

# [***Controversial Hit Sound Of Freedom Crosses $50 Million At U.S. Box Office, Report Says***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68PC-3601-DXVP-5023-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

July 13, 2023 Thursday

Copyright 2023 Forbes LLC All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 777 words

**Byline:** Conor Murray, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** The film has been scrutinized for its lead actor s apparent ties to the QAnon conspiracy theory.

**Body**

**Topline**

The anti-child sex trafficking film that s faced criticism over its QAnon ties has grossed more than $50 million at the domestic box office,**Deadline** reported, making it one of the top 25 highest grossing domestic films of 2023 so far.

<figure>

<figcaption>

Tim Ballard and star Mira Sorvino at the premiere of "Sound of Freedom" on June 28, in Vineyard, Utah. (Photo by Fred Hayes/Getty Images for Angel Studios)

Getty Images for Angel Studios

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

**The Sound of Freedom** had grossed about $53.4 million as of Wednesday,**Deadline**reported, taking second place in that day s box office totals behind **Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part One** s$16 million opening day.

After opening in theaters July 4, **Sound of Freedom** became an unexpected box office hit, more than tripling its $14.5 million budget so far.

In its opening weekend,**The Sound of Freedom** placed third behind**Insidious: The Red Door** and**Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny**.

The film places among the top 25 biggest releases of 2023 at the domestic box office, ahead of star-studded movies like Jennifer Lawrence s**No Hard Feelings**,**80 for Brady** and**Magic Mike s Last Dance**.

Key to the film s success has been its embrace by right-wing media personalities and social media users, as well as a pay it forward campaign spearheaded by its distributor, Angel Studios, whichit sayshas raised enough money for 4 million free tickets for viewers who can t afford to buy one.

Among the film s champions are right-wing commentatorsBen ShapiroandJordan Peterson, who interviewed the film s star, Jim Caviezel, and its real-life inspiration, Tim Ballard.

Former President Donald Trump also shared the trailer on Truth Social.

The film has a 77% critics score onRotten Tomatoes, with reviews ranging from praise from**Variety** for shining a light on an important issue to a scathing**Rolling Stone** review calling it a gateway to far-right conspiracy theories.

**Key Background**

**The Sound of Freedom** is based on Ballard, a former government agent, and his pursuit to save children from human trafficking. But the film has been criticized for its apparent ties to theQAnon conspiracytheory, which promotes the idea that Satan-worshiping political and media elites run the world and are involved in a child sex trafficking ring. Caviezel hasreportedlyspoken at multiple QAnon events, where he has promoted the QAnon theory that child traffickers drain their victims blood to develop adrenochrome, a chemical theorists believe Hollywood elites inject to stay young. Ballard has also previouslysuggestedsupport for the debunked Wayfair conspiracy theory, which posited the furniture retailer was selling children online. Angel Studios denied any connection to QAnon or ***politics***, and Ballard told Peterson he disavows much of what he sees with conspiracy theories, but affirmed his belief in the adrenochrome harvesting theory. A Viceinvestigationalso suggested Ballard s organization, Operation Underground Railroad, has exaggerated its role in sex trafficking rescue missions, and multiple law enforcement agencies told Vice their work with OUR has been insubstantial. Ballard criticized the Vice article as very incredibly dishonest. Utah s Davis County Attorney s Office reportedlyinvestigatedOUR for more than two years for alleged communications fraud, witness tampering and retaliation, but ended the investigation in May with no charges.

**Tangent**

Some **Sound of Freedom**viewers accused AMC of deliberately sabotaging screenings of the film ostensibly to censor it or hurt its performance. AMC has forcefully denied these allegations, with CEO Adam Aroncallingit a conspiracy theory on Twitter. But viewers still allege issues like broken air conditioning, inaudibly low volume and refunded tickets have been among problems at AMC locations. Heavyweight boxer David Niño Rodriguez was one of the highest-profile accusers,tweetingthe volume was too low at his screening and urged his followers to share similar stories in the replies. Some right-wing users also claim mainstream media outlets are attempting to censor the film. CNN is demanding no one see Sound of Freedom, one viraltweetclaims, though a CNN news segment attached to the tweet does not contain this claim.

**Further Reading**

Box Office Hit Sound Of Freedom Controversy Including QAnon Ties And False Claims Theaters Are Sabotaging Screenings Explained(Forbes)

What Is QAnon, the Viral Pro-Trump Conspiracy Theory?(New York Times)

Insidious: The Red Door Earns $32.7 Million In First Weekend Knocking Indiana Jones Off Top Spot(Forbes)

Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One Sparks $16M Opening Day Box Office Update(Deadline)

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2023

**End of Document**