

DAILY VARIETY

75 CENTS

TUESDAY

MARCH 3, 1992

A CANNERS PUBLICATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA • NEWSPAPER SECOND CLASS P.O. ENTRY

INSIDE

4 'Madadayo'

Kurosawa's next

For his next film, "Madadayo," Akira Kurosawa will return to the studio that produced "Rashomon."

4 Irate extras

protest at SAG

Rain didn't deter several hundred extras from picketing against a new contract in front of SAG headquarters.

5 AFM furor

over EC regs

Foreign sales agents don't like what they see on the EC horizon in the form of copyright and other regulations.

12 Porter out

at Morgan Creek

Morgan Creek Prods. president of marketing Dick Porter has reportedly been axed after just six months on the job.

62 Hats off to

Brooks, Jackson

Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson lead nominees for Academy of Country Music Awards with five nods apiece.

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DV Backlot

What do Pee-wee Herman, Willem Dafoe and James Brooks have in common? Claudia Eller's new column.

BLOODLETING BEGINS AT ORION

200 expected to be axed by April 24; release sked up in air

BY JUDY BRENNAN

Bankrupt Orion Pictures began gutting half of its staff yesterday with an estimated 200 of its 400-member payroll expected to be pinkslipped by April 24.

While an Orion spokesman had no comment on the impending layoffs, sources at the company con-

firmed the grim news. The layoffs had been expected for weeks, company insiders have said.

Orion sources said the layoffs are simply another cost-cutting measure undertaken by the company since it filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 last December.

Some sources doing business with Orion said they asked yester-

day about future release dates of pix and were told that, with the exception of "Article 99" and Woody Allen's "Shadows & Fog," Orion may be releasing its films through another distributor.

Acting Orion president and chief executive Leonard White could not be reached for comment late yesterday to discuss the company's theatrical release dilemma.

When talent and sales personnel from other companies called about tomorrow's benefit premiere of "Article 99," several of the employees answering the phones referred the callers to other personnel, saying they wouldn't swear by the March 13 release date and couldn't confirm any information.

Separately yesterday, MGM

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NBC brings down gavel on 'Matlock'

BY BRIAN LOWRY

Another veteran NBC drama series, "Matlock," will apparently be getting a change of venue next season, with NBC confirming it won't do a seventh season of the show and reports that ABC is in negotiations to pick up the courtroom hour.

Word of the "Matlock" case underscores a strategic shift by NBC

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SILVER, JAFFA INK H'WOOD PIX PACT

BY CLAUDIA ELLER

Riding high on the tide of its first home-grown hit, "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle," Hollywood Pictures has signed the movie's screenwriter, Amanda Silver, and executive producer, Rick Jaffa, to an unusually structured first-look writing-producing deal that also includes directing opportunities for the husband-and-wife team.

As their first project under the

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NUMBERS

"Wayne's World"

\$46 million

In only 17 days of release, Paramount's youth-market smash has generated a huge \$46,131,282 at the national B.O. The comedy remained at the top of the heap for the third consecutive weekend (see story, p. 3).

'Wayne' rules B.O. world in February

February was "Wayne's World" as far as domestic film box office is concerned. The surprise hit grabbed more than 14% of the month's business.

Some good newcomers and strong holdovers also buoyed the B.O. to a second-best position be-

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| DAILY VARIETY U.S. box office report | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Last week | \$76,600,000 |
| 1991 | \$90,200,000 |
| 1990 | \$90,900,000 |
| Year to date | \$605,800,000 |
| *1991 | \$772,900,000 |
| *1990 | \$643,900,000 |
| *one week more | |
| —A.D. Murphy | |

High court nixes ban on 'indecent' b'casts

BY DENNIS WHARTON

WASHINGTON—In a decision hailed by First Amendment advocates, the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday let stand an appellate court decision tossing out the government's bid to enact a round-the-clock ban on "indecent" broadcasting.

