



Monday, February 1, 2021 | No. 153

In the mid-1800's, the land where **Hollywood** is located today was a modest agricultural community called Cahuenga Valley. In 1883, a real estate developer named Harvey Henry Wilcox and his wife Daeida moved from Topeka, Kansas to Los Angeles and purchased 150 acres in hills west of the city with the intention to establish a fruit orchard farm. Alas, farming proved to be more difficult and less profitable than real estate development, and on February 1, 1887 Wilcox filed plans with the Los Angeles County recorder's office to subdivide his land into plots for a residential community. Daeida decided to call the new development Hollywood, having first heard the name while on a trip home to Ohio. A fellow traveler mentioned that she owned an estate in Illinois called Hollywood, and Daeida was pleased with its connotation of nature, and culture. Within a few years, Harvey had passed away but key stakeholders in the development enticed the



The Origins of Hollywood - [Click to Play](#)

Los Angeles Pacific Railway to bring in trolley service, sparking the growth that turned Hollywood into an upscale suburb that was eventually absorbed by the rapidly expanding city of Los Angeles. At that time, a parade of movie makers were relocating to Los Angeles from the East Coast, in an attempt to escape the reach of Thomas Edison and his patents on the technology used to create motion pictures. They also viewed the warm, sunny climate in Los Angeles as an ideal setting for filming. Within a few years, more than a dozen studios had been established in Hollywood, making it the center of the young film industry.

Five of the Original Hollywood Studios



Paramount Pictures



Goldwyn Pictures



Warner Bros. Pictures



Fox Film Corporation



Universal Pictures

Weekend Box Office Results... 1/22 – 1/24

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	The Little Things (Warner Bros.)	1	2,171	4,800,000	2,211	4,800,000
2	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	10	1,901	1,840,000	968	43,947,000
3	Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.)	6	1,864	1,300,000	697	39,200,000
4	The Marksman (Open Road/Briarcliff)	3	2,018	1,250,000	619	7,828,000
5	Monster Hunter (Sony)	7	1,515	740,000	488	11,143,000
6	News of the World (Universal)	6	1,674	540,000	323	10,357,000
7	Promising Young Woman (Focus)	6	1,056	260,000	246	4,361,000
8	Fatale (Lionsgate)	7	1,022	220,000	215	5,593,602
9	The War with Grandpa (101 Studios)	17	525	147,050	280	19,642,183
10	Our Friend (Gravitas)	2	818	135,000	165	446,060

- Warner Bros.' crime thriller **The Little Things** starring Denzel Washington, Rami Malek and Jared Leto opened in 2,171 locations across North America and earned \$4.8M in box office. It played in 18 additional International markets, bringing in \$2.8M additional for a Worldwide weekend total of \$7.6M. This makes it the largest R-rated movie opening since the beginning of the Pandemic.
- Bleecker Street opened **Supernova** in 330 locations to a weekend gross of \$98,670 for a PTA of \$299.
- Disney re-released **Remember the Titans** in 730 locations to a weekend gross of \$65,000.
- Disney's **Soul** is now in week 6, and earned \$9.3M additional in 13 material territories for an international cume of \$85.2M.
- Warner Bros.' **Wonder Woman 1984** grossed an estimated \$2.4M globally from 43 markets in release (including US and Canada), with a domestic weekend of \$1.3M and an international tally of \$1.1M. This brings the international running cume to \$112.8M, the domestic total stands at \$39.2M and the worldwide cume is now \$152M.

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Click to play our POPCORN PREVIEWS BOX OFFICE BUZZ... today's Awards Alert focuses on the National Board of Review winners, including: Best Picture & Director: Spike Lee's "DA 5 BLOODS"... Actress: Carey Mulligan ("PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN")... Actor: Riz Ahmed ("SOUND OF METAL")...



Notable Industry News and Commentary... 1/24 - 1/31

[AMC chief says bankruptcy 'off the table' after \\$917m fundraising](#) (Financial Times) This FT article is also available [here](#) for non-subscribers.

Shares in AMC Entertainment went for a memorable roller coaster ride this week, with shares in the exhibitor ending the week at \$13.26, up almost 300% for the week and over 600% from the doldrums of early January when its shares had traded at under \$2. One reason for this volatility was the cauldron of stock speculation coming from amateur investors, banding together through the on-line trading platform RobinHood. Check out [#SaveAMC](#) trending on Twitter and the very active [r/WallStreetBets](#) subreddit (discussion forum) on Reddit.



Discussion on the WallStreetBets subreddit last week drove a stock buying frenzy focused on AMC Entertainment

However, the foundation for AMC's improved outlook was the company's announcement on Monday that it had secured commitments from institutional investors to provide \$917M in additional funding to cover operational expenses during the time it takes for the pandemic to be tamed and normal levels of movie-going to resume. CEO Adam Aron expressed optimism, saying that bankruptcy was now "off the table" and the "sun is shining on AMC." From the Financial Times article: "The company said it would need attendance to rise to 10 per cent of pre-coronavirus levels in the first quarter, 15 per cent in the second quarter, 65 per cent in the third quarter and 90 per cent in the fourth quarter to see out the year with its current funds."

