

'The Odyssey' breaks records at the box office

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Photo - Public Domain

The new Christopher Nolan movie 'The Odyssey' has broken box office records across the world. The three-hour-long film made over \$290,000 from just one cinema in London. The movie theatre had its highest three-day opening weekend in history. The previous weekend record was held by 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' in 2017, with another Nolan-directed movie 'Oppenheimer' in third place. 'The Odyssey' is also doing well in the USA. It is the biggest domestic opening of the year for a non-animated film. The world's largest theatre operator AMC Entertainment reported high ticket sales. It had screenings at 2 am, 3 am, and 6 am in some cities to meet demand. Almost all seats were sold out.

'The Odyssey' is a 2026 action fantasy film. It was written and directed by Christopher Nolan. It is based on an epic 2,700-year-old poem written by the ancient Greek poet Homer. The story is about a Greek king called Odysseus. Viewers see his dangerous ten-year journey home after fighting in the Trojan War in around 1200 BC. On his travels, he meets many mythical creatures. The movie has a star-studded cast including Matt Damon and rapper Travis Scott. 'The Odyssey' has had many positive reviews. Nolan has also received a lot of praise. Movie expert David A. Gross said: "Nolan is the only filmmaker working today who could take an ancient story like this ... and make it a pop culture event."

Sources: [variety.com](https://www.variety.com) / [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Writing

Non-animated movies are better than animated movies. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

movie / odyssey / box office / movie theatre / history / domestic / non-animated film / action / fantasy / epic / poem / journey / travels / mythical creatures / cast / praise

True / False

- 1) The article says 'The Odyssey' is the biggest movie ever. T / F
- 2) One London cinema made \$29 million in three days. T / F
- 3) Many people in the USA are going to see the movie. T / F
- 4) In some cities, people watched the movie in a cinema at 3 am. T / F
- 5) The movie is based on a poem that is over 2,500 years old. T / F
- 6) A character in the movie took ten years to go home after a war. T / F
- 7) The movie has had many negative reviews. T / F
- 8) The director made an old story into a modern pop culture event. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. broken | a. only |
| 2. just | b. operating |
| 3. previous | c. long |
| 4. place | d. trip |
| 5. almost | e. position |
| 6. epic | f. smashed |
| 7. journey | g. specialist |
| 8. mythical | h. last |
| 9. expert | i. legendary |
| 10. working | j. nearly |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the movie director Christopher Nolan?
- b) What are your favourite movies?
- c) Have you ever been on a long journey?
- d) What do you think of movie theatres?
- e) Are animated movies better than non-animated films?
- f) What are the good and bad things about cinemas?
- g) What is the best length of time for a movie?
- h) What long journey would you like to go on?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The three-hour-long film made | a. 2,700-year-old poem |
| 2. a non- | b. a lot of praise |
| 3. high ticket | c. sold out |
| 4. It had screenings | d. Trojan War |
| 5. Almost all seats were | e. sales |
| 6. It is based on an epic | f. studded cast |
| 7. fighting in the | g. over \$290,000 |
| 8. The movie has a star- | h. at 2 am, 3 am, and 6 am |
| 9. Nolan has also received | i. working today |
| 10. Nolan is the only filmmaker | j. animated film |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about ancient Greek poetry?
- What do you think of poetry?
- Is it better to watch movies in cinemas or at home?
- What do you know about the Trojan War?
- What do you think of mythical creatures?
- Who are your favourite movie actors and directors?
- What questions would you like to ask Christopher Nolan?

Spelling

- the vuiespro weekend record
- the biggest emcoidts opening
- a non- eadnitma film
- the world's largest theatre eroortap
- It had csgsinreen at 2 am
- meet dendam
- 'The Odyssey' is a 2026 action nyaatfs film
- It is ebdsa on an epic 2,700-year-old poem
- written by the inanect Greek poet Homer
- his dangerous ten-year rjeynou home
- he meets many tymahilc creatures
- received a lot of earisp

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. a	3. h	4. e	5. j
6. c	7. d	8. i	9. g	10. b

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Where has the movie 'The Odyssey' broken box office records?
2.	How long is 'The Odyssey'?
3.	What Christopher Nolan movie is in third place?
4.	In which country is 'The Odyssey' doing well?
5.	What is the earliest screening of 'The Odyssey' in some cities?
6.	How old is the poem 'The Odyssey' is based on?
7.	What war did a king called Odysseus fight in?
8.	Who did Odysseus meet on his journey home?
9.	What kinds of reviews has the movie had?
10.	What did a movie expert say the movie was made into?

Speaking – Movie Genres

Rank these with your partner. Put the best movie genre at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| • Action | • Romance |
| • Fantasy | • Science fiction |
| • Historical | • Horror |
| • Comedy | • Suspense |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.