The decision represented a triple-barreled rejection of Con-

gress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Bush administration, all of which had endorsed the ban on grounds that children should be protected from potentially objectionable material 24 hours a day.

Elliot Mincberg, legal director for the People for the American Way, praised the Supreme Court's decision. He said it would have been a "dangerous precedent" had

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Judge to rule on allowing producers' 'Coming' views

BY KATHLEEN O'STEEN

The judge in the "Coming to America" trial is scheduled to rule today on whether to allow testimony from producers David Brown and Paul Maslansky on what they believe producer Alain Bernheim should be paid for his contribution to the 1988 film.

Brown and Maslansky were among the first witnesses called by

attorneys for Bernheim and Art Buchwald in their suit against Paramount Pictures.

It's already been determined that Paramount's "Coming to America" was based on Buchwald's treatment "King for a Day" to which Bernheim was attached. The judge will now decide how much both men should be paid for their contributions.

Attorneys for Buchwald and

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DAILY VARIETY REGIONAL BOX OFFICE

| Title (distributor) Listed by Daily Variety regional market rank | 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. |
| Wayne's World (Par) | 1 | 816,587 | -13% | 3 | 97 97 | 1 | 516,757 | -13% | 3 | 87 90 | 1 | 459,638 | -25% | 3 | 105 112 |
| Memoirs of an Invisible Man (WB) | 2 | 509,865 | — | 1 | 101 — | 2 | 373,216 | — | 1 | 77 — | 2 | 221,550 | — | 1 | 95 — |
| Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot (U) | 3 | 375,168 | -37% | 2 | 88 91 | 3 | 315,386 | -43% | 2 | 68 69 | 4 | 196,799 | -44% | 2 | 99 107 |
| Fried Green Tomatoes (U) | 4 | 363,768 | -12% | 10 | 83 82 | 4 | 310,114 | -7% | 10 | 60 62 | 3 | 214,742 | -22% | 10 | 68 69 |
| Medicine Man (BV) | 5 | 344,853 | -23% | 4 | 80 83 | 9 | 180,194 | -28% | 4 | 62 64 | 5 | 183,352 | -33% | 4 | 84 85 |
| The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV) | 7 | 233,988 | -6% | 8 | 73 81 | 5 | 287,198 | -18% | 8 | 65 70 | 6 | 147,709 | -21% | 8 | 95 99 |
| Final Analysis (WB) | 6 | 256,497 | -29% | 4 | 90 99 | 6 | 279,130 | -27% | 4 | 72 85 | 7 | 119,400 | -34% | 4 | 89 97 |
| Beauty and the Beast (BV) | 8 | 187,630 | -5% | 16 | 65 66 | 10 | 146,409 | -42% | 16 | 58 59 | 8 | 58,491 | -25% | 16 | 51 55 |
| Mississippi Masala (Goldwyn) | 9 | 170,743 | -31% | 4 | 40 3 | 8 | 264,653 | -10% | 4 | 33 2 | 17 | 37,851 | -51% | 4 | 19 2 |
| The Prince of Tides (Col) | 14 | 132,978 | -15% | 10 | 62 71 | 13 | 107,520 | -19% | 10 | 38 53 | 12 | 52,269 | -23% | 10 | 53 53 |
| Bugsy (TriStar) | 12 | 140,891 | -10% | 12 | 59 61 | 12 | 119,026 | -14% | 12 | 38 45 | 10 | 54,905 | -29% | 12 | 44 53 |
| JFK (WB) | 16 | 104,146 | -14% | 11 | 53 67 | 15 | 91,312 | -9% | 11 | 31 44 | 9 | 57,439 | -30% | 11 | 61 68 |
| The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective (reissue) (BV) | 17 | 102,614 | -31% | 3 | 69 78 | 14 | 104,970 | -38% | 3 | 70 74 | 11 | 53,948 | -54% | 3 | 82 90 |
| Father of the Bride (BV) | 15 | 113,568 | +5 | 11 | 54 72 | 18 | 52,201 | -22% | 11 | 23 50 | 15 | 42,066 | -27% | 11 | 51 66 |
| Gate II (Triumph) | 11 | 149,807 | — | 1 | 56 — | 7 | 275,926 | — | 1 | 60 — | — | — | — | 1 | — |

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.

