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NEW YORK NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER TO EXPAND CARE AND SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Don Morgan | Published: January 19, 2024

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The Berkshire Farm Center and The House of the Good Shepherd are two of the most prominent welfare organizations in the State of New York. Together, they provide care and programs to over 13,000 children and families each year.

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In addition, these two organizations will offer a broader array of services and an expanded continuum of care. The announcement notes that the two organizations comprise over 1100 staff members serving children and families in New York State.

“

Simply put, together we will be able to help more children and families in more and different ways in a larger portion of our state. The operational efficiencies we hope to see will translate into real-world benefits for our organizations, which, in turn, provide benefits to our communities, strengthening the children and families within them. -

”

Brian Parchesky, Berkshire Farm Center's president and CEO

While both organizations will continue to be separate, they are forming a joint parent company, Stronger Communities NY, which will combine some of the administrative services along with maximizing the strategic planning capabilities of both organizations.

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What Is The Berkshire Farm Center and The House Of The Good Shepherd

**Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth** serves over 8,500 New York State children and family members. According to the organizations, their mission is “to strengthen children and families so they can live safely, independently, and productively within their home communities.” Learn more by visiting the Berkshire Farm Center website.

**The House of the Good Shepherd** creates and implements solutions to meet the growing needs of vulnerable children and families with a mission to provide care that changes children's lives. They provided foster care & prevention, residential, and education services for over 2,000 children and families each year. For more

information, visit the Changing Childrens Lives website.

According to the announcement, the two agencies working together will help attract and retain a more diverse and skilled workforce. That will allow for more high-quality programs and resources for the welfare of children and families

The combined effort will result in an operating budget of close to \$115 million annually, employ 1,100 people, and serve approximately 11,000 New York families.

“

Empowering positive change within our communities and profoundly impacting the lives of countless children and families stands as a united commitment between The House and Berkshire. Through collaboration and strategic implementation, we are forming an alliance that will focus on leveraging our strengths to better serve those entrusted to our care. - Brian McKee, President and CEO of The House of the Good Shepherd

”

40 MOVIES TURNING 40 IN 2024

There were ghosts, nerds, karate and a whole lot of dancing (especially breakdancing). The list of movies released in 1984 is dotted with classics that have been remade many times over. Some of the franchises that started that year are still going today. Here is a look at 40 movies that will turn 40 years old in 2024.

Gallery Credit: Rob Carroll



Columbia Pictures

'Ghostbusters'

Ghostbusters quickly became a pop culture phenomenon thanks to its quotable script and quirky creatures like the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man. Having a cast that brought together Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd, Harold Ramis, Sigourney Weaver and Rick Moranis also probably helped, too.

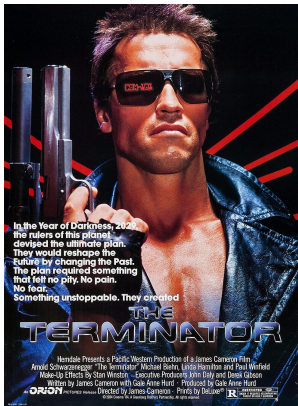


Paramount Pictures

'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom'

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom serves as a prequel to the 1981 blockbuster, Raiders of the Lost Ark. This time out, Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones heads to India to collect return ceremonial stones to a village while also freeing children from the village who were being forced to work in a series of tunnels. There's also a cool guy who rips people's still-beating hearts right out of their chest.





Orion Pictures

'The Terminator'

*The Terminator* is the film that established James Cameron as a blockbuster movie director. While it took 7 years to get a proper sequel, *The Terminator* was one of the true movie franchises to come out of 1984.



Paramount Pictures

'Beverly Hills Cop'

The debut of Eddie Murphy's Axel Foley character proved to be an absolute hit at the box office. *Beverly Hills Cop* finished 1984 as the year's highest grossing film released in the U.S.

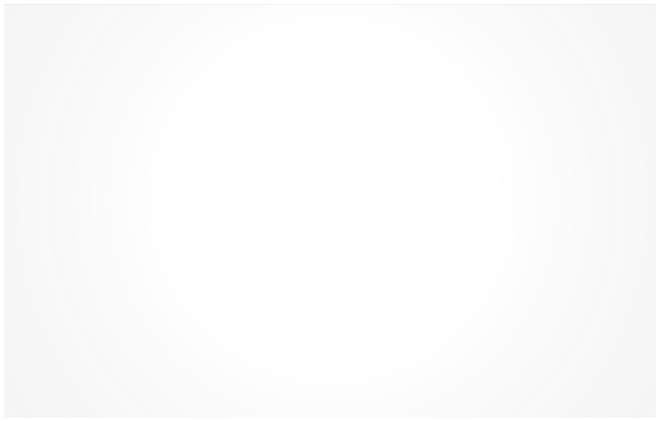


20th Centruy Fox

'Revenge of the Nerds'

*Revenge of the Nerds* showed audiences that raunchy sex comedies could also have heart. While some of the movie doesn't hold up well today, it is hard to look past the inspiration of the nerds coming out on top over the jocks.



