



Monday, March 22, 2021 | No. 160

On March 23rd, 1998 the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences held its 70th annual Oscar Ceremony at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Broadcast on ABC TV and hosted by Billy Crystal, that year's Academy Awards Ceremony hit the high water mark as the most-watched in history, having an average of more than 57M viewers in the U.S. **Titanic** won the night by taking home 11 of the 24 Oscars awarded, including Best Picture, Director, Film Editing, Cinematography and Sound. James Cameron directed the epic romance, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet at the dawn of their careers. At that time, many Oscar viewers watched with anticipation and had a rooting interest in the outcome because **Titanic** was a film they loved.

Since then, much has changed on the Oscars front with Academy members embracing films for Best Picture that are driven more by critical acclaim than by box office success. Audiences for awards shows in general declined sharply as viewers became increasingly less familiar with the nominees – frequently because specialty films hadn't played in theatres in smaller markets across the country. More recently, the rise of streaming Studios like Netflix and Amazon has led to many Oscar nominees with little or no



Billy Crystal hosted the 70th Oscars, making his 6th turn at the helm
[Click to Watch](#)



Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in **Titanic**
"I'm Flying!" - [Click to Watch](#)

theatrical exposure. Despite the streamers' large audiences, many television viewers aren't subscribers and, therefore, don't have a rooting interest in whether those films win. The global pandemic added to the problem by closing most cinemas last year, prompting studios to defer movie openings to 2021. Moviegoers saw few films and have understandably shown little interest in recent awards shows.

At the same time, the Academy's efforts to diversify its global membership have succeeded. The latest nominations reflect a much broader universe of films and filmmakers than ever before. Moviegoers are returning now to reopened cinemas and, hopefully, by 4/25 when ABC telecasts the 93rd Oscars they'll tune in to catch up and will, as the Academy puts it, "Bring Your Movie Love."

Weekend Box Office Results... 3/19 - 3/21

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

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	Per Theatre Average \$	Total \$
1	Raya and the Last Dragon (Disney)	3	2,261	5,150,000	2,278	23,433,000
2	Tom & Jerry (Warner Bros.)	4	2,508	3,835,000	1,529	33,687,000
3	The Courier (Roadside Attractions)	1	1,433	2,012,582	1,404	2,012,582
4	Chaos Walking (Lionsgate)	3	2,132	1,925,000	903	9,693,633
5	The Croods: A New Age (Universal)	17	1,411	620,000	439	55,245,000
6	Boogie (Focus Features)	3	1,184	600,000	507	3,262,000
7	The Marksman (Open Road/Briarcliff)	10	1,002	480,000	479	14,268,447
8	Wonder Woman 1984 (Warner Bros.)	13	1,158	460,000	397	45,560,000
9	The Little Things (Warner Bros.)	8	1,130	340,000	301	14,708,000
10	Thea Father (Sony Pictures Classics)	4	933	321,701	345	969,640

- Roadside Attractions and Lionsgate opened spy thriller **The Courier** this weekend on 1,433 screens and grossed a solid \$2,012,582 for an estimated weekend Per Theatre Average of \$1,404. Reviews were strong for the film that stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Rachel Brosnahan in a Cold War drama, directed by Dominic Cooke.
- IFC Films opened **Last Call** in 110 theaters to a debut of \$30,000 and a Per Theatre Average of \$272.

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- Atlas Distribution opened **Dark State** in 7 locations to a debut of \$3,978 and a Per Theatre Average of \$568.
- Universal released **Nobody** in 4 international territories earning \$2.641M. The action suspense film stars Bob Odenkirk, Christopher Lloyd, Connie Nielsen, Aleksey Serebryakov, RZA and Gage Munroe and is set to open in North America on March 26.
- Disney's **Raya and the Last Dragon** now in its third weekend enjoyed a global weekend of \$13.2M consisting of a North American gross in 2,261 locations of \$5.2M and an international take of \$8.0M in 29 material territories for a global cume to date of \$71.2M.
- Warner Bros.' **Tom & Jerry** grossed an estimated \$7.8M globally from 42 markets in release (including the U.S. and Canada), with the Domestic weekend at \$3.8M FSS (-7%). The International tally adds up to \$4.0M. This brings the Domestic total to \$33.7M and the Worldwide total to date to \$77.2M.
- Warner Bros.' **The Little Things** took in an estimated \$583K from 24 markets this weekend, bringing the Worldwide total to \$28.5M.
- Universal's **The Croods: A New Age** in its 17th weekend earned \$316K in 17 international markets. Combined with the 3-day North American weekend of \$620K the worldwide weekend generated \$936K and the global cume is \$160M.
- Warner Bros.' **Judas and the Black Messiah** grossed an estimated \$100K this weekend from 13 overseas markets in release. The International cume to date is currently \$450K and the Worldwide total is \$5.5M.
- Warner Bros.' **Wonder Woman 1984** now has a running Worldwide cume of \$165.0M.
- The re-release of **Avatar** in China continues to drive IMAX business, delivering another \$4.1M this weekend and pushing the IMAX re-release cume to \$13.1M. The box office on the IMAX global network is up 1500% over the same weekend last year. The lifetime IMAX global cume for **Avatar** rises to \$256M, making it the only title to surpass \$250M in IMAX box office.
- Christopher Nolan's **Tenet** finally opened in Los Angeles this weekend, playing in 8 locations in Southern California, while continuing its NYC run that started last weekend. 11 IMAX screens in total contribute \$55K for the weekend, which sees multiple sold out shows at Universal City and Lincoln Square, both playing the movie in IMAX 70mm film. 5 of 8 Southern California IMAX screens sold out Friday night prime performances at 25% capacity, including AMC Century City, Burbank, Universal City, Norwalk, and Ontario Mills.
- This week begins the international roll-out of Legendary/Warner Bros.' **Godzilla vs. Kong** across the IMAX global network.



