

# Independent film distributor

## Description:

Independent films are often produced and/or distributed by smaller companies within major film studios. For a film to be considered independent, less than half of a film's financing should come from a major studio. Independent films are sometimes distinguishable by their content and style and the filmmakers' personal vision of the film. Usually, but not always, independent films are made with considerably lower budgets than major studio films. Generally, independent films have a limited release, relying on word-of-mouth and reaching small, specialty audiences though some become successful and achieve worldwide renown, like 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

## Personal testimony:

In Britain, we have to work much harder on much smaller budgets to make films that can compete with Hollywood. I know from directing 'Telstar' that all those hundreds of people you see on the titles at the end of a British film have worked tirelessly and flat out for months for love more than money. Our films are unique, bespoke and often wonderful, but we rely completely on the film-loving British public for our survival and without your support British films simply wouldn't happen.

Nick Moran, independent film director and actor

## Industry facts

The film industry is heavily reliant on reinvestment - it ploughs the money it makes from one film into the next and so on. The former UK Film Council (now the BFI) statistics show the industry is losing half a billion to copyright infringement every year, which is money that could go a long way to making more films.

# Questions

- What sort of constraints do you think independent film studios face when trying to make a film?
- How do you think independent film studios are affected by copyright infringement?

## So why is copyright important?

- If creative content is viewed or copied without the rights owners knowing about it, the 150,000+ talented people that work in the industry here in the UK receive no payment for their creative work, which of course they rely on as a salary just as everyone does.

# Notes

