YOU SAY GRAPHIC NOVEL, I SAY COMIC BOOK

The subject of this month's cover story, Kick-Ass, is the second comicbook adapted from a work by Scottish writer Mark Millar. His paean to supervillians, Wanted, was adapted in 2008 by Russian helmer Timur Bekmambetov. and it went on to become one of the more successful comic-to-film translations in recent years. The chart at right reflects live-action adaptations only and includes sequels not directly taken from their source

HIGHEST GROSSING COMIC-BOOK MOVIES OF ALL TIME

	FILM	GROSS
1	The Dark Knight	\$533,345,358
2	Spider-Man	\$403,706,375
3	Spider-Man 2	\$373,585,825
4	Spider-Man 3	\$336,530,303
5	Iron Man	\$318,412,101
6	Batman	\$251,188,924
7	Men in Black	\$250,690,539
8	X-Men: The Last Stand	\$234,362,462
9	X2: X-Men United	\$214,949,694
10	300	\$210,614,939
11	Batman Begins	\$205,343,774
12	Superman Returns	\$200,081,192
13	Men in Black II	\$190,418,803
14	Batman Forever	\$184,031,112
15	X-Men Origins: Wolverine	\$179,883,157
16	Batman Returns	\$162,831,698
17	X-Men	\$157,299,717
18	Fantastic Four	\$154,696,080
19	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	\$135,265,915
20	The Incredible Hulk	\$134,806,913
21	Wanted	\$134,508,551
22	Superman	\$134,218,018
23	Hulk	\$132,177,234
24	Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer	\$131,921,738
25	The Mask	\$119,938,730
26	Ghost Rider	\$115,802,596
27	Superman II	\$108,185,706
28	Watchmen	\$107,509,799
29	Batman & Robin	\$107,325,195
30	Road to Perdition	\$104,454,762
31	Daredevil	\$102,543,518
32	Blade II	\$82,348,319
33	TMNT II: The Secret of the Ooze	\$78,656,813
34	Constantine	\$75,976,178
35	Hellboy II: The Golden Army	\$75,986,503
36	Sin City	\$74,103,820
37	V for Vendetta	\$70,511,035
38	Blade	\$70,087,718
39	League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	\$66,465,204

	FILM	GROSS
40	Superman III	\$59,950,623
41	Hellboy	\$59,623,958
42	Spawn	\$54,870,175
43	TMNT	\$54,149,098
44	Blade: Trinity	\$52,411,906
45	The Crow	\$50,693,129
46	The Rocketeer	\$46,704,056
47	Timecop	\$44,853,581
48	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III	\$42,273,609
49	Catwoman	\$40,202,379
50	30 Days of Night	\$39,568,996
51	Surrogates	\$38,577,772
52	Ri¢hie Ri¢h	\$38,087,756
53	Judge Dredd	\$34,693,481
54	The Punisher	\$33,810,189
55	From Hell	\$31,602,566
56	A History of Violence	\$31,504,633
57	Mystery Men	\$29,762,011
58	Elektra	\$24,409,722
59	Weird Science	\$23,834,048
60	Bulletproof Monk	\$23,358,708
61	The Spirit	\$19,806,188
62	The Crow: City of Angels	\$17,917,287
63	Son of the Mask	\$17,018,422
64	Howard the Duck	\$16,295,774
65	Superman IV: The Quest for Peace	\$15,681,020
66	Supergirl	\$14,296,438
67	Josie and the Pussycats	\$14,271,015
68	Virus	\$14,036,005
69	Whiteout	\$10,275,638
70	Punisher: War Zone	\$8,050,977
71	Red Sonja	\$6,948,633
72	Ghost World	\$6,217,849
73	American Splendor	\$6,010,990
74	Sheena	\$5,778,353
75	Monkeybone	\$5,411,999
76	Tank Girl	\$4,064,495
77	Barb Wire	\$3,793,614
78	Art School Confidential	\$3,297,137

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The first comic-to-film adapation was released in 1905. The live-action *Prehistoric Peeps* was based on U.K. cartoonist and *Punch* contributor Edward Tennyson Reed's comic panels of the same name and featured actors dressed in dinosaur costumes.

LOWEST GROSSING COMIC-BOOK MOVIE OF ALL TIME

STEEL

Shaq was wack

domestic gross: **\$1,710,972**

estimated budget: \$16,000,000



Kenneth Johnson PRODUCERS Quincy Jones, David Salzman, Joel Simon GENRE Action/Adventure RATING Rated PG-13 for some superhero action violence RUNNING TIME 97 min. RELEASE DATE August 15, 1997
 WHAT WE SAID THEN Shaquille

 O'Neal (Kazaam) stars as metals
 specialist John Henry Irons, who
 In and Warners must hope that Steel has more legs than the Lakers did in the playoffs. Steel seems aimed a little higher

DISTRIBUTOR Warner Bros. CAST Shaquille O'Neal, Annabeth Gish, Judd Nelson DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER

O'Neal (*Kazaam*) stars as metals specialist John Henry Irons, who develops a top-secret weapon. But his duplicitous nemesis, Nathaniel Burke (Judd Nelson), uses it to arm street thugs, and plans to sell the weapon to international terrorists. O'Neal's *Kazaam* didn't overfill Disney's coffers,

and Warners must hope that *Steel* has more legs than the Lakers did in the playoffs. *Steel* seems aimed a little higher in age bracket, and though little kids idolize Shaq, that could lend this project more consideration from moviegoers. Still, the likely attendees will be dad and son—hardcore action fans are unlikely to buy in here—so tout the O'Neal name to draw his NBA watchers.

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