

'JFK' GROSSES \$3.6 MIL IN 1ST O'SEAS WEEKEND

BY DON GROVES

LONDON—Benefiting from saturation publicity washing over from film's stateside release, "JFK" had a thunderous opening weekend in six foreign markets, grossing \$3.623 million.

The numbers were described as "outstanding" for each print and each territory by Warner Bros. Intl. president Richard Fox. Reached in Paris, Fox said Oliver Stone's film is performing strongly across all demographics.

In Germany, the take was \$1.2 million from 120 prints (162,750 admissions); in Australia, \$635,000 on 61 screens; and in Austria, \$107,000 on 11 (13,500 admissions), all in four days.

The film grossed \$1.345 million

in the United Kingdom on 183 screens, \$253,000 in Switzerland on 21, and \$83,700 in Denmark on 10, all in three days.

Game plan is to expand the print numbers in each market "as business dictates," per the exec.

WB worked furiously to ready "JFK" for overseas as soon as possible after the Dec. 20 domestic debut.

"We wanted to maximize the controversy (fueled by American publicity) by positioning the film early, get the dubbing done and get it out in late January," said Fox.

The director has enthusiastically dedicated himself to a promotional tour throughout Europe and later will go to Latin America in what Fox likened to a "crusade." The publicity whipped up by the foreign release is stamping "JFK" as an event picture, which is "just what

we were hoping for," Fox added.

Pic opens in France and Sweden this week, and rolls out in Italy Feb. 6, in Spain Feb. 14 and in Japan March 20. Latin America is slated for early February.

This is a shrewd time to unleash a high-profile film such as "JFK," as few films of consequence have opened overseas since Christmas. "A lot of our competitors did not want to go against us," Fox concludes.

Fox said it's "too early to say" if WB believed the foreign release eventually would outperform the strong domestic tally. However, after studying the initial numbers with the studio's partners in the production, Arnon Milchan's Regency Intl., Canal Plus and Germany's Scriba and Deyhle, he declared, "We're very bullish."



Los Angeles

New York

Dallas

REGIONAL BOX OFFICE

Title (distribution)	Los Angeles				New York				Dallas									
	Mkt. rank	\$ Reported weekend box office	Pct. change	Wks in release	# of screens This wk.	Last wk.	Mkt. rank	\$ Reported weekend box office	Pct. change	Wks in release	# of screens This wk.	Last wk.	Mkt. rank	\$ Reported weekend box office	Pct. change	Wks in release	# of screens This wk.	Last wk.
The Hand that Rocks the Cradle (BV)	1	616,037	—	3	89	87	1	654,358	—	3	75	73	1	383,867	—	3	94	89
Fried Green Tomatoes (U)	2	589,055	—	5	59	6	5	381,128	—	3	44	1	2	375,685	—	5	46	3
Father of the Bride (BV)	5	332,501	—	6	88	89	7	246,104	—	6	62	63	5	173,208	—	6	83	86
Grand Canyon (20th)	3	439,782	—	5	89	78	5	309,149	—	5	66	61	3	206,533	—	5	58	46
Hook (TriStar)	8	286,102	—	7	89	90	8	225,059	—	7	81	85	7	127,738	—	7	74	75
JFK (WB)	4	338,934	—	6	83	83	6	263,462	—	6	60	60	4	177,658	—	6	62	59
Prince of Tides (Col)	6	326,070	—	5	86	91	4	334,716	—	5	83	83	6	141,744	—	5	71	71
Beauty and the Beast (BV)	9	261,250	—	11	72	74	10	189,499	—	11	60	61	10	106,654	—	11	62	70
Freejack (WB)	7	315,643	—	2	88	88	11	185,423	—	2	72	71	9	119,277	—	2	69	68
Juice (Par)	13	159,518	—	2	62	61	2	404,394	—	2	62	61	8	124,433	—	2	71	69
Kuffs (U)	11	201,010	—	3	75	75	13	87,309	—	3	49	53	11	89,864	—	3	63	62
Bugsy (TriStar)	10	233,097	—	7	68	81	9	221,703	—	7	63	64	12	70,403	—	7	51	57
Love Crimes (Millimeter)	12	171,596	—	1	68	—	12	166,323	—	1	47	—	13	64,231	—	1	47	—
The Last Boy Scout (WB)	15	83,909	—	7	48	61	14	70,625	—	7	34	53	15	38,453	—	7	42	61
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (Par)	14	94,130	—	8	47	62	18	29,072	—	8	16	28	14	39,117	—	8	37	50

EDI regions tracked are as follows: LOS ANGELES — About 1200 screens daily in California from San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield south, plus screens in Arizona and southern Nevada. NEW YORK — About 900 screens daily in metropolitan New York, including parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. DALLAS — About 1200 screens daily in Texas and New Mexico.

