



## History of British Pathé

British Pathé is one of the oldest names in the motion picture industry. Their roots lie in 1890s Paris when the company was founded by Charles Pathé who pioneered the development of the moving image. British Pathé was later established in London in 1902 and by 1910 it had opened its first building in Wardour Street. Charles Pathé adopted the national emblem of France, the cockerel, as the trademark for his company.

The newsreels were shown in the cinema and in the early days they were silent, they ran for about four minutes and were issued biweekly. Even though during the early days the camera shots were taken from a stationary position, British Pathé managed to capture some infamous incidents such as the suffragette Emily Davison being killed when she threw herself under the King's Horse at the 1913 Derby.

During the First World War, the cinema newsreels were called the Pathé Animated Gazettes and for the first time this provided newspapers with competition. After 1918, British Pathé started producing a series of Cinemazines where the Newsreels were much longer and more comprehensive. The 'classic' Pathé style is that of the WWII years and after, especially the ones with the voice of Bon Danvers Walker doing the commentary. After 1928, sound was introduced and by 1930, British Pathé were covering news, entertainment, sport, culture and women's issues through programmes including the Pathétone Weekly, the Pathé Pictorial, the Gazette and Eve's Film Review.

By the time Pathé eventually stopped producing the cinema newsreel in 1970, they had accumulated a rich assortment of historical footage including the Titanic in Belfast, Queen Victoria's funeral, the Hindenburg disaster, Elvis Presley and Albert Einstein. The archive contains over 3500 hours of filmed history, 90,000 news items and 12 million stills.

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