

A photograph of a Black man with a beard, wearing a grey polo shirt, looking out over a blue ocean with white waves. The image is partially obscured by a green geometric overlay at the bottom.

UK FILMS AND BRITISH TALENT WORLDWIDE

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FACTS IN FOCUS

The COVID-19 pandemic substantially affected the worldwide box office with takings falling from \$42 billion in 2019 to \$12 billion in 2020. The UK film share of global box office receipts was 9%, with a share of 2% for UK independent films.

- ▶ In 2020, UK qualifying films earned \$1.1 billion at the worldwide box office, 9% of the global theatrical market (\$10.3 billion and 25% in 2019).
- ▶ UK independent films earned \$242 million at the worldwide box office in 2020, a 2% share of the global theatrical market (down from 2.5% in 2019).
- ▶ The highest earning UK film at the worldwide box office in 2020 was *Tenet* with a gross of \$293 million.
- ▶ The highest earning UK independent film worldwide in 2020 was *The Gentlemen* with a gross of \$98 million.
- ▶ The box office share of UK independent films in the USA and Canada was 4% (the same as 2019), in Europe (eight major territories, excluding the UK and Republic of Ireland) it was 4% (the same as 2019), and in New Zealand it was 14% (up from 8% in 2019).
- ▶ Of the 200 highest earning films at worldwide cinemas from 2011-2020, 22 are based on stories and characters created by UK writers. Together they have earned \$15 billion at the global box office.
- ▶ British actors have played lead or supporting roles in 68% of the 200 highest earning films from 2011-2020.
- ▶ UK directors were behind 29 of the 200 highest earning films worldwide from 2011-2020.
- ▶ UK films and British talent won 32 major film awards in 2020/21, including eight Oscars® and 14 BAFTAs.

UK films and British talent worldwide

UK films at the global box office

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began noticeably impacting countries early in 2020, quickly became a global concern, causing governments to implement a range of measures aimed at curbing the virus's spread. This led to widespread cinema closures and many theatrical releases being delayed into 2021. The pandemic affected every territory covered in this analysis, with all countries' box office takings for new film releases shrinking by around three-quarters on average compared with 2019.

UK qualifying films earned a worldwide gross of \$1.1 billion in 2020, a 9% share of the global box office, down from £10.3 billion and 25% respectively in 2019 (Table 1).

UK studio-backed films (UK films wholly or partly financed and controlled by US studios but featuring UK cast, crew, locations, facilities, post-production and often UK source material) shared 7% of the worldwide box office in 2020, with earnings of \$852 million, a

substantial fall from 2019's market share of 22%. While none of 2020's planned releases were expected to earn as much as 2019's *Avengers: Endgame* (the second highest grossing film of all time), major UK studio-backed films removed from 2020's schedule included titles from franchises that traditionally generate substantial revenues at the worldwide box office, such as *Black Widow*, *Fast & Furious 9* and *No Time to Die*.

UK independent films earned 2% of global revenues in 2020, with a gross of \$242 million, a fall from 2019's market share of 2.5%. While many UK independent films planned for release were also delayed (including *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, *The French Dispatch* and *Supernova*), the reduced number of studio-backed films being released in the second half of the year meant that those cinemas which were open screened more independent films and older releases than would otherwise have been expected.

These shares of the global market include box office takings in the UK and Republic of Ireland release territory (where UK studio-backed films had a 32% share of the box office and UK independent films had 14%).

Table 1 UK films global market share, 2011-2020

Year	Global theatrical market (US\$ billion)	UK films worldwide gross (US\$ billion)	UK share (%)	UK studio-backed films share (%)	UK independent films share (%)
2011	33.3	5.6	16.8	14.1	2.8
2012	34.9	5.3	15.2	13.3	1.8
2013	35.5	4.1	11.5	9.8	1.6
2014	36.1	4.7	13.0	9.7	3.2
2015	38.2	9.4	24.6	21.8	2.8
2016	37.6	6.5	17.3	16.0	1.3
2017	39.4	8.1	20.6	18.6	2.0
2018	41.4	9.4	22.8	19.5	3.2
2019	41.7	10.3	24.6	22.1	2.5
2020	11.9	1.1	9.2	7.2	2.0

