

The Buzz

2026 Summer Box Office Sets New Record

Hollywood has recorded its biggest-ever summer at the North American box office, with ticket sales surpassing the previous record set in 2013

Hollywood has delivered its biggest summer at the North American box office in more than a decade, with ticket sales reaching approximately \$4.77 billion, surpassing the previous summer record of \$4.756 billion set in 2013.

The record performance marks a major boost for the theatrical film industry, which has spent years recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changing audience habits and the rise of streaming platforms. The 2026 summer season showed that audiences are still willing to return to cinemas when offered major films and a diverse selection of experiences.

Blockbusters Drive the Boom

A major force behind the record was “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” which emerged as the summer’s biggest commercial hit. The film has earned around \$2.4 billion worldwide, making it the third-highest-grossing film of all time, according to reports.

Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” was another major success, generating approximately \$1.6 billion worldwide. Its strong performance, particularly in premium formats such as IMAX and 70mm, helped boost interest in the big-screen experience.

Other major releases, including “Toy Story 5” and “Michael,” also contributed significantly to the strong season, with several films crossing the \$1 billion mark globally.



Audiences Return to Cinemas

The summer’s success was not driven solely by established franchises. Horror films, original stories and films targeting younger audiences also performed strongly.

Industry analysts noted a particularly strong return among Gen Z moviegoers, with younger audiences responding to a wider range of films. Horror titles such as “Backrooms” and “Obsession” demonstrated that smaller productions can also attract significant

cant theatrical audiences when supported by strong online and social-media buzz.

Monthly results also showed remarkable consistency. May, June, July and August each generated more than \$1 billion in North American ticket sales, while August alone reached about \$1.28 billion, setting a record for the month.

A Turning Point for Hollywood

The achievement comes despite the fact that Hollywood released fewer wide theatrical titles than before the pandemic. There were around 34 wide releases during the summer, compared with 44 in 2019.

The strong results suggest that audiences may be becoming more selective, choosing to

visit cinemas for films that offer a compelling experience rather than simply watching every major release.

With highly anticipated titles including “Avengers: Doomsday” and “Dune: Part Three” still ahead, industry analysts believe the momentum could continue through the remainder of 2026. Some forecasts suggest the North American box office could surpass \$10 billion for the full year, a level not reached since 2019.

The record summer therefore represents more than a strong season for Hollywood. It could signal a broader revival of the theatrical moviegoing experience — proving that, despite the growth of streaming, audiences still value the shared experience of watching major films on the big screen.

Netflix Loads Up September With New Movies & Series



Netflix is bringing a packed lineup of new movies and series to screens this September, offering subscribers a mix of returning favourites, original productions, documentaries and international titles.

Among the highlights is The Gentlemen Season 2, returning with more crime, drama and dark humour. The platform is also expanding its Monster anthology with Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story, exploring one of America’s most infamous historical murder cases.

Reality and competition fans can look forward to Won-

ka’s The Golden Ticket, while Physical 100: Italy expands the popular survival competition franchise into a new country.

Movie offerings include Call My Agent! The Movie and Tyler Perry’s Why Did I Get Married Again?. Documentary fans can also check out Untold: Raygun – Breaking Badly, focusing on the controversy surrounding Australian breakdancer Rachael Gunn.

With returning hits, fresh originals and international productions, Netflix’s September slate gives viewers plenty of new options across drama, comedy, reality, crime and documentary programming.

‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ Makes Strong Box Office Run



The Mirzapur franchise has made a powerful transition from streaming to the big screen, with ‘Mirzapur: The Movie’ delivering a strong performance at the box office since its September 4 release.

Starring Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal and Ravi Kishan, the crime thriller has attracted audiences with its popular characters, intense action and the distinctive world established by the hit series. The film is directed by Gurmeet Singh.

The movie recorded a strong opening and continued to draw audiences through its first week. By Day 7, reports put its

India net collection at around ₹148 crore, while its worldwide gross had crossed ₹211 crore, placing it among the notable Bollywood performers of 2026.

