Film history faces destruction again

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BERLIN: On June 20, 1962, the studio Babelsberg was being demolished, just as the theme song of one of its defining films, "The Diary of a Chambermaid," was played as a last homage to its past. The demolition was part of an effort to make way for the construction of a large new district in the city. The studio had been a major player in the cinema industry in Germany, and the move signaled the end of an era.

Babelsberg, however, was not the only studio to suffer such fate. In the 1960s, many other studios across Europe were closed down, including the famous Studio Harald in Munich and the Studios Biserka in Belgrade. This was a time of great change in the film industry, as the rise of television and the decline of theatrical releases threatened the traditional business model.

Even more ominous was the loss of footage of these studios' films. The Young Branded Girls, the film that opened Babelsberg in 1919, was one of the many films that were destroyed during the demolition. The loss of such footage meant that the historical record of these studios' work was forever lost.

In the years following the studio's closure, efforts were made to preserve the remaining footage. The Film Archive of the State of Brandenburg, which had been established to preserve and promote the artistic heritage of the region, took on the challenge of抢救ing as much footage as possible.

Today, the Babelsberg Studios are home to a thriving film industry once again. The studios have been restored and modernized, and new films are being produced regularly. The film archive continues to work to preserve the legacy of the studio, and the films produced here are celebrated around the world.

The problem, however, is that not all films are saved. As the industry continues to evolve, the challenges of preservation and distribution become more complex. But with the support of organizations like the Film Archive of the State of Brandenburg, we can work towards ensuring that the history of film is not lost to future generations.