's LATE NIGHT and BRITTANY RUNS A MARATHON.



Chloe Dormont's FAIR PLAY

Some of this year's most talked about movies are still looking for distributors, including MAGAZINE DREAMS starring Jonathan Majors and the Brett Kavanaugh documentary JUSTICE. The streamers have been among the most active buyers, led by Netflix's \$20M acquisition of the psychological thriller FAIR PLAY from director Chloe Dormont. Fox Searchlight spent \$8M on the musical THEATRE CAMP, featuring Broadway star Ben Platt while A24 acquired the horror title TALK TO ME" for a similar amount. However, neither musicals nor horror films are typical fare for Sundance, reflecting a new sensibility about the films with the best prospects for commercial success.

See also: [Sundance Deals: Netflix, Apple Shell Out As In-Person Screening Returns \(Hollywood Reporter\)](#)

Oscar Nominations Are In, and a Few Big Trends Are Out (The Atlantic)

On Tuesday morning, the Academy announced nominations for the 2023 Oscars, displaying a broader view of what makes a movie Oscar-worthy. Most of the nominated films had a traditional theatrical release, including Best Picture nods for AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER and TOP GUN: MAVERICK, the two highest grossing pictures of the year. This falls outside recent norms for the Academy, which has passed over blockbusters in favor of smaller films. This change may have been driven by woeful TV ratings for the Oscars awards show, with the past two years suffering the lowest ratings in history. Many argue that TV viewers have lost interest because of the Academy's focus on independent, art-house films that the general public has not seen, or even heard of.

EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE received the greatest number of nominations at 11, and is considered by many to be the front runner for Best Picture. EVERYWHERE may have struck the perfect note by being a solid earner at the box office, grossing more than \$100M worldwide, and receiving praise from critics, appearing on most year-end top ten lists.

As always, there were a few surprises, especially in the Best Actress category. [Andrea Riseborough](#) received a nomination for her role in TO, LESLIE, a film which earned \$27,000 at the box office while Viola Davis and Danielle Deadwyler were left off the list, despite their high-profile performances in THE WOMAN KING and TILL.

With Jimmy Kimmel hosting for the third time, the show appears on target to have a bounce back in the ratings, which will be important for its long-term survival.



Studio Release Calendar

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	99A	Digital, Scope, 5.1/7.1 Atmos, Dolby Vision	Wide (3,500) \$20M-\$23M FSS \$55M-\$60M Total
80 For Brady (Paramount) Entertaining female oriented comedy currently has moderately successful potential.	PG-13 Comedy Drama	98	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (3,500) \$5M-\$7M FSS \$35M-\$40M Total
Sword Art Online the Movie: Progressive - Scherzo of Deep Night (Crunchyroll) Anime Box office looks similar to Shin Godjura (\$1.9M)	Sci-Fi Action Japanese with English subtitles and English dubbed	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (950+) \$1M-\$2M Total

The Amazing Maurice (Viva Pictures) Based on the 2001 novel The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents by Terry Pratchett. Computer-animated fantasy comedy. Family, general audience.	PG Family Animation	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (1,000) \$1M-\$2M Total
The Chosen Season 3 Finale (Fathom Events) Based on religious text.	NR Faith Based Live-action Drama	150	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/2-3 Special Engagement
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 (Бегущие за волной) (Russia (CIS))</i>	NR Comedy	107	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
The Holly (Gravitas Ventures)	NR Documentary	102	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
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
Remember This (Abramorama)	NR David Strathairn Drama	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Currently NYC 2/3 LA
As Far as I Can Walk (Art Mattan) <i>English and Serbian with English Sub.</i>	NR Narrative Drama	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited (Currently Available)
The Locksmith (Screen Media)	NR Action Thriller	92	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
A Lot of Nothing (RJE Entertainment)	NR Thriller	105	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
BTS Yet to Come To Cinemas (Trafalgar Releasing)	NR Concert	TBA	Screen X, 4DX	2/1 Special Engagement
Groundhog Day 30th Anniversary (Fathom Events)	PG Comedy	111	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/2 Special Engagement
Facing The Laughter: Minnie Pearl (Fathom Events)	PG Documentary	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/6 Special Engagement
Lourdes (Fathom Events)	PG-13 110	110	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/8 Special Engagement

