

# "Screen Scene"

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**Summer May 2007 Special Edition!**

## May starts the summer of 2007's "Battle of the big movies"!

Traditionally the official start of the summer movie season has been Memorial Day weekend. This year, two major movies have unofficially declared the month of May their battleground for high profile movies. The studios and their projects are: Sony Pictures with **"Spider-Man 3"** opening May 4th. Paramount Pictures (in conjunction with DreamWorks) is offering **"Shrek The Third"** Opening May 18th. And Disney Pictures with **"Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End"** with an opening date of May 25th!

It should be noted that "Pirates 3"s opening of May 25th is the start of the holiday weekend, so it could be reasoned that "Pirates" can be likened to the racecar driver with the outside pole position (as opposed to the inside) who could come out ahead with premiering late in the month.

All three films are sequels to highly monetarily successful franchises. Here are the numbers based on worldwide grosses:

### Spider-Man—Sony Pictures:

"Spider-Man" (02') 821.7 million

"Spider-Man 2" (04') 783.7 million Total: 1.654 billion

### Pirates—Disney Pictures / Bruckheimer Films

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl" (03')  
415.1 million

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" (06')  
587.5 million Total 1.26 Billion

### Shrek—Paramount Pictures / DreamWorks:

"Shrek" (01') 267.7 million

"Shrek 2" (04') 441.2 million Total: 708.9 million



An analysis', based on these number which doesn't include second run or DVD sales/rentals, the Spider-Man franchise has the highest grosses with Pirates in second place. A closer look at the numbers reveals that although the Spider-Man franchise has the highest

grosses, the second film's numbers, which are very respectable, did fall off from the first! The third installment is being pushed as the next step forward in the franchise with heightened special effects and a darker story, laying more in the comic book's realm.



The Pirate movies at number two, made a big splash with "Pirates 1" and its continuing story line that primed us all for the next adventure for Jack Sparrow and his loyal friends. It worked! "Pirates 2" ended with quite a challenge facing Sparrow and company. With the expertise of super producer Jerry Bruckheimer, the continuing story concept, which he successfully employs for his TV projects, is the driving force of the Pirates franchise and if the special effects are held in check, look out!

Here's an interesting side note... Johnny Depp, who plays Jack Sparrow, has often said that he patterned his Sparrow character after the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards. After the reporting press carried the statements, Depp, really wanting to let Richards' know that it was the ultimate compliment, calls him. Richards' response is said to have been that he didn't think he had that much personality! He (Richards) isn't sure what happened. By the time the call ended, Richards had agreed to do a cameo as Jack Sparrow's dad in the next installment! For us "baby boomers" and Stones' fans for years, how can you not want to check out "Pirates 3"!



Although coming in third with the franchise grosses, the Shrek films show the best gain in box office from the first film to the second. The edge that Shrek has is its PG status for ratings. It has appeal for

the whole family, so as the turnstiles click, there's a few more dollars to be counted as families attend in groups.

Who do I think will be the box office winner? First, my personal favorites the order of my likes, looks like this. Pirates is at the top!



I'm intrigued by the story of Jack Sparrow and his devil-may-care attitude with his loyal friends of Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) to bail him out! If the third installment concentrates on story and effective use of special effects to enhance, not take over the film which almost happened in "Pirates 2", it'll work.

Spider-Man is my second favorite!



I loved the comic books as a kid and if the third movie stays truer to the comics, it might bring some people back who dropped off the second installment.

Coming in third, is Shrek as my least favorite of the three!



Don't get me wrong, its not to say that the Shrek films aren't good. They're good all around fun with messages that the whole family

can relate to, as well as enjoy for pure entertainment.

Who will win the box office battle? It'll probably go Shrek, Pirates, and Spider-Man, in that order. The real winners will be the movie goers!

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A look at the upcoming May lineup has a few more movies for just about any movie goers' taste!



**"Lucky You"**, directed by Curtis Hanson; A hotshot poker player tries to win a tournament in Vegas, but is fighting a losing battle with his personal problems. Starring Eric Bana, Drew Barrymore, Robert Duvall, Debra Messing, Horatio Sanz, Jean Smart, and Charles Martin Smith.



**"The Ex"**, directed by Jesse Peretz; A slacker (Zach Braff) is forced to work for his father-in-law after his pregnant wife (Amanda Peet) steps away from her high-paying job. Starring Zach Braff, Amanda Peet, Jason Bateman, Charles Grodin, Mia Farrow, Donal Logue, Amy Poehler, Amy Adams, and Fred Armisen.



**"Georgia Rule"**, from the director of "Pretty Woman" and "The Princess Diaries" Garry Marshall; Georgia Rule follows a rebellious, uncontrollable teenager (Lindsay Lohan) who is hauled off by her dysfunctional mother (Felicity Huffman) to spend the summer with her grandmother (Jane Fonda).



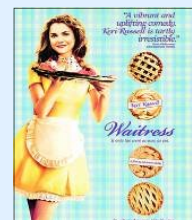
**"Delta Farce"**, directed by C.D. Harding; Three bumbling Army reservists buddies bound for Iraq, are accidentally dropped at a Mexican village that is besieged by hostile forces! Larry "The Cable Guy", Bill Engvall, DJ Qualls, Danny Trejo, Marisol Nichols, Glenn Morshower, and Christina Moore.



**"After the Wedding"**, directed by Susanne Bier; A manager of an orphanage (Mads Mikkelsen) in India is sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he discovers a life-altering family secret. Also starring Sidsel Babett Knudsen, and Rolf Lassard.



**"28 Weeks Later"**, directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo; Six months after the rage virus was inflicted on the population of the British Isles, the US Army helps to secure a small area of London for the survivors to repopulate and start again. But not everything goes to plan. Starring Rose Byrne, and Jeremy Renner.



**"Waitress"**, written & directed by Adrienne Shelly; Jenna (Keri Russell) is a pregnant, unhappily married waitress in the deep south. She meets a newcomer to her town and falls into an unlikely relationship as a last attempt at happiness. Also starring Nathan Fillion, Cheryl Hines, and Adrienne Shelly.