



Monday, January 18, 2021 | No. 151

In celebration of Martin Luther King’s birthday, we celebrate the 100-year history of films made by and for Black Americans. Hollywood’s early years coincided with a troubled period in America’s struggle to achieve racial equality. D.W. Griffith’s landmark film **Birth of a Nation** in 1915 set an ugly precedent with its portrayal of African Americans as unintelligent and inferior to the heroic Klansmen on a quest to preserve their vision of traditional American values. While counterprogramming from mainstream studios took decades to develop, Black filmmakers created their own counter point. The creative and entrepreneurial Oscar Micheaux became America’s pre-eminent Black filmmaker over his three-decade career beginning in 1918. Through more than 40 features, Micheaux portrayed the lives of Black Americans with a wide range of characters from heroes and heroines to scoundrels, told through dramas, comedies and even musicals. “Race films” from the period were mostly made by and for African Americans. "All-Negro" musicals of the 1940s and 50s including **Stormy Weather**, **St. Louis Blues**, and **Porgy and Bess** used song and dance to appeal to general (White) audiences, without asking too many hard questions.



Oscar Micheaux, The Czar of Black Hollywood

[Click to Play](#)



STORMY WEATHER (1943), starring Bill Robinson, Lena Horne and Cab Calloway

Fred Astaire proclaimed the “Jumpin’ Jive” dance sequence in the film was the greatest movie musical number he had ever seen.

[Click to Watch It](#)

The “Blacksploitation” films of the 1960s and 70s such as **Shaft**, **Superfly** and **Blacula** used comedy to a similar effect, with threads that connect with the more recent success of filmmakers such as Tyler Perry. Over the past 5 years, Hollywood has made great strides in telling a wider range of stories, and employing a more diverse workforce to do so. Last September, even the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences laid down a gauntlet to the industry, by establishing standards for inclusion of minorities both in front of and behind the camera in order for a film to be considered in the Best Picture category, beginning with the 96th Oscars in 2024.

“We believe [The Academy’s] [inclusion standards](#) will be a catalyst for long-lasting, essential change in our industry.”

– AMPAS President David Rubin and CEO Dawn Hudson

Weekend Box Office Results... 1/15 – 1/17

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	The Marksman (Open Road/Briarcliff)	1	1,975	3,225,000	1,633	3,225,000
2	Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.)	4	2,201	2,600,000	1,181	35,800,000
3	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	8	1,855	2,040,000	1,100	39,289,000
4	News of the World (Universal)	4	1,953	1,050,000	538	8,504,000
5	Monster Hunter (Sony)	5	1,694	920,000	543	9,030,000
6	Fatale (Lionsgate)	5	1,175	530,000	451	4,742,845
7	Promising Young Woman (Focus)	4	1,333	430,000	323	3,346,000
8	The Emperor’s New Groove (Disney) <i>re-release</i>	1	744	169,000	227	169,000
9	The War with Grandpa (101 Studios)	15	422	155,563	369	19,237,013
10	Pinocchio (Roadside Attractions)	4	660	140,975	214	1,322,338

- Open Road’s **The Marksman** will gross an estimated \$3.2M for the 3-day portion of the MLK holiday weekend and an estimated \$3.7M in 1,975 locations over the 4-day period, taking first place in the Domestic Box Office. This is Open Road’s third collaboration with Neeson after **The Grey**, **Honest Thief**, with all three films taking #1 box office rights in their opening weekend.
- Disney opened **The Emperor’s New Groove** in 744 theaters to an estimated \$169K over 3-days and \$239K over the 4-day weekend.

