

# LRS UNSEATED

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SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOUR:

KOREATOWN

USC

SAN PEDRO



PRESENTED BY THE L.A. CONSERVANCY'S  
LAST REMAINING SEATS VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE



*The Last Remaining Seats Volunteer Committee Presents:*

# LRS UNSEATED



Alfred Hitchcock's REBECCA at The Orpheum Theatre in 2019. Photo by Mike Hume  
Cover: The Wilton Theatre in Koreatown. Photo by Brian Green, Alamy

## WELCOME TO LRS UNSEATED!

Since 1987, thousands of film fans have flocked to Last Remaining Seats, The L.A. Conservancy's signature series of classic films in historic theatres. Last Remaining Seats (LRS) presents films as they were meant to be seen: on the big screen, in a beautiful theatre, surrounded by fellow fans, and accompanied by vintage cartoons, newsreels, and more.

Each year, all of us on the LRS Volunteer Committee work very hard to help plan L.A.'s beloved film series by vetting, curating, and implementing a lineup of exciting, diverse classic films. And since Los Angeles is home to some of the most beautiful historic movie palaces in the world, it's also our goal to show them off in all their extravagant glory at Last Remaining Seats screenings.

But what about the places where beloved classic films were made? As the home of Hollywood's golden age, it's no surprise that many of film history's most iconic locations can be found right here in Los Angeles. What part of Los Angeles doubled for Skull Island in the first movie version of KING KONG? Was SUNSET BOULEVARD actually filmed anywhere near Sunset Boulevard? Where did James Dean first say hi to Natalie Wood in REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE?

### "HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD!"



Jimmie "Scat" Davis and Frances Langford in HOLLYWOOD HOTEL (1937)

*Occasionally, you'll notice a sound icon appear alongside text in your tour guides. Please click to tune into a music track specific to your site location!*

*To listen to all tracks featured in the tour, visit [bit.ly/LRSUnseated\\_KTown](http://bit.ly/LRSUnseated_KTown)*

That's where LRS Unseated comes in! We've created a collection of self-guided driving and walking tours featuring filming locations across Los Angeles County, from Santa Monica to the San Gabriel Valley. These tours highlight films that have previously screened at Last Remaining Seats over the years, as well as a number of classic film fan favorites, making it a sort of "greatest hits" of filming locales around L.A.

In addition to filming locations, each tour also includes historic legacy businesses connected to film history for you to patronize! Drop in at the historic Walker's Cafe in San Pedro before heading out to Point Fermin on the trail of Jack Nicholson in CHINATOWN, or fuel up at the historic Formosa Cafe before heading out to Barbara Stanwyck's house in DOUBLE INDEMNITY.

We've also included a Spotify playlist featuring motion picture soundtracks (and a few fun extras) to play during your drive.

So join us, as we travel back in time to re-live some of film's most famous moments!

**Helen Ramirez**  
LRS Committee Chair

**Liz Highstrete**  
LRS Committee Vice Chair

## LRS UNSEATED TOURS INCLUDE:

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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

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HOLLYWOOD

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WEST LOS ANGELES

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KOREATOWN / USC / SAN PEDRO

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GRIFFITH PARK / SILVER LAKE  
LOS FELIZ

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SAN FERNANDO /  
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

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## GET SOCIAL!

Please consider sharing your experiences during these tours on social media using hashtag [#LRSUnseated](#)! We love hearing from LRS fans and it's a great way to connect with fellow film lovers.

Be sure to tag the L.A. Conservancy so we can share:  
[@LAConservancy](#)