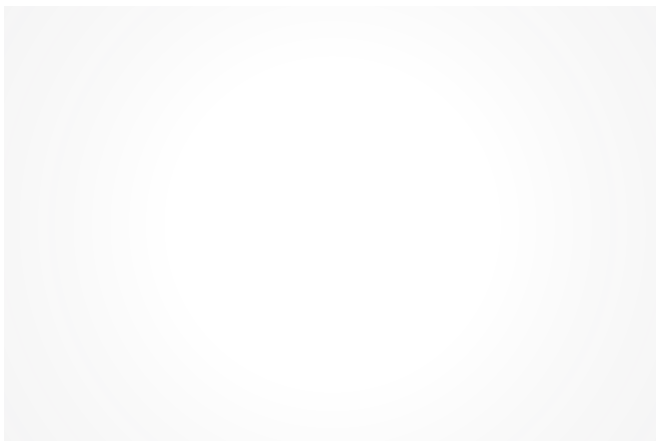


Columbia Pictures

### 'The Karate Kid'

The story of Daniel LaRusso learning karate after being bullied by students from a local dojo grossed more than \$100 million in the U.S. and Canada. It also got Pat Morita a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination for his performance as Mr. Miyagi.

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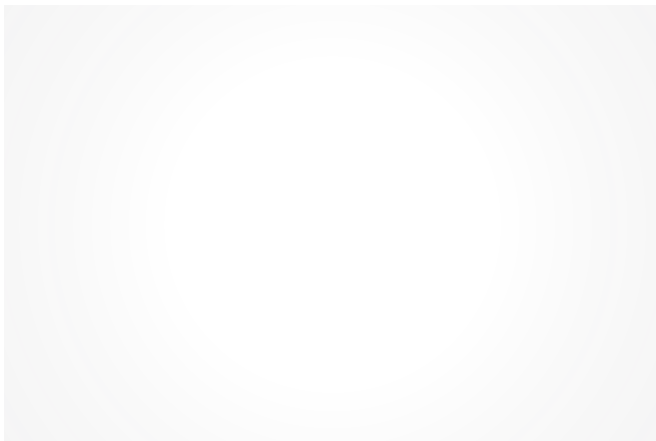


Embassy Pictures

### 'This is Spinal Tap'

The mother of all mockumentaries, 'This is Spinal Tap' introduced us not only to the hysterically delusional heavy metal band from which it gets its name but to the eternal phrase "this one goes to 11."

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New Line Cinema

### 'A Nightmare on Elm Street'

One of director Wes Craven's greatest films in the horror genre introduces us to Freddy Kruger who murders people during their dreams. Six sequels and a crossover with *Friday the 13th* would follow making Freddy one of the most iconic horror characters to come out of the '80s.

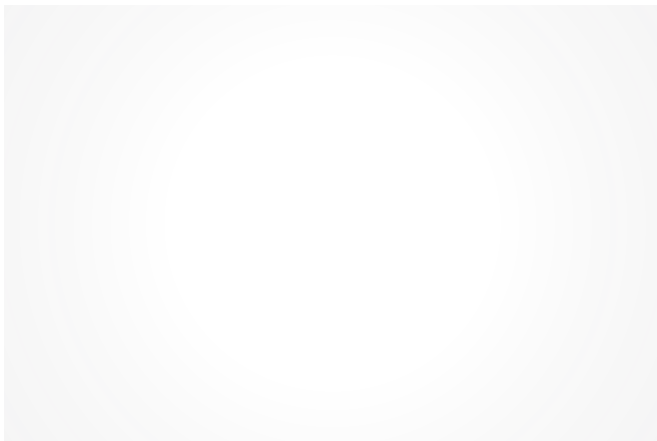


Warner Bros.

### 'Purple Rain'

One of the top musical films of all time is bolstered by a soundtrack that also proved to be one Prince's best albums. He would go on to nab the Oscar for Best Original Song Score.

