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'Toy Story 2' sets records; expected to set more

Associated Press

There's a new sheriff in Movietown. "Toy Story 2," offering the further animated adventures of cowboy Woody and his friends, opened with a record \$80.1 million to top the five-day Thanksgiving holiday box office, according to industry figures Monday.

The Disney-Pixar sequel is set records for the Thanksgiving holiday, for a November opening and for any animated film debut ever, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks box office figures.

It more than doubled the opening weekend toychest of the original "Toy Story" during Thanksgiving weekend in 1995.

The sequel topped "Pokemon: The First Movie," which set a five-day opening record for an animated film of \$50.8 million just two weeks ago. It smashed the previous five-day Thanksgiving opening record of \$45.7 million set last year by "A Bug's Life," also made by Disney and Pixar.

And its three-day gross of \$57.4 million broke the three-day record for an animated film debut of \$40.9 million, set by Disney's "The Lion King" in June 1994.

"Kids know all the characters. The film was well-reviewed, so parents



Woody gets a rousing welcome from his TV co-star, Jessie the cowgirl in his new movie 'Toy Story 2' from Disney and Pixar studios.

were eager to take their kids, and it came during the long weekend with plenty of time for a movie outing," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations. "They could put out another sequel next week and people would line up to see it." The James Bond juggernaut continued a second week, with "The World Is Not Enough" sliding to No. 2 with \$34 million for five

days. The debut of Arnold Schwarzenegger's "End of Days" was third with \$31.5 million. The multi-generational pull of "Toy Story 2" was obvious from comments of moviegoers lined up to see the sequel at Universal City on Monday. "My kids saw it yesterday and told me I had to see it," said Linda Harris, 48, waiting in line with Judy Fletcher, 50.

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