

# 'Anaconda' ends Carrey's reign at top

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Snakes put the squeeze on the box office as "Anaconda" opened with \$16.6 million in weekend ticket sales to push "Liar, Liar" out of the No. 1 spot, figures showed Monday.

Jim Carrey's comedy "Liar, Liar" had seemed unstoppable since it garnered the biggest March opening ever, but after four weeks audiences apparently were hungry for something new.

"Anaconda," about scientist-munching killer snakes in the Amazon, was about the only new special-effects film on the marquee because studios are saving their big-budget spectacles for summer.

Despite its share of harsh reviews, "Anaconda" boasted "Selena" star Jennifer Lopez and rapper Ice Cube, who may have drawn young audiences.

"Selena" held its own as well, earning \$1.8 million for 10th place.

The rest of the top 10 were a mixed bag of light comedies, dark comedies, dramas and action-thrillers, linked mainly by the presence of big-name stars.

The biggest at the moment is Carrey, whose role as a slick lawyer forced to tell the truth for 24 hours grossed \$14.5 million and now has reaped \$120 million in four weeks. Its ticket sales dropped just 21 percent from the previous weekend, considered good for a major film.

Tim Allen's comedy "Jungle 2

Jungle" also showed staying power, earning \$2.2 million for seventh place in its sixth week.

The only other film to debut in the top 10 was "Grosse Pointe Blank," a smartly written black comedy about a professional killer (John Cusack) trying to quit the business while attending his high school reunion. It was in fourth place with \$6.9 million behind "The Saint," which had \$10.8 million, according to Exhibitor Relations Co., Inc.

"The Devil's Own," a drama about the relationship between Irish gunman Brad Pitt and Irish-American cop Harrison Ford, was in fifth place with \$4.2 million.

"That Old Feeling," with Bette Midler as a divorcee who finds herself adulterously drawn to her ex, grossed \$3.5 million for sixth place.

The action film, "Double Team," starring Claude Van Damme and basketball star Dennis Rodman, was in eighth place with \$2.1 million, a 58 percent drop in its grosses from the previous week.

The horror film "Scream" came in ninth with \$2 million.

Several films debuted in limited release.

"Paradise Road," starring Glenn Close in a drama about female prisoners of the Japanese during World War II, grossed \$62,518 while the murder mystery "Keys to Tulsa" earned \$28,318. "Cosi," an Australian comedy about mental patients putting on a production of a Mozart opera, grossed \$19,245.

And the re-issue of the John Waters-bad-taste classic "Pink Flamingos" did \$70,188 worth of business.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of the-

ater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Entertainment Data Inc.:

1. "Anaconda," Sony, \$16.6 million, 2,456 locations, \$6,767 average, one week.

2. "Liar Liar," Universal, \$14.5 million, 2,880 locations, \$5,030 average, \$120 million, four weeks.

3. "The Saint," Paramount, \$10.8 million, 2,449 locations, \$4,413 average, \$31.4 million, two weeks.

4. "Grosse Pointe Blank," Disney, \$6.9 million, 1,227 locations, \$5,599 average, one week.

5. "The Devil's Own," Sony, \$4.2 million, 2,355 locations, \$1,775 average, \$35.6 million, three weeks.

6. "That Old Feeling," Universal, \$3.5 million, 1,599 locations, \$2,165 average, \$10.1 million, two weeks.

7. "Jungle 2 Jungle," Disney, \$2.2 million, 1,751 locations, \$1,270 average, \$51 million, six weeks.

8. "Double Team," Sony, \$2.1 million, 2,203 locations, \$957 average, \$8.4 million, two weeks.

9. "Scream," Miramax, \$2 million, 1,270 locations, \$1,587 average, \$88.8 million, 17 weeks.

10. "Selena," Warner Bros., \$1.8 million, 992 locations, \$1,824 average, \$30.5 million, four weeks.

11. "The Sixth Man," Disney, \$1.7 million, 1,185 locations, \$1,439 average, \$11.2 million, three weeks.

12. "Return of the Jedi," Fox, \$1.66 million, 996 locations, \$1,669 average, \$42.1 million, five weeks.

13. "Inventing the Abbotts," Fox, \$1.33 million, 898 locations, \$1,482 average, \$4.3 million, two weeks.

14. "The English Patient," Miramax, \$1.27 million, 1,005 locations, \$1,264 average, \$73 million, 22 weeks.

15. "Sling Blade," Miramax, \$1.1 million, 763 locations, \$1,430 average, \$20 million, 20 weeks.

16. "Jerry Maguire," Sony, \$702,018, 710 locations, \$989 average, \$148.2 million, 18 weeks.

17. "Dante's Peak," Universal, \$700,480, 704 locations, \$995 average, \$64.1 million, 10 weeks.

18. "Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie," Fox, \$648,814, 982 locations, \$661 average, \$7.2 million, three weeks.

19. "BAPS," New Line, \$553,490 million, 643 locations, \$861 average, \$6.4 million, three weeks.

