

It seems the decision to open with 3,700 Thursday midnight showings has paid off for Warner Bros., as The Dark Knight Rises' 2D midnights number shatters the \$18.4M generated by Marvel's 3D epic The Avengers earlier this summer. Joss Whedon's film had held the record for midnight gross set by a superhero movie (the overall record is still held by the final Harry Potter flick). "The West Coast is still selling tickets with some theaters adding 3 AM shows, this is effing huge!" a Warner Bros exec tells Deadline. Reported pre-sales of \$30M and international grosses from 9 countries totalling \$10.4M, means that's already \$67.4M worldwide for Christopher Nolan's Batman swan-song before it's even in wide release.

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