

'Liar, Liar' tops 'Devil's Own'

By Lynn Elber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Harrison Ford and intrigue lost to Jim Carrey and comedy in a box office duel, with Carrey's "Liar Liar" keeping Ford's "The Devil's Own" from a No. 1 debut.



That was the reverse of 1994, when Ford's "Clear and Present Danger" opened in first with \$20.3 million, bumping Carrey's "The Mask" to second in its sophomore week with \$15.2 million.

"Liar Liar," about a lawyer who can't lie, set an Easter weekend record as the comedy grossed \$25.4 million in its second week out.

"The Devil's Own," featuring Ford and Brad Pitt in a drama about Northern Ireland's conflict transported to the United States, opened No. 2 with a weekend take of \$14.3 million.

"The English Patient," in its first weekend since taking the best-picture Oscar and eight other Academy Awards, enjoyed a winner's bounce as it added 40 percent more locations.

The film grossed \$3 million, a 50 percent increase over last weekend, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks box-office receipts.

"Kolya," which won the best foreign language film Oscar, nearly doubled its locations (still a modest 128 screens) and saw its per-screen average jump a whopping 143 percent.

"Return of the Jedi," the last of the "Star Wars" trio to be re-released, was fourth in its third week, while "The Empire Strikes Back" was No. 16. "Star Wars" finally fell out of the top 20 after nine weeks.

The three films' cumulative domestic gross now exceeds \$1 billion.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations:

1. "Liar Liar," Universal, \$25.4 million, 2,853 locations, \$8,895 average, \$71 million, two weeks.
2. "The Devil's Own," Sony, \$14.3 million, 2,504 locations, \$5,701 average, \$18.1 million, one week.
3. "Selena," Warner Bros., \$6.1 million, 1,873 locations, \$3,278 average, \$21.7 million, two weeks.
4. "Return of the Jedi," Fox, \$4.5 million, 1,832 locations, \$2,430 average, \$34.8 million, three weeks.
5. "Jungle 2 Jungle," Disney, \$4.13 million, 2,283 locations, \$1,810 average, \$42.1 million, four weeks.
6. "The Sixth Man," Disney, \$4.1 million, 1,227 locations, \$3,364 average, \$4.1 million, one week.
7. "Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie," Fox, \$3.3 million, 2,113 locations, \$1,562 average, \$3.3 million, one week.
8. "The English Patient," Miramax, \$3 million, 1,409 locations, \$2,143 average, \$67.6 million, 20 weeks.
9. "BAPS," New Line, \$2.7 million, 1,204 locations, \$2,278 average, \$2.7 million, one week.
10. "Private Parts," Paramount, \$2.4 million, 1,848 locations, \$1,305 average, \$38.2 million, four weeks.
11. "Sling Blade," Miramax, \$2.2 million, 992 locations, \$2,190 average, \$15.9 million, 18 weeks.
12. "Donnie Brasco," Sony, \$1.8 million, 1,413 locations, \$1,246 average, \$39.1 million,

13. "Jerry Maguire," Sony, \$1.6 million, 830 locations, \$1,985 average, \$145.4 million, 16 weeks.
14. "Love Jones," New Line, \$1.1 million, 645 locations, \$1,705 average, \$9.3 million, three weeks.
15. "Cats Don't Dance," Warner, \$939,800, 1,252 locations, \$751 average, \$1.2 million, one week.
16. "The Empire Strikes Back," Fox, \$927,600, 591 locations, \$1,570 average, \$65.2 million, six weeks.
17. "Shine," Fine Line, \$797,300, 911 locations, \$875 average, \$33.7 million, 19 weeks.
18. "Michael," New Line, \$783,300, 896 locations, \$874 average, \$92.2 million, 14 weeks.
19. "Kolya," Miramax, \$445,600, 128 locations, \$3,481 average, \$2.2 million, 10 weeks.
20. "101 Dalmatians," Disney, \$411,500, 667 locations, \$617 average, \$134.9 million, 18 weeks.

Jackson baby photos raise funds for charity

By Jeff Wilson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Michael Jackson will raise up to \$3 million for his favorite charity by selling pictures of himself, his bride and newborn son, Prince Michael Jackson Jr.

The money for the photos, appearing in the National Enquirer in the United States and OK! magazine in Britain, will go to Heal the World Foundation, set up by Jackson to help children worldwide.

The Enquirer paid \$2 million for 10 studio-quality photographs of Jackson, Debbie Rowe and the 5-week-old infant. They are the first pictures available in the U.S.

Rights elsewhere, including OK!, could net Jackson another \$1 million, a source close to the Enquirer deal told The Associated Press on condition his name wasn't used.

OK! published a photo of dad, mom and child this week.

Bob Jones, vice president of MJJ Productions, refused to discuss any financial details but he did confirm the money was going to the Heal the World.

Last week, Britain's News of the World published what it called the first picture of Jackson's baby. News of the World said the photo was taken by a guest at Jackson's Neverland Ranch.

"That's not him," said National Enquirer executive editor David Perel, who has seen the official baby pictures supplied by Jackson.

The child, born Feb. 13 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, was named as a tribute to the men in the entertainer's family.

"His grandfather and great-grandfather were named Prince," said Jones, who earlier reported the baby's name as Michael Jackson Jr.

"They changed it!" he said Wednesday.

Jackson and Miss Rowe, a nurse for one of his doctors, were married last November in Australia.

The five-page National Enquirer spread, which includes a question-and-answer interview with the couple, appears in the tabloid next week, Perel said.

The photos, taken in Los Angeles by a Jackson photographer, show the father, mother and child in a variety of poses together and apart, Perel said.

There was also a stern warning to media outlets this week from Harvey Blinksilver, attorney for the National Enquirer. Unauthorized reproduction "would constitute copyright infringement and give rise to other claims as well," the lawyer said in a letter.

In another Jackson-related development, a woman who claims to have had four children with the entertainer was arrested at Neverland, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department said Wednesday.

It was the seventh time Lavon Muhammed, who also uses the name Billy Jean Jackson, has been arrested on Jackson's property in the Los Olivos area of the Santa Ynez Valley, Sgt. Bill Byrne said. She was arrested Monday.

A Los Angeles judge issued a restraining order in 1995 that prohibits the woman from trespassing on Jackson's property. It also bans her from portraying herself as Jackson's wife.

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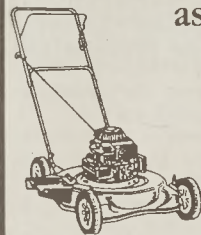


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