



Q1 2025 News & Updates

January – March 2025

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0. Highlights From This Quarter

- **Amazon MGM Studios to launch international theatrical distribution arm ([2/7](#))**
 - By establishing its own international theatrical distribution capabilities, Amazon aims to increase control over global film releases once its current partnership with Warner Bros. concludes at the end of 2025.
 - This strategic move aligns with Amazon's commitment to theatrical releases and positions the studio to strengthen its presence in the global cinema market.
- **Amazon MGM Studios secures creative control of James Bond franchise ([2/20](#))**
 - Through a deal reportedly worth \$1B+, Amazon now has full creative control of the franchise, with longtime producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson stepping back while still retaining co-ownership.
 - The move follows Amazon's \$8.5B MGM acquisition and marks a historic power shift that opens the door to new creative directions, spinoffs, and marquee filmmakers.
- **Jen Salke steps down as Head of Amazon MGM Studios ([3/27](#))**
 - Salke is stepping down after seven years to launch a production company under a first-look deal with the studio.
 - While Salke oversaw major hits, internal tensions, spending concerns, and creative clashes, especially around the James Bond franchise, contributed to her exit.
 - Her role will not be replaced as Amazon eliminates the Head of Studio position, restructuring leadership to separate film and TV under a streamlined hierarchy.

1. Org

Exec Changes

- **Hiring: Keisuke Oishi, Country Manager of Japan at Prime Video (1/20)**
- **Hiring: Sarah Timlick, Head of Theatrical Distribution for Canada at Amazon MGM Studios (3/5)** Sarah will report to Amazon MGM Studios Head of Theatrical Distribution Kevin Wilson
- **Exit: James Farrell, Head of International Originals at Amazon MGM Studios (2/12)**
- **Exit: Gerry Rich, Theatrical Marketing Head at Amazon MGM Studios (2/21)**
- **Exit: Chris Bird, Director of Prime Video UK (3/3)**
- **Exit: Jen Salke, Head of Amazon MGM Studios at Amazon MGM Studios (3/27)**

Org

- **Jen Salke steps down as Head of Amazon MGM Studios and segues to a first-look film and TV producing deal (3/27)**

2. Content, Deals & Distribution

Film

- **General News & Strategy**
- **Prime Video secures multi-year deal for Lionsgate films, including exclusive post-STARZ streaming window (1/29)**
- **Amazon MGM Studios to launch international theatrical distribution arm as Warner Bros. foreign theatrical output deal ends (2/7)**
- **Amazon MGM Studios secures creative control of James Bond franchise (2/20)**
- **Commentary: Now That The James Bond Series Is Controlled By Amazon MGM, Is It Set To Become...Content? (2/20)**
 - The franchise moves from being a family-controlled franchise to corporately managed intellectual property
 - The shift raises speculations that Bond can now be expanded into spin-offs and streaming content, similar to what happened with Star Wars under Disney
- **Amazon MGM Studios pledges theatrical release of 12-14 films in 2026, eyes 16 in 2027 (3/7)**
- **Development**
 - **Christmas in Paradise:** Amazon MGM Studios/United Artists, holiday family comedy (2/13)
 - **Unt. David Leitch:** Amazon MGM, bank heist actioner (2/20)
 - **Unt. Tiger Woods:** Amazon MGM Studios, biopic (3/12)
 - **Unt. Will Ferrell:** Amazon MGM Studios, comedy (3/21)
 - **Rosetta:** Amazon MGM Studios, biopic (3/24)

- **Greenlights**
 - **Unt. Melania Trump:** Amazon MGM Studios, documentary ([1/7](#))
 - **Unt. Will Ferrell/Zac Efron:** Amazon MGM Studios, comedy ([2/3](#))
 - **Relationship Goals:** Amazon MGM Studios, rom-com ([2/13](#))
 - **Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother:** Amazon MGM Studios' Orion Pictures, film ([2/20](#))
 - **The Idolmaker:** Amazon MGM Studios, musical drama ([3/17](#))
 - **Fake Wedding:** Amazon MGM Studios, romantic comedy ([3/17](#))
- **Dating**
 - **Verity:** Amazon MGM, set for 04/15/26 ([3/24](#))

