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Griffith Observatory at 80: Watch its most famous movie appearances

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The Griffith Observatory from Mt. Hollywood, with downtown Los Angeles in the background. According to GoogleEarth, the Observatory is .8 miles away, downtown is 5.6 miles away.

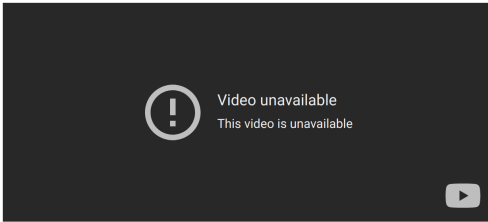
It opened in 1935 as the brainchild of Griffith J. Griffith, and became a hotspot for astronomy as well as a backdrop, itself, on film and TV.

Many people come to Los Angeles to become a star. But want to look up at the stars? Then perched high atop Griffith Park sits the Griffith Observatory.

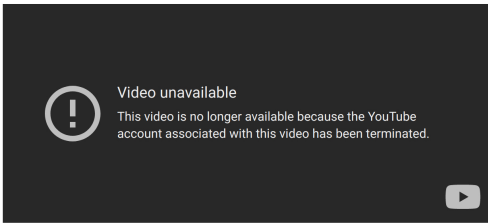
It opened 80 years ago in 1935 as the brainchild of philanthropist Griffith J. Griffith.

In addition to its extensive astronomy programming, the Observatory has been a backdrop itself on film and TV.

One of its most iconic appearances was in "Rebel Without a Cause," as the location where James Dean's Jim clashes with rival Buzz.



Scott Bakula's Sam Beckett couldn't help being starstruck, himself, when he paid it a visit in an episode of "Quantum Leap."



Griffith Observatory is also where Arnold Schwarzenegger time-traveled ... and showed off what bodybuilding can do for you ... in "The Terminator."



E.C. Krupp, executive director of Griffith Observatory, explains the history and secrets of the building that's become an iconic L.A. landmark.

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