

Why Media Consolidation Hurts Independent Film

And what it means for audiences, workers, and local communities.

What Is Media Consolidation?

A small number of large corporations already control much of the media we watch. When those companies merge, even more power is concentrated in fewer hands. That affects not just filmmakers, but local businesses, workers, and audiences across the country.

Media consolidation happens when large media companies merge or buy each other, reducing the number of independent companies that create, distribute, and show films and television. Over time, control over what we watch becomes concentrated in fewer corporate hands.

Today, a small number of companies already dominate film and television production, streaming, and distribution. Further consolidation would give these companies even more power over which stories are told, who gets paid, and what audiences are able to see.

Here's what's at risk:

- **Fewer Choices and Fewer Stories:** When big media companies merge, there are fewer places for independent films to be bought or shown. That means fewer stories are able to be made, and fewer voices and perspectives are represented.
- **Local Theaters and Film Festivals at Risk:** Independent movie theaters and film festivals are small businesses that bring people together in towns and cities across the country. Mergers can limit their ability to access new releases or well-known classic films that help keep their doors open, especially as they recover from the pandemic.
- **Lower Pay for Creative Workers:** As companies get bigger and competition shrinks, budgets often go down. Writers, actors, directors, crew members, editors, and other workers are paid less for their work—or can't find work at all.
- **Loss of Long-Term Income for Creators:** Many filmmakers used to earn income over time when their work was shown again or sold in new ways. Today, large companies (especially streamers) increasingly demand full ownership of films, cutting creators off from future earnings.



- **Harder for Films to Reach Audiences:** Big media companies can decide where and how a film is released...or whether it's released at all. Important films may never reach theaters, schools, or communities that want to see them.
- **Fewer Career Opportunities:** Shorter productions and fewer outlets mean fewer chances for people to build lasting careers in film and tv, especially for new and emerging talent.
- **Finished Films Disappearing:** After recent mergers, companies have cancelled production, shelved, or buried films and TV shows. Years of creative work can simply vanish, never to be seen by the public.
- **Less Creative Freedom:** When media ownership is concentrated, companies are more likely to avoid stories that feel risky, challenging, or controversial. That leads to fewer diverse perspectives and a narrower range of ideas in our culture.

YOUR EXPERIENCE IS EVIDENCE.

Decisions about media mergers are being made right now.

Voicing concern about media consolidation isn't about resisting change. It's about ensuring creativity, local economies, and access to independent films aren't sacrificed for corporate scale and control.

TAKE ACTION. SHARE YOUR STORY!*

We want to know how you've been impacted by media consolidation, as a member of the public or industry worker.

**Information can be provided confidentially and anonymously.*



**Protect indie film by standing up for audiences,
industry workers, and local communities.**

This is our moment to act.

BlockTheMerger.com