See Also: ["Meme stock" rally rescues AMC theaters from \\$600 debt](#) (Polygon)



Last Week's Wild Roller Coaster Ride for Shares in AMC Entertainment (NYSE: AMC)

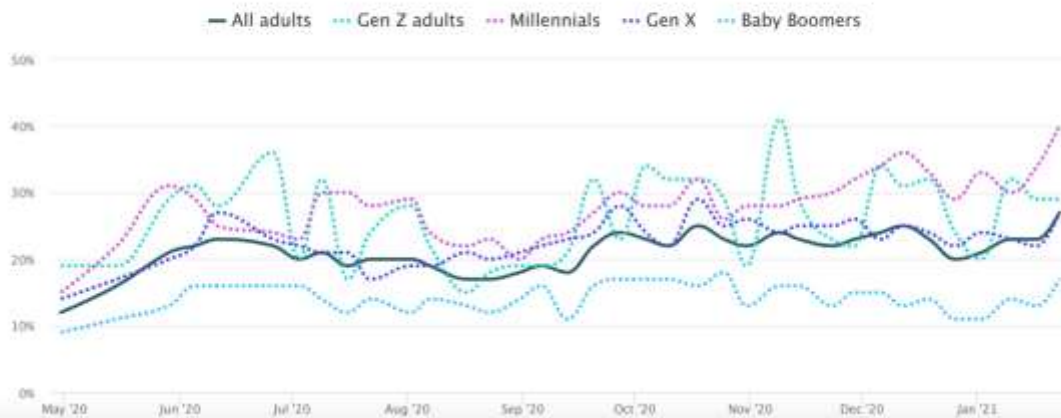
[Tracking the Return to Normal: Entertainment](#) (Morning Consult)

Confidence among US adults in returning to movie theatres is at its highest level since the pandemic began, when polling company Morning Consult began tracking how safe consumers feel in participating in out-of-home entertainment activities. Confidence has increased with progress in vaccine distribution, with an average of 25% of respondents to a poll conducted last week indicating that they are now comfortable going to a movie theater.

According to the poll, 40% of Millennials and Republicans were comfortable returning to the cinema, whereas only 17% of Baby Boomers and Democrats indicated that they were ready to return. Across all demographics, only 36% of respondents indicated that they expected to go back to theatres in next 6 months. This reluctance among many consumers must be influencing studios in their decisions about when to release films from their backlog, especially big-budget productions whose financial return depends on a successful theatrical release.

Roughly One-Quarter of Adults Would Feel Comfortable Going to the Movies

The share of respondents who said they feel comfortable going to a movie theater right now:



Source: Morning Consult

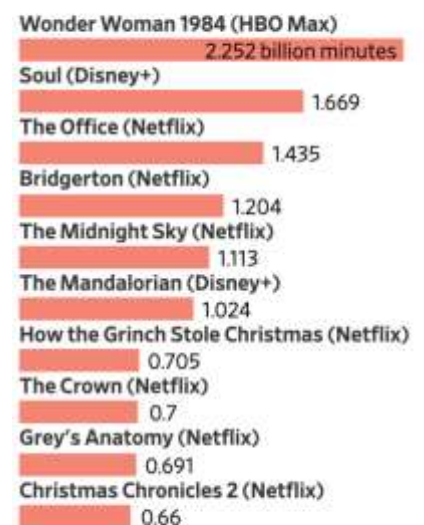
[Wonder Woman 1984 Delivers Ratings Win for HBO Max](#) (Wall Street Journal)

Warner Media updated its reporting for viewing minutes on HBO Max, which prompted ratings company Nielsen to update its industry-wide numbers for on-line viewing during the crucial Christmas week when several important studio films debuted on streaming. According to Nielsen's updated report, Wonder Woman 1984 beat out Disney's Soul as the most-viewed feature during the Dec 21-27 week, having drawn 2.25 Billion minutes of viewing compared to Soul's 1.66 Billion minutes. However, after factoring in the difference in running time between WW1984 (2hr 35min) and Soul (1h 47min), the number of actual viewers for each film appear to be roughly equivalent. WarnerMedia also announced that HBO Max had nearly 5M new activations in December, bringing its total at the end of the year to 17M. Disney reported that Disney+ had 86M subscribers as of early December, whereas Netflix reported that it had surpassed 200M subscribers at the close of 2020.

See also: ['Wonder Woman 1984' Soars To Christmas Streaming Win On Updated U.S. Nielsen List, With 35% Margin Over 'Soul'](#) (Deadline)

Top of the Charts

Most-watched content on streaming services, week of Dec. 21-27



Note: Nielsen measures connected-TV viewing only and not mobile devices or computers.
Source: Nielsen



[Hollywood's Patience Is Frustrating—But Necessary](#) (The Atlantic) and [The future of cinema is bright](#) (Nelson Star)

After surveying the pandemic landscape for film distribution, The Atlantic's culture reporter David Sims concludes that a more traditional approach will inevitably return, driven by consumer preference and financial incentives. Inevitably, movie-fans will once again return to movie-going, as they did in China, Japan and Australia once the spread of the coronavirus had been brought under control. Studios have concluded that streaming is not the best platform for the action, Sci-Fi and fantasy films that target an adult audience and have traditionally been the highest box office performers.

Within the world of Art Houses, virtual cinema has drawn interest during the pandemic, but not much volume. Kudos for the effort, but as it turns out the venue itself and the communal experience is an indispensable part of enjoying the movie. Eleanor Stacey, the Executive Director of the [Civic Theatre](#) in Nelson, British Columbia, offered her optimistic outlook in an article entitled "The future of cinema is bright", published in her local Nelson Star newspaper. A reader and member of the Nelson Civic Theatre Society commented, "I can hardly wait for the re-opening of the Civic Theatre. I miss the real movies, the evening out, and the popcorn."

[Small-business strategy for projecting success: How a drive-in theater owner pivoted amid the pandemic](#) (USA Today)

COVID-19 has created a seismic shift in the entertainment industry, forcing most consumers to stay at home and look on-line for their diversion. However, some outdoor experiences have flourished, including the once popular pastime of going to a drive-in movie. Over the year, hundreds of "pop-up" drive-ins were created across the country to provide safe and enjoyable entertainment options. This article from USA Today describes the 2020 story of Tulsa's Admiral Twin Drive-In. Owner Blake Smith had to manage the increase in demand with a decrease in product – a regular schedule of summer films that Hollywood would have been pumping out. Like most drive-ins, he updated his operations to minimize person-to-person contact and leaned in on classic film titles such as *The Goonies* and *The Outsiders*. He also used the grounds to host drive-in concerts and church services. In the end, the special events and classic movies turned out to be more profitable than showing first-run titles.