SOURCE: Entertainment Data Inc.

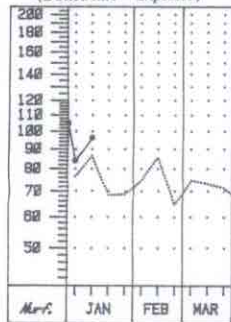
'Hand' steady as 'Tomatoes' tasty \$5.2 mil

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 Concorde's "In the Heat of Passion" (in N.Y. and Florida regions). Neither lit any B.O. fire.
 Hollywood Pictures' "Cradle," the first certifiable B.O. hit of 1992, finished in the top spot for the third straight weekend, averaging \$4,650 in 1,722 nurseries (entering 55) as it collected a daunting \$8,007,691. The 17-day total is a bright \$32,082,708.

"Fried Green Tomatoes"—with by far the best average (\$7,780) of any pic in the top 10—served up a delicious \$5,235,940 (up 557%) as it went from 33 to 673 cafes in its fifth griddling.
 With its 33-day tab now at \$7,781,959, the pic is planning a rollout to 1,000-1,100 screens on

B.O. BAROMETER

(Dotted line = Expected)



Friday. BV's "Father of the Bride" is still looking proud, running its 38-day cumulative to \$63,839,097 while rising from fifth to third in its sixth ceremony with \$3,778,307 (off 41%), averaging \$2,207 down 1,712 aisles (arriving at 23).

Fox' "Grand Canyon," climbing from seventh to fourth, was off an OK 39% in its fifth sighting—setting an uplifting \$3,668,638, or \$3,514 per in 1,044 gorges (hiking into 241). The 33-day total is \$15,682,564.

TriStar's "Hook"—which Friday became the seventh 1991 release to pass the \$100 million mark (*Daily Variety*, Jan. 24)—gave up almost half of its biz (49%) to kidnap a starting-to-fade \$3,524,010 in its seventh yo-ho.

Averaging \$1,730 in 2,037 tree-houses (leaving 40), as it dropped from third to fifth, "Hook" ran its 48-day cumulative to a hearty \$103,185,526.

WB's "JFK" advanced from eighth to sixth as it brought in a compelling \$3,514,815, down an acceptable 39% in its sixth investigation. While averaging \$2,566 in 1,370 DA's offices (elected to 20), the 189-minute movie saw its 38-day total jump to \$50,248,971.

Columbia's "The Prince of Tides," surrendered a sizable 43% in its sixth therapy to a still empathetic \$3,442,789, or \$2,228 in 1,545 offices (entering 20), while slipping from sixth to seventh. The 33-day B.O. is a strong \$52,396,-

