

SCREENDOLLARS NEWSLETTER



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Weekend Box Office Results... 2/2 – 2/4

Courtesy of [Comscore](https://www.comscore.com)

Rank	Title	Wk	Theatres	Wknd \$	% Change	\$ Avg/Theatre	Total \$
1	Argylle (Apple/Universal)	1	3,605	18,000,000	-	4,993	18,000,000
2	The Chosen: Season 4 Episodes 1-3 (Fathom Events)	1	2,263	6,035,823	-	2,667	7,469,039
3	The Beekeeper (Amazon/MGM)	4	3,277	5,286,616	-21	1,613	49,428,992
4	Wonka (Warner Bros.)	8	2,901	4,765,000	-16	1,643	201,121,372
5	Migration (Universal)	7	2,830	4,110,000	-16	1,452	106,179,285
6	Mean Girls (Paramount)	4	3,107	4,000,000	-42	1,287	66,391,038
7	Anyone But You (Sony)	7	2,619	3,500,000	-24	1,336	76,281,654
8	American Fiction (Amazon/MGM)	8	1,902	2,301,532	-11	1,210	15,013,037
9	Poor Things (Searchlight)	9	1,950	2,128,000	-27	1,091	28,184,223
10	Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (Warner Bros./DC)	7	1,742	2,015,000	-26	1,157	120,788,619

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ARGYLLE Falls Short



With high-profile ARGYLLE opening this weekend and no NFL games to contend with (flag football at the Pro Bowl doesn’t count!), it seemed that moviegoing would be reinvigorated after a disappointing January. Last month, all four weekends produced lower grosses than the same weekends last year. Since the end of the pandemic, the industry has enjoyed a consistently upward trend but all that came to an end at the turn of the new year. Last year on this same weekend, KNOCK AT THE CABIN and 80 FOR BRADY opened to \$14.1M and \$12.7M respectively with all movies together generating \$79.7M in box office. This year, the weekend came in at a disappointing \$61.8M.

Apple and Universal’s ARGYLLE led all movies with \$18.0M in its opening

weekend. Optimists had hoped for a result in the low- to mid- \$20M’s but the actuals were well short of this. The spy thriller was directed by Matthew Vaughn, who also directed the KINGSMAN trilogy of features. Over the past ten years, KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (2014), KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE (2017) and THE KING’S MAN (2021) grossed a robust \$951.9M worldwide.

The style of Vaughn’s ARGYLLE has been compared to his earlier work in the KINGSMAN movies, and it was expected to draw a similar response. The movie tells the story of Elly Conway, a reclusive author of a popular series of spy novels about a secret agent named Argylle who works to expose a global spy syndicate. However, the line

between fiction and reality begins to blur when events in her own life begin to mirror the plot of her novels. The movie includes a star-studded cast with Henry Cavill, Bryce Dallas Howard, Sam Rockwell, Bryan Cranston, Dua Lipa, John Cena and Samuel L. Jackson. Critics have given it an unambiguous thumbs down with a 35% score on Rotten Tomatoes, while audiences were more positive with a 70% rating.

This is the third movie from Apple Studios to be released exclusive in theatres over the last four months, reflecting the \$1B annual commitment to theatrical releasing that the company announced last March. Here is a summary of results from those films.

APPLE STUDIOS THEATRICAL EXCLUSIVE RELEASES

Title	Release Date	Distributor	Production Budget	Director	Gross Performance		
					Opening Weekend	Total Domestic	Total Worldwide
Killers of the Flower Moon	10/20/23	Paramount	\$200M	Martin Scorsese	\$23.3M	\$67.1M	\$156.7M
Napoleon	11/22/23	Sony	\$200M	Ridley Scott	\$20.6M	\$61.4M	\$219.4M
Argylle	2/2/24	Universal	\$200M	Matthew Vaughn	\$18.0M	TBD	TBD

- Our key observations are:
- 1) All movies have had \$200m production budgets, making the climb to profitability a steep one.
 - 2) Each movie’s theatrical release has been managed by a different studio, as Apple may be conducting “try outs” for its preferred long-term distribution partner.
 - 3) With KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON and NAPOLEON grossing \$376.1M worldwide, we estimate that Apple will have netted approximately \$188M of that amount, which helps defray the cost of production.

