

# Well Go USA Entertainment

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**Well Go USA Entertainment** is an American independent and international film distributor. It distributes films in a variety of genres, including action films, American indie films, and martial arts films, on all types of platforms, including in movie theaters, on DVDs and Blu-rays, and via video on demand (VOD). It is a major distributor of Asian action films in the United States.

## History

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Well Go Entertainment is a family-owned business whose origins were in distributing home entertainment content such as karaoke videos in the 1990s.<sup>[1]</sup> The company was founded by Annie Walker in 1989, after she moved to North Texas from Taiwan with her family. After a stint working for Fendi Timepieces as a regional manager in Dallas, Walker started importing karaoke laser discs from Taiwan. The company was incorporated in 1994, at which time it acquired its current name. The name derives from the logo of the laser disc business, a singing dog, which in Chinese, is "hui guo", which sounds something like "way go", which to Walker's ear, was transliterated into English as "Well Go".<sup>[2]</sup>

At first the company worked with a Taiwanese distributor, then when that went under, started distributing discs there, before moving into the U.S. market. In the mid-2000s it started focusing on straight-to-video releases, the first being a golf instruction DVD by British golfer David Leadbetter.<sup>[2]</sup> As DVDs became less popular and VODs more so, along with the growing demand for Asian action movies, Well Go started focusing on films and the VOD market. It bought the sole rights to the distribution of the sequel to *Ip Man* on VOD, which was a huge hit. Over time it expanded into other genres, including horror and indie films.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Description

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Well Go is located in Plano, Texas.<sup>[1]</sup> Since 2014 and as of September 2019, Doris Pfardrescher and Dennis Walker (daughter and son of founder Annie Walker) were CEO and CFO/COO respectively.<sup>[2]</sup>

The company acquires the rights to a product, and it sells to other companies. As well as selling the DVD versions of films, it also deals directly with streaming services like Netflix and Hulu as well as platforms like iTunes and YouTube. In 2019 it established its own service, called Hi-Yah<sup>[2]</sup> (stylized as Hi-YAH!).<sup>[3]</sup>

As of 2019 Well Go released around 18–20 movies theatrically, and a total of around 50–60 films total including VOD and DVD, each year.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 2019, Well Go USA signed a deal with an indie production company called Rustic Films to distribute their films.

The company is a major sponsor of Asian Film Festival of Dallas.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Films

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Well Go distributes films in a variety of genres, including action films, American indie films, and martial arts films, on all types of platforms, including in movie theaters, on DVDs and Blu-rays, and via video on demand (VOD).<sup>[1]</sup>

The company is a major distributor of Asian films, especially Chinese ones, which often play in AMC Theatres before moving to VOD. Its Asian film releases include the martial arts movie *Ip Man 3*, and the arthouse film, *The Assassin*, both released in 2015. In the same year, Well Go released the British satirical crime-thriller *Kill Your Friends* and the Canadian thriller *River*.<sup>[1]</sup> Well Go scored a major coup when it acquired the rights to the 2018 Korean hit *Burning*,<sup>[2]</sup> which it released on Blu-ray and DVD on March 5, 2019.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

The 2023 Chinese wuxia film *Sakra*, has its debut release on Blu-ray and DVD on June 13, 2023.<sup>[6]</sup> Also in 2023, Well Go acquired distribution rights for the Australian sci-fi thriller *Monolith*, first screened in 2022 at the Adelaide Film Festival.<sup>[7]</sup>

## References

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3. "Home" (<https://hi-yahtv.vhx.tv/>). *Hi-YAH!*. Retrieved May 1, 2023.
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7. Frater, Patrick (April 25, 2023). "SXSW Thriller 'Monolith,' With Lily Sullivan, Boarded by Well Go USA (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/sxsw-monolith-lily-sullivan-wellgo-usa-1235592297/>). *Variety*. Retrieved April 30, 2023.

## External links

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- Official website (<https://wellgousa.com/>)
- Hi-YAH! (<https://www.hiyahtv.com/>)

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