



Madonna Jets Out Of Malawi



More in Entertainment: 'Fast' Rakes In \$72.5M... Madonna Tot's Dad Found... Farrah's Son Arrested...



Farrah Fawcett Is Hospitalized



Michael Giltz | BIO | I'M A FAN OF THIS BLOGGER

DVDs: Tasty Ratatouille

Posted November 6, 2007 | 03:09 PM (EST)

Read More: Animated Movies, Chinatown, Disney, Dvds, Michael Moore, Movies, Pixar, Ratatouille, Rock And Roll, Stephen Colbert, The Who, Warner Bros, Breaking Entertainment News



Pixar is in the midst of the greatest streak of hits in Hollywood history. Every film in the company's history - from 1995's Toy Story to 2007's delightful Ratatouille (\$29.99; Disney)- has been a critical and commercial success.

Pixar has released eight feature films in 12 years. Since Toy Story 2, every single one has grossed at least \$200 million in the US and at least \$460 million worldwide.

Email Print

Buzz up! Be the First to Submit This Story to Digg

And they haven't played it safe. Pixar knew 2006's Cars wasn't going to be a slam dunk overseas - it's a film that plays off NASCAR, after all.

honeymoon was over. Then it quietly went on to gross \$244 million in the US (right in line with most of their movies), an unexpectedly healthy \$217 million overseas and enjoyed a bonanza of merchandising.

When Ratatouille opened to an even lower \$47 million, the analysts apparently had learned their lesson and didn't say a peep. They got smart.

Ratatouille - about a rat who yearns to be a master chef in Paris - seemed even less likely to have universal appeal. Clearly, Pixar wasn't trying to top itself with even bigger grosses every time out.

MEIL YOUNG FORK IN THE ROAD HIS LATEST ALBUM FEATURES 10 NEW SONGS AVAILABLE APRIL 7 CLICK HERE TO EXPERIENCE THE ALBUM NELLAYOUNG.COM

Popular Stories on HuffPost

- Fashion Face-Off! Michelle Obama And Carla Bruni-Sarkozy Finally Meet In France (VIDEO, PHOTOS, POLL)
Levi Johnston Talks Safe Sex With Tyra Banks (VIDEO)
Oscar de la Renta Slams Michelle Obama's Buckingham Outfit As Major Designers Feel Ignored
Verena von Pfetten 7 Lessons To Be Learned From Carla Bruni
Huff TV Arianna Discusses Michelle Obama's "Fantastic"

worldwide, ranking it third on Pixar's all-time list, just behind *The Incredibles* and *Finding Nemo* on worldwide grosses.

Do these box office figures matter? Yes, because they reflect success for artists that don't try and repeat themselves, for a studio that greenlights picture they assume won't have as wide an appeal as previous hits but knows they're worth making, for a company that funds envelope-pushing, delightful shorts (buy *Pixar Short Films Collection* for \$29.99 from Disney to get 13 great examples) that work as a farm system for the directors of the future even though those shorts have almost no commercial upside. The rest of Hollywood could learn a lot from Pixar.

Also out this week: *Sicko* (\$29.95; Weinstein) - Michael Moore's most entertaining film since *Roger & Me* - has one simple message: the US healthcare system is broken, we can do better and a lot of other countries do in fact do better and let's see what they're doing and steal their best ideas; *Amazing Journey: The Story of The Who* (\$29.98; Universal) reminds us what a great band they were thanks to terrific archival footage and present-day interviews; Professor Richard Brown is just as painfully effusive in his praise as James Lipton (Brown calls Cuba Gooding Jr. a personal hero), but he generally stays out of the way in these 16 interviews on *Movies 101* (\$39.98; City Lights), so the smarter the subject (Martin Scorsese, for example) the more rewarding it is; bewilderingly out of touch and clueless, *I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry* (\$29.98; Universal) is at least balanced out karmically this week by the release of the indie gay flick *Long-Term Relationship* (\$24.95; Here); I suppose there's no real damage done by constantly re-releasing new editions of classic films, but why bother putting out *Chinatown* (\$14.99; Paramount) with only a collection of documentary shorts less than an hour long (and mis-identified on the box) or the sequel *The Two Jakes* (\$14.99; Paramount) with only one short less than 20 minutes long; Stephen Colbert may have fallen short in his bid for the Presidency but at least he's overstuffed the ballot box when it comes to *The Best Of The Colbert Report* (\$19.99; Paramount) with nearly three hours of footage from his show; *Barry Manilow: The First Television Specials* (\$39.99; Rhino) collects five TV specials of the unlikely pop star and is the perfect holiday gift if you're friends with super-fan Craig Ferguson; Tom Hanks narrates *Magnificent Desolation: Walking On The Moon* (\$19.98; HBO), a very kid-oriented look at space travel; *Election* (\$19.95; Tartan) is the best movie by the over-praised director Johnnie To; you can't overpraise *Looney Tunes Golden Collection Volume Five* (\$64.98; Warner Bros.) even though it follows four previous sets bursting with gems as well; documentary filmmaker Michael Apted hopes to replicate his Up series by following married couples over the years in *Married in America 2* (\$26.95; Docurama); and *Mystery Science Theatre 3000* fanatics can rejoice over a new collection *Volume 12* (\$59.95; Rhino) that somehow avoided getting released on DVD before now.