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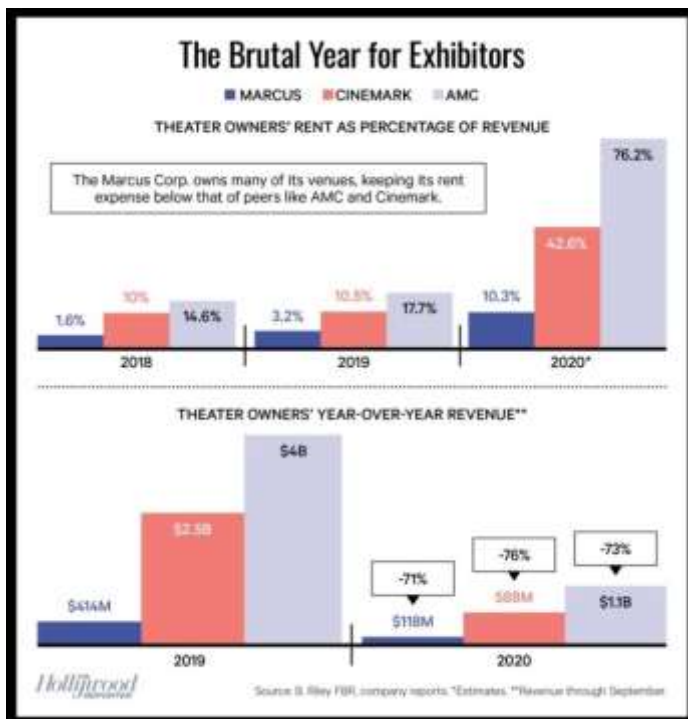
- IFC Films opened **MLK/FBI**, the critically acclaimed documentary from Emmy Award-winner and Oscar-nominee Sam Pollard. The film opened to an estimated 3-day weekend gross of \$27.5K and an estimated 4-day weekend gross of \$33.25K. According to IFC, the film is estimated to have the biggest opening weekend for a documentary since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Atlas Distribution opened **Bloody Hell** this weekend in 21 locations to \$11,953 for a PTA of \$569.
- Warner Bros.' **Wonder Woman 1984** took in an estimated \$7.8M globally from 43 markets (including the US and Canada) with the international weekend total at \$5.2M and the domestic tally at \$2.6M for the 4 day weekend. This international running come is at \$105.9M and the domestic total is at \$35.8M.
- Disney's **Soul** is finishing up its fourth week in international markets, earning \$5.8M in 11 territories for a come of \$57.4M.
- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its eighth weekend earned \$2.2M in 17 international markets. Combined with the North American weekend of \$2M the global come sits at \$134.8M.



Click to play our **BOX OFFICE BUZZ** video, looking back at some best picture Oscar winners... the silent, black & white, musical comedy **THE ARTIST**, the romantic drama **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**, the biographical drama **THE KING'S SPEECH** and the true life thriller **ARGO**.



Notable Industry News and Commentary... 1/10 – 1/16



[A Movie Theater Chain Poised to Weather 2021's Disruptions](#) (Hollywood Reporter) and [Cinemark Shares Hit 7-Month High After Boost From Analyst Predicting "Return To Normalcy" For Movie Theaters](#) (Deadline)

Marcus Theaters is the 4th largest exhibitor in the US, operating 1,110 screens across 17 states. Unlike its larger competitors, Marcus owns the property at most of its theatre locations, having the real estate on the balance sheet for 62% of its screens. This strategy has helped the exhibitor withstand the precipitous drop in revenues in 2020 due to closures forced by the coronavirus pandemic. President Greg Marcus explains, "Owning the majority of our real estate is a significant advantage for us relative to our peers as it keeps our monthly fixed lease payments low and provides significant underlying credit support for our balance sheet." When the expected rebound in exhibition arrives later in the year, Marcus expects that it will return to profitability quickly, paying back debts incurred during the lean times.

Meanwhile, shares in Cinemark surged last week after exhibition industry analyst Eric Wold from B. Riley issued a report that predicts a full recovery for the industry, with revenues returning to pre-pandemic levels by 2022/2023. Wold suggests that Cinemark has maintained a strong balance sheet throughout the pandemic, which will allow it to open back up quickly and successfully once the Hollywood film slate returns to theatres. Cinemark also predicts that the new revenue stream established during the pandemic from private "watch parties" will continue even after its theatres re-open with a full schedule of traditional showtimes and ticket sales.

