The Studio System

Hollywood in the 1930s – 50s.

**Introduction**  
The decade marked by the Great Depression and leading into World War II is remembered as Hollywood’s **Golden Age**. During this period, **new genres** were formed, new **stars were born**, and the studio system rose to mammoth status. The eight major studios, each known for its **distinctive style and stars**, collectively produced 95% of all American films. More than 7,500 features were released by the studios between 1930 and 1945 to eager audiences. More than 80 million people took in a least one film per week at the height of the cinema’s popularity. This period also saw the introduction of **The Production Code, B-Films**, and the first animated feature of Snow White. Hollywood’s Golden Age began to decline in the late 1940’s due to the introduction of television, Hollywood blacklisting, and the ability of actors to become ‘free agents.’ A final blow to the industry occurred in 1948, when antitrust suits were filed against the major studios.

**Big five Little three**

**Warner Brothers** Universal

Paramount Columbia

MGM (Leow’s Inc.) United Artists

RKO

Fox

Research the following questions and create a PowerPoint with your answer on.

1. When was the studio founded?
2. Who was the head of the studio?
3. Who were their stock actors?
4. Were the studios films known for having a specific genre/look? If so describe this.
5. Did they own production, distribution and exhibition?
6. Did the 1948 Paramount Decree affect them?
7. What were some of their most successful films during the golden era (1930s – 50s)

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