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Bollywood

In India, the film industry is called Bollywood. Raj Krishnav, a movie critic, tells us more about it.

1 What does the word 'Bollywood' mean?

It's a combination of the words 'Bombay' and 'Hollywood'. Bombay is the old name of our capital city, Mumbai. The film industry in India took its inspiration from Hollywood in the 1920s.

2 Why are Bollywood films so popular in India?

Well, they are closer to our culture. Dance and music are very important to us. Bollywood films often have dance scenes and songs in them. They're usually romantic love stories. We make quite a few action films, too.

3 Do the actors have to sing and dance?

They usually have to dance - in India, it's hard to be an actor if you can't dance! But they don't sing. Singers go into the recording studio before the filming begins. Bollywood singers are huge stars. People often choose a film because of who's singing in it.

4 Is Bollywood as successful as Hollywood?



They're two different worlds. India makes 30% more films than America. Hollywood films cost about \$50 million to make. Ours cost about \$2 million, so there is less risk for the film studios. That's one reason Bollywood is successful. It makes more money than Hollywood, or about \$1.5 billion per year.

5 Why don't we see more Bollywood movies in Europe?

For cultural reasons, I think. European audiences find our films a bit strange at first. We are exporting more and more Bollywood productions to Europe. The international film festivals, like Venice or Monaco, show our films to new fans.

6 Thank you for your answers, Raj.

No problem!





Reading

1a Match the definitions (1 – 4) with the letters (a – d).

- 1 When films started in India. ☐
- 2 The cost of a Hollywood movie. ☐
- 3 How much money Bollywood makes in a year. ☐
- 4 How many more films Bollywood makes than Hollywood. ☐

- a 30% more
- b The 1920s
- c \$50 million
- d \$1.5 billion per year

1b Decide if the sentences are true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS). Correct the false sentences.

- 1 The word Bollywood comes from Mumbai and Hollywood.
F The word Bollywood comes from Bombay and Hollywood.
- 2 India's film industry was very successful in the 1920s.
- 3 Bollywood films often have dancing and singing scenes.
- 4 Indian actors don't have to dance or sing.
- 5 Singers record the songs after the filming is done.
- 6 Hollywood spends more money on films than Bollywood.
- 7 It costs about \$2 million to make a Bollywood film.
- 8 India makes more movies than America.
- 9 Hollywood films are a small risk for the studios.
- 10 Bollywood films are not exported to Europe.

Writing: Over to you...

2a Answer the questions for you.

- 1 How often do you watch films?

- 2 Do you go to the cinema or watch DVDs?

- 3 What kind of films do you like best?

- 4 Do they make films in your country? Where?

- 5 Who do you think is a good actor? Why?

2b Use the questions in Exercise 2a to complete the interview with Raj Krishnav.

- You ¹ _____
- Raj I love action films, and I love musicals, too!
- You ² _____
- Raj My favourite actor is Orlando Bloom. He's very good.
- You ³ _____
- Raj Every day! I think I saw 500 films last year. It's about one or two a day.
- You ⁴ _____
- Raj I go to the cinema every week! But I often watch films at home, too.

2c Write a review (80 – 100 words) of an imaginary film or a film that you have seen recently. Include the following information:

- What kind of film is it?
- Who are the most important characters?
- Which actors are in your film?
- Where does the film take place?
- What happens in the film?