**2f Page 31 VIDEOSCRIPT**

Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

History of film

**Part 1**

**00.01–00.20** For over a century, film has captured the imagination of audiences all over the world. Motion pictures have allowed us to explore the unknown, bring histories to life and allow generations to dream of living like the stars of the silver screen.

**00.21–01.09** In the 19th century, inventors realised they could create the illusion of motion by presenting a quick succession of pictures. In the US, inventors Thomas Edison and William Dixon exploited this idea and created the kinetoscope in 1891, bringing motion pictures to the American public.

In arcades, viewers peeped at short films in a cabinet-like machine, which played continuously in a loop. Before long, projection allowed large audiences to view the spectacle at the local cinema or nickelodeon. Audiences were captivated by this new technology. Everyday life became entrancing on the big screen.

**01.10–01.44** Soon enough, images of roaring trains and vaudeville acts were replaced by the complex story lines of human melodramas. By the 1920s, the emerging film studio system was centred in Hollywood, California. The increasingly expensive productions drew crowds to fill newly-built movie palaces. And actors like Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin became stars. They were the new American aristocracy, a tradition that continues with Hollywood blockbusters and film stars of today.

**Part 2**

**01.45–02.24** But outside of Tinseltown’s dream factories, film has taken us to new places and allowed us to see the world in a different way.

At the turn of the 20th century, newsmen carried cameras looking for real spectacles and history in the making.

They filmed presidential inaugurations, explorers in the Arctic and landmark events like the Wright brothers’ flights.

In the hands of explorers and scientists, the camera has proven an amazing window to the world, bringing home images of distant cultures and putting the far corners of the Earth into clearer focus.

**02.25–03.13** Since those early days, documentary filmmakers have trained their lenses on reality, showing life in new ways. Activities that take hours or days to occur pass by in only seconds. Likewise, film can reveal the agility of a hawk in slow motion.

In places impossible for us to visit, the camera brings us images of great beauty.

Over the years, documentary filmmakers have learned to borrow from the studio blockbusters. While unravelling the mysteries of distant cultures or ancient histories, documentaries employ actors, set design, lighting, costume and even computer animation to bring important moments back to life.

**03.16–03.32** With these tools, we can learn, envision and experience the past in a way inconceivable only a few generations ago. Who knew that those early flickering images would have such a tremendous impact?

Life