

## German box office hits record \$1.22bn in 2015

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Local hits such as *Fack Ju Göhte 2* helped score a record year in Germany - even before the release of *Star Wars*.

The German box office faced a record year in 2015 even before the Dec 17 release of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which had taken more than \$80.4m (€74m) by the beginning of the New Year (until Jan 3)

The first nine months of 2015 had seen German cinemas selling 90 million tickets and posting \$819m (€754m), a year-on-year increase of 14.7% and 16.7% respectively over 2014, thanks to blockbusters such as *Fast & Furious 7*, *Fifty Shades Of Grey* and the local hits *Honig Im Kopf* and *Fack Ju Göhte 2*.

According to data provided by Rentrak, 2015 ended with total box-office takings of \$1.22bn (€1.12 bn) and admissions topping 131 million.

Disney's reboot of the *Star Wars* franchise was 2015's number one title based on box-office receipts and immediately went into the record books as the film with the best opening weekend of all time in Germany by taking an impressive \$27.2m (€25m).

However, on the admissions front, Constantin Film's *Fack Ju Göhte 2* was the year's top title with 7.6 million tickets sold (compared to *Star Wars*' 6.5 million).

Bora Dagtekin's sequel to his 2013 hit comedy *Fack Ju Göhte* sold 2.12 million tickets on its first weekend in September, the best opening for a German film ever (in comparison, the latest Bond extravaganza *Spectre* was seen by 1.7 million cinema-goers in the first four days), and became the second most successful German film of all time after only six weeks on release.

## **Made in Germany**

Last month, industry observers forecast that films ‘made in Germany’ would garner a market share of around 25% thanks to the two blockbusters *Fack Ju Göhte 2* and *Honig Im Kopf* as well as David Wnendt’s Hitler comedy *Er ist wieder da* and the Warner Bros. co-produced/distributed comedies *Traumfrauen* and *Der Nanny*.

Eight of the 11 German films in the year’s Top 50 each attracted more than 1 million admissions, ranging from 7.6 million for *Fack Ju Göhte 2* to the latest editions of the family entertainment franchises *Ostwind 2*, *Fünf Freunde 4*, based on Enid Blyton’s *Famous Five* book series, and *Bibi und Tina*.

## **Universal leads studios**

With four releases – *Minions*, *Fast & Furious 7*, *Fifty Shades Of Grey*, and *Jurassic World* - in the year’s Top 10, Universal was in the pole position for 2015 with a market share of 21.8% based on box-office revenues and 21% based on admissions.

Disney followed in second place with market shares of 15.1% and 13.3% respectively from such releases as *Avengers: Age Of Ultron* and *Inside Out* alongside *Star Wars*, while Warner Bros. nabbed third position (14.3%/14.4%) with a mix of hits both local (*Honig im Kopf*, *Traumfrauen*) and international (*The Hobbit*, *American Sniper*).

Meanwhile, Constantin Film was 2015’s top independent distributor – at fourth place (9.6%/10.7%) with more than half of its takings of \$117.8m (€108.4m) attributed to one title – *Fack Ju Göhte 2*.

## **Dip in 3D**

3D has lost its popularity with German cinema-goers, according to the German Federal Film Board’s Frank Völkert, which reported a drop of almost 16% in admissions for films shown in 3D compared to 2014.

Völkert noted that *Minions* was seen by more than 6.8 million, but only 35% of these admissions were for 3D performances.