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Shark thriller The Meg, directed by Jon Turteltaub, is today topping the box office in the United States, where it surpassed 44.5 million dollars in its opening weekend.

The film, a U.S.-China co-production, also raised more than 141 million dollars in its international debut, above expectations, according to the production companies.

Starring British actor Jason Statham, the film is based on the book Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror by American writer Steve Alten, and tells the story of scientists who travel in a submersible and try to prevent a giant shark believed to be extinct from causing destruction.

The cast of The Meg is completed by actors Li Bingbing, Rainn Wilson, Ruby Rose, Winston Chao and Cliff Curtis.

According to official counts in second place is the sixth issue of Mission Impossible: Fallout, starring Tom Cruise, followed by the comedy BlacKkKlansman by director Spike Lee.