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Brandon Burgos tattoos a person in the city of Puebla. — AFP photos



Brandon Burgos poses while tattooing a person in the city of Puebla.



Brandon Burgos tattoos a person in the city of Puebla.



Brandon Burgos poses after tattooing a person in the city of Puebla.

Mexican 11-year-old tattooist follows in father's footsteps

Brandon Burgos carefully tattoos a customer's arm in his father's studio in Mexico. He's only 11 years old, but the schoolboy already has around 30 creations to his name. He is following in the footsteps of his father, who says his son has a natural talent. His small hands covered by latex gloves, Brandon uses a tattoo machine under his father's supervision in his small studio in the central city of Puebla. He inks the image of an Egyptian cat's face before carefully cleansing the skin. Brandon is in the last year of elementary school, and while he dreams of being a sailor, his second choice is tattoo artist, he says with a smile.

He first put ink to skin just a year ago, drawing a skull on his father. "I started helping my dad, watching videos, and there's a book that's a tattoo course so I started reading it," he says. After his father came uncles and friends who let Brandon hone his skills on them. "Now more people ask me to tattoo them and, of course, they're giving me confidence and I appreciate it," says Brandon. He no longer feels as nervous as he did when he first tattooed his father. He has even been invited to participate in his first exhibition, in Tepito, a rough neighborhood in Mexico City. His father Jose Burgos, who has been a tattoo artist for seven

years, says it was Brandon's own choice to learn about his trade.

"He liked drawing from the age of six, but with the pandemic he got more involved. The only condition is that he gets good school grades," he says. Before tattooing people, Brandon practiced on synthetic silicone skin and fruit. Now he has no shortage of human canvases. "He's done about 30 tattoos and everyone's satisfied," his father says. "I never imagined that my son would tattoo me. He has a good hand, very light," he adds. —AFP

Clapton guitar tops \$600,000 in rock memorabilia auction

Avintage Eric Clapton guitar sold for \$625,000 in New York at a weekend auction of rock memorabilia that fetched nearly \$5 million in total, Julien Auctions announced. Heralded as the highlight of the sale that concluded late Saturday at the city's Hard Rock Cafe and which also took bids online, the acoustic 1968 Martin D-45 instrument was played by Clapton in 1970 during the debut live concert of his band Derek and the Dominos. The group was behind the classic song "Layla." Julien's had estimated the instrument would sell for \$300,000 to \$500,000.



While outperforming expectations, the price came up well short of the record \$6 million that was paid in 2020 for the acoustic guitar that late Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain strummed during a famous "MTV Unplugged" appearance in 1993. The 76-year-old Englishman Clapton, a rock and blues legend, in recent years has made a very public turn to far-right conservatism, taking ardent stances against Covid-19 vaccination and lockdown measures and facing accusations of racism.

Other guitars that went under the hammer include a 1976 Gibson Explorer stage-played by U2's lead guitarist The Edge that brought \$437,500, and a Fender Stratocaster used by Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour, which sold for a cool \$200,000. Nearly 1,000 lots of memorabilia were sold in the "Icons & Idols: Rock 'N' Roll" auction, which featured objects owned or connected to The Beatles, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, Michael Jackson, Amy Winehouse, Whitney Houston, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Elvis Presley, and the Rolling Stones. — AFP



'Ghostbusters' sequel scares up a N America box office lead

Sony's latest family-friendly plunge into the wacky supernatural, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," took in an estimated \$44 million over the three-day weekend to top the North American box office, industry specialist Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. The film comes 37 years after the first "Ghostbusters" and is packed with references to that classic. Original stars Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Ernie Hudson and Sigourney Weaver all have cameos, and it is directed by Jason Reitman, whose father Ivan Reitman made the original.

This version stars Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon and McKenna Grace in a ghostly tale set not in 1980s Manhattan but decades later in small-town Oklahoma. But no worries: the havoc-wreaking Stay-Puft marshmallow man is back, if only in

miniature, haunting the creepy aisles of a Walmart. Disney/Marvel superhero film "Eternals" in the meantime slipped from first to second for the Friday-through-Sunday period, taking in \$10.8 million. Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek, Richard Madden and Gemma Chan star in the story of an immortal race of aliens who emerge from hiding to save the Earth.