TV

- **Development**
 - **Taylor Lautner: Werewolf Hunter:** Amazon MGM Studios, drama ([2/12](#))
 - **The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus:** MGM Television, coming-of-age drama ([2/24](#))
 - **The Westies:** MGM+, crime drama ([3/18](#))
- **Greenlights**
 - **Sterling Point:** Prime Video, drama ([1/29](#))
 - **Rise of the Empress:** Prime Video, fantasy drama ([1/22](#))
 - **Kill Jackie [working title]:** Prime Video, crime thriller ([2/14](#))
 - **American Classic:** MGM+, half-hour comedy ([1/28](#))
 - **Octopus!:** Prime Video, nature docuseries ([3/3](#))
 - **Bloodaxe:** Prime Video, historical drama ([3/6](#))
 - **Spy High:** Amazon Prime Video, docuseries ([1/23](#))
- **Pickups**
 - **The Apprentice S1-7:** Prime Video, competition series ([3/10](#))
 - **The Wimbledon Killer:** Prime Video, true-crime docuseries ([3/13](#))
- **Renewals**
 - **The Lord Of The Rings:** The Rings Of Power S3: Amazon, fantasy ([2/13](#))
 - **Jury Duty S2:** Prime Video, docuseries comedy ([2/20](#))
 - **House of Davis S2:** Prime Video, religious drama ([3/18](#))
- **Cancellations**
 - **Harlem:** Prime Video, comedy, ending after 3 seasons ([1/8](#))

- ***The Pradeeps Of Pittsburgh***: Prime Video, comedy, ending after 1 season ([2/7](#))
- ***Cruel Intentions***: Prime Video, drama, ending after 1 season ([3/10](#))
- ***Neighbours***: Prime Video, daily soap drama, ending after 40th anniversary ([2/21](#))
- ***The Sticky***: Prime Video, heist comedy, ending after 1 season ([2/21](#))

International

- **General News & Strategy**
 - **Apple TV+ agrees to investment quotas and media windows for French and European productions ([1/24](#))**
 - **Interview: Tara Erer, Head of North European Originals, Philip Pratt, Head of German Originals, and Nicole Morganti, Head of Southern European Originals at Amazon MGM Studios ([2/17](#))**
 - Amazon Prime Video is prioritizing romance-driven young adult dramas, following the massive success of international productions like *Culpa Mía* and *Maxton Hall*
 - Amazon MGM Studios is sourcing YA content from non-traditional platforms like Wattpad and BookTok rather than mainstream publishers
 - Casting for these shows prioritizes relatability over star power, focusing on characters that resonate with younger viewers
 - **Amazon Prime Video launches AI-assisted dubbing pilot to expand accessibility of undubbed international titles ([3/5](#))**
- **Greenlights**
 - **TV**
 - [Germany] ***Mission Unknown***: Atlantic: Prime Video, unscripted travel ([1/31](#))
 - [UK] ***The Wimbledon Killer***: Prime Video, docuseries ([3/13](#))
- **Renewals**
 - [India] ***Dupahiya S2***: Prime Video, comedy ([3/27](#))

Sports

- **General News & Strategy**
 - **Interview: Danielle Carney, Head of US Video and Live Sports Sales at Amazon ([2/12](#))**
 - Amazon is preparing advertisers to view it as a “multi-sport upfront,” as they start rolling out their NASCAR deal, *Thursday Night Football*, and some National Women’s Soccer League games
 - Amazon is pitching Madison Avenue that games streamed on its service will lure a younger consumer than traditional broadcasts — *Thursday Night Football* was the only part of the NFL’s regular season portfolio to see a ratings increase

- Amazon hopes to win a series of sponsorships for a new production facility it is building that will serve as a home to all NBA studio programming
- **Lebron James signs podcasting deal with Amazon-owned podcast network Wondery (3/26)**

Deals

- **Titus Welliver:** First-look series deal with Amazon MGM Studios (2/10)
- **5&2 Studios:** Multi-faceted deal between the producer of *The Chosen* and Amazon MGM Studios (2/16)
 - Season 1 and 2 order of *Unt. Moses series*
 - Exclusive U.S. streaming rights to *The Chosen* and *The Chosen in The Wild With Bear Grylls*
 - Theatrical distribution rights to two spinoff feature films
 - Three-year first-look deal for series and film

3. Strategy & Miscellaneous News

Strategy

- Prime Video hits new platform high of 4% of total TV watch time in December 2024 (1/21)
- Amazon VP of International Kelly Day affirms sports investments aren't cutting into film and TV spending and cites 14% increase in content budget (2/6)
- Amazon Ads launches Brand+, AI-driven ad targeting for streaming and shopping integration (1/27)
- BET+ and Starz launch streaming bundle on Prime Video (2/3)

Misc. News

- Amazon Studios scales back inclusion program amid FCC scrutiny on DEI practices (2/13)

4. Investor Relations

Quarterly Earnings

- **Company Materials**
 - Q4 FY 2024 Earnings Report ([2/6](#))
 - Q4 FY 2024 Earnings Call ([2/6](#))
- **News Coverage**
 - Amazon reports strong Q4 revenue growth to \$187.8B with advertising climbing 18% ([2/6](#))

5. M&A

- *None reported*