Source: BFI, Comscore, Omdia

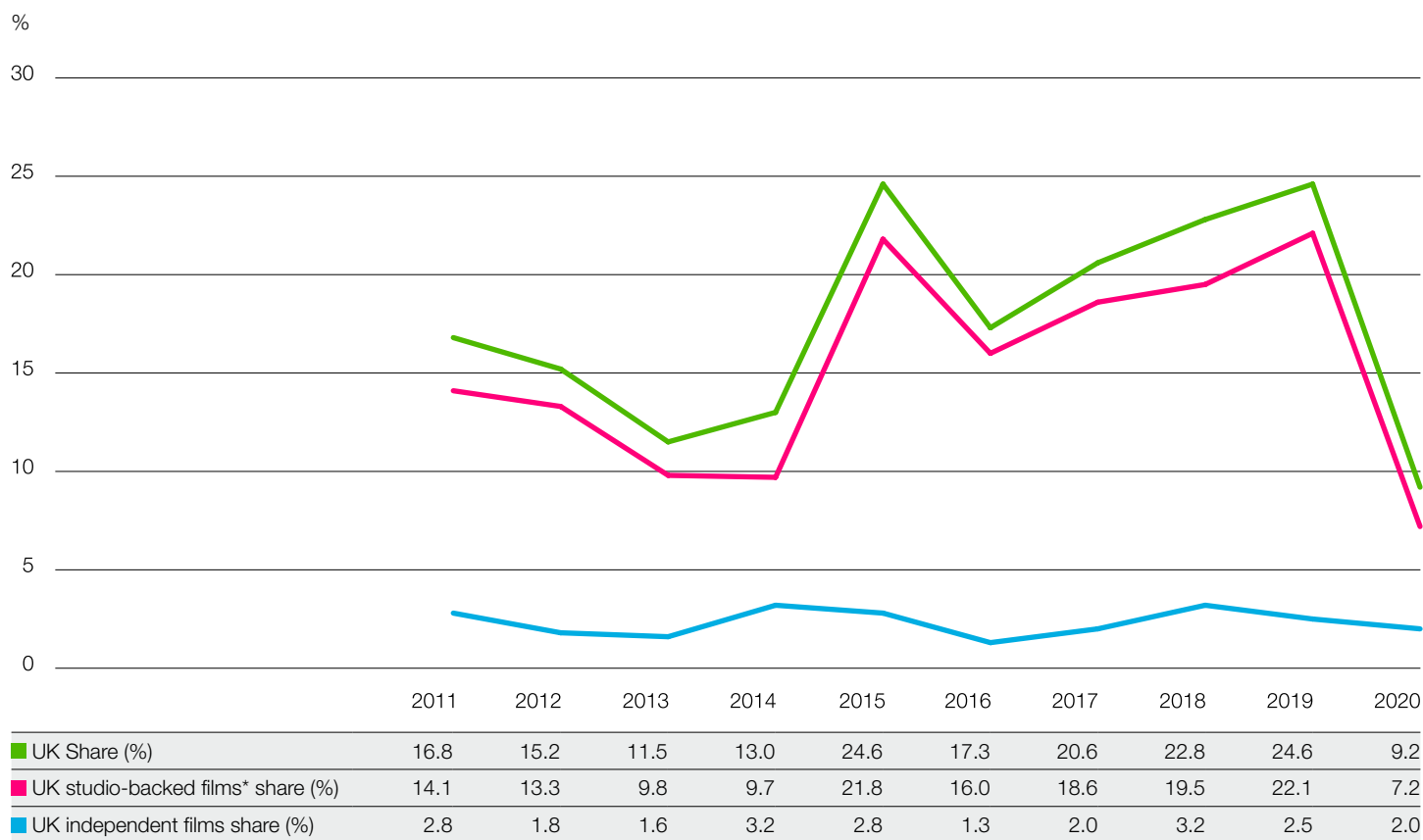
Note: 'Global theatrical market' here is a total of the takings from the 60 territories' box office reported by Omdia.

The annual global market share for UK films is closely aligned with the success of inward investment titles supported by the major Hollywood studios (Figure 1). The share of the market achieved by these studio-backed films fluctuates from year to year and is largely dependent on the performance of a small number of titles. The high points in the chart were propelled by the success of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (\$1.9 billion) and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (\$1.4 billion) in 2015 and *Avengers: Endgame*

(\$2.4 billion) and *The Lion King* (\$1.4 billion) in 2019. In comparison, the highest grossing UK qualifying film released in 2020 was *Tenet* which, although it was the fifth highest grossing film worldwide, made \$293 million.

The annual global market share for UK qualifying independent films has ranged from 1% to 3% over the period. The highest earning UK independent release in 2020 was *The Gentlemen* (\$98 million).

Figure 1 UK films global market share, 2011-2020



Source: BFI, Comscore, Omdia
See note to Table 1.