Combined with a parallel commitment by Amazon to spend \$1B each year to produce eight to ten movies for theatrical release, the two streamers are directing significant resources to support the theatrical moviegoing experience. We have only to look at this weekend’s box office to see that this is having an impact, with Apple’s ARGYLLE finishing #1 and Amazon’s THE BEEKEEPER finishing #3.

Fathom Events’ release of Angel Studios’ THE CHOSEN SEASON 4: EPISODES 1-3 finished in second place with a three day total of \$6.0M and \$7.5M over the four days since its Thursday opening. This release is part of a novel partnership between Fathom and Angel to bring to theatres collections of episodes from the highly successful TV series THE CHOSEN. The result is a feature-length product that fans of the series can enjoy on the big screen. The same approach was used last year when the final two episodes of THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 were released as a theatrical feature, earning a very healthy gross of \$1.67M on the day it opened (Thursday, 2/2/23) and \$5.5M over its planned one week run (2/2/23 - 2/8/23). This year, all episodes from THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 will be released to theatres, followed by subsequent availability on streaming. Here is that schedule:

2/1 – 2/14	THE CHOSEN SEASON 4: EPISODES 1-3
2/15 – 2/28	THE CHOSEN SEASON 4: EPISODES 4-6
2/29 – 3/6	THE CHOSEN SEASON 4: EPISODES 7-8

This ambitious experiment may test the appetite of the series’ fans to go to theatre to get the earliest view of the new season’s episodes. It is possible that the opening weekend of each of these releases will wind up among the top five box office performers. The last release in the set will play for only one week, because Angel is releasing their next full-length feature movie CABRINI on March 7th and wants to clear the way for as many of their devoted followers as possible to see it.

Amazon’s THE BEEKEEPER finished in third place with \$5.3M, a decline of

21% from last weekend. This brings its total gross to \$49.9M domestic and \$114.9M worldwide. In our Sunday report last week, we listed THE BEEKEEPER as the top grossing film of 2024 so far. We also projected that it would be surpassed by ARGYLLE, but after this weekend’s very sluggish start, we now expect THE BEEKEEPER to remain the top movie of the year until DUNE: PART TWO rockets past it after March 1st opening.

WONKA continues a satisfying run by finishing fourth and adding \$4.8M, a drop of 16% from last weekend.

After 52 days in theatres, WONKA has amassed \$201.1M domestic and \$558.6M worldwide.

MIGRATION was able to take in \$4.1M, a decline of 16%. After 45 days, its total box office stands at \$106.2M domestic and \$216.7M worldwide.

On the one hand, it has been satisfying to see these two pictures hold on so well, still placing in the top five in their third calendar month in theatres. On the other hand, the industry would have been better served if studios had released more quality movies over that period.

Where Are We as of 2/1

After the first four weeks of the year, the 2024 box office has come in at 88% compared with the same weeks in 2023, and 62% compared with 2019.

2024 VS. 2023	2024 VS. 2019
YEAR TO DATE – 4 WEEKS – 2024: \$441,317,000 2023: \$499,044,000 88%	YEAR TO DATE – 4 WEEKS – 2024: \$441,317,000 2019: \$706,687,000 62%

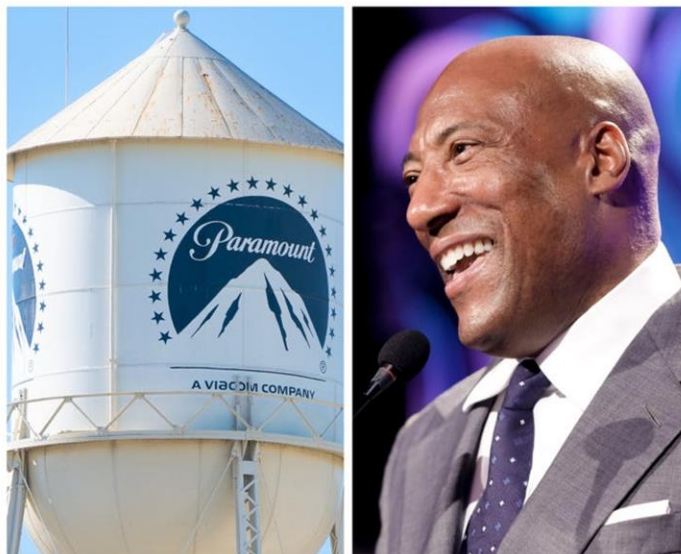
Allen Media Group Makes \$14.3 Billion Offer for Paramount Global