Pixar has released eight movies: *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters Inc.*, *Finding Nemo*, *The Incredibles*, *Cars* and *Ratatouille*. Which is your favorite? Your least favorite? And why are they so tremendously successful? Me, I love *Toy Story 2* for being such a great sequel, followed closely by *The Incredibles*.

Comments for this post are now closed

Email Print

More in Entertainment...

- Best Late Night Jokes Of The Week...
- Michael Moore: Detroit Looks Like "The Landscape..."
- SNL: Madonna And Angelina In Weekend Update...
- Reality Star Jade Goody Buried In Lavish...

digg™ HuffPost Stories Surging Right Now

Michelle Obama's Clothing Has Sean Hannity All Out Of Sorts

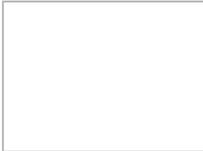
Cenk Uygur: Have We Reached the Tipping Point on Guns?

RICHARD POPLAWSKI, Pittsburgh Gunman, Kills 3

Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld: Does Iran Harbor Osama bin



Style On CBS' "Washington Unplugged" Arianna was on CBS' "Washington..."



Huff TV Arianna Appears on ABC's "This Week" Roundtable With George Stephanopoulos (VIDEO) Arianna was a guest this morning on...



"BRUNO" TRAILER! Calamity, African Babies, Chase Scenes And More (NSFW VIDEO) IT'S HERE! The trailer for this July's Sacha Baron Cohen...



NATO Leaders Focus On Afghanistan, But Most Reject Obama's Plea For Troops (SLIDESHOW) STRASBOURG, France — On the eve of the NATO...



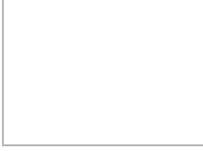
First Lady Fashion At Friday's NATO Concert (PHOTOS) Another night, another fashion opportunity for NATO leaders and their spouses! See...



Diana Palin, Sarah Palin's Sister-In-Law, Arrested For Breaking Into Home ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Police say Alaska Gov...



John Oliver Explains The Real Reason You Never Touch The Queen (VIDEO)



Jim Cramer Declares The Depression "Over" (VIDEO) On Thursday's episode of "Mad Money" host Jim Cramer declared that the depression...



New Jay Leno Show Rejected By NBC Affiliate In Boston BOSTON — Boston's NBC affiliate says it will air a local newscast instead of...



Ice Bridge Ruptures In Antarctic (VIDEO) An ice bridge linking a shelf of ice the size of Jamaica to two islands in Antarctica has



Scientists Find Rocket Fuel Chemical In Infant Formula ATLANTA — Traces of a

Police Officers

Laden?