The top 10 highest earning UK qualifying films released at the worldwide box office in 2020 grossed \$977 million (Table 2). *Tenet* was the top grossing title with earnings of \$293 million. Unlike in 2019, when the top 10 was comprised entirely of studio-backed titles, all of which were either franchise films, 'live-action' remakes or sequels, 2020's top 10 contains four UK independent titles (*The Gentlemen*, *Emma*, *The Personal History of David Copperfield* and *Hellboy*). As another indication of the atypical nature of 2020, *Hellboy* appears in the top 10 list with earnings generated in just one territory, China. (It was released in other territories in 2019.)

The majority of titles in the top 10 opened initially in some territories in Q1, but *Tenet* was released in Q3 after some pandemic-related restrictions were lifted, while *Wonder Woman 1984* and *The Witches* were released in Q4.

Table 2 Top 10 UK qualifying films worldwide, released in 2020

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Worldwide box office gross (US\$ million)
1	Tenet	UK/USA	292.7
2	Dolittle	UK/USA	206.8
3	1917	UK/USA	179.0
4	Wonder Woman 1984	UK/USA	117.0
5	The Gentlemen	UK/USA*	98.3
6	Emma	UK	24.6
7	The Witches	UK/USA	20.6
8	Cats	UK/USA	13.3
9	The Personal History of David Copperfield	UK/USA*	12.7
10	Hellboy	UK/USA*	12.4
Total top 10			977.4

Source: BFI, Comscore

Notes:

'Box office gross' is a total of the takings from a selection of 23 markets (including the UK and Republic of Ireland), as reported by Comscore, and is cumulative gross box office, up to 18 February 2021, in territories where the film was released in 2020. Box office takings from territories where the film was released in 2019 or 2021 are not included in this total.

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

* Film made with independent (non-studio) US support.

The top 10 highest grossing UK independent films released at the worldwide box office in 2020 earned \$185 million (Table 3). While three UK independent titles in 2019 grossed more than \$100 million worldwide, none did so in 2020, with only one film, *The Gentlemen*, coming close at \$98 million. Four of the top 10 films (*Hellboy*, *47 Meters Down: Uncaged*, *The Rhythm Section* and *The Aeronauts*) appear in the list from releases in three territories or fewer.

Table 3 Top 10 UK independent films worldwide, released in 2020

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Worldwide box office gross (\$ million)
1	The Gentlemen	UK/USA	98.3
2	Emma	UK	24.6
3	The Personal History of David Copperfield	UK/USA	12.7
4	Hellboy	UK/USA	12.4
5	47 Meters Down: Uncaged	UK	8.4
6	Judy	UK	7.6
7	The Secret Garden	UK/Fra	7.1
8	The Rhythm Section	UK/USA	6.0
9	Military Wives	UK	4.5
10	The Aeronauts	UK/USA	3.6
Total top 10			185.2

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

Figure 2 shows the market share of UK films in 23 selected global territories, ranked by the share for UK independent films. For the first time since our records began, New Zealand had the highest share for UK independent films of all the selected territories at 14.5%,

slightly ahead of the UK and Republic of Ireland at 14.2%. This is an increase on 2019 from 13% for the UK and Republic of Ireland and 8% for New Zealand.

Figure 2 UK market share in selected global territories, 2020



Source: BFI, Comscore

* 'UK studio-backed' means a film that was wholly or partly financed and controlled by a major US studio but which qualifies as British under the cultural test for film.

Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

UK films in North America

UK films earned \$249 million at the box office in the USA and Canada in 2020, 18% of the total theatrical market (Table 4). The share for UK studio-backed titles was 14% (\$190 million), the lowest share since 2014, and for UK independent films was 4.3% (\$59 million), the highest share since our records began. Total box office revenues for all films released in North America in 2020 declined by almost 90% compared with 2019.

Table 4 UK market share in the USA and Canada, 2011-2020

Year	Total UK films share %	UK studio-backed films* share %	UK independent films share %
2011	16.5	15.3	1.2
2012	16.2	14.6	1.5
2013	11.9	10.5	1.4
2014	15.6	12.4	3.1
2015	28.8	25.6	3.2
2016	22.0	20.3	1.7
2017	29.1	26.4	2.7
2018	29.3	25.4	4.0
2019	36.1	32.2	3.9
2020	18.0	13.7	4.3

Source: BFI, Comscore

Notes:

Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

* 'UK studio-backed' means a film that was wholly or partly financed and controlled by a major US studio but which qualifies as British under the cultural test for film.

The top 10 UK qualifying films released at the USA and Canada box office in 2020 grossed just under \$245 million (Table 5). While none of the top 10 films released in the territory in 2019 were independent titles, the majority of films in the 2020 list were non studio-backed productions, with only *Dolittle*, *Tenet*, *Wonder Woman 1984* and *News of the World* being UK/USA studio films.

