

# [***Sound Of Freedom Ahead Of Big-Budget 'Mission: Impossible,' The Flash' And Scream VI In U.S. Box Office***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68SX-RDW1-DXVP-52JN-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 976 words

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**Highlight:** Sound of Freedom had a better weekend than Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One in domestic sales.

**Body**

**Topline**

**Sound of Freedom** the surprise anti-sex trafficking hit that s been marred by controversy over its lead actor s QAnon ties is the 15th biggest movie of 2023 at thedomestic box officeso far, ranking ahead of some notable titles by major Hollywood studios, and it s even starting to outperform the big-budgeted, Tom-Cruise led**Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One**.

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Jim Caviezel stars as Tim Ballard, a former government agent, in 'Sound of Freedom.' (Photo by D Dipasupil/Getty Images)

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

**Sound of Freedom,** starring Jim Caviezel and inspired by the real-life anti-sex trafficking pursuits of former government agent Tim Ballard, has grossed $124 million at the domestic box office just three weeks after its July 4 opening, according to Box Office Mojo.

The film hassurpassedthe total 2023 domestic gross of other big-name productions like**Scream VI**($108 million),**The Flash**($107 million),**M3GAN** ($95 million) and**Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves** ($93 million).

Once expected to be a box office hit and produced on a more than $200 million budget **The Flash** underperformed because of its star Ezra Miller s legal and behavioraltroubles, the lack of a traditional marketing campaign because of Miller s controversies and mixed critical reviews.

The film hasoutgrossed **Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One** at the domestic box office so far by just $6 million, according to Box Office Mojo, though**Mission: Impossible** which was produced with a reported $291 millionbudget opened more than a week after**Sound of Freedom**.

Despite its later opening date,**Mission: Impossible** has fallen behind **Sound of Freedom** in daily domestic box office totals: OnSunday,**Sound of Freedom** grossed $6.7 million, ahead of **Mission: Impossible** s $6 million.

**Sound of Freedom** ranked third at the box office lastweekendwith $19.8 million, just edging out**Mission: Impossible** but coming in well behind **Barbie** and **Oppenheimer**, which debuted with $162 million and $82 million, respectively, assisted by the viral Barbenheimer social media hype.

**Sound of Freedom** is still far behind the biggest domestic earners this year so far, including**The Super Mario Bros. Movie** ($574 million),**Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse** ($375 million) and**Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3** ($359 million).

**Contra**

Since**Sound of Freedom** has only been released in the United States, other major studio films have made more in worldwide gross sales.**Mission: Impossible** has raked in $370 milliongloballyso far, with international markets accounting for 68% of its total gross.**The Flash** ($268million),**M3GAN** ($180million) and**Scream VI** ($169million) have all grossed more than**Sound of Freedom** worldwide.

**Key Background**

**Sound of Freedom** has a 71%Rotten Tomatoescritics score, attracting both praise fromfor shining a spotlight on of the crucial criminal horrors of our time, as well as fierce criticism fromfor being a gateway to far-right conspiracy theories. Its box office performance has beenaidedby a viral social media push from right-wing figures, including former president Donald Trump, who held a screening at his New Jersey golf club and posted about the film on Truth Social, as well as several conservative personalities, including Ben Shapiro, Jordan Peterson and Sean Hannity, who interviewed Caviezel and Ballard. The film s distributor, Angel Studios, also launched a pay it forwardprogramthrough which fans can purchase a ticket for others who may not be able to afford one. This accounted for $2.6 million of**Sound of Freedom** s $14.2 million July 4 opening, IndieWirereported. Some social media users and media outlets, however, have reported some theater screenings indicate all tickets have been reserved while few people show up to see the film.**The Guardian** investigatedTimes Square screenings, finding that one 3 p.m. showtime indicated 28 seats went unsold, according to Fandango, but 45 seats in total were left vacant.

**Tangent**

**Sound of Freedom** has been the center of controversy over Caviezel s ties to theQAnonconspiracy theory, which promotes the idea Hollywood elites and Democrats are Satan worshippers who run a global child sex trafficking ring. Caviezel has reportedly spoken at multiple QAnon events in which he promoted thebaseless adrenochrome theory, which posits these elites are kidnapping and murdering children to harvest the adrenochrome chemical from their blood, which QAnon believers allege they ingest to stay young. The adrenochrome theory has been debunked by members of the scientific community, who have noted adrenochrome does not have any rejuvenating properties. The theory has roots in antisemitic tropes, namely blood libel, the centuries-old myth that Jews drain the blood of Christians or other non-Jewish children to use in religious rituals, and it exploded in popularity early in the Covid-19 pandemic when conspiracy theorists alleged celebrities were no longer able to access adrenochrome because of the lockdown. Ballard promoted the adrenochrome theory on Jordan Peterson s YouTube channel, alleging it is taking place in parts of Africa. Angel Studios hasdeniedany connection between**Sound of Freedom** and conspiracy theories or ***politics***.**Sound of Freedom** has also attracted controversy because of investigative reports thatsuggestOperation Underground Railroad, Ballard s anti-sex trafficking organization, exaggerated its role in rescue missions, and some law enforcement agencies told Vice their work with OUR was insubstantial.

**Further Reading**

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

Here Are The Right-Wing Figures From Donald Trump To Steve Bannon Championing Surprise Hit Sound Of Freedom (Forbes)

The Adrenochrome Conspiracy Theory Pushed By Sound Of Freedom Star Explained(Forbes)

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