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HOLLYWOOD
 by Tony Rizzo



Emily Blunt in "Edge of Tomorrow" (2014)

HOLLYWOOD: Isn't it strange that Tom Cruise, one of the biggest movie stars on the planet, has to resort to making a sequel of an 11-year-old film that was only a minor success? Why not focus on the sequel to "Top Gun: Maverick," which recouped over \$1.5 billion of its \$177 million investment? Why instead make a sequel to the 2014 film "Edge of Tomorrow," which only earned \$370.5 million after a \$178 million cost?

Plans are afoot for "Live Die Repeat and Repeat," again co-starring Emily Blunt, which, depending

on when the script is completed, should begin shooting late in 2026. ***

Robert Pattinson, who had a 10-year string of less-than-successful films after "The Twilight Saga" in 2012, saw it all change thanks to "The Batman" in 2022. Then his dubbed English version of "The Boy and the Heron," a Japanese animated fantasy, won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film in 2024. Then came his sci-fi film "Mickey 17."

Pattinson currently has the psychological black comedy "Die My Love," with Jennifer Lawrence, Nick Nolte and Sissy Spacek, arriving on Nov. 7 and an upcoming slate of five films including: "The Drama" with Zendaya; "The Odyssey" with Zendaya, Tom Holland and Matt Damon (coming July 17, 2026); "Dune: Part Three" with Zendaya again (no, she's dating Holland), Timothee Chalamet, Josh Brolin, and Jason Momoa (coming December 2026); the crime drama "Primetime"; and Netflix's "Here Comes the Flood," with Denzel Washington and Daisy Edgar-Jones.

He'll definitely be back as "The Batman," which cost \$200 million and grossed \$772.3 million. ***

"Dancing with the Stars" "Wicked" night was a shameless two-hour plug for "Wicked: For Good,"

which opens on Nov. 21. Social media exploded with comments like: "They overstepped the bounds of theme night and became a promotional event for the film!"

Fans were upset over the inconsistencies in the judging and wondered what qualified the "Wicked" director Jon M. Chu as a judge!

West Coast fans should be complaining more about how their votes don't count since the voting closes between 5-7 p.m. when it airs on the East Coast before it even airs on the West Coast. ***

The short film "Steamboat Willie" introduced Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse to the world in 1928 and has since become public domain. Producer/director Steven LaMorte jumped on it and created the comedy-horror film "Screamboat," which opened on April 2 and only grossed \$393,011 (while a film like "Black Phone 2" grossed \$27 million during its first week).

Nevertheless, LaMorte's moving ahead with a sequel that he's calling -- what else? -- "Screamboat 2: Nothing Stays Dead." It will feature Minnie for "more miniature murder and mayhem," and the screenplay is currently being developed. You'd think they would've figured out that people stayed away because they weren't interested in seeing "Screamboat's" Willie!

"I thought I had mono once for an entire year. It turns out I was just really bored."

- Wayne Campbell (Mike Myers), Wayne's World

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