Within several years of its founding in 1923, Warner Brothers had acquired First National Pictures. It then teamed with Western Electric to form Vitaphone, a subsidiary to develop sound-on-disc motion pictures. After a period of experimentation, the company made cinematic history with the release of the first film with synchronized songs and dialogue, THE JAZZ SINGER.

Almost more than from any other Hollywood studio, films made at Warner Brothers have been historically associated with a distinctive style. Warner films have been described as socially conscious in theme and relatively simple in visual style (low key lighting and sparse sets). These aspects are present in the studio's best-known genre, the gangster film (PUBLIC ENEMY, LITTLE CAESAR, THE ROARING TWENTIES), but is also readily evident in the studio's "New Deal" dramas (THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT, I AM A FUGITIVE FROM A CHAIN GANG) and its musicals (GOLDDIGGERS OF 1933).

Cartoons were a Warner Brothers' staple throughout the studio era. The studio's animation department routinely allowed its talented artists, voice actors, writers, and composers complete access to studio resources and facilities, and encouraged creative freedom as long as a certain output was guaranteed (30-40 shorts per year). For thirty years, beginning in 1930, the studio produced the LOONEY TUNES and MERRIE MELODIES series which featured "stars" like Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, and Daffy Duck.

Warner Brothers

FILMS
(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

_The Jazz Singer_ (1927). Warner Brothers. Director, Alan Crosland. Writer, Al Cohn. Study Copy: DVD4374 M


_The Treasure of the Sierra Madre_ (1948). Warner Brothers. Director and Writer, John Huston. Study Copy: DVD2750 M


PRINT RESOURCES
(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)


Roddick, Nick. _A New Deal in Entertainment: Warner Brothers in the 1930s._ London: British Film Institute, 1983.