

'Lethal 3' gives B.O. a new boost

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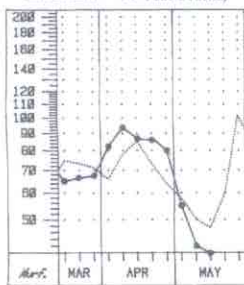
the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Friday's releases include Universal's period romance "Far and Away," Fox's sci-fier "Alien 3" and Buena Vista's youth comedy "Encino Man."

The leaders grossed a total of \$47,190,333 during the weekend, 140% ahead of the previous down-beat frame's \$19,679,091 and 52% better than the \$31,065,177 snared by the top 10 at this time a year ago.

As reported yesterday, "Lethal

B.O. BAROMETER

(Dotted line = 10-Year Profile)



3"—which lured moviegoers out of their homes after the sharp slump following the civil unrest in L.A. and elsewhere—had the second-best three-day weekend gross in history, following only the \$40.5 million bow of WB's "Batman" (June 23-25, 1989).

"Lethal 3's" debut, which surpassed even WB's expectations, ranked fourth on the list of biggest B.O. weekends, behind the four-day Memorial Day weekend openings of Paramount's 1989 "Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade" (\$37 million) and Par's 1984 "Indiana Jones & The Temple of Doom" (\$33.9 million).

The Mel Gibson-Danny Glover action sequel took the fourth spot away from Par's "Beverly Hills Cop II," which grossed \$33 million over the four-day Memorial Day holiday period in 1987.

"Lethal 3" also surpassed last year's July 5-7 bow of TriStar's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (\$31.8 million) to rank just behind "Batman" on the list of best three-day weekends.

"Lethal 3" set a record for the biggest non-summer three-day weekend, outdoing U's "Back to the Future Part II," which opened with \$27.8 million during the Thanksgiving period in 1989, and it outdid the non-summer, non-holiday three-day mark of \$25.4 million set by New Line's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" in spring 1990.

The stunning dominance of "Lethal 3" also was demonstrated by the fact that it collected upward of \$30 million more biz during the weekend than the runner-up film,

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DAILY VARIETY FILM BOX OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 15-17