Wall Street Journal

With each passing week, the line of suitors expressing interest in Paramount Global continues to grow longer. The latest news on this front is that media mogul Byron Allen has sent emails and text messages outlining his proposal to Paramount execs including CEO Bob Bakish and controlling shareholder Shari Redstone. Allen's bid is reported to amount to \$14.3 billion for the company and an additional arrangement to cover outstanding debts that would increase the sum to as much as \$30 billion.

This offer is the most recent in a series of proposals that Redstone has received for her stake in Paramount Global's media businesses. Others include "frameworks" for a possible deal submitted by David Zaslav at Warner Bros. and David Ellison at Skydance Media.

In recent years, Allen [has floated a number of bids to acquire large media and entertainment companies](#), including one for Paramount in April 2023 and cable channels ABC, BET, and True Crime Network. However, the fact that none of those offers have resulted in an actual transaction leads some to doubt the viability of this latest proposal for Paramount. Allen has made his fortune with cable networks, and did manage to reel in The Weather



Channel for \$300 million in 2018. Allen has scooped up other cable assets while traditional media companies have retreated from the sector, telling CNBC that cable channels are "still great businesses if you know how to manage them properly." With Allen focused on cable assets and Ellison on the film studio, [some reports have surfaced that the two may team up to partition the various Paramount assets according to their areas of expertise.](#)

U.S. 'Avatar' Workers Vote to Unionize In Boost for VFX Organizing Effort

Hollywood Reporter



The movement for Hollywood's special effect workers to unionize scored a victory this week when VFX artists from the Disney subsidiary "TCF US Productions 27 Inc." voted to join the established IATSE Union.

Over 75% of the 88 employees at the VFX house voted to join the IATSE union. The Disney subsidiary is known for its contribution to the special effects in James Cameron's AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER, though they represented

only a small group among the 1000's of VFX specialists that worked on the movie. Their decision shows the increasing influence of labor unions in Hollywood, folding in new areas that have traditionally operated outside of any union.

The IATSE represents nearly 170,000 workers in film, television, and live stage production that fall outside of other Hollywood unions such as the SAG-AFTRA, WGA and DGA. IATSE members includes specialists in fields such as camera operators, sound, hair and makeup, editing and others areas.

Calls for VFX workers to join a labor union have increased as grueling work conditions have been reported on projects such as Sony's [SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE](#) and [multiple Marvel productions](#). Last fall, VFX workers at Marvel Studios [voted unanimously to unionize under the IATSE](#). The concerns of these teams regarding working hours and compensation will be raised during upcoming contract negotiations between the IATSE and AMPTP. Given the debilitating effects of the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes, we expect the IATSE negotiations to take center stage later this year when the existing labor contract is set to expire.

Shankweiler's Next Generation: Meet the New Owners of America's Oldest Drive-In

BoxofficePro



Lauren McChesney and Matt McClanahan from Shankweiler's Drive-In

Shankweiler's Drive-In is the oldest continuously operating drive-in in the state of Pennsylvania, having first opened to the public in 1934. But its future was in doubt when longtime owners Paul and Susan Geissinger considered closing its down while searching for a buyer for their historic theatre.

After coming across a local story on the potential closure of Shankweiler's, nearby residents Lauren McChesney and Matt McClanahan decided to take the plunge and buy out the Geissinger's. Lauren and Matt already operated [The Moving Picture Cinema](#), providing a mobile movie theatre service for use by businesses and communities in Eastern Pennsylvania.