"If you're a small-business owner, I think you've got to really open your eyes and listen to what's going on and make the best decision for your business." - Blake Smith, Owner of the Admiral Twin Drive-In in Tulsa, OK

Navigating the Federal Assistance Programs for Independent Exhibitors

By Michael Peterson, [New England Theatre Service](#) and Harold Blank, [Mystic Luxury Cinemas](#)

Cinemas have been one of the industries hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, all theatres were forced to close their doors for what was thought to be a brief, 14-day pause while the nation got its bearings in managing the emerging crisis. Over 10 months later, only one third of these locations are showing movies and theatres that have re-opened are operating under a requirement to limit capacity and/or sale of concessions. Because of this exhibition status, studios have followed a recurring cycle of postponing the release dates for their most important movies. As a

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result, box office revenues in North America were down more than 80% in 2020 when compared with the bumper sales the industry experienced in 2019.

For months, we have heard the same question every day - will cinemas be able to survive? Our response is that we will make it through but only if we remain positive. Millions of movie fans want to be entertained by the best Hollywood has to offer and seeing a movie in a cinema setting is a vastly superior experience to watching it at home.

The industry has rallied in its own support with initiatives such as the [CinemaSafe](#), reassuring movie-goers that movie theatres are a safe environment and [#SaveYourCinema](#), bringing awareness to the financial struggles faced by theatre operators. Thankfully, the federal government has stepped in to offer a helping hand.

- On 1/11, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) began accepting applications for the second round of relief loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), intended to cover primarily payroll expenses for affected businesses in all industries.

The funds received under a PPP loan can be “forgiven”, as long as the funds are used for approved payroll and other expenses and the organization demonstrates a reduction of at least 25% in gross receipts for at least one quarter in 2020 when compared with the same quarter in 2019.

- Soon, the SBA will also begin accepting applications for disaster relief grants under the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program. This program is specifically targeted to provide support for cinemas and other organizations that offer in-person entertainment.

**Shuttered Venue
Operators Grant
Program**



Exhibitors can qualify to receive a grant of up to 45% of their gross

revenues from 2019. To apply for the SVOG, an organization must first register with US System for Award Management (SAM) to become an entity which is eligible to receive a federal grant. Go to www.sam.gov to register your organization. It can take up to 10 days to complete this process so exhibitors planning to apply for SVOG funding are advised to begin this process ASAP.



Note that an exhibitor cannot receive both a PPP loan and an SVOG grant. Depending on the specific circumstances at your theatre, the amount calculated under SVOG’s “revenue drop” formula may exceed the amount calculated under PPP’s “payroll cost” formula. In order to get ready to apply, you should gather financial records covering 2019 and 2020 periods and consult with your accountant to review possible tax implications.

Additional information

- [National Association of Theatre Owners](#)
- [US Small Business Administration](#) (SVOG and PPP)
- [Front and Center: New SBA Grant Program for Shuttered Venue Operators](#) (National Law Review)
- [SBA Shuttered Venue Operators \(SVO\) Grant Program: Guide To Eligibility Requirements & Application](#) (Merchant Maverick)

GOWER STREET'S *Box Office Outlook*

Power Shift: How the Coronavirus Crisis Reframed Global Box Office

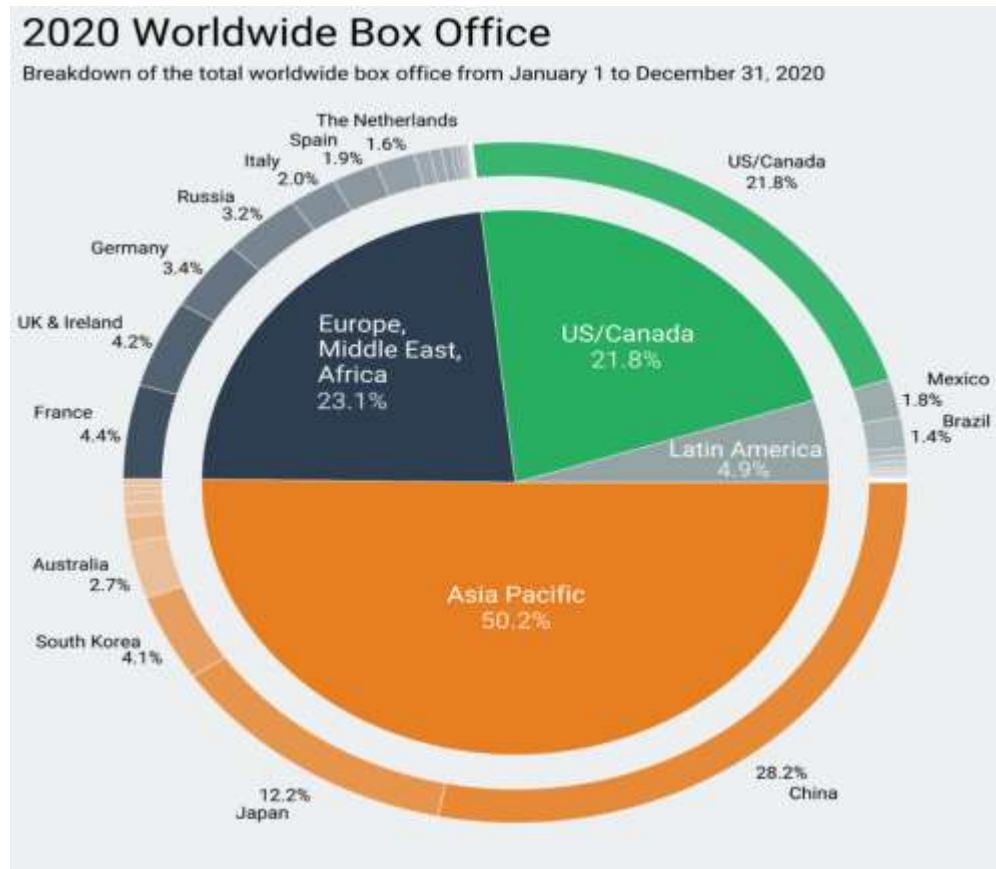
A month on from the close of 2020 official final numbers for different territories continue to be announced in the industry trade press. Regardless of the final individual numbers one thing is clear, no market remained unscathed. No headline made this more apparent than that announcing official Japanese figures in *Variety* earlier this week: “Japan Box Office Falls by (Only) 45% in 2020, Data Shows”. That qualifying “(Only)” both a celebration of the Japanese box office’s

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resilience, as the global market with the smallest box office deficit year-on-year, and a stark reminder of the devastation wrought on the theatrical industry around the world if a 45% loss was the best-case scenario.