'Mambo Kings' conquers coasts in limited screen bow

BY AMY DAWES

Warner Bros.' "The Mambo Kings" set the pace among limited-release pix with snappy exclusive debuts on both coasts, while Columbia's murder-mystery thriller "Under Suspicion" really grabbed 'em in New York, with \$28,649 single-screen debut at Cineplex Beekman. L.A. take lagged but was still bright—\$18,700 at Cineplex

Cristini joins Marvel as VP

Michaelene Cristini has joined Marvel Prods. as VP of development, involved in animated properties for all outlets and reporting president Rick Ungar, who took over the New World Entertainment subsidiary in mid-January.

Cristini was most recently manager of licensing acquisitions, entertainment and special events at Mattel Toys, helping gain the "Beverly Hills, 90210" toy line. Before that she served as director of development at Frontier Pictures.

Century City.

Terrific debut for Fine Line's "Where Angels Fear to Tread" put the specialty distrib on cloud nine, with \$42,769 at two Gotham sites.

But results for other freshman were gloomier.

Volker Schlöndorff's "Voyager" failed to transfer well to L.A. for Castle Hill despite recent strong New York interest.

Triton Pictures took a loss on "The Lunatic," with scant \$3,678 for Jamaican sex comedy; and producer Keith Walley's satirical shocker "Society," a hit in limited run on London's West End, fizzled with \$2,505 in launch for Zecca at Westwood's UA Coronet.

The following are actual earnings over the three-day weekend for films playing on an exclusive basis (up to three screens) in Los Angeles and New York.

LOS ANGELES

"The Mambo Kings" (WB) brassy \$34,419 at AMC Century 14, plus \$34,273 at Mann's Chinese in first whirl.

"Under Suspicion" (Col) smart \$18,700 in debut at Cineplex Odeon Century Plaza.

"Europa, Europa" (Orion Classics) holding steady in sixth week of moveover to Royal with \$12,672, down 9%.

Jean Cocteau's 1946 classic "Beauty and the Beast" (La Belle et la Bete) (Kino Int'l) smart \$9,283 first weekend at Landmark's new NuWilshire Theater, \$12,070 since Wednesday.

"Voyager" (Castle Hill) world-weary \$6,373 in L.A. debut at AMC Century 14; plus \$4,156 in first weekend at Fine Arts.

"Falling From Grace" (Col)

finding modest niche with 1% gain in second weekend, to \$5,854 at AMC Century 14.

"The Lunatic" (Triton) making do with \$3,678 in first reggae fest at NuWilshire.

"Society" (Zecca) debuts with frayed \$2,505 at UA Coronet.

NEW YORK

"The Mambo Kings" smoldering \$39,229 in unveiling at Loews New York Twin; plus \$36,346 at Loews 84th St. Sixplex.

"Under Suspicion" boffo \$28,649 in opener at Cineplex Beekman.

"Where Angels Fear to Tread" (Fine Line) sparkling \$21,695 in opener at Angelika Film Center, plus \$21,074 at Cineplex Plaza.

"Daughters of the Dust" (Kino Int'l) holding forth in fifth weekend at City Village East with

\$16,807 in three days; \$22,851 since Wednesday, off 12%.

"35 Up" (Goldwyn) still strong in seventh weekend at tiny Film Forum, with \$10,540 in three days; \$12,806 since Wednesday, off 16%.

"The Double Life of Veronique" (Miramax) stretching its legs with \$14,803 through 14th full week, off 25%; plus \$2,978 for Sunday only at Lincoln Plaza.

"High Heels" (Miramax) kicking up new business with 19% surge in 11th weekend at Lincoln Plaza, to \$8,924.

