



Monday, August 23, 2021 | No. 182

Film Flashback... SAMUEL GOLDWYN (NOT) BORN 8/27/1882

Most of the pioneers who started the film business about 120 years ago are unfamiliar names today. Samuel Goldwyn is an exception – but for the wrong reason.

People recognize Goldwyn as Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's middle name, but don't realize he was never part of MGM. Actually, Goldwyn wasn't even the legendary producer's birth name and August 27, 1882 wasn't really his birthday – although he always said it was. No one knows the real date, but it's agreed he was born in Warsaw and anglicized his name to Samuel Goldfish. In 1913, as a successful New York glove salesman, he became interested in making movies. With difficulty, Sam convinced his then brother-in-law, Jesse Lasky, that there was big money in films. They began by producing the first feature film ever made in Hollywood, *The Squaw Man*. Sam stayed in New York to sell the distribution rights.



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From the start, Sam was a difficult partner no matter whom he partnered with. He enjoyed fighting just for the sake of fighting – even with people who agreed with him. This led to big problems when Lasky merged with Adolph Zukor's Famous Players. Zukor was president of both FP-L and its distribution arm. Goldfish was chairman of FP-L, which later adopted its distributor's name – Paramount Pictures.

By August 1916, Zukor and Goldwyn's relationship had deteriorated so badly that Zukor gave Lasky an ultimatum – either Goldfish goes or Zukor goes. In September, Goldfish was voted out and sold his shares for \$900,000. Two months later, Sam had new partners – Broadway producers Edgar and Archibald Selwyn, and a new company called [Goldwyn Pictures](#). A joke at the time had it that the other combination of their names would have been Selfish Pictures. By December 1918, Sam had legally changed his own name to Goldwyn.

Sam's Goldwyn Pictures presidency ended in September 1920 when he lost a vote of confidence in a dispute with chairman Joe Godsol, who originally put together the company that now boasted a unique lion's head logo and a large Culver City, Calif. Studio.

When Goldwyn Pictures was acquired in April 1924 by theatre magnate Marcus Loew and merged with Loew's Metro Pictures and Louis B. Mayer's small production company to form MGM, Sam had been out of Goldwyn Pictures for about four years. His future wasn't as a studio executive, but as a producer of memorable movies, including *The Best Years of Our Lives*, which won Best Picture and seven other Oscars in 1947, and the classic 1955 musical *Guys and Dolls*.

Reporter: “Mr. Goldwyn, what do you say in answer to the rumors and problems and difficulties that appear to beset the cinema industry today...Do you think that the cinema has a great future?”

Samuel Goldwyn: “Greater than ever. The only difference [today] is that people will not see the bad films. They can see that at home on television for nothing.”



The “Leo” Logo of Goldwyn Pictures (1917-24)

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Weekend Box Office Results... 8/20 – 8/22

Courtesy of [Comscore](#)

Rank	Title	Week	Theatres	Wknd \$	% Chg	Per Theatre	
						Average \$	Total \$
1	Free Guy (20 th Century)	2	4,165	18,790,000	-34	4,511	58,812,975
2	Paw Patrol (Paramount)	1	3,184	13,000,000	-	4,083	13,000,000
3	Jungle Cruise (Disney)	4	3,575	6,230,000	-32	1,743	92,543,828
4	Don't Breathe 2 (Sony)	2	3,005	5,050,000	-52	1,681	19,672,000
5	Respect (UA Releasing)	2	3,207	3,810,742	-57	1,168	15,779,000
6	The Suicide Squad (Warner Bros.)	3	2,926	3,410,000	-54	1,165	49,272,000
7	The Protégé (Lionsgate)	1	2,577	2,935,000	-	1,139	2,935,000
8	The Night House (Searchlight)	1	2,240	2,869,000	-	1,281	2,869,000
9	Reminiscence (Warner Bros.)	1	3,265	2,000,000	-	613	2,000,000
10	Black Widow (Disney)	7	1,340	1,157,000	-39	863	180,211,043

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Click to play our **POPCORN PREVIEWS BOXOFFICE BUZZ** look at Warner Bros.' sci-fi thriller **REMINISCE**, set in the near future, starring Hugh Jackman as a private investigator of the mind in love with and searching for a new client, Rebecca Ferguson, who's suddenly vanished.



Click to play our **POPCORN PREVIEWS weekend look** at some of the biggest movies coming to theatres this fall...including Daniel Craig's return as James Bond in **"NO TIME TO DIE."**

DICK WALSH'S Industry Update

Weekend Review for 8/20 – 8/22

Free Guy keeps the dogs at bay by beating all four newcomers to maintain the number one spot in the Domestic box office. By grossing \$18.8M to *Paw Patrol*'s \$13.0M, showed amazing staying power by dropping only 34% from its first weekend. This performance is the best hold of the summer by far and speaks to the positive word of mouth for the picture. It didn't hurt that its only real competition, *Paw Patrol*, was streamed while *Free Guy* is exclusive to theatres.

As for the other three opening pictures, *The Protégé* finished 7th with a gross of \$2.935M, *The Night House* finished 8th grossing \$2.869M and *Reminiscence* starring Hugh Jackman, mustered only \$2M and finished 9th - an embarrassing performance. This is Jackman's fourth bomb in a row and he is without a hit movie since *The Greatest Showman* in 2017. It appears that this weekend will gross approximately 60% of the same weekend in 2019, which continues the pattern of stabilization against 2019. Next weekend, only *Candyman* – which will be the sixth horror film released since July 2 – stands in the way of *Free Guy* topping the box office for three consecutive weeks, something that no other picture has done this summer.



