

1895 THE LUMIERE BROTHERS

The Lumière brothers were among the first filmmakers in history. They patented an improved cinematographe which allowed simultaneous viewing by multiple parties.



1895 - 1927 DEVELOPING SILENT CINEMA

The development of cinema from early short films to feature films led to the foundations of filmmaking being established – e.g. cinematography, lighting, editing and mise-en-scene, including location shooting.



1920s STUDIO SYSTEM

Big Five



Little Three



1927 THE JAZZ SINGER

'The Jazz Singer' (1927) 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'.



1935 BECKY SHARP

In 1935, the release of 'Becky Sharp' (Robert Mamoulian) heralded the feature length use of the 'three strip' technicolor process for colouring film and opened the gates to many competing colour technologies.



1948 THE PARAMOUNT CASE

Prevented studios from owning all phases of the production, distribution and exhibition process (vertical integration) which led to the emergence of independent film production.



1950s WIDESCREEN, 3D AND TV

Due to the rise in TV ownership, film producers began to look at ways to increase cinema audiences leading to a surge in popularity for Widescreen & 3D presentations.



1950s HANDHELD REVOLUTION

Smaller, lightweight, portable cameras were produced suitable for hand-held use (which had an impact on documentary film & used by French 'new wave' directors)



1970s THE STEADICAM

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 ONWARDS THE RISE OF THE MACHINES

More widespread use of computer-generated imagery, pioneered by Industrial Light and Magic in the 1970s, resulted in a move away from handmade 'special effects' to visual effects created digitally in post-production.

