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Gov. Schwarzenegger Launches Knott Studios Construction

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger headlined event to launch construction of Chapman's planned \$31-million Marion Knott Studios.

ORANGE, Calif., Oct. 7, 2004 Chapman University ceremonially broke ground yesterday for a state-of-the-art, \$31-million film school studio complex, to be called Marion Knott Studios in recognition of a naming gift from legendary Orange County businesswoman and philanthropist Marion Knott.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, an honorary Chapman alumnus, pulled a golden cord, dropping a curtain, to reveal a giant rendering of the new facility, which is the future home of Chapman's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. The event took place at the construction site, at the corner of Maple and Cypress streets in Orange.



I love this university, Schwarzenegger said. It's like a second home to me. We premiered *Collateral Damage* and *Terminator 3* here. Chapman dreams big and is making those dreams happen.

Joining the governor for the historic event were Dodge College donors Larry and Kristina Dodge of Monarch Beach, whose \$20 million naming gift is transforming Chapman's film program from vision to reality.



Other influential attendees included Emulex CEO Paul Folino, chair of the fund-raising campaign to build the studios, and CeCe Presley, granddaughter of Cecil B. DeMille and long-time supporter of the project. Other influential film industry professionals are expected to attend as well.

This is perhaps the most significant day in the history of film education at Chapman, said Dean Bob Bassett. It represents the culmination of a dream we've pursued for nearly a decade. Together, the Dodge College and the Marion Knott Studios will secure Chapman's reputation as one of the finest film schools in the nation.

The 76,000-square-foot, three-story facility is modeled on a working studio, and includes 4,000-

and 2,500-square-foot sound stages and stages for cinematography, broadcast journalism and television, Foley, Dolby surround mixing, and a green screen. The heart of the building is the 500-seat Folino Family Cinema, which includes both digital cinema and 35-mm projection.

In addition to graphics and digital post-production labs and seminar classrooms, production facilities will include 36 digital editing suites; set construction, voice recording and ADR facilities; and production design, audition and animation production spaces. Students may use the production office to plan their work and individual viewing rooms to screen their projects. The building is expected to open in 2006; future plans include construction of a back lot.

The Dodge College of Film and Media Arts consists of the School of Film and Television, which offers undergraduate degrees in film and television production, screenwriting, producing, public relations and advertising, film studies, and television and broadcast journalism; the Conservatory of Motion Pictures, which offers graduate degrees in film production, film and television producing, screenwriting, and film studies; and the newly formed Institute for the Study of Media and the Public Interest. More than 85 percent of the 925 students study production, in a program built around storytelling with an emphasis on Hollywood mainstream production. The current digital post-production facilities are open 24 hours a day and students have access to equipment beginning with their first class.