



Leo the Lion is the mascot for the Hollywood film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and one of its predecessors, Goldwyn Pictures, featured in the studio's production logo. Since 1916 and through the time the studio was formed by the merger of Samuel Goldwyn's studio with Marcus Loew's Metro Pictures and Louis B. Mayer's company in 1924, there have been seven different lions used for the MGM logo. Although MGM has referred to all of the lions used in their trademark as "Leo the Lion", only the current lion, in use since 1957 (a total of 63 years), was actually named "Leo".

Leo, the seventh lion, is by far MGM's longest-used lion, having appeared on most MGM films since 1957. Leo was born in Dublin Zoo, Ireland. He was also the youngest at the time MGM filmed him roaring, hence his much smaller mane. In addition to being used as the MGM lion, Leo also appeared in other productions such as the religious epic *King of Kings* (1961), *Zebra in the Kitchen* (1965), *Fluffy* (1965), and *Napoleon and Samantha* (1972); as well as a memorable TV commercial for Dreyfus Investments in 1961. Leo also made several appearances on the 1971-72 TV series *The Pet Set*, proving himself gentle enough to let a blind teenage girl pet him in one episode.

Two different versions of this logo were used: an "extended" version, with the lion roaring three times, used from 1957–1960; and the "standard" version, with the lion roaring twice, used since 1960. Three MGM films, *Raintree County* (1957), *Ben-Hur* (1959), and *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962), utilized a still-frame variation of this logo. This logo would also appear on black-and-white films, such as *Jailhouse Rock* (1957; the lion's debut appearance) and *A Patch of B.*

[Note: I couldn't find where Leo actually lives... probably Beverly Hills!]