LRS volunteers at the Los Angeles Theatre, 2019. Photo by Mike Hume

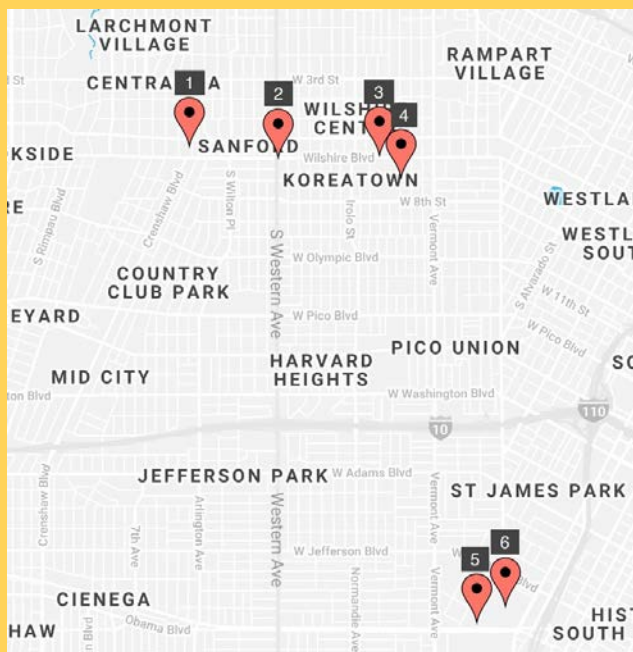


# LRS UNSEATED

## Filming Locations of Los Angeles

Once upon a time, the stretch of Wilshire Boulevard from Highland to Vermont Avenues was the beating heart of L.A.'s social scene. Home to the Ambassador Hotel and the original Brown Derby restaurant, it was a happening Hollywood hot spot for much of the 1920s, '30, and '40s. On this tour, you'll be visiting a few sites no longer with us (like the Ambassador) as well as some that have survived (the Wilshire Theatre). We'll also go a bit further afield to visit the community of San Pedro in southwest Los Angeles

## KOREATOWN / USC / SAN PEDRO DRIVING TOUR



For more information about Last Remaining Seats visit  
[\*\*laconservancy.org/lrs-unseated\*\*](http://laconservancy.org/lrs-unseated)

*Please be respectful of all business owners and homeowners and do not enter private property.*

## 1. **SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)** **REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (1955)**

William O. Jenkins House (DEMOLISHED)  
641 S Irving Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90095

The mansion that once stood at this location was built in 1923, but remained largely vacant until it was purchased by J. Paul Getty in 1936. In 1950, it was chosen as the location for Norma Desmond's (Gloria Swanson) home in Paramount Picture's *SUNSET BOULEVARD*, but one of Getty's five ex-wives occupied the house at the time. She agreed to let Paramount Studios use it under the condition that they build her a swimming pool, and this is the pool in which Joe Gillis (William Holden) is also seen in *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE*. By the time filming for *REBEL* began in 1955, the house was vacant and was used as the abandoned mansion seen below the Griffith Observatory in the film. This iconic and history-rich home was demolished in 1957 and replaced with the currently standing high-rise office building.



## 2. **LA BAMBA (1987)**

Wiltern Theatre

3790 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

The Wiltern Theatre stands in for the Paramount Theatre, where Ritchie Valens (Lou Diamond Phillips) plays a show in New York. Completed in 1931, this Art Deco masterpiece is a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With its distinctive, blue-green terra-cotta facade, The Wiltern is always ready for its close-up and shows up in everything from *PURPLE RAIN* to *LETHAL WEAPON*.

The effort to save the Pellissier Building and Wiltern Theatre was one of the Los Angeles Conservancy's first major preservation success stories.



**"LA BAMBA"**  
Performed by Los Lobos

## 3. **THE GRADUATE (1967)**

The Ambassador Hotel (DEMOLISHED)  
3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) carries out his affair with Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft) at the fictional Taft Hotel, which is actually the now-demolished Ambassador Hotel. Opened in 1921 and designed by Myron Hunt, with later renovations by Paul R. Williams, the Ambassador Hotel was one of Los Angeles' defining historic sites. It was also home to the Coconut Grove nightclub, L.A.'s premier nightspot for decades; host to six Oscar ceremonies and every U.S. President from Herbert Hoover to Richard Nixon; and the site of the tragic assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. The Conservancy worked for nearly twenty years to prevent the demolition of the Ambassador Hotel, but it was demolished in 2005-2006 and replaced with a Los Angeles Unified School District campus. Among the many movies filmed there are *BOMBSHELL*, *FORREST GUMP*, *ALMOST FAMOUS*, *APPOLO 13*, and *SE7EN*.



**"THE SOUND OF SILENCE"**  
Performed by Simon and Garfunkel, 1967



#### 4. **CHINATOWN (1974)**

##### The Prince

3198 W 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90005

The Prince restaurant and bar stands in for the, unfortunately, demolished Brown Derby restaurant. Jake Gittes (Jack Nicholson) and Evelyn Mulwray (Faye Dunaway) meet for drinks here after her husband is found dead. Originally opened as The Windsor in the 1940s, it was a favorite hangout of the Hollywood elite.

Thanks to its old-fashioned red leather booths, stained-glass paneling, and vintage wallpaper, it is a popular filming location and can be seen in films such as THANK YOU FOR SMOKING, as well as T.V. shows like NEW GIRL.

Show us your photos!  
Tag @laconservancy  
#Irsunseated

#### 5. **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (1939)**

##### USC Mudd Hall of Philosophy

University of Southern California, off Exposition Blvd east of Watt Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Visit Mudd Hall at USC to see the bell tower used in this film adaptation of Victor Hugo's classic novel. Originally built in 1929, the building underwent extensive structural and decorative restoration in 2003, earning a 2004 Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award.

