Lights, Camera, Action! How Movies Are Made

On the Big Screen
People watch movies to laugh. People watch movies to cry. People watch movies to see a good story. Hundreds of movies are made each year. It can take months to make a movie. Sometimes it can take years. Many people help make a movie.

Writing the Story
Every movie starts with a script. This is the story of a movie. The script is written by a screenwriter. Scripts that tell a good story are made into movies.

Making a Plan
Then a producer plans the movie. The producer helps raise money for a movie to be made. A producer also puts together a movie team. The movie team includes the director and the actors. The director is in charge of filming the movie. The actors play the characters. The director helps the actors do their best to tell a good story.

Shooting the Movie
The director says, “Action!” This is a signal for actors to play their characters. Then a camera person shoots the movie. Special cameras take moving pictures of the actors. Other people help with lights, makeup, and costumes.

Editing the Movie
Editing is the last step. An editor picks the best shots. These shots will make the final cut. Then the editor adds or changes sounds. The editor also adds music and special effects.
That’s a Wrap

The movie is finished! The final step is the **movie release**. This is when the movie is sent to theaters. People can now see the movie with family or friends.

From the Page to the Screen

Many people help make movies. Sometimes hundreds of people help make one movie. All movies start with a good story. The story is what we see and hear on the screen.

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**Glossary**

**actor** — a person who plays a character

**camera person** — a person who takes moving pictures with a camera

**director** — a person who is in charge of filming the movie

**editor** — a person who picks the best camera shots to put in a movie

**movie release** — when a movie is sent to theaters for people to watch

**producer** — a person who plans the movie and makes the movie team

**screenwriter** — a person who writes a script

**script** — the story of a movie