

'Black Panther' Tops Box Office For Fifth Straight Week

NEW YORK: Not since "Avatar" has a box-office hit had the kind of staying power of "Black Panther."

Ryan Coogler's comic-book sensation on Sunday became the first film since James Cameron's 2009 smash to top the weekend box office through five straight weekends.

The Disney release grossed \$27 million in ticket sales over the weekend, according to studio estimates, pushing its domestic haul to \$605.4 million. Worldwide, "Black Panther" has grossed more than \$1.1 billion.

Though "Black Panther" has had little competition to contend with throughout February and March, such consistency is especially rare in today's movie-going world. Before "Avatar," the last



film to do it was 1999's "The Sixth Sense."

That left second place to the MGM-Warner Bros.' rebooted "Tomb Raider," starring Alicia Vikander as the archaeologist adventurer Lara Croft. The \$90 million film opened with \$23.5 million, largely failing to stir much excitement among moviegoers.

With Vikander stepping in for

Angelina Jolie, Roar Uthaug's "Tomb Raider" is an attempt to rekindle a video game-adapted franchise that faded quickly the first time around. Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief

Of course, the continuing success of "Black Panther" also didn't help "Tomb Raider." When release dates were being set a year ago, few could have

foreseen "Black Panther" no. 1 five weeks in. "How could you?" Goldstein said.

The surprise of the weekend was the Lionsgate-Roadside Attractions Christian drama "I Can Only Imagine," which grossed \$17.1 million on 1,629 screens — less than half the number that "Black Panther," "Tomb Raider" and "A Wrinkle in Time" played

on. The film, which co-stars Dennis Quaid and Cloris Leachman, cost only \$7 million to make. It stars J. Michael Finley as the singer behind one of the most popular Christian songs, by the band MercyMe.

Fox Searchlight's Oscar winner "The Shape of Water" also launched in China this weekend with \$10.4 million following its best-picture win.

The biggest post-Oscars boost has been overseas, where "The Shape of Water" grossed \$17 million over the weekend.

The Top Three Films:

1. "Black Panther," \$27 million (\$30 million international).
2. "Tomb Raider," \$23.5 million (\$84.5 million international).
3. "I Can Only Imagine," \$17.1 million (\$195,000 international).

Actresses Plan 'Hungry Days' To Stay Thin

LOS ANGELES: Actress Amy Schumer says most women facing the cameras stay thin by planning "hungry days" when they don't eat.

Schumer spoke about the extreme way her actress friends use to get ready for the camera on broadcaster Katie Couric's podcast, reports dailymail.co.uk.

She said some of her famous friends plan days in the calendar when they "have to be hungry".

They even decline invites to socialise so that they remain home and away from temptation.

"That's totally typical for a lot of actresses. But I'm like, 'I'm not doing that', because those people aren't happy," Schumer said. "It's funny, I go to awards shows and I try to look my best and I look like how the costume designers look and I feel proud about that," she said.

Last month, Schumer got married to chef Chris Fischer following a whirlwind romance.





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