The film’s performance highlights the growing potential for established streaming franchises to generate significant theatrical interest. Its strong reception has also intensified competition at the box office, particularly among major Hindi releases.

With the film approaching the ₹150-crore domestic milestone, its performance in the coming days will determine how high the Mirzapur movie can climb.

Crown Jewel 2026: WWE’s Road to WrestleMania 43 Runs Through Riyadh



WWE’s growing partnership with Saudi Arabia is entering another historic phase, with Crown Jewel 2026 set to become a major milestone on the road to WrestleMania 43.

Riyadh will host WWE Crown Jewel on November 7, 2026, at the Riyadh Season Stadium in King Abdullah Financial District. The event is expected to feature champion-versus-champion clashes across the men’s and women’s divisions, bringing some of WWE’s biggest names to Saudi Arabia.

But this year’s Crown Jewel carries greater significance than ever. The event will take place just months before WrestleMania 43, which is scheduled for Riyadh in April 2027 and will make history as the first WrestleMania staged outside North America.

That puts Crown Jewel in

the spotlight as a crucial preview of what lies ahead. It will give WWE another opportunity to showcase its global stars to Saudi fans while building momentum for its biggest international WrestleMania.

Since the partnership began in 2018, Saudi Arabia has hosted several major WWE events, including Crown Jewel, Royal Rumble, Night of Champions and Elimination Chamber. The 2026 Royal Rumble also made history as the first edition held outside North America.

Now, the focus shifts to Crown Jewel.

With championship battles, superstar appearances and WrestleMania history on the horizon, Riyadh is becoming one of WWE’s most important global stages.

Crown Jewel may be the next spectacle, but the ultimate destination is WrestleMania 43.

TIFF 2026 Takes Over Toronto With Star-Powered Film Line-Up

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is in full swing, turning Canada’s largest city into a global hub for cinema, celebrity and red-carpet glamour.

The festival has brought together filmmakers, actors, industry leaders and movie fans for a packed programme featuring highly anticipated films from around the world. With premieres, special screenings and major industry events tak-

ing place across Toronto, TIFF remains one of the most important stops on the international film calendar.

Beyond the entertainment and star power, the festival is also an important launchpad for films hoping to make an impact during the awards season. Several movies premiering or screening



key destination for studios and filmmakers seeking global attention.

The festival also continues its tradition of highlighting emerging filmmakers and diverse voices alongside major Hollywood productions.

With packed venues and strong audience interest, TIFF is once again proving why Toronto remains one of the world’s major movie capitals.

Star Wars Zero Company Gets First Major Patch

Star Wars Zero Company has received its first major update, addressing several issues that have affected players since launch, including crashes and problems with the game’s challenging Iron Man-style “Beskar” mode.

The 1.1 patch fixes various crash issues, including a specific crash affecting Beskar mode. It also resolves a bug that temporarily de-

leted Beskar saves — a particularly frustrating problem for players risking their entire campaign on a single save.

The update also fixes an issue where attacks could miss despite having a 100% chance to hit. Several Overwatch-related bugs have been addressed as well, including cases where attacks triggered incorrectly against enemies outside targeting cones or behind solid

objects.

However, some players report that Overwatch occasionally still fails to activate when enemies move through targeting areas.

The patch comes as developer Bit Reactor continues working



with a reportedly reduced team, making the update an important step toward improving the game’s stability.

‘Practical Magic 2’ Arrives as Fall’s Big Nostalgia Release

Nearly three decades after the original Practical Magic, Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman return as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens in Practical Magic 2. The sequel arrives in cinemas this September, bringing back the beloved world of magic, romance and sisterhood.

The 1998 original grew into a cult favourite despite mixed initial reviews, building a passionate fan base over the years. Bullock and Kidman are joined by returning stars Dianne Wiest and Stockard Channing,



alongside Joey King, Maisie Williams, Lee Pace and Xolo Maridueña.

Directed by Susanne Bier, the sequel follows the Owens family as they face another chapter in their magical legacy.