



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

MICHAEL GILTZ AT WORK

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE FOR WEEK  
ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 2025

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE FOR WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

A film's gross for the last seven days, followed by its total worldwide gross.

I begin with data from Comscore and then pull from every other source available.

- 1. **Ne Zha 2**—\$237m / \$1.872b worldwide total
- 2. Captain America: Brave New World—\$108m / \$289m ww
- 3. Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy—\$39 / \$73m ww
- 4. **Chhaava**—\$35m / \$54m ww
- 5. Paddington in Peru—\$21m / \$150m ww
- 6. **Dog Man**—\$21m / \$105m ww
- 7. **The Monkey**—\$21m ww debut
- 8. **Detective Chinatown 1900**—\$18m / \$462m ww
- 9. **Mufasa: The Lion King**—\$13m / \$699m ww
- 10. A Complete Unknown—\$6m / \$105m ww
- 11. **The Brutalist**—\$6m / \$37m ww
- 12. **Moana 2**—\$5m / \$1,051b ww
- 13. **Boonie Bears: Future Reborn**—\$5m / \$106m ww
- 14. Heart Eyes—\$5m / \$28m ww
- 15. Dragon—\$5m ww debut



Michael Giltz is a freelance writer based in NYC and can be reached at [mgiltz@pipeline.com](mailto:mgiltz@pipeline.com)

FAVORITE LINKS

- Americablog
- Five O'Clock Lightning baseball blog
- Deep Pop -- Lori Lakin's Blog
- The Back Page -- Jason Page on ESPN Radio
- Cine-Blog -- George Robinson's Blog
- Documents On Art & Cinema - Daryl Chin's Blog
- Brucie G's Wondrous Blog Of Adventure and Mystery -- Bruce Greenspan's Blog

BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2025 (38)
  - March (7)
  - ▼ February (25)
    - Moving A Loved One Into Assisted

**16. Sonic The Hedgehog 3**—\$4m / \$483m ww

**17. Wicked**—\$3m / \$728m ww

**18. Nosferatu**—\$3m / \$179m ww

19. Creation of the Gods 2: Demon Force—\$3m / \$163m ww

**20. Conclave**—\$3m / \$99m ww

**21. Becoming Led Zeppelin**—\$3m / \$9m ww

22. Legend of the Condor Heroes: The Gallants—\$2m / \$91m ww

**23. Babygirl**—\$2m / \$63m ww

**24. One of Them Days**—\$2m / \$46m ww

25. Flight Risk—\$2m / \$42m ww

**26. I'm Still Here**—\$2m / \$27m ww

27. Love Hurts—\$2m / \$16m ww

28. The Unbreakable Boy—\$2m ww debut

29. Den of Thieves 2: Pantera—\$1m / \$57m ww

**30. Companion**—\$1m / \$34m ww

31. September 5—\$1m / \$7m ww

OFF THE RADAR: God Save The Tuche and The Three Investigators:  
Carpathian Dog aka Die Drei ??? Und Der Karpatenhund.

**Bold: movies that have or likely will triple their reported budgets. That's my standard for a movie being a box office hit from theatrical alone. Many films will be profitable for a studio even if they don't triple their reported budget, but it's a good marker to indicate a big hit.**

## ANALYSIS

As expected, *Captain America: New World Order* took a major tumble in week two. It needs to triple its opening week tally of \$180m to be considered a hit and I'm *not* quite sure it's going to do that yet. One bright spot: it didn't drop *nearly* as much overseas as it did in the U.S. And spectacles like these usually make most of their money internationally, so there's hope for it yet. And don't compare it to the last *Captain America* movie, which grossed \$1.1 billion worldwide. That one (subtitled *Civil War*) was an Avengers movie in all but name, while this is a genuine stand-alone Cap tale.

In China, *Ne Zha 2* is rewriting the books on how much money a movie can make in one territory. It's clearly going to gross \$2 BILLION in China alone. That's stunning. And yet, to fully exploit the soft power of pop culture the way the US and the UK and South Korea and other

Living/Rehab/Long...

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE  
FOR WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 23, ...

TV and Film Must Watch List

Best Albums Of The Year -- 1924  
To The Present

Music Library Artist List A-E

Music Library Artist List F-J

Music Library Artist List K-O

Music Library Artist List P-S

Music Library Artist List T-Z

Music Library List Z+ Cast  
Albums and Soundtracks

Music Library List Z+ Various  
Artist Compilations

Music Library Album List Z+  
Holiday Music/Christma...