Click to play our POPCORN PREVIEWS BOXOFFICE BUZZ... today's Awards Alert focuses on the Oscar Noms – Not the noms, but some snubs -- the non-nominated films & stars insiders thought would get into the Oscar race.



Notable Industry News and Commentary... 3/15 – 3/21



[Shuttered Venue Operators Grant](#) (SBA)

On Friday, the U.S. Small Business Administration announced the timeline for exhibitors to apply for a disaster relief grant under the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program. Applications will be accepted starting Thursday, April 8th, with more details to follow. The SBA has been authorized to provide up to \$16B in funding to motion picture exhibitors, operators of live-performance venues, museums and zoos. Recipients under the program may receive a grant equal to as much as 45% of the revenue earned by the venue during 2019, a much-needed lifeline to venues which were impacted disproportionately by the COVID-19 pandemic. After a full year of closures and capacity restrictions, coupled with studios

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choosing to limit the flow of new releases, attendance at movie theatres dropped 80% in the last 12 months. Exhibitors can [follow this link](#) to sign up to receive updates from the SBA on the SVOG program, and [click here](#) to review the SBA's Preliminary Application Checklist which lists the documentation that exhibitors should prepare to get ready to apply.

[Turns Out That Studios Did OK Even with a Pandemic. Theaters, Not So Much. and U.S. Box Office Fell 80 Percent in 2020 as Streaming Boomed](#) (IndieWire)

On Thursday, the Motion Picture Association published its 2020 THEME Report, an annual deep-dive on the state of the theatrical, home and mobile entertainment market. This year's report details the significant changes during 2020, with clearly defined winners and losers. Direct-to-consumer at home entertainment exploded, most film studios were able to tread water and exhibitors labored while coping with widespread COVID restrictions. The return of the great American Drive-in was the feel-good story of the year, amidst the otherwise bleak landscape for exhibition in which box office revenue was off 80% when compared to 2019. Many studios moved to compensate for the lost box office income by redirecting some distribution to VOD providers. As theatre attendance ramps up over the next 6-12 months, the industry will be watching closely to see how studios re-balance their distribution to optimize returns from both theatrical and streaming, especially any adjustments made to the release window for films that debut in theatres.

See also: [2020 Theme Report](#) (MPA)



Charles H. Rivkin, Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association

[AMC to reopen almost all US movie theaters by Friday](#) (NY Post)

AMC Theatres, the largest movie theatre operator in the world, announced that as of last Friday it had reopened 98% of its 630 cinema locations in the U.S., including 52 of its 54 locations in California. A key milestone in the reboot of exhibition came when L.A. County lifted its "Safer at Home" emergency orders earlier this month, allowing movie theatres to re-open with limited capacity after one year of forced closures. The largest U.S. exhibitors have taken different approaches to navigate the challenges presented by the pandemic. Regal, the second largest exhibitor in the U.S., has kept its locations closed throughout the pandemic, waiting for the return of big-budget studio releases ramping up its operations. On the other hand,



AMC Burbank 16 and the Batman bronze statue in Burbank, CA

AMC has elected to open where allowed, with the strategy that having its theatres open would signal strength and encourage audiences to get back into the habit of going to the movies.

[How Wide Open Is the Best-Picture Oscar Race?](#) (NY Times)

Nominations for the 93rd Annual Academy Awards were announced on Monday morning, after much discussion about the impact that the unprecedented events of 2020 would have on the Oscar race. There have already been significant changes this year, with the Awards Ceremony having been pushed back two months to April 25th and a temporary suspension of the long-standing requirement that a nominated film must have a theatrical run. The nominations themselves came with their fair share of surprises. The most eye-catching was the unusual circumstance of two actors

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receiving Best Supporting Actor noms for the same film - Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield for their performances in *Judas and the Black Messiah* – despite Warner Bros. having lobbied for Stanfield to be recognized in the Best Actor category. As always, there were also a list of noteworthy snubs and undeserved noms. Some awards experts were dismayed that Delroy Lindo missed out on a Best Support Actor nomination for his performance in Spike Lee’s *Da 5 Bloods*. Glenn Close received her eighth Oscar nomination for her role in *Hillbilly Elogy*, but many viewed her performances as unworthy of a Best Supporting Actress, given almost universal panning of the film itself. The number of Best Picture nominations settled in at eight: *Nomadland*, *Promising Young Woman*, *Sound of Metal*, *The Father*, *Minari*, *Mank*, *Judas and the Black Messiah* and *The Trial of the Chicago Seven*. While *Mank* received the most nominations overall with ten, many Oscar aficionados appear to have settled on *Nomadland* and *Promising Young Woman* as the two frontrunners.



