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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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'Inception' wins out box office

By David Germain

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES — Leonardo DiCaprio and Christopher Nolan's "Inception" is anything but a sleeper as the thriller opened big with \$60.4 million and a No. 1 finish at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. action tale about a team that sneaks into people's dreams is DiCaprio's biggest opening weekend, topping his previous best of \$41.1 million for last winter's "Shutter Island."

"Inception" falls far short of director Christopher Nolan's best, though. Nolan is the man who directed the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight," which opened over the same weekend two years ago with a record \$158.4 million.

Warner Bros. has carved out a niche with this particular mid-July weekend. The studio followed "The Dark Knight" with a \$77.8 million opening for "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" over the same weekend last year.

superstitious, but stay away from this weekend. I own it," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros.

debuts on the same weekend next summer. Warner plans to open Nolan's third "Batman" movie over that weekend two years from now, though Fellman said the studio could move it to an earlier date that summer.

reviews helped Strong "Inception," which stars DiCaprio Cage, breaks into people's dreams to



Courtesy of The Associated Press Inception came out Friday, July 16.

plant an idea in a wealthy heir's subconscious.

Slipping to second place with \$32.7 million was the previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Steve Carell's animated hit "Despicable Me." The Universal release raised its 10-day total to \$118.4 million.

Disney's family adventure "The 'We like this spot. Not to sound Sorcerer's Apprentice'' was a dud, opening at No. 3 with \$17.4 million, lifting its total to \$24.5 million since premiering Wednesday.

"It's disappointing to say the The final "Harry Potter" movie least," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney, which had high hopes for the movie. "I'm perplexed. I have no response, because I honestly don't know what went wrong."

The movie reunites the team behind the hit "National Treasure" movies — Nicolas Cage, producer Jerry as leader of a team that normally Bruckheimer and director Jon Turteltaub — for an action comesteal their secrets but now has dy about an ancient wizard trainbeen hired to do the opposite - ing an awkward apprentice (Jay Monday.

Baruchel) to take down an evil sorceress in modern Manhattan.

Bruckheimer has been a blockbuster producer for Disney with such hits as "The Rock," 'Armageddon" and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise.

But "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" was the summer's second Disney-Bruckheimer production to come up short at the domestic box office, following "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time," which was unable to crack the \$100 million mark.

"Jerry's working on 'Pirates 4' as we speak," Viane said of the Johnny Depp sequel due out next summer.

"I'll go to bat with Jerry any day, because his track record is pretty darn good."

"Inception" With and "Despicable Me," the weekend marked a rare instance when two original stories - not sequels, spinoffs or adaptations of comic books, best-sellers or other properties - led the box office.

Hollywood relies on familiar titles such as "Iron Man 2," "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" and "Toy Story 3" for most of its big summer releases, though the occasional fresh idea manages to score with audiences.

"We let all of the sequels and popcorn films come out and get the summer rolling, then we come in here with this original concept," Fellman said of "Inception." "We're in a good place to run now for the rest of the summer.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com

Final figures will be released

Polanski makes appearance after release

By Bradley S. Klapper ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MONTREUX, Switzerland -Roman Polanski has made his first public appearance since his release for being arrested under charges of having sex with a minor in 1977.

The 76-year-old film director arrived at the Lake Geneva jazz never been able to hold onto my Saturday festival evening. Security personnel protected him from an eager crush of photographers.

formed shortly after his arrival.

In an interview earlier Saturday with Swiss television, Polanski thanked "the millions of people who kept sending me messages of support during those nine long months.

"I would also certainly thank my wife Emmanuelle (and) my children, without whom I would have and dignity perseverance,' Polanski said.

The Oscar-winning director was freed Monday from seven months Polanski's wife, the actress and of house arrest at his Swiss chalet Polanski's electronic anklet that singer Emmanuelle Seigner, per- when Switzerland's government had kept him imprisoned.

refused to extradite him to the United States. Before that, he was held in the country while the government debated whether or not to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977.

Polanski still faces an Interpol warrant in effect for 188 countries.

"For the moment, I'm happy to be free and to be able to do the things I was kept from doing," Polanski said.

Polanski was released from house arrest when his son cut off



Actors playing in "Waiting for Godot" pose for a photo in costume.

Next Stage puts on '50s tragi-comedy

By Kathleen Loughran COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It doesn't matter if it's yesterday, today or tomorrow - the characters of "Waiting for Godot" will continue to wait on an old country road with a bare tree and a rock.

Carlijn van Nieuwland, who attended Thursday's performance, said she enjoyed "Waiting for Godot.

"I've always liked the play, but I've never seen it before, so it was nice to finally be able to see it." she said.

In "Waiting for Godot," two vagabonds — Estragon and Vladimir — wait for Godot because the pair want to know what Godot's answer is to their prayer.

While waiting, characters Pozzo and Lucky cross Estragon and Vladimir's path. Pozzo decides to stay a while before heading off to the fair to sell Lucky, his pet. The four tell various stories until Pozzo decides to depart.

Then a boy, Godot's messenger. comes and tells Estragon and Vladimir that Godot will not be coming today but will definitely make an appearance tomorrow. The pair resolves to return the following day and wait.

