Few Fireworks for ‘Tammy’ and Weekend Box Office

By BROOKS BARNES

LOS ANGELES — It opened against very light competition, and over the Fourth of July holiday weekend no less. Warner Bros. was counting on Benedict Cumberbatch to support its star, Melissa McCarthy, aggressively touted the publicity circuit.

And yet “The Doctor” arrived on time. Extending a bleak streak for Warner and leading to questions about the limits of Ms. McCarthy’s R-rated comedic style, “Tammy” took in an estimated $11.2 million over the weekend, for a total of $32.9 million since arriving in wide release on Wednesday. Based on prerelease surveys of potential ticket-buyer interest, several box office analysts had projected a five-day total closer to $45 million.

But poor turnout for “Tammy” contributed to the weakest Fourth of July box office results in a decade, studio executives said. Viewership of the World Cup and the Friday timing of the holiday probably contributed. Compared with last year, when “Despicable Me 2” and “The Lone Ranger” arrived in theaters, sales for the weekend were down 34 percent, according to Rentrak, which compiles ticketing data.

Among new films in wide release, “Tammy” competed with a horror picture, “Deliver Us From Evil” (Sony), and a family entry, “Earth to Echo” (Relativity), each of which took in less than $10 million between Friday and Sunday. The No. 1 movie over the weekend was Paramount’s “Transformers: Age of Extinction,” with $36.4 million, for a two-week North American total of about $374.8 million. “Age of Extinction” is a runaway hit in a summer that has had Continued on Page 5

Melissa McCarthy in costume in the Warner Bros. comedy “Tammy.”

Rethinking a Spurned Landmark

By ROBIN POGBEIN

As an architect, Gene Kaufman doesn’t typically save buildings; he designs them.

But when he heard of plans to change Paul Rudolph’s celebrated but shuttered government building in Goshen, N.Y., as part of a renovation plan, he decided to step in.

“Too bad building this would be a tragedy,” said Mr. Kaufman, a partner at Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman Architects in New York City. He has offered to buy and restore the 1967 building, which architecture experts hail as a prime example of raw Brutalist style and others consider an eyesore in a town known for its historic harness-racing track and Greek Revival, Federal and Victorian houses.

Under Mr. Kaufman’s plan, the government building designed by Rudolph and owned by Orange County, would be turned into a center for forums, exhibitions and community meetings. He has also offered to design a new government center on the land that is now the building’s parking lot.

Mr. Kaufman is not proposing a cash purchase, but suggests the county can afford to renovate the existing building and build a new one with the money it will save, among other things, his discounted consulting fees and the elimination of its demolition costs.

It is unclear if county officials will agree to Mr. Kaufman’s plan. But they have decided to entertain the possibility of reviving their existing renovation plan in favor of building a new government center. A request for design proposals for a new building went out last week. Continued on Page 4

The Brutalist-style Orange County Government Center in Goshen, N.Y., closed since 2011, and designed by Paul Rudolph, may get a shot at preservation.