

Welcome to Los Angeles



Los Angeles is the largest city in the state of California and the second-largest in the United States. Often abbreviated as L.A., it is rated an alpha world city having an estimated population of 3.8 million and spanning over 1,214.9 square km in Southern California. Los Angeles is one of the world's most prominent centers of culture, technology, and international trade. The city and its immediate vicinity lead the world in producing popular entertainment — such as motion picture, television, video games and recorded music — which forms the base of Los Angeles' international fame and global status.

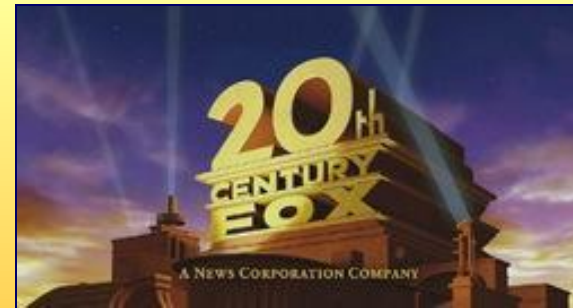


*LA is famous for one of its suburbs, **Hollywood**, which is the capital of world movie production.*



*The **Hollywood Sign** is a famous landmark in the Hollywood Hills, spelling out the name of the area in 15.2 m high white letters. It was created as an advertisement in 1923. The letters on the sign today are 1.5 m shorter than the original.*

*The biggest and most successful film studios – **Disney, Universal, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros, Paramount, Columbia, MGM** – are here. These are star factories. A lot of famous stars have been through the gates of these studios*



20th Century Fox

20th Century Fox is one of the six major American film studios. It is the media conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch. The company was founded in 1935.



Warner Bros.



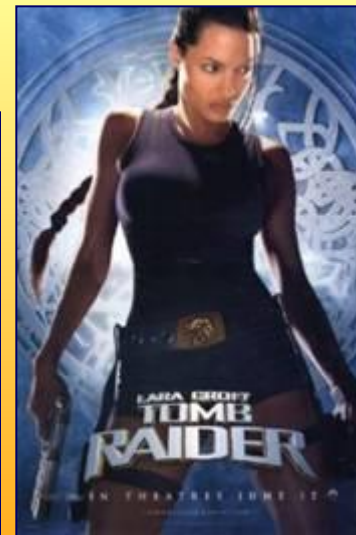
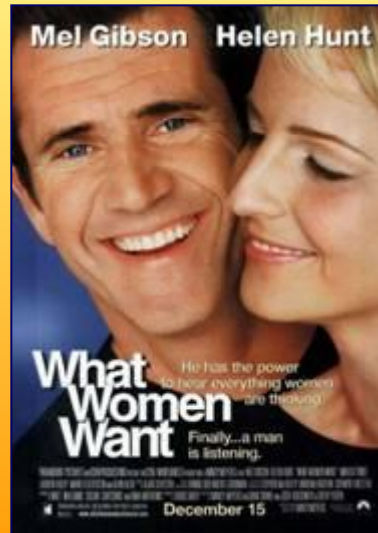
Warner Bros. is one of the world's largest producers of film and television entertainment. Warner Bros. has several subsidiary companies, including Warner Bros. Studios, Warner Bros. Pictures, Warner Bros. Television, Warner Bros. Animation, Warner Home Video, and DC Comics. Warner owns half of The CW Television Network.



Paramount

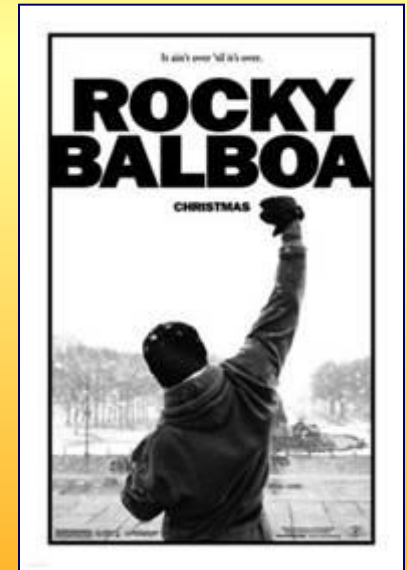


Paramount Pictures Corporation is a major American motion picture production and distribution company, based in Hollywood. Founded in 1912, it is the oldest running movie studio in Hollywood, beating Universal Studios by a month. Paramount is owned by media conglomerate Viacom.



