

Film History: A Brief Encounter

Key moments from the history of film and film technology

What do you think?

- Films, as we know them and recognise them today, were born in 1895.
- In groups of four can you name all of the major inventions that needed to happen to films before you get to the kind of films you find in the cinema today?



What Answers Did You Get?



Handout!

- Here, have a handout. It's going to get stuck into the inside of the front cover of your book and it's going to help you revise and hopefully understand the history of cinema.





A Race Through History...

From a Simple Beginning

1. 1895, The Lumière Brothers

- The first recorded moving images came from two French brothers whose experimentation with photography, combined with seeing Edison's 'Kinetoscope' [resulted in...](#)



2. 1895-1927, Developing Silents

- During the early life of cinema, silent films were the only option - increasingly accompanied by a live musician/musicians. This period saw basic film language established - the principles of continuity editing, lighting, mise-en-scène and the rise of the 'feature length' film (1 hour+).



3. 1920s, The Studio System

- American cinema rose to prominence in the 1920s with the advent of the 'Studio System'. Most of these studios still, sort of, exist today! They turned film making into an industrial process and created the [idea of Hollywood](#).



4. 1927, The Jazz Singer

- *The Jazz Singer* (1927, Alan Crosland) starred musical star Al Jolson. It was the first feature film to have a synchronised soundtrack, including synchronised speech and singing. This was the birth of the 'talkies'.



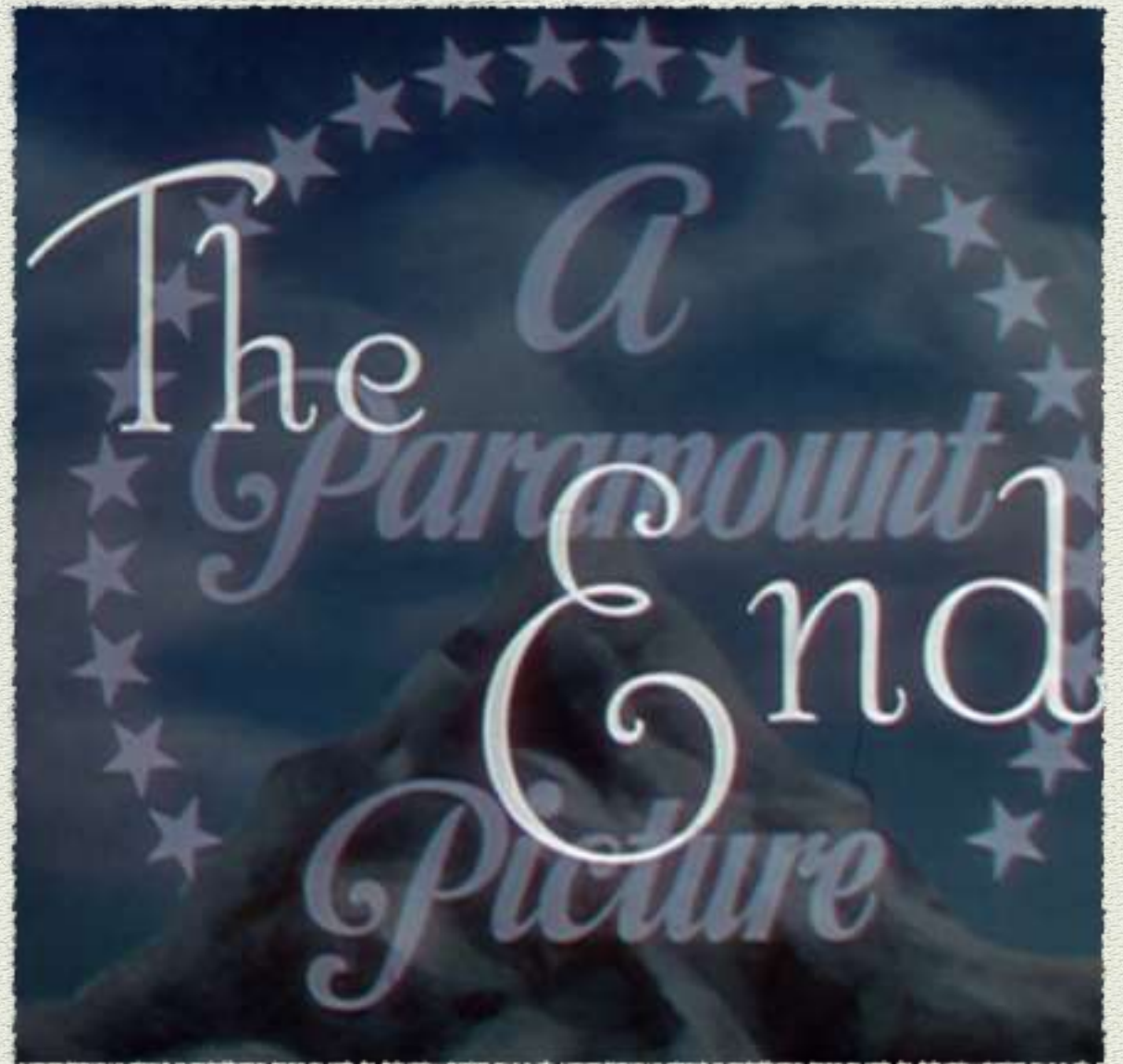
5. 1935, Becky Sharp

- ✦ In 1935 the release of *Becky Sharp* (Robert Mamoulian) heralded the feature length use of the 'three strip' technicolour process for colouring film and opened the gates to many [competing colour technologies](#).



6. 1948, The Paramount Case

- This famous court case prevented the studios from owning the full chain of production, distribution and exhibition. This led to the emergence of independent production companies, or 'indies'.



7. 1950s, Widescreen/3D vs TV

- ✦ In the 1950s film producers continued to develop new ways of expanding the viewing experience in response to the rise of television ownership. 3D and Widescreen presentations became popular.



8. Late 1950s, Handheld Revolution

- The continued developments in camera technology allowed for smaller and smaller cameras to become available to film-makers. The French 'new wave' and documentary makers used this to their advantage.



9. 1970s, The Steadicam

- Steadicam technology, [pioneered by Garrett Brown](#), allowed the camera to roam whilst maintaining a fluid and smooth movement.



10. 1990s, The Rise of the Machines

- The 1990s saw an explosion in the use of computer generated imagery, pioneered by Industrial Light and Magic back in the late 1970s and 1980s. Filmed, practical, special effects took a backseat to post-production computer generated imagery.

