Timeline of key developments in film and film technology

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| Time period | Notes |
| **1895** First moving images (Lumière brothers) |  |
| **1895 – 1927** Development of silent cinema from early short films to full-length feature films, during which period the foundations of filmmaking were established – e.g. cinematography, the principles of lighting and continuity editing and an extensive range of mise-en-scène, including location shooting |  |
| **1920s** Gradual emergence of a vertically integrated Hollywood film industry, established by 1930 into five major studios (Paramount, Warner Bros, Loew's/MGM, Fox [Twentieth Century Fox in 1935] and Radio Keith Orpheum [RKO]) and three minor studios (Columbia, Universal and United Artists) – the so-called Big 5 and Little 3 |  |
| **1927** Alan Crosland's, The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson - the first feature film with a soundtrack |  |
| **1935** Rouben Mamoulian's Becky Sharp, the Technicolor Corporation's first feature length, 'three strip' colour film |  |
| **1948** Paramount court case which prevented studios from owning all phases of the production, distribution and exhibition process ('vertical integration') which led, in the 1950s, to the emergence of independent film production and agents producing films for the Hollywood studios to distribute and exhibit |  |
| **1950s** Emergence of widescreen and 3D technologies as a response to the growth of television and the corresponding decline in cinema attendance |  |
| **1970s** Steadicam technology developed by cinematographer Garrett Brown (a stabilising device for hand-held cameras to keep image 'steady' whilst retaining fluid movement). First introduced, 1975 |  |
| **1990s** More widespread use of computer-generated imagery, most significantly onwards pioneered by Industrial Light and Magic in the 1970s, resulted in a move away from filmed 'special effects' to visual effects created digitally in post-production to the computer generated imaging of characters in films |  |