BoxofficePro columnist Chad Kennerk interviewed the new owners about the long and storied history of Shankweiler's and the successes and challenges they have faced. They

provide a positive outlook on the future of the drive-in as they celebrate their 90th anniversary in operation. This story showcases just one case of many in which a new generation of owners are taking drive-ins, bringing new ideas and investment. Many of these business owners gathered last week at the annual [UDITOA Drive-In Convention](#) in Orlando, Florida to share stories and enjoy the camaraderie of this unique group of entrepreneurs. Nearly 300 outdoor movie theatres operate in the U.S., most of which are run by local families and community organizations, and represent an important sector of exhibition. Screendollars enjoyed meeting the new owners of theatres such as the [Rose City Drive-In](#), [Skyview Drive-In](#), and [WesMer Drive-In](#) among others.

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Studio Release Calendar (2/9– 3/14)

2/9/24 (Week 6)

Prior Year Results

2023 Week 6 Box Office: \$53,927,454

Lisa Frankenstein (Focus Features) <i>Led by rising stars Kathryn Newton and Cole Sprouse, popular among Gen Z audiences, this horror-comedy take on the classic Frankenstein tale could be appealing to young women (as well as fans of writer Diablo Cody).</i>	PG-13 Comedy Fantasy Horror	101	Digital, Flat, 5.1, 4K	Wide (3,000) \$8M-\$10M Open \$30M-\$35M+ Total (Trend: UP)
Turning Red (Disney/Pixar) Reissue <i>Short subject: Kitbull. Included in full run time.</i>	PG Animation	109	Digital, Flat, 3D, 2D PLF, D-Box	Moderate (500-1,000)
Out of Darkness (Bleecker Street)	R Horror	87	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate (800)
The Monk and the Gun (Roadside)	PG-13 Foreign Drama	112	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Moderate (100)
AXCN: Paprika - Satoshi Kon Fest (Iconic)	R Anime	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/7 Event
Ennio (Music Box Films) <i>Ennio Morricone</i>	NR Biography History Music Documentary	156	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/9 NYC (Film Forum)
The Private Eye (Aleutian Islands)	R Thriller Mystery Romance Comedy	155	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Molli and Max in the Future (Level 33)	NR Sci-Fi Romance Comedy	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Popular Theory (Blue Fox)	PG Adventure Comedy	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
The Taste of Things (IFC Films)	Drama History Romance	145	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Perfect Days (NEON) Wim Wenders-D	PG Documentary	125	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/7 Limited
Lola (Vertical Entertainment)	NR Drama	84	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Pandora's Box (Janus Films) <i>Silent film masterpiece German intertitles w/ English subtitles</i>	NR Drama	141	2K DCP, Proludio & Blu-ray, Classic B/W	2/14 Streaming
Drift (Utopia)	NR Drama	93	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Float (Lionsgate Premiere)	PG-13 Romance Drama	100	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/VOD
Skin Deep (Kino Lorber)	NR Drama	103	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited Expansion
Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive (Fathom)	NR Music Documentary	110	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/13 Event
Poppa's Cinema Party (Trafalgar)	NR Family Animation	65	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/9 Event
5lbs of Pressure (Lionsgate Premiere)	R Crime Thriller	N/A	N/A	Limited
Cobweb (Samuel Goldwyn Films)	NR Comedy Drama	135	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/VOD

2/16/24 (Week 7)

Prior Year Results

2023 Week 7 Box Office: \$168,782,562

Madame Web: One Love (Sony/Columbia) <i>Cassandra Webb is a fictional character published by Marvel Comics first appearing in The Amazing Spider-Man #210. Madame Web has appeared in or served as inspiration for several Spider-Man related media.</i>	PG-13 Action Adventure Sci-Fi	N/A	PG-13, Scope, 5.1/7.1, 4K, IMAX, MXP, PLF	2/14 Wide (3,000) \$80M-\$100M Total (Trend: DOWN)
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THE FILM VERDICT

“Acquisitions Begin With a TFV Review”