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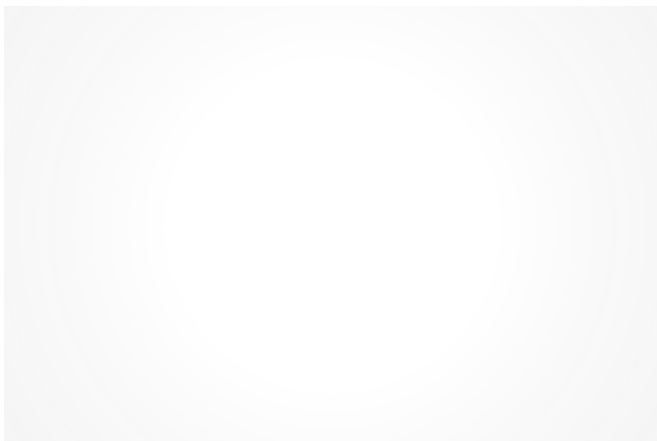


Universal Pictures

### 'Sixteen Candles'

*Sixteen Candles* not only helped launch the career of Molly Ringwald, but it also served as the directorial debut for John Hughes. In subsequent films, Hughes would go on to chronicle suburban teen life with the help of a rotating cast of young actors.

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Warner Bros.

### 'Police Academy'

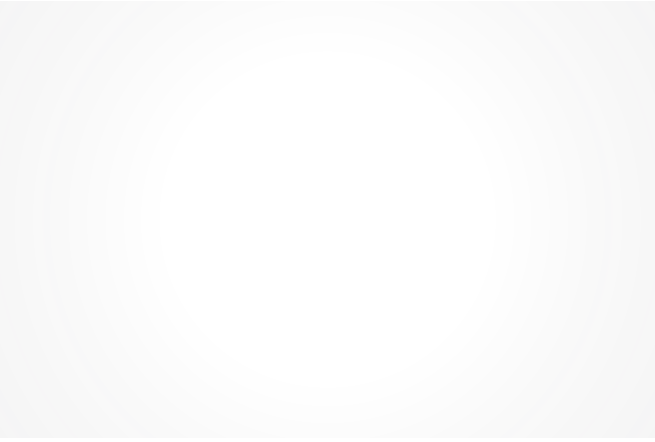
Want to know how big this movie was in 1984? It was the first of six Police Academy movies made just in the 1980s. A seventh was released in 1994. Sadly, none of the sequels matched the fun and wit of the original starring Steve Guttenberg and Kim Cattrall.



Warner Bros.

**'Gremlins'**

Never had a movie been so cute and yet so vicious at the same time. *Gremlins* was a commercial success not only at the box office, but also thanks to merchandising around the film. You would be hard-pressed to find someone who didn't know Gizmo in 1984.

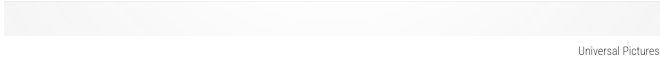


Universal Pictures

**'Dune'**

While it may have developed a cult following, David Lynch's adaptation of the 1965 Frank Herbert novel of the same name bombed at the box office. The film's ensemble cast includes a debuting Kyle MacLachlan, Patrick Stewart, Virginia Madsen and Sting.





Universal Pictures

**'Conan the Destroyer'**

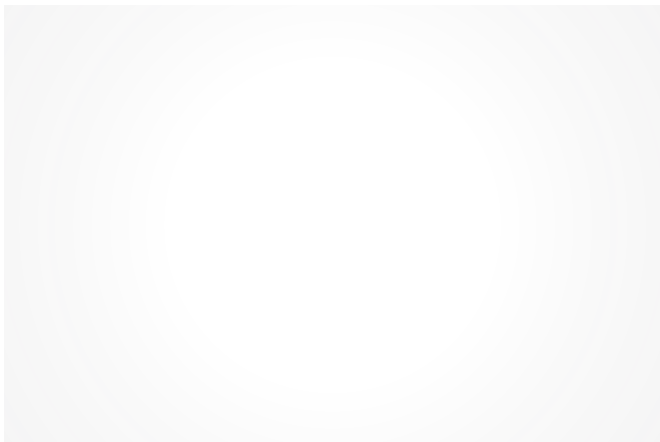
Just three months before he would takeover the screen in *The Terminator*, Arnold Schwarzenegger returned as the title character in the sequel to 1982's *Conan the Barbarian*. Also joining the cast are Grace Jones and basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain.



Beuna Vista

**'Splash'**

Two years removed from his run on TV's *Bosom Buddies*, Tom Hanks breaks through playing a human who falls in love with a mermaid (Daryl Hannah). The film was well-received by critics and also received a Best Screenplay Oscar nomination.