Where Are We as of 8/19

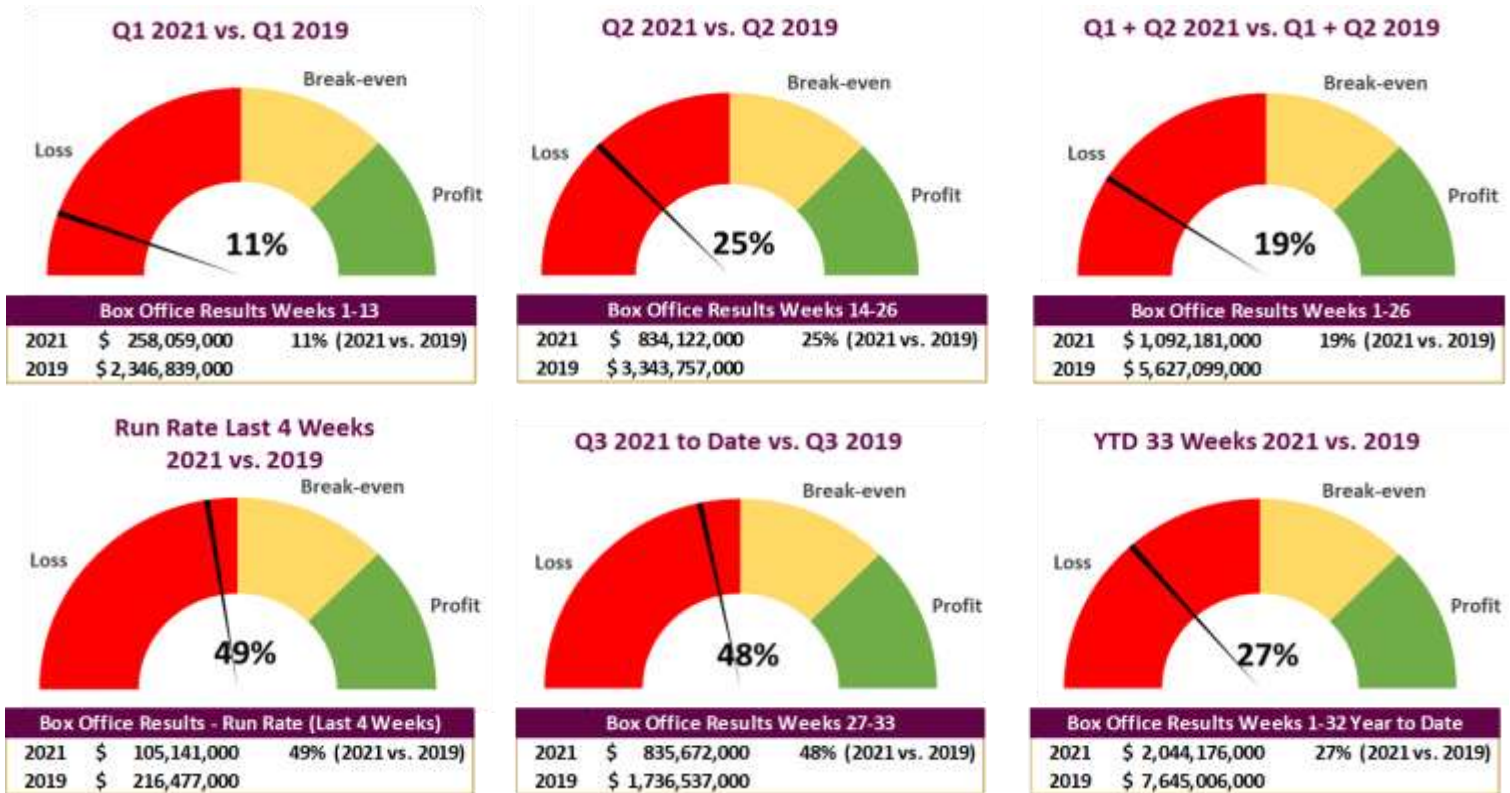
Free Guy's outperformance resulted in the 33rd weekend of 2021 reaching 60% of the gross from the same weekend in 2019. This brought the trailing four week run rate back up to 49% when compared with the same four weeks in 2019. It also shortened the timeline when exhibition will reach 75% of its 2019 levels, on track to arrive in January 2022. The comparison of 2021-2019 third quarter results stands at 48%. After the first three months of the year, the 2021 results were only 11% of the same period in 2019, and after the first six months 2021 had risen to 25% of 2019 levels. While this shows steady growth, and Q3 has been decent so far, a year to date comparison has only clicked up to 27%, showing just how far the industry has fallen off during the pandemic.

Over the next few weeks, this year's comps look favorable compared with 2019, which had a dismal performance in August. Labor Day Weekend is the next battle ground, with this year's *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* going up against the

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2019 release of *IT 2* which earned \$97M in its opening four days. 14 days out, advance sales of *Shang-Chi* appear to be brisk but some wonder whether the film has more of an East /West coast market, in cities where a relatively higher percentage of Asian-American audiences live. Marvel films have shown strength in the past by having a wide appeal that grossed throughout North America. *Shang-Chi* cannot keep up with *IT 2* unless it gets strong support across the South and Middle America. The fact that Disney has chosen to hold it back from streaming until 45 days after its theatrical release will also give *Shang-Chi* a chance to reach its full box office potential.



VELOCITY - SPEED OF RECOVERY		
Rate of Recovery % Points/Week	# of Weeks to 75% Run Rate	Date to Achieve 75% Run Rate Week Beginning
1.24	21	1/7/2022

Notable Industry News and Commentary... 8/16 – 8/22

Movie Theaters in Some Cities Now Check for Vaccine Proof, Raising Fears About Release Delays (Variety)

Last week, we considered the potential impact of requiring moviegoers to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test in order to attend a movie screening. On the one hand, a “vaccine passport” policy would turn away the unvaccinated, which are still a sizeable percentage of the population. On the other hand, it could serve to reassure the vaccinated of the safety of their surroundings when going to the movies.