[Hollywood award shows are in free fall. Can they be saved?](#) (Bloomberg)

By Lucas Shaw, Posted on March 14, 2021, 2:30 PM PT
Bloomberg’s Lucas Shaw offers both a diagnosis and prescription for the wasting disease that has afflicted the many awards programs of the entertainment industry. The rise of streaming entertainment has come with a fundamental shift in viewing behavior, especially among younger audiences, and made it harder to draw attention for a one-night only, live broadcast such as the awards ceremonies. There has also been a fragmentation of awards programs, with many overlapping and redundant events that unfurl over the course of many months, reducing the

interest that any one event is able to rally. Shaw offers some ideas for reducing the focus on handing out awards, and instead present original programming, enlisting the assembled talent to perform live, transforming the broadcast into a show on its own.

See also: [NBC breaks silence on the HFPA](#) (LA Times)

[China Should Outsource Production to Hollywood, Says ‘Detective Chinatown’ Producer](#) (Variety)

Variety published an exclusive interview with Shawn Yue, the executive producer of *Detective Chinatown 3*, the #1 global box office performer of the past 12 months, having grossed over \$685M in two months since its January release. Yue points out that the infrastructure in the US for producing big-budget films is more mature and cost-effective than it is in China or anywhere else in the world. Yue concludes that any film with a budget over \$20M can be produced less expensively in the US, UK or other Western film production centers. Still, the politics of China outsourcing its film production to the US are fraught with complications, in both countries. Despite this challenge, the economics make it inevitable that this outsourcing of film production will occur, in the same way that outsourcing of manufacturing in the opposite direction has taken place. Yue stated that *Detective Chinatown 4* production would “definitely have to go to London.”



Chinese Producer Shawn Yue

MARTIN GROVE'S *Hollywood Report*

There are very good reasons why all of Oscar's 8 Best Picture noms could lose.

Here's a quick look at who's dealing with what problems:

- **THE FATHER:** 6 noms, but no Directing (Florian Zeller). It has Adapted Screenplay & Film Editing, the other 2 noms that are traditionally considered essential to winning. Helpful: Nods for best actor (Anthony Hopkins) & supporting actress (Olivia Colman - SAG nom). Diversity: No.
- **JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH:** 6 noms, but no Directing (Shaka King) or Editing. It does have an Original Screenplay nom. No lead acting noms, but Daniel Kaluuya (pictured) has a Supporting Actor nom (with SAG nom & GG + Critics Choice wins). Diversity: Major advantage.
- **MANK:** Leads the pack with 10 noms, including Directing (David Fincher), but no Original Screenplay or Editing. Best buzz: Noms for lead actor (Gary Oldman - SAG nom) & supporting actress (Amanda Seyfried). Diversity: No.
- **MINARI:** 6 noms, including Directing & Original Screenplay (Lee Isaac Chung), but no Editing. Helpful: Lead actor (Steven Yeun – SAG nom) & Supporting Actress (Yuh-Jung Youn – SAG nom). Diversity: Major advantage. Doesn't help: PARASITE won for 2020.



* * *

Similar problems also confront these 4 Best Picture noms:

- **NOMADLAND:** 6 noms, including all 3 key add-ons: Directing (Chloe Zhao - pictured), Adapted Screenplay & Editing. Frances McDormand has lead actress nom (+SAG nom, but no GG & CC wins). It's a frontrunner with GG & CC best picture wins, but Academy members might resist rubber-stamping those votes – especially with GG under fire for no diversity. Diversity: Asian/Female Director.
- **PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN:** 5 noms, including big 3: Directing (Emerald Fennell), Original Screenplay & Editing. Carey Mulligan has lead actress nom (+SAG nom & CC win). Diversity: White/Female Director.
- **SOUND OF METAL:** 6 noms, including Original Screenplay & Editing, but no Directing (Darius Marder). Riz Ahmed has lead actor nom (+SAG nom). Paul Raci has supporting nod. Diversity: Ahmed is British Pakistani.
- **THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7:** 6 noms, including Editing & Original Screenplay (Aaron Sorkin) – but no Directing (Sorkin). Sacha Baron Cohen has supporting actor nod (+SAG nom). Diversity: No. Very relevant American political storyline may not resonate as well with Academy's expanded international membership.



Update – *Studio Release Calendar*

3/26-4/1

(2020 Wk 13 Box Office: \$123,767)

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.

Location counts are improving.