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[Nielsen Launches PVOD Measurement Service to Measure Movie Viewing](#) (Deadline)

Market research specialist Nielsen has announced a new service to track movie viewing that includes on-line viewership through Premium Video on Demand services such as Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV+. The 2020 pandemic has shifted viewing patterns dramatically, with premium titles being released over streaming channels to consumers stuck at home. Nielsen's Theatrical Video on Demand (TVOD) ratings will include movie buys over PVOD, including films that play in theatres before or at the same time as their PVOD release. The new TVOD measurement will not include viewership for feature films whose access is included at no additional cost beyond the standard monthly streaming access charge, which it already reports as part of its Streaming Video on Demand (SVOD) tracking. Nielsen's GM of Audience Measurement Scott N. Brown, commented "A bigger question might be what will audiences do following any recovery, how the behavior adopted during stay-at-home orders might influence habits when consumers have the ability to go back to theaters to enjoy that experience and how content creators will leverage data to make the best decisions regarding distribution platforms in the future."



Nielson's Recap of 2020 SVOD - [Click to Watch](#)



Netflix's upcoming RED NOTICE will star Ryan Reynolds, Gal Gadot and Duane Johnson

[Netflix's Massive 2021 Film Slate Will Deliver New Movies Every Week This Year](#) (Variety)

This week, Netflix unveiled a massive lineup of feature film releases for 2021. Building on their reputation for delivering an endless stream of content, the studio announced that it will release [71 new features](#) over the next 12 months, with at least one new movie every week. The titles include mega-budget heist film *Red Notice* starring Duane Johnson, Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot, *The Harder they Fall* starring Idris Elba and Regina King and *Don't Look Up* with Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence. The magnitude of the Netflix 2021 slate and its star power underlines the position streaming has assumed as a primary force in the industry.

See also: [Netflix Film Chief Scott Stuber on Streamer's Stacked 2021 Slate and Saving the Rom-Com](#) (Variety)

[Studios Restart Production In Los Angeles Amid COVID-19 Surge](#) (Hollywood Reporter)

After brief pause over the holidays, studios have resumed filming on sets across Los Angeles County despite an alarming surge in coronavirus infections, with ten people testing positive for the virus every minute. The decision has been controversial, pitting the business imperatives of The Industry with the health imperatives of its workers and the community. Earlier this month during the pause in production, SAG-AFTRA's Gabrielle Carteris commented, "Patients are dying in ambulances waiting for treatment because hospital emergency rooms are overwhelmed. This is not a safe environment for in-person production right now." Since March, California has included film industry workers as part of the "essential workforce", thereby exempting them from mandatory stay-at-home orders. Studios claim that on-set safety protocols have been effective in minimizing risk and controlling transmissions. These measures include strict use of PPE, frequent testing and mandatory shut down of production when positive test



Tom Cruise went ballistic on the set of MI7, shouting at the crew to enforce compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols.

"If you don't do it, you're fired!" - [Click to Listen](#)

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results are indicated. According to data provided by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, while the virus transmission rate within the general community in Los Angeles sat at 14% in late November, the industry spread rate during that same period was 0.2%. Still, setting the proper balance between public health and economics has proven to be a difficult challenge in the face of the pandemic.

See also: [COVID surge throws 'essential' Hollywood production plans up in the air](#) (LA Times)

MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

Wide open is exactly where we are right now in this extended awards season's screenplay races.

Here's an alphabetical look at 5 ORIGINALS being talked about:

- **MANK** (Netflix): Jack Fincher's screenplay about legendary screenwriter Herman J. Mankiewicz should resonate with screenwriters voting for Oscars, BAFTA's & WGA.
- **NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS** (Focus): Director Eliza Hittman's screenplay about teen girls seeking unintended pregnancy help won best screenplay from NY critics & National Society of Film Critics.
- **ON THE ROCKS** (Apple): Director Sofia Coppola's screenplay follows a woman's journey of self-discovery with her playboy father. Coppola won screenplay Oscar, Golden Globe & WGA in 2004 for her original **LOST IN TRANSLATION**.
- **PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN** (Focus): Director Emerald Fennell's screenplay about a traumatized young woman won LA critics screenplay vote.
- **TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7** (Netflix): Director Aaron Sorkin's (pictured) screenplay about the trial following 1968's infamous Democratic Convention should benefit from being highly relevant to our times. Sorkin won screenplay Oscar, GG & WGA in 2011 for his adaption **THE SOCIAL NETWORK**.



