

Post-Easter B.O. drops; 'Basic' tops

BY JUDY BRENNAN

The post-Easter weekend national B.O. fell 24% to \$33,951,863, but represented a slight resurrection over last year's top 10 take for the comparable period: \$30,725,831.

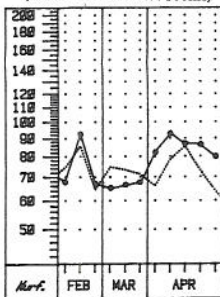
TriStar's "Basic Instinct," back in the top spot for two consecutive weekends, slipped 20% to \$5,355,420 over the most recent three days, averaging \$2,870 in 1,866 cells—43 more than the holiday period. To date, it's cuffed \$77,976,444.

Warner Bros.' latest mystery thriller "White Sands" starring Willem Dafoe, Mickey Rourke and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio blew into fourth place — the only new film to capture a top-10 slot. It grossed \$3,151,629, averaging \$2,472 on 1,275 screens.

Two other new pix from major distributors failed to finish in a top

B.O. BAROMETER

(Dotted line = 10-Year Profile)



10 spot: Columbia's "Year of the Comet" from Castle Rock Entertainment and Buena Vista's "Passed Away" from Hollywood Pictures.

"Year of the Comet," a romantic comedy set in Ireland and centered around a woman's discovery of a 150-year-old bottle of wine, landed \$1,350,939, averaging \$1,350 in 1,001 galaxies. The pix stars Penelope Ann Miller and Tim Daly (of TV's "Wings").

"Passed Away," a black comedy starring Bob Hoskins, opened in 14th place with \$1,506,887, averaging \$2,589 in 582 coffins.

Universal's "The Babe," which stepped up to bat Easter weekend, moved down a slot to sixth place in the weekend batting order, striking a 40% drop in gross to \$3,010,560. The John Goodman-starrer about Babe Ruth averaged \$1,920 on 1,568 bases, only two more since opening weekend. In 10 days, it has grossed \$9,697,385.

Universal's "Beethoven" nipped second place, chasing 20th Century Fox's "White Men Can't Jump" to third. Still, the mutt pic's leash loosened 15% to \$5,029,035,

