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CULTURE | 07 DAILY NEWS



"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" has brought in \$891.5 million.

Spidey keeps spinning gold for at box office

LOS ANGELES

"Spider-Man" held the box office in its web on Aug. 30 for a fifth consecutive week, displaying major staying power for a summer blockbuster that faced fierce competition from "The Odyssey."

Sony's "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" has now brought in \$891.5 million in the United States and Canada and an additional \$1.44 billion internationally, according to industry watcher Exhibitor Relations.

Debuting in second place with \$15.5 million was "Coyote vs. ACME," a family-friendly animation/live action hybrid from Warner Bros. that explores the connection between children's entertainment and the financial interests of corporate America. The third Looney Tunes feature film stars professional wrestler-turned-actor John Cena, Will Forte and Lana Condor, along with several animated characters of yore.

Holding steady in third spot was Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey." The latest "Spider-Man," the Universal film based on Homer's ancient poem, slipping from second to fourth place was the Sony Pictures-distributed "Insidious: Out of the Further," which earned \$10.1 million in its second week.

Entering at fifth was 20th Century's "The Dog Stars," a post-apocalyptic drama directed by Ridley Scott.

Venice Film Festival to open with stars, Oscar buzz

The 83rd Venice Film Festival kicks off tomorrow with stars including Robert Pattinson, Penélope Cruz and George Clooney, while films on Elon Musk, Russia and Gaza bring political controversy

VENICE

After a relatively quiet August for Hollywood glamour, the Venice Film Festival is ready to launch the fall film festival season with a star-studded lineup, major Oscar contenders and documentaries tackling Elon Musk, Russia and the war in Gaza.

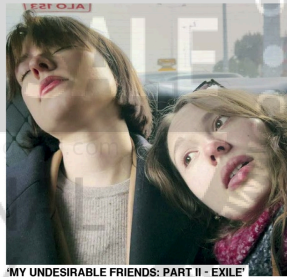
The 83rd edition of the festival opens Wednesday on the Lido, with stars including Noel and Liam Gallagher, Robert Pattinson, Rooney Mara, George Clooney and Penélope Cruz expected on the red carpet.

But while Hollywood glamour remains a major attraction, this year's festival is also drawing attention for politically charged documentaries and a notable gender imbalance in its main competition.

One of the most anticipated films is Oscar-winning director Alex Gibney's nearly four-hour documentary about Elon Musk, which has been in production for almost four years.

Musk has called the film a "hit piece" on social media, while Gibney said he initially approached the project as an admirer of Musk and a Tesla owner. Musk ultimately declined to participate. "Ultimately, he didn't want to talk to me," Gibney told The Associated Press.

Gibney said his research led him to challenge the image of Musk as a modern-day Leonardo da Vinci. Instead, he described the Tesla and SpaceX chief as "a confidence man."



MY UNDESIRABLE FRIENDS: PART II - EXILE



WILD HORSE NINE



VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Another major documentary is Julia Lokteva's "My Undesirable Friends: Part II - Exile," which follows independent Russian journalists who fled the country after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The nearly six-hour film continues Lokteva's portrait of journalists who chose exile rather than stop reporting on the war or face imprisonment. The story unfolds over four years, during

which exile becomes increasingly permanent.

The war in Gaza is also represented through "NAZA," a late addition to the competition from two filmmakers behind the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land."

Unlike last year, no major protests are planned at the festival. However, the Venice4Palestine group has called on organizers to suspend agreements with entities linked to the Israeli government and has requested that the Palestinian flag be flown throughout the festival.

Hollywood eyes the Oscars

Venice is traditionally an important stop on the road to the Academy Awards, with films

premiering at the festival often becoming major Oscar contenders. Martin McDonagh's "Wild Horse Nine," starring John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell as CIA agents in the 1970s, is among the films attracting awards attention.

Florian Zeller returns with "Bunker," a psychological thriller starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem, while Danny Boyle's "Ink" explores a turning point in tabloid media.

There is also considerable interest in Lance Oppenheim's "Primer," starring Robert Pattinson and examining reality television culture in the early 2000s.

Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda will premiere "Look Back," about two girls

from a small town who dream of becoming manga artists. Korean director Lee Chang-dong returns with "Possible Love," exploring labor and freedom through two married couples.

This year, however, Venice arrives at a moment when Hollywood appears less dependent on the prestige of international festivals. The U.S. industry has just experienced one of its strongest summer box offices, while the reigning best picture winner, "One Battle After Another," skipped the festival circuit entirely.

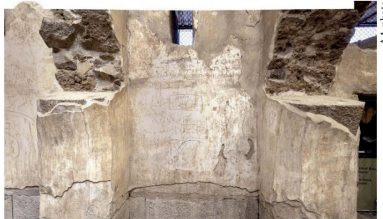
The festival is also facing renewed criticism over the lack of women directors in its main competition. Only one of the competition films is directed by a woman: Danish-Egyptian filmmaker May El-Toukhy.

The situation echoes 2018, when the festival pledged to have at least half of its competition films directed by women by 2020. That target has still not been achieved.