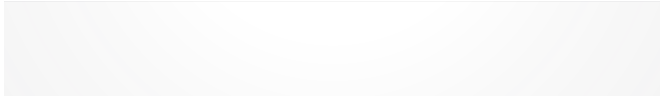


Paramount Pictures

**'Footloose'**

A teenager moves to a small town where he fights to overturn a ban on dancing. The premise sounds rather absurd but movie-goers couldn't get enough of seeing people dance on the big screen in 1984.





Paramount Pictures

**'Star Trek III: The Search for Spock'**

In *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, we saw Spock become a casualty of an attack on the USS Enterprise. The story arc continued in 1984 when the crew discovers Spock's spirit is still alive inside Leonard McCoy. The rush is on to connect Spock's spirit with his body. While Spock isn't heavily featured in the film, Leonard Nimoy did take over directing duties for this installment.

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Cinemecan Pictures

**'Stop Making Sense'**

In what is widely regarded as one of the best concert films of all time, *Stop Making Sense* captures a string of 1983 Talking Heads performances at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood where the band emphasized the visual aspects of the show as much as its sound. Yes, that includes David Byrne in a really big suit.

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Warner Bros.

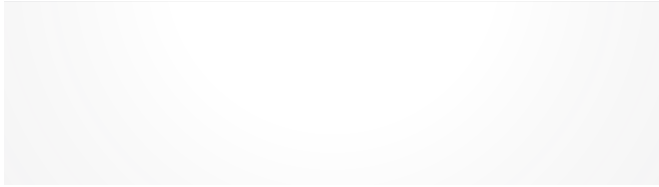
**'The NeverEnding Story'**

The fantasy movie covers the first half of the 1979 book with the same name. It also features one of the most heartbreaking scenes of the '80s when Artax the horse meets its demise after sinking into the Swamp of Sadness.

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New Line

### 'Children of the Corn'

One of two movies based on Stephen King's literary work to come out in 1984, *Children of the Corn* blends horror with the supernatural. This one is more than just a scary psycho hunting down some teenagers. Instead, we get a demon in a corn field, children leading cult-like birthday rituals, blood drinking and throat slashing.

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MGM

### 'Missing in Action'

In one of his most notable roles, Chuck Norris is a former a Vietnam War POW who returns to the country to free soldiers who are still being held captive. A prequel, *Missing in Action 2: The Beginning*, was released the following year.

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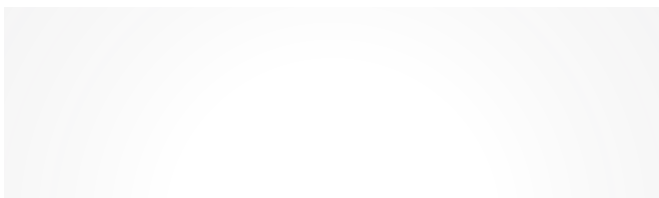


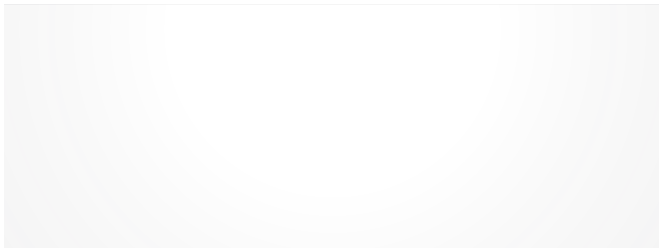
Orion Pictures

### 'Amadeus'

The adaptation of the 1979 stage play with the same name dominated the Academy Awards with a total of eight wins including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor.

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20th Century Fox

### 'Romancing the Stone'

*Romancing the Stone* has a little bit of everything, from comedy to romance to action and adventure. Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner and Danny DeVito turned out to be the perfect trio to lead the story on screen with Robert Zemeckis directing.

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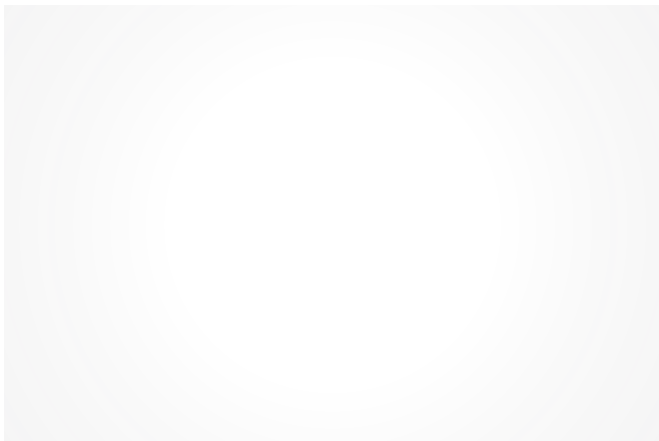


Tri-Star Pictures

### 'The Muppets Take Manhattan'

After being scattered across the country, the Muppets gang assembles in New York to help Kermit after he is struck by a taxi and loses his memory. He eventually recovers as the gang puts on performance of his *Manhattan Melodies* production. Joan Rivers, Art Carney, Gregory Hines and Dabney Coleman are also there to assist along the way.