Co-artistic director Jay D. Shuchter said The Next Stage decided to perform "Waiting for Godot" as part of its year of "famous masterpiece plays."

Mary Skees, The Next Stage's other artistic director, said the turnout for the play has been \$14, with a \$2 box office fee. particularly good. We're getting a much bigger

lf you go

What: "Waiting for Godot" Where: The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

When: July 23 to 25

Details: Tickets are \$16. \$14 for students and seniors plus \$2 box office fee.

turnout than we have been [at prior plays], so this is very pleasing to get this turnout, and there's been a much higher percentage of people under 30, which is really good." Skees said. "I hope people will come and see it because you don't have many times to see this play. and it's a classic.'

Vickie Boone, whose son played the boy in the play, said she was surprised by the play.

"I think it's more humorous than I expected, and the acting is very good," she said.

Audience member Ed Boone said "Waiting for Godot" is a play someone should see more than once to fully understand its meaning. "I would have to say it's a lot of substance for just a few actors," Ed Boone said. "It's a live performance at it's most basic... no props, intimate setting - it's probably easy to connect with the characters.

The Next Stage will present another round of performances from July 23 to July 25 at The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave. General tickets are \$16 and student and senior tickets are

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, July 19, 2010;

This year, solutions and great ideas seem to bubble forth naturally and weave together. You are a source of ideas for many. As a result, others frequently seek you out for feedback and a different perspective. Be careful with spending, as errors could occur when handling money. f you are single, you'll have your share of admirers to pick from. Don't settle, Enjoy the process of dating. If you an attached, the two of you become much closer. You feel as if your significant other becomes much more caring. SCORPIO often triggers your imagina

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic: 4-3-Average: 2-So-so; 1-Difficult 4-Positive:

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** Deal with associates directly You'll gain much more information, and others will reveal what they need in order to forge alead. Your creativity soars, though you might not be up for the risk you conjure up. Ionight: Make sure you and another person are on the same page TAURUS (April 20- May 21)

★★★★★ Defer to others rather than get into a potential power play. A soft, under-standing manner draws a child or loved one out. Communication with room mates and family members could become confusing. Tonight: Accept an

GEMINI (May 22-June 20)

I

★★★ Throw yourself into a project. whether working at home or in the office. Gain comes through your home and family. You might add to your home in some manner. You might opt for a puppy, or maybe a new plant. Don't make any excuses for not going to the gym fonight: Head home. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You have answers where oth-

ers might not. Allow greater give-and-take in a conversation. Make it OK to be vulnerable and more open about your feelings. Maintain a strict budged you feelings: standard a surfer brager, you could bit a snafu. Tomght: findulge in a favorite hobby or pastime. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

******* Stay close to home if possible. If you can work from home, do. Stop at some point and buy a card or gift for a friend or loved one. Don't stand on cere mony with a misunderstanding. Tonight e to home. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You don't need to be anyone but the real you, and express your thoughts and feelings. Others, especially during the workday, prove to be unusual-ly responsive. Be sensitive and open to a sibling or neighbor who needs to speak to you. Tonight: Confirm plans before

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

******* Curb a need to possess someone or to be better than another person. Honor who you are. That is quite special in itself. Build your security rather than be dependent on others for your selfimage. Tonight: Treat yourself to a new item for your wardrobe, or go for a gym membership. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$ A friend comes through for you in a rather special way. Everyone could use a supporter, and this person lets you know how much he or she is there for you. Confusion surrounds a boss or older person. Confirm a get-together before heading out. Tonight: What would

*** Having an exit strategy from a sit-nation could be most useful right now. Others could drag you down, even when just talking. Screen your calls, A boss or someone you look up to might come to the rescue. Tonight: Float with changing

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Meetings prove to be instru-mental. Someone has a totally different

perspective on an issue than you do. A branstorning session evolves. You could be delighted by everything that comes up. Confirm a late-day meeting. Tonight: Where people are. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You seem to be the one who everyone seeks out. Others need your feedback and understanding. A key associate, friend or loved one shares his or her perspective, but also gives you his or her support no matter what. Tonight: Let another person express his or her stress openly

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Reach out for more informa-tion, especially if what you are hearing doesn't quite fit. An alternate perspective also could be helpful. Many people in your daily life express their support. A caring gesture makes you smile. Tonight: Opt for something different. Someone could cancel at the last minute

BORN TODAY

Artist Edgar Degas (1834), actor Anthony Edwards (1962), inventor of the Colt revolver Samuel Colt (1814)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com. 2010 by King Features Syndicate In

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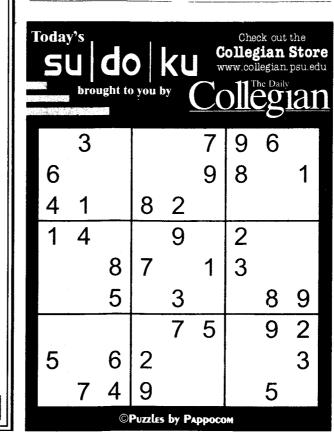
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