“Vaccine passport” policies are scheduled to begin in certain key cities around the country, including New York, San Francisco and New Orleans. Los Angeles is said to be considering a mandate, but the city has not yet made any announcements. In France, the government’s “health pass” policy



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began to take effect for cinemas as of July 21st, requiring movie theatres and most other public venues to verify a proof of vaccination or recent negative COVID test for a customer to be admitted. Since that time, theatres have reported dramatically lower ticket sales. However, the inconvenience appears to have caused a spike in vaccination rates, especially among the 18-39 year-old segment of the population where it had been lagging.

If major U.S. markets enact these policies and experience a similar decline at the box office, it may increase the potential for studios to delay upcoming releases that exhibitors are relying on for a rebound in their business. “We’re really terrified about what’s going to happen,” said Joe Masher, President of NATO of New York and Chief Operating Officer of Bow Tie Cinemas. “I know these mayors think they’re doing the right thing, but they seem to leave theaters in the lurch all the time.”

See also: [French Theatrical Admissions Fall 41% as COVID ‘Health Bill’ Comes Into Force](#) (Variety)



[Studios Begin to Blink on Theatrical Releases Amid Delta: “I Would Have Moved Everything”](#) (Hollywood Reporter)

A rapid increase in cases of the Delta variant is bringing with it a rise in the collective blood pressure of exhibitors, with theatre owners anxious about prospects for the fall movie season. Enthusiasm over weekend’s solid box office performance was quickly dampened by Sony’s dual announcements that it was pushing back the upcoming release of *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* from September 24th to October 15th and selling *Hotel Transylvania 4: Transformania* to Amazon for \$100M, removing the film entirely from the

theatrical release schedule. Until last week, *HT4* had been scheduled for an October 1st debut in theatres.

These last minute changes to release plans brings back traumatic memories from 2020, at the height of the COVID crisis, when studios would announce regularly that they were postponing a scheduled theatrical release or redirecting a movie to streaming. It seemed that some degree of normalcy had begun to take hold again this spring, with studios once again releasing their premiere movies to theatres, and box office numbers inching back towards historical norms. *A Quiet Place Part II*, *F9: The Fast Saga* and *Black Widow* all grossed over \$150M in Domestic ticket sales.

But consumer confidence in going out to the movies has taken a hit over the past six weeks, based on troubling news about the Delta variant. Polling firm NRG (National Research Group) reported that the percentage of consumers who are comfortable in going to the movies now sits at 64%, down from a peak of 81% in early July. Concern is especially high among families with children who are too young to be vaccinated. One studio exec told the Hollywood Reporter that had he known 6 weeks ago what he knows now he would have delayed releasing all his upcoming films until 2022.

See also: [‘Hotel Transylvania 4’ Skipping Theaters as Sony Nears Over \\$100 Million Deal With Amazon](#) (Variety)

[Hollywood’s China Box Office Hopes Dim As Fewer Tentpoles Get Releases](#) (Hollywood Reporter)

The pandemic has propelled China into the world’s largest moviegoing market. Even prior to the pandemic, China boasted the world’s largest number of movie theatre screens – over 75,000 – which was almost twice the number of 44,000 active screens across the U.S. Moreover, fewer Chinese theatres were forced to close for extended periods during the COVID crisis. Chinese studios have remained active in releasing a steady stream of new movies over the last 18 months, racking up record-breaking results for local titles such as *Hi, Mom* (\$822.1M) and *Chinese Doctors* (\$197M).

Hollywood has been less successful in China this year than in prior years. This year, Hollywood films in China have earned a total of \$700M through July 31st, only 1/3 of the \$2.1B taken in by this point in 2019. Analysts point to these factors in the dramatic drop:

- (1) The Delta Variant. China follows a zero tolerance policy to control COVID outbreaks, which has led recently to



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the closure of as many as 3,500 theatres to halt the spread of the Delta variant.

- (2) Politics. An interview with director Chloe Zhao, a native of China, resurfaced earlier this year in which she criticized China for being a “place where lies are everywhere.” This led to Zhao’s Oscar-winning film *Nomadland* being blacklisted in China and has cast doubt over prospects for the upcoming release of Disney/Marvel’s *The Eternals*, also directed by Zhao. *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, another Marvel production, has also faced criticism in China for portraying negative racial stereotypes, which may limit its potential in China in a similar way to last September’s release of *Mulan*.
- (3) Piracy. The Chinese release date for the biggest Hollywood releases of the summer, including *Black Widow*, *The Suicide Squad* and *Space Jam: A New Legacy*, have been held back until September to give space in August for local Chinese films during the 100th year celebration of the founding of the China’s Communist Party. However, because they have all been released in the U.S. and on streaming services, pirated copies of these films are widely available to watch online, which will certainly eat into the box office potential for these films when they are finally released in Chinese theatres.

As a result, Hollywood studios may not be able to rely on ticket sales in China in 2021 to make up for the downturn in the U.S. box office.

[Disney or Netflix: Traders lay bets on which streaming stock can end 2021 strong](#) (CNBC)

Investment firms specializing in entertainment stocks are bullish that Netflix and Disney will continue to reign atop the streaming landscape. Disney is a more diversified company with a variety of entertainment properties, which include theme parks and cruise lines together with traditional studio production and distribution as well as direct-to-consumer online streaming. Netflix represents a “pure play” of new content connected to the world’s largest streaming platform.

Disney grew faster than Netflix during the quarter, adding 9 million new subscribers to Disney+ compared with only 1 million new signups for Netflix. Analysts project that Disney+ will continue to eat away at Netflix’s lead of 90 million on total subscribers, knocking off an estimated 20 million from that deficit by the end of 2021. NBC Universal rival service Peacock added 12 million new subscribers in Q2, driven by the popularity of its broadcast of the Tokyo Olympics.



See also: [Disney wins this round: Here’s where the streaming giants stand at the end of earnings season](#) (CNBC) and [Drive-in theaters fueled Hollywood's box office last year. They could be here to stay](#) (CNN)



MARTIN GROVE’S *Hollywood Report*

Surveys asking people how they feel about moviegoing are worthless unless all the respondents are moviegoers.