* * *

The competition for adapted screenplay is just as stiff as it is on the original front.

Here's an alphabetical look at 5 ADAPTATIONS in the mix:

- **THE FATHER** (Sony Classics): The screenplay by Christopher Hampton & Florian Zeller (from his play) centers on an aging man -- potential best actor nom Anthony Hopkins. Hampton won adapted screenplay Oscar & WGA in 1989 for **DANGEROUS LIASIONS**.
- **MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM** (Netflix): Ruben Santiago-Hudson's screenplay about the "Mother of the Blues" should benefit from tremendous lead actor support for the late Chadwick Boseman.
- **NEWS OF THE WORLD** (Universal): In this post-Civil War screenplay by Luke Davies & director Paul Greengrass (pictured) a young girl taken by Indians is returned home by a traveling news teller (Tom Hanks). It should benefit from having best picture & actor potential.
- **NOMADLAND** (Searchlight): Director Chloe Zhao's screenplay about a woman's nomadic journey through the American West should benefit from being a best picture frontrunner.
- **ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI** (Amazon): Kemp Powers' screenplay about 4 civil rights icons in 1964 should benefit from having strong best picture potential.



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Update – Studio Release Calendar

1/22-28

(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.

<p>Our Friend (Gravitas Ventures) An inspiring and extraordinary true story of the Teague family—journalist Matt, his vibrant wife, 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 look at an extraordinary friendship, based on a true story.” – Joey Magidson, Hollywood News</i></p>	R	126	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Moderate (300)/VOD
<p>The Human Factor (Sony Pictures Classics) 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.” – Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES.</i></p>	PG13	108	Flat (1.78 : 1)	NY/LA
<p>No Man's Land (IFC Films) 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></p>	NR	115	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>Psycho Goreman (RLJ Entertainment) Intergalactic assassins converge on a small town after two siblings unwittingly resurrect an ancient alien overlord. Horror Comedy. <i>“A perfect movie for all of us who grew up in a video store” - RLJE Films chief acquisitions officer Mark Ward.</i></p>	NR	99	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>Preparations to Be Together for an Unknown Period of Time (Greenwich Ent.) AKA: Felkészülés meghatározatlan ideig tartó együttlétre Márta, a 40-year-old neurosurgeon, falls in love. She leaves her shining American career behind and returns to Budapest to start a new life with the man. But the love of her life claims that they have never met before. Romantic Drama. <i>The film was selected as the Hungarian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 93rd Academy Awards. Positive reviews.</i></p>	NR	95	Flat (1.85: 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>Respite (Gravitas Ventures) Down and out private-eye Jimmy Baz reluctantly takes on a case to find a missing college student when the dead bodies of Muslim men start turning up, leading him to believe he is now searching for a serial killer. Crime Drama. <i>The film will be available to rent and own on North American digital HD internet, cable and satellite platforms.</i></p>	NR	80	Flat (1.85: 1)	Digital/VOD
<p>Ten Minutes to Midnight (1091 Pictures) A late night radio host is trapped inside the station by a violent storm after being bitten by a rabid bat. Horror. <i>If you love Dead Alive or Evil Dead, you’ll adore Ten Minutes to Midnight. (Film Threat)</i></p>	NR	73	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Select VOD 1/19
<p>Identifying Features (Kino Lorber) Middle-aged Magdalena (Mercedes Hernandez) has lost contact with her son after he took off with a friend from their town of Guanajuato to cross the border into the U.S., hopeful to find work. Desperate to find out what happened to him—and to know whether or not he’s even alive—she embarks on an ever-expanding and increasingly dangerous journey to discover the truth. <i>“Combines stunning cinematography, evocative sound design and hints of magical realism to create a visionary work of devastating power.” - Sight & Sound</i></p>	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
<p>Riding the Rails (Amazon Prime, iTunes, Comcast) Filmmakers Michael Uys and Lexy Lovell interview 10 who train-hopped as teens during the Great Depression. Documentary. <i>Released in 1997, This PBS presentation won Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Documentary.</i></p>	NA	72	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Select/Streaming SVOD 1/26
<p>Brothers by Blood (Vertical Entertainment) 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. Drama Thriller. <i>Adapted from the book “Brotherly Love” by Pete Dexter, the film is a tale of family, friendships and betrayal in the violent world of the Philadelphia mob.</i></p>	R	90	Digital, Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD

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1/29-2/4

(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.

