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BTS



English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran speaks on stage during the MTV Europe Music Awards at the Laszlo Papp Budapest Sports Arena in Budapest, Hungary.



English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran performs on stage. — AFP photos

ED SHEERAN, BTS WIN BIG AT MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARDS

The chart-topping K-pop stars won four gongs at the ceremony in Hungary, including Best Pop, Best K-Pop, Biggest Group and Biggest Fans. Ed Sheeran also enjoyed a triumphant night at the Laszlo Papp Budapest Sports Arena, where he won the Best Artist and Best Song accolades. The 30-year-old pop star was given the Best Song gong for his hit single 'Bad Habits', which features on his recently-released album '-'. Other big-name winners included Nicki Minaj, who was named the winner of the Best Hip Hop accolade. David Guetta won the Best Electronic crown at the awards ceremony in the Hungarian capital, while Yungblud was named the Best Alternative artist. Rap star Saweetie hosted the show, which marked the first in-person EMAs since 2019. The 28-year-old rapper - who changed outfits through-



Lil Nas X

out the night and performed on stage - also claimed the Best New prize. In her acceptance speech, the 'My Type' hit-maker said: "Thank you to my team who

have been working non-stop 24 hours, seven days a week. We work non-stop, really. And it's been paying off. "I am so grateful to my fans, who have been supporting me. Y'all been riding with me since I've been rapping in my car." The rapper also thanked her family and friends for the support she's received from them.

Saweetie said: "Thank you for the unconditional support while I chase my dreams. Trust me y'all, this is only the beginning. "Hungary, I love you. Thank you for the support." Meanwhile, Olivia Rodrigo - who released her debut album, 'Sour', in May - won the Best Push award, while Maluma was named the Best Latin artist. However, Justin Bieber - who had as many as eight nominations - didn't win any awards on the night.

MTV Europe Music Awards winners:

Best Artist: Ed Sheeran
Best Pop: BTS
Best Song: Ed Sheeran, 'Bad Habits'
Best Video: Lil Nas X, 'Montero (Call Me By Your Name)'
Best Collaboration: Doja Cat ft. SZA, 'Kiss Me More'
Best New: Saweetie
Best Electronic: David Guetta
Best Rock: Maneskin
Best Alternative: Yungblud
Best Latin:

Maluma
Best Hip Hop: Nicki Minaj
Best K-Pop: BTS
Best Group: BTS
Best Push: Olivia Rodrigo
Biggest Fans: BTS
Video for Good: Billie Eilish, 'Your Power'
MTV EMA Generation Change Award: Amir Ashour, Matthew Blaise, Sage Dolan-Sandrino, Erika Hilton, Viktoria Radvanyi — Bang Showbiz



Italian rock band Maneskin celebrate on stage.



US rapper Saweetie celebrates on stage during the MTV Europe Music Awards.



English singer Yungblud speaks on stage.



US rapper Saweetie performs on stage.



Colombian singer Maluma celebrates on stage.



Viktoria Radvanyi receives the award on stage.

France's **Theis** wins top prize at Thessaloniki film festival

"Softie" by French director Samuel Theis took the top prize at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival on Sunday. Theis, 43, won the Golden Alexander and 10,000 euros (\$11,450) for the gay coming-of-age story of an intelligent 10-year-old named Johnny (Aliona Reinert) set in eastern France. Reinert won the best actor prize at the 62nd edition of the festival in Greece's second city. Theis co-directed "Party Girl" with compatriots Claire Burger and Marie Amachoukeli, a film about and starring his mother Angélique Litzburger, which won Cannes' Camera d'Or prize in 2014.

The festival's Special Jury Award, or Silver Alexander, went to Costa Rican

Swedish director, Natalie Alvarez Mesen, for her feature film "Clara Sola". Nearly two years into the COVID pandemic that forced many film industry events to go online, the Thessaloniki Film Festival combined in-person events with online ones. Greece has seen a surge in cases and deaths, especially in the north, with authorities reporting 80 deaths on Sunday. —AFP



'Eternals' again tops N America box office, beating a big dog

Proving even Marvel superheroes can't always defy gravity, "Eternals" dropped sharply in North American theaters over the weekend but managed to edge out a family-friendly newcomer about a big dog, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. It said "Eternals," distributed by Disney, took in an estimated \$27.5 million for the Friday-through-Sunday period, down from \$71 million the preceding weekend. That was one of the larger second-weekend drops in Marvel's history, according to Variety.

Directed by Oscar-winner Chloe Zhao, "Eternals" stars Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek, Richard Madden and Gemma Chan in the story of an immortal race of aliens who emerge from hiding to save

the Earth. In second place was new Paramount release "Clifford the Big Red Dog," at \$16.4 million. The adaptation of the children's book series by Norman Bridwell follows the adventures of young Emily Elizabeth and her astoundingly large red dog as they tromp through New York City. Family films like "Clifford" and those appealing to older audiences have generally performed weakly in the Covid era, said industry analyst David A. Gross. He said Hollywood's overall recovery remains tenuous, with the US box office since early September down about 35 percent from the 2019 period.

In third place this weekend, down one spot, was Warner Bros sci-fi thriller "Dune," at \$5.5 million. Based on the classic Frank Herbert opus, the story of

survival on a frightening desert planet stars Timothée Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson and Oscar Isaac. Fourth place went to United Artist's James Bond film "No Time to Die," with Daniel Craig in his final appearance as the suave British spy. It took in \$4.6 million in North America, and is approaching \$525 million internationally. And in fifth was Sony superhero film "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," starring Tom Hardy and Michelle Williams, at \$4 million. Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Ron's Gone Wrong" (\$2.2 million)
 "The French Dispatch" (\$1.8 million)
 "Belfast" (\$1.8 million)
 "Spencer" (\$1.5 million)
 "Antlers" (\$1.2 million) — AFP