Tenet, *Wonder Woman 1984*, *News of the World*, *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, *Possessor Uncut* and *The Last Vermeer* all make the list with releases in Q3 or Q4, in spite of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 5 Top 10 UK films in the USA and Canada, released in 2020

Rank	Title	Country of origin	USA and Canada box office gross (US\$ million)
1	Dolittle	UK/USA	78.5
2	Tenet	UK/USA	58.1
3	Wonder Woman 1984	UK/USA	41.8
4	The Gentlemen	UK/USA*	36.5
5	News of the World	UK/USA	11.4
6	Emma	UK	10.1
7	The Rhythm Section	UK/USA*	5.4
8	The Personal History of David Copperfield	UK/USA*	1.9
9	Possessor Uncut	UK/Can	0.8
10	The Last Vermeer	UK/USA*	0.7
Total top 10			245.1

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

* Film made with independent (non-studio) US support.

UK films in Europe

Outside the UK and Republic of Ireland, the market share for UK films released in 2020 in a selection of other major European territories, including Russia, was 18%, a fall from 28.5% in 2019. Shares ranged from a high of 27% in Portugal to 14% in France and Italy (Table 6). The largest share for UK independent films was recorded in Russia (7.3%). *The Gentlemen* was the top UK independent film in all territories except for Italy, where it was not released. Overall, in the selected territories, UK independent films generated an average of 4% of box office revenues, the same as in 2019. The total gross for all films released in these territories in 2020 fell by 74% compared with 2019.

Table 6 UK market share in selected European territories, 2020 (ranked by share for UK independent films)

Territory	Box office for UK films (US\$ million)	Total UK films share (%)	UK studio-backed films share (%)	UK independent films share (%)	Top UK independent film
Russia	51.8	18.3	11.0	7.3	The Gentlemen
Portugal	5.3	26.6	19.6	7.0	The Gentlemen
Netherlands	30.3	23.3	18.4	5.0	The Gentlemen
Spain	40.1	23.6	19.0	4.6	The Gentlemen
Austria	6.7	20.3	15.8	4.4	The Gentlemen
Germany	48.3	18.8	14.7	4.1	The Gentlemen
France	55.3	14.0	11.5	2.5	The Gentlemen
Italy	24.1	13.9	12.0	2.0	Sorry We Missed You
Total eight territories	262.0	17.9	13.7	4.2	The Gentlemen

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

The RSU only receives admissions figures for France and so calculates the box office gross by multiplying the number of admissions by the average price of a cinema ticket in the territory. As this figure is necessarily an estimate, it should be treated with some caution.

Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

The most popular UK film in the selected European territories in 2020 was *Tenet* with an eight-territory gross of \$78 million (Table 7). As in other territories in 2020, the top 10 list of highest earning films features a substantial share of non studio-backed productions, with half of the top 10 films in the selected European territories being UK independent titles.

Tenet, *The Witches*, *Wonder Woman 1984* (only released in Spain and Portugal within these eight territories), *The Secret Garden* and *Radioactive* all make the list with releases in Q3 or Q4.

Table 7 Top 10 UK films in selected European territories, released in 2020

Rank	Title	Country of origin	Box office gross (US\$ million)
1	<i>Tenet</i>	UK/USA	78.4
2	<i>1917</i>	UK/USA	63.6
3	<i>Dolittle</i>	UK/USA	43.6
4	<i>The Gentlemen</i>	UK/USA*	31.4
5	<i>The Witches</i>	UK/USA	7.3
6	<i>Judy</i>	UK	4.4
7	<i>Wonder Woman 1984</i>	UK/USA	4.3
8	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	UK/Fra	3.2
9	<i>Sorry We Missed You</i>	UK/Fra/Bel	2.1
10	<i>Radioactive</i>	UK	2.0
Total eight territories			240.5

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

* Film made with independent (non-studio) US support.

UK films in Latin America

The overall market share for UK films in 2020 in the selected Latin American territories (Table 8) was 17%, a decrease from 36% in 2019; the share in individual territories ranged from a high of 21% in Colombia to 6% in Argentina. The highest grossing UK film across the five territories was *Dolittle* with combined box office earnings of \$15 million, while the top earning UK independent film was *The Gentlemen* (\$8 million). The overall share for UK independent films was 1%, down from 2% in 2019. The total gross for all films released in these territories in 2020 fell by 87% compared with 2019.