R

92

Scope (2.35 : 1)

Wide
(2400)

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The Ten Commandments 65th Anniversary (Fathom Events) TCM Big Screen Classics presents: Cecil B. DeMille's The Ten Commandments is universally acknowledged among critics as a cinematic masterpiece with a legendary cast including Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner, and Ann Baxter. From its Academy Award®-winning director and revolutionary Oscar®-winning special effects to its sweeping score and unforgettable sets, The Ten Commandments presents the inspiring story of Moses in all its stunning glory. Drama.	G	235	Scope (2.35 : 1)	3/28-31
The Toll (Independent) A socially awkward driver and a weary passenger they try to make it to their destination while being haunted by a supernatural threat. Horror. <i>Called a combination of successful horror films, the end result is an okay genre film that should result in fair to average business where played.</i>	R	78	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Vault (Saban Films) AKA: Way Down. Freddie Highmore ("The Good Doctor") and Famke Janssen (X-Men) star in this globe-trotting, action-packed thriller following a high-risk heist. <i>While the film aims high, the action plays more to Spain's sporting success than the action. Still action audiences will find the film rewarding.</i>	R	118	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Francesco (Abramorama) Francesco offers an unprecedented look into the life of a pope — and not just any pope, but Pope Francis, whose compassionate and progressive approach is captured beautifully in Evgeny Afineevsky's film. Documentary. <i>The film is not a biographical film about Pope Francis in the traditional sense. Rather, the documentary provides a glimpse into his work addressing so many issues of today; climate change, immigration, peace and religious tolerance.</i>	NR	117	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Mystery of The Kingdom of God (Atlas Distribution) Andrew is chosen by God and is called out of his mischievous childhood to partake in the kingdom of God. Andrew must go through trials, tests, and spiritual warfare, before the mystery of the kingdom of God is finally revealed to him. Faith-based Family Animation. <i>Mystery of the Kingdom of God was made through the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. It is a message for His chosen people. Will you hear the call and know the gospel of the kingdom of God?</i>	G	91	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
The Seventh Day (Vertical Entertainment) A renowned exorcist teams up with a rookie exorcist for his first day of training. As they plunge deeper into hell on earth, the lines between good and evil blur and their own demons emerge. Horror Drama. <i>Shot in Dallas and New Orleans, Justin P. Lange (The Dark) directs from his own script. Father Daniel, a young priest conscripted by the Archbishop of New Orleans to join a growing exorcism task force where the lines between good and evil blur and their own demons emerge.</i>	R	87	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Kuessipan (ArtMattan) Two girls grow up as best friends in a Quebec Innu community. While Mikuan has a loving family, Shaniss is picking up the pieces of her shattered childhood. As children, they promised each other to stick together no matter what. Drama. <i>Adapted from Naomi Fontaine's acclaimed novel Kuessipan, Myriam Verreault's first narrative feature was co-written with the novel's First Nation Canadian author Naomi Fontaine. Kuessipan means "your turn" in the Innu language, a title chosen to mark the notion that it is the Innu people's turn to tell their story. French, English w/English subtitles.</i>	NR	117	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Virtual Cinemas
Senior Moment (Screen Media) Stripped of his driver's license, a retired NASA pilot must not only battle with the DMV, he must find new ways to navigate love and life without his beloved vintage Porsche. Romantic Comedy. Christopher Lloyd, Katrina Bowden, William Shatner. <i>The film was shot in Palm Springs, California in 2017. Screen Media acquired the film in January 2021.</i>	NR	92`	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Six Minutes to Midnight (IFC Films) UK, Aug. 15, 1939; 17 days before WWII, an English teacher and his camera disappear on a coastal boarding school with 20 German teen girls. Miller gets the job 6 days later, secretly trying to find out what happened. Drama. <i>The film was released in the United Kingdom on 25 September 2020. It was previously scheduled to be released on 29 May 2020, but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</i>	PG13	99	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

4/2-8: Good Friday 4/2; Easter 4/4

(2020 Wk 14 Box Office: \$40,963)




