An Insight On Success In Movie Production

Nancy Ho March 5, 2021

Summary

Descriptive analysis of movie data from movie websites and databases provides insights for Microsoft, who is starting out in movie production, to:

- Focus on quality over quantity.
- Combine genre elements in the premises for your first movies.
- Keep production budgets low while focusing on quality.



Outline

- Business Problem
- Data and Methods
- Results
- Conclusions

Business Problem

- Microsoft wants to know where to start in movie making after opening movie studio in response to competitors (Amazon, Apple, etc.)
- Key question: "What is a successful movie?"
 - Two key factors: profit and ratings
- Questions to answer with data:
 - Which kinds of movies generate the most profit?
 - Which movies are best received by moviegoers (and critics)?
 - Is there a significant relationship between profits and ratings?

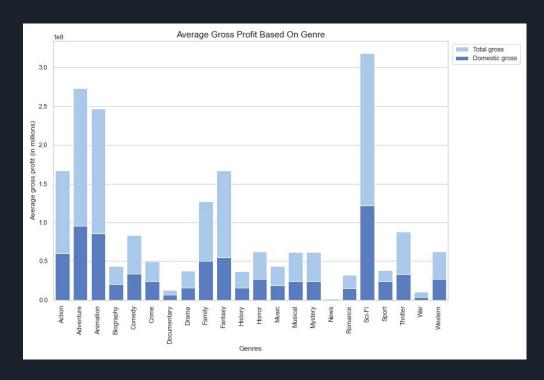
Data and Methods

main focus

- Database containing datasets with information from various movie websites
 - o IMDB
 - o Box Office Mojo
 - Rotten Tomatoes
 - o TheMovieDB.org
 - o the-numbers.com

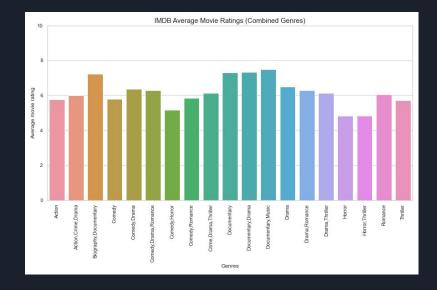


 Movies with genres that tend to contain fictional, fantasy elements (e.g. Adventure, Animated, Sci-Fi) perform the best and return the most profit in domestic and foreign box offices

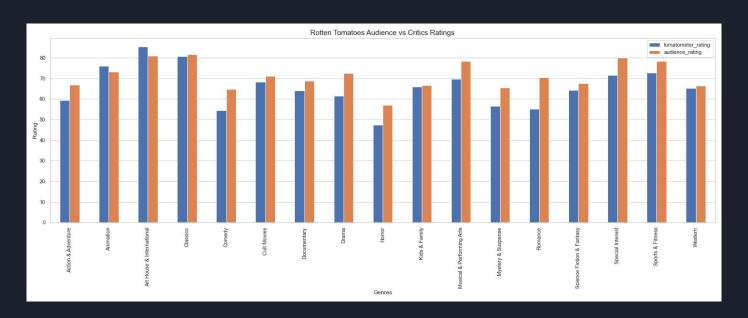


- Non-fictional genres tend to have higher ratings overall (e.g. Documentary, History, News)
- Also true for combinations of highest-rating individual genres (e.g. Biography, Documentary;
 Documentary, Music)

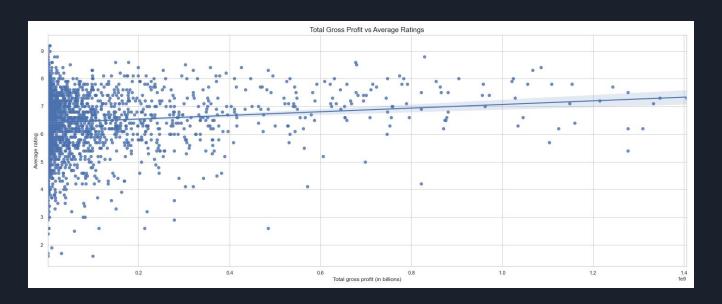




- Highest rated genre is Art House & International, a genre aimed at niche, smaller demographics rather than the mass of moviegoers -> more uniqueness
- Some genres perform better among audiences than critics (e.g. Comedy, Horror, Romance)



- Positive yet weak correlation between gross profits and average movie ratings
- Provides distinction between a "successful" movie and a "good" movie; just because a movie is high-grossing doesn't mean it's good, and vice versa



Conclusions

- Focus on quality over quantity.
 - o Important to make movies of high quality that, at the same time, will turn profits.
- Combine genre elements in the premises for your first movies.
 - Example: producing a sci-fi film based on historical events and include unique elements to keep the audience's attention.
- Keep production budgets low while focusing on quality.
 - Shouldn't be necessary to utilize a large budget that will be hard to make up later in the box office.

What's next?

- Production budgets of successful and unsuccessful movies
- Impact of certain well-known directors and/or actors on movie success
- Characteristics of high-rating movie reviews

Thank you!

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