

20th Century-Fox

The Fox Film Corporation, founded by William Fox, was one of the first movie companies to experiment with sound. Using sound-on-film technology developed by engineer Theodore Case, FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS brought financial success for the studio. Directors such as John Ford, Lewis Seiler and Frank Borzage honed their skills at Fox, and stars such as Spencer Tracy and Jean Harlow began their feature careers at the studio. Will Rogers' folksy humor in films such as *THE CONNECTICUT YANKEE* (1931) proved remarkably popular with audiences in the early 1930s.

Plagued by financial problems, the Fox Film Corporation merged with Twentieth Century Pictures to form Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. Twentieth Century-Fox produced a string of hits including *THE GRAPES OF WRATH* and *TOBACCO ROAD*. Among the studio's most popular features were *THE LITTLEST REBEL* and *WEE WILLIE WINKIE* with child star Shirley Temple; *ONE IN A MILLION*, ice-skating champion Sonja Henie's first film; and musicals such as *KING OF BURLESQUE* (1936) starring singer Alice Faye and *THE DOLLY SISTERS* (1945) starring Betty Grable.



Fox Movietone Follies of 1930, pictured here, was preserved by the UCLA Film and Television Archive.

Tyrone Power joined Faye in *IN OLD CHICAGO* and became a top grossing star for the studio. Under Darryl F. Zanuck, the studio produced over seventy-five Technicolor films, more than any other studio at the time. The studio's B unit churned out the popular *CHARLIE CHAN*, *RITZ BROTHERS* and *MR. MOTO* series.

After World War II, Zanuck produced a number of films with social themes such as *GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT*

(1947) and *PINKY* (1949). The UCLA Film and Television Archive has preserved a number of Fox titles including *I BELIEVED IN YOU* (1934), *MOVIE TONE FOLLIES OF 1930*, and *AFTER TOMORROW*, thought at one time to be a lost film. UCLA's Arts Library-Special Collections holds documents from the studio including the Twentieth Century-Fox Produced Scripts Collection and the Records of the Twentieth Century-Fox Legal Department.

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Films

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

Grapes of Wrath (1940). 20th Century-Fox. Director, John Ford. Writer, Nunnally Johnson. Based on the novel by John Steinbeck. Study Copy: VD 696 M.

Guadalcanal Diary (1943). 20th Century-Fox. Director, Lewis Seiler. Writer, Lamar Trotti. Study Copy: VD 360 M.

Bad Girl (1931). Fox Film Corporation. Director, Frank Borzage. Writer, Edwin Burke. Study Copy: VA 19474 M.

The Power and the Glory (1933). Fox Film Corporation. Director, William K. Howard. Writer, Preston Sturges. Study Copy: VA 2064 M.

All About Eve (1950). 20th Century-Fox. Director and Writer, Joseph Mankiewicz. Study Copy: VA 948 M.

The Littlest Rebel (1935). 20th Century-Fox. Director, David Butler. Writer, Edwin J. Burke. Study Copy: VA 12159 M.

Gentleman's Agreement (1947). 20th Century-Fox. Director, Elia Kazan. Writer, Moss Hart. Based on the novel by Laura Z. Hobson. Study Copy: VA 7919 M.

Charlie Chan on Broadway (1937). 20th Century-Fox. Director, Eugene Forde. Writers, Charles Belden and Jerry Cady. Study Copy: VA 14839 M.

Fox Movietone Follies 1930 (1930). Fox Film Corporation. Director, Benjamin Stoloff. Writer, William K. Wells. Study Copy: VD 7398 M.

How to Marry a Millionaire (1953). 20th Century-Fox. Director, Jean Negulesco. Writer, Nunnally Johnson. Study Copy: VD 224 M.

Print Resources

(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)

Behlmer, Rudy, ed. *Memo From Darryl F. Zanuck: The Golden Years at 20th Century-Fox*. New York: Grove Press, 1993.

Solomon, Aubrey. *20th Century-Fox: A Corporate and Financial History*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1988.

Silverman, Stephen M. *The Fox That Got Away: The Last Days of the Zanuck Dynasty at 20th Century-Fox*. Seacaucus, NJ: L. Stuart, 1988.

Related Resources

The Arts Library Special Collections unit of the UCLA Libraries Collection holds various materials related to the Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. For more information, please contact Arts Library Special Collections: (310) 825-7253.