20. "Michael," New Line, \$484,553, 494 locations, \$981 average, \$93.8 million, 16 weeks.

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# Khan fits into 'quiet storm'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The voice of veteran soul singer Chaka Khan can still be heard over the airwaves — on her own radio show.

The program, "Romance After Hours," seemed a natural fit for the sultry-voiced Khan, said Tony Coles, the program director for Burbank-based KIBB-FM, known as the New B100.

"Chaka was talking on our morning show and they put some listeners on with her," he said. "She handled them so well and she's got this tremendous voice."

As in interviewer, Khan, 44,



Chaka Khan

says she has tried to keep her questions fresh after years of fielding queries from music journalists.

"I know how boring it can get to answer the same question

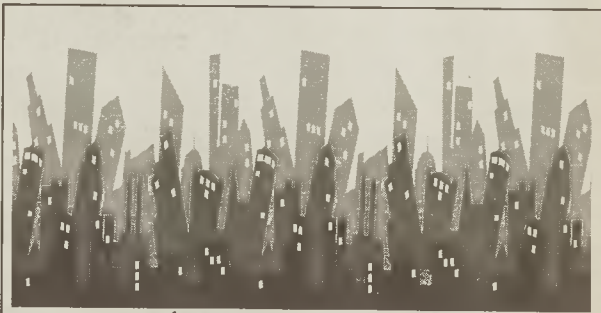
over and over again," she said. "So I try not to come from there. Hopefully, it's working."

Khan agreed to a six-week trial period that ended in mid-March, and the station is excited about the long-term possibilities.

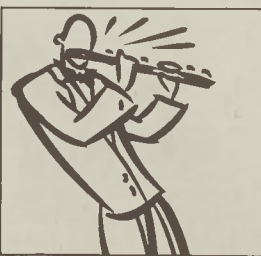
Her program consists mainly of soulful ballads from the '70s to '90s that range from hits by Earth, Wind & Fire to Toni Braxton. She's also eager to expand the show's format to include jazz, her first musical love while growing up in Chicago.

"Romance After Hours" airs Mondays through Thursdays from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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# What's Up



PERFORMANCES

C.O.T.O: CHOCOLATE ON THE OUTSIDE, a play by April Turner, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday April 30, at

Spirit Square. Tickets are \$5. Discussion to follow the reading.

Auditions for Bubbling Brown Sugar, 7:30 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Theatre Charlotte, 501 Queens Road. Must sing and dance.

If you have information about black entertainment events, meetings, lectures or any other events of interest, send it to What's Up! The Charlotte Post, 1531 Camden Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays.

COCA-COLA COMMUNITY CONNECTION

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Always Refreshing: With summer right around the corner we are beginning to see temperatures rise and The Coca-Cola Community Connection Music Van will be on patrol giving away ice cold Coca-Cola Product. If you would like the Music van to appear at your event call Jeff Lowery at 393-4365

**"The Sierra Leone Organization"**  
The Sierra Leone Organization Cordially Invites you to attend their 1997 Independence Celebration. The Grand Celebration Dance takes place, Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 pm until at the Airport Days Inn 3101 South I-85 Service Road. For more information call 532-5158.

**"Beta Psi Phi Stomp Fest"**  
Beta Psi Phi is having a stomp fest at McCrorey YMCA on Beatties Ford Road on April 26, 1997 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Come out to see some of the highest steppers in town. For more information call 398-1272.

**"GOSPELFEST 97"**  
GOSPELFEST 97 is happening Sunday, April 20th at the Independence Arena. Featuring John P. Kee and the New Life Community Choir, Vicki Winans, Alberta Walker, Clifton Davis and many others. Proceeds go towards "Project Restore and Rebirth." For more details call 335-3100.

**"Spring Artshop Series"**  
The Afro-American Cultural Center is hosting Spring Artshop a series designed to give children and adults an opportunity to learn more about African and African American culture and heritage through interactive workshops. The eight-week series will be on Saturdays, beginning on April 12th through May 31st. For additional details call 374-1565

**"Coca-Cola/Food Lion Dream Sweepstakes"**  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated and Food Lion encourages you to stop by a participating Food Lion, look for the Coca-Cola display and enter your name for a chance to win the grand prize. A dream day prize pack complete with dinner for two, limousine service to and from dinner, \$100 cash towards products and services at a SPA of your choice and a \$150 Food Lion gift certificate. No purchase necessary. Always Happening..... Always Coca-Cola

**"HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE CONNECTED"**  
Submit, in writing, on your organizations letterhead, the title of your event, date, location, contact person and telephone number for your activity to:  
COMMUNITY CONNECTION  
5001 Chesapeake Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216 Attn: Jeff Lowery • Phone: 393-4365 • Fax: 393-4265  
If you are interested in the Coca-Cola Community Music Van appearing at your non-profit event call: 393-4365 • FAX 393-4265

AKWAABA: The AKWAABA Drum Troups make beautiful music at an appearance at the Eckerds grand opening at the corner of N. Tryon and Sugar Creek.