
American Sniper shoots to top of US box office

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The war drama, directed by Clint Eastwood, is up for best picture and best actor for star Bradley Cooper, who plays real life Navy Seal Chris Kyle.

Action comedy *The Wedding Ringer* opened in second place with \$21m (£14m).

British family film *Paddington* came third with \$19.3m (£12.8m).

American Sniper jumped from 21st place at last weekend's US box office, after a limited release in just a few screens.

It is now Eastwood's most successful film opening as director, beating *Gran Torino*'s 2008 opening of \$29.5m (£19.5m), and performed twice as well as studio estimates according to Reuters.



Action comedy *The Wedding Ringer* sees Josh Gad hire Kevin Hart to be his best man

The Wedding Ringer, which stars Kevin Hart as a best man for hire, achieved its successful opening weekend despite being panned by critics.

Last week's number one, Liam Neeson's action sequel *Taken 3*, fell to fourth place.

US cinemas were especially busy during the three-day Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend.

Martin Luther King drama *Selma*, which was nominated for two Oscars including best picture, was in fifth place.

The Imitation Game - which landed eight Oscar nominations - also made the top 10, along with Disney musical *Into the Woods*, the final *Hobbit* film and Angelina Jolie's *Unbroken*.

New cyber-terrorism film *Blackhat* was in 10th place.

US and Canada box office

Source: Rentrak

- 1.American Sniper - \$90.2m (£59m)
- 2.The Wedding Ringer - \$21m (£14m)
- 3.Paddington - \$19.3m (£12.8m)
- 4.Taken 3 - \$14.1m (£9.3m)
- 5.Selma - \$8.3m (£5.49m)