The Little Things (Warner Bros.) 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
Supernova (Bleecker Street) 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
Balloon Man (Gravitas Ventures) 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, he takes to the air, becoming the world's first African American Hot-Air Balloon Master Pilot. Documentary. <i>An intimate portrait of a former NFL athlete who learned 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
Palmer (AppleTV+) 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
The Night (IFC Films) 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. <i>Set in an L.A. Hotel Delivers Classy Scares (Variety). A chilling tale of past secrets breaking into the present in a truly haunting way. Well reviewed.</i>	NR	105	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited

2/5-11: Superbowl LV 2/7

(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.

Cinderella (Sony) 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
Earwig and the Witch (GKids) Growing up in an orphanage in the British countryside, Earwig has no idea that her mother had magical powers. Her life changes dramatically when a strange couple takes her in, and she is forced to live with a selfish witch. As she sets out to uncover the secrets of her new guardians, she discovers a world of spells and potions, and a mysterious song that may be the key to finding the family she has always wanted. Animation Fantasy. <i>The Goro Mitazaki film was an official Cannes selection and is the first new Studio Ghibli production in four years. Based on the 2011 book by Diana Wynne Jones.</i>	PG	82	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Theatrical 2/3 HBOMax 2/5
Minamata (UA Releasing/AIP) 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
The Human Factor (Sony Pictures Classics) 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
Malcolm and Marie (Netflix) A filmmaker and his girlfriend discuss their past relationships while returning home from a movie premiere. Romantic Drama. <i>Netflix acquired distribution rights to the film for \$30 million, outbidding companies such as HBO, A24 and Searchlight Picture. Excellent performances.</i>	R	106	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/SVOD

Days of Jasenovac (101 Studios) (Serbian: Дара из Јасеновца) 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
The Mimic! (Gravitas Ventures) 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
Payback (Vertical Entertainment) Mike Markovich, a young stockbroker at a Mob-controlled Wall Street firm, is betrayed and imprisoned for six years. When he is released, his deadly quest for vengeance begins. Crime Drama.	NR	NA	NA	Digital/VOD
Two of Us (Magnolia Pictures) 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
M.C. Escher: Journey To Infinity (Kino Lorber) 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 artist wrote during his lifetime.</i>	NR	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Story of Lover's Rock (ArtMattan Films) Lovers Rock, often dubbed 'romantic reggae' is a uniquely black British sound that developed in the late 70s and 80s against a backdrop of riots, racial tension and sound systems. Live performance, comedy sketches, dance, interviews and archive shed light on the music and the generation that embraced it. <i>This musical documentary puts in context the Lovers Rock movement presented in Steve McQueen's Small Axe segment Lovers Rock.</i>	NR	97	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Falling (Quiver Distribution) John Peterson lives with his partner Eric and their adopted daughter in Southern California. When he is visited by his aging father Willis from Los Angeles who is searching for a place to retire, their two very different worlds collide. Drama. Written and directed by Viggo Mortensen in his debut feature. <i>Generally positive reviews.</i>	NR	112	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Sacrifice (Epic Pictures) New Yorker Isaac and his pregnant wife return to a remote Norwegian village of his birth to claim an unexpected inheritance. Here they find themselves caught in a nightmare as an ancient evil awakens to claim a birthright of its own. Horror. <i>An interpretation of toxic masculinity, how our society nurtures it and how it, ultimately, kills... (viewer comment).</i>	NR	87	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select Theatrical VOD 2/9 Blu Ray 2/23
Heartworn Highways (Kino Marquee) An intimate portrait of the next generation of Nashville outlaws whose lives and music were influenced by the likes of Guy Clark, Steve Young, and Townes Van Zant. <i>Reissue of beloved documentary portrait of the outlaw country movement.</i>	NR	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
Little Fish (IFC Films) 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/VOD

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.



