

'Collateral' Cruises to \$24.4 Million Debut

Sunday, August 08, 2004

Tom Cruise's "Collateral," in which he plays a psychotic hitman who hijacks a taxi for a one-night killing spree, debuted as the top weekend movie with \$24.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Collateral" bumped off the previous weekend's top movie, the fright flick "The Village," which took in \$16.6 million, a steep 67 percent tumble from its opening-weekend receipts. "The Village" pushed its 10-day total to \$85.7 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, the Brittany Murphy romantic comedy "Little Black Book," opened weakly in fifth place with \$7 million. The overall box office was down sharply. The top 12 movies grossed \$97.7 million, off 23 percent from the same weekend last year, when "S.W.A.T." and "Freaky Friday" both opened strong

"This is why they call it the dog days of August," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "Summers always surprise you. They either slow down at the end or they peak at the end."

1. How much more did "Collateral" take in over the weekend compared to "The Village"?
2. Of the weekend's top 12 grossing movies what was the mean of the revenue generated per film?

Judge to Johnson: Pay for Food

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ASPEN, Colo. — Actor Don Johnson has been ordered to pay a grocery store nearly \$6,000.

Pitkin County District Judge Erin Fernandez-Ely said Johnson must pay \$5,470 for his past-due balance at Clark's Market, along with \$426.85 in interest and court costs of \$101.

In May his 17-acre ranch near Aspen was put on sale amid a bankruptcy filing.

Johnson, who starred in TV's "Miami Vice" and "Nash Bridges" and appeared in the movie "Tin Cup," bought the ranch 16 years ago.

Los Angeles-based City National Bank sued Johnson in March, seeking to force an auction of the property to recoup \$930,000 it claimed Johnson owed.

3. What percentage of the total past due amount does the \$426.85 represent?
4. Describe at least three reasons why paying your bills in a timely manner is absolutely necessary.