Best Movies Of The Year -- #1  
Pick For Each Year a...

MOVIES -- Everything: The  
Good, The Bad and the Ugly

NYCD Cheat Sheet

The Best Books Of All Time -- A  
(Partial) List Of ...

The Best Books Of All Time -- A  
(Partial) List Of ...

Best TV Shows Of All Time -- A  
Partial List Of My ...

Best Theater Of All Time -- A  
(Partial) List Of Al...

1939: The Greatest Year For  
Movies

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE  
FOR WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 16, ...

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE  
FOR WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2025

FILM REVIEW: "A WOMAN IS  
A WOMAN"

THEATER REVIEW: "STILL"

WORLDWIDE BOX OFFICE  
FOR WEEK ENDING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

► January (6)

► 2024 (37)

countries do, China should still strive to make movies that appeal to people all over the world. Just sayin'.

Nonetheless, *Ne Zha 2* has made \$15m so far in North America and sits in the Top 5, while India's hit film *Chhaava* is in the Top 10. That film enjoyed a huge week two, so it was the polar opposite of *Captain America: Brave New World*. People really liked what they saw. Plus it's a rare hit for Bollywood, the Hindi division of India's complex and successful movie-making industry. Bollywood has been in a prolonged slump (or perhaps, like China's industry, become tiresomely jingoistic) and people are responding much more strongly to Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and other film centers.

*Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy* will barrel past \$100m worldwide, making the decision to skip North America and go straight to streaming all the more idiotic. They left easy money on the table.

Finally, two more movies make our list of films that are hits from box office alone: India's *Chhaava* and the horror flick *The Monkey*, which cost about \$10mb and grossed \$21m on its opening week. Sure it got terrible reviews, but it's a money maker! This list is meant as a handy guide to the winners and a constant reminder of how important mid-sized and small budget movies are to a healthy box office.

Two films disappeared off my radar. It's possible, even likely, the German family film *The Three Investigators–Carpathian Dog* simply stopped making money. It only grossed a reported \$2m last week. But the French comedy *God Save The Tuche* opened to \$15m last week. It's highly unlikely the movie made less than \$1m this week, but I can't find any info on it. Many markets remain black boxes unless the movies are big enough to be tracked by ComScore and the like. India, Japan and individual European countries (not to mention Central and South America) do not offer easy and timely access to box office the way China and South Korea do. *The Wild Robot* opened in Japan and I thought it would play really well there, but as far as I know it hasn't made a penny. That puzzles me. If anyone has links or suggestions of how I can track any of these markets (or any others), email me at [mgiltz@pipeline.com](mailto:mgiltz@pipeline.com). Thx!

2025 HIT FILMS

Here's a list of all the hit films making money in 2025. My rule of thumb is that films should gross roughly at least three times as much as their reported budget. Some people now say a movie need only make 2 1/2 times as much as their budget but I'm sticking with the traditional formula. Of course, we don't really know a movie's budget or the cost of advertising or the backroom deals. Remember, just because a movie isn't a hit from theatrical alone doesn't mean they're losing money. Far from it. We can't dive deep into Hollywood accounting. But we *can* spot the really big hits that will change careers, launch franchises and generally pay the bills. A few international films probably made the cut but since I don't have even a reported budget, I hate to reward them with hit status. Also, I'll include movies from 2024 if they make the majority of their money in 2025. Here goes.

- 2023 (8)
- 2022 (6)
- 2021 (8)
- 2020 (7)
- 2019 (93)
- 2018 (34)
- 2017 (6)
- 2016 (2)
- 2015 (11)
- 2014 (2)
- 2013 (5)
- 2012 (17)
- 2011 (15)
- 2010 (10)
- 2009 (43)
- 2008 (86)
- 2007 (781)
- 2006 (2405)
- 2005 (5)

**Big Budget** (\$100mb+)*Detective Chinatown 1900* (China) (\$125mb est)**Mid-sized budget** (\$21mb-\$99mb)*Boonie Bears: Future Reborn* (China) (\$50mb?)*Dog Man* (\$40mb)*Ne Zha 2* (China) (\$80mb)*Nosferatu* (\$50mb)**Small Budget** (\$20mb or less)*Babygirl* (\$20mb)*Becoming Led Zeppelin* (>\$2mb)*The Brutalist* (\$10mb)*Chhaava* (Indian/Hindi) (\$15mb)*Companion* (\$10mb)*Conclave* (\$20mb; must gross \$106m to belong on this list)*I'm Still Here* (\$?mb but likely less than \$10mb)*One of Them Days* (\$14mb)*Presence* (\$2mb)

