

# The Great Directors: The Making of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Hollywood Timeline

## 1834 – English Mathematician William George Horner Invents the Modern Zoetrope

- 1870 – Edwin Porter (1870 – 1941), American Early Film Pioneer
- 1871 – Winsor McCay (1871 - 1934), American Animation Pioneer

## 1872 – Eadweard Muybridge Successfully Photographs a Horse in Fast Motion

- 1875 – D.W. Griffith (1875–1948), American Film Director
- 1879 – Lois Weber (1879 – 1939), American Film Director
- 1880 – Mack Sennet (1880 – 1960), American Film Director
- 1881 – Cecil B. DeMille (1881 – 1959), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Greatest Show on Earth*
- 1884 – Oscar Micheaux (1884 – 1951), First Black American Film Director
- 1884 – Robert J. Flaherty (1884 - 1951), American Documentarian

## 1889 – George Eastman Develops Flexible Film

- 1889 – Charlie Chaplin (1889 – 1977), British-American Film Director
- 1889 – Victor Fleming (1889 – 1949), American Film Director
- 1890 – Fritz Lang (1890 – 1976), Austrian Movie Director

## 1891 – William Dickson and Thomas Edison Invent the Kinetograph

- 1892 – Ernst Lubitsch (1892 – 1947), German-American Film Director
- 1894 – King Vidor (1894 – 1982), American Film Director
- 1894 – John Ford (1894 – 1973), American Film Director; Won 4 Oscars for Best Director for *The Quiet Man; How Green Was My Valley; The Grapes of Wrath; The Informer*

## 1894 – The Silent Era of Movies Begins

- 1895 – Buster Keaton (1895 – 1966), American Film Director
- 1896 – Howard Hawks (1896 – 1977), American Film Director
- 1896 – William Wellman (1896 – 1975), American Film Director
- 1897 – Dorothy Arzner (1897 – 1979), American Film Director

- 1897 – Frank Capra (1897 – 1991), American Film Director; Won 3 Oscars for Best Director for *You Can't Take it With You; Mr. Deeds Goes to Town; It Happened One Night*
- 1899 – George Cukor (1899 – 1983), American Film Director, Won Oscar for Best Director for *My Fair Lady*
- 1899 – Alfred Hitchcock (1899 – 1980), British Film Director
- 1901 – Walter 'Walt' Disney (1901 - 1966), American Animator
- 1902 – William Wyler (1902 – 1981), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Ben Hur; The Best Years of Our Lives; Mrs. Miniver*
- 1902 – David O. Selznick (1902 – 1965), American Film Producer
- 1903 – Vincente Minnelli (1903 – 1986), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Gigi*
- 1905 – Otto Preminger (1905 – 1986), Austro-Hungarian, American Film Director
- 1906 – John Huston (1906 – 1987), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*
- 1906 – Billy Wilder (1906 – 2002), American Film Director; Won 2 Oscars for Best Director for *The Apartment; The Lost Weekend;*
- 1907 – Fred Zinneman (1907 – 1997), Austrian Film Director
- 1909 – Elia Kazan (1909 – 2003), Greek-American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *On the Waterfront*

**1911 – David Horsley Opens Hollywood's first studio, the Nestor Motion Picture Company**

**1912 – Paramount Pictures and Universal Studios are Founded**

- 1912 – Chuck Jones (1912 – 2002), American Animator

**1913 – Adolf Zukor Produces America's First Feature Length Film – *The Prisoner of Zenda***

**1914 – Cecil B. DeMille Directs *The Squaw Man***

**1915 – D.W. Griffith Directs *Birth of a Nation***

- 1915 – Orson Welles (1915 – 1985), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for *Citizen Kane*

- 1917 – Maya Deren (1917 – 1961). Ukrainian born American Experimental Film Maker
- 1921 – George Roy Hill (1921 – 2002), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Sting*
- 1922 – Arthur Penn (1922 – 2010) American Film Director

**1923 – Warner Brothers Founded**

**1923 – Walt Disney Studios Founded**

- 1923 – Irvin Kershner (1923 – 2010), American Film Director

**1924 – Louis B. Mayer Finds Metro Goldwyn Mayer**

- 1924 – Sidney Lumet (1924 – 2011), American Film Director
- 1925 – Sam Peckinpah (1925 – 1984), American Film Director
- 1925 – Robert Altman (1926 – 2006), American Film Director
- 1925 – D.A. Pennebaker (1925 -), American Documentarian
- 1926 – Mel Brooks (1926 -), American Film Director, Actor, Writer, Comedian
- 1928 – Stanley Kubrick (1928 – 1999), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *2001: A Space Odyssey*