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Godzilla vs. Kong (Warner Bros.) The epic next chapter in the cinematic Monsterverse pits two of the greatest icons in motion picture history against one another - the fearsome Godzilla and the mighty Kong - with humanity caught in the balance. Action Sci-Fi Thriller. <i>Interest levels are among the highest since the Pandemic closed movie theatres. Business in Asian markets expected to boost overall box office significantly.</i>	PG13	172	Scope (2.39 : 1), 3D, Atmos, Dolby Digital, DTS, Auro 11.1, IMAX 6-track	Wide/ HBOMax on 3/31
The Unholy (Sony/Screen Gems) A struggling journalist stumbles upon a series of strange events in a small New England town and uses them to salvage his career. Horror. <i>The Film is an adaptation of James Herbert's horror novel Shrine, with Evan Spiliotopoulos writing the script and making his directorial debut.</i>	PG13	NA	NA	Wide
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>Originally opened on 2/12/21 in NY/LA.</i>	R	113	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Expansion
Concrete Cowboy (Netflix) Sent to live with his estranged father for the summer, a rebellious teen finds kinship in a tight-knit Philadelphia community of Black cowboys. Drama. <i>The film is inspired by the novel "Ghetto Cowboy" by G. Neri and is directed by first-time feature filmmaker Staub. Idris Elba stars.</i>	R	111	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD
Shiva Baby (Utopia) At a Jewish funeral service with her parents, a college student runs into her sugar daddy. Comedy. <i>Adapted from Emma Seligman's own 2018 short film of the same name, the film and its cast were universally praised by critics. It is praised for its bisexual and Jewish representation.</i>	NR	77	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Select/TVOD
The Oak Room (Gravitas Ventures) During a raging snowstorm, a drifter returns home to the blue-collar bar located in the remote town where he was born. When he offers to settle an old debt with a grizzled bartender by telling him a story, the night's events quickly spin into a dark tale of mistaken identities, double-crosses and shocking violence. Drama Thriller. <i>Consensus critics praise, "The Oak Room contains a taut, spooky tale that proves southern gothic can flourish in the snowy north." premiered at the Fantasia International Film Festival on 8/2020.</i>	NR	89	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Girl Who Believes in Miracles (Atlas Distribution) When Sara hears a preacher say faith can move mountains, she starts praying. Suddenly people in her town are mysteriously healed! But fame soon takes its toll. Can Sara's family save her before it's too late? Family Faith Based Drama. <i>Kevin Sorbo, Mira Sorvino and Peter Coyote star in the film shot in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Mr. Sorbo has been featured in a number of successful faith based films and is popular with family audiences.</i>	PG	100	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Every Breath You Take (Vertical Entertainment) AKA: You Belong to Me. A psychiatrist, whose client commits suicide, finds his family life disrupted after introducing her surviving brother to his wife and daughter. Thriller. <i>Various A-list actors were attached to the project first developed in 2012. Vertical Entertainment obtained distribution rights in March. Casey Affleck and Michelle Monaghan first teamed in the 2007 thriller "Gone Baby Gone."</i>	R	105	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/PVOD
Amundsen (Samuel Goldwyn Films) The life and facts of Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, the first man to arrive on the South Pole. Documentary. <i>Roald Engelbregt Gravning Amundsen was a Norwegian explorer of polar regions. He was a key figure of the period known as the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.</i>	NR	125	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD
4/9-15 (2020 Wk 15 Box Office: \$35,259)				
Voyagers (Lionsgate) A crew of astronauts on a multi-generational mission descend into paranoia and madness, not knowing what is real or not. Sci-Fi Thriller. <i>Described as "Lord of the Flies" for a new generation, is produced by AGC Studios and Thunder Road, and it is Burger's follow-up to "The Upside," the remake of "The Intouchables".</i>	PG13	108	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide
My True Fairytale (Gravitas Ventures) Angie Goodwin runs away after a horrific car crash to make her dream of becoming a superhero come true. Suspense Thriller. <i>Based on real life events.</i>	NR	86	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Moffie (IFC Films) A young man in 1981 South Africa must complete his brutal and racist two years of compulsory military service while desperately maintaining the secrecy of his homosexuality. Drama Romance War. <i>The title is derogatory Afrikaans for homosexual. a tough film to view, and there are similarities to other countries military services. Specialty film.</i>	NR	104	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