## NOTES

mb = a film's budget in millions of US dollars; ww = worldwide

**1. Ne Zha 2**—Reported \$80mb. Chinese animated fantasy sequel to the 2019 smash which cost about \$20m and grossed \$743m. A spin-off film *Jiang Ziya* was hobbled by COVID but grossed \$243m. Now the direct sequel *Ne Zha 2* cost \$80m and our spunky heroine (based on a famed mythological character around for centuries) takes on sea monsters. The series is based on *Investiture of the Gods* by Xu Zhonglin from the 16th century.

**2. Captain America: Brave New World**—\$180mb

**3. Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy**—\$50mb and straight to streaming in the world's biggest market because?

**4. Chhaava**—\$15mb Indian/Hindi language action historical epic.

5. Paddington in Peru—\$90mb? Sadly, three times is not the charm artistically for this once-perfect franchise.

**6. Dog Man**—A reported \$40mb. It's always good to gross your budget on opening week. Plus, the books are funny, the reviews are good, the audience response is great and it has the rest of the world to open in. So get ready for *Dog Man 2*.

**7. The Monkey** -- \$10m reported budget means this adaptation of a Stephen King short story is a box office winner right out of the gate. Cheap horror films are money in the bank...*but 2025* has so many I have to assume audiences will become sick and tired of them any minute now. Not forever, not all of them, but surely the surfeit of slasher flicks will prove too much of a good thing. Just not yet.

**8. Detective Chinatown 1900**—\$125mb at least? This is the fourth in a wildly popular buddy comedy mystery series. Think oh, *Rush Hour*? *48 Hours*? Each film cost more than the one before *and* grossed more. Since we're on film #4 and it's a period movie set in San Francisco, it's safe to assume this cost more than #3, which cost \$117m and grossed \$686m worldwide. I mean, \$150mb is probably more realistic, at least. Oh and clues in this one indicate the next film in the series will be set in London. So, *Detective Chinatown 1920*, here we come.

**9. Mufasa: The Lion King**—\$200mb.

10. A Complete Unknown—\$60mb+ for this Bob Dylan biopic? That's a lot of money for a film about Dylan going electric at Newport. I mean, I wanted to see it but then I'm a Dylan fanatic. But \$180m worldwide seems highly unlikely to me, if not impossible. (Do other countries give a toss about this? Is Chalamet a big enough draw for this story? I doubt it.) I'm glad it was made, but it was made for too much. Like *Gladiator II*, this will be seen as a commercial success, but it's not.

**11. The Brutalist**—\$10mb; Adrien Brody in this architect-as-hero period drama.

**12. Moana 2**—\$150mb. Is the budget lower since it was intended for tv, at first? Or higher because they had to rethink everything? Disney says it cost \$150mb, just like the original. You can bet Dwayne Johnson gets more than his share of coconuts, but that won't matter with a hit like this.

**13. Boonie Bears: Future Reborn**—\$50mb? This once low budget animated franchise keeps getting bigger and bigger at the box office. Film #9 grossed \$220m and #10 grossed \$270m.

14. Heart Eyes—\$18mb for rom/com slash horror film.

15. Dragon—\$4mb for this Indian/Tamil coming of age comedy drama. A young guy gets too clever with a crooked path to riches, endangering his job, his relationships and his family's reputation. Can he reform? Does he want to?

**16. Sonic The Hedgehog 3**—\$120mb

**17. Wicked**—\$150mb for each part, so \$300mb total plus beaucoup marketing. It's a big movie! And they're made almost all their money back from Part One alone.

**18. Nosferatu**—\$50mb for Robert Eggers, acclaimed director of *The Witch*, *The Lighthouse* and *The Northman*. That last film had his biggest budget and was not a commercial success, so I saw him as more of an arthouse guy. But backers stuck with him, gave Eggers a big budget and a starry cast for a remake of *Nosferatu*, which I guess is classier than remaking *Dracula* but still a hard sell. And opening on Christmas Day? That's counter-programming I was not behind. Happily, I was wrong and Eggers now looks more like the next Peter Jackson/Guillermo Del Toro. Good for him.

