



Record-Breaking \$70 Million Weekend for New Film!

Description

The cinematic adaptation of “Wicked” has rapidly ascended to a position of paramount popularity, both within cinemas and via digital platforms. In an exceptional demonstration of transparency regarding downstream revenue streams, Universal Pictures disclosed that this extravagant musical has accrued a staggering \$26 million on its inaugural day and an impressive total of \$70 million within its first week of digital distribution in the United States and Canada.

Officially released on home entertainment platforms on December 31, “Wicked” is available for purchase at \$30 or for rental at \$20, with options for both the original and sing-along versions. According to the studio, this Broadway adaptation has achieved the most substantial first-day and initial week sales for any Universal theatrical release. In a comparative context, Universal’s second-largest video-on-demand launch, “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” garnered \$44 million within its first week of digital sales and rentals.

Universal anticipates that the financial prospects associated with “Wicked” will continue to flourish, as it retains a two-month exclusivity period on home entertainment platforms prior to its availability on Peacock, the streaming service under the NBCUniversal umbrella. Moreover, the announced sequel, “Wicked: For Good,” which chronicles the Broadway show’s second act, is slated for theatrical release a year later, on November 21.

To date, “Wicked: Part One” has generated an astonishing \$682 million at the global box office since its theater debut on November 22. While box office figures are routinely reported, downstream revenues, particularly from premium video-on-demand services, often remain undisclosed or are presented in a manner that lacks forthrightness.

In light of pandemic-induced experimentation, Hollywood studios have recognized the crucial role of theatrical releases in shaping a film's cultural impact, thereby enhancing ancillary revenues such as PVOD. Universal executives have publicly asserted that premium video-on-demand serves as a complementary mechanism rather than a substitute for theatrical releases. For instance, “Wicked” garnered an additional \$10 million domestically in its eighth week in theatres, even while being available for at-home viewing.

Jon M. Chu helmed the PG-rated “Wicked,” featuring a star-studded ensemble including Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Yeoh, and Jonathan Bailey. The narrative unfurls both preceding and subsequent to the events of “The Wizard of Oz,” elucidating the origins of Grande’s Glinda (later recognized as Glinda the Good) and Erivo’s Elphaba (ultimately branded the Wicked Witch of the West) before Dorothy’s arrival in the illustrious land of Oz. This cinematic offering has emerged as the sixth-highest-grossing film of 2024 and has established itself as the preeminent Broadway adaptation in box office history.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Paramount** /'pær.ə.maʊnt/ (adjective): More important than anything else; supreme.
2. **Extravagant** /ɪk'stræv.ə.gənt/ (adjective): Exceeding what is reasonable or appropriate; excessive.
3. **Substantial** /səb'stæn.jəl/ (adjective): Of considerable importance size or worth.
4. **Prospects** /'prɒs.pekts/ (noun): The possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring.
5. **Ancillary** /'æn.sɪ.lər.i/ (adjective): Providing necessary support to the primary activities or operations.
6. **Elucidating** /i'lu:.sɪ.deɪ.tɪŋ/ (verb): Making something clear; explaining.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Which streaming service will have exclusivity on "Wicked" for two months before its availability on Peacock?
Option: Netflix
Option: Hulu
Option: Disney+
Option: Peacock
2. How much did "Wicked" generate on its inaugural day of digital distribution?
Option: \$20 million
Option: \$26 million
Option: \$30 million
Option: \$40 million
3. Which star did not feature in the PG-rated "Wicked" adaptation?
Option: Ariana Grande
Option: Cynthia Erivo
Option: Tom Hanks
Option: Jeff Goldblum
4. What is the total box office revenue generated globally by "Wicked: Part One" since its theater debut?
Option: \$500 million
Option: \$682 million



Option: \$800 million

Option: \$1 billion

5. What is the release date for the announced sequel, "Wicked: For Good"?

Option: December 31

Option: November 21

Option: January 15

Option: March 10

6. How much additional revenue did "Wicked" generate domestically in its eighth week in theaters?

Option: \$4 million

Option: \$6 million

Option: \$8 million

Option: \$10 million

True-False

7. The announced sequel, "Wicked: For Good," will be released a year after the theatrical release of the original "Wicked."

