

Chapter Summary – Module Six

The film business has been called "The Dream Factory." Movies offer us hopes, heroes and heroines, and take us to magical places and times, all through our eyes and ears, without having to read. America's fascination with the moving picture has focused on entertainment appealing to certain psychological needs: the need for a fantasy life, the need to be loved, to find a place and purpose in life. Films help create as well as interpret culture and society. However, because large, corporate interests often finance films, these cultural perspectives are related to the need to make a profit. From the beginning, critics have studied the impact of films, although they are usually more concerned about moral issues than commercialization. American films are distributed internationally, and therefore have a global impact. Digital technology and the Internet are both threats to and opportunities for the film industry.