Table 8 UK market share in selected Latin American territories, 2020 (ranked by share for UK independent films)

Territory	Box office for UK films (US\$ million)	Total UK films share (%)	UK studio-backed films share (%)	UK independent films share (%)	Top UK independent film
Mexico	26.4	17.2	15.1	2.1	<i>The Gentlemen</i>
Colombia	5.8	21.1	20.0	1.1	<i>The Gentlemen</i>
Chile	1.8	13.7	12.8	0.9	<i>The Current War</i>
Argentina	1.5	5.8	5.2	0.7	<i>Judy</i>
Brazil	16.9	17.7	17.1	0.6	<i>Judy</i>
Total five territories	52.4	16.6	15.2	1.4	<i>The Gentlemen</i>

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

UK films in Asia

The overall market share for UK films across the selected Asian territories (Table 9) was 6%, down from 18.5% in 2019. Shares ranged from a high of 25% in Singapore to 5% in China. The share for UK independent films ranged from 2% in Hong Kong to 1% in Japan. The total gross for all films released in these territories in 2020 fell by 66% compared with 2019.

Tenet was the most successful UK film overall across the six Asian territories in 2020, with combined earnings of \$117 million, while *Hellboy* (\$12 million) was the top earning UK independent film (it was only released in China). The 5% share for UK films in China was the smallest of any territory analysed in this chapter but it should be noted that China has a quota system which limits the number of foreign films shown in the territory; in 2020 less than 10 UK independent titles were released. Overall UK independent films had a 1% share of these markets, the same as in 2019.

Table 9 UK market share in selected Asian territories, 2020 (ranked by share for UK independent films)

Territory	Box office for UK films (US\$ million)	Total UK films share (%)	UK studio-backed films share (%)	UK independent films share (%)	Top UK independent film
Hong Kong	13.0	20.2	18.2	2.0	The Gentlemen
Singapore	9.3	25.3	23.8	1.5	The Gentlemen
South Korea	44.0	12.5	11.2	1.2	Escape From Pretoria
China	150.8	5.1	4.1	0.9	Hellboy
Malaysia	4.7	12.5	11.7	0.8	The Gentlemen
Japan	66.3	5.7	5.1	0.6	Downton Abbey
Total six territories	288.2	6.2	5.3	0.9	Hellboy

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

UK films in Australasia

The overall market share for UK films in the two Australasian territories (Table 10) was 34%, down from 40% in 2019. *Wonder Woman 1984* (\$19.5 million) was the top earning UK title overall in both territories, while *The Gentlemen* (\$12 million) was the top grossing UK independent film. UK independent films had an 11% share of the combined box office, an increase from 7% in 2019. The total gross for all films released in the Australasian territories in 2020 fell by 70% compared with 2019.

Table 10 UK market share in selected Australasian territories, 2020 (ranked by share for UK independent films)

Territory	Box office for UK films (US\$ million)	Total UK films share (%)	UK studio-backed films share (%)	UK independent films share (%)	Top UK independent film
New Zealand	14.8	33.9	19.4	14.5	The Gentlemen
Australia	82.2	33.5	23.0	10.5	The Gentlemen
Total two territories	97.0	33.6	22.5	11.1	The Gentlemen

Source: BFI, Comscore

See notes to Table 2.

UK talent and the global box office, 2011-2020

Characters and stories created by UK authors consistently enthrall film audiences around the world, while British film actors and directors have made a huge impact on films internationally. The UK itself is a global destination of choice for international film production thanks to the skills of its crews and state-of-the-art studios and facilities. British skills, talent and technical expertise play an important role in showcasing the UK's national identity – and creative abilities – across the globe.

Table 11 shows the global cultural and commercial influence of UK filmmaking skills and talent. Nine of the top 20 highest grossing films released worldwide between 2011 and 2020 were UK qualifying films, while 17 of the top 20 films feature British actors in lead or supporting roles. One of these films, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, was helmed by a British director (David Yates) and based on a novel by a UK writer (JK Rowling). Also appearing in the top 20 is *Captain America: Civil War* which features superhero characters created by American writers Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, however the story for the film was based on a series of comic books penned by the British writer Mark Millar.

Unsurprisingly, considering the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on global box office revenues, no releases from 2020 appear in the top 20.