Sponsored Links

"My Teeth Are so White"

Read the trick, discovered by a mom, to turn yellow teeth white. CathysTeeth.com

Spine Surgery Advancement

NO Hospital, NO Gen Anesthesia. Get Your Life Back NOW! www.LaserSpineInstitute.com

I'm Happy I Lost My Job

After I got laid off, I found a easy way to make \$7k a month online... http://coreyhasmoney.com/ca

Buy a link here

Comments

3

Pending Comments

0

FAQ: Comments & Moderation

FAQ: HuffPost Accounts

Want to reply to a comment? Hint: Click "Reply" at the bottom of the comment; after being approved your comment will appear directly underneath the comment you replied to

View Comments: Newest First Expand All

mellene See Profile I'm a Fan of mellene permalink

I really loved Ratatouille as well as Sicko. I found Ratatouille to be about the best animated film that I've ever seen. I hope the DVDs are a huge success.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 07:04 PM on 11/07/2007

NyPrincess See Profile I'm a Fan of NyPrincess permalink

Yeah, Pixar is definitely on a roll! I haven't seen Ratatouille yet, but out of the movies you mentioned, I'd have to say The Incredibles is my favorite followed closely by Finding Nemo. My nephew told me to go see The Incredibles and I'm glad I did! It's a fun movie that appeals to all age groups. I'd have to say my least favorite is Toy Story, not because it isn't good, but because my nephew begged me for months on end to buy him another Buzz Lightyear after the first one I bought mysteriously broke :-)

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 02:24 PM on 11/07/2007

blueraven See Profile I'm a Fan of blueraven permalink

I'd have to go with Ratatouille and The Incredibles as my favorite Pixar films, not the least of my reasons being both movies managed to feature a strong female character. My only complaint with Pixar is they have never had a movie with a woman/female character as the protagonist. The Incredibles came closest, especially if you count screen time, but her plotline was so intrinsically woven into her husband's that you could easily argue she'd have done nothing without his actions. All of their female characters have depended on the male lead for the bulk of their screen time and conduct. Ratatouille pushed that envelope slightly, but the true lead of the movie was the very male rat. Even Finding Nemo had the female supporting character wind up attached to the family, though you'd be hard-pressed to claim a romance had bloomed under the water. That second part elevated it for me, though. It's not often you have a male and female character pull together in a movie and not wind up in love.

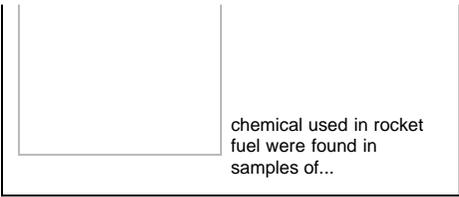
I freely admit this is a hobby horse of mine, but I feel strongly enough about it that I wanted to make note of it.

Least favorite? I haven't seen Cars, so I will withhold comment.

Setting aside the gender issue I just noticed, I think Pixar films are successful because they are well-written and respect the viewer's intelligence. Visually, they are highly consistent. The humor never sinks to the morning radio show level. And the characters are compelling whatever form they take.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 03:54 PM on 11/06/2007

Comments are closed for this entry



chemical used in rocket fuel were found in samples of...

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES grid with categories: Computers, India, Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Sports, Olympics, Housing Crisis, Fox News, Cars. Includes MORE BIG NEWS PAGES button.

Books by this author

This Blogger's Books from amazon.com.

A cabin of one's own: New England's MacDowell Colony celebrates 100 years of artistic utopia. And the gay and lesbian artists who prospered there celebrate ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine) by Michael Giltz

Affairs to remember: Farley Granger bedded Ava Gardner, Shelley Winters, and Leonard Bernstein. In his autobiography, Include Me Out, Hitchcock's muse ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine) by Michael Giltz

Bloggers Index ▶

Read All Posts by Michael Giltz ▶

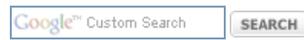
Related Tags

- Animated Movies ▶
Chinatown ▶
Disney ▶
Dvds ▶
Michael Moore ▶
Movies ▶
Pixar ▶
Ratatouille ▶
Rock And Roll ▶
Stephen Colbert ▶

You must be [logged in](#) to reply to this comment. [Log in](#) or

[The Who](#) ▶

[Warner Bros](#) ▶



[HOME](#) [POLITICS](#) [MEDIA](#) [BUSINESS](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [LIVING](#) [GREEN](#) [STYLE](#) [WORLD](#) [CHICAGO](#) [COMEDY](#) [FUNDRACE](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Login](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Jobs](#) | [FAQ: Comments & Moderation](#) | [FAQ: Huffpost Accounts](#) | [Contact Us](#)
Copyright © 2009 HuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | [Archive](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)