Typically, media polls asking how the public feels about pandemic era moviegoing don't specify how many of those people actually go to see movies. Answers from those who aren't moviegoers aren't helpful because they wouldn't have gone to cinemas even if the Delta Variant wasn't playing now.

A survey that stands out for its validity is the one just done jointly by cinema advertising giants Screenvision Media & National CineMedia.



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Their poll of 1,311 moviegoers, conducted from 7/29 - 8/2, produced data pointing to a brighter future for exhibition than Wall Street and some media outlets would have us believe.

Their research found:

- Nearly 80% of moviegoers are not overly concerned with DV.
- 82% of moviegoers are fully vaccinated vs. the 61% national average then.
- 87% of moviegoers have seen a movie in a theatre this year.
- 87% plan to return to the movies between August & year-end.

Among the upcoming late summer releases at the time of the study were: FREE GUY, CANDYMAN & SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS (pictured).

* * *

Much of the conversation about how streaming affects ticket sales is really about repeat viewing.



The box office is clearly front-loaded during these pandemic times given opening weekend vs. weekend 2 comparisons -- especially for films arriving with day & date streaming like: BLACK WIDOW (\$80.4M vs. \$25.8M), CRUELLA (\$21.5M vs. \$11M) & SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY (pictured - \$31.1M vs. \$9.6M).

With very little transparency from studios about streaming viewership, we don't really know how badly day & dating is hurting the box office, but we do know it's not helping. Those weekend 2 drops indicate repeat viewing's being clobbered. The fan base is driven to theatres by studio marketing to be the first to see event films. But once they've seen them on the big screen

with booming sound & other cheering fans, that once essential repeat visit's losing out to STREAMING+ at home.

Exhibitors need to get creative in response to the problem. Perhaps it's time to market a BOXOFFICE+ premium ticket option that would let moviegoers return to the same cinema in weekend 2 to see the same event film again by purchasing a unique two weekend discounted package.

Studio Release Calendar... 8/27 – 9/16

8/27-9/2

2020 Wk 35 Box Office: \$14,813,120; Openings: N/A

2019 Wk 35 Box Office: \$121,518,452; Openings: N/A

Candyman (Universal) The story returns to the now gentrified Chicago neighborhood where today a luxurious condo now stands. Events lead to a modern day revival of the events reveal the story has a new chapter of a terrifyingly viral wave of violence. <i>SCREENING: Well produced mainstream horror story resonates with creativity, and enough though not overly SFX (blood). The film is morally centered and leaves open a sequel. Above average to good business everywhere.</i>	R	91	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide (3400)
Together (Bleeker Street) A husband and wife who are forced to re-evaluate themselves and their relationship through the reality of the Covid-19 lockdown. Comedy Drama. <i>The film was broadcast in the UK on BBC Two on 6/17/21. Upon release, it received generally positive reviews from critics, with some calling it a "claustrophobic", "brilliant", and "honest" film set during the pandemic.</i>	R	87	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Moderate
Un Rescate De Huevito (Pantelion) AKA: A rescue of little eggs. Toto and his friends must rescue his egg children after they're taken away for a gourmet food event in Africa. Animation Comedy. <i>The fourth film in the Huevos franchise, as well the second CG installment following Un gallo con muchos huevos (\$3.8M FSS, \$9M total), the film opened in Mexico on 8/12/21.</i>	PG	88	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Moderate (300+)
If I can't Love, I Want Power (IMAX) If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power, an hour-long film experience set to the music of Halsey's upcoming album, introduces a young pregnant Queen, Lila, as she wrestles with the manipulative chokehold of love to ultimately discover that the ability to create life (and end it) unlocks the paranormal power within her. Fantasy.	R	60	IMAX (70mm, 15-perforation)	Event Cinema (8/25 one night only)