Table 11 Top 20 grossing films worldwide, 2011-2020

Rank	Title	Year	Gross box office (US\$ million)	Country of origin	UK talent / director / source material
1	Avengers: Endgame	2019	2,797.5	UK/USA	Supporting actors
2	Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens	2015	2,069.5	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors
3	Avengers: Infinity War	2018	2,048.4	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors
4	Jurassic World	2015	1,672.4	USA	
5	The Lion King	2019	1,657.1	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors
6	Marvel Avengers Assemble	2012	1,519.6	USA	Supporting actors
7	Fast & Furious 7	2015	1,518.7	USA	Supporting actors
8	Frozen II	2019	1,435.4	USA	
9	Avengers: Age of Ultron	2015	1,405.4	UK/USA	Supporting actors
10	Black Panther	2018	1,347.2	USA	Supporting actors
11	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	2011	1,341.0	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors; director; source material
12	Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi	2017	1,332.5	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors
13	Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom	2018	1,308.7	UK/USA	Supporting actors
14	Frozen	2013	1,276.7	USA	Supporting actors
15	Beauty and the Beast	2017	1,263.7	UK/USA	Lead and supporting actors
16	Incredibles 2	2018	1,242.7	USA	
17	Fast & Furious 8	2017	1,237.7	USA	Lead and supporting actors
18	Iron Man 3	2013	1,216.4	USA/Chn	Supporting actors
19	Minions	2015	1,168.0	USA/Fra	Supporting actors
20	Captain America: Civil War	2016	1,153.6	USA/Ger	Supporting actors

Source: BFI, Comscore

Note: Gross box office is studio-reported so may include grosses from all global territories, not just the 23 territories analysed earlier in the chapter.

UK source material

The global box office performance of UK films and foreign productions which draw on UK source material is a good indicator of the international impact and exposure of British culture. Of the top 200 grossing films released worldwide between 2011 and 2020, 22 are based on stories and characters created by UK writers, and collectively these films have earned \$15 billion at the global box office, 11% of the total gross from the top 200 films (Table 12).

As the original creative voice behind three of the top 200 earning films since 2011, JRR Tolkien is the most influential UK author in the top 200 list with the trilogy of films based on *The Hobbit* grossing \$2.9 billion at the box office. JK Rowling is a close second with \$2.8 billion from three films (one Harry Potter title and two Fantastic Beasts titles). The list also includes two films based on the James Bond novels by Ian Fleming (\$2.0 billion), three films based on the Fifty Shades book series by EL James (\$1.3 billion), two films based on the How to Train Your Dragon series of novels by Cressida Cowell (\$1.1 billion), and two films based on the Kingsman graphic novels created by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar (\$0.8 billion).

In addition to films adapted from previously published works, the 22 films include a number of titles based on original screenplays, two of which - *Interstellar* and *Dunkirk* - were written or co-written by Christopher Nolan. (Nolan also co-wrote the script for another top 200 title - *The Dark Knight Rises*.)

Table 12 Top grossing films worldwide based on stories and characters created by UK writers, 2011-2020

Rank	Title	Year	Gross box office (US\$ million)	Country of origin	UK source material
1	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	2011	1,341.0	UK/USA	Novel by JK Rowling
2	Skyfall	2012	1,108.7	UK/USA	Novels by Ian Fleming
3	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	2012	1,021.1	USA/NZ	Novel by JRR Tolkien
4	The Jungle Book	2016	967.3	UK/USA	Stories by Rudyard Kipling
5	The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	2013	960.6	USA/NZ	Novel by JRR Tolkien
6	The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies	2014	956.1	USA/NZ	Novel by JRR Tolkien
7	Spectre	2015	880.8	UK/USA	Novels by Ian Fleming
8	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	2016	812.6	UK/USA	Original screenplay by JK Rowling
9	Interstellar	2014	674.4	USA	Original screenplay by Christopher and Jonathan Nolan
10	Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald	2018	652.4	UK/USA	Original screenplay by JK Rowling
11	Sing	2016	634.1	USA	Original screenplay by Garth Jennings
12	How to Train Your Dragon 2	2014	621.4	USA	Novel by Cressida Cowell
13	Fifty Shades of Grey	2015	571.0	USA	Novel by EL James
14	Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows	2011	545.7	UK/USA	Novels by Arthur Conan Doyle
15	Dunkirk	2017	528.8	UK/USA	Original screenplay by Christopher Nolan
16	How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World	2019	522.2	USA	Novel by Cressida Cowell
17	Kingsman: The Secret Service	2015	418.5	UK/USA	Novel by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar
18	Kingsman: The Golden Circle	2017	410.9	UK/USA	Novel by Dave Gibbons and Mark Millar
19	Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again	2018	393.4	UK/USA	Musical by Catherine Johnson
20	Fifty Shades Darker	2017	381.6	USA	Novel by EL James
21	Fifty Shades Freed	2018	371.4	USA	Novel by EL James
22	1917	2019	368.2	UK/USA	Original screenplay by Sam Mendes and Krysty Wilson-Cairns

Source: BFI, Comscore

UK actors

The global prominence of UK acting talent is reflected in Table 13 which shows that 68% of the top 200 films at the worldwide box office since 2011 have featured British actors in either lead/title roles or in the supporting cast. In total, these films generated 71% of the overall gross for the top 200 titles.