But amid the constant roll-out of individual market data another change brought by the pandemic impact has gone largely overlooked: how the crisis has reframed global box office proportionately.



The pie charts above and below show the proportional representation of global box office regions in 2020 and 2019, respectively. Within each region the biggest contributing markets are also represented.

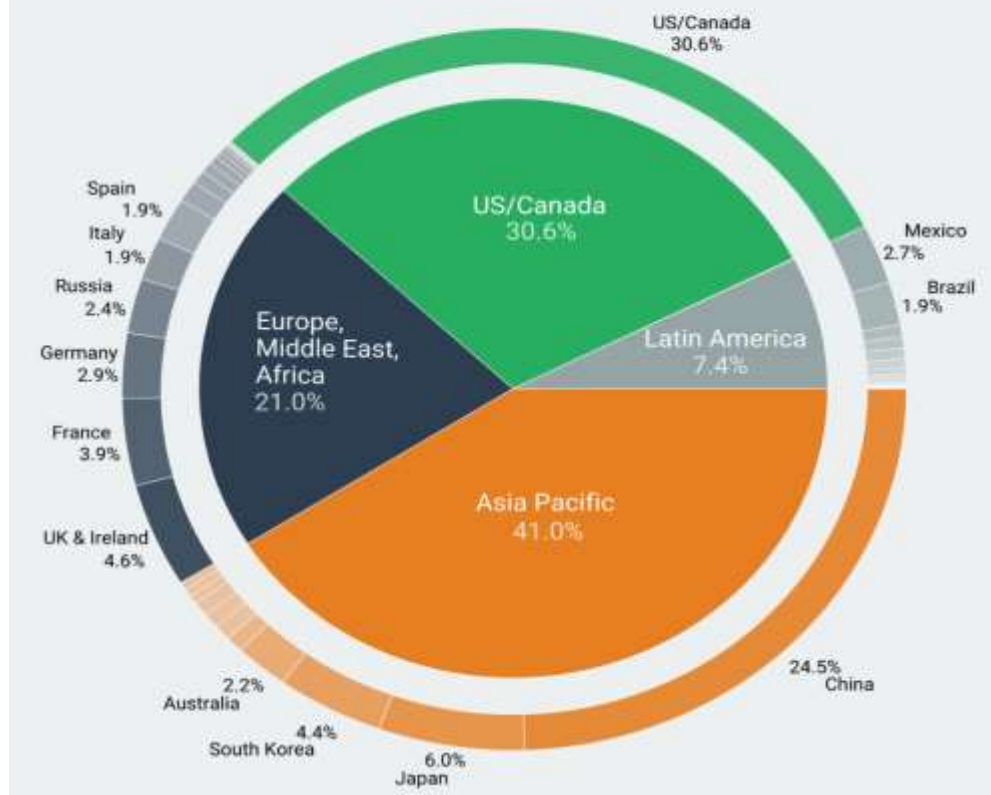
Two stories are immediately evident. The first, and most obvious, is the continued and dynamic power shift to Asia Pacific. For the first time, the Asia Pacific region represented over 50% of the global box office in 2020. This is up over nine percentage points from 41% in 2019 (a year-on-year rise of 22.4%). The three biggest international territories in 2020 were all Asia Pacific markets: China, Japan and South Korea.

However, while China, as expected, delivered the biggest portion (more than half) of the Asia Pacific result, becoming the #1 global market for the first time as previously reported, it was Japan that offered the biggest proportional growth, up 103% year-on-year compared to a 15% improvement for China. Japan was up over six percentage points (from 6% of global box office in 2019 to an astonishing 12.2% in 2020).

The Asian growth as a proportion of box office was offset by the shrinking representation of Domestic and Latin American box office. Domestic box office fell nearly 29% (and nearly nine percentage points) from 30.6% of global box office in 2019 to just 21.8% in 2020. Latin America experienced the biggest year-on-year drop (33.8%) as it fell two and a half percentage points from 7.4% to 4.9%.

2019 Worldwide Box Office

Breakdown of the total worldwide box office from January 1 to December 31, 2019



The second story is subtler: the relative stability of the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region within global representation. Despite the significant box office impact felt locally across multiple lockdowns, EMEA actually represented a slightly higher proportion of global box office in 2020 (23.1%) than it had in 2019, rising just over two percentage points (or 10% year-on-year). Within this region, France, Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands (the market with the smallest year-on-year loss in the EMEA region) all saw their proportions of global box office rise year-on-year. Italy and Spain remained on par with the previous year's performance. However, UK/Ireland saw its proportion slip from 4.6% to 4.2%.

This shows that while box office was impacted in all markets there was a disproportionate impact on some markets: including Domestic, Latin America and UK/Ireland. There are likely a number of, often overlapping, reasons for this: a country's handling of the response to the pandemic which may have more greatly impacted consumer confidence; a disproportionate reliance on Hollywood and other US product with an audience traditionally less engaged with local and/or arthouse/independent content; and longevity of closures. But these reasons alone may not present the full picture. The Domestic and UK markets undeniably over-rely on Hollywood content, but so does Australia which saw its proportion of global box office rise from 2.2% to 2.7% in 2020. Latin America has suffered some of the longest closures of any market around the world (Chile and Peru remain closed over 10 months from initial closure), but China was closed a full six months – far longer than many others.