Land (Focus Features) 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
Judas and the Black Messiah (Warner Bros.) 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
Minari (A24) A Korean American family searches for a better life when they move to a small farm in Arkansas. Drama. <i>Began a one week virtual release on December 11, 2020. the film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 26, 2020, winning both the U.S. Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award.</i>	PG13	115	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
The Mauritanian (STXFilms) 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. Drama Thriller. <i>Based on the NY Times best-selling memoir "Guantánamo Diary" by Mohamedou Ould Slahi, this is the inspiring true story of Slahi's fight for freedom after being detained and imprisoned without charge by the U.S. Government for years.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Breaking News in Yuba County (AIP/UAR) 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
French Exit (Sony Pictures Classics) 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	113	Scope (2.35 : 1)	NY/LA
The World to Come (Bleecker Street) 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	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited Theatrical VOD 3/2
The Reckoning (RLJ Entertainment) Evelyn, a young widow haunted by the recent suicide of her husband Joseph, is falsely accused of being a witch by her Landlord after she rejects his advances. Horror Adventure. <i>The period drama is set against the backdrop of the Great Plague and subsequent Witch Hunts in England.</i>	NR	110	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Marighella (ArtMattan) Set in 1969, 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 timelier," Jonathan Romney (Screen International). INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT CRITICS PRIZE (Premio Giuseppe Becce).</i>	NR	155	Scope (2.00 : 1)	Select/Virtual Cinema
Assassin in Red (CMC Pictures) <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

2/19-25

(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.

Nomadland (Searchlight) 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. IMAX's Digital Media Re-Mastering process to brings clarity and precision audio to this modern-day road movie.</i>	R	108	Scope (2.39 : 1), IMAX on 1/29 (8 locations), 2/5 (20-30), 2/12 (IMAX expansion)	Moderate (500-700) Theatrical D/D Hulu Streaming
Silk Road (Lionsgate) 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
The Violent Heart (Gravitas Ventures) Fifteen years after the murder of his older sister, 24-year-old Daniel finds himself falling for Cassie, an outgoing high school senior, in this Romeo & Juliet-style thriller set in the American heartland. Romance. <i>Premiered at this year's Tribeca Film Festival.</i>	NR	107	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Joe Bell (Solstice Studios) 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
Test Pattern (Kino Lorber) 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
My Name is Pedro (Passion River) From first time director Lillian LaSalle, the film explores the seemingly impossible journey of South Bronx Latino educator and maverick, Pedro Santana, a former "special ed" student, whose mantra is - every kid can learn despite their circumstances. Documentary. <i>The award winning film is an essential and timely reminder of the importance of great educators that exist within the infrastructure of our country's public education system.</i>	NR	127	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD DVD 2/23
17 Blocks (mTuckmanMedia) In 1999, filmmaker Davy Rothbart met Emmanuel Sanford-Durant and his older brother, Smurf, during a pickup basketball game in Southeast Washington, D.C. Using two decades of intimate home video, the story of the Sanford family, whose struggles with addiction and gun violence eventually lead to a journey of love, loss, and acceptance. Documentary. <i>"A remarkably raw and heartfelt piece of filmmaking... At its best, 17 BLOCKS reminded me of the deep humanism of Steve James' work. Brian Tallerico, RogerEbert.com.</i>	NR	95	Flat (1.33 : 1)	Virtual
I Care a Lot (Netflix) A woman who makes her living stealing from the elderly by deceiving judges into appointing her as their "legal guardian" lands into hot water when her latest victim turns out to have ties to a powerful gangster. Comedy Crime Thriller. <i>The film had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on 9/12/20. It is scheduled to have a streaming release in most countries on 2/19/21 through either Netflix and Prime Video depending on the region.</i>	R	118	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select Theatrical VOD Platforms
Blithe Spirit (IFC Films) 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. <i>The film is based upon the 1941 play of the same name by Noël Coward, adapted for the screen by Nick Moorcroft, Meg Leonard, and Piers Ashworth.</i>	NR	95	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited

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2/26-3/4

(2020 Wk 9 Box Office: \$99,662,073)

2020 openings: The Invisible Man \$28.2M FSS, \$64.9M Total.

