

CELEBS

celebs



Tom Cruise

Cruise control: 'Top Gun 3' officially in the works

AFP | Las Vegas

If you still feel the need for speed, Paramount Pictures has good news for you -- "Top Gun 3" is officially happening, with Tom Cruise back as daring pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell. The announcement came Thursday at the studio's showcase at CinemaCon, an annual week-long summit at which Hollywood studios present their biggest upcoming movies to theater owners and press. Paramount film co-head Josh Greenstein said "Top Gun 3" was "officially in development with a script well underway," adding that Cruise would reunite with

producer Jerry Bruckheimer on the project. The original 1986 film helped propel Cruise to superstardom, and the 2022 sequel earned \$1.5 billion worldwide. Legendary director Steven Spielberg publicly credited Cruise with helping to get moviegoers back into theaters after the Covid-19 pandemic with the long-awaited sequel. Cruise was not present at the presentation, but did narrate a film used to open the event, which focused on the studio's commitment to releasing films on the big screen. At the end, Cruise -- sitting atop the water tower on the

\$1.5B was the total worldwide earnings for the 2022 sequel, a massive success that Steven Spielberg credited with saving the theatrical experience after the pandemic

studio's lot -- says, "The future looks great from here." Paramount Skydance chief David Ellison told attendees that the studio would guarantee a 45-day theatrical release window for its films before moving them

to streaming platforms. "Once we combine with Warner Brothers, we're going to make a minimum of 30 films annually," Ellison said in a pledge to theater owners. "Long live the movies." Paramount has launched a massive \$111 billion bid to take over Warner Bros, topping a rival bid from Netflix. But many in Hollywood fear the mega-merger will lead to cuts that will forever change the film industry. Also on Paramount's upcoming slate is a film adaptation of the popular video game "Call of Duty," due in theaters in June 2028.

Attendees also saw early footage from "Heart of the Beast," a thriller starring Brad Pitt as a military veteran who must survive a plane crash in Alaska with his combat dog. And Johnny Depp showed up to offer a preview of "Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol," the latest adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens tale, in which he plays the grumpy Scrooge. CinemaCon continues later Thursday with Disney's presentation.



AFP | Paris

Lana Del Rey takes on Bond with new game title track

Lana Del Rey has joined an exclusive club of pop greats by voicing a

new theme song for James Bond -- albeit for the fictional British superspy's video game incarnation in the upcoming "007: First Light." "I was so excited to work with Lana, an artist who brought elegance, atmosphere and her totally unique character to this piece," co-composer David Arnold, who also scored a string of Bond movies in the late 90s and 2000s, said in a statement. Published to streaming platforms Thursday, Del Rey's track "First Light" sticks to a familiar

formula of haunting lyrics and brassy hooks evoking the musical history of the Bond series. Music has been a key facet of the franchise since its first film, 1962's "Dr. No", with the world-famous theme song composed by Monty Norman used in every movie since. Later films' themes have been performed by stars like Shirley Bassey, Paul McCartney, Madonna, Adele and Billie Eilish. Built by "Hitman" developers IO Interactive for PC, Playstation 5 and Xbox Series,

'There's more truth than fiction,' Spielberg says of 'Disclosure Day'



Steven Spielberg

AFP | Las Vegas

Famed US director Steven Spielberg offered a sneak peek of his upcoming film "Disclosure Day" Wednesday, his latest movie about aliens and humanity since he first tapped into the genre 50 years ago. Spielberg presented the film at CinemaCon in Las Vegas, the annual conference where movie studios present upcoming releases to movie theater owners. The film shows humanity crossing paths with extraterrestrial life, a plot reminiscent of his 1977 film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"A half a century later, I made Disclosure Day with a lot more certainty that there's more truth than fiction in the movie," Spielberg told the crowd at the Colosseum at Caesar's Palace. "Disclosure Day," which opens June 12 in the United States, stars Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Eve Henson and Colman Domingo, among others. "This movie is an experience, and all you need to get from the beginning to the end is a seatbelt," Spielberg said. The 79-year-old veteran filmmaker said he's been curious about "what's happening in the night sky" since he was a child.

"This movie is an experience, and all you need to get from the beginning to the end is a seatbelt. I truly believe that this movie is going to answer questions, and cause you to ask a lot of questions"

STEVEN SPIELBERG

"I truly believe that this movie is going to answer questions, and cause you to ask a lot of questions," he teased. The thrice Oscar-winning director received an award from the Motion Picture Association during his appearance at CinemaCon. Spielberg also discussed the importance of long theatrical release windows, as streaming platforms continue to take a bite out of box office revenues. "I am particularly excited that Universal has recently announced their commitment to a 45-day window for the wide releases," Spielberg said. "But today I hear 60 days?" he joked. CinemaCon continues Wednesday night with a presentation from Amazon MGM studios.

Marvel premieres first 'Avengers: Doomsday' trailer at CinemaCon

AFP | Las Vegas

Disney showcased the first theatrical trailer of the new Marvel franchise film "Avengers: Doomsday" on Thursday during the closing day of CinemaCon in Las Vegas. The clip -- played twice for the enthusiastic audience at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace -- offered the first look at Robert Downey Jr. as the villainous Doctor Doom. It marks the actor's return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe since the death of Iron Man in 2019's "Avengers: Endgame." The footage also teased several dramatic moments from the movie, including a fight between Gambit and Shang-Chi



US actor Chris Evans (R), US actor Robert Downey Jr. (R) and US filmmaker Joe Russo (C) promote "Avengers: Doomsday"

-- played by Channing Tatum and Simu Liu, respectively -- and Patrick Stewart reprising his role as X-Men's Professor Xavier, warning: "Something's coming, something we may not

be able to deter." At the very end of the trailer, Chris Evans returns as his character Steve Rogers, otherwise known as Captain America, appearing before a surprised-looking Thor (Chris Hemsworth) as the Norse god's Mjolnir hammer flies into Rogers' hands. Both Evans and Downey Jr. were on the stage at CinemaCon to present the trailer alongside the film's directors, brothers Joe and Anthony Russo. "I said I would only come back if there was a real reason," Evans told the crowd. "And in Doomsday, there is a very real reason that these heroes need Steve Rogers."