As more and more Hollywood titles are further delayed the power shift to Asia Pacific is likely to continue this year. Gower Street is currently estimating Domestic box office for 2021 to reach approximately \$6 billion if there are no significant further changes to the calendar (which, of course, there will be). The Domestic market is already tracking 93% behind both 2020 business and an average of business for the previous three years (2017-2019). In contrast, China (as of last weekend) was tracking 41% ahead of 2020 and on par with the average of the previous three years. If Chinese cinemas can remain open then, with Chinese New Year fast approaching on February 12 and bringing a plethora of local content for audiences to celebrate it, the new #1 global market and the Asia Pacific region will get a major head-start in 2021.

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MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

Frontrunners for Oscar noms are emerging, driven now by their National Board of Review wins.

NBR's Best Picture & Director double win for Spike Lee's DA 5 BLOODS (Netflix) puts it on track for more. It sends Lee back into the awards arena where in 2019 he had Oscar, Golden Globes, BAFTA & DGA noms for directing BLACKKKLANSMAN and won the adapted screenplay Oscar & BAFTA.

NBR's lead acting winners are both likely Oscar noms: Carey Mulligan for PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN (Focus) & Riz Ahmed for SOUND OF METAL (Amazon). Both will get media attention as Palm Springs Film Festival honorees and both will likely make upcoming awards lists like Golden Globes & SAG.

NBR has a mixed record at matching up with Oscar for Best Picture & Director. Its top film for 2019 was THE IRISHMAN and Quentin Tarantino won Director for ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD. But the Oscars went to PARASITE & director Bong Joon Ho.

NBR's 2018 Best Picture, GREEN BOOK, also won the Oscar. But Best Director Bradley Cooper for A STAR IS BORN wasn't Oscar nominated. Lee (pictured) got a BLACKKKLANSMAN nom, but lost to Alfonso Curaron (ROMA). Now Lee's back with BLOODS to draw votes.



* * *

Nothing in L.A. County is as dangerous as moviegoing – or so you'd think from the pandemic restrictions that have kept theatres shut for the past year.

L.A. County said last week it's moved now to "essentially align with the state," giving a new lease on life to many businesses - but still leaving exhibitors out in the cold along with new films like WB's THE LITTLE THINGS (pictured – Denzel Washington).

California's biggest change allows L.A. County to again allow outdoor dining. California's restaurants lobbied hard to restore patio eating & drinking. Now with COVID-19 stats starting to improve and vaccinations finally beginning to roll out – albeit on a slow and poorly managed basis in L.A. – restaurants are able to get back in action. Also good to go (with restrictions): hotels, hair & nail salons, gyms, zoos, aquariums & museums. And packed airlines are still flying!



Movie theatres, apparently, aren't lobbying or it hasn't worked. It's amazing either way because where would L.A. be without the economic boost it gets from the film industry? And where would California politicians be without Hollywood's dependable campaign contributions?

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Update – Studio Release Calendar

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.



<p>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 the headstrong young girl 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></p>	PG	82	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Theatrical 2/3 HBOMax 2/5
<p>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.</p>	R	115	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
<p>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></p>	R	106	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
<p>Bliss (Amazon Studios) A mind-bending love story following Greg who, after recently being divorced and then fired, meets the mysterious Isabel, a woman living on the streets and convinced that the polluted, broken world around them is a computer simulation. Owen Wilson, Salma Hayek. Romantic Drama.</p>	R	103	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/SVOD
<p>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></p>	R	130	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited
<p>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></p>	NA	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>The Wanting Mare (Gravitas Ventures) In the city of Whithren, a line of women passes a single dream through multiple generations. Fantasy Drama. <i>Filmed almost entirely in a warehouse in Paterson, New Jersey. Popular on the film festival circuit, the film is a visual spectacular with great film music.</i></p>	NR	89	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>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></p>	NR	95	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
<p>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 Escher wrote during his lifetime.</i></p>	NR	81	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

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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
Son of the South (Vertical Entertainment) A grandson of a Klansman comes of age in the deep south and eventually joins the Civil Rights Movement. Biography Drama. <i>Based on Bob Zellner's autobiography "The Wrong Side of Murder Creek."</i>	PG13	105	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
A Glitch in The Matrix (Magnolia Pictures) Documentary filmmaker Rodney Ascher tackles this question "are we living in a simulation?" with testimony, philosophical evidence and scientific explanation in his for the answer. <i>The film comes from Rodney Ascher, who has previously made the documentary "Room 237", which presents an analysis of Stanley Kubrick's The Shining.</i>	NA	108	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
PVT Chat (Dark Star Pictures) In this New York-set indie, a leather-clad cam girl opposite an online blackjack and her sub client she meets during web calls. Drama. <i>'Uncut Gems' Star Julia Fox is a Cam-Girl Femme Fatale in Psychosexual Noir.</i>	NR	86	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited VOD on 2/9
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. <i>The film was scheduled to have its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival on 4/17/20. Pandemic postponed.</i>	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>SCREENING: A message of hope resonates in this well acted, beautiful film with understated solid filmmaking. Good music provides a quiet allegory about nature and the passage of seasons as a time of healing. This excellent film should find a mature audience.</i>	PG13	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. Shaka King's passionate film has Oscar-worthy performances from Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield. Co-writer and director Shaka King, a former student of Spike Lee at NYU, echoes William Friedkin's style as seen in 1971's "The French Connection."</i>	R	126	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide/HBOMax
Music (IMAX) Zu is newly sober when she receives news that she is to become the sole guardian of her half-sister named Music, a young girl on the autism spectrum. The film explores two of Sia's favorite themes: finding your voice and creating family. Directed by singer-songwriter Sia. Drama Musical.	PG13	108	IMAX	Limited on 2/10



