

# [***Sound Of Freedom Outgrosses Big-Budget Films Fast X, Elemental At Domestic Box Office***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68VD-HPY1-DXVP-50HR-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 918 words

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**Highlight:** Sound of Freedom outgrossed Fast X in the United States despite the former s budget being just a fraction of the latter s.

**Body**

**Topline**

**Sound of Freedom**, the surprise hit that s been championed by the right wing and criticized by the left for its lead actor s QAnon ties, continues its box office rise, now surpassing**Fast X** a film whose $340 million budget is nearly 25 times as big as**Sound Of Freedom** s much smaller $14 million.

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'Sound of Freedom' star Jim Caviezel has drawn scrutiny for his ties to the QAnon conspiracy theory. (Photo by Gilbert Carrasquillo/FilmMagic)

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**Key Facts**

**Sound of Freedom**, an anti-child sex trafficking film starring Jim Caviezel, based on the real-life pursuits of former government agent Tim Ballard, hasgrossedmore than $149 million at the domestic box office since its July 4 opening.

**Sound of Freedom** is the 13thhighest-grossingfilm of the year in the United States so far, ranking ahead of some blockbuster films with big budgets and star-studded casts.

The film surpassed the total of**Fast X**, which has made about $146 million in the United States since its May 19 opening, a production with a much bigger budget and more star power, with big names like Vin Diesel, John Cena and Jason Momoa in the cast.

**Sound of Freedom** has also outgrossed **Elemental**, a Pixar film that cost $200 million to produce and made just $145 million in the United States and which is another target among the anti- woke for its portrayal of a nonbinary character.

Lastweekend,**Sound of Freedom** ranked fourth at the box office with $12 million, behind blockbusters**Barbie** and**Oppenheimer**, as well as**Haunted Mansion**, which opened with $24 million.

**The Super Mario Bros. Movie** is still the highest grossing film of theyearso far, making $574 million at the domestic box office, followed by **Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse** ($378 million), **Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3** ($359 million) and **Barbie** ($351 million), which has quickly risen through the box office rankings since its July 21 opening.

**Contra**

**Sound of Freedom** ranks lower in terms ofworldwide grossbecause it has only been released in the United States. It s the 19th highest-grossing film worldwide so far this year, ranking below films it s outgrossed domestically, like**Scream VI**,**Elemental** and**Fast X**. Angel Studios, the film s distributor,announcedlast week**Sound of Freedom** would hit international theaters later this year. The first international release date is August 18, in South Africa, followed by Australia and New Zealand on August 24 and the United Kingdom and Ireland on September 1.

**Key Background**

**Sound of Freedom** s success has been aided by a long list of right-wing politicians and media commentators championing the film, in some cases interviewing Caviezel and Ballard. Former President Donald Trump shared a link to the trailer on Truth Social, his social media platform, and held a screening at his New Jersey golf club. After his screening, Trump posted a video on Truth Social praising the film and promising to use Title 42 a pandemic-erapolicyhe enacted to stop migrants at the border from seeking asylum during a health crisis to end child trafficking and to urge Congress to issue the death penalty for child traffickers. Trump previouslyappointedBallard to a State Department human trafficking advisory council in 2019. Conservative media personalities Sean Hannity, Ben Shapiro and Jordan Peterson all interviewed Ballard and Caviezel to promote the film. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) also held ascreeningof the film for the House of Representatives last week, where he wasjoinedby Caviezel and Ballard, praising it as a call to action to combat child trafficking wherever the evil exists. The film s financial success has been aided by a pay it forwardprogramlaunched by Angel Studios through 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, including the, have alleged some of these tickets go unused, with many reserved seats left vacant at screenings.

**Tangent**

The film s success has been criticized for Caviezel s ties to the QAnon conspiracy theory. He has reportedly spoken at multiple QAnon events where he has promoted the baselessadrenochromeconspiracy theory, which suggests political and Hollywood elites harvest the blood of children to consume adrenochrome, a chemical to keep themselves young. The theory has been debunked by members of the scientific community who say adrenochrome has no rejuvenating properties. 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 ofinvestigative reportsthat suggest Operation 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)

Sound Of Freedom Ahead Of Big-Budget 'Mission: Impossible,' The Flash' And Scream VI In U.S. Box Office(Forbes)

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

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

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