Table 13 UK acting talent in the top 200 grossing films worldwide, 2011-2020

Films that have...	Number of films	Top 200 gross box office (US\$ billion)	% of total gross for top 200 films
UK lead actor(s)	51	39.1	27.4
UK supporting actor(s)	125	94.5	66.3
UK lead and/or supporting actor(s)	136	101.8	71.4

Source: BFI, Comscore

Note: Includes live action and animated titles.

UK directors

Twenty-nine of the 200 highest grossing films at the global box office between 2011 and 2020 were helmed by British directors, generating a box office gross of over \$18 billion (Table 14). David Yates was the most commercially successful British director of the decade, with total top 200 box office takings of \$2.8 billion from the final film in the Harry Potter series and the two Fantastic Beasts spin-offs. No 2020 films from UK directors appear in the top 200 list, however, Sam Mendes's *1917* was released in most territories in 2020. One woman features amongst the 18 UK directors – Sam Taylor-Johnson, whose *Fifty Shades of Grey* made \$571 million.

Table 14 UK directors of the top 200 grossing films worldwide, 2011-2020

Rank	Director	Film	Year	Total gross box office (US\$ million)
1	David Yates	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2	2011	1,341.0
		Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them	2016	812.6
		Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald	2018	652.4
		Total		2,806.0
2	Sam Mendes	Skyfall	2012	1,108.7
		Spectre	2015	880.8
		1917	2019	368.2
		Total		2,357.7
3	Christopher Nolan	The Dark Knight Rises	2012	1,085.1
		Interstellar	2014	674.4
		Dunkirk	2017	528.8
		Total		2,288.3
4	Guy Ritchie	Aladdin	2019	1,051.0
		Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows	2011	545.7
		Total		1,596.7
5	Gareth Edwards	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story	2016	1,056.5
		Godzilla	2014	527.9
		Total		1,584.4

Table 14 UK directors of the top 200 grossing films worldwide, 2011-2020 (continued)

Rank	Director	Film	Year	Total gross box office (US\$ million)
6	Ridley Scott	The Martian	2015	630.5
		Prometheus	2012	403.8
		Total		1,034.3
7	Kenneth Branagh	Cinderella	2015	543.6
		Thor	2011	448.7
		Total		992.3
8	Matthew Vaughn	Kingsman: The Secret Service	2015	418.5
		Kingsman: The Golden Circle	2017	410.9
		Total		829.4
9	Garth Jennings	Sing	2016	634.1
10	Sam Taylor-Johnson	Fifty Shades of Grey	2015	571.0
11	Rupert Wyatt	Rise of the Planet of the Apes	2011	482.9
12	Tom Hooper	Les Misérables	2012	442.1
13	Duncan Jones	Warcraft	2016	433.6
14	Paul Greengrass	Jason Bourne	2016	416.4
15	Rupert Sanders	Snow White and the Huntsman	2012	401.0
16	Ol Parker	Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again	2018	393.4
17	Simon J Smith	Penguins of Madagascar	2014	373.0
18	Corin Hardy	The Nun	2018	365.0

Source: BFI, Comscore



Awards for UK films and talent

Awards and nominations are an important tool for raising the critical reputation and international profile of UK film. This section shows the awards won by UK films and individuals at two major international award ceremonies (the Academy Awards® and BAFTA Film Awards) and the major international film festivals (Berlin, Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and Venice) in the 2020/21 awards cycle. (For the purposes of this analysis we consider the awards cycle to start with the Sundance Film Festival in January of a particular year and end with the Academy Awards® of the following year.)

While the global COVID-19 pandemic meant that most of the festivals and ceremonies were required to hold their events either virtually or in-person with social distancing, with the exception of Cannes, this did not substantially affect the number of awards available. Cannes, which usually presents more than 30 awards, held a shortened event and only awarded prizes for the Short Film Palme d'Or and the Cinéfondation film school competition.

UK films and talent won 32 awards, 21% of all available awards in the 2020/21 awards cycle (Table 15). The table also shows the total number of awards won in the calendar year 2020, to provide a comparison with previous years. In 2020, UK films and talent won 29 awards, representing 20% of the prizes available. (Awards specific to foreign nationals or films, for example the Toronto International Film Festival's award for Best Canadian Film, are not included in the analysis).

Of the 32 awards presented to British films and talent in the 2020/21 awards cycle, a total of 13 were won or shared by British women or by British films made by women. Among the winners were Emerald Fennell who was named as a recipient on three awards, including both a BAFTA and Oscar® for her original screenplay, *Promising Young Woman*, and Ana Rocha de Sousa who won two awards at the Venice Film Festival for her London-set debut feature *Listen*.

