

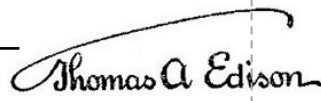
MAJOR U.S. STUDIOS TIMELINE

Talkies 1927

1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1990 2000 2010 2020

Edison 1894-1918

The camera "patent wars" predated most of the major studios, with Thomas Edison's "Trust" (MPPC) dominating the market over independent studios.



Columbia^{L3} 1924



Founded in 1918 as CBC Film Sales between Joe Brandt and brothers Jack and Harry Cohn. Renamed in 1924.

Sony 1989



2020 market share* 22%

TriStar 1982 – A sister company to Columbia. They merged as Sony Pictures in 1989, but films continue to be released under the three different names from the same studio.

Independent Moving Pictures (IMP) 1909-1912

Universal^{L3} 1912



Founded primarily by Carl Laemmle (b. Karl Lämmle in Germany) in a merger of several film companies, including his own: IMP.



Peacock streaming service launches in 2020 21%

NBCUniversal 2004

Dreamworks 1994

2019



Fox^{B5} 1915

Founded by William Fox (b. Wilhem Fuchs in Hungary)

20th Century-Fox 1935



Twentieth Century 1933

Created by Schenk (UA) and Zanuck (WB). Merged with Fox in 1935.

21st C. Fox 2013

20th ...

2019 – Disney purchases 21st C. Fox and reverts the name back to 20th C. Studios. Fox Corp. no longer owns the film division.

WALT DISNEY
Disney 1923



Disneyland constructed, 1955

Disney+ 2019 19%

Vitagraph 1894, bought by WB in 1925

First National^{B3} 1917-1936



WB^{B5} 1923

Founded by the sons of Polish immigrants: Harry, Albert (Abe), Sam, and Jacob (Jack) Warner

1929 WB took full control of FN



Lucasfilm 1971

Pixar 1986 – A division of Lucasfilm

Marvel 1996

2006

2009

2012

12%

New Line 1967, purchased by WB in 1996

HBO Max 2020
Streaming service includes many WB and HBO properties such as TCM, New Line, as well as third party services.

Paramount^{B3 B5} 1914



1994 Viacom purchases Paramount

2019 ViacomCBS merger

9%

Famous Players (Zukor, 1912) and Lasky (1913) partnered as Paramount distributing until merging in 1916.

Loew's Inc. 1904 (Owned MGM until 1959)

Metro 1916
Goldwyn 1917
Mayer 1918

MGM^{B3 B5} 1924



1959 decline of MGM
1965 vault fire
1969 diversified w/ resorts, etc.



CBS All Access 2014 becomes Paramount+ 2021

UA^{L3} 1919 United Artists



Joint venture between Chaplin, Pickford, Fairbanks, and Griffith to secure more creative control and better salaries over major studios' tightening budgets.

Profitable in the 1930s. Many of the members created SIMPP in 1941 and filed first anti-trust suit against Paramount, resulting in the 1948 supreme court ruling that ended the "studio system" of joint studio-theater ownership.

1980 UA sold to MGM, but continues as a studio



Lions Gate 1997

Founded in Vancouver, Canada, by Frank Giustra. It was shortened to Lionsgate in 2005.

Netflix Studios 2013

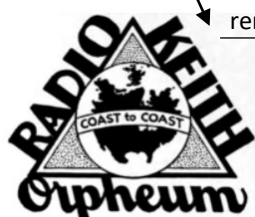
Mutual 1912-1918

R-C Pictures 1920, renamed FBO 1922

RKO^{B5} 1928 Radio-Keith-Orpheum

The Radio Corp. of America (RCA) owned sound-on-film technology (Photophone). General Manager David Sarnoff struck a deal with FBO and created RKO.

1957 ceased production, 1981 revived as LLC



1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1990 2000 2010 2020

B3 – Before sound pictures became popular in 1927, First National was one of the "Big Three" studios.

B5/L3 – The "Big Five" dominated into the mid-1950s. The "Little Three" studios were distinguished in that they did not own any theaters. Sourced primarily from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_film_studios. - See zefpanman.com/studios for more notes and commentary.

* Market share based on distributor's gross earnings from 2020: <https://the-numbers.com/market/2020/distributors>