

'Soul Surfer' Has 'Word of Mouth'

Soul Surfer—the inspirational life story of surfer Bethany Hamilton, the Christian teen who had her left arm bitten off by a tiger shark—again finished in fourth place in its second weekend, grossing an estimated \$7.4 million from more than 2,000 theaters, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Heavily marketed to the faith-based community, the movie—which stars AnnaSophia Robb as Bethany; Dennis Quaid as her father, Tom; Helen Hunt as Bethany's mother, Cheri; and Carrie Underwood as church youth leader Sarah Hill—"held its ground better than the other second-weekend holdovers," according to

. Released April 8, *Soul Surfer* has received mixed mainstream reviews, but an A-plus from CinemaScore's moviegoer polling. The movie "lost a mere 27 percent of its audience (at the weekend)," the *Orlando Sentinel* noted. "That has to be word of mouth. Faith based (light on the faith though) or not, it's turned out to be a pretty decent sized hit."

Distributed by Sony Pictures' TriStar label and marketed by the studio's faith-based division Affirm Films and FilmDistrict, *Soul Surfer*—which had a production budget of \$18 million—has made \$20 million at the box office so far.