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STEVEN SPIELBERG'S CONTRIBUTION IN MODERN CINEMA

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Steven Spielberg is one of the best director in the world. He is "father" of such films like "Jaws", "Jurassic Park", "Schindler's List", "Saving Private Ryan", "Twilight Zone: The Movie" and of course "Indiana Jones".

He became a director when he was a little boy. Spielberg made amateur 8 mm "adventure" films with his friends, the first of which he shot at the Pinnacle Peak Patio restaurant in Scottsdale. At age 13, Spielberg won a prize for a 40-minute war film he titled, *Escape to Nowhere*. In 1963, at age 16, Spielberg wrote and directed his first independent film, a 140-minute science fiction adventure called *Firelight* (which would later inspire *Close Encounters*). The film, which had a budget of US\$500, was shown in his local cinema theatre and generated a profit of \$1.00

After his parents divorced, he moved to Saratoga, California with his father. After moving to California, he applied to attend the film school at University of Southern California School of Theater, Film and Television three separate times, but was unsuccessful. He was a student subsequently of California State University, Long Beach. While attending Long Beach State in the 1960s, Spielberg became member of Theta Chi Fraternity. His actual career began when he returned to Universal Studios as an unpaid, seven-day-a-week intern and guest of the editing department. As an intern and guest of Universal Studios, Spielberg made his first short film for theatrical release, the 24 minute film *Amblin'* (1968), the title of which Spielberg later took as the name of his production company, Amblin Entertainment. After Sidney Sheinberg, then the vice-president of production for Universal's TV arm, saw the film, Spielberg became the youngest director ever to be signed for a long-term deal with a major Hollywood studio (Universal). He dropped out of Long Beach State in 1969 to take up the television director contract at Universal Studios and began his career as a professional director. In 1969, *Variety* announced that Spielberg would direct his first full length film, *Malcolm Winkler*, written by Claudia Salter, produced by John Orland, with Frank Price being the executive producer. However, because of the difficulty in casting the key male role, the film was not made.

Studio producers Richard Zanuck and David Brown offered Spielberg the director's chair for *Jaws*, a horror film based on the Peter Benchley novel about an enormous killer-shark. Spielberg has often referred to the grueling shoot as his professional crucible. Despite the film's ultimate, enormous success, it was nearly shut down due to delays and budget overruns. But Spielberg persevered and finished the film. *Jaws* is regarded as a watershed film in motion picture history, the father of the summer blockbuster film and one of the first "high concept" films. Due to the film's success in advance screenings, studio executives decided to distribute it in a much wider release than ever before. The *Omen* followed suit in the summer of 1976 and then *Star Wars* one year later in 1977, cementing the notion for movie studios to distribute their big-release action and adventure pictures (commonly referred to as tentpole pictures) during the summer. *Jaws* is widely regarded as one of the greatest films of all time. *Jaws* was number 48 on American Film Institute's 100 Years... 100 Movies, a list of the greatest American films of all time, dropping down to number 56 on the 10 Year Anniversary list. It was ranked second on a similar list for thrillers, 100 Years... 100 Thrills. It was an enormous hit, winning three Academy Awards (for editing, original score and sound) and grossing \$470,653,000 worldwide at the box office. It also set the domestic record for box office gross, leading to what the press described as "Jawsmania." *Jaws* made him a household name, as

well as one of America's youngest multi-millionaires, and allowed Spielberg a great deal of autonomy for his future projects. It was nominated for Best Picture and featured Spielberg's first of three collaborations with actor Richard Dreyfuss.

Next, Spielberg teamed with Star Wars creator and friend George Lucas on an action adventure film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, the first of the Indiana Jones films. The archaeologist and adventurer hero Indiana Jones was played by Harrison Ford (whom Lucas had previously cast in his Star Wars films as Han Solo). The film was considered a homage to the cliffhanger serials of the Golden Age of Hollywood. It became the biggest film at the box office in 1981, and the recipient of numerous Oscar nominations including Best Director (Spielberg's second nomination) and Best Picture (the second Spielberg film to be nominated for Best Picture). *Raiders* is still considered a landmark example of the action genre.

In 1993, Spielberg returned to the adventure genre with the film version of Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*, about a theme park with genetically engineered dinosaurs. *Jurassic Park* is regarded as a landmark in the use of computer-generated imagery, and received positive reviews from critics, who praised the effects, though reactions to other elements of the picture, such as character development, were mixed. During its release, the film grossed more than \$914 million worldwide, becoming the most successful film released up to that time (surpassing *E.T. the Extra Terrestrial* and surpassed 4 years later by *Titanic*), and it is currently the thirteenth-highest-grossing feature film (taking inflation into account, it is the 18th-highest-grossing film in North America). It is the most successful film from both NBC Universal and Steven Spielberg. This makes Universal one of only two of the "Big Six" film studios not to have a movie make at least \$1 billion worldwide (along with Sony Pictures Entertainment, whose highest grossing film is *Spider-Man 3*). *Jurassic Park* spawned a franchise, including the sequels *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997) and *Jurassic Park III* (2001).

The next grandiose film by Steven Spielberg is *Schindler's List*, was based on the true story of Oskar Schindler, a man who risked his life to save 1,100 Jews from the Holocaust. *Schindler's List* earned Spielberg his first Academy Award for Best Director (it also won Best Picture). With the film a huge success at the box office, Spielberg used the profits to set up the Shoah Foundation, a non-profit organization that archives filmed testimony of Holocaust survivors.

In addition Steven Spielberg earned many awards. First of all three academy awards, two Critics Choice Award and award of Cannes Film Festival

All works of Steven Spielberg are especial. Every film has unique sense of humor and wonderful music accompaniment(Who doesn't remember the main titles from *Jaws* or *Indiana Johns* ?) According to statistics, almost each person saw at least one S.S's film. Person can not remember name of the director, but he precisely watched it

To conclude, I can say that I really enjoy by watching his films and I would like to advise everyone to watch at least one of its film