

'Toy Story 4' Repeats at No. 1 at Box Office Over 'Annabelle,' 'Yesterday'

By **Lindsey Bahr**
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “Toy Story 4” hung onto the top spot in its second week in theaters and the horror sequel “Annabelle Comes Home” opened in line with expectations, but the Cinderella story of the weekend was actually the third place movie: “Yesterday.”

The Danny Boyle-directed musical romantic comedy featuring the music of the Beatles debuted well over industry expectations, earning an estimated \$17 million from North American theaters. In a summer where most films have debuted either under or at industry tracking, which are often lowball projections, and original comedies have struggled to find audiences, “Yesterday” proved to be the exception.

Starring relative newcomer Himesh Patel, “Yesterday” imagines a world where only one man remembers the music of the Beatles and decides to present their catalog of hits as his own.

Although critics were mixed, audiences, who were mostly female (56 and over the age of 25 (75%) have embraced the film with an A- CinemaScore and a 90% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Universal’s President of Domestic Theatrical Distribution Jim Orr says he tries to use the word “thrilled” judiciously, but that it applies here.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lily James, left, and Himesh Patel in a scene from “Yesterday.”

“Among all of the sequels and all of the explosions of the summer, this is a very charming, original, whimsical musical romance with iconic music and amazing performances... (and direction),” Orr said. “All of that adds up to a great, great run at the domestic box office.”

Even Warner Bros., which has the Bruce Springsteen-themed film “Blinded by the Light” coming later this summer was heartened by “Yesterday’s” launch, which motivated a solidly adult demographic to trek out to the movie theater on opening weekend.

As Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian put it: “It’s not always the No. 1 film that’s the big story.”

The No. 1 film was once again “Toy Story

4,” which added \$57.9 million from domestic theaters, down 52% from its debut last weekend. Globally the film has already netted \$496.5 million.

Of the top grossing films of 2019, Disney now occupies the top four spots with “Avengers: Endgame,” “Captain Marvel,” “Aladdin” and “Toy Story 4.”

In second place was the third Annabelle film, “Annabelle Comes Home,” which debuted on over 3,500 screens Wednesday. The Warner Bros. horror earned \$20.4 million over the weekend and \$31.2 million in its first five days.

Although it is a franchise low — the first two opened over \$35 million — with a budget of \$27 million, it did well enough to justify its existence.

“This was a reasonable movie to make,” said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.’ head of domestic distribution. “You don’t have to exceed on every one.”

He noted that the “Conjuring Universe” is the most successful horror franchise of all time with over \$1.6 billion in ticket sales. And after a few back-to-back Conjuring spinoffs, the franchise is taking bit of a breather; “The Conjuring 3” won’t hit theaters until after Labor Day next year.

“Aladdin” and “The Secret Life of Pets 2” rounded out the top five. “Avengers: Endgame” also made it back into the top 10 after Disney added over 1,000 screens this weekend. It added an estimated \$5.5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$841.3 million. Globally, it’s now at \$2.76 billion.

While some have viewed the “bring back” campaign as a naked “cash grab” to try to beat the “Avatar” record (\$2.79 billion world-



Blazers Make Moves

In this Feb. 10, 2019, file photo, Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside scores against the Golden State Warriors during the first half of an NBA basketball game, in Oakland, Calif. A person with knowledge of the situation says the Miami Heat have agreed to trade Hassan Whiteside to the Portland Trail Blazers for Meyers Leonard and Moe Harkless. The trade was agreed to Monday, July 1, 2019, and is still pending NBA approval, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it has not been finalized.

wide), Dergarabedian thinks it has more to do with “Spider-Man: Far From Home,” which opens next weekend and picks up right after the events of “Endgame.”

The weekend overall is down nearly 15% from last year and the year to date deficit is around 9.4%.

“We’ve been trying to dig our way out of this deficit for it seems like forever,” Dergarabedian said. “Some of the movies that were expected to be grand slam home runs were more like triples.”

But Sony and Marvel’s “Spider-Man: Far From Home,” which has already earned \$111 million

from China, Japan and Hong Kong, could help turn the year around.

“There’s a lot riding on Spider-Man’s shoulders,” Dergarabedian said. “I think this will be a real shot in the arm to the industry both financially and emotionally.”

He added: “If Spidey can’t do it, no one can.”



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Philly Street Named in Honor Patti LaBelle

In this Sept. 24, 2016, file photo, Singer Patti LaBelle performs at the dedication ceremony for the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington. LaBelle is being honored in her hometown of Philadelphia with her very own street. A stretch of Broad Street will be renamed for the legendary soul singer during a ceremony on Tuesday.

SHOWTIMES



The Week of
Friday, July 5 through
Thursday, July 11, 2017

SHAFT (R)
Fri-Thur: 2:40, 7:15

MA (R)
Fri-Thur: 5:50, 9:40

THE SOUVENIR (R)
Fri-Thur: 11:45, 6:45

ALL IS TRUE (PG-13)
Fri-Thur: 2:15

POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU (PG)

Fri-Thur: 11:30, 4:30

PRINCESS MONONOKE (MONONOKE-HIME) (PG-13)
Fri-Thur: 11:55, 4:15, 9:30

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG)
Fri-Thur: 1:45, 7:00, 9:15

\$4.00 adults, \$3.00 senior citizens (65+), \$3.00 for kids (12 & under)

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Babysitting: Children 2 to 8 years old. Fri: shows starting between 3:30 pm and 8 pm. Sat - Sun: shows starting between 1 pm and 8 pm. \$9.50 per child for the length of the movie. Call to reserve a spot, no drop ins.