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Rita Moreno Honored at American Celebration, Nov. 3

Broadway/Film/TV Star Will Add Another Award to Her Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony Collection

Annual Student-Performed Song-and-Dance Revue and Black-Tie Gala Aim to Break Last Year's \$2 Million Mark, With Proceeds Supporting the Chapman Scholarship Fund

ORANGE, Calif., Oct. 23, 2007 Rita Moreno, star of stage, screen and television and one of the few performers in show business to own Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony Awards, will add yet another award to her collection when she is honored with Chapman University's Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award at the university's 26th Annual American Celebration gala, Saturday, Nov. 3. The actress-singer, who won her Oscar for her role as Anita in *West Side Story* and is currently starring in CBS's *Cane*, will be on hand to receive the award at Chapman's spectacular fund-raiser, which will begin at 6 p.m. with a champagne reception, followed by a fully costumed and choreographed Broadway-style revue performed by talented Chapman students, and topped off by a gala dinner and dancing. It all takes place in and around Chapman Memorial Hall. Call (714) 744-7958 for more information; individual tickets begin at \$2,000, with tables from \$15,000 to \$100,000.

Last year's American Celebration broke all Chapman fund-raising records, grossing just over \$2 million for the Chapman Scholarship Fund. This year's event aims to break that record. American Celebration has netted more than \$11 million for Chapman scholarships over the past 25 years of its existence.

Rita Moreno is one of a select group of performers to have won all four of the most prestigious show-business awards: the Academy Award, the Emmy Award, the Grammy Award and the Tony Award. The Oscar, for her affecting performance as Anita in 1962's *West Side Story*, was joined by two Emmys, for a 1977 variety appearance on *The Muppet Show* and a 1978 dramatic guest appearance on *The Rockford Files*. The Tony was for her 1973 triumph on Broadway as Googie Gomez in *The Ritz*. The Grammy was for her 1972 performance on *The Electric Company* album for children, based on the long-running TV show of the same name.

Along the way, she has received dozens of other awards, most notably the Golden Globe Award for her role in *West Side Story* and, in 1968, the Joseph Jefferson Award as best actress in Chicago's theatrical season for her role in *The Rose Tattoo*. Her film roles, besides her Oscar-winning *West Side Story*, include *Singin in the Rain* with Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds, *The King and I* with Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr, *The Night of the Following Day* with Marlon Brando, *Marlowe* with James Garner, and *Carnal Knowledge* with Alan Arkin. Her other films include *The Ritz*, *The Four Seasons*, *I Like It Like That*, *Carlo's Wake*, *Blue Moon*, *Casa de los Babys* and many more.

Moreno was born Rosa Dolores Alverio in the small town of Humacao, Puerto Rico, and moved with her mother to New York City when she was five. She started dancing lessons at age six, and made her Broadway debut in *Skydrift*, starring Eli Wallach, when she was just 13. At age 17, she was introduced by an agent to film mogul Louis B. Mayer, who signed her to a contract with MGM.

After making a number of films throughout the 50s and early 60s and achieving her triumph in *West Side Story*, she focused on her stage career, starring in such productions as *She Loves Me* in London and *Gantry*, *The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers* and *The National Health* (for which she received a Tony nomination) on Broadway. She then starred in *The Ritz*, for which she won the Tony Award. In more recent years, she has received