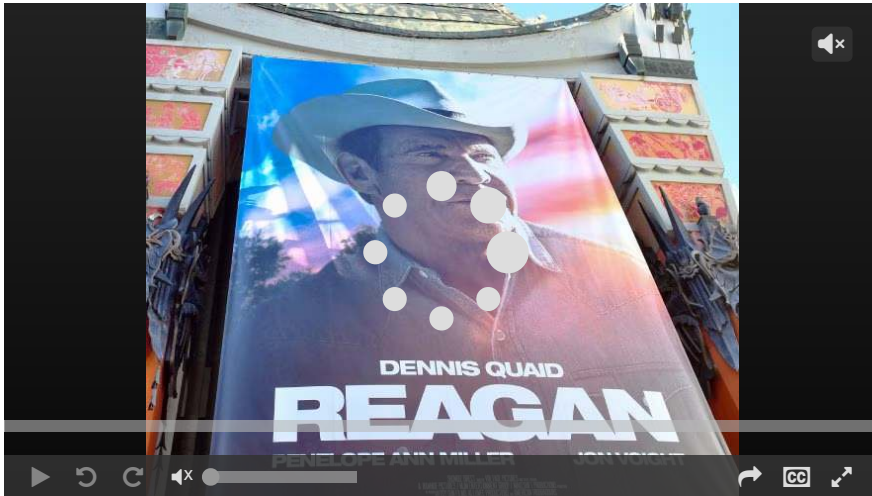


Guinness Snubs 'Reagan' After Years of Roadblocks



By Paul Bond | Monday, 10 August 2026 07:28 AM EDT

Guinness World Records declined to certify a milestone claimed by the makers of "Reagan," the 2024 biopic starring Dennis Quaid as the 40th president: the film achieved the widest gap between audience scores and critic scores on Rotten Tomatoes for any American movie.

The rejection, timed just before a rerelease of "Reagan," is the latest in a series of obstacles that insiders say went far beyond the ordinary friction of independent filmmaking and carried a distinctly political edge.

The extended director's cut of "Reagan" with 10 additional minutes of footage returns to about 600 theaters on Sept. 25 after limited Independence Day screenings that were tied to the nation's 250th anniversary.

Directed by Sean McNamara and produced by Rawhide Pictures, the movie follows Ronald Reagan from his Illinois boyhood and Hollywood years through the California governorship and the White House, with particular emphasis on his confrontation with Soviet communism.

Jon Voight appears as a fictional former KGB officer and Penelope Ann Miller plays Nancy Reagan. The original release grossed about \$30 million and found a receptive audience among viewers hungry for a traditional, affirmative portrait of the former president.

The movie, however, proved unusually difficult to bring to the screen as Hollywood, long regarded as a left-leaning industry, supplied limited enthusiasm for a project that celebrated a conservative icon.

Newsmax learned, for example, that the production reached out to a number of recording artists but they were rebuffed due to politics.

"We were turned down by some," publicist Alfred Hopton

confirmed, without naming names. "We were pleased to have a number of great artists join us."

Notably, Scott Stapp, the lead singer of Creed who has publicly expressed his Christian faith and love for the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, played Frank Sinatra in the "Reagan" film.

Financing and logistical hurdles stretched across 15 years and, in 2010, actor James Brolin, who played Reagan in the 2003 miniseries "The Reagans," publicly predicted that the Rawhide Pictures film "will never get made."

One of the most concrete interruptions came mid-production in late 2020 when Rawhide Pictures received a letter from Bank of America announcing that it would close the company's three business accounts, despite a 15-year relationship.

The letter offered no detailed explanation beyond an internal review, and Hopton later described the episode as causing irreparable and significant harm.

In a letter to Rawhide Pictures viewed by Newsmax, the bank acknowledged a 10-day closure linked to "missing paperwork" and stated that it does not make account closure decisions based on politics.

Hopton told Newsmax he was "pleased that our account was eventually restored, but we hope these types of things won't happen in the future in America and that our account's closure had nothing to do with the fact that our movie was about Ronald Reagan."

The experience, known as "debanking," happened to others during the presidencies of Barack Obama and Joe Biden. Documentary filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza told Newsmax, for example, that he was debanked by JPMorgan Chase around 2014, and that in 2021 Chase canceled his D'Souza Media credit card, each time without explanation.

Other conservatives, including MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell and retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, reported similar sudden account actions by major banks citing "reputation risk" or internal reviews.

President Donald Trump has since tackled the issue, signing an executive order last year directing regulators to curb the use of vague reputational-risk standards that can enable politicized closures.

Promoting "Reagan" also became an unforeseen challenge when, in August 2024, weeks before the film's original theatrical opening and in the thick of a presidential campaign, Facebook restricted efforts to boost posts and advertisements for the film, including material featuring Quaid and a Reagan quotation about America's best days still lying ahead.

The platform cited policies governing content involving politicians before a presidential election — even though Trump was the Republican on the ballot, not Reagan — and the movie's official Facebook page also faced temporary suspensions.

Quaid called the actions "censorship." Facebook later said that automated systems had mistakenly treated content about "Reagan" as requiring special authorization under social-issues and elections rules.

By contrast, "The Apprentice," a 2024 film sharply critical of a young Donald Trump, encountered legal threats from Trump's team but no Facebook advertising ban or page restrictions during the same election-year window.