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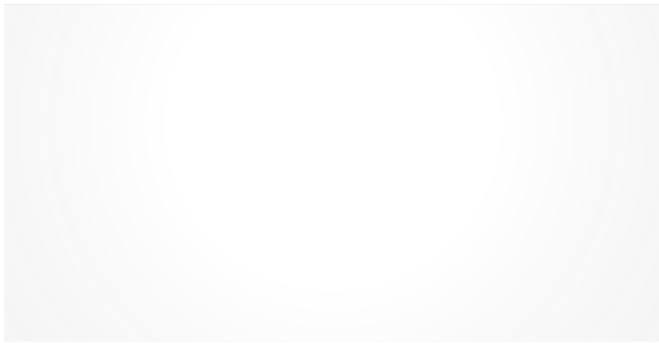
MGM

### '2010: The Year We Make Contact'

Stanley Kubrick wasn't in the director's chair for the sequel to his 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. His photo does, however, pop up briefly on screen when a fictitious *Time* magazine cover is shown with Kubrick pictured as the Soviet Premier.

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MGM

### 'Red Dawn'

*Red Dawn* is a true example of a movie studio banking on the current political climate in hopes of generating big box office bucks. The film, which was released at the height of the Cold War, features a Soviet invasion on a Colorado high school. Suddenly, Patrick Swayze, Charlie Sheen, C. Thomas Howell, Lea Thompson and Jennifer Grey find themselves in the middle of World War III.



MGM

### 'Breakin''

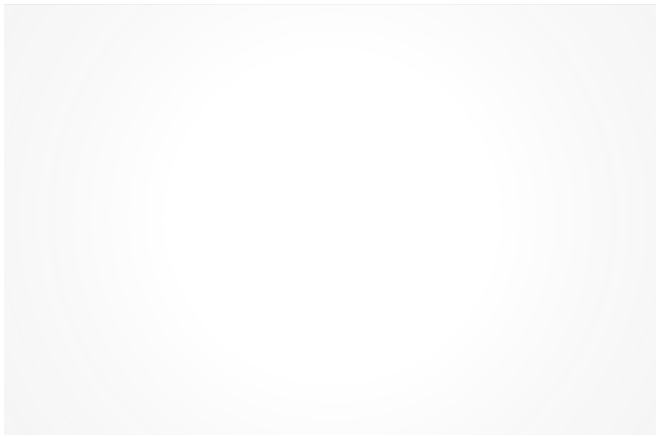
This is proof of how big breakdancing was in 1984. Not only was *Breakin'* an entire musical film based on breakdancing, but a sequel with a similar concept was also released later in the same year.



Universal Pictures

### 'The Last Starfighter'

*The Last Starfighter* tried to be a sleeker version of the space movies from that era, leaning heavily on computer-generated special effects over models. In the film, a teen who masters the *Starfighter* video game is approached to join a real-life space battle.



20th Century Fox

### 'Bachelor Party'

*Bachelor Party* was the second movie featuring Tom Hanks released in 1984. The bawdy sex comedy was also one of seven movies starring the celebrated actor in a span of just three years.

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Paramount Pictures

### 'Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter'

The fourth installment of the *Friday the 13th* franchise promised to be the "final chapter" of Jason Vorhees terrorizing Crystal Lake. That wasn't the case as the first of seven subsequent sequels arrived just a year later.

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Warner Bros.

### 'Cannonball Run II'

Like the first movie, *Cannonball Run II* features an ensemble cast packed with names such as Burt Reynolds, Dom DeLuise, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Catherine Bach, Marilu Henner and even Jackie Chan who participate in an auto race across the country. The result is fairly predictable, but *Cannonball Run II* still proved to be

a wild ride thanks to the cast.



Columbia Pictures

**'Starman'**

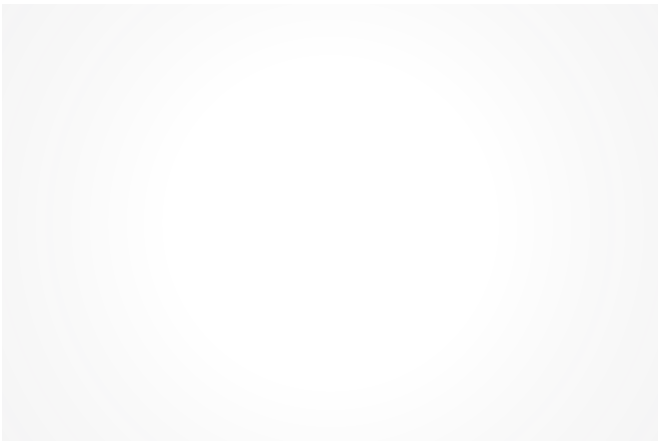
John Carpenter's sci-fi drama sees an alien visit Earth where it clones the body of a widow's deceased husband. Jeff Bridges's performance as the alien garnered a Best Actor Oscar nomination.