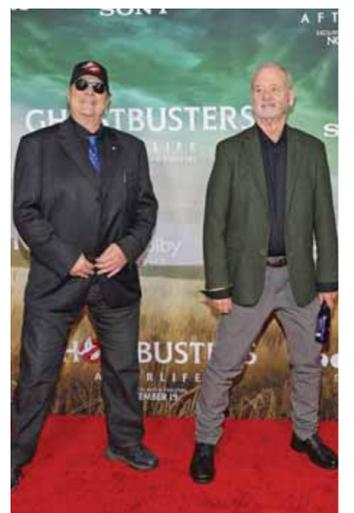
In third, also down one spot, was Paramount's family-friendly "Clifford the Big Red Dog," at \$8.1 million. Based on the children's book series, it follows young Emily Elizabeth and her astoundingly large dog as they tromp through New York City. "King Richard," from Warner Bros., has received what Variety called "rapturous reviews" and created Oscar buzz around Will Smith for his portrayal of Richard Williams, father of tennis superstars Venus

and Serena Williams. (Smith also co-produces.) But its opening weekend, while placing it fourth at the box office, brought in only \$5.7 million, possibly in part because of its simultaneous release on HBO Max.

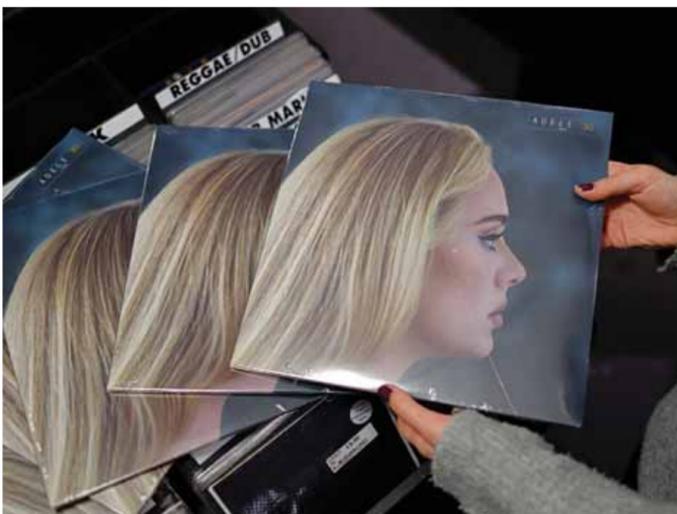
In fifth, down two spots, was Warner Bros. sci-fi spectacular "Dune," at \$3.1 million. This rendition of the Frank Herbert classic stars Timothee Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson and Oscar Isaac in the story of survival on a frightening desert planet. Rounding out the top 10 were:

- "Venom: Let There Be Carnage" (\$2.8 million)
- "No Time to Die" (\$2.7 million)
- "The French Dispatch" (\$970,000)
- "Belfast" (\$940,000)
- "Ron's Gone Wrong" (\$888,000)

—AFP



Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray attend the "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" New York Premiere at AMC Lincoln Square Theater. — AFP photos



In this file photo a member of staff sorts copies of the new album from British singer-songwriter Adele, "30" in Sister Ray record store in the soho area of central London. — AFP

Spotify bows to Adele, drops 'shuffle' as album song playing default

For many musicians, like storytelling superstar Adele, the order of songs on an album is a matter of the keenest concern, affecting how a narrative is presented, how listeners react and ultimately how many albums are sold. That is a big reason why customers of Spotify saw "play" as the album default option Sunday on the world's largest audio streaming service, so songs will be heard in the order they appear on an album-though users can still elect the "shuffle" option.

Adele, whose much anticipated new album "30" shot to the top of the charts

within hours of its release Friday, is among the artists who have campaigned for the "play" choice, and in announcing its change Spotify specifically mentioned her. "As Adele mentioned, we are excited to share that we have begun rolling out a new Premium feature that has been long requested by both users and artists to make play the default button on all albums," a spokesman for the Swedish company said.

"For those users still wishing to shuffle an album, they can go to the Now Playing View and select the shuffle toggle." Adele took to Twitter to express her thanks. "We don't create albums with so much care and thought into our track listing for no reason," she said. "Our art tells a story and our stories should be listened to as we intended. Thank you Spotify for listening." The English singer/songwriter, winner of 15 Grammy Awards and 2016's Billboard Artist of the Year, is known for songs that combine raw, deeply personal feeling with strong musicality. —AFP