Even the historical record became contested ground for "Reagan" as, during pre-production research, supervising art director Dawn Ferry contacted the New-York Historical Society about its replica of Reagan's second-term Oval Office.

But the Society had substituted other works for three of the paintings that actually hung there: a Thomas Sully portrait of Andrew Jackson, Sanford Gifford's *Preaching to the Troops*, and A. Wordsworth Thompson's *Passing the Outpost*, each of which was deemed insufficiently "universal" or "appropriate" for a modern audience at a time when diversity, equity, and inclusion was a Biden-era priority.

The production team sourced accurate recreations instead, and

The production team sourced accurate recreations instead, and Ferry said she found it odd that a historical society would alter the record.

The Guinness episode fits the same pattern of friction. Hopton first approached the organization in late 2024 to seek recognition for the largest gap between Rotten Tomatoes audience and critic scores — audiences loved the film, critics did not.

Guinness had previously certified "Paddington 2" for "Most positively reviewed film on Rotten Tomatoes," accepting the site's metrics as of a fixed measurement date even though those scores later changed. But "Reagan" was treated differently.

Guinness said it only certifies a small fraction of the thousands of suggestions it gets annually, as every proposal is reviewed by its Records Management Team.

To qualify, a record must be objectively measurable, open to future challenges and repeatable. Subjective claims, risky or harmful activities, or overly niche concepts are turned down.

Contested decisions may be appealed through a formal review, which is where "Reagan" is now, trying to get Guinness to certify its record, using "Paddington 2" as an example that data from Rotten Tomatoes movie reviews have already passed muster as legitimate record-setting events.

In an email reviewed by Newsmax, Hopton noted that the same dynamic-variation concerns raised against "Reagan" had not prevented certification of "Paddington 2" and that the proposed record for "Reagan" was stronger, since it rested on a verifiable numerical difference rather than subjective individual reviews.

The continued silence and application of standards not previously imposed, Hopton wrote, left the production "wondering if our movie is being singled out for other reasons."

Guinness did not respond to Newsmax's request for comment.

There is also the matter of Starz, which licensed the movie, though some fans lamented that it quickly left the pay-TV and streaming network.

"I'm going to contact Starz this week and see what is going on," one fan wrote on social media.

Starz did not respond to a request for comment.

Taken together — bank accounts closed, the Facebook flags later labeled an error, the music rejections, the altered historical artifacts and the Guinness refusal — the obstacles faced by "Reagan" stand in contrast to smoother paths enjoyed by films critical of Republican figures.

Whether this reflects an ideological bias is a matter for debate. What is not in dispute is that a film celebrating Ronald Reagan encountered a gauntlet of headwinds that its makers continue to navigate as the movie prepares for its return to theaters next month.

Paul Bond has been a journalist for three decades, writing stories reporters in legacy media typically ignore. His work has primarily appeared in Newsweek, USA Today, Reuters, and The Hollywood Reporter. Follow him on X at:

[@WriterPaulBond](#)

© 2026 Newsmax. All rights reserved.



Sign up for Newsmax's Daily Newsletter

Receive breaking news and original analysis - sent right to your inbox.

(Optional for Local News)

[Sign Me Up](#)

Privacy: We never share your email address.

Special Links:

- [Trump's Vision for Prosperity May Benefit Retirees the Most](#)
- [Thousands Rush to 0% APR Cards Lasting Until 2028](#)
- [Americans Should Make 3 Moves Before the Midterm Elections](#)
- [Men Over 40 Are Ditching Blue Pill for This ED Treatment](#)
- [Nutritionists Beg: Do This at Home to Lose Belly Fat Fast.](#)
- [Doctors Identify 2 Prescriptions Now Adding to Memory Loss](#)
- [Americans Born Between 1941-1969 Could Take Advantage of This](#)

Around The Web





FROM THE WEB

Spinal Stenosis Is Not From Tight Muscles. Meet The Real Enemy of Stenosis (Stop Doing This)

Age Well Journal

FROM THE WEB



Strange White Crates Are Popping Up All Over America

golddailytrends.com



FROM THE WEB

Seniors Born 1939-1979 Can Now Fly Business Class For Price Of Economy

Airline Deals



FROM THE WEB

After 60, Leg Strength Comes From One Simple Daily Move

primenutritionfindings.com

FROM THE WEB

Doctor Begg Seniors: Do This To Help Stop Losing Muscle

Ultra Health Findings



FROM THE WEB

Women Over 50: It's Not Your Joints – Here's What's Really Causing Your Pain

Core Mobility Findings

FROM THE WEB

Vets Astounded: Simple At-Home Trick Calms Anxious Dogs In Minutes

Natural Health Scout



FROM THE WEB

Has Hyundai hit the mark with the new Palisade? Take a look!

briefednest.com



Alina Habba Emerges as Contender to Replace Leavitt

Newsmax



FROM THE WEB

Type a Name. You'll Be Surprised What Appears

BeenVerified



FROM THE WEB

Next-Generation Backyard Pools Are Trending — Here Are the Prices!

Search Ads



Man Faces Hate Charges in NYC Synagogue Attack

Newsmax

[Home](#) | [Platinum](#) | [Podcast](#) | [Newsfront](#) | [Politics](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Wire](#) | [Books](#) | [Best Lists](#) | [Social](#) | [Investors](#) | [Q](#)

NEWSMAX