Universal Pictures

**'Firestarter'**

A young Drew Barrymore stars as Charlie McGee, a girl who develops the ability to create fire with her mind. The story is adapted from Stephen King's 1980 novel with the same name.



Universal Pictures

**'Repo Man'**

Emilio Estevez is an L.A. punk rocker who is on a mission to repossess a car. He later learns there are aliens in the car's trunk as the movie takes a sci-fi turn. The story is told with the help of a soundtrack that includes punk stalwarts Iggy Pop, Black Flag, Suicidal Tendencies and Circle Jerks.



Tri-Star Pictures

**'Meatballs Part II'**

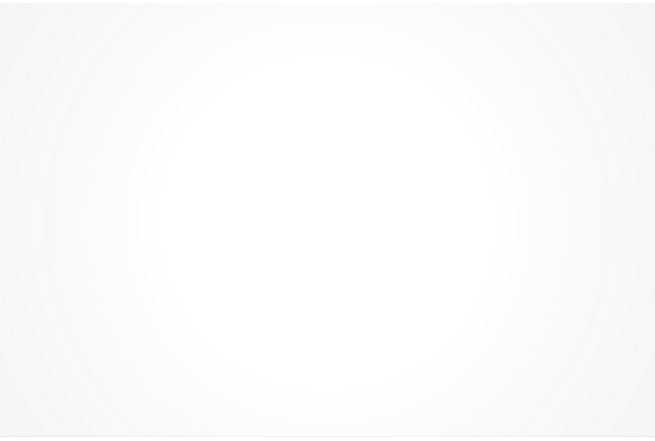
Bill Murray is noticeably absent in the sequel to 1979's *Meatballs*. Also gone are original director Ivan Reitman and writer Harold Ramis (they were busy busting ghosts). *Meatballs II* ends up being a shell of its predecessor.



Columbia Pictures

**'Against All Odds'**

The movie's soundtrack is probably more widely remembered than its plot. This one gave Phil Collins his first American number one song and a Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Performance for "Against All Odds (Take A Look At Me Now)." Stevie Nicks and Peter Gabriel also turned in tracks for the film.



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### 'Top Secret!'

David and Jerry Zucker along with Jim Abrahams looked to replicate the success of their 1980 classic, *Airplane!* with *Top Secret!* the trio parody a number of film styles mixing musical scenes with depictions of war. Ultimately, the movie fell short of expectations.

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MGM

### 'Hot Dog... The Movie'

1984 saw its fair share of sex comedies set at bachelor parties and police academies. So, why not a ski resort? *Hot Dog ... The Movie* tends to be the most forgettable title of that genre released in 1984

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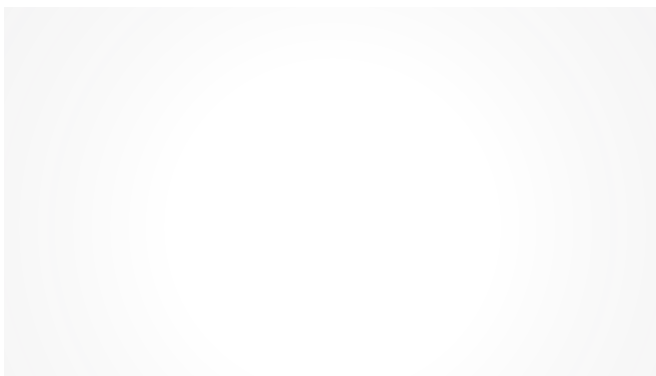


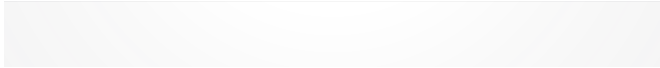
Virgin Films

### '1984'

The second full-length film adaptation of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* brought the dystopian drama back to the big screen. This also marked Richard Burton's final on-screen appearance after he died two months before the film's release.

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MGM

## 'Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo'

What could possibly stop a developer from demolishing a community rec center? That's right, breakdancing.

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## CELEBRITIES WHO TRIED TO EXPOSE THE SO-CALLED ILLUMINATI

Are there really sinister secret societies in Hollywood? These stars seem to think so.

