

'Basic' rules at B.O. as fear grips country

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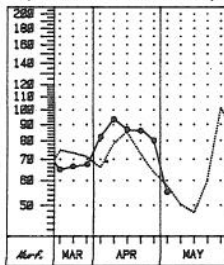
tory biz was reported at video stores.

Contributing to the weak B.O. performance was the absence of any strong new titles. The top film again was TriStar's "Basic Instinct," which fended off the competition while doing a moderate \$4,042,740.

The only new pix to make the top 10 were InterStar's futuristic actioner "Split Second," conjuring up meek numbers in fourth, and Fox' geriatric comedy "Folks!," arriving in fifth but clearly headed for early retirement.

B.O. BAROMETER

(Dotted line = 10-Year Profile)



In medium-sized breaks, Paramount's mountain-climbing saga "K2" didn't hit the peaks; Universal's female buddy pic "Leaving Normal" left faint tracks after starting Wednesday in eight spots; and Warner Bros.' "Turtle Beach," an Australian drama about the plight of Vietnamese boat people, was stranded.

But Fine Line's offbeat comedy "Night on Earth" looked stellar at two Gotham taxi stands; Orion Classics' Australian drama "A Woman's Tale" was smart in two N.Y. outbacks; and Strand Releasing's romance "All the Vermeers in New York" did acceptable biz in three N.Y., L.A. and Chi galleries.

'Basic' lead

Holding onto its number-one slot, the erotic thriller "Basic Instinct" was down only 25% — a remarkably strong holdover under the circumstances — and averaged \$2,190 in 1,846 boudoirs (leaving 20) during its seventh investigation. The 45-day total is a powerful \$83,605,244.

Rising to second from third despite a 38% plunge was Fox' basketball comedy "White Men Can't Jump," dribbling in an OK \$2,794,422, or \$1,664 per in 1,679 courts (exiting 156) during its sixth freethrow. The 38-day B.O. is a cheery \$58,609,821.

A 49% downward spiral took Universal's canine comedy "Beethoven" from second to third as it barked in a fair \$2,582,400 in its fifth chuckle, averaging \$1,345 in 1,920 doghouses (leaving 18). In 31 days, the pic has gnawed a tasty \$35,273,965 biscuit.

"Split Second" started in fourth

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DAILY VARIETY FILM BOX OFFICE REPORT

FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 1-3

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)	4,042,740	-25%	2,190	1,846	1,866	83,605,244	45
2	3	White Men Can't Jump (20th)	2,794,422	-38%	1,664	1,679	1,835	58,609,821	38
3	2	Beethoven (U)	2,582,400	-49%	1,345	1,920	1,938	35,273,965	31
4	—	Split Second (InterStar)	2,250,000	—	2,074	1,085	—	2,250,000	3
5	—	Folks! (20th)	2,177,518	—	1,553	1,402	—	2,177,518	3
6	13	The Player (Fine Line)	1,716,586	+10%	5,760	298	175	4,664,815	24
7	9	Wayne's World (Par)	1,612,350	-31%	1,283	1,257	1,402	108,592,151	80
8	5	Sleepwalkers (Col)	1,578,691	-50%	1,043	1,513	1,853	24,441,233	24
9	4	White Sands (WB)	1,486,262	-53%	1,165	1,276	1,275	5,617,068	10
10	6	The Babe (U)	1,352,860	-55%	865	1,564	1,568	11,583,365	17
11	7	FernGully... The Last Rainforest (20th)	1,321,673	-53%	870	1,519	1,568	15,148,643	24
12	8	Deep Cover (New Line)	1,298,987	-46%	1,592	816	901	9,944,559	19
13	10	City of Joy (TriStar)	1,264,200	-43%	1,400	903	884	8,850,041	19
14	11	My Cousin Vinny (20th)	1,156,248	-35%	1,352	855	1,021	42,702,885	52
15	12	Thunderheart (TriStar)	962,480	-39%	1,060	908	1,101	16,597,665	31
16	—	K2 (Par)	930,655	—	2,659	350	—	930,655	3
17	15	Straight Talk (BV)	760,384	-45%	869	875	1,119	16,146,044	31
18	16	The Cutting Edge (MGM)	749,429	-45%	769	974	1,064	19,365,199	38
19	14	Passed Away (BV)	674,311	-55%	1,055	639	582	2,563,733	10
20	25	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (BV)	509,105	+48%	1,170	435	371	82,273,149	115
21	19	Rock-a-Doodle (Goldwyn)	501,168	-30%	591	848	864	8,319,731	31
22	—	Leaving Normal (U)	474,220	—	1,310	362	—	485,402	5
23	17	Year of the Comet (Col)	451,968	-67%	449	1,006	1,001	2,163,479	10
24	18	Fried Green Tomatoes (U)	416,250	-43%	750	555	674	72,981,644	131
25	21	The Lawnmower Man (New Line)	397,662	-6%	815	488	498	30,286,615	80
26	—	Turtle Beach (WB)	350,951	—	483	727	—	350,951	3
27	22	Father of the Bride (BV)	310,811	-17%	925	336	346	86,693,994	136
28	20	Beauty and the Beast (BV)	295,476	-49%	630	469	550	132,261,423	172
29	24	Howards End (Sony Pictures Classics)	291,530	-18%	13,251	22	20	1,634,019	52
30	23	Ladybugs (Par)	247,200	-32%	889	278	518	14,347,438	38
31	31	Medicine Man (BV)	235,081	+31%	784	300	255	42,600,668	87
32	27	Hook (TriStar)	183,093	-37%	569	322	414	118,579,323	146
33	44	A Midnight Clear (InterStar)	148,884	+217%	3,038	49	7	213,854	10
34	50	The Playboys (Goldwyn)	147,093	+352%	4,745	31	2	206,094	12
35	28	JFK (WB)	142,704	-42%	398	359	393	70,022,088	136
36	30	Mediterranean (Miramax)	126,226	-32%	5,049	25	23	770,911	43
37	37	Bugsy (TriStar)	100,374	+20%	446	225	161	48,811,110	143
38	—	Raise the Red Lantern (Orion Classics)	80,612	—	3,224	25	—	859,964	52
39	29	Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot (U)	79,205	-60%	225	352	415	26,457,525	73
40	33	The Mambo Kings (WB)	60,387	-48%	795	76	105	6,607,846	66
41	34	Casablanca (reissue) (MGM)	50,048	-56%	2,634	19	18	790,442	26
42	41	Where Angels Fear to Tread (Fine Line)	38,435	-37%	1,643	24	27	1,014,730	66
43	36	The Power of One (WB)	37,310	-64%	678	55	117	2,756,882	38
44	41	Mississippi Masala (Goldwyn)	37,119	-42%	928	40	—	7,230,888	85
45	—	Europa, Europa (Orion Classics)	36,992	—	1,121	33	—	5,316,241	311
46	—	Night on Earth (Fine Line)	34,039	—	17,020	2	—	34,039	—
47	45	Delicatessen (Miramax)	31,225	-23%	2,402	13	12	278,281	31
48	49	Daughters of the Dust (Kino Intl.)	30,029	-13%	2,002	15	15	1,059,137	132
49	43	Toto le Heros (Triton)	26,888	-47%	111	243	28	833,779	59
50	—	Edward II (Fine Line)	24,836	-23%	1,656	15	16	387,322	45
51	47	Hear My Song (Miramax)	23,375	-37%	1,375	17	27	3,827,079	129
52	46	Lovers (Aries)	21,982	-44%	3,140	7	7	258,498	38
53	—	A Woman's Tale (Orion Classics)	15,386	—	7,693	2	—	15,386	3
54	54	35 Up (Goldwyn)	15,301	-20%	3,060	5	12	767,303	110
55	—	Proof (Fine Line)	12,609	-64%	2,102	6	7	157,368	45
56	—	All the Vermeers in New York (Strand Releasing)	10,576	—	3,525	3	—	10,576	3
57	53	The Fourth Animation Celebration (Expanded Ent.)	8,340	-62%	2,780	3	6	179,377	33
58	57	Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse (Triton)	5,022	-55%	457	11	15	1,271,670	159
59	58	American Dream (Miramax)	4,846	-50%	692	7	6	98,739	47
60	59	Highway 61 (Skouras)	3,310	-62%	—	1	1	15,536	10