Maggie Gyllenhaal, whose directorial debut "The Lost Daughter" won Venice's best screenplay award in 2021, is presiding over this year's jury. The jury also includes Kaoutar Ben Hania, whose "The Voice of Hind Rajab" won the Silver Lion last year.

Venice Days, an independent section running alongside the main festival, has a significantly stronger representation of women, with more than half of its selections directed by women.

The section opens Wednesday with Hungarian filmmaker Lili Horvát's English-language debut "My Notes on Mars," starring Rupert Friend and Mackenzie Davis. The film follows a couple whose marriage is thrown into crisis when the wife, a scientist, mysteriously disappears and returns on the day of her memorial service.



Excavations have uncovered previously unseen wall paintings at Smyrna.

New rooms, paintings unearthed at Smyrna

IZMIR

Archaeological excavations at the ancient city of Smyrna in Izmir's historic city center have uncovered three new rooms dating to Late Antiquity, along with previously unseen wall paintings.

The discoveries were made during excavations at the Smyrna Agora. Three new rooms were identified as an extension of a mosaic floor uncovered last year. Two of the rooms were found to have mosaic floors while the third had a marble floor. The excavations also revealed wall paintings that had not previously been encountered around the Agora or the Smyrna Theater.

Professor Akin Ersoy, head of the excavations and a faculty member in the Turkish-Islamic Archaeology Department at Izmir Katip Çelebi University, said the newly uncovered rooms shared similarities with the Terrace Houses at the ancient city of Ephesus and may have served a public function.

"For the first time, we have found wall paintings in these rooms. We had never encountered them before at the Smyrna Agora or around the theater," Ersoy said.

Ersoy said the rooms date to the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., during Late Antiquity, adding that major changes took place in the structure of cities following the division of the Roman Empire in 395 and the spread of Christianity.

He said the new discoveries provide further insight into Smyrna's transformation during the period.

Excavations also traced part of an ancient water channel dating to the Roman period, which is believed to have carried water continuously for nearly 2,000 years.

Ersoy said Smyrna's water needs during the Roman period were met through channels connected to springs, noting that the source of the channel, of which around 150 meters have been traced, has yet to be identified.

ANTALYA

Antalya Tourism Working Group Chair Recep Yavuz has prepared a list titled "365 Reasons to Visit Antalya," highlighting activities and experiences that can be enjoyed throughout the year as part of efforts to spread tourism across all 12 months.

Yavuz said year-round tourism should be a shared goal for Antalya, pointing to the Space Congress and COP31, both scheduled for fall 2026, as opportunities to showcase the city beyond its hotels and all-inclusive tourism model.

He proposed "365 Days of Antalya" as the city's tourism slogan, noting that visitors can ski in the mountains and enjoy the coast on the same day, explore ancient theaters or discover local cuisine.

January focuses on snow, history and caves, including skiing in Saklıkent, views from Mount Tahtalı, Hadrian's Gate, Hıdırlık Tower, historic mosques, museums and caves, such as Karain and Kocain. Golf, football camps and Turkish baths in Belek are also featured.

February highlights ancient sites such as Perge and Termessos, Alanya Castle, Seljuk-era structures, historic houses in Elmalı, caves, opera, ballet and local cuisine workshops.

March is dedicated to Antalya's ancient cities, including Sillyon, Ariassos, Phaselis, Olympos, Rhodapolis, Limyra, Myra, Simena, Antiphellos



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and Xanthos. April combines ancient Lycian sites with nature, featuring Patara, Selge, Syedra and Alara Castle, as well as Runtalya, traditional villages, hiking routes and waterfalls such as Düden, Kurşunlu and Manavgat.

May focuses on canyons, lakes and wildlife. Gönük, Sapadere, Köprülü and Tazi canyons, Oymapınar Lake, Geyikbayırı climbing routes, bird sanctuaries and wetlands are among the attractions.

June moves to the highlands and beaches, with Yörük culture, highland breakfasts, apple orchards and stargazing followed by jazz, rivers and beaches from Lara to Çolaklı.

July and August focus on

the Mediterranean, with beaches and coves including Cleopatra, Incekum, Adrasan, Suluda, Kaputaş and Kalkan. Sea kayaking, sailing, diving, underwater photography, paragliding and full-moon boat tours are also included.

September brings adventure, art and production, including the Lycian Way, St. Paul Trail, cycling, rafting, canyoning, horseback riding, wildlife observation, the Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival and various traditional craft workshops.

October centers on agriculture, gastronomy and culture, with olive and citrus harvesting, grape harvests and local dishes such as tahini piyaz, hibes,

Antalya-style siş köfte, güllüklü soup and tahini pide. The Golden Orange Film Festival and tourism and book fairs are also featured.

November highlights local products and culture, from goat and tulum cheeses to Mediterranean fish, honey and mountain herbs, alongside cuisine workshops, Yörük culture, music, folk dances and the International Piano Festival.

December focuses on winter sun and the New Year, with parks, the coastline, cycling, coffee, cultural events, workshops, concerts, exhibitions and seaside walks. The list concludes with welcoming the final sunrise of the year on the Mediterranean coast.