



A poster for the Warner Bros. movie "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice".

'Batman v Superman' flies to \$300 million domestically

With no fanfare, Warner Bros.' "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" has crossed the \$300 million domestic milestone in its 20th day in theaters. The superhero tent pole took in \$1.25 million at 4,102 North American locations on Wednesday, lifting its total to \$301.2 million. "Batman v Superman" became the 58th movie to take in at least \$300 million at the US box office. The movie began impressively with an opening domestic weekend of \$166 million the seventh highest of all time. But amid poor reviews and a middling B Cinemascore, it faded quickly with a 69% plunge in its second weekend, followed by a 55% slide in its third weekend as it finished in second place at \$23.4 million, just behind the opening of Melissa McCarthy's "The Boss."

Disney's "The Jungle Book" is expected to dominate this weekend with about \$70 million in its US opening. "Batman v Superman" will probably decline by another 50% to around \$10 million to \$12 million.

On the international front, Warner Bros. reported Wednesday that its foreign gross had topped the \$500 million mark. China is the top market at \$93.5 million, followed by the UK at \$47.6 million.

It now appears the movie won't be a money-loser. With a massive \$250 million budget plus an extensive marketing push, analysts had projected that "Batman v Superman" would need to gross at least \$800 million worldwide to be profitable. Disney's "Zootopia" will be the next film to reach \$300 million domestically. It has \$298.5 million after six weeks in theaters along with \$556 million internationally. — Reuters

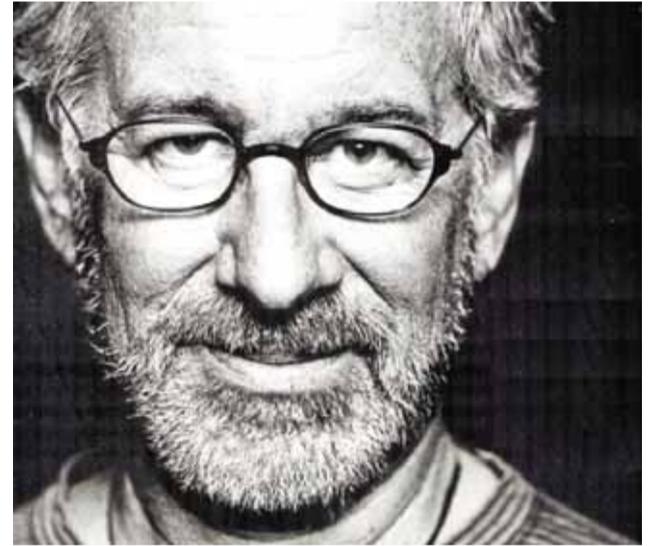
Steven Spielberg to produce 'Voyeur's Motel,' Sam Mendes directing

Steven Spielberg is producing a movie version of Gay Talese's upcoming novel "The Voyeur's Motel" for DreamWorks with Sam Mendes directing. Mendes will produce through his Neal Street Productions company. Mendes, who directed the James Bond movies "Skyfall" and "Spectre," has directed a trio of titles for DreamWorks—his debut on "American Beauty," "The Road to Perdition" and "Revolutionary Road."

DreamWorks won an auction for the rights to Talese's novel. CAA brokered the auction. The story centers on Colorado resident Gerald Foos, who opened a hotel so he could watch guests having sex. Foos had reached out to Talese in 1980 with the following note:

"Dear Mr. Talese: Since learning of your long awaited study of coast-to-coast sex in America, which will be included in your soon to be published book, 'Thy Neighbor's Wife,' I feel I have important information that I could contribute to its contents or to contents of a future book."

An excerpt of "The Voyeur's Motel" ran in the April 11 issue of the New Yorker. The novel will be published July 12 by Grove Press. CAA brokered the deal on behalf of Mendes and Talese. Mendes is also represented by attorney Melanie Cook of Ziffren Brittenham. Talese is represented for publishing by Lynn Nesbit of Janklow & Nesbit. — Reuters



American director, producer and screenwriter Steven Spielberg.

'Jungle Book' roars to robust \$4.2 million on Thursday night

Disney's "The Jungle Book" roared to a robust \$4.2 million on Thursday night. Warner Bros. scored \$735,000 in Thursday night showings of the comedy sequel "Barber Shop: The Next Cut." "The Jungle Book," whose previews began at 7 p.m., is expected to dominate the US box office this weekend, opening in the \$70 million range at 4,028 venues. The live action and CG hybrid, directed by Jon Favreau, has been embraced by critics and carries a 95% Rotten Tomatoes score. Its \$4.2 million preview number matched that of "Maleficent" and was ahead of "Cinderella," "Oz" and "Zootopia." Disney is so confident about the impending success of the family film, which carries a \$175 million budget, that it's already started developing a sequel.

Should "The Jungle Book" hit \$75 million, it would match Disney's animated hit "Zootopia" for the third-best opening of the year after "Batman v Superman" at \$166 million and "Deadpool" at \$132.4 million. It would also become the fourth-best April launch, following last year's "Fast 7" with \$147.1 million, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" with \$95 million and "Fast Five" with \$86.2 million.

"The Jungle Book" is the latest in Disney's live-action reimagining of classic stories. "Cinderella" took in \$67.9 million on its debut weekend last year en route to a \$201.2 million domestic total and a \$542.7 million global cume. "Maleficent" opened two years ago with \$69.4 million on its way to a \$241.4 million domestic total and \$758.5 million worldwide.

The low end of estimates for "The Jungle Book" is around \$65 million. The movie is based on the Rudyard Kipling story about Mowgli, an abandoned human boy who becomes friends with jungle animals after being raised by wolves. Favreau's film includes Bill Murray voicing Baloo the bear, Ben Kingsley as Bagheera the panther, Scarlett Johansson as Kaa the snake and Lupita Nyong'o as the mother wolf Raksha. Newcomer Neel Sethi stars as Mowgli.

The fourth weekend of "Batman v Superman" and Melissa McCarthy's "The Boss" will battle for third place in the \$11 million to \$13 million range. Warner Bros.' superhero clash topped \$300 million in the US on Wednesday along with the \$500 million mark internationally. It's dropping more than 500 US locations to about 3,500.

MGM-New Line's comedy sequel "Barber Shop: The Next Cut" should also generate solid business in its opening weekend with at least \$25 million at 2,661 sites. Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Jazmin Lewis, Sean Patrick Thomas and Eve have been in all three films. Common, Regina Hall and Nicki Minaj are joining "The Next Cut." MGM oversaw production and Warner Bros. is handling distribution. Critics have shown strong support with a 91% Rotten Tomatoes score. "Barber Shop" opened in 2002 with \$20 million on its way to \$75 million domestically, followed by 2004's "Barber Shop 2: Back in Business" with a \$24 million launch and a \$65 million total. — Reuters

