

**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**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-mgm-studios-international-distribution-1236281739/)**)**
* 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/james-bond-amazon-mgm-studios-takes-control-1236295821/)**)**
* 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/jennifer-salke-steps-down-amazon-mgm-studios-first-look-deal-1236352680/)**)**
* 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/01/prime-video-keisuke-oishi-country-manager-japan-1236261062/)**)**
* *Hiring:* **Sarah Timlick, Head of Theatrical Distribution for Canada at Amazon MGM Studios (**[**3/5**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/amazon-mgm-studios-sarah-timlick-canada-1236312155/)**)** 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/james-farrell-exiting-amazon-mgm-studios-culpa-tuya-ya-company-1236286892/)**)**
* *Exit:* **Gerry Rich, Theatrical Marketing Head at Amazon MGM Studios (**[**2/21**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-mgm-studios-marketing-gerry-rich-exit-1236297781/)**)**
* *Exit:* **Chris Bird, Director of Prime Video UK (**[**3/3**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/prime-video-uk-director-chris-bird-stepping-down-1236309122/)**)**
* *Exit:* **Jen Salke, Head of Amazon MGM Studios at Amazon MGM Studios (**[**3/27**](https://variety.com/2025/film/news/jen-salke-departing-amazon-mgm-studios-production-deal-1236350446/)**)**

*Org*

* + **Jen Salke steps down as Head of Amazon MGM Studios and segues to a first-look film and TV producing deal (**[**3/27**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/jennifer-salke-steps-down-amazon-mgm-studios-first-look-deal-1236352680/)**)**

# 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/01/prime-video-lionsgate-deal-1236271517/)**)**
* **Amazon MGM Studios to launch international theatrical distribution arm as Warner Bros. foreign theatrical output deal ends (**[**2/7**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-mgm-studios-international-distribution-1236281739/)**)**
* **Amazon MGM Studios secures creative control of James Bond franchise (**[**2/20**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/james-bond-amazon-mgm-studios-takes-control-1236295821/)**)**
* *Commentary:* **Now That The James Bond Series Is Controlled By Amazon MGM, Is It Set To Become...Content? (**[**2/20**](https://variety.com/2025/film/columns/branded-not-stirred-is-james-bond-now-set-to-become-content-amazon-deal-1236314919/)**)**
  + 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/sxsw-amazon-mgm-studios-theatrical-releases-jennifer-salke-courtenay-valenti-1236314358/)**)**
* **Development**
  + ***Christmas in Paradise:*** Amazon MGM Studios/United Artists, holiday family comedy ([2/13](https://deadline.com/2025/02/nate-bargatze-christmas-in-paradise-comedy-united-artists-1236288264/))
  + ***Unt. David Leitch:*** Amazon MGM, bank heist actioner ([2/20](https://deadline.com/2025/02/david-leitch-prepping-bank-heist-action-movie-amazon-1236296660/))
  + ***Unt. Tiger Woods:*** Amazon MGM Studios, biopic ([3/12)](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/tiger-woods-biopic-amazon-mgm-studios-1236162107/)
  + ***Unt. Will Ferrell:*** Amazon MGM Studios, comedy ([3/21](https://deadline.com/2025/03/jimmy-tatro-will-ferrell-zac-efron-amazon-mgm-studios-comedy-1236346607/))
  + ***Rosetta:*** Amazon MGM Studios, biopic ([3/24](https://deadline.com/2025/03/lizzo-rosetta-amazon-mgm-studio-1236347889/))
* **Greenlights**
  + ***Unt. Melania Trump:*** Amazon MGM Studios, documentary ([1/7](https://deadline.com/2025/01/jeremy-strong-oscar-race-the-apprentice-donald-trump-sebastian-stan-1236250280/))
  + ***Unt. Will Ferrell/Zac Efron:*** Amazon MGM Studios, comedy ([2/3](https://deadline.com/2025/02/zac-efron-will-ferrell-amazon-mgm-studios-1236275565/))
  + ***Relationship Goals:*** Amazon MGM Studios, rom-com ([2/13](https://deadline.com/2025/02/kelly-rowland-method-man-amazon-mgm-studios-robin-thede-annie-gonzalez-1236287417/))
  + ***Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother:*** Amazon MGM Studios’ Orion Pictures, film ([2/20](https://deadline.com/2025/02/mahershala-ali-your-mother-your-mother-your-mother-bassam-tariq-1236295945/))
  + ***The Idolmaker:*** Amazon MGM Studios, musical drama ([3/17](https://deadline.com/2025/03/taylor-swift-eras-tour-sam-wrench-the-idolmaker-amazon-mgm-1236328390/))
  + ***Fake Wedding:*** Amazon MGM Studios, romantic comedy ([3/17](https://deadline.com/2025/03/lili-reinhart-fake-wedding-amazon-mgm-studios-1236328629/))
* **Dating**
  + ***Verity*:** Amazon MGM, set for 04/15/26 ([3/24](https://deadline.com/2025/03/colleen-hoover-verity-release-date-anne-hathaway-dakota-johnson-1236348384/))