Bob Marley: One Love (Paramount) <i>Based on the life of reggae singer and songwriter Bob Marley, from his rise to fame up until his death in the early 1980s.</i>	PG-13 Biographical Music Drama	107	Digital, Scope, 5.1 Atmos, Dolby Vision	2/14 Wide (3,000) \$45M-\$50M Total (Trend: STEADY, POSITIVE)
The Chosen: Season 4 Episodes 4-6 (Fathom Events)	Drama History	185	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/15-28 Event (2,000)
Dune: 40th Anniversary (Fathom)	PG-13 Sci-Fi Adventure	137	Digital, Scope, 5.1	2/18-19 Event
The Taste of Things (IFC Films)	Drama History Romance	145	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Moderate Expansion
Amelie (Sony Pictures Classics) <i>2001 Reissue</i>	R Comedy	122	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/14 Limited
Altered Reality (Atlas Distribution)	NR Thriller	94	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Land Of Bad (The Avenue/Variance) <i>Russell Crowe, Liam Hemsworth. Australia</i>	R Action Drama	110	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/16 Moderate (800+)
God & Country: The Rise of Christian Nationalism (Oscilloscope)	PG-13 Documentary	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/16 Limited
Adam The First (Electric Entertainment)	NR Coming Of Age	120	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Bleeding Love (Vertical Ent.)	NR Drama	102	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
Skin Deep (Kino Lorber)	NR Drama	103	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Expansion
UFC 298: Volkanovski vs Topuria (Iconic)	NR Live Boxing	180	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/18 Event Honda Center Anaheim, CA
2024 Oscar Shorts (Magnolia Films)	NR Short Subjects	N/A	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Political War (Reliance Ent.)	NR Drama	137	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Moderate
Good Guy With a Gun (Freestyle)	NR Action Thriller	108	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/ VOD
2/23/24 (Week 8) <u>Prior Year Results</u> 2023 Week 8 Box Office: \$94,795,096				
Ordinary Angels (Lionsgate) <i>Inspired by a true story, in 1994 Louisville, Kentucky, a hairdresser rallies the community to help a widowed father save the life of his critically ill young daughter after Louisville is hit by a major snowstorm. The film was delayed due to competition from the TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR.</i>	PG Drama	130	Digital, Scope, 5.1/7.1	Wide (2,300) \$25M-\$30M Total (Trend: UP)
Drive-Away Dolls (Focus Features) <i>Two female friends embark on a free-spirited trip where things go quickly awry—directed by Ethan Coen. Appeals young female (18-25+)</i>	R Comedy	84	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Wide (2,500+) \$25M-\$30M Total (Trend: UP)
Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba - To The Hashira Training (Sony/Crunchyroll) <i>Last year, DEMON SLAYER: TO THE SWORDSMITH VILLAGE domestic gross opened on 3/3/23 at 1,774 locations and grossed \$10.11B.</i>	NA Anime	130	Digital, Flat, IMAX, 5.1/7.1,	Wide (1,500-1,800) \$25M-\$30M Total
Drugstore June (Shout! Studios)	NR Comedy	91	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Moderate
Thabo And The Rhino Case (Purdie)	NR Family	93	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Moderate
They Shot the Piano Player (Sony Pictures Classics)	PG-13 Animation Musical	104	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA
About Dry Grasses (Sideshow/Janus Films)	NR Drama	197	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA 3/1 Expansion
The Invisible Eight (Kino Lorber)	NR Drama	115	Digital, Scope, Dolby SR	Select (3)
Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children Complete (Fathom)	NR Animated Gaming	140	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/21-22 Event
Nostalgia (Kino Lorber) <i>1983 Reissue</i>	NR Psychological Drama	125	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/21 NYC (Film Forum)
Spaceman (Netflix)	NYR Sci-Fi Drama	107	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited 3/1 Netflix
The Stolen Valley (Blue Fox Ent.)	PG-13 Action Western	105	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
Stopmotion (IFC)	R Horror	94	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
Cold Meat (Level 33)	NR Drama	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