Nobody (Universal) 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	92	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
Tom and Jerry (Warner Bros.) 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>	PG	NA	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Wide/HBOMax
The Father (Sony Pictures Classics) 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
The Vigil (IFC Films) 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	88	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Killing of Two Lovers (NEON) David desperately tries to keep his family of six together during a separation from his wife. They agree to see other people, but he struggles to grapple with his wife's new relationship. Drama. <i>Robert Machoian (whose short The MINORS won a Sundance Special Jury Award for Directing) has a storytelling style that requires your full attention and an open mind.</i>	R	85	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited 2/23
Cherry (Apple TV+) An Army medic suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder becomes a serial bank robber after an addiction to drugs puts him in debt. Crime Drama. <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	150	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited Theatrical/ Worldwide Apple TV+ 3/12
Still Life In Lodz (Independent) (MARTWA NATURA) A large still-life painting hung on the wall above Lilka Elbaum's childhood bed in Lodz, Poland. It was the first thing she saw when she woke up, and the last thing she saw before she fell asleep. Documentary. English/Polish. <i>This painting hung on this very spot perhaps since the building was first inhabited in the late 1890s. Until the war these were Jewish families, then during the war, a German family, and then after the war, Lilka's Jewish family. Hence, the painting ultimately became a silent witness to the tragic history of Lodz's Jews. For booking contact: jessicarosner@gmail.com</i>	NL	75	Flat (1.85 : 1), Original 16.9 HD	Limited
My Zoe (Blue Fox Entertainment) Isabelle, a single mother raising her only daughter, takes matters into her own hands after tragedy strikes. Drama. <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

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Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Morbius (Sony/Columbia) Biochemist Michael Morbius tries to cure himself of a rare blood disease, but he inadvertently infects himself with a form of vampirism instead. Action Adventure Drama Horror Sci-Fi.	Wide	10/8/21	3/19/21
What About Love (JPSLD) 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.	Wide	2/11/22	2/12/21
Fast & Furious 10 (Universal) The tenth and final film of the 'Fast and Furious' franchise. Action Adventure Crime Thriller.	Wide	REMOVED	4/2/21
The Mauritanian (STXFilms) Captured by the U.S. Government, Mohamedou Ould Slahi (Tahar Rahim) languishes in prison for years without charge or trial. Losing all hope, Slahi finds allies in defense attorney Nancy Hollander and her associate Teri Duncan. Together they face countless obstacles in a desperate pursuit for justice. Drama Thriller.	Limited	2/12/21	2/19/21
Held (Magnolia Pictures) A couple's ailing marriage is put to the test when they are held hostage in an isolated vacation rental by an unseen Voice that commands their every move. Horror.	Limited	4/9/21	NEW
Finding You (Roadside Attractions) 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. Romantic Drama.	Moderate	4/23/21	1/29/21
About Endlessness (Magnolia Pictures) Director Roy Andersson adds to his cinematic oeuvre with a reflection on human life in all its beauty and cruelty, its splendour and banality. Fantasy Drama.	Limited	4/30/21	NEW
Sony/Marvel Morbius (Sony) Biochemist Michael Morbius tries to cure himself of a rare blood disease, but he inadvertently infects himself with a form of vampirism instead.	Wide	10/8/21	3/19/21
The Many Saints of Newark (Warner Bros.) A look at the formative years of New Jersey gangster, Tony Soprano. Crime Drama.	TBA	9/24/21	3/12/21
Deadpool 3 (Marvel/20th Century) Scheduled for production. The film is rumored to involve another popular group in the X-Men mythos, X-Force. Action Comedy Sci-Fi. Ryan Reynolds returns, and the film is very likely R-rated. Release could be 2022.	Wide	2022	NEW
Brothers by Blood (Vertical Entertainment) In the City of Brotherly Love, 8-year-old Peter Flood helplessly watches on as his little sister is killed by a neighbor's reckless driving. Tormented with grief and resentment, his father finds revenge as the only solution, leaving lasting generational wounds. Thirty years later, Peter still wrestles with the guilt he feels over his sister's death and his father's vengeance. As he tries to distance himself from the criminal family business, his cousin, Michael, becomes more powerful in the hierarchy. Bonded by blood, neither man can escape violence as they are dragged further into a chilling cycle of betrayal and retribution. Drama Thriller.	Limited	1/22/21	NEW

