

Toy stories and dry martinis dominate box office sales

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Everyone's favorite talking toys dominated the box office for a second weekend as *Toy Story 2* took in \$28.3 million, according to estimates yesterday.

With no major new movies, box office revenues shaped up mostly the same as a week ago. The James Bond flick *The World Is Not Enough* came in second with \$10.6 million. Arnold Schwarzenegger's *End of Days* was third with \$9.7 million and Tim Burton's horror detective film, *Sleepy Hollow*, was No. 4 with \$9 million.

Toy Story 2, produced by Disney and Pixar, has grossed \$117.3 million in 12 days of nationwide release.

The movie passed the \$100 million mark Saturday. That tied Disney's personal best for *The Lion King*, which reached that mark in 11 days in 1994 and went on to become the studio's top-grossing film ever with \$312 million.

"We are just on cloud nine," Rod Rodriguez, senior vice president and general sales manager for Disney's film group, said. "It did everything we expected and were hoping for. It's a nice holiday gift for us."

Toy Story 2 maintained an impressive per-screen average of \$8,740 in 3,238 theaters. *The World Is Not Enough* averaged \$3,351 in 3,163 theaters, and *End of Days* brought in \$3,732 on 2,599 screens.

The animated sequel, with Tom Hanks and Tim Allen reprising the voices of talking toys Woody the sheriff and space ranger Buzz Lightyear, broke the Thanksgiving box-office record with \$80.1 million in just five days.

After a barrage of blockbusters the last two weeks, studios took a post-Thanksgiving breather, putting out only a handful of new movies in limited release.

A Christmas rush of big films and Oscar hopefuls begins next weekend with the opening of Hanks' Death Row drama, *The Green Mile*.

"This is sort of the calm after the storm and before the storm, before the next onslaught of holiday films," Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks ticket sales, said.

Two new movies scored big playing in just a few theaters. Woody Allen's *Sweet and Lowdown* took in \$102,000 on three screens in New York City, averaging \$34,000 a theater. The movie stars Sean Penn, Uma Thurman and Samantha Morton in a '30s story of the world's second-greatest jazz guitarist.

Neil Jordan's *The End of the Affair*, a cerebral tale of adultery and obsession, grossed \$203,000 on seven screens in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto and San Francisco, averaging \$29,000 a theater. Based on the Graham Greene novel, the movie stars Ralph Fiennes, Julianne Moore and Stephen Rea.

Both movies open in a few more cities around Christmas and go into wider release next month.

Holy Smoke from director Jane Campion began a one-week Oscar run, taking in \$32,000 in two theaters in New York and Los Angeles.

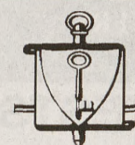
The movie, starring Kate Winslet as a Hindu groupie and Harvey Keitel as a cult deprogrammer, opens in wider release early next year.

Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace returned to theaters Friday for a one-week run, with all the proceeds going to local charities. The movie took in just under \$1.2 million on 832 screens.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through yesterday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures are to be released today.

Weekend box office

1. *Toy Story 2*: \$28.3 million
2. *The World is not Enough*: \$10.6 million
3. *End of Days*: \$9.7 million
4. *Sleepy Hollow*: \$9 million
5. *Bone Collector*: \$3.1 million



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Carrey loses self in character study

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jim Carrey said he immersed himself so deeply in the role of late comic Andy Kaufman for the film *Man on the Moon* that he forgot the character of Jim Carrey.

After the movie wrapped: "I spent three weeks thinking, 'What do I like again? What do I believe? How do I feel about that?'" Carrey said.

"I had completely let that go. You completely lose yourself."

Kaufman's parents, Stanley and Carole Kaufman, "treated me like Andy," Carrey told the *Los Angeles Times* for a story published yesterday.

"Carol Kaufman sent me a letter saying, 'We knew what Andy was

like until 1983, and now we know what he's like now,'" Carrey said. "It was gratifying and frightening and weird and wonderful."

Carrey, 37, who starred in *The Mask* and *The Truman Show*, said he is well aware that fame can be fleeting.

"I wake up some mornings and sit and have my coffee and look out at my beautiful garden, and I go, 'Remember how good this is. Because you can lose it,'" he said.

TV's Gilligan to donate to auction

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. (AP) — Castoffs from West Virginia's most famous shipwrecked castaway are going on the auction block for charity.

Bob Denver — Gilligan in the '60s TV series "Gilligan's Island" — is donating autographed items from the show to benefit the Bluefield Union Mission.

Among Denver's donations: a "Gilligan's Island" play school set and autographed denim shorts worn by actress Dawn Wells, who portrayed Mary Ann.

"I think it's a good cause," Denver, a resident of nearby Princeton said. "It goes right to the local people."

The auction is scheduled for Dec. 18.

Rodman's assault suit dropped

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A woman who sued Dennis Rodman, saying

the basketball star sexually assaulted her at the Las Vegas Hilton, is dropping the federal lawsuit.

Dixie Johnson, 48, had claimed Rodman grabbed her breast after her former employer, Stripper Elite Entertainment, sent her to the hotel to entertain him. She was asking for more than \$3 million.

Rodman attorney Gregory Hafen would not say whether the dismissal meant the parties had reached a settlement.

Johnson's case is one of several lawsuits filed against Rodman during the past 18 months in Las Vegas.



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