#### 6. **THE GRADUATE (1967)**

##### USC Edward L. Doheny Jr. Memorial Library

University of Southern California, between Hoover Boulevard and Childs Way, Los Angeles, CA 90089

Ben (Dustin Hoffman) drives to UC Berkeley to see Elaine Robinson (Katharine Ross) and waits around for her at the fountain in front of what is actually the Doheny Library at USC. It was built with funds donated by Edward L. Doheny in 1932 in memory of his son, who was shot and killed at the Doheny home at Greystone Mansion.



##### **"SCARBOROUGH FAIR/CANTICLE"**

Performed by Simon and Garfunkel, 1967



#### 7. **CHINATOWN (1974)**

##### Point Fermin and Walker's Cafe

700 W Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731

Jake Gittes (Jack Nicholson) follows Hollis Mulwray (Darrell Zwerling) to this San Pedro cliffside park, then leaves a watch under Hollis's tire outside of Walker's Cafe in order to find out what time he leaves. Housed in what was originally a turnaround station for the Red Car line, the restaurant has been operating as Walker's Cafe since the late 1940s.

# WHILE YOU'RE HERE ...

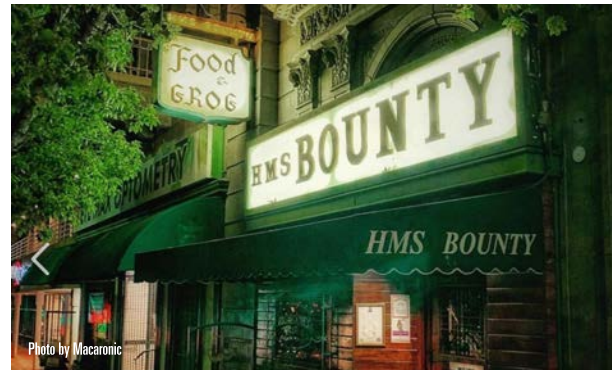
*(Please check business websites for latest hours of operation.)*

## H.M.S. BOUNTY

3357 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90010

[thehmsbounty.com](http://thehmsbounty.com)

Named after Henry Gaylord Wilshire himself, the Gaylord Apartments opened as a co-op in 1924 and boasted luxury furnishings, a stunning lobby, and views of the grand Ambassador Hotel which sat directly across the street. In 1948, a ground-floor restaurant opened called The Gay Room and changed names a few times before becoming the H.M.S. Bounty in 1962. A perennially popular hangout, the Bounty's close proximity to the Ambassador and Cocoanut Grove made it a destination for celebrities. The nautically-themed restaurant is a true Old Hollywood time capsule and it's not surprising that several films and T.V. shows (like MAD MEN) have been filmed here.



## HOTEL NORMANDIE

605 Normandie Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90005

[hotelnormandiela.com](http://hotelnormandiela.com)

In the heart of Koreatown stands Hotel Normandie, a 1926 landmark in the Renaissance Revival style. Noted architects Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen designed the building during the height of L.A.'s eclectic revival craze. It's definitely worth a stop to take in the beautifully restored lobby as well as to fuel up with some good old-fashioned hamburgers at Cassell's, a legacy business that now resides inside the Hotel Normandie.



## THE BROWN DERBY PLAZA

3377 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

[visitkoreatown.org](http://visitkoreatown.org)

his is the original location of the Brown Derby. Los Angeles nightlife centered around it and the world-famous Cocoanut Grove at the nearby Ambassador Hotel for several decades, . Erected in the form of an enormous brown derby hat, the restaurant was a sterling example of the Programmatic architecture craze that swept Los Angeles in the '20s and early '30s. And while the Brown Derby had several locations, the Wilshire Boulevard franchise was the only restaurant where you could actually eat in the hat itself The original Derby was demolished in 1980. The dome was salvaged and now rests atop this three-story strip mall.



## WALKER'S CAFE

700 W Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731

[walkerscafe.com](http://walkerscafe.com)

This family-owned diner, right across the street from picturesque Point Fermin Park, has been a San Pedro legacy business since 1946. The building has been there since 1913, first as a trolley car station, and later as Cuddles Tavern. That's how Ray Walker found it when he came to San Pedro in the '40s. Stationed at nearby Fort McArthur, Walker and his wife were one of the many military families in town. They bought the tavern in 1946 and expanded it to become Walker's Cafe, where it became a popular destination with military families. Not much has changed over the years—from the old school menu over the register to the antique ceramics—and it's still a great place to grab a beer and a burger.