DAILY VARIETY FILM BOX OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 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	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV)	8,007,691	-32%	4,650	1,722	1,667	32,082,708	17
2	18	Fried Green Tomatoes (U)	5,235,940	+557%	7,780	673	35	7,781,959	33
3	5	Father of the Bride (BV)	3,778,307	-41%	2,207	1,712	1,689	63,839,097	38
4	7	Grand Canyon (20th)	3,668,638	-39%	3,514	1,044	803	15,682,564	33
5	3	Hook (TriStar)	3,524,010	-49%	1,730	2,037	2,077	103,185,526	48
6	8	JFK (WB)	3,514,815	-39%	2,566	1,370	1,350	50,248,971	38
7	6	The Prince of Tides (Col)	3,442,789	-43%	2,228	1,545	1,525	52,396,029	33
8	9	Beauty and the Beast (BV)	3,255,721	-38%	1,849	1,761	1,805	99,234,492	75
9	4	Freejack (WB)	2,831,753	-58%	1,815	1,560	1,551	10,646,674	10
10	2	Juice (Par)	2,706,504	-67%	2,460	1,100	1,089	11,794,533	10
11	10	Kuffs (U)	2,132,170	-51%	1,490	1,433	1,432	13,961,935	17
12	11	Bugsy (TriStar)	1,700,903	-44%	1,572	1,082	1,173	36,619,664	45
13	-	Love Crimes (Millimeter)	1,157,370	-	1,730	669	-	1,157,370	3
14	12	The Last Boy Scout (WB)	1,086,000	-54%	879	1,236	1,402	54,660,105	45
15	13	Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (Par)	1,014,945	-51%	1,146	886	1,189	68,860,242	52
16	15	Cape Fear (U)	809,900	-51%	890	910	1,082	72,229,807	75
17	14	The Addams Family (Par)	807,328	-53%	1,009	800	1,085	104,954,429	66
18	16	My Girl (Col)	690,912	-52%	803	860	1,098	53,997,303	61
19	17	Rush (MGM)	509,161	-59%	847	601	664	4,983,944	36
20	19	An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (U)	280,600	-49%	460	610	722	19,124,434	66
21	20	Naked Lunch (20th)	190,218	-37%	3,397	56	62	1,252,049	31
22	21	For the Boys (20th)	172,006	-28%	493	349	302	16,949,006	66
23	23	Black Robe (Goldwyn)	127,463	-27%	1,012	126	141	7,508,784	115
24	22	Little Man Tate (Orion)	122,971	-46%	519	237	281	24,515,893	110
25	25	Madame Bovary (Goldwyn)	100,013	-26%	1,852	54	48	1,345,692	33
26	-	In the Heat of Passion (Concorde)	96,225	-	2,347	41	-	96,225	3
27	26	Europa, Europa (Orion Classics)	90,754	-27%	2,750	33	32	3,818,530	213
28	24	The Fisher King (TriStar)	88,448	-38%	691	128	160	41,574,666	129
29	30	Life Is Sweet (October Films)	85,167	-	3,276	26	18	871,270	94
30	29	Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse (Triton)	85,148	-12%	5,009	17	15	504,382	61
31	27	My Own Private Idaho (Fine Line)	81,313	-31%	1,312	62	51	5,844,593	120
32	-	High Heels (Miramax)	64,656	-	3,592	18	-	925,384	38
33	-	Kafka (Miramax)	54,544	-	6,818	8	-	185,173	54
34	-	Hear My Song (Miramax)	54,072	-	13,518	4	-	169,130	31
35	33	Until the End of the World (WB)	49,188	-23%	7,027	7	7	334,839	33
36	32	House Party 2 (New Line)	48,474	-31%	547	85	92	19,421,634	96
37	31	At Play in the Fields of the Lord (U)	41,102	-41%	2,055	20	21	881,475	52
38	-	Prospero's Books (Miramax)	40,680	-	1,695	24	-	1,525,819	73
39	-	The Double Life of Veronique (Miramax)	36,556	-	2,812	13	-	667,540	64
40	36	Rhapsody in August (Orion Classics)	30,261	-15%	5,044	6	8	372,172	38
41	34	The Inner Circle (Col)	29,783	-39%	1,861	16	18	261,311	33
42	35	Meeting Venus (WB)	27,971	-25%	2,331	12	12	891,383	73
43	-	Antonia & Jane (Miramax)	24,624	-	1,539	16	-	753,446	108
44	-	The National Film Board of Canada's Animation Festival (Expanded Ent.)	11,365	-	2,841	4	-	223,331	33
45	38	35 Up (Goldwyn)	10,974	-20%	-	1	1	33,292	12
46	39	MindWalk (Triton)	9,091	-30%	1,299	7	7	306,292	108
47	37	City of Hope (Goldwyn)	8,976	-46%	898	10	10	1,339,620	108
48	40	My Mother's Castle (Orion Classics)	8,214	-29%	821	10	10	1,408,969	185
49	41	My Father's Glory (Orion Classics)	7,499	-19%	833	9	10	1,676,080	227

NOTE: Percentage changes reflect comparison of current three-day weekend with previous four-day holiday weekend.

029. BV's "Beauty and the Beast"—which shortly will become the first animated film to gross \$100 million in its initial release—stood at \$99,234,492 through Sunday, after 75 days in release.

The eighth-place pic (down a notch from ninth) was down a relatively modest 38% in its 11th cel-painting to a splashy \$3,255,721, or \$1,849 per on 1,761 lightboxes (exiting 44). "Freejack" took a nosedive in its

second session as it went from fourth to ninth with an anemic \$2,831,753, or \$1,815 per in 1,560 SFX houses (adding nine). The 10-day take is a dull \$10,646,674.

'Juice' weakens

The 10th-place "Juice"—whose violence-marred opening a week earlier brought it an intense media spotlight—proved to have no staying power, plummeting from its initial \$8,085,915 to a weak \$2,706,504, while averaging \$2,460

on 1,100 streetcorners (entering 11). The 10-day B.O. is a lackluster \$11,794,533.

Opening in 13th, "Love Crimes" looked like a misdemeanor with only \$1,730 per in 669 apartments, for a feeble \$1,157,370 weekend total.

"In the Heat of Passion" had a somewhat better average (\$2,347) than "Love Crimes," but then it was playing in only 41 N.Y. and Florida boudoirs, with a not-so-hot \$96,225 for the weekend.

Lyons named prexy of Comsat Video group

Communications Satellite Corp. has named Charlie Lyons president of Comsat Video Enterprises effective Feb. 1.

He succeeds Robert J. Wussler, who resigned Jan. 6.

Lyons was formerly vice president and general manager, overseeing daily operations of the hotel entertainment business.