## TV

* **Development**
  + ***Taylor Lautner: Werewolf Hunter:*** Amazon MGM Studios, drama ([2/12](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/taylor-lautner-werewolf-hunter-tv-series-amazon-mgm-studios-1236305182/))
  + ***The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus:*** MGM Television, coming-of-age drama ([2/24)](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/life-cycle-of-the-common-octopus-tv-series-amazon-mgm-television-1236319023/)
  + ***The Westies:*** MGM+, crime drama ([3/18](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/tv/tv-news/mgmplus-orders-the-westies-narcos-creator-chris-brancato-1236166502/))
* **Greenlights**
  + ***Sterling Point:*** Prime Video, drama ([1/29](https://deadline.com/2025/01/megan-park-drama-sterling-point-series-order-prime-video-1236271633/))
  + ***Rise of the Empress:*** Prime Video, fantasy drama ([1/22](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/rise-of-the-empress-tv-show-amazon-1236282078/))
  + ***Kill Jackie [working title]:*** Prime Video, crime thriller ([2/14](https://deadline.com/2025/02/catherine-zeta-jones-tv-series-aidan-truhen-the-price-you-pay-kill-jackie-1236289078/))
  + ***American Classic:*** MGM+, half-hour comedy ([1/28](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/kevin-kline-comedy-show-american-classic-1236288679/))
  + ***Octopus!:*** Prime Video, nature docuseries ([3/3](https://deadline.com/2025/03/phoebe-waller-bridge-octopus-amazon-1236309847/))
  + ***Bloodaxe:*** Prime Video, historical drama ([3/6](https://deadline.com/2025/03/bloodaxe-series-amazon-vikings-michael-hirst-1236312832/))
  + **Spy High:** Amazon Prime Video, docuseries ([1/23](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/spy-high-doc-blake-robbins-school-lawsuit-amazon-1236283246/))
* **Pickups**
  + ***The Apprentice S1-7:*** Prime Video, competition series ([3/10](https://deadline.com/2025/03/donald-trump-the-apprentice-tv-series-prime-video-1236320663/))
  + ***The Wimbledon Killer:*** Prime Video, true-crime docuseries ([3/13](https://deadline.com/2025/03/netflix-amazon-rachel-nickell-murder-documentaries-1236325165/))
* **Renewals**
  + ***The Lord Of The Rings:*** The Rings Of Power S3: Amazon, fantasy ([2/13](https://deadline.com/2025/02/the-lord-of-the-rings-the-rings-of-power-renewed-season-3-amazon-1236287960/))
  + ***Jury Duty S2:*** Prime Video, docuseries comedy ([2/20](https://deadline.com/2025/02/jury-duty-season-2-amazon-setting-theme-1236296867/))
  + ***House of Davis S2:*** Prime Video, religious drama ([3/18](https://deadline.com/2025/03/house-of-david-renewed-season-2-prime-video-1236329569/))
* **Cancellations**
  + ***Harlem:*** Prime Video, comedy, ending after 3 seasons ([1/8](https://deadline.com/video/harlem-cancelled-trailer-season-3/))
  + ***The*** ***Pradeeps Of Pittsburgh:*** Prime Video, comedy, ending after 1 season ([2/7](https://deadline.com/2025/02/the-pradeeps-of-pittsburgh-canceled-no-season-2-1236281933/))
  + ***Cruel Intentions:*** Prime Video, drama, ending after 1 season ([3/10](https://deadline.com/2025/03/cruel-intentions-canceled-prime-video-1236322695/))
  + ***Neighbours:*** Prime Video, daily soap drama, ending after 40th anniversary ([2/21](https://deadline.com/2025/02/neighbours-cancelled-again-amazon-1236297102/))
  + ***The Sticky:*** Prime Video, heist comedy, ending after 1 season ([2/21](https://deadline.com/2025/02/the-sticky-canceled-prime-video-margo-martindale-1236297828/))