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 12/11/20. The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on 1/26/20, 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	129	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	96	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
Fear of Rain (Lionsgate) (a/k/a I Saw a Man with Yellow Eyes) A girl living with schizophrenia struggles with terrifying hallucinations as she begins to suspect her neighbor has kidnapped a child. The only person who believes her is Caleb -a boy she isn't even sure exists. Horror Thriller. <i>The multiple platform release pattern is beginning to become a fixture for the future.</i>	PG13	104	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited Theatrical VOD/Blu-ray/DVD on 2/16
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 on 3/2
Young Hearts (Blue Fox Entertainment) Tilly and Harper have lived across the street from each other since they were kids. When newly feminist Harper enters high school, she and theater nerd Tilly find themselves in an unexpected relationship. Social expectations, self-identities and family standings are challenged, providing us with an honest look into the innocent, yet also hyper social and cultural awareness of today's young people. Drama Romance.	NR	95	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited/Virtual
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 and 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 Becca).</i>	NR	155	Scope (2.00 : 1)	Select/Virtual Cinema
Assassin in Red (CMC Pictures) Chinese Title: 刺杀小说家 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.

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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
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
Take Me to Tarzana (Gravitas Ventures) Miles and Jane as they struggle to survive in the corporate jungle at Teleplex, a top data-mining company. Dark Comedy. <i>Inspired by classics such as Office Space, The Big Lebowski and Garden State, TAKE ME TO TARZANA is a zany comedy with a subtle social commentary.</i>	NR	106	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Paranormal Prison (Gravitas Ventures) The impending demolition of an abandoned prison has the paranormal investigation team "The Skeptic and the Scientist" rushed to spend a locked-in night within the prison's walls before the wrecking balls start swinging turning the now state historical building to condos. Horror Comedy. <i>The story of a paranormal investigation is built and scripted around the historic Idaho State Penitentiary.</i>	NR	NA	Flat (1.78 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Jumbo (Dark Star Pictures) Jeanne, a shy young woman, works in an amusement park. Fascinated with carousels, she still lives at home with her mother. That's when Jeanne meets Jumbo, the park's new flagship attraction. Fantasy Drama. <i>Sundance: "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" star Noémie Merlant seduces a massive tilt-a-whirl in this tender and erotic Belgian charmer.</i>	NR	93	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select Theatrical VOD platforms
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)	Select Theatrical Virtual Cinemas
My Name is Pedro (Passion River) This award-winning film, from first time director Lillian LaSalle, 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 on 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
Days of the Bagnold Summer (Greenwich Entertainment) A teenager spends his summer listening to heavy metal music and trying to get along with his librarian mum. Comedy. <i>Highly reviewed comedy has good performances.</i>	NR	86	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD

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 or 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
2/26-3/4 (2020 Wk 9 Box Office: \$99,662,073) 2020 openings: The Invisible Man \$28.2M FSS, \$64.9M Total.				
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), D-Box	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
As Long as We Both Shall Live (Gravitas Ventures) AKA: Falling. After Malcolm tragically loses his wife, Sarah, he succumbs to depression until he meets Nya, who pulls him out of his shell. That's when he starts seeing his dead wife, terrorizing him at every turn, eroding his sanity. Romantic Thriller. <i>Won four major awards from the Hollywood Film Festival and Best Picture/Cinematography at an international film festival.</i>	NR	105	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Tyger Tyger (Gravitas Ventures) During a pandemic, a selfless woman kidnaps a junkie after robbing a pharmacy and hits the road to distribute "lifesaving" medication, but find themselves trapped in the fringe lands of a law-less psychedelic city. Western. <i>Plays with current living situation of a pandemic. Kerry Mondragon wrote and directed the movie, which was presciently filmed before the coronavirus crisis gripped the world.</i>	NR	NA	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Crisis (Quiver Distribution) AKA: Dreamland Three stories about the world of opioids collide. A drug trafficker arranges a multi-cartel Fentanyl smuggling operation between Canada and the U.S. Drama Thriller. <i>Advance reviews have been very positive. Variety's Marc Malkin wrote that the film is "intense and timely... with exceptional performances, fine storytelling, and master craftsmanship."</i>	R	118	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited VOD on 3/5
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 both agree to see other people but David struggles to grapple with his wife's new relationship. Drama. <i>Robert Machoian (whose short The MINORS won a Sundance Special Jury Award for Directing) has a storytelling style that requires your full attention and an open mind.</i>	R	85	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited 2/23