"Voyager" (Castle Hill) slowing in fifth weekend with 33% drop, to \$8,176 at Lincoln Plaza.

"Until the End of the World" (WB) steady in 10th at Angelika with \$8,020 weekend, \$9,862 since Wednesday.

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'Wayne's' at head of slow B.O. class

Continued from page 5
 from third to fourth. Averaging \$3,280 in 1,329 cafes (entering eight), the comedy-drama saw its 68-day cumulative climb to a hoity \$47,032,199.

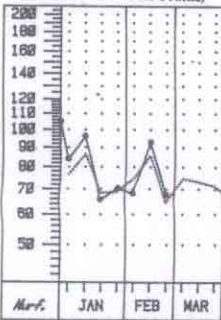
Buena Vista's "Medicine Man" had an acceptable (25%) falloff in its fourth ecological lesson to a healthy \$3,528,432, or \$2,589 in 1,363 forests (exiting seven), as it went from fourth to fifth. The 24-day total is a brisk \$30,773,733.

BV's chiller "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle" was off only 14% in its eighth shaking to a rhythmic \$3,523,802, or \$2,099 per in 1,679 homes (ankling 42), while slipping from fifth to sixth. The 52-day take is a whopping \$69,703,645.

WB's "Final Analysis" contin-

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(Dotted line = 10-Year Profile)



ued its downward spiral, losing another 36% in its fourth interrogation to a reticent \$2,302,216, averaging \$1,665 in 1,383 boudoirs (fleeing 166), while going from sixth to seventh. In 24 days, the psychological thriller has collected an unexciting \$22,742,734.

BV's animated record holder "Beauty and the Beast" gave up a slight 13% in its 15th dance to a happy \$2,124,074, or \$1,578 per in 1,346 magic kingdoms (leaving 14), as the fairy-tale tuner dropped from seventh to eighth. The 110-day total is \$116,028,522.

Goldwyn's interracial love story "Mississippi Masala" expanded from 24 to 325 screens in its fourth feast and rose from 22nd to ninth with a sizzling weekend take of \$1,502,819. Averaging \$4,624, the pic upped its 26-day total to \$2,587,062.

Columbia's "The Prince of Tides" edged back into the top 10, swapping places with TriStar's "Bugsy."

"Prince of Tides" did a royal \$1,455,638 (down a mere 18%) as it averaged \$1,252 on 1,163 beaches (leaving 114) during its 10th soul-searching. The 68-day total for the romantic drama is a fine \$66,322,990.

"Bugsy" was off an acceptable 27% in its 12th shakedown to a handsome \$1,370,330, averaging \$1,270 in 1,079 hotels (exiting 152). The 80-day total for the pe-

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FILM BOX OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB. 28-MARCH 1