Bring Him To Me (Roadside Attractions)	R Suspense	96	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Red Right Hand (Magnolia)	NR Action Thriller	111	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited/VOD
Golden Years (Music Box Films) <i>Switzerland, 2022</i>	NR Comedy Drama	92	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
A Hip Hop Story (AMC+)	NR Comedy	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Isle Of Hope (Aventura Entertainment)	NR Drama	95	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Io Capitano (Cohen Media Group)	NR Drama	121	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Cold Meat (Level33)	NR Drama	88	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Parallel (Vertical Entertainment) China	NR Sci-Fi Thriller	88	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
Guadalupe: Mother Of Humanity (Goya Productions)	NR Documentary	102	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Blue Christmas (Dreampost Media) <i>NOTE: \$125K production cost</i>	NR Film Noir Fantasy	80	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited

3/1/24 (Week 9)

Prior Year Results

2023 Week 9 Box Office: \$119,397,794

Dune: Part Two (Warner Bros.) <i>Paul Atreides continues his journey, united with Chani and the Fremen, as he seeks revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family, and endeavors to prevent a terrible future that only he can predict. DUNE (2021), \$53.9M open, \$108.3M domestic total.</i>	PG-13 Action Adventure Fantasy	166	Digital, Scope, 5.1/7.1, IMAX & IMAX 70mm, 70mm 2D, Dolby Vision, Screen X, 4DX, DBox, MX4D, Atmos	Wide (4,000+) \$180M-\$220M Total Trend: UP
The Chosen: Season 4: Episodes 7-8 (Fathom Events)	NR Drama History	170	Digital, Flat, 5.1	2/29 Wide (2,000) \$10M-\$15M Total
Shayda (Sony Pictures Classics) <i>Language: Persian, 100% Rotten Tomatoes</i>	PG-13 Drama	117	Digital, Scope, 5.1	NY/LA
Problemista (A24)	R Comedy	105	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NY/LA
A Cat's Life (Sony)	NR Adventure	90	Digital, Flat, 5.1	NY/LA
Amelia's Children (Magnolia Films) <i>Russia</i>	NR Horror Mystery	91	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Drugstore June (Utopia)	NR Comedy	91	Digital, Scope, 5.1	Limited
About Dry Grasses (Sideshow/Janus Films)	NR Drama	177	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Expansion
Outlaw Posse (Quiver Distribution)	R Western Drama	108	Digital, Flat, 5.1	Limited
Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children Complete (Fathom Events)	NR Animation Action Adventure	130	N/A	Event

The Screening Room



NOTABLE TRAILERS



[Adam the First](#)

Electric Entertainment
2/14 Limited



[Accidental Texan](#)

Roadside Attractions
3/8 Moderate



[Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire](#)

Sony
3/22 Wide
(Trailer #2)



[William Shatner: You Can Call Me Bill](#)

Falling Forward Films
3/22 Moderate



[Wicked Little Letters](#)

Sony Pictures Classics
3/29 NY/LA; 4/5 Expansion



[The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare](#)

Lionsgate
4/19 Wide



[Tarot](#)

Sony/Screen Gems
5/10 Wide



[Back to Black](#)

Focus Features
5/17 Wide

**ARGYLLE**

VERDICT: Yet another star-packed, high-gloss caper lacking in wit, stakes, charm, or a reason to exist.

Alonso Duralde | January 31, 2024

As self-consciously excessive — and, ultimately, as pointless — as the extra “L” in its title, *Argylle* is an alleged comedy about a hacky but successful spy novelist (played by Bryce Dallas Howard) who finds herself embroiled in real-life espionage. After 139 torturous minutes, however, it’s evident that the movie isn’t any better written or less terrible than the lead character’s contrived prose.

It’s a joyless, airless affair, a big shiny nothing that ticks off all the boxes of what film critic Lon Harris calls “a Red Notice movie,” named for the tedious caper starring Ryan Reynolds, Gal Gadot, and Dwayne Johnson. This category of film, per Harris, involves all-star casts (given little to do) and globe-trotting locations (wasted among the obvious green-screen scenes); most importantly, this type of movie “straddles the action, comedy, caper, and adventure genres, but commits to none.”

[Full Review](#)