## International

* **General News & Strategy**
* **Apple TV+ agrees to investment quotas and media windows for French and European productions (**[**1/24**](https://deadline.com/2025/01/apple-tv-agreement-investment-obligations-with-french-tv-sector-1236266281/)**)**
* *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**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/from-culpa-mia-to-maxton-hall-prime-video-talks-ya-1236292871/)**)**
  + - 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/03/amazon-prime-video-launches-ai-dubbing-movies-series-1236312182/)**)**
* **Greenlights**
  + **TV**
    - [Germany] ***Mission Unknown:*** Atlantic: Prime Video, unscripted travel ([1/31](https://deadline.com/2025/01/parasite-producer-boards-delete-movie-global-briefs-1236274031/))
    - [UK] ***The Wimbledon Killer:*** Prime Video, docuseries ([3/13](https://deadline.com/2025/03/netflix-amazon-rachel-nickell-murder-documentaries-1236325165/))
* **Renewals**
  + [India] ***Dupahiya S2:*** Prime Video, comedy ([3/27](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/prime-video-renews-indian-comedy-hit-dupahiya-second-season-1236349978/))

## Sports

* **General News & Strategy**
  + *Interview:* **Danielle Carney, Head of US Video and Live Sports Sales at Amazon (**[**2/12**](https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/amazon-nba-advertising-sales-tv-sports-1236304934/)**)**
    - 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**](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/26/business/media/lebron-james-podcast-amazon-wondery.html)**)**

## Deals

* **Titus Welliver:** First-look series deal with Amazon MGM Studios ([2/10](https://deadline.com/2025/02/titus-welliver-deal-amazon-mgm-studios-bosch-1236284461/))
* **5&2 Studios:** Multi-faceted deal between the producer of *The Chosen* and Amazon MGM Studios ([2/16](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-mgm-studios-dallas-jenkins-the-chosen-1236292188/))
  + 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**](https://deadline.com/2025/01/youtube-netflix-amazon-prime-video-nielsen-streaming-december-nielsen-1236262081/)**)**
* **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**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-vp-international-sports-spending-prime-video-programming-1236280622/)**)**
* **Amazon Ads launches Brand+, AI-driven ad targeting for streaming and shopping integration (**[**1/27**](https://deadline.com/2025/01/amazon-ads-launches-brand-plus-tool-shopping-browsing-streaming-data-1236269306/)**)**
* **BET+ and Starz launch streaming bundle on Prime Video (**[**2/3**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/starz-bet-plus-streaming-bundle-prime-video-1236276649/)**)**

## Misc. News

* **Amazon Studios scales back inclusion program amid FCC scrutiny on DEI practices (**[**2/13**](https://variety.com/2025/biz/news/amazon-studios-walks-back-dei-policies-trump-1236306997/)**)**

# 4. Investor Relations

## Quarterly Earnings

* **Company Materials**
  + **Q4 FY 2024 Earnings Report (**[**2/6**](https://s2.q4cdn.com/299287126/files/doc_financials/2024/q4/AMZN-Q4-2024-Earnings-Release.pdf)**)**
  + **Q4 FY 2024 Earnings Call (**[**2/6**](https://s2.q4cdn.com/299287126/files/doc_financials/2024/q4/Amazon-Quarterly-Earnings-Report-Q4-2024-Full-Call-v1.wav)**)**
* **News Coverage**
  + **Amazon reports strong Q4 revenue growth to $187.8B with advertising climbing 18% (**[**2/6**](https://deadline.com/2025/02/amazon-q4-earnings-holiday-sales-q1-outlook-1236280624/)**)**

# 5. M&A

* *None reported*