Held (Magnet Releasing) 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 and threatens harm if they don't obey. Horror Thriller. <i>Magnet Releasing is the genre arm of Magnolia Pictures and acquired the worldwide rights.</i>	NR	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Slalom (Kino Marquee) This riveting, Cannes-selected #MeToo drama from debut filmmaker Charlène Favier follows the relationship between a teenage ski prodigy and her predatory instructor, played by frequent Dardenne brothers collaborator Jérémie Renier. <i>A tale of abuse, or forbidden love? This French production has garnered positive though thoughtful reviews of the subject matter.</i>	NR	92	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Quad Cinema NYC plus virtual cinemas
Puaada (Zee Studios) Punjabi film based on the post-marriage rituals when a newly-web bride is taken back to her husband's home for the first time. Drama. <i>Set against the backdrop of the pre-partitioned era.</i>	NR	130	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
4/16-22 (2020 Wk 16 Box Office: \$41,865)				
Mortal Kombat (Warner Bros.) MMA fighter Cole Young seeks out Earth's greatest champions in order to stand against the enemies of Outworld in a high stakes battle for the universe. Action Adventure Fantasy Sci-fi. <i>Feature film based on the popular video game.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1), 3D, Atmos, Dolby Digital, DTS, Auro 11.1, IMAX 6-track	Wide
La Bamba (Fathom Events) A Golden Globe nominee for Best Picture, La Bamba is the story of the emergence in the late 1950s of a 17-year-old Mexican American boy--Ritchie Valens (Lou Diamond Phillips), whose real name was Ricardo Valenzuela--from the migrant camps and fruit groves of California's San Joaquin Valley to the front lines of rock.	PG13	125	Event Cinema	4/18, 4/20-21
Monday (IFC Films) A spark on a Friday can lead to a sizzling weekend fling, but what happens when you get to the inevitable Monday? Drama Romance. <i>Monday is Argyris Papadimitropoulos' fourth feature. His previous films Bank Bang (2009), Wasted Youth (2011), and Suntan (2016) were screened in festivals including Toronto International Film Festival, SXSW, Edinburgh Film Festival, and more.</i>	NR	116	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Sweet River (Gravitas Ventures) Hana's search for her son's body leads her to the sleepy town of Billing, where her investigations uncover more than she expected and threaten to expose the town's secrets... secrets that both the living and the dead will fight to protect. Australian Supernatural Thriller. <i>Previously released on streaming platform Netflix and like most recent films from Australia, there is heavy-laden drama that grinds you down to a gritty conclusion.</i>	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Night of the Sicario (Saban Films) Taking refuge in a woman's home, a DEA agent must protect a federal witness's family from vicious cartel gunmen. Action Drama.	R	83	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/ VOD 4/20
Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts (Kino Marquee) Born into slavery in 1853, Traylor became a sharecropper. In the late 1920's homeless and in his 80s, he began to draw and paint. Documentary. <i>He made well over a thousand drawings and paintings between 1939-1942. This colorful, strikingly modernist work eventually led him to be recognized as one of America's greatest self-taught artists and the subject of a Smithsonian retrospective.</i>	NR	75	Flat (1.85 : 1)	NYC Film Forum Limited/ Virtual
Gunda (Neon) A look at the daily life of a pig and its farm animal companions: two cows and a one-legged chicken. Nature Documentary. <i>Filmmaker Victor Kossakovsky captures natural images of cows, chickens, and a pig and its litter.</i>	G	93	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
4/23-29 (2020 Wk 17 Box Office: \$96,574)				
Demon Slayer The Movie: Mugen Train (FUNimation Films) A youth begins a quest to fight demons and save his sister after finding his family slaughtered and his sister turned into a demon. Fantasy Action. <i>Box office: ¥38.45B (Japan) \$413.4M (worldwide). Hugely popular worldwide film. NOTE: Dubbed and subtitled versions available.</i>	R	117	Flat (1.85 : 1), IMAX 6-Track, Dolby Digital, 4DX	Wide VOD on 6/22
Separation (Open Road/Briarcliff) A young girl finds solace in her artist father and the ghost of her dead mother. Horror. <i>Written by Nick Amadeus and Josh Braun, the film tells of the terrifying consequences of divorce and is the story of a young girl who finds solace in her artist father and her dead mother. Shot entirely in New York City.</i>	NA	NA	NA	Wide

Wrath of Man (UA Releasing) A man must move hundreds of millions of dollars for an armored truck company in Los Angeles. Action Thriller. <i>Based on the 2004 French film, Le convoyeur (Cash Truck) by Nicolas Boukhrief. This is Ritchie's fourth directorial collaboration with lead actor Jason Statham, following Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (1998), Snatch (2000), and Revolver (2005).</i>	R	NA	NA	Wide
Vanquish (Lionsgate) Formerly "The Longest Night" A mother, Victoria, is trying to put her dark past as a Russian drug courier behind her, but retired cop Damon forces Victoria to do his bidding by holding her daughter hostage. Action Crime Thriller. <i>Directed by George Gallo and starring Ruby Rose and Morgan Freeman. Freeman plays a retired police commissioner and Rose plays his caretaker.</i>	R	96	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/ VOD 4/20 Blu Ray 4/27
Together Together (Bleeker Street) A single middle-aged tech worker in Northern California hires a woman in her 20s as a surrogate mother to his child. Comedy. <i>The film had its world premiere at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival in the U.S. Dramatic Competition section. Positive reviews.</i>	R	90	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Sweet River (Gravitas Ventures) Hana's search for her son's body leads her to the sleepy town of Billing, where her investigations uncover more than she expected and threaten to expose the towns secrets... secrets that both the living and the dead will fight to protect. Horror Mystery Thriller. <i>If you like your horror movies to have plenty of mystery and drama (and some supernatural elements as well as a serial killer), then Sweet River should be a good choice. Premiering at SXSW 2021.</i>	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD
4/30-5/6: Cinco de Mayo 5/5 (2020 Wk 18 Box Office: \$211,061) 				
About Endlessness (Magnolia Films) (Swedish: Om det oändliga) A female voice tells the everyday stories of different people. A reflection on human life in all its beauty and cruelty, its splendour and banality. Swedish Drama. <i>Swedish auteur Roy Andersson's latest is another masterpiece of the human condition, ranging from the evils of war to the redemptive power of love. Generally good reviews.</i>	NR	78	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Shrek 20th Anniversary (Fathom Events) Shrek the hilarious and irreverent Academy Award®-winning animated classic is coming back to select movie theaters for its 20th anniversary. Animation.	PG	90	Flat (1.66 : 1)	4/25-29/21
Limbo (Focus Features) Omar is a promising young musician. Separated from his Syrian family, he is stuck on a remote Scottish island awaiting the fate of his asylum request. Drama. <i>Winner of two BAFTA awards and a nominee for four other categories.</i>	NA	104	Flat (1.37 : 1)	Limited
In the Earth (NEON) As the world searches for a cure to a disastrous virus, a scientist and park scout venture deep in the forest for a routine equipment run. Horror. <i>"In The Earth's bleak kaleidoscope of horror is a meditation on the residual pandemic fears that haunt humanity" reviews are generally positive. Writer/Director Ben Wheatley will next direct "The Meg 2" for WB.</i>	R	100	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Golden Arm (Utopia Media) A tough lady trucker trains her wimpy best friend to compete in the National Ladies Arm Wrestling Championship. Comedy. <i>The film was originally intended to premiere at this year's SXSW, but those plans were upended when the festival was cancelled due to coronavirus. Early screenings were well received. Business looks fair in both theatres and streaming.</i>	NR	91	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/ PVOD
In Silico (fourthactrfilm) Director Noah Hutton embarks on a 10-year project following a visionary neuroscientist's quest to build a computer simulation of a brain. Documentary. <i>In the end, this isn't about science. It's about the universals of power, greed, ego, and fame. Enjoy. (Review). Specialized cinema.</i>	NR	83	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select Theatrical/ Virtual Cinemas
Walking With Herb (Fathom Events) Joe Amable-Amo is a bank executive and former amateur golfer struggling with his faith after an unexpected tragedy. Faced with doubts about himself, his purpose, and his belief in God, Joe is stunned when God tells him that he's been chosen to inspire the world and play in a world championship golf tournament. Comedy. <i>Guided by God's eccentric personal messenger, Herb, Joe learns that the seemingly impossible is possible...through faith, family, and second chances. Features an exclusive introduction from stars Edward James Olmos and George Lopez.</i>	PG	107	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Event Cinema 4/30 & 5/3