| Ranking This Wk. | Last Wk. | Title (Distributor) | Reported Weekend Boxoffice | \$ Pct. Change | \$ Per Screen Average | # Of Screens This Wk. | Last Wk. | \$ Cumulative Reported Boxoffice | # Days Release |
|------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1 | Wayne's World (Par) | 9,641,720 | -18% | 5,134 | 1,873 | 1,878 | 46,131,282 | 17 |
| 2 | — | Memoirs of an Invisible Man (WB) | 4,801,954 | — | 2,625 | 1,753 | — | 4,601,954 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot (U) | 4,475,640 | -37% | 3,544 | 1,263 | 1,958 | 13,022,970 | 10 |
| 4 | 3 | Fried Green Tomatoes (U) | 4,359,130 | -13% | 3,280 | 1,329 | 1,321 | 47,032,199 | 68 |
| 5 | 4 | Medicine Man (BV) | 3,528,431 | -25% | 2,589 | 1,363 | 1,370 | 30,773,733 | 24 |
| 6 | 5 | The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV) | 3,523,802 | -14% | 2,099 | 1,679 | 1,721 | 69,703,645 | 52 |
| 7 | 6 | Final Analysis (WB) | 2,302,216 | -36% | 1,665 | 1,383 | 1,549 | 22,742,734 | 24 |
| 8 | 7 | Beauty and the Beast (BV) | 2,124,074 | -13% | 1,578 | 1,346 | 1,360 | 116,028,522 | 110 |
| 9 | 22 | Mississippi Masala (Goldwyn) | 1,502,819 | +356% | 4,624 | 325 | 24 | 2,587,062 | 26 |
| 10 | 11 | The Prince of Tides (Col) | 1,455,638 | -18% | 1,252 | 1,163 | 1,277 | 66,322,990 | 68 |
| 11 | 10 | Bugsy (TriStar) | 1,370,330 | -27% | 1,270 | 1,079 | 1,231 | 44,429,717 | 80 |
| 12 | 12 | JFK (WB) | 1,254,906 | -27% | 1,134 | 1,107 | 1,303 | 64,930,280 | 73 |
| 13 | 8 | The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective (reissue) (BV) | 1,236,804 | -42% | 896 | 1,381 | 1,420 | 8,724,066 | 17 |
| 14 | 14 | Father of the Bride (BV) | 1,235,315 | -23% | 1,074 | 1,150 | 1,391 | 80,152,926 | 73 |
| 15 | — | Gate II (Triumph) | 1,053,175 | — | 3,009 | 350 | — | 1,053,175 | 3 |
| 16 | 13 | Shining Through (20th) | 1,023,115 | -38% | 1,150 | 890 | 1,100 | 19,563,729 | 31 |
| 17 | 9 | Radio Flyer (Col) | 1,018,452 | -47% | 1,082 | 941 | 940 | 3,386,017 | 10 |
| 18 | 15 | Grand Canyon (20th) | 874,627 | -29% | 1,346 | 650 | 857 | 29,924,247 | 68 |
| 19 | 16 | The Addams Family (Par) | 866,290 | -28% | 932 | 715 | 835 | 110,467,448 | 101 |
| 20 | 17 | Hook (TriStar) | 639,910 | -29% | 890 | 719 | 953 | 114,512,828 | 83 |
| 21 | 19 | Hear My Song (Miramax) | 415,832 | -7% | 2,474 | 168 | 153 | 1,892,125 | 66 |
| 22 | 25 | The Last Boy Scout (WB) | 402,985 | +104% | 542 | 743 | 317 | 57,947,091 | 80 |
| 23 | — | The Mambo Kings (WB) | 319,793 | — | 9,994 | 32 | — | 319,793 | 3 |
| 24 | 31 | This Is My Life (20th) | 313,964 | +333% | 10,120 | 31 | 2 | 420,759 | 10 |
| 25 | 18 | Juice (Par) | 303,025 | -40% | 1,148 | 264 | 412 | 19,010,992 | 45 |
| 26 | 20 | Cape Fear (U) | 301,415 | -10% | 585 | 515 | 481 | 75,679,467 | 110 |
| 27 | 21 | My Girl (Col) | 278,486 | -16% | 679 | 410 | 470 | 56,512,691 | 96 |
| 28 | 23 | Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (Par) | 180,125 | -34% | 776 | 232 | 323 | 72,339,744 | 87 |