19. *Creation of the Gods 2: Demon Force*—\$110mb? *Creation of the Gods* is a live action fantasy trilogy that was shot all at once over an 18 month period, a la *Lord of the Rings*. Since the first part cost \$110m, presumably parts two and three cost at least as much, though their initial releases were delayed because of time-consuming special effects. And guess what? Like *Ne Zha 1* and *2*, this too is based on *Investiture of the Gods*, making Ming dynasty author Xu Zhonglin the hottest scribe in town. Yes, there are a handful of English translations of the tales, but none of them received a single professional review and only one even has a handful of reader reviews, so I would be wary. And I'm *still* waiting for a good translation of the epic from which *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* was drawn.

**20. Conclave**—a reported \$20mb for this Vatican thriller means this is a hit. I do *not* see the point in putting it on PVOD and flooding the market with bootlegs while potentially harming box office. This is exactly the sort of film that can play and play in theaters.

**21. Becoming Led Zeppelin**—Long-gestating doc broke into the Top 10 on opening weekend, playing on IMAX screens only. In its second weekend, the film has an excellent hold. This traditional doc (talking heads, concert footage) has already grossed \$6m, which is serious money for this type of film. There is no reported budget, but given all that I know, it seems likely the total was \$2mb or less, so this is a winner.

22. *Legend of the Condor Heroes: The Gallants*—No budget available. A wuxia martial arts period adventure film written and directed by the legendary Tsui Hark. It's based on *part* of the novel of the same name by Jin Yong.

**23. Babygirl**—\$20mb for this Nicole Kidman sexy drama about a powerful businesswoman finding her kink with a younger, dominating man...her intern, no less! No milk was harmed in the making of this movie.

**24. One of Them Days**—\$14mb. It's always good to gross your budget during a film's opening week. So yea for producer Issa Rae and this comedy starring Keke Palmer and SZA. (What an opening week for SZA! Her movie opened well *and* she made my list of The 250 Best Albums of the 21st Century...So Far.)

25. Flight Risk—\$25mb for director Mel Gibson action film starring Mark Wahlberg.

**26. I'm Still Here**—this Brazilian Oscar contender has no reported budget. But it's almost certainly a success story commercially for director Walter Salles. However, it's been a hard one to track. Usually, the film's grosses have been less than \$1m so it hasn't made my weekly chart. This week, the film expanded in North America and grossed \$1m in that market alone. So far in North America it has made \$2.6m. Worldwide? Well, Box Office Mojo claims its worldwide gross stands at \$22m. Wow. Maybe it's been opening in markets all over the world but never quite at the same time and never hitting big enough numbers to be tracked by ComScore, which only reports on the Top 10 right now. That seemed like a lot so I jumped to Wikipedia, where some fan links to a story written in Brazilian Portuguese and claims it's hit \$99m worldwide. Ha! Uh, no. UPDATE: Wikipedia comes through again. The rogue editor has likely been blocked and the gross has been corrected.

27. Love Hurts—\$18mb for action comedy starring Ke Huy Quan and Ariana DeBose. This is no way to follow-up winning an Oscar!

28. The Unbreakable Boy—heartwarming family film about little boy with rare bone disease *and* autism but a zest for life that wins over everyone.

29. Den of Thieves 2: Pantera—\$40mb for Gerard Butler action flick.

**30. Companion**—A reported \$10mb for this sci-fi horror comedy. Great reviews means this one should have a long run at the box office.

31. September 5—No reported budget.

OFF THE RADAR: God Save The Tuche—the fifth in the French comedy series about a lower-class family that wins the lottery and tries to crash into upper society. This time, they have their sights set on the UK.

The Three Investigators: Carpathian Dog aka Die Drei ??? Und Der Karpatenhund—No reported budget.

34. Secret: Untold Melody—SK drama remake of a Taiwanese weepie about a pianist whose career is cut short by tragedy...but he finds comfort from a time-traveling woman.

#### THE CHART AND HOW IT IS COMPILED

This column is a week by week tracking of box office around the world. It is compiled by pulling from every possible source: ComScore, Box Office Mojo, Variety, Hollywood Reporter, Deadline, charts for countries like China and India and South Korea, individual stories in trade or general interest newspapers, Wikipedia and anyone else discussing box office.