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

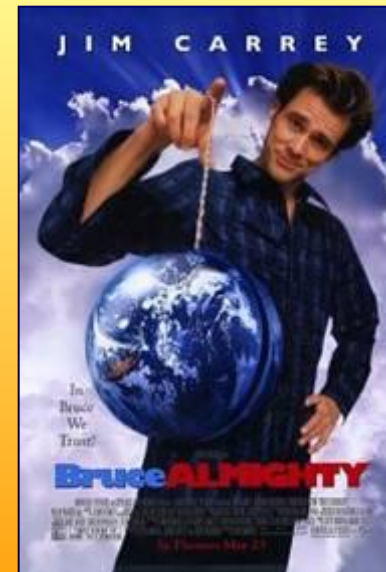
MGM is an American media company, involved primarily in the production and distribution of film and television programs. From the end of the silent film era through World War II, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was the most prominent motion picture studio in Hollywood, with the greatest output of all of the studios.



Universal Pictures



Universal is a subsidiary of NBC Universal, is one of the major American film studios. Its production studios are located at 100 Universal City Plaza Drive in Universal City, California. Distribution and other corporate offices are based in New York City. Universal is the second longest-lived studio in Hollywood.



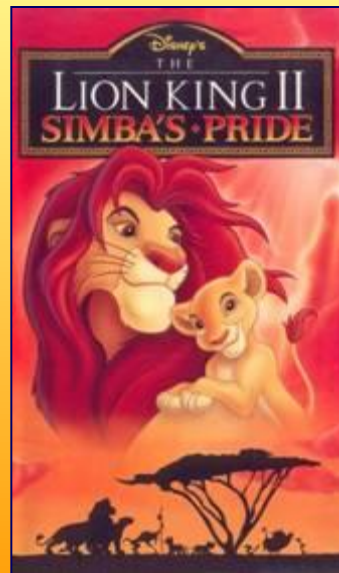
Columbia Pictures

Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. was originally an American film and television production company. It is now part of the Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group, which is owned by Sony Pictures Entertainment. Established in 1924, Columbia is tied with MGM for the fifth-oldest American movie studio still in operation.



Walt Disney

The Walt Disney Company is the third largest media and entertainment corporation in the world. Founded on October 16, 1923 by brothers Walt and Roy Disney as a small animation studio, it has become one of the biggest Hollywood studios, and owner of eleven theme parks and several television networks, including the American Broadcasting Company (ABC).



Beverly Hills

Celebrities don't only work in LA, they also live in and around the city. Most celebrities' homes are in Beverly Hills, an area near LA. It's a place where the stars can feel safe: the Beverly Hills police is sure to turn up seconds after a call.



***Holmby Hills. Owlwood
Built in 1936, this Italian style
mansion has a guest cottage
where Marilyn Monroe was an
occasional guest in the early
1950s. The estate was later the
home of Tony Curtis, and then
Sonny and Cher.***



***Beverly Hills. Pickfair
The legendary estate of Mary
Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks
Pickfair was home to a timeless
romance, and was second only to
the White House for hosting
internationally renowned notables:
Chaplin and Valentino, Albert
Einstein, the King and Queen of
Siam. . .***

*If there is one city that even more beautiful and glamorous than Beverly Hills, it's **Malibu**, known for its beautiful beaches. Here celebrities can look at the ocean from the windows of their multi-million dollar homes.*



The stars' addresses are not a secret, and the public can drive past celebrities' homes, but you are unlikely to stop a star from the window of your car or a tourist bus.