| 29 | 24 | Kurfs (U) | 176,225 | -35% | 435 | 405 | 483 | 19,418,780 | 52 |
| 30 | 30 | Europa, Europa (Orion Classics) | 90,936 | -10% | 3,136 | 29 | 31 | 4,507,137 | 248 |
| 31 | 26 | Freejack (WB) | 77,067 | -51% | 514 | 150 | 236 | 16,202,190 | 45 |
| 32 | 33 | High Heels (Miramax) | 75,843 | +15% | 2,809 | 27 | 28 | 1,490,007 | 73 |
| 33 | 34 | The Double Life of Veronique (Miramax) | 65,300 | +5% | 3,265 | 20 | 22 | 1,167,996 | 99 |
| 34 | 44 | 35 Up (Goldwyn) | 48,983 | +37% | 4,082 | 12 | 8 | 312,189 | 47 |
| 35 | 38 | Black Robe (Goldwyn) | 48,414 | -7% | 949 | 51 | 70 | 8,054,758 | 150 |
| 36 | — | Under Suspicion (Col) | 47,349 | — | 23,675 | 2 | — | 47,349 | 3 |
| 37 | 43 | Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse (Triton) | 45,315 | +16% | 2,266 | 20 | 23 | 1,048,521 | 96 |
| 38 | 46 | Daughters of the Dust (Kino Intl.) | 43,320 | +76% | 14,440 | 3 | 2 | 263,960 | 59 |
| 39 | 36 | Life Is Sweet (October Films) | 43,027 | -25% | 1,956 | 22 | 26 | 1,287,965 | 129 |
| 40 | — | When Angels Fear to Tread (Fine Line) | 42,404 | — | 21,202 | 2 | — | 42,404 | 3 |
| 41 | 35 | Kafka (Miramax) | 39,417 | -37% | 1,877 | 21 | 23 | 632,333 | 89 |
| 42 | 41 | My Own Private Idaho (Fine Line) | 36,893 | -24% | 815 | 45 | 55 | 6,323,127 | 155 |
| 43 | 39 | Falling from Grace (Col) | 33,164 | -33% | 1,579 | 21 | 22 | 98,782 | 10 |
| 44 | 40 | Madame Bovary (Goldwyn) | 32,119 | -35% | 1,147 | 28 | 41 | 1,815,584 | 68 |
| 45 | 53 | Voyager (Castle Hill) | 26,223 | +116% | 5,245 | 5 | 1 | 116,897 | 31 |
| 46 | 45 | At Play in the Fields of the Lord (U) | 25,215 | -23% | 1,146 | 22 | 22 | 1,133,920 | 87 |
| 47 | 47 | MindWalk (Triton) | 24,488 | +10% | 2,041 | 12 | 11 | 471,069 | 143 |
| 48 | 42 | Little Man Tate (Orion) | 18,689 | -53% | 306 | 61 | 91 | 25,010,896 | 145 |
| 49 | 49 | The Inner Circle (Col) | 12,129 | -43% | 1,516 | 8 | 10 | 562,519 | 68 |
| 50 | — | La Belle et la Bete (reissue) (Kino Intl.) | 12,088 | — | — | 1 | — | 53,163 | 10 |
| 51 | 60 | The Lunatic (Triton) | 10,554 | +99% | 2,639 | 4 | 2 | 37,018 | 24 |
| 52 | 50 | Rhapsody in August (Orion Classics) | 10,310 | -41% | 1,718 | 6 | 7 | 457,738 | 73 |
| 53 | 52 | La Belle Noiseuse (MK2 USA) | 10,224 | -26% | 2,556 | 4 | 5 | 345,740 | 128 |
| 54 | 55 | Singin' in the Rain (reissue) (MGM) | 6,275 | -40% | 3,138 | 2 | 1 | 23,894 | 10 |
| 55 | 61 | The Silk Road (Trimark Pictures) | 5,992 | +39% | 2,996 | 2 | 1 | 48,304 | 31 |
| 56 | 51 | Alan & Naomi (Triton) | 5,865 | -62% | 587 | 10 | 23 | 223,824 | 31 |
| 57 | — | Complex World (Hemdale) | 5,484 | — | 2,742 | 2 | — | 5,484 | 3 |
| 58 | 56 | Close My Eyes (Castle Hill) | 4,591 | -51% | — | 1 | 1 | 134,134 | 45 |
| 59 | 59 | My Mother's Castle (Orion Classics) | 4,394 | -28% | 879 | 5 | 10 | 1,465,940 | 230 |
| 60 | 62 | My Father's Glory (Orion Classics) | 3,513 | +9% | 586 | 6 | 8 | 1,722,298 | 262 |