



## 1 Answer the questions.

- 1 What genres of film appeal to you most? Why?
- 2 Can you think of any countries or areas that have a strong tradition of film production? What types of films have been made there?

## 2 Read the texts.

### HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood is a district of Los Angeles in southern California, USA. It is so well-known as the centre of American cinema that, for many people, the name is synonymous with blockbuster films, celebrity, and the lifestyles of superstars.

But it wasn't always like this. Around 100 years ago, the area of Hollywood had only just got its name, and motion pictures (or 'movies') were a very new invention. Although one of the first movies was made in Hollywood in 1910, audiences couldn't actually view it there, as cinemas (or 'movie theatres') were banned! Within ten years, however, four of the largest movie companies had set up studios in Hollywood and it was already famous as the world's movie-making centre.

Cinema became popular very quickly, and audiences flocked to the 'nickelodeons' – theatres which showed films for a ticket price of a nickel, or five cents. Early films were silent, and when 'talking pictures' arrived in the late 1920s, some of the silent stars found themselves out of a job. Colour films followed in the early 1930s.

The 'Golden Age' of Hollywood films, from the late 1920s to the early 1960s, saw hundreds of films being



made every year. Most of them were one of four genres: comedy, Western, musical, or animated cartoon. The biggest stars had contracts with a studio, and could only appear in their productions.

Many of the actors from this era are still famous today. In 1958, the 'Walk of Fame' was created on Hollywood Boulevard. Here, famous actors and directors are honoured with a star on the pavement to keep their celebrity alive forever.

In the late 20th century, the popularity of

the big screen experience was threatened by DVDs, and then by live streaming services where people enjoy films at home. Big-budget films have remained very successful, however. Today, the top stars are paid millions of dollars to appear in them, and the fans' love for them is as strong as ever.



### BOLLYWOOD

Unlike Hollywood, this name for the most popular part of the Indian film industry is not an actual place. Bollywood cinema originates in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), and the name comes from mixing 'Bombay' and 'Hollywood'. Cinema fans might be surprised to know that Bollywood has been producing films for nearly as long as Hollywood and, since the 1970s, more films have been released there than in the USA.

Bollywood films are often in a mix of Hindi and English. They are generally designed to appeal to a wide range of cinema-goers, and feature elements of many different types of film genres: fantasy, romantic comedy, action, and musical. These big-budget films are known as 'masala cinema' after the Indian word for a mix of spices. Their plots, costumes, and music are influenced by traditional Indian

poetry and theatre, which often tell historical or mythological stories. Modern Bollywood also uses the style of Hollywood movies and even the music videos on MTV as inspiration. Music and dance – both traditional and modern – are an essential part of Bollywood films. The soundtracks for the films are often in the shops and on the radio before the cinemas show the film itself.

In turn, Bollywood's style, and particularly its use of music and large group dances, has had an influence on a number of modern Hollywood films. *Moulin Rouge!*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Slumdog Millionaire* are famous examples.

