
Denzel Washington tops US box office in The Equalizer

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It marked a strong opening for the film, in which Washington plays a former commando who finds himself in a battle with the Russian mafia.

The film has reunited Washington with director Antoine Fuqua, who also directed 2001's *Training Day*.

The movie is based on the 1980s TV series, starring Edward Woodward.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, called Washington "the very model of box-office consistency."

"I can't think of another star that's this consistent, that remains this rock solid over the course of three decades," he added.

Last week's top film, *The Maze Runner*, slid to second with \$17.5m (£10.7m).

The animated movie *The Boxtrolls* opened in third, just behind *The Maze Runner* with \$17.3m (£10.6m).

It has marked the US animation studio Laika's best opening yet - its previous films include the Oscar-nominated *Coraline* and *Paranorman*.

The Boxtrolls was made using stop-motion technology, where each scene is set up with puppets

placed on miniature sets. The 3D film features the voices of Sir Ben Kingsley and Elle Fanning.

The comedy *This is Where I Leave You* took \$7m (£4.3m), putting it into fourth place with *Dolphin Tale 2* rounding out the top five.