*Gallery Credit: Taylor Alexis Heady*



Kevin Winter, Getty Images

### Jim Carrey

In an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* in 2014, Jim Carrey made waves when he made the infamous triangular hand signal with his tongue sticking out. Many viewers took the stunt as the comedian mocking the Illuminati. "What is that? Is that a gang sign?" Kimmel asked, to which Carrey replied, "Oh, like you don't know what it is. You don't know what that is? You don't know, Jimmy Fallon doesn't know, David Letterman doesn't know... all the comics in show business don't know what this is. Come on, Jimmy." Carrey later called it "the secret symbol of the Illuminutty" during the interview. While some think the moment was Carrey's way of exposing the Illuminati, others believe it was only a skit.



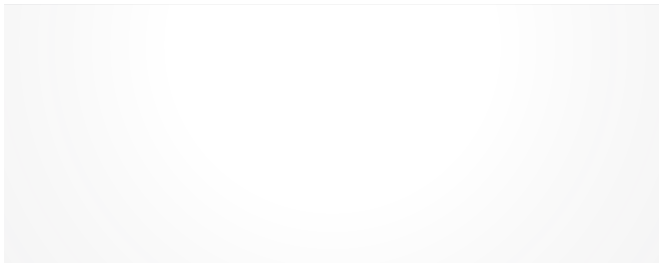
Paras Griffin, Getty Images

### Katt Williams

Comedian Katt Williams recently called out rapper Ludacris and the so-called Illuminati during an interview on *Club Shay Shay*. Williams claimed that the secret society that supposedly controls Hollywood offered Ludacris millions of dollars to do 20 films. "So, there was a crossroads where we were both invited to an Illuminati thing, and it had to be one or the other of us and decisions had to be made. So it was both of us. We were equal. One of us had to cut off all their hair and couldn't do the sideburn thing no more, with the points. And the next person they said was going to get \$200 million because they were going to pay him \$10 million a movie to do 20 movies. And that's how the conversation happened. One of those persons turned out to be Ludacris, and the other person turned out to be Katt Williams," Williams revealed.







Frazer Harrison, Getty Images

## Randy Quaid

In 2010, Oscar-nominated actor Randy Quaid made headlines when he became a fugitive along with his wife Evi. Quaid claimed that he was being pursued by “star whackers,” who were allegedly targeting celebrities for their money and even killing them. The Quaid’s were on the run from authorities for felony trespassing and vandalism charges. The couple even claimed that other late celebrities, such as Heath Ledger, were victims of the same villainous cabal. “I’ve had eight friends of mine who have either died mysteriously or had scandals surrounding them in recent years, and this is what I’m talking about when I [say] star whacking,” Quaid said at the time.

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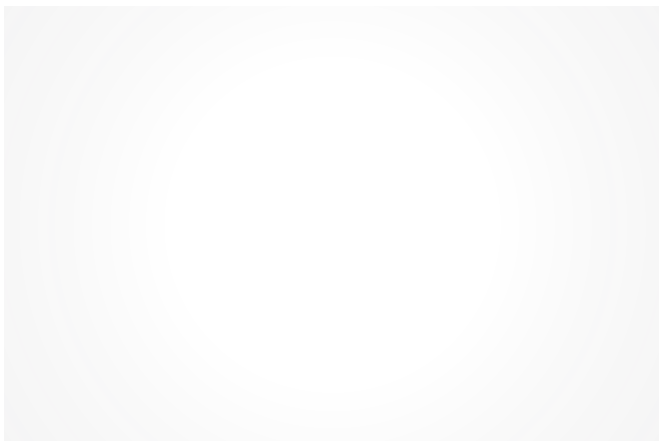


Amy Sussman, Getty Images

## Jeffree Star

When makeup mogul Jeffree Star was asked if the Illuminati is real in a 2023 interview with *Bussin’ With the Boys*, he replied firmly, “Yes.” When further questioned, he claimed there are other “evil” secret societies in Hollywood and that the Illuminati is “money-based” and uses celebrities “as a vessel.” When the interviewer pressed for more specific information, Star held back and said he couldn’t go further “so I don’t get my plane bombed or killed later.” In 2022, he also claimed he “escaped” the alleged secret society, [tweeting](#), “I escaped the illuminati in 2021 and they still haven’t killed me. Every day I wake up grateful.”