Night of the Kings (NEON Rated) AKA: <i>La nuit des rois</i> (original title). A young man is sent to "La Maca", a prison of Ivory Coast in the middle of the forest ruled by its prisoners. With the red moon rising, he is designated by the Boss to be the new "Roman" and must tell a story to the other prisoners. Fantasy Drama. <i>The film was selected as the Ivorian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 93rd Academy Awards. Well reviewed.</i>	NR	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
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
United States vs. Billie Holiday (Hulu) The Federal Bureau of Narcotics launches an undercover sting operation against jazz singer Billie Holiday. Biography Drama Music. <i>Directed by Lee Daniels and based on the book Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs by Johann Hari.</i>	NA	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select Theatrical/ Hulu on demand
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) Recently divorced scientist Isabelle struggles to co-parent her daughter Zoe with her argumentative ex. But when Zoe suffers an unexpected brain hemorrhage and is put on life support, Isabelle comes up with an audacious plan to keep some version of her daughter alive. 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. A meditation on loss, grief, and technology's very human limits, MY ZOE is the story of enduring love in a future that strikes close to our present.</i>	NR	101	Scope (2.4 : 1)	Limited VOD on 5/26
3/5-11 (2020 Wk 10 Box Office: \$101,150,904) 2020 openings: Onward \$39.1M FSS, \$61.6M Total; The Way Back \$8.2M FSS, \$13.6M Total.				
Raya and the Last Dragon (Disney) In a realm known as Kumandra, a re-imagined Earth inhabited by an ancient civilization, a warrior named Raya is determined to find the last dragon. Action Animation Family Fantasy. <i>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the film will also be simultaneously available on Disney+ with Premier Access. The film is set in a fictional fantasy land called Kumandra, inspired by Southeast Asian cultures from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Laos.</i>	PG	90	Scope (2.39 : 1), IMAX, 3D, Atmos	Wide/Disney+
Boogie (Focus Features) Set in contemporary New York City and follows a Chinese American basketball phenom who struggles to balance the expectations of his immigrant family with his own dreams of becoming a player for the NBA. Drama.		90	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
Chaos Walking (Lionsgate) A dystopian world where there are no women and all living creatures can hear each other's thoughts in a stream of images, words, and sounds called Noise. Adventure Sci-Fi.	PG13	108A	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide D-Box
The Truffle Hunters (Sony Pictures Classics) Deep in the forests of Piedmont, Italy, a handful of men, seventy or eighty years young, hunt for the rare and expensive white Alba truffle-which to date has resisted all of modern science's efforts at cultivation. Documentary.	PG13	84	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
My Salinger Year (IFC Films) A college grad takes a clerical job working for the literary agent of the renowned, reclusive writer J.D. Salinger. Drama.	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
The Human Voice (Sony Pictures Classics) A woman watches time passing next to the suitcases of her ex-lover (who is supposed to come pick them up, but never arrives) and a restless dog who doesn't understand that his master has abandoned him. Two living beings facing abandonment. Drama Short.	R	30	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited

The People Vs. Agent Orange (Java Films) Two courageous women, one American and one Vietnamese, fight at great personal cost to stop the use of toxic agricultural chemicals and to hold a mammoth industry accountable for the 40-year cover-up of Agent Orange. Documentary. <i>'The People vs. Agent Orange is a very well-made film. A storytelling of the destinies of two women cleverly unfolds before your eyes.'</i> – <i>Les Soirées de Paris</i> .	NR	86	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/Virtual
Stray (Magnolia Pictures) The world of Zeytin, a stray dog living life on the streets of Istanbul. Documentary.	NR	72	NA	Limited
3/12-18: Daylight Savings Begins 3/14; St. Patrick's Day 3/17 (2020 Wk 11 Box Office: \$54,796,981) 2020 openings: Bloodshot \$9.2M FSS, \$12.6M Total; I Still Believe \$9.1M FSS, \$9.9M Total; The Hunt \$5.3M FSS, \$5.8M Total.				
Dutch (Faith Media Distribution) An ambitious New Jersey drug dealer makes moves on the street while facing a high-profile court case. Action. <i>Dutch: The First of a Trilogy. James Bernard Jr., a.k.a. Dutch, has become the most dangerous criminal in New Jersey.</i>	R	109	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Come True (IFC Films) A teenage runaway takes part in a sleep study that becomes a nightmarish descent into the depths of her mind and a frightening examination of the power of dreams. Horror Sci-Fi. <i>A masterful display of tonal control, Anthony Scott Burns' second feature lulls the viewer into an unsettling, trancelike mood, and then accents it with sharp characters and an unpredictable narrative arc. (Screen International).</i>	NR	105	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD



Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Joe Bell (Solstice) Joe Bell walks from La Grande, Ore., to New York City to pay tribute to his son, Jadin, a gay teen who committed suicide after being bullied. Drama.	TBA	Cancelled	2/19/21
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	NA	Cancelled	6/3/22
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	1/13/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	4/7/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	7/7/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	8/4/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	9/8/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	10/6/23	NEW
Untitled WB Event Film (Warner Bros.)	Wide	11/10/23	NEW
Untitled New Line Horror Film (WB)	NA	Cancelled	9/10/21
Untitled Universal Event Film (Universal)	Wide	9/16/22	NEW
Untitled Universal Event Film (Universal) <i>NEW TITLE: Dear Evan Hansen.</i> Evan Hansen, a high school senior with Social Anxiety disorder and his journey of self-discovery and acceptance following the suicide of a fellow classmate. Ben Platt, Amy Adams, Julianne Moore. Musical Drama. Film adaptation of the Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical	Wide	9/24/21	NEW
Untitled Universal Blumhouse (Universal)	Wide	10/13/23	NEW
Untitled Universal Event Film (Universal)	Wide	11/17/23	NEW
Malignant (Warner Bros./HBOMax) Director James Wan (Saw, Insidious, The Conjuring) new horror film expected with an R-rating.	Wide	9/10/21	NEW
Untitled Elvis Film (Warner Bros.) Presley music and his relationship with manager Tom Parker. Documentary.	Wide	11/5/21	6/3/22
A Quiet Place II (Paramount) Highly anticipated horror thriller sequel.	Wide	9/17/21	4/23/21
Rumble (Paramount) In a world where monster wrestling is a global sport and monsters are superstar athletes, teenage Winnie seeks to follow in her father's footsteps by coaching a loveable underdog monster into a champion. Family Animation.	Wide	2/18/22	5/14/21
Godzilla vs. Kong (Warner Bros./HBOMax) A sequel to Godzilla: King of the Monsters and Kong: Skull Island, it is the fourth film in Legendary's MonsterVerse.	Wide	3/31/21	3/26/21
Escape Room 2 (Sony) Sequel To 1/4/19 Escape Room, \$57M USA gross.	Wide	1/7/22	NEW
Final Account (Focus Features) Filmmaker Luke Holland interviews nearly 300 elderly perpetrators and witnesses of the Holocaust from the Nazi side. Documentary.	Moderate	5/21/21	NEW

