Independent films VS mainstream films

Independent films are produced by smaller production companies. They are often designed to make you think about certain subjects or issues, and have storylines that are more realistic than in studio films.

Some of the main differences are things like the actors. In mainstream, actors are often used to attract audiences and fans of the actor to the movie, but in indie cinema, actors are often unknown; that is an advantage because actors who aren't famous are cheaper than famous ones. Mainstream actors are also generally more attractive, because Hollywood has very rigid beauty standards, especially for women. Indie actors are more "normal looking" than big studio actors.

Another difference is the marketing. Mainstream films have bigger marketing campaigns than indie films; big Hollywood studios have more money to spend on advertising on TV, billboards and nowadays, social media. Small production companies depend more on film festivals, critics reviews and word of mouth.

In the past, independent films had lower production values than current indie movies. These days, small producers can use tools like the internet to secure more funding, so independent films are a better quality than before, but big mainstream movies, especially the ones produced by major studios like Marvel, are much more expensive than any independent film. One good example is *Avengers: Endgame (2019)*, which had a budget of 356 million dollars. *Godzilla Minus One (2023)* was made by a small Japanese studio with a budget of 15 million dollars, and it has extraordinary production values: it was nominated for an Oscar for Visual Effects (VFX.)

To summarize, the main difference between independent and mainstream films is money. There are many indie films that have well-written stories, great actors and good production values; and there are studio films that have a good story in theory but bad execution. We cannot judge a film based only on the money it costs.

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Reading Comprehension

1. Mainstream actors get more money for their work. T / F

2. The marketing for mainstream films is more expensive. T / F

3. What is one way to learn about an independent film?
   _____

4. What's the difference between indie films of the past and indie films now?
   _____

5. What is the main difference between Avengers: Endgame and Godzilla Minus One?
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