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Roy Rochlin, Getty Images

## Kanye West

Following speculation that “the Illuminati got him” in 2023 when Ye’s former business manager couldn’t track him

down, many fans dug up the rapper's past comments on the Illuminati. "Is illuminati and devil worshipping like the same thing ... do they have a social network that celebs can sign up for?" West apparently tweeted around 2010. Later, in a 2015 interview, West spoke on the Illuminati again, saying, "I'm tired of people pinpointing musicians as the Illuminati. That's ridiculous. We don't run anything; we're celebrities. We're the face of brands. We have to compromise what we say in lyrics so we don't lose money on a contract."



Arturo Holmes, Getty Images

**Kelly Clarkson**

Some fans think Kelly Clarkson was trying to subtly expose the Illuminati during her appearance on Season 1 of Kevin Hart’s Peacock talk show, *Hart to Heart*. “I’ve had people throw millions of dollars in my face to do something I didn’t want to do,” she said, to which Hart responded by holding a finger up to his lips in a “shhh” gesture. People on TikTok shared the resurfaced clip in 2023 and called it an Illuminati hand signal. In response to the gesture, Clarkson inferred, “You’ve been offered...? Oh! They’re in the room,” before laughing. “That was my way of cueing you. It’s open dialogue, we can talk about anything but [not that],” Hart told Clarkson.

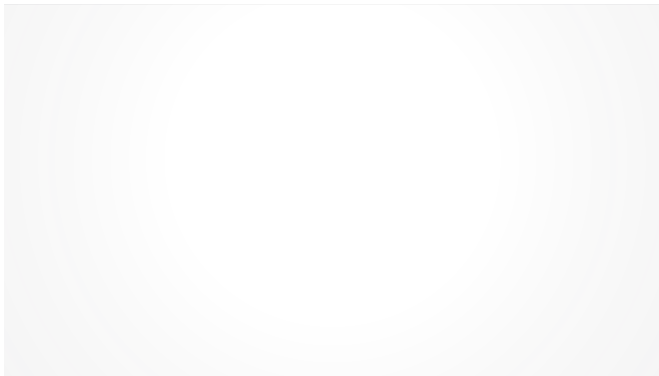


Tim Nwachukwu, Getty Images

**Dave Chappelle**

In 2006, after Dave Chappelle left his popular sketch comedy show, *Chappelle’s Show*, in the middle of the production’s third season, many fans concocted wild theories as to what made him quit. One of those theories involved the Illuminati. In an appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* in 2006, Chappelle said, “I wasn’t walking away from the money [\$50 million]. I was walking away from the circumstances that were coming with the newfound plateau. It takes a while when you punch through to adjust to the atmosphere. It was completely outside of my frame of reference. I’ve been in show business since I was 14, and I’ve heard the stories of what happens and I’ve seen these kinds of things play out in front of me.” Chappelle went on to describe instances where other celebrities have inked million-dollar deals and then claimed someone was trying to kill them, pointing to Martin Lawrence. “It always happens around the time in their career where it seems as though they’re crossing over [to] the next plateau,” he added.





David Becker, Getty Images

### Ice Cube

In a 2013 interview, rapper Ice Cube denied involvement in any secret societies or the Illuminati – but he also didn't deny that they exist. "I ain't really down with no secret societies. I think all this secret s–t got the world f–ed up, so I ain't really down with none of that. They can do what they wanna do but they know where I stand on it. My resume and track record on that bulls–t is public and [has] been public for years. They know I ain't down with that s–t. To me all secret societies are up to no good," he said.



Kevin Winter, Getty Images

### Tila Tequila

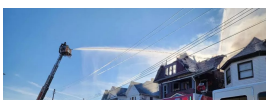
Tila Tequila ranted about the Illuminati, among other bizarre conspiracies, on Facebook in 2013. At the time, the former reality star claimed she was descended from alien star people and that the world was run by the New World Order, which apparently consists of the Illuminati, Satanists, Zionists and lizard people. "The true enlightened beings who have returned to this planet to try to help mankind... We see that you are still not ready for positive changes yet. Look at your barbaric behavior. You scream you want change, yet you have not changed one bit for thousands of years, and for that I shall halt on trying to teach you the ways of the true Enlightened beings," she wrote in one post. Tequila also claimed the "Illuminati started off good and was under the Supreme Seraphim, but over time they have forgotten our teachings and rebelled as they became corrupt."

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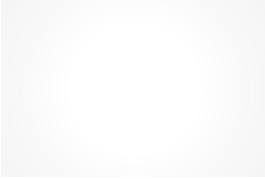
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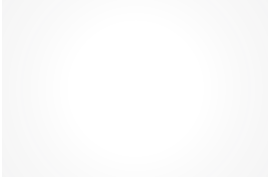
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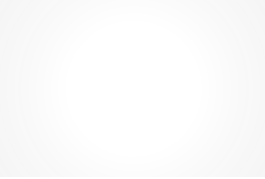
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