

Movie star mystery

- 1 Traditionally, streaming service Netflix has held statistics about its viewing figures close to its chest. It made an exception last week, however, with the announcement that 30 million subscriber accounts had streamed its new comedy thriller, *Murder Mystery*, in its first three days of release. Had it been released in the cinema, and if you imagine that for each account two people watched it, this would make it the third-best opening weekend ever.
- 2 Which just goes to show that 36-1, said Melanie McDonagh in *The Daily Mail*. According to her this Agatha Christie spoof, starring Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler as a hapless American couple who get drawn into a glamorous if implausible murder mystery, is lacking in anything resembling suspense, emotional depth or even humour.
- 3 Leo Benedictus of *The Guardian* also notices the film is cliché, but he thinks that's the point of a spoof. And he goes on to state that he finds it an amiable movie precisely because 36-2.
- 4 What *Murder Mystery* really proves is that, contrary to reports, 36-3, says Benjamin Lee in *The Guardian*. He explains how in the cinema, the biggest hits, like Marvel's Avenger movies, rely on franchise momentum more than on the draw of individual actors. But stars like Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck, whose big screen record has been patchy, have found a new lease of life on Netflix. When Sandler signed a multi-movie deal with Netflix, pundits took it as proof the actor was washed up. On the contrary, it looks like he was just ahead of his time.



adapted from *THE WEEK*, 2019