**1927 – The Silent Era of Movies Ends with Warner Brothers’ Release of *The Jazz Singer***

**1929 – RKO Pictures Founded**

**1929 – Louis B. Mayer Finds the Academy Awards**

**1929 – The First Academy Awards are Presented**

- 1929 – John Cassavetes (1929 – 1989), American Film Director
- 1930 – John Frankenheimer (1930 – 2002), American Film Director
- 1930 – Clint Eastwood (1930 -), American Film Director; Won 2 Oscars for Best Director for *Million Dollar Baby*; *Unforgiven*
- 1931 – Mike Nichols (1931 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Graduate*
- 1933 – Stan Brakhage (1933 - 2003), American Experimental Film Maker
- 1934 – Sydney Pollack (1934 – 2008), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Out of Africa*

**1935 - Pioneer/RKO's *Becky Sharp* is the first feature film photographed entirely in three-strip Technicolor**

- 1935 – Woody Allen (1935 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Annie Hall*
- 1935 – William Friedkin (1935 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The French Connection*
- 1937 – Ridley Scott (1937 -), British Film Director
- 1939 – Francis Ford Coppola (1939 -), American Film Director
- 1939 – Peter Bogdanovich (1939 -), American Film Director
- 1939 – Joel Schumacher (1939 -), American Film Director
- 1940 – Brian De Palma (1940 -), American Film Director
- 1940 – James Brooks (1940 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Terms of Endearment*

**1940 – Disney Studio's *Fantasia* is the First Movie to Incorporate Surround Sound**

- 1941 – Nora Ephron (1941 -2012), American Film Director
- 1942 – Martin Scorsese (1942 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Departed*
- 1943 – Terrence Malick (1943 -), American Film Director
- 1944 – George Lucas (1944 -), American Film Director
- 1944 – Jonathan Demme (1944 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Silence of the Lambs*
- 1946 – Oliver Stone (1946 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Born on the Fourth of July; Platoon*
- 1946 – Steven Spielberg (1946 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Saving Private Ryan; Schindler's List*
- 1946 – David Lynch (1946 -), American Film Director
- 1948 – Errol Morris (1948 -), American Documentarian
- 1951 – Kathryn Bigelow (1951 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *The Hurt Locker*

- 1951 – Robert Zemeckis (1951 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Forrest Gump*

**1952 – The Golden Age of 3-D Opens with the Release of the First Color**

**Stereoscopic Feature, *Bwana Devil***

- 1953 – Ken Burns (1953 -), American Documentarian

**1955 – The Musical *Oklahoma* is the first Movie to Use Magnetic Tape for Sound**

- 1954 – James Cameron (1954 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Titanic*
- 1954 – Joel Coen (1954 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *No Country for Old Men; Fargo*
- 1954 – Ang Lee (1954 -), Taiwanese Film Director
- 1954 – Michael Moore (1954 -), American Documentarian
- 1957 – Spike Lee (1957 -), American Film Director
- 1957 – Ethan Coen (1957 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *No Country for Old Men; Fargo*
- 1958 – Chris Columbus (1958 -), American Film Director
- 1958 – Tim Burton (1958 -), American Film Director
- 1959 – Sam Raimi (1959 -), American Film Director
- 1961 – Peter Jackson (1961 -), New Zealand Film Director
- 1962 – David Fincher (1962 -), American Film Director
- 1963 – Steven Soderbergh (1963 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Traffic*
- 1963 – Quentin Tarantino (1963 -), American Film Director; Won Oscar for Best Director for *Pulp Fiction*
- 1963 – Davis Guggenheim (1963 -), American Documentarian
- 1964 – Guillermo del Toro (1964 -), Mexican Film Director
- 1965 – Michael Bay (1965 -), American Film Director
- 1969 – Darren Aronofsky (1969 -), American Film Director
- 1969 – Wes Anderson (1969 -), American Film Director
- 1970 – P.T. Anderson (1970 -), American Film Director

- 1970 – M. Night Shyamalan (1970 -), American Film Director

**1977 – George Lucas’s *Star Wars* is the First Movie to Use Dolby Surround Sound**

**1979 – Pixar Animation Studios Founded**

**1983 – *Return of the Jedi* is the First Movie to Incorporate Computer Generated Images**

**1994 – Dreamworks Animation Founded**

**1995 – *Toy Story* is the First Completely Computer-Generated Animated Movie**

**2002 – *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* is the First Movie to be Shot on HD Digital Video**