

IMAX

The film [Oppenheimer](#) is a mystery to me; here is a movie just over three hours in length, yet there are no gunshots, no car chases, no fist fights, rarely does anyone swear, and we don't actually see atomic bombs being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There is some brief sex in it, but the two people involved don't seem to be enjoying themselves. We're left with a tremendous amount of dialogue and very little action. Yet the movie has grossed \$950 million worldwide and is now the [highest-grossing biographical film of all time](#). It's also closing in on the [highest-grossing 'R' rated film of all time](#) (although here in Canada the film is rated PG14). I have to ask: How is \$950 million in box office even remotely possible, in a world of shortened attention spans and superhero films?

Don't get me wrong, I've been guilty of a shortened attention span too from time to time but [The Journal recently polled 8,000 moviegoers](#) to discover that two hours is the limit for a film's length for most cinema enthusiasts. Only 12% were interested in three-hour movies. I believe superhero films definitely have their place too, as I loved *Avengers: Endgame*, *Doctor Strange* and *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (among many others). But I digress.

Robert Oppenheimer is the hero of this story, and he has been tasked with overseeing the infamous Manhattan Project's Los Alamos lab in New Mexico during World War II. His team's mission is to build the world's first atomic bomb before the Germans do. But make no mistake—this is Oppenheimer's story: every scene is about Oppenheimer, his decisions, and the repercussions of those decisions that will haunt him for the rest of his life. Viewers who are expecting a drama about American B29s dropping bombs on two of Japan's cities need to look for another film.



Want more content like this? Join
15,000+ creatives who trust the Insider
Advantage newsletter

SIGN UP NOW!