

The Inbetweeners Movie becomes third biggest grosser of year at UK box office

Entertainment's local smash hit comedy reaches £35m as *Fright Night* and *Apollo 18* scare away cinemagoers.

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The Inbetweeners Movie made it a hat-trick atop the UK box office, becoming the third biggest grosser of the year so far. Entertainment's comedy surpassed summer tentpoles *Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, *The Hangover Part II* and *Transformers: Dark Of The Moon* on the yearly chart after grossing a further \$5.9m (£3.7m) to stand at an impressive \$56.4m (£35.0m).



It's unlikely to catch *The King's Speech*'s haul of \$73.6m (£45.7m) as the second biggest grosser of the year, but a drop of only 35% in its third weekend suggests the £40m mark is a distinct possibility.

Solid holdovers combined with generally lacklustre openings for new entries meant that *Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes*, *One Day* and *The Smurfs* occupied second to fourth on the chart for the second week in a row.

Fox's *Apes* prequel managed to rise a place to second and has now amassed \$28.9m (£17.9m), the tenth biggest grosser at the UK box office this year, after recording its fourth consecutive £1m+ weekend – a feat matched by *The Smurfs* as it held firm in fourth spot.

The week's highest new entry belonged to Reliance's *Bodyguard* as previews bolstered its opening to a superb \$1.4m (£839,695) from just 51 locations to land fifth. This meant that the romantic comedy, a Hindi-language remake of director Siddique's own 2010

Malayalam-language film of the same name, notched both this week's highest location average at a whopping \$26,552 (£16,465) and the biggest opening for a Bollywood film at the UK box office this year to date.

A pair of horrors didn't fare quite so well on their opening weekends: Disney's remake *Fright Night* lacked bite as it managed only a miserly \$1.1m (£680,543), 93.6% of which came from 3D screens, to chart seventh; while Entertainment's *Apollo 18* fared worse, managing \$791,398 (£490,746) from its 358 locations to open a spot lower in eighth. The former's performance, coupled with sub-par openings for both *Final Destination 5* and *Conan The Barbarian* last week (the latter of which dropped a huge 86% in its second weekend), suggests that when it comes to adult-orientated films, 3D isn't the guaranteed money spinner that it's proved to be over the summer with the likes of *Harry Potter* and *Pirates 4*.

Opening just outside the top 15 (when taking *The Guard*'s combined UK and Ireland figures into account) but each enjoying a more-than-respectable UK box office bow were Ayngaran's *Mankatha* and Eros' *Bol* managing averages of \$11,126 (£6,899) and \$6,838 (£4,240) respectively on their way to chart 16th and 17th.

Critical acclaim and festival buzz wasn't enough for StudioCanal's *Kill List* to record a big opening with Ben Wheatley's horror only taking \$141,864 (£87,970) from its 47 locations in 18th, almost half of which (\$63,972 / £39,669) came from its 13 West End locations.

At least it didn't do as poorly as Fox's *The Art Of Getting By* which scraped into the top 20 after a woeful \$121,971 (£75,634) marked the distributor's worst opening of 2011 to date.

This week sees saturated releases for Entertainment's *Colombiana*, Universal's *Jane Eyre* and Sony's *Friends With Benefits*. Norwegian hit *Troll Hunter* receives a wide release through Momentum.