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar (Lionsgate)	PG13	Crude sexual content, drug use and some strong language.
Body Brokers (Vertical Entertainment)	R	Strong drug content, pervasive language and some sexual content.
The Boss Baby: The Family Business (Universal) Animation.	PG13	Rude humor, mild language and some action.
Courageous Legacy (Sony Pictures Acquisitions)	PG13	Some violence and drug material.
Eddie (1577 Productions) Documentary.	PG	Thematic material and some language.
My Zoe (Blue Fox Entertainment)	R	Brief language/sexual reference.
Operation Varsity Blues (Netflix) Documentary.	R	Some language.
The Tree (Amazon Prime Video)	PG	Thematic elements

Screening Room – New Trailers



Title: Earwig and the Witch (Gkids) *Âya to majo (original title)*

Release Date: 2/3/21 - Theatrical; 2/5 HBOMax

Director: Gorô Miyazaki (From Up on Poppy Hill, Tales From Earthsea)

Starring: JB Blanc, Thomas Bromhead, Alex Cartañá

Synopsis: The film follows an orphan girl, Earwig, who is adopted by a witch and comes home to a spooky house filled with mystery and magic. Animation Fantasy. *The latest film from the legendary Studio Ghibli (Spirited Away, My Neighbor Totoro, Princess Mononoke and more) is directed by Goro Miyazaki (From Up on Poppy Hill, Tales from Earthsea) and produced by studio co-founder Toshio Suzuki, with planning on the feature from Academy Award®-winner Hayao Miyazaki.*



Title: Penguin Bloom (Netflix)

Release Date: 1/27/21 - Limited/SVOD

Director: Glendyn Ivin (One of Australia's leading directors in television, film and commercials)

Starring: Rachel House, Naomi Watts, Andrew Lincoln

Synopsis: Based on the incredible true story, Penguin Bloom follows Sam Bloom (Academy Award® nominated Naomi Watts), a young mother whose world is turned upside down after a near-fatal accident leaves her unable to walk. An injured Magpie that makes a profound difference in their lives. Drama. *Well reviewed and led by a fine Naomi Watts performance.*



Title: Cherry (Apple TV+)

Release Date: 2/26/21 - Limited/SVOD

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo (Captain America: The Winter Soldier, Avengers: End Game)

Starring: Tom Holland, Ciara Bravo, Jack Reynor

Synopsis: An Army medic suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder becomes a serial bank robber after an addiction to drugs puts him in debt. Drama. *The film is a haunting, gripping journey for Holland's character, the titular Cherry, as he goes from middling high-schooler to army medic to a young man struggling with PTSD as he sinks further and furthers into a life of crime and drug addiction.*



Title: The King's Man (20th Century) latest trailer

Release Date: 3/12/21 - Wide

Director: Matthew Vaughn (Kingsman: The Golden Circle, Kingsman: The Secret Service)

Starring: Matthew Goode, Gemma Arterton, Aaron Taylor-Johnson

Synopsis: In the early years of the 20th century, the Kingsman agency is formed to stand against a cabal plotting a war to wipe out millions. Action Adventure Comedy. *The film is a spin-off prequel and the third film in the Kingsman film series, which is loosely based on the comic book series Kingsman, created by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar and published by Marvel's Icon Comics imprint.*



Title: The World to Come (Bleecker Street)

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Limited

Director: Mona Fastvold (The Sleepwalker, The Childhood of a Leader)

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Vanessa Kirby, Christopher Abbott

Synopsis: 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. *The film had its world premiere at the 77th Venice International Film Festival on September 6, 2020, where it won the Queer Lion award for best LGBTQ-themed film at the festival.*



Title: Minari (A24) newest trailer

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Limited

Director: Lee Isaac Chung (also writer, Abigail Harm, Lucky Life, Munyurangabo)

Starring: Steven Yeun, Yeri Han, Alan S. Kim

Synopsis: A Korean family moves to Arkansas to start a farm in the 1980s. Drama. *Began a one week virtual release on December 11, 2020. the film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 26, 2020, winning both the U.S. Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award.*

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