8. Universal Pictures released the musical adaptation "Wicked" on December 31.

9. Premium video-on-demand services are seen as substitutes for theatrical releases by Universal executives.

10. Downstream revenues from premium video-on-demand services are often not disclosed transparently.

11. Jon M. Chu directed the PG-rated "Wicked" adaptation.

12. The narrative in "Wicked" predates the events of "The Wizard of Oz."

Gap-Fill

13. The announced sequel, "Wicked: For Good," chronicles the Broadway show's _____
act.

14. "Wicked: Part One" has generated \$682 million at the global box office since its theater debut on



November _____

15. "Wicked" is available for purchase at \$ _____ or for rental at \$20.

16. Universal Pictures disclosed that "Wicked" accrued a staggering \$ _____ million on its inaugural day.

17. Jon M. Chu helmed the PG-rated "Wicked," featuring a star-studded ensemble including Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Yeoh, and Jonathan _____.

18. Universal anticipates that the financial prospects associated with "Wicked" will continue to flourish, as it retains a two-month exclusivity period on home entertainment platforms prior to its availability on _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Peacock 2. \$26 million 3. Tom Hanks 4. \$682 million 5. November 21 6. \$10 million

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. second 14. 22 15. 30 16. 26 17. Bailey 18. Peacock

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which word means about to happen?

Option: Accolade

Option: Pontifical

Option: Imminent

Option: Succumbed

2. Which word means an award or privilege granted as a special honor?



- Option: Esteemed
- Option: Accolade
- Option: Devastated
- Option: Paramount

3. Which word means intense and passionate feeling?

- Option: Fervor
- Option: Vitality
- Option: Devastation
- Option: Irrevocably

4. Which word means to give in to pressure or defeat?

- Option: Accumulate
- Option: Nominee
- Option: Succumbed
- Option: Alarming

5. Which word means of chief importance or concern?

- Option: Extravagant
- Option: Ancillary
- Option: Paramount
- Option: Perilously

6. Which word means anxiety or fear that something bad will happen?

- Option: Apprehensions
- Option: Obiliterated
- Option: Conflagration
- Option: Substantial

7. Which word means destroyed or desolated?

- Option: Dynamic
- Option: Candidly
- Option: Psychological
- Option: Devastated

8. Which word means the state of being strong and active?

- Option: Esteemed
- Option: Vitality
- Option: Succumbed
- Option: Irrevocably

9. Which word means destroyed completely?

- Option: Alarming



- Option: Esteemed
- Option: Obliterated
- Option: Controversial

10. Which word means causing disagreement or argument?

- Option: Allege
- Option: Controversial
- Option: Elucidating
- Option: Displacing

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Over time debt can _____ and become unmanageable.
12. The bishop wore elaborate and _____ robes for the ceremony.
13. Once a decision is made it is often _____ binding.
14. The rise in crime rates is quite _____ to the residents of the town.
15. The mountaineers ventured _____ close to the edge of the cliff.
16. The celebrity lived a(n) _____ lifestyle spending lavishly on luxury items.
17. After years of hard work she achieved a _____ increase in her salary.
18. The company offers a range of _____ services to complement their main products.
19. The professor gave an _____ explanation of the complex scientific theory.
20. The defendant continued to _____ innocence throughout the trial.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The actor was selected as the official candidate for the award.
22. The professor is highly regarded and respected in the academic community.
23. The massive fire engulfed the entire building within minutes.
24. The aftermath of the hurricane left a trail of destruction and despair.



25. The therapist focuses on the mental well-being and behavior of her patients.
26. His nervousness and fear of failure were evident before the performance.
27. The energetic leader brought new ideas and changes to the organization.
28. She spoke openly and honestly about her feelings on the matter.
29. The prestigious award was a recognition of his exceptional contributions.
30. The ancient ruins were completely wiped out by the catastrophic event.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Imminent 2. Accolade 3. Fervor 4. Succumbed 5. Paramount 6. Apprehensions 7. Devastated 8. Vitality 9. Obliterated 10. Controversial

Gap-Fill: 11. accumulate 12. pontifical 13. irrevocably 14. alarming 15. perilously 16. extravagant 17. substantial 18. ancillary 19. elucidating 20. allege

Matching sentence: 1. Nominee 2. Esteemed 3. Conflagration 4. Devastation 5. Psychological 6. Apprehension 7. Dynamic 8. Candidly 9. Accolade 10. Obliterated

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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