Malibu

*You may have more luck on **Rodeo Drive** in Beverly Hills where the expensive shops are. Julia Roberts or Barbara Streisand are likely to go there to do their shoppings.*

Rodeo Drive



The Stars' Favorite Shops & Salons



Hollywood celebrities don't spend their lives hiding in their homes. Like everyone else, they enjoy going out shopping, and when they do, they are often spotted by fans. Naturally, some shops are more popular than others with the Hollywood set, and if you know exactly where they shop, you can increase your chance of spotting your favorite star.



Hollywood Boulevard

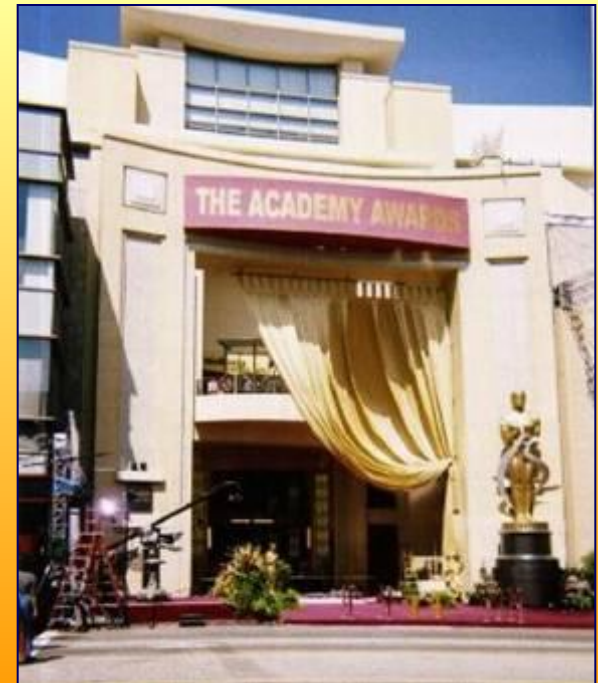


*Or try Hollywood Boulevard with its world-famous movie theatres like **Mann's Chinese Theatre**, the **Egyptian Theatre** and the 3,300-seat **Kodak Theatre**.*

Mann's Chinese Theatre is an iconic. The theatre opened May 18, 1927. It has since been home to many premieres, birthday parties, corporate junkets and two Academy Awards ceremonies. Among the theatre's most famous traits are the autographed cement blocks that reside in the forecourt, which bear the signatures and markings of many of Hollywood's most revered stars.



The Kodak Theatre is a live theatre in the Hollywood and Highland retail. Since its opening on November 9, 2001, the theatre has been the home of the annual Academy Awards Ceremonies (The Oscars), which were first held there in March 2002, and is the first permanent home for the awards.





Every year, usually in February, celebrities are sure to come for the most invent in show biz: Oscar night. On that day the prestigious Academy Awards, called “Oscars”, are presented for the year’s best achievements in the film word.

*You'll be surprised to find out that the "red carpet" area is actually a huge shopping mall called **Hollywood and Highlands**, which is full of shops and restaurants. This place attracts a lot of tourists who like to imagine that star directors like Quentin Tarantino will turn up for a cup of coffee just before the Oscar. They are unlikely to do so, because on the big day all the shops are closed and public can't even go in.*





But you're certain to see your favourite star if you stand outside in the huge crowd of people waiting behind the velvet ropes.



If you missed the Oscar, you're unlikely to see any celebrities on an ordinary day, but don't leave Hollywood Boulevard in a hurry. Look down at your feet and you'll see bronze stars set in the sidewalk. Look closer and you'll be able to read the names of the people who made Hollywood famous: film directors, producers, camera operators, actors and actresses and musicians. It's *the Walk of Fame*, the most unusual monument to talent and success in the world. Now there are more than 2,500 stars in the sidewalk. It costs about \$40,000 to install and look after one.



If you don't look down, Hollywood Boulevard looks like an ordinary street. There are no architectural masterpieces, it's not very clean and it's full of little souvenir shops. In the evening teenagers often come to sing and dance here. They pay no attention to the tourists and the stars in concrete.





The End