5/7-13: Mother's Day 5/9

(2020 Wk 19 Box Office: \$268,876)



Black Widow (Disney/Marvel) At birth the Black Widow (aka Natasha Romanova) is given to the KGB, which grooms her to become its ultimate operative. When the U.S.S.R. breaks up, the government tries to kill her as the action moves to present-day New York, where she is a freelance operative. Action Adventure. <i>Questions arise whether the opening remains on this date. Covid-19 issues in Europe are currently causing lockdowns. Vaccinations continue at a record pace. Cinemark and AMC are nearly 100% open. Filmgoer confidence is now 55-60% positive returning to cinemas in North America. Will Disney+ come into play? The most anticipated film thus far in 2021 is seven weeks away from opening.</i>	PG13	133	(Scope 2.39 : 1), IMAX, D-Vision, Atmos, Screen X, 7.1 Surround	Wide
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>A cogent and involving view of the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, mainly from 1991 until the end of Bill Clinton's first term, told through the recollections of United States negotiators charged with brokering a peace.</i>	PG13	108	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Silo (Oscilloscope) Disaster strikes in a small American farm town when a teenager becomes the victim of a grain entrapment accident. Drama. <i>Silo is the first feature film about a grain entrapment. Well reviewed with 90% positive audience reactions.</i>	NR	76	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD
The Unthinkable (Magnolia/Magnet) Original title: Den blomstertid nu kommer. The film is a mysterious disaster-thriller about time running away. When the unthinkable happens and Sweden is attacked, it dramatically changes people and question what's really important. What would we change before it is too late? <i>The film was released in Sweden two days before Midsummer in Sweden, with the film itself being set during Midsummer. The Swedish title of the film is the name of a traditional hymn strongly associated with summer, Den blomstertid nu kommer.</i>	NR	129	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Mainstream (IFC) In this cautionary tale, three people struggle to preserve their identities as they form an eccentric love triangle within the fast-moving internet age. Comedy Drama. <i>Johnny Knoxville and Andrew Garfield are the draw to what review services deemed "unfavorable reviews."</i>	NR	94	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Paper Spiders (Entertainment Squad) This award-winning coming-of-age drama is about a high-schooler trying to help her mother's deteriorating mental health after she starts showing signs of paranoid delusions. <i>The film celebrates the start of Mental Health Awareness Month.</i>	NR	109	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
5/14-20 (2020 Wk 20 Box Office: \$454,202)				
Those Who Wish Me Dead (Warner Bros.) A teenage murder witness finds himself pursued by twin assassins in the Montana wilderness with a survival expert tasked with protecting him - and a forest fire threatening to consume them all. Thriller. <i>In May 2019, it was announced Warner Bros. Pictures and New Line Cinema had acquired distribution rights to the film. The female-driven neo-Western is set against a wildfire in the Montana wilderness. Angelina Jolie, Nicholas Hoult, Jon Bernthal and Tyler Perry are among the cast.</i>	R	NA	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Wide/ HBOMax
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. An unexpected romance emerges as the heartthrob Beckett leads the uptight Finley on an adventurous reawakening, and she emboldens him to take charge of his future, until the pressures of his stardom get in the way. Drama Romance. <i>Based on the book There You'll Find Me by Jenny B. Jones.</i>	PG	131	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Together Together (Bleecker Street) When a young loner becomes the gestational surrogate for a single man in his 40s, the two strangers realize this unexpected relationship will challenge their perceptions of connection, boundaries and the particulars of love. <i>Screened at the 2021 Sundance virtual screenings program. The film is recommended as a gentle comedy about non-romantic relationships. A worthwhile specialized film skewing female.</i>	R	90	2.1 aspect ratio (more common in filmmaking for HDTV)	Limited on 5/11 (Tues)

