Task: Convert multiple rows into comma separated values in MS Excel.

Approach Used:

We can achieve this using simple Excel formulas.

Example:

Let's say we have following table that has records for couple of movies. The actors are stored in multiple rows and we want to convert this into comma separated values. Such that, there will be only one row for a Movie/Year Released/Director

Movie	Year Released	Director	Actors
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Hugh Jackman
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Patrick Stewart
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Dafne Keen
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Boyd Holbrook
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Stephen Merchant
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Elizabeth Rodriguez
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Richard E. Grant
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Christian Bale
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Heath Ledger
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Aaron Eckhart
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Michael Caine
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Maggie Gyllenhaal
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Gary Oldman
The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Morgan Freeman

Steps:

1. Sort the Movie by ascending order.

Remove duplicates rows.

Add a new column "ConcatActors" to store the concatenated values.

	А	В	С	D	E
1	Movie <mark>→</mark> 1	Year Release 💌	Director	Actors	ConcatActors ▼
2	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Hugh Jackman	
3	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Patrick Stewart	
4	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Dafne Keen	
5	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Boyd Holbrook	
6	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Stephen Merchant	
7	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Elizabeth Rodriguez	
8	Logan	2017	James Mangold	Richard E. Grant	
9	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Christian Bale	
10	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Heath Ledger	
11	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Aaron Eckhart	
12	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Michael Caine	
13	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Maggie Gyllenhaal	
14	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Gary Oldman	
15	The Dark Knight	2008	Christopher Nolan	Morgan Freeman	

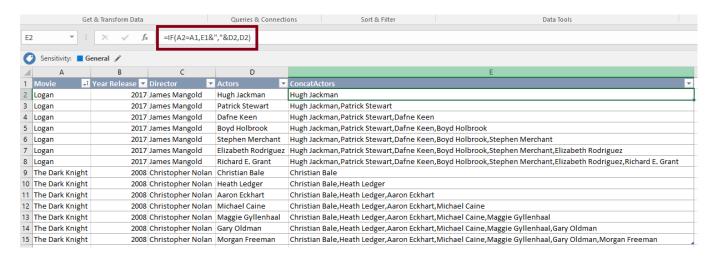
2. Add the following formula to 2nd row in Column E (i.e. E2).

=IF(A2=A1,E1&","&D2,D2)

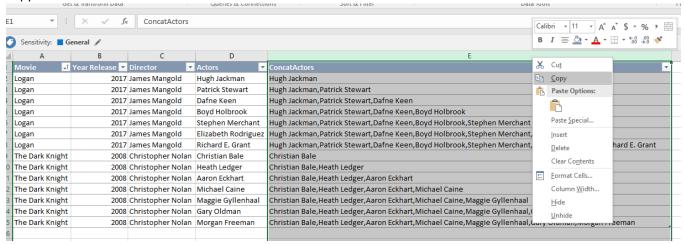
This formula does the following,

- 2.1 Compare if movie value in A2 (i.e. Current Row) is = movie value in A1 (i.e. Previous row).
- 2.2 If 2.1 is TRUE, Then append the Actors value in D2 (i.e. Current Row) with concatenated actors in previous row.
- 2.3 If 2.1 is FALSE, Then populate the Actors value in D2 (i.e. Current Row). Means, this is the starting row.

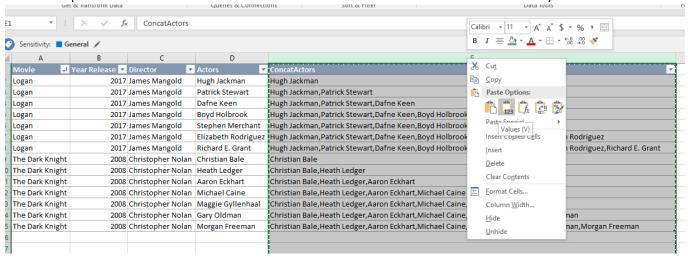
Drag/Fill (or) copy/paste the formula to rest of the rows.



3. Copy the 'ConcatActors' Column



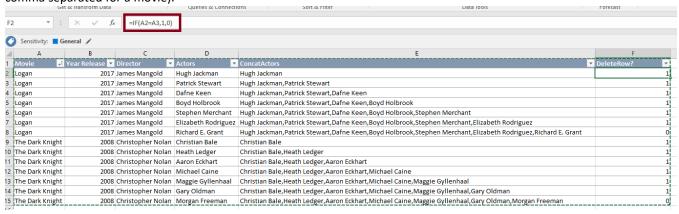
4. Paste the copied content as "Values" in the same column. This is to remove the formula & retain only the values.



5. Create a new column called "DeleteRow". Add the below formula in first row of that column (i.e. in case of below example, it will be F2)

=IF(A2=A3,1,0)

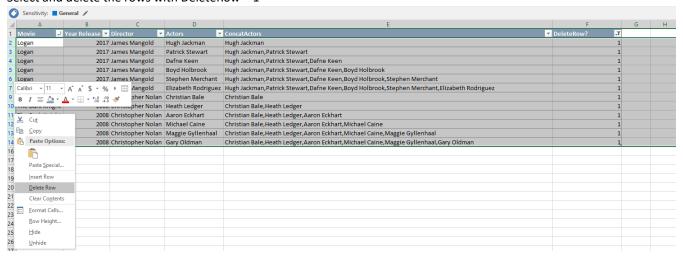
This formula simply identifies the last row for a movie. We want to retain only the last row (which has the complete actor list comma separated for a movie).



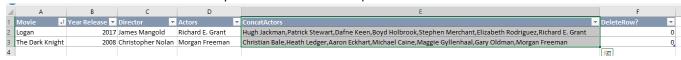
- 6. Repeat step 3 & 4 for the values in DeleteRow column (i.e. copy and paste it as values in the same column)
- 7. Apply filter on DeleteRow column to select only those rows with 1 (i.e. TRUE) as value.

А	В	С	D	E	F
Movie	1 Year Release 🔻	Director	Actors	ConcatActors	DeleteRow?
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Hugh Jackman	Hugh Jackman	1
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Patrick Stewart	Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart	1
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Dafne Keen	Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen	1
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Boyd Holbrook	Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen, Boyd Holbrook	1
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Stephen Merchant	Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen, Boyd Holbrook, Stephen Merchant	1
Logan	2017	James Mangold	Elizabeth Rodriguez	Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen, Boyd Holbrook, Stephen Merchant, Elizabeth Rodriguez	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Christian Bale	Christian Bale	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Heath Ledger	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Aaron Eckhart	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Michael Caine	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Maggie Gyllenhaal	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine, Maggie Gyllenhaal	1
The Dark Knigh	t 2008	Christopher Nolan	Gary Oldman	Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Gary Oldman	1

8. Select and delete the rows with DeleteRow = 1



9. Clear all filters. Now we are left with only the full list of comma separated actors for a movie.



10. We can delete the Column D & F from the example in step 9 as they are not needed anymore.

