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BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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## Weekend Box Office: "Dreamgirls" Chugging Along

Every week seems like a hurdle for "Dreamgirls." It opened on a Monday, showed weak sales during weekdays and stayed on a limited number of screens. But through it all, it's already grossed \$54.5 million, with an expansion and Oscar nominations as likely boosters in the next few weeks. It's going to go from 852 screens to 1800 screens this Friday and I kind of wish it wouldn't. Like "Borat," this film has proven that super-wide releases are not always a good thing. Repeated breakdowns show that 90% of the grosses come from 1200 screens, with the rest of the box office trickling in from the other 1000-2000 screens. And that doesn't take into account the fun factor. It's a lot more fun to see "Borat" or "Dreamgirls" (or most movies) when the theater is fairly full. The audience reaction to comedy or big musical numbers is contagious. Personally, I would have expanded a little more modestly to 1200 screens to make sure most cities had a chance to see it and then waited for the Oscar nominations. But it's another chance for "Dreamgirls" to prove the naysayers wrong. Meanwhile, ["Eragon" has done smashing business overseas](#), grossing more than double its US take for a total of \$200 million worldwide and still going strong. A sequel now seems likely. And sometime this week "Casino Royale" will become the top-grossing Bond film ever in the US. [The Top 10, per Box Office Prophets:](#)

1. Night At The Museum -- \$24 million (\$164.1 million total)
2. The Pursuit Of Happyness -- \$13 million (\$124.2 million)
3. Children Of Men -- \$10.3 million (\$11.9 million)
4. Freedom Writers -- \$9.7 million
5. Dreamgirls -- \$8.8 million (\$54.5 million total)
6. Happily N'Ever After -- \$6.8 million
7. Charlotte's Web -- \$6.6 million (\$67 million)
8. The Good Shepherd -- \$6.5 million (\$48.4 million)
9. Rocky Balboa -- \$6.3 million (\$60.0 million)

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