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DAILY VARIETY

FILM BOX OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 24-26

Ranking This Wk.	Ranking Last Wk.	Title (Distributor)	Reported Weekend Boxoffice	\$ Pct. Change	\$ Per Screen Average	# Of Screens This Wk.	# Of Screens Last Wk.	\$ Cumulative Reported Boxoffice	# Days Release
1	1	Basic Instinct (TriStar)	5,355,420	-20%	2,870	1,866	1,823	77,976,444	38
2	3	Beethoven (U)	5,029,035	-15%	2,595	1,938	1,925	31,984,105	24
3	2	White Men Can't Jump (20th)	4,481,484	-27%	2,448	1,835	1,882	54,795,312	31
4	—	White Sands (WB)	3,151,629	—	2,472	1,275	—	3,151,629	3
5	4	Sleepwalkers (Col)	3,150,017	-39%	1,700	1,853	1,914	22,275,419	17
6	5	The Babe (U)	3,010,560	-40%	1,920	1,568	1,566	9,697,385	10
7	8	FernGully... The Last Rainforest (20th)	2,812,257	-15%	1,794	1,568	1,663	13,324,019	17
8	6	Deep Cover (New Line)	2,419,228	-30%	2,685	901	901	8,004,591	12
9	9	Wayne's World (Par)	2,326,653	-26%	1,660	1,402	1,565	106,415,557	73
10	7	City of Joy (TriStar)	2,205,580	-35%	2,495	884	842	6,975,881	12
11	11	My Cousin Vinny (20th)	1,772,511	-21%	1,736	1,021	1,084	41,070,647	45
12	10	Thunderheart (TriStar)	1,568,925	-32%	1,425	1,101	1,097	15,123,220	24
13	25	The Player (Fine Line)	1,562,650	+464%	8,929	175	24	2,465,567	17
14	—	Passed Away (BV)	1,506,887	—	2,589	582	—	1,506,887	3
15	12	Straight Talk (BV)	1,378,016	-35%	1,231	1,119	1,325	15,020,054	24
16	13	The Cutting Edge (MGM)	1,359,674	-26%	1,278	1,064	1,121	18,297,984	31
17	—	Year of the Comet (Col)	1,350,939	—	1,350	1,001	—	1,350,939	3
18	15	Fried Green Tomatoes (U)	734,695	-14%	1,090	674	791	72,310,479	124
19	14	Rock-a-Doodle (Goldwyn)	714,538	-29%	827	864	1,168	7,736,854	24
20	17	Beauty and the Beast (BV)	574,209	-26%	1,044	550	709	131,839,997	165
21	22	The Lawnmower Man (New Line)	423,680	+3%	851	498	510	29,751,938	73
22	20	Father of the Bride (BV)	374,718	-13%	1,083	346	430	86,258,543	129
23	16	Ladybugs (Par)	365,325	-55%	705	518	1,528	14,027,249	31
24	26	Howards End (Sony Pictures Classics)	357,596	+32%	17,880	20	12	1,202,235	45
25	28	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV)	343,172	+43%	925	371	272	81,620,167	108
26	53	Memoirs of an Invisible Man (WB)	306,758	+1,511%	664	462	69	13,405,114	59
27	21	Hook (TriStar)	291,870	-30%	705	414	536	118,324,848	139
28	24	JFK (WB)	244,636	-14%	622	393	425	69,741,131	129
29	23	Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot (U)	197,125	-44%	475	415	434	26,305,695	66
30	40	Mediterraneo (Miramax)	185,102	+112%	8,048	23	9	597,804	36
31	32	Medicine Man (BV)	179,835	+3%	704	255	252	42,290,088	80
32	19	Brain Donors (Par)	125,534	-75%	239	525	525	860,365	10
33	30	The Mambo Kings (WB)	115,703	-46%	1,102	105	168	6,504,319	59
34	34	Casablanca (reissue) (MGM)	114,381	-26%	6,355	18	16	678,238	19
35	31	American Me (U)	108,550	-42%	835	130	150	11,318,310	45
36	29	The Power of One (WB)	103,888	-53%	886	117	181	2,670,466	31
37	39	Bugsy (TriStar)	83,720	-17%	520	161	170	48,674,867	136
38	18	Newsies (BV)	83,472	-84%	592	141	1,259	2,706,352	17
39	36	The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective (reissue) (BV)	82,752	-32%	414	200	360	13,021,114	73
40	35	Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (Par)	80,578	-42%	739	109	185	74,739,913	143
41	38	Mississippi Masala (Goldwyn)	64,098	-38%	1,233	52	78	7,172,453	82
42	37	Where Angels Fear to Tread (Fine Line)	62,413	-42%	2,312	27	35	954,344	59
43	42	The Addams Family (Par)	51,978	-22%	571	91	105	113,379,166	157
44	41	Toto le Heros (Triton)	51,044	-30%	1,823	28	30	788,105	52
45	—	A Midnight Clear (InterStar)	46,938	—	6,705	7	—	46,938	3
46	43	Delicatessen (Miramax)	40,698	-28%	3,392	12	12	225,801	24
47	62	Lovers (Aries)	39,388	+994%	5,627	7	4	222,903	31
48	44	Hear My Song (Miramax)	37,125	-34%	1,375	27	35	3,795,615	122
49	50	Proof (Fine Line)	34,730	+32%	4,961	7	4	136,051	38
50	47	Daughters of the Dust (Kino Int.)	34,429	-26%	2,295	15	14	1,018,457	125
51	—	The Playboys (Goldwyn)	32,525	—	16,263	2	—	45,701	5
52	46	Edward II (Fine Line)	32,394	-34%	2,025	16	14	348,558	38
53	51	Othello (reissue) (Castle Hill)	28,871	+11%	2,887	10	11	209,843	52
54	48	The Fourth Animation Celebration (Expanded Ent.)	22,053	-33%	3,676	6	6	161,178	26
55	58	35 Up (Goldwyn)	19,016	+73%	1,585	12	7	743,825	103
56	—	I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore (Skouras)	14,168	—	1,090	13	—	14,168	3
57	54	Voyager (Castle Hill)	12,931	-32%	2,586	5	6	348,272	88
58	55	Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse (Triton)	11,044	-36%	736	15	16	1,262,421	152
59	61	American Dream (Miramax)	9,786	+40%	1,631	6	5	91,047	40
60	—	Highway 61 (Skouras)	8,700	—	—	1	—	8,700	3