Table 15 Numbers of UK award winners, 2011-2020/21

Year	Number of UK award winners	UK share %
2011	30	15
2012	23	14
2013	24	13
2014	28	19
2015	24	16
2016	29	15
2017	22	12
2018	28	14
2019	26	14
2020	29	20
Total (to end of 2020)	263	14.5
2017/18 awards cycle	33	18
2018/19 awards cycle	25	13
2019/20 awards cycle	27	15
2020/21 awards cycle	32	21

Source: BFI

British films and filmmakers won prizes at four of the major film festivals in 2020 (Table 16). British talent was recognised with two awards at Sundance, two at Berlin, four at Venice, and two at Toronto, along with 14 BAFTA awards and eight Oscars®. UK talent won all four screenwriting awards at the BAFTAs and Oscars®: Christopher Hampton won both adapted screenplay awards for co-writing *The Father*, and Emerald Fennell won both original screenplay awards for *Promising Young Woman*. Other British prize winners who won respective awards at both the BAFTAs and Oscars® were Daniel Kaluuya who won the supporting actor awards for his role in *Judas and the Black Messiah*; Atticus Ross who won at both ceremonies for his work on the soundtrack for *Soul*; James Reed, who co-directed best documentary winner *My Octopus Teacher*; and Andrew Jackson and Andrew Lockley, who won two awards for their work on *Tenet*'s visual effects.

Table 16 UK award winners, 2020/21

Award ceremony/ festival	Award	Recipient	Title
Sundance Film Festival, 23 January - 2 February 2020	Audience Award - World Cinema Documentary	Film; award presented to Jerry Rothwell	The Reason I Jump
	Special Jury Award for Acting - World Cinema Dramatic	Ben Whishaw	Surge
Berlin International Film Festival, 20 February - 1 March 2020	FIPRESCI Prize - Panorama	Film; (award presented to Bassam Tariq)	Mogul Mowgli
	Honorary Golden Bear	Helen Mirren	-
Venice International Film Festival, 2-12 September 2020	Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement	Tilda Swinton	-
	"Luigi De Laurentiis" Award for a Debut Film	Film; (award presented to Ana Rocha de Sousa)	Listen
	Special Orizzonti Jury Prize	Film; (award presented to Ana Rocha de Sousa)	Listen
	Volpi Cup for Best Actress	Vanessa Kirby	Pieces of a Woman
Toronto International Film Festival, 10-19 September 2020	TIFF Tribute Actor Award	Kate Winslet	-
	TIFF Tribute Actor Award	Anthony Hopkins	-
British Academy Film Awards 10-11 April 2021	Adapted Screenplay	Christopher Hampton (with Florian Zeller)	The Father
	British Short Animation	Film; award presented to Mole Hill and Laura Duncalf	The Owl and the Pussycat
	British Short Film	Film; award presented to Farah Nabulsi	The Present
	Casting	Lucy Pardee	Rocks
	Cinematography	Joshua James Richards	Nomadland
	Documentary	Film; award presented to James Reed (with Pippa Ehrlich and Craig Foster)	My Octopus Teacher
	Leading Actor	Anthony Hopkins	The Father
	Original Score	Atticus Ross (with Jon Batiste and Trent Reznor)	Soul
	Original Screenplay	Emerald Fennell	Promising Young Woman
	Outstanding British Film	Film; award presented to Emerald Fennell and Josey McNamara (with Ben Browning and Ashley Fox)	Promising Young Woman
	Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer	Remi Weekes	His House
	Rising Star Award	Bukky Bakray	-
	Special Visual Effects	Andrew Jackson and Andrew Lockley (with Scott Fisher)	Tenet
	Supporting Actor	Daniel Kaluuya	Judas and the Black Messiah
Academy Awards®, 25 April 2021	Actor in a Leading Role	Anthony Hopkins	The Father
	Actor in a Supporting Role	Daniel Kaluuya	Judas and the Black Messiah
	Documentary (Feature)	Film; award presented to James Reed (with Pippa Ehrlich and Craig Foster)	My Octopus Teacher
	Music (Original Score)	Atticus Ross (with Jon Batiste and Trent Reznor)	Soul
	Visual Effects	Andrew Jackson, David Lee and Andrew Lockley (with Scott Fisher)	Tenet
	Short Film (Live Action)	Film; award presented to Martin Desmond Roe (with Travon Free)	Two Distant Strangers
	Writing (Adapted Screenplay)	Christopher Hampton (with Florian Zeller)	The Father
	Writing (Original Screenplay)	Emerald Fennell	Promising Young Woman

Source: BFI RSU

Notes:

Awards for films are listed if either the film itself qualifies as a UK production or if any of the named presentees are British.

Awards for individuals are listed if any of the named recipients are British.



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