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Rushed (Vertical Entertainment) When an Irish Catholic mother's son is involved in a tragic fraternity hazing incident, she takes justice into her own hands, proving that hell hath no fury like a mother scorned. Thriller. <i>A Zentropa production, Siobhan Fallon Hogan and Peter Hogan formed Emerald Caz Productions with their son Peter Munson Hogan in 2019. Their first feature film is RUSHED. They currently have two more films in development, Turtle Dove and Unlocked.</i>	NR	101`	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
No Man Of God (RJE Films) In 1980, Ted Bundy was sentenced to death by electrocution. In the years that followed, he agreed to disclose the details of his crimes, but only to one man. The film is based on the true story of the strange and complicated relationship that developed between FBI agent Bill Hagmaier and an incarcerated Ted Bundy in the years leading to Bundy's execution. <i>Elijah Wood stars as leading FBI profiler Bill Hagmaier with Luke Kirby as his most infamous interview subject, Ted Bundy, in Amber Sealey's chamber drama about murk and the male psyche.</i>	NR	112	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Death Rider In The House Of Vampires (Atlas Distribution) Director Glenn Danzig's latest gore fest, Death Rider in the House of Vampires, sets a nosferatu story in the Old West, where a befanged Danny Trejo tussles with a dark figure in a black Stetson. Horror Western. <i>Not only does Danzig act in Death Rider In The House Of Vampires, but he also penned the script and directs. Plus, he provided the soundtrack, executive produced, and worked on the cinematography and editing. Take that, Rob Zombie.</i>	NR	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Tides (Saban Films) AKA: The Colony. When the earth became uninhabitable for humans, the ruling elite settled the planet Kepler 209. But its atmosphere makes the new inhabitants sterile. Two generations later, a program is to determine whether life on earth is possible again: Mission Ulysses II is supposed to bring certainty. Sci Fi Thriller. <i>The impressive, atmospheric second feature from Tim Fehlbaum balances hope for the future of mankind against the grim realities of a neo-colonial dystopia. -Wendy Ide (Screen International)</i>	R	104	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
No Man Of God (RJE Films) In 1980, Ted Bundy was sentenced to death by electrocution. In the years that followed, he agreed to disclose the details of his crimes, but only to one man. Drama Thriller. <i>The film is based on the true story of the strange and complicated relationship develops that neither man expected. Based on actual transcripts of interviews between FBI analyst Bill Hagmaier and the incarcerated Ted Bundy, No Man of God is nothing short of riveting.</i>	NR	100	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Conni And The Cat (Blue Fox Entertainment) Conni's adorable but mischievous cat Mau follows her on her kindergarten trip, causing mayhem, confusion and laughs. The children are kept busy hiding Mau from the teachers, tracking down a thief and saving a raccoon in an ancient castle. Family Animation. <i>The German production was acquired at the 2020 AFM.</i>	NR	76	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Ellie and Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt) (Gravitas Ventures) Ellie is struggling to ask her classmate, Abbie, to their school formal when her dead Aunt Tara shows up to offer her advice. <i>Good-hearted, and it's a movie that achieves what it sets out to achieve. Very positive, a bit ramshackle, but that's fine. -Mark Kemode (critic)</i>	NR	82	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Select (3 mkts)/ VOD
The Deceivers (CohenFilmCollection) The film is adapted from the John Masters novel, set in India in 1825, which depicts the exploits of William Savage (based on William Sleeman of the Indian Political Service). Crime Drama. <i>In the early 1980s Ismail Merchant first set in motion a project of which he had long dreamed, and that he was to do outside of his usual collaboration with Ruth Praver Jhabvala and James Ivory, the making of THE DECEIVERS. Pierce Brosnan. Reissue.</i>	PG13	102	Flat (1.75 : 1)	Quad Cinema NYC
Vacation Friends (Hulu) A couple meets up with another couple while on vacation in Mexico, but their friendship takes an awkward turn when they get back home. Comedy. <i>Produced by 20th Century, distributed by Hulu.</i>	R	NA	Aspect Ratio 16.9 (TV, monitors), Flat (1.77 : 1)	SVOD
He's All That (Netflix) The film will reimagine the original plot of the 1999 teen classic <i>She's All That</i> . Comedy Romance. <i>The contemporary story will follow an influencer who accepts a challenge to turn the school's biggest loser into prom king. Romantic Comedy. Directed by Mark Waters (Teen Girls, Freaky Friday).</i>	NA	88	Aspect Ratio 16.9 (TV, monitors), Flat (1.77 : 1)	SVOD
Halsey presents If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power (IMAX) Select city release in conjunction. Drama Fantasy Horror. <i>Written by Halsey and directed by Colin Tilley, the film takes its fantasy-inspired visual cues from something between Game of Thrones and Sofia Coppola's Marie Antoinette.</i>	NA	60	IMAX (70mm, 15- perforation)	Event Cinema

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Chehre (AKA Faces) (Rising Star Entertainment) An 80-year-old man has a penchant for a real life game with his group of friends. Mystery Thriller. <i>Produced in India in 2019 and postponed several times due to the Covid pandemic. Hindi.</i>	NR	139	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited
Stripes 40th Anniversary (Fathom Events) Bill Murray plays John Winger, a new army recruit fighting to make the world a better place in which to laugh. <i>"An often hilarious film that provided Bill Murray with a perfect opportunity in which to display his comedic skills."</i> -TV Guide.	R	115	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Event Cinema 8/29, 9/2
9/3-9: Labor Day 9/6 2020 Wk 36 Box Office: \$20,228,165; Openings: N/A 2019 Wk 36 Box Office: \$138,562,944; Openings: It Chapter Two (\$91M FSS, \$211.6M Total)				
Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings (Disney/Marvel) The film stars Simu Liu as Shang-Chi, who must confront the past he thought he left behind when he is drawn into the web of the mysterious Ten Rings organization. Action Adventure Fantasy. <i>SCREENING: Critic's screenings have been positive all around. The main emphasis has been on the SFX martial arts scenes called some of the best ever for a Marvel film. UPDATE: Advance ticket sales are strong on the east and west coast where Asian audiences are prevalent. Ads, news stories and social media are to come. Encouraging early appeal.</i>	PG13	139	IMAX (1.90), 3D, DTS, 4K, D-Box, Screen X, Atmos, Scope (2.39:1)	Wide (4000) 45-day window
Good (Gravitas Ventures) Payton is a young Black man with a chance to marry into the upper echelons of Black society. But first he must abandon a secret, an unborn child with an ex-girlfriend. Drama. <i>Original screenplay.</i>	NR	79	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited (20)/ VOD
The Gateway (Grindstone Entertainment) A social worker assigned to the care of the daughter of a single mother intervenes when the dad returns from prison and lures them into a life of crime. Crime Drama Thriller. <i>Based on the 2013 Black List screenplay Where Angels Die by Alexander Felix.</i>	R	91	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
We Need to Do Something (IFC Midnight) Based on the novella of the same name, the film centers on a family trapped in their bathroom during a tornado. Horror. <i>First-time director Sean O'Grady's unleashes a single-location funhouse of horrors, starting off intense as hell and steadily tightening its grip. Unpredictable, unhinged and laced with offbeat humor, it's a confident and singular descent into domestic nihilism that's as wildly fun as it is deeply disturbing.</i>	NR	97	Aspect ratio 1.66 : 1	Limited/VOD
Yakuza Princess (Magnolia/Magnet) The film unfolds in the expansive Japanese community of Sao Paulo in Brazil — the largest Japanese diaspora in the world. Akemi is an orphan who discovers she is the heiress to half of the Yakuza crime syndicate. Based on the graphic novel Samurai Shiro by Danilo Beyruth. Action Thriller. <i>Based on the graphic novel Samurai Shiro by Danilo Beyruth.</i>	R	112	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Year Of The Everlasting Storm (NEON) A love letter to cinema, shot across the US, Iran, Chile, China, and Thailand, by seven of today's most vital filmmakers. New life in the old house. A breakaway, a reunion. Surveillance and reconciliation. An unrecognizable world, in the year of the everlasting storm. Drama. <i>Amplly justified by two whimsical exercises in art house cinema directed by Jafar Panahi and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. -Frank Scheck (HR).</i>	NR	115	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Wild Indian (Vertical Entertainment) Two men are inextricably bound together after covering up the savage murder of a schoolmate. After years of separation following wildly divergent paths, they must finally confront how their traumatic secret has irrevocably shaped their lives. Drama Thriller. <i>The Violence of a Severed Heritage Breeds a Serial Killer. Michael Greyeyes is terrifying as a troubled Ojibwe boy who grows up to become a sociopathic Christian man.</i>	NR	87	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Saving Paradise (Vertical Entertainment) A ruthless corporate raider returns to his home town to either save or close the town's only source of income, a pencil factory. Foreclosure is looming. Drama. <i>The film is an inspiring story based on true events. "Saving Paradise" premiered at the Julien Dubuque Film Festival to a sold out crowd and standing ovation.</i>	NR	102	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
The Madness Inside Me (Gravitas Ventures) A forensic psychiatrist When her husband is killed in a home invasion, her fascination with morbid crime leads to stalking the killer for revenge. Psychological Horror Thriller. <i>Written, produced and directed by sward winning Matthew Berkowitz (director of Wild in Blue; A Violent Man; producer of Corbin Nash).</i>	NR	89	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD

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Tango Shalom (Atlas Distribution) Moshe Yehuda (Jos Laniado), a Hasidic Rabbi and amateur Hora dancer, enters a big, televised Tango competition to save his Hebrew school from bankruptcy. There is only one problem: due to his orthodox religious beliefs, he is not allowed to touch a woman! Comedy. <i>An interfaith milestone, this is the first film in history that was a joint collaboration with The Vatican, a Hasidic Synagogue, a Sikh Temple, and a Mosque, which promotes a timeless message of peace, tolerance, and understanding.</i>	NR	115	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Mogul Mowgli (Strand Releasing) Zed is a British-Pakistani rapper who is based in New York. Before his European tour begins, he is diagnosed with a degenerative autoimmune disease. He returns to see his Pakistani family in London. Drama. <i>Riz Ahmed is one of Britain's most vital, risky actors. Well regarded specialty film with positive reviews. The film had its world premiere in the Panorama section at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival on February 21, 2020</i>	NR	90	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Who You Think I am (Cohen Media Group) (CELLE QUE VOUS CROYEZ) To spy on her lover Ludo, 50 year-old Claire Millaud creates a fake profile on social media and becomes Clara, a beautiful 24 year-old. Alex, Ludo's friend is instantly enamored. Claire, trapped by her avatar, falls madly in love with him. Comedy Drama. <i>Well reviewed 2019 French film has excellent reviews. "An interesting piece of work that strikes a particular chord at the moment." -Mark Kermode (Kermode & Mayo's Film Review).</i>	NR	101	Flat (1.85 : 1)	NY/LA
The Big Scary 'S' Word (Greenwich Entertainment) The history of the American socialist movement and journeys with the people striving to build a socialist future today. Documentary. <i>This film explores where American socialism has been, why it was suppressed, and imagines what a renewed American socialism might look like. But what is the alternative?</i>	NR	123	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Karen (Quiver Distribution) A racist woman takes it as a personal mission to displace the new Black family that just moved into the neighborhood: they won't back down without a fight. Dark Comedy Crime Thriller. <i>"Karen" has become shorthand terminology for White women who use their entitlement as a source of power, often against people of color. Internet comments rage about the film being too similar to Jordan Peele's "Get Out."</i>	NR	NA	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Cinderella (Amazon) An ambitious young woman, whose dreams are bigger than the world will allow, but with the help of her Fab G (Billy Porter), she is able to persevere and make her dreams come true. Musical Fantasy. <i>The film is a modern take from the traditional tale and follows the young Cinderella who lives with her not-so-evil stepmother and stepsisters.</i>	PG	NA	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Limited/ Amazon Prime
Backdraft 30th Anniversary (Fathom Events) Two Chicago firefighter brothers, who don't get along, have to work together while a dangerous arsonist is on the loose. Action Crime Drama.	R	137	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Event Cinema 9/5, 9/8
Rush: Cinema Strangiato - Director's Cut (Trafalgar Releasing) The Holy Trinity of Rock returns to the big screen when "Rush: Cinema Strangiato -Director's Cut" brings Rush fans together in movie theatres once again worldwide –this time to celebrate 40 years of Moving Pictures. Music.	NR	165	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Event Cinema 9/9
9/10-16 2020 Wk 37 Box Office: \$13,325,333; Openings: N/A 2019 Wk 37 Box Office: \$112,695,585; Openings: Hustler (\$33.2M FSS, \$105M Total), The Goldfinch (\$2.7M FSS, \$5.3M Total)				
Malignant (Warner Bros.) The film is reportedly an homage to the Italian slasher murder mystery genre Giallo. Horror Thriller. <i>Directed by James Wan (Saw franchise, Conjuring franchise, Insidious franchise, The Nun, Aquaman, Mortal Kombat) the film based on an original story idea.</i>	R	111	Scope (2.39 : 1)	Wide/HBOMax
Show Me The Father (Sony Affirm) the Kendrick Brothers' (Courageous, Facing the Giants, Fireproof, Overcomer) aims to surprise viewers with captivating stories interwoven with inspirational truths about the fatherhood of God. Faith-based Documentary. <i>"Even though fatherlessness is directly connected to so much brokenness in today's world, we wanted to go beyond traditional documentaries and show how God is the perfect Father and can amazingly provide the love and healing to anyone at any stage in life." - Executive producer Stephen Kendrick.</i>	PG	91	NA	Wide

