The **Birth of a Nation** (1915) is about the American civil war. It was the first film many Americans went to see. Most films at the time only lasted about ten to twelve minutes, but *The Birth of a Nation* was over three hours long! The film cost about $100,000, but it made about $3 million. Some of the film was in colour and it had its own music.
The Jazz Singer (1927) is the story of a boy who runs away from home to become a singer. It was the first film with talking and singing. The star of the movie was Al Jolson. Al Jolson was born in Russia and moved to the USA in 1894 when he was about five years old. After The Jazz Singer, he became famous all over the world.
Citizen Kane (1941) is about the life of a poor boy who becomes a successful businessman. For many people it’s the best film in the history of cinema. Citizen Kane was Orson Welles’ first film. He was only 25 years old, but he was both the star of the film and its director. The film had a big budget – more than half a million dollars – but it made millions of dollars more.

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

E.T. (1982) is the story of Elliot, a lonely boy who makes friends with an extraterrestrial (E.T.). Steven Spielberg directed the film and it was successful all over the world. E.T. won four Oscars and was a huge blockbuster. It cost $10 million to make, but made hundreds of millions of dollars – more than any other movie at that time.