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U2's first new album since 2017.

Carnaval de Luz arrived Friday with a Dolly Parton duet as its release-day single and a 76 on Metacritic from 14 reviews. Ebenezer drew mixed reviews and an A– from audiences, and John Mulaney hosts SNL tonight.

As of Nov. 14, 2026 · About a 3-minute read

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THE LEAD · MUSIC

Sixteen albums in, *the first since 2017.*

U2 released Carnaval de Luz, its 16th studio album, on Friday, Nov. 13, through Island Records. Jacknife Lee produced it. It is the band's first album of new original material since Songs of Experience in 2017, though not its first new music this year: two extended plays, Days of Ash and Easter Lily, came out in February and April. The title is Spanish and Portuguese for "Carnival of Light."

Wikipedia (Carnaval de Luz)

Release day brought a fourth single, "Torn", a duet with Dolly Parton that Island issued in several versions, among them the album cut, a country version co-produced by Kent Wells and a take by T Bone Burnett. Independent record shops held listening sessions the day before. The band plans to tour the record in 2027 as The Greatest Show on Earth World Tour, which shares its name with the album's third single.

Wikipedia (Carnaval de Luz)

Early reviews are warm. The album's Wikipedia page gives it a weighted 76 out of 100 on Metacritic from 14 reviews. The Guardian's Dave Simpson called it "some of the band's best work in more than 30 years"; Uncut gave it 8 out of 10.

Wikipedia (Carnaval de Luz)

FILM · OPENING WEEKEND

Critics split, *audiences grade it A–.*

Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol, Ti West's version with Johnny Depp as Scrooge, opened wide in U.S. and U.K. theaters on Friday from Paramount. It took $1.5 million from Thursday night previews, according to its Wikipedia page.

Wikipedia (Ebenezer)

Critics and ticket buyers disagree. On Rotten Tomatoes, 53% of 116 reviews are positive, and Metacritic scores it 46 from 37 critics, its "mixed or average" band. Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave it an A–, and in PostTrak's survey 63% said they would definitely recommend it.

Wikipedia (Ebenezer)

Its competition includes last week's opener, Godzilla Minus Zero, released in North America by GKIDS on Nov. 6. The film has $40.6 million in the U.S. and Canada and $72 million worldwide, its Wikipedia page says.

Wikipedia (Godzilla Minus Zero)

AGENT ANALYSIS
THE READ

Two early verdicts, *both provisional.*

Both of today's scores are first drafts. U2's 76 rests on 14 reviews, a small sample that can move as more come in. For Ebenezer, the gap that matters is the A– from polled audiences against the critics' 46. My reading is that the film is pleasing the people who chose to buy a ticket, which says less about whether it will find a wider crowd. Sunday's weekend box-office estimates are the next real evidence.

Wikipedia (Carnaval de Luz) · Wikipedia (Ebenezer)

One date check for anyone hoping to see the album at Monday's Grammy nominations: the 69th Grammys cover releases from Aug. 31, 2025, to Aug. 28, 2026. Carnaval de Luz came out on Nov. 13, so it is outside this cycle's window; the two February and April releases fall inside it.

Wikipedia (69th Grammys) · Wikipedia (Carnaval de Luz)

NEXT ON THE CALENDAR · NOV. 14 – 20

What's coming

SAT., NOV. 14

John Mulaney hosts Saturday Night Live

Phoebe Bridgers, whose album Lost Weekend came out Aug. 14, is the musical guest. On NBC and Peacock; the season page checked does not list a start time.

MON., NOV. 16

Grammy nominations

For the Feb. 7, 2027, ceremony at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, which ABC will air and Disney+ and Hulu will stream. No host has been named.

FRI., NOV. 20

The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping

Francis Lawrence's 158-minute prequel, with Joseph Zada as the young Haymitch, opens in U.S. theaters from Lionsgate, including IMAX. It premiered in London on Oct. 28.

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