The differences between stage and screen acting are largely determined by the differences in space and time in each medium.

The star system has been the backbone of the American film industry since the mid-1910s, and stars are the creation of the public, its reigning favorites.

The so-called Golden Age of the star system between the 1930s and the 1940s, coincided with the supremacy of the Hollywood studio system.

Most of the stars during this period were under exclusive contract to the five major production companies: MGM, Warner Brothers, Paramount, Twentieth Century-Fox, and RKO, known as the Big Five studio majors.

After the talking revolution, the majors turned to the live theater for new stars.

The majors viewed their stars as valuable investments, and the build-up techniques developed by the studios involved significant time, money, and energy.

Personality stars commonly refuse all parts that go against their type, especially if they are leading actors and actresses.

Stanislavsky disapproved of the star system and individual virtuosity. In his productions, he insisted on ensemble acting, with genuine interactions among the actors/characters.

Most stage and screen performers are classified according to role categories which include: leading men, leading women, character actors, juveniles, villains, comedians, tragedians, ingénues, singers, and dancers.

Acting is a language system as the filmmaker uses actors as a medium for communicating ideas and emotions.