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The Card Counter (Focus Features) A gambler attempts to give guidance to a young man who is out for revenge against a mutual enemy. Crime Drama. <i>Oscar winner Paul Schrader consulted numerous colleagues including Martin Scorsese in creating his best film in years. An impassive, spellbinding performance by Oscar Issac takes advantage of Schrader's absorbing screenplay. While purposely slow paced, the film is a seductive drama. Celebrated screenwriter/director Schrader's films include Taxi Driver, American Gigolo, Raging Bull, Cat People and First Reformed. Moderately commercial for sophisticated filmgoers.</i>	R	109	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Queenpins (STX Films) A pair of housewives create a \$40 million coupon scam. Comedy. <i>The film releases on Paramount+ SVOD after theatrical release, date TBD.</i>	R	NA	NA	Limited
The Alpinist (Roadside Attractions) Marc-Andre Leclerc climbs alone, far from the limelight. On remote alpine faces, the free-spirited 23-year-old Canadian makes some of the boldest solo ascents in history. Yet, he draws scant attention. With no cameras, no rope, and no margin for error, Leclerc's approach is the essence of solo adventure. Documentary. <i>An intimate documentary of a young visionary who followed the trail of his passion despite the heaviest of possible consequences.</i>	PG13	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Moderate
Knights of Sidonia: Love Woven in the Stars (FUNimation Films) (Japanese: シドニアの騎士) Nagate Tanikaze trains to become a Garde pilot and defend the Sidonia from a hostile alien species called Gauna. Animation. <i>An anime television series adaptation, produced by Polygon Pictures, premiered on April 10, 2014 and ended its first season on June 26, 2014. A new anime film, titled Knights of Sidonia: Love Woven in the Stars was announced on July 3, 2020.</i>	NR	110	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Moderate on 9/13 (Monday)
Gunfight At Dry River (Quiver Distribution) The US-Mexican border in 1888. In Dry River, a desert town debilitated by drought, a promise of gold will bring hope, love, and death in equal measure. Western Drama. <i>For western fans.</i>	NR	101	Scope (2.35 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Dating And New York (IFC Films) To single millennials Milo (Jaboukie Young-White) and Wendy (Francesca Reale) find each other through the Meet Cute dating app. After a one night stand, their relationship grows hopefully without complications. Romantic Comedy. <i>The film was acquired at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival. Early reviews have been mixed.</i>	NR	91	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
The Manson Brothers Midnight Zombie Massacre (Gravitas Ventures) Wrestling's most hated tag team, The MANSON BROTHERS, now in the twilight of their careers and relegated to doing smaller wrestling promotions, take a MIDNIGHT cage match on Halloween night, only to find themselves trapped in the arena with wrestlers and fans infected with a mutated rabies ZOMBIE virus. Horror Action Comedy. <i>How does this low-budget horror-comedy about wrestling and zombies stand up in today's entertainment world? Actually, very well.</i>	NR	92	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited/VOD
Language Lessons (DADA Films/Shout! Factory) When Adam's (Mark Duplass) husband surprises him with weekly Spanish lessons, he's unsure about where or how this new element will fit into his already structured life. But when tragedy strikes, his Spanish teacher, Cariño (Natalie Morales), becomes a lifeline he didn't know he needed. Drama. <i>Bittersweet, honest, and at times darkly funny, The film is a disarmingly moving exploration of platonic love.</i>	NR	91	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Fauci (National Geographic) Emmy winners John Hoffman and Janet Tobias will direct Fauci, which through exclusive access promises to offer a glimpse into the career and life of the public servant who has advised seven U.S. presidents beginning with the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s and through SARS, Ebola and now Covid-19. Documentary.	PG13		Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
Small Engine Repair (Vertical Entertainment) Frank, Swaino and Packie are lifelong friends who share a love of the Red Sox, rowdy bars and Frank's teenaged daughter. Dark Comedy Drama. <i>Based on Pollono's award-winning play, Small Engine Repair is a pitch-black comedic drama with a wicked twist, and a powerful exploration of brotherhood, class struggle and toxic masculinity.</i>	R	102	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Limited
David Byrne's American Utopia (Iconic Events) Singer David Byrne and a group of international musicians perform songs from the hit Broadway musical "American Utopia." Documentary. <i>"A little dose of David Byrne, unless you're a devoted Talking Heads fan, can go a long way." -Kevin Maher (Times-UK).</i>	NR	135	Flat (1.85 : 1)	Event Cinema

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Azor (Be For Films) Yvan De Wiel, a private banker from Geneva, goes to Argentina in the midst of a dictatorship to replace his partner, the object of the most worrying rumors, who disappeared overnight. Drama. <i>A Private Swiss Banker Enters the Argentine Junta's Heart of Darkness.</i> - <i>Variety</i> .	NR	100	Flat (1.85 : 1)	NYC LA 9/17 Miami 9/24 (90 day Window)
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Studio Release Changes

