



THE MUSEUM OF WESTERN FILM HISTORY

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. *How has the museum evolved from its inception?*** The Museum's collections and exhibits have grown. Since the opening in 2006, more formal exhibits have been created and the diversity of the collections have expanded. You can view our list of exhibits from our website menu. <http://www.museumofwesternfilmhistory.org>
- 2. *What does the future hold for the Lone Pine Museum?*** The Museum initially was envisioned to represent the Western films that were made in Lone Pine and the Eastern Sierra, (400 in our Alabama Hills, another 300 in the Eastern Sierra including Death Valley and over 1000 commercials.) As every Western Director, producer, actor and actress made films in this area, the Museum's name was changed in 2015 to the - *Museum of Western Film History* and its exhibits pay tribute to ALL Western films, highlighting for visitors, those made in this region. The new mission provides the museum a broader range of genre films and an opportunity to reach a wider audience. (Note: The Museum also recognizes a number of high profile non-westerns made in the area which include - *High Sierra*, *Iron Man*, scenes from two *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* films, *Gladiator*; episodes of *Twilight Zone* episodes and *Tremors* to name a few.)
- 3. *Do you feel that the Museum is a not only tremendous resource for the history of film, but also a beacon of historical information for the region?*** Yes, it can be. The expansion of the mission –see attached mission statement, provides opportunity for the museum to define itself not only as an exhibiter, but an archive of the history and legacy of Western Film in America and the evolving culture on movies of the American Cowboy.
- 4. *What's the most popular museum exhibit and why?*** Tough question – for the plus 50 – easily Hopalong Cassidy. The Museum has one of the largest collections of Hopalong Cassidy memorabilia in the US. The Roy Rogers and Dale Evans exhibit brings back many memories to our guests. To those who love Music – Our singing cowboy's exhibit provides a look back at Roy, Gene, Tex Ritter and many others. For a younger crowd, *Django Unchained*; and for kids – *Tremors* and *Iron Man*. The Museum has the large animatronic worm and other characters from *Tremors* on display.
- 5. *As for the Lone Pine Film Festival, didn't the museum spawn from the early success of this festival?*** In 1989, Lone Pine Business and Community leaders formulated a plan to pay tribute to the extensive Hollywood heritage of the Eastern Sierra. Hollywood's long standing love affair with the unique landscape brought an extensive list of talent including actors Errol Flynn, John Wayne, Gene Autry, Spencer Tracy, Robert Downey, Jr. and Jeff Bridges, as well as directors John Ford, Budd Boetticher, William Wellman and William Witney.

The result, in 1990, was the first festival held in Lone Pine called the Sierra Film Festival. The film festival program featured a proclamation acknowledging a debt of gratitude to Roy Rogers who dedicated the historical marker that was placed at Whitney Portal and Movie Road during the festival. The success of the early film festivals continued into the new century providing incentive and motivation for the community to build the Museum which has become a major tourist destination for travelers including numerous International tourists.

6. **What film location do most visitors try to find in the Alabama Hills?** “Gunga Din” sites, Lone Ranger Canyon, any and all Randolph Scott film locations as well as *Tremors* and *Iron Man*. Many visitors bring stills or screen shots from numerous films in search of their favorite scenes from movies shot in the area.
7. **Are there movie sets in the Alabama Hills that can be visited?** Unfortunately not. The Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power that own most of the land require the sites to be returned to their natural states, any movie buildings and or artifacts removed providing minimal impact to the lands and natural beauty of the mountains.
8. **Are movies still made in the area?** Yes, in recent years, *Lone Ranger*, *Superman – Man of Steel*, *Oblivion* and *Django Unchained*. A number of independent movies use the region and numerous commercials for cars, trucks and outdoor vehicles are shot in the Alabama Hills. These productions companies and their respective crews contribute significantly to the local economy in patronizing the hotels, motels, restaurants, and local retail establishments
9. **Did John Wayne shoot any films in Lone Pine?** Yes, twelve films, beginning with *Somewhere in Sonora* in 1933 through his last film here, *3 Godfathers* in 1948.
10. **How can people support the Museum?** Membership. The Museum website – (<http://www.museumofwesternfilmhistory.org>) and the Film Festival website (www.lonepinefilmfestival.org) both have links and information on supporting the museum and for those who may have items they want to donate.

Museum of Western Film History

www.museumofwesternfilmhistory.com

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