New Order (Neon Rated) A high-society wedding is interrupted by the arrival of unwelcome guests. Drama. <i>Nuevo orden (original title) - Mexico.</i>	Limited	5/28/21	NEW
Thor: Love and Thunder (Disney/Marvel) The sequel to Thor: Ragnarök and the fourth movie in the Thor saga. Filming has begun in Australia.	Wide	5/8/22	NEW
Coda (Apple TV+) A teenage girl is the only hearing person in her family, is sparking an intense bidding war following its crowd-pleasing debut at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Drama. The movie has been praised for featuring deaf performers in key roles and saw emotionally charged social media reactions. The film was acquired by Apple for a reported \$25M+. This breaks the record for PALM SPRINGS bought by Neon and Hulu in 2020.	TBD	2021	NEW

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
Demon Slayer (Sony) Animation	R	Violence and bloody images
My Salinger Year (IFC Films)	R	Language and some sexual references
Roe V Wade (Quiver Distribution)	PG13	Mature thematic content and some bloody/disturbing images
Son of the South (Vertical Entertainment)	PG13	Strong racial slurs and violence throughout, and thematic elements
The Toll (Saban Films LLC)	R	Language throughout and some violence

Screening Room – New Trailers



Title: **Raya and the Last Dragon (Disney/Disney+)**

Release Date: 3/5/21

Director: Don Hall, Carlos López Estrada

Starring: Kelly Marie Tran, Awkwafina

Synopsis: In a realm known as Kumandra, a re-imagined Earth inhabited by an ancient civilization, a warrior named Raya is determined to find the last dragon. Action Animation Family Fantasy. *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the film will also be simultaneously available on Disney+ with Premier Access. The film is set in a fictional fantasy land called Kumandra, inspired by Southeast Asian cultures from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Laos.*



Title: **Silk Road (Lionsgate)**

Release Date: 2/19/21 - Wide

Director: Tiller Russell (The Seven Five, Operation Odessa, The Last Narc, The Night Stalker)

Starring: Nick Robinson, Jennifer Yun, Jimmi Simpson

Synopsis: Philosophical twenty-something Ross Ulbricht creates Silk Road, a dark net website that sells narcotics, while DEA agent Rick Bowden goes undercover to bring him down. Crime Drama Thriller. *Based on the larger-than-life true events of Ulbricht's life, Silk Road re-situates the story to the tune of a thriller when Ulbricht ends up the focus of a disreputable DEA agent and spurs an elaborate cat-and-mouse game between them.*



Title: **Godzilla vs. Kong (Warner Bros./HBOMax)**

Release Date: 3/26/21 - Wide/HBOMax

Director: Adam Wingard (Blair Witch, The Guest, You're Next)

Starring: Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown, Rebecca Hall

Synopsis: In a time when monsters walk the Earth, humanity's fight for its future sets Godzilla and Kong on a collision course that will see the two most powerful forces of nature on the planet collide in a spectacular battle for the ages. Science Fiction Fantasy. *A sequel to Godzilla: King of Monsters and Kong: Skull Island, it is the fourth film in Legendary's MonsterVerse. The film is also the 36th film in the Godzilla franchise, the 12th film in the King Kong franchise, and the fourth Godzilla film to be completely produced by a Hollywood studio.*



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

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Wide

Director: Shaka King (Newlyweds, Mulignans, LaZercism)

Starring: Daniel Kaluuya, LaKeith Stanfield, Jesse Plemons

Synopsis: Offered a plea deal by the FBI, William O'Neal infiltrates the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party to gather intelligence on Chairman Fred Hampton. *Shaka King's passionate film has Oscar-worthy performances from Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield. Co-writer and director Shaka King, a former student of Spike Lee at NYU, echoes William Friedkin's style as seen in 1971's "The French Connection."*

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Title: Breaking News in Yuba County (UAR)

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Limited

Director: Tate Taylor (Actor, producer, director The Help, Pretty Ugly People, Ma)

Starring: Mila Kunis, Allison Janney, Juliette Lewis

Synopsis: A woman takes advantage of her growing celebrity status when the police and the public think her dead husband is just missing. Comedy Drama. *American International Pictures acquired distribution rights to the film, after Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer relaunched the studio that month as a label for films they will acquire for digital and limited theatrical releases.*



Title: Fear of Rain (Lionsgate)

Release Date: 2/12/21 - Limited/SVOD

Director: Castille Landon (also writer/actor, Apple of My Eye, Albion: The Enchanted Stallion)

Starring: Katherine Heigl, Madison Iseman, Harry Connick Jr.

Synopsis: A girl living with schizophrenia struggles with terrifying hallucinations as she begins to suspect her neighbor has kidnapped a child. The only person who believes her is Caleb - a boy she isn't even sure exists. Psychological Horror Thriller. *Original screenplay and direction from a rising young female talent.*



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 9/6/20, where it won the Queer Lion award for best LGBTQ-themed film at the festival.*



Title: Minari (A24)

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 12/11/20. The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on 1/26/20, winning both the U.S. Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award.*



Title: Test Pattern (Kino Lorber)

Release Date: 2/19/21 - Select theatrical/Virtual

Director: Shatara Michelle Ford (Also writer, short film director)

Starring: Brittany S. Hall, Will Brill, Gail Bean

Synopsis: 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. *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.*



Title: Crisis (Quiver Distribution)

Release Date: 2/26/21

Director: Nicholas Jarecki (The Outsider, Arbitrage, also writer)

Starring: Gary Oldman, Armie Hammer, Evangeline Lilly

Synopsis: Three stories about the world of opioids collide. A drug trafficker arranges a multi-cartel Fentanyl smuggling operation between Canada and the United States. Drama Thriller.



Title: The Courier (Roadside Attractions)

Release Date: 3/19/21 - Moderate

Director: Zackary Adler (American Romance, Casual Encounters)

Starring: Olga Kurylenko, Gary Oldman, Amit Shah

Synopsis: Cold War spy Greville Wynne and his Russian source try to put an end to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Thriller. *The Courier was released in the United States on 11/22/19 by Lionsgate. The film was met with poor reviews based on performances and screenplay. A better campaign and a wider release.*