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.) Predictable perhaps ad-libbed dialogue. Good dancing and music. High young female interest, Magic Mike: 6/29/12, 2930 locations, \$39.1 FSS, 113.8M (\$145M adjusted for inflation).	R Sequel	112	Digital, Scope, 5.1, 4K Theater Ears	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) Comparable to Skinamarink (692 locations, 819K FSS, \$1.5M Total)	R Psychological Horror	90	Digital, Flat, SRD	Moderate (500-700+) \$4M-\$5M Total
Seriously Red (Gravitas Ventures)	R Musical Drama	98	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (100) d/d Stream
The Magic Flute (Shout Studios)	NR	124	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate
Among The Beasts (Gravitas Ventures)	NR Thriller	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
Sharper (A24/Apple TV+)	R Comedy Thriller	116	Digital, Flat, SRD	Limited 2/17 Apple TV+

UFC 284: Makhachevc vs. Volkanovski	NR Special Engagement	180	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/11 Live Event
Cinema Sabaya (Kino Lorber) <i>(Hebrew: סינמה סבאיא)</i>	NR Drama	92	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Daughter (Dark Star)	NR Suspense Thriller	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Untitled Crunchyroll Film #4	Anime	N/A	NA	NA
What About Love (XWS)	NR Drama	114	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/14 Limited
She Came from The Woods (Mainframe Pictures)	NR Horror Comedy	101	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Winne 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: 4200 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, 4DX, Dolby Vision	Wide (4,000) \$90M - 110M+ FSS \$260M+ Total
Marlowe (Open Road) Based on the 2014 novel The Black-Eyed Blonde by John Banville, writing under the pen name Benjamin Black, and stars Liam Neeson. Well made, beautiful cinematography of the period. Story reminiscent of Chinatown. Plays older.	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, 4K	Limited
Emily (Bleecker Street) Emily Bronte's own gothic story inspires a novel of one's search for artistic and personal freedom.	R Drama	130	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA 2/24 Expansion \$5M FSS
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, 2027 locations at highest week, opened 12/8/2000.	PG-13 Martial Arts	120	Digital, Scope, 5.1 Dolby Digital Surround	Reissue
The Integrity of Joseph Chambers (Gravitas)	NR Drama	96	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
88 (Samuel Goldwyn)	NR Political Thriller	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Pacification (Grasshopper Film) France	NR Drama	162	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

2/24/23 (Week 8)

Prior Year Results

Cocaine Bear (Universal) The film is inspired by the true story of the "Cocaine Bear", an American black bear that ingested a duffel bag full of cocaine in 1985.	R Thriller/ Dark Comedy	100 A	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Wide (3,000) \$6M FSS
Jesus Revolution (Lionsgate) Faith based film drawing good interest especially in middle America.	Drama	120	Digital, Scope, 5.1	2/21 Wide (2,000) \$6M FSS \$20M Total
Bunker (Blue Fox)	R Horror	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (250)
Mummies (Warner Bros.)	PG Family Animation		Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (200)

Emily (Bleecker Street)	R Drama	130	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Expand \$5M FSS
God's Time (IFC Films)	Comedy	83	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Ambush (Saban Films)	R Suspense Thriller	104	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/Streaming
Linoleum (Shout Studios)	NR Sci-Fi Drama	98	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Juniper (Greenwich Ent.)	Drama	94	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Quiet Girl (Super LTD/NEON)	PG-13 Drama	96	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NY/LA 3/24 Expansion

Release Changes

MPA Ratings Updates

Screening Room



[Shazam: Fury of the Gods](#)

Warner Bros.
3/17/23 - Wide
Poster, Trailer #2



[Ant-Man & The Wasp: Quantumania](#)

Disney
2/17/23 – Wide
New Poster, Trailer



[Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves](#)

Paramount
3/31/23 - Wide
Poster, Trailer



[Marlowe](#)

Briarcliff Entertainment
2/25/23 – Wide
Poster, Trailer