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The Djinn (IFC Midnight) A mute boy is trapped in his apartment with a sinister monster when he makes a wish to fulfill his heart's greatest desire. Supernatural Horror Thriller. <i>The horror genre has been successful for IFC. This latest acquisition looks to continue the popularity of the genre.</i>	NR	82	Flat (1.85 : 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>Reviews on review aggregators have been overwhelmingly positive. the film premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.</i>	R	85	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Us Kids (Greenwich Entertainment) Students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida speak out against the national gun-violence epidemic after a mass shooting at their school kills 17 people. Documentary. <i>Director Kim A. Snyder (Newtown, 2016 Sundance Film Festival) carefully chronicles 18 pivotal months in the development of the March For Our Lives movement.</i>	NR	98	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select/VOD

Update – Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Dream Horse (Bleeker Street) An unlikely racehorse is bred by small-town Welsh bartender Jan Vokes. With no experience, Jan convinces her neighbors to chip in their meager earnings to help raise Dream with hopes he competes with the racing elites. Biography Comedy Drama.	Moderate	5/21/21	NEW
The Loneliest Whale: The Search for 52 (Bleeker Street) A cinematic quest to find the "52 Hertz Whale," which scientists believe has spent its entire life in solitude, calling out at a frequency that is different from any other whale.	Limited	7/9/21	NEW
Belfast (Focus Features) A young boy and his working class family experience the tumultuous late 1960s. Drama.	Wide	11/12/21	NEW
The Bad Guys (Universal/Dreamworks) The computer-animated heist comedy is based on the popular children's book series of the same name by Aaron Blabey. It centers on five reformed yet misunderstood villains who tire of a life of crime and decide to put their lives as forces of good.	Wide	4/15/22	NEW
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (Universal) The Shrek spin-off will bring back Antonio Banderas to voice Puss in Boots as he journeys after the mythical Last Wish, the only thing that can restore the eight lives he already lost. Animation.	Wide	9/23/22	NEW
Dark Harvest (UA Releasing) The book is set during Halloween of 1963 in a small Midwestern town where teenage boys eagerly square off with the butcher knife wielding October Boy, aka Ol' Hacksaw Face aka Sawtooth Jack. Feature adaptation of acclaimed horror novel <i>Dark Harvest</i> .	Wide	9/23/22	NEW
Venom: Let There Be Carnage (Sony) Sequel to the 2018 film 'Venom'.	Wide	9/17/21	6/25/21
Man from Toronto (Sony) The world's deadliest assassin and New York's biggest screw-up are mistaken for each other at an Airbnb rental. Action Comedy.	Wide	2021 TBD	9/17/21
In The Heights (WB/HBOMax) A bodega owner has mixed feelings about closing his store and retiring to the Dominican Republic after inheriting his grandmother's fortune. Musical Drama.	Wide	6/11/21	6/18/21
The Sparks Brothers (Focus Features) Filmmaker Edgar Wright chronicles the five-decade career of the enigmatic music duo Sparks. Documentary.	Moderate	6/18/21	NEW
Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (Sony) Thomas and Bea are now married and living with Peter and his rabbit family. Bored of life in the garden, Peter goes to the big city, where he meets shady characters and ends up creating chaos for the whole family. Family Adventure.	Wide	7/2/21	5/14/21

MPAA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
Cruella (Disney)	PG13	Some violence and thematic elements
American Eid (Disney) Short Subject	G	
Let's Be Tigers (Disney) Short Subject	PG	Some thematic material
Catch the Bullet (Lionsgate)	R	Some violence
In the Earth (NEON)	R	Strong violent content, grisly images, and language
Mainstream (IFC Films)	R	Pervasive language and some graphic nudity

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Monday (IFC Films)	R	Sexual content, nudity/graphic nudity, drug use, and pervasive language
Mary J. Blige's My Life (Amazon) Documentary	R	Language
New Order (NEON)	R	Disturbing and violent content, rape, graphic nudity, and language

Screening Room – New Trailers

Title: Demon Slayer the Movie: Mugen Train (FUNimation)

Release Date: 4/23/21 TBA

Director: Haruo Sotozaki (Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year, Japan Academy Prize for Popularity Award - Most popular film)

Starring: Bryce Papenbrook, Zach Aguilar, Natsuki Hanae

Analysis: *The film broke the \$100 million milestone in Japan in just 10 days, and it's since grossed nearly \$400 million in the country alone, beating out Hayao Miyazaki's Spirited Away and Titanic for the all-time record. Demon Slayer is a fantasy manga authored by Koyoharu Gotouge that centers on the trials of young swordsman Tanjiro Kamado, who sets out on a quest to return his sister to her human form after she's transformed into a demon. Mugen Train specifically covers a middle chunk of the manga's storyline, following the anime's season 1 adaptation of the narrative's beginning and first few arcs. The anime is produced by renown studio Ufotable, which also animated the film and is working on the show's second season to premiere sometime in 2021.*



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The Hangar can be found at <https://hangar.paperairmedia.com> . For any questions, please contact Will Preuss.