Title	Runs	New	Former
Jockey (Sony Pictures Classics) An aging jockey aims for a final championship, when a rookie rider arrives claiming to be his son. Drama.	NY/LA	12/29/21	NEW
Spencer (Neon) In 1991 while spending the Christmas holiday with the royal family at Sandringham House, Princess Diana decides to leave Prince Charles. Drama.	Wide	11/5/21	NEW
Flee (Neon) On the verge of marriage to his long-time boyfriend, a successful academic in Denmark is confronted with a secret from his past. Animation Documentary. <i>Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner.</i>	Limited	12/3/21	11/5/21
Fast & Furious 10 (Universal) More of the same with the cast, crashes, nonstop action and big screen entertainment intact. Action. <i>Opens Easter weekend, where F7 grossed \$147.1M FSS; \$353M total North America.</i>	Wide	4/7/23	NEW
The Addams Family 2 (MGM/UAR) The Addams get tangled up in more wacky adventures and find themselves involved in hilarious run-ins. Sequel to the 2019 animated film, 'The Addams Family'. Animation Adventure. <i>Now opening d/d with at home rental.</i>	Wide	10/1/21	NEW
Saving Paradise (Vertical Entertainment) Michael, a ruthless corporate raider, is forced to return to his small town when he inherits his father's nearly bankrupt pencil factory. Managed by his long-lost love, Charlie (Johanna Braddy), the pencil factory is the heart and soul of the depressed community. With the foreclosure deadline looming, Michael must decide to either let it close, or join Charlie and the community's fight to save their way of life. Drama.	Limited	9/3/21	NEW
Wild Indian (Vertical Entertainment) Decades after covering up his classmate's murder, Michael (Michael Greyeyes) has moved on from his reservation and fractured past. When a man who shares his violent secret seeks vengeance, Michael goes to great lengths to protect his new life with his wife (Kate Bosworth) and boss (Jesse Eisenberg) from the demons of his past. Drama Thriller.	Limited	9/3/21	NEW
Iron Temple (Freestyle Releasing) Follows the journey of IFBB Pro Antonio "Tony" Torres, who began his life as an eager adolescent growing up in the streets of New York. Young Tony became attracted to body building, idolized bodybuilders, and wanted to be one. Through his time becoming a bodybuilder, Tony ventured into the adult entertainment industry and built a lucrative lifestyle, right before it all came crashing down. After covering a murder for a friend and being chased by the FBI he was sent to prison for five years. After doing his time, he had to build back his life from the bottom. Tony started a small gym and trained IFBB professionals from coast to coast. Tony Torres is what you would call an overcomer. Every time he was dealt a bad hand, Tony would always power through and come out on top.	2-Week Theatrical Exclusive	10/8/21	NEW
The Laws of the Universe - The Age of Elohim (Freestyle Releasing) 150 million years ago, various aliens were living in harmony under the God of the Earth, Elohim. But Dahar, who is from the dark side of the universe, was planning to annihilate the Earth. What will happen at the end of the battle for the survival of the Earth? Animation Foreign.	Limited	10/22/21	NEW

MPA Ratings

Title	Rating	Reason
American Night (Lionsgate/Saban Films) A neo-noir set in the New York City's corrupt contemporary art world where the art dealer John Kaplan and the ruthless head of New York's mafia, Michael Rubino, fight for money, art, power and love. Action Thriller.	R	Violence, sexual content, nudity, and language throughout
Back to the Outback (Netflix) Tired of being locked in a reptile house where humans gawk at them like they're monsters, a group of Australia's deadliest creatures plot a daring escape from their zoo to the Outback. Animation Adventure Comedy.	PG	Rude/suggestive material and action

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Bergman Island (IFC Films) A couple retreat to the island that inspired Ingmar Bergman to write screenplays for their upcoming films when the lines between reality and fiction start to blur. Drama.	R	Some sexual content, nudity and language
Becoming Cousteau (Picturehouse) Its focus will be on the inventor-explorer-environmentalist-filmmaker revolution, i.e., giving mankind the resources to explore the ocean with the Aqua Lung, calling attention to ocean pollution, and his longtime collaboration. Documentary.	PG13	Brief strong language, some disturbing images and smoking
Copshop (Open Road Films) On the run from a lethal assassin, a wily con artist devises a scheme to hide out inside a small town police station-but when the hitman turns up at the precinct, an unsuspecting rookie cop finds herself caught in the crosshairs. Action Thriller.	R	Strong/bloody violence, and pervasive language
The Hand of God (Netflix) The story of a boy in the tumultuous Naples of the 1980s. Sorrentino's most personal film yet is a tale of fate and family, sports and cinema, love and loss. Drama.	R	Sexual content, language, some graphic nudity and brief drug use
Hunting Bigfoot (Xenon Pictures) A film that skillfully melds the worlds of narrative feature and documentary to capture this portrait of a broken man obsessively pursuing personal and professional redemption in a world where many of those close to him think he's crazy. Documentary.	R	Some language and brief full nudity
If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power (IMAX) an hour-long film experience set to the music of Halsey's upcoming album, introduces a young pregnant Queen, Lila, as she wrestles with the manipulative chokehold of love to ultimately discover that the ability to create life (and end it) unlocks the paranormal power within her. Drama Fantasy Horror.	R	Graphic nudity, some sexual content, violence and language
Justin Bieber: Our World (Amazon Studios) Documentary.	PG	Some language
A Piece of Cake (Viva Pictures) Animation.	PG	Mild action and rude material #
Playing the Crease (Billbunny LLC) A resilient high school kid fights to claim his spot on the varsity hockey team after moving from Minnesota following his father's death. Sports Drama.	PG13	Some language and brief violence
Un Rescate de Huevitos (Pantelion Films) Toto and his friends must rescue his egg children after they're taken away for a gourmet food event in Africa. Subtitled Animation.	PG	Rude material and action

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SCREENING ROOM



Hard Luck Love Song
(Roadside Attractions)
10/15/21 – Wide
Teaser Trailer

A gritty love story about a charismatic but down-on-his-luck troubadour living out of cheap motels and making bad decisions. Drama Music Romance.



Eternals
(Disney/Marvel)
11/5/21 – Wide
Final Trailer

The saga of the Eternals, a race of immortal beings who lived on Earth and shaped its history and civilizations. Action Adventure Drama.



Worth
(Netflix)
9/3/21 – Streaming
Official Trailer

An attorney in Washington D.C. battles against cynicism, bureaucracy and politics to help the victims of 9/11. Biography Drama.



Hell or High Seas
(Invincible Ent.)
10/8/21 – Limited
Official Trailer

A real-life, modern-day odyssey: one man's attempt to sail Cape Horn, raise awareness about veterans' suicide, and calm the storms within. Documentary.

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