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	—	Lethal Weapon 3 (WB)	33,243,086	—	13,244	2,510	—	33,243,086	3
2	1	Basic Instinct (TriStar)	3,044,895	-24%	1,645	1,851	1,884	93,721,689	59
3	3	Beethoven (U)	2,308,625	-5%	1,265	1,825	1,892	41,065,790	45
4	2	White Men Can't Jump (20th)	1,936,021	-28%	1,150	1,683	1,815	64,882,869	52
5	4	The Player (Fine Line)	1,539,745	-29%	3,507	439	431	9,752,053	38
6	5	Wayne's World (Par)	1,302,069	-12%	1,149	1,133	1,236	112,355,205	94
7	8	My Cousin Vinny (20th)	1,052,375	-22%	1,185	888	930	45,960,317	56
8	11	The Babe (U)	1,046,685	-15%	980	1,068	1,433	14,651,030	31
9	13	FernGully... The Last Rainforest (20th)	908,112	-18%	684	1,327	1,459	17,806,786	38
10	12	City of Joy (TriStar)	808,720	-32%	880	919	918	11,750,202	33
11	9	Deep Cover (New Line)	723,538	-46%	955	758	902	12,940,213	33
12	10	Sleepwalkers (Col)	717,392	-43%	717	1,000	1,291	27,028,031	38
13	14	Thunderheart (TriStar)	696,080	-37%	770	904	1,001	19,232,412	45
14	17	The Cutting Edge (MGM)	676,718	-23%	701	965	1,056	21,415,874	52
15	5	Folks! (20th)	634,830	-58%	634	1,002	1,402	5,368,500	17
16	32	The Playboys (Goldwyn)	620,774	+115%	2,233	278	68	1,317,235	26
17	21	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV)	602,854	-6%	1,043	578	585	83,983,133	129
18	18	Straight Talk (BV)	571,160	-23%	802	712	841	17,907,274	45
19	22	Fried Green Tomatoes (U)	570,065	-3%	950	600	604	74,559,169	145
20	15	CrissCross (MGM)	555,954	-47%	1,235	450	449	1,948,835	10
21	20	Rock-a-Doodle (Goldwyn)	423,227	-35%	587	721	923	9,708,791	45
22	25	Medicine Man (BV)	398,749	+4%	829	481	431	43,660,392	101
23	16	White Sands (WB)	389,976	-61%	627	622	971	8,193,947	24
24	24	Beauty and the Beast (BV)	388,275	-1%	835	465	481	133,255,507	186
25	30	Father of the Bride (BV)	339,868	+7%	1,103	308	332	87,591,314	150
26	7	Split Second (InterStar)	336,600	-76%	510	660	1,080	4,780,237	17
27	19	K2 (Par)	326,667	-56%	1,040	314	350	2,586,792	17
28	26	Howards End (Sony Pictures Classics)	299,864	-20%	11,995	25	25	2,578,490	66
29	27	The Lawnmower Man (New Line)	282,310	-23%	640	441	511	31,209,109	94
30	33	Mediterraneo (Miramax)	278,615	+12%	3,618	77	63	1,437,348	57
31	31	A Midnight Clear (InterStar)	246,341	-22%	1,369	180	130	923,103	24
32	23	Passed Away (BV)	222,068	-49%	721	308	520	3,616,743	24
33	28	Leaving Normal (U)	150,355	-54%	970	155	362	1,303,647	19
34	—	The Waterdance (Goldwyn)	138,313	—	4,191	33	—	162,457	5
35	40	Hook (TriStar)	103,458	-8%	605	171	226	118,876,789	160
36	38	Raise the Red Lantern (Orion Classics)	100,749	-16%	3,053	33	37	1,173,798	66
37	41	Night on Earth (Fine Line)	94,262	-1%	5,545	17	12	294,807	16
38	29	Wild Orchid 2: Two Shades of Blue (Triumph)	86,289	-73%	508	170	266	534,849	10
39	43	Casablanca (reissue) (MGM)	72,861	-14%	2,603	28	30	1,034,956	40
40	48	One False Move (IRS)	72,058	+62%	6,551	11	5	131,128	10
41	37	Big Girls Don't Cry... They Get Even (New Line)	71,621	-42%	1,404	51	55	218,388	10
42	39	Poison Ivy (New Line)	66,050	-45%	3,303	20	20	228,750	10
43	44	Bugsy (TriStar)	58,773	-25%	411	143	182	49,028,471	157
44	45	Delicatessen (Miramax)	57,088	-25%	2,854	20	19	466,457	45
45	58	Lovers (Anes)	48,843	+84%	4,538	9	5	345,382	52
46	47	Where Angels Fear to Tread (Fine Line)	37,992	-18%	1,226	31	29	1,136,194	80
47	46	Step! Or My Mom Will Shoot (U)	37,135	-23%	145	256	275	26,613,295	87
48	50	Daughters of the Dust (Kino Intl.)	29,556	-29%	1,642	18	16	1,176,779	146
49	51	35 Up (Goldwyn)	24,679	+38%	3,085	8	5	823,262	124
50	57	Edward II (Fine Line)	21,825	-3%	1,679	13	13	459,325	59
51	56	Toto le Heros (Triton)	20,436	-15%	1,460	14	15	909,624	73
52	52	The Favor, the Watch and the Very Big Fish (Trimark Pictures)	18,490	-41%	2,641	7	8	62,886	10
53	53	Mississippi Masala (Goldwyn)	18,203	-32%	520	35	38	7,299,996	99
54	62	Othello (reissue) (Castle Hill)	15,939	+27%	2,277	7	6	310,605	73
55	59	Incident at Oglala (Miramax)	13,864	-27%	4,621	3	3	42,852	10
56	67	American Dream (Miramax)	11,610	+50%	1,935	6	4	126,414	61
57	65	Adam's Rib (October Films)	9,007	+4%	—	1	1	22,028	10
58	68	A Woman's Tale (Orion Classics)	7,133	+106%	2,378	3	1	30,754	17
59	—	The Vagrant (MGM)	*5,000	—	455	11	—	5,000	3
60	—	Monster in a Box (Fine Line)	3,016	—	—	1	—	3,016	3
61	—	Center of the Web (AIP)	2,561	—	640	4	—	2,561	3

*Estimate by Daily Variety