

# THE EARLY YEARS OF CINEMA

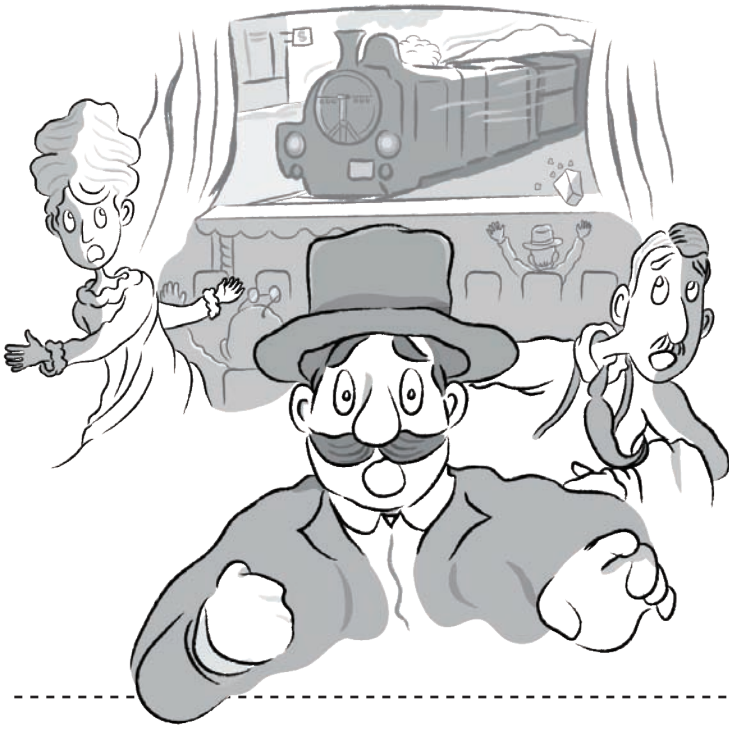


In the early years of cinema, films were short, silent, and in black and white. In fact, the first films didn't have any dialogue, didn't offer much in the way of plot, and clocked in at around ten minutes.

People would head to nickelodeons, the first indoor theaters dedicated to the showing of motion pictures. Nickelodeons were popular from around 1905 to 1915. Just five cents would get you in the door and you could enjoy all the latest cinematic productions.



Although films shown in nickelodeons would seem crude to us today, they were groundbreaking at their time. People were awestruck by the projection of moving images onto a giant screen.



A popular urban legend involves one of the very first films, the Lumière brothers' short film, *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station*, which premiered in 1896. It's said that when the film began to roll, people were so shocked by the realistic appearance of a train rushing towards the screen that many of them fled their seats!

About how long was the average film in the early years of cinema?

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What were the theaters where admission was only 5 cents called?

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Why did people supposedly run out of the theater during *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station*?

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