The Fox Film Corporation, founded by William Fox, was one of the first movie companies to experiment with sound. Using sound-on-film technology developed by engineer Theodore Case, FOX MOVIE TONE NEWS brought financial success for the studio. Directors such as John Ford, Lewis Seiler and Frank Borzage honed their skills at Fox, and stars such as Spencer Tracy and Jean Harlow began their feature careers at the studio. Will Rogers' folksy humor in films such as THE CONNECTICUT YANKEE (1931) proved remarkably popular with audiences in the early 1930s.

Plagued by financial problems, the Fox Film Corporation merged with Twentieth Century Pictures to form Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation. Twentieth Century-Fox produced a string of hits including THE GRAPES OF WRATH and TOBACCO ROAD. Among the studio's most popular features were THE LITTLEST REBEL and WEE WILLIE WINKIE with child star Shirley Temple; ONE IN A MILLION, ice-skating champion Sonja Henie's first film; and musicals such as KING OF BURLESQUE (1936) starring singer Alice Faye and THE DOLLY SISTERS (1945) starring Betty Grable.

Tyrone Power joined Faye in IN OLD CHICAGO and became a top grossing star for the studio. Under Darryl F. Zanuck, the studio produced over seventy-five Technicolor films, more than any other studio at the time. The studio's B unit churned out the popular CHARLIE CHAN, RITZ BROTHERS and MR. MOTO series.

After World War II, Zanuck produced a number of films with social themes such as GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT (1947) and PINKY (1949). The UCLA Film and Television Archive has preserved a number of Fox titles including I BELIEVED IN YOU (1934), MOVIE TONE FOLLIES OF 1930, and AFTER TOMORROW, thought at one time to be a lost film.

Fox Movietone Follies of 1930, pictured above, was preserved by the UCLA Film and Television Archive.
20th Century-Fox

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


Bad Girl (1931). Fox Film Corporation. Director, Frank Borzage. Writer, Edwin Burke. Study Copy: VA 19474 M

The Power and the Glory (1933). Fox Film Corporation. Director, William K. Howard. Writer, Preston Sturges. Study Copy: VA 2064 M


Fox Movietone Follies 1930 (1930). Fox Film Corporation. Director, Benjamin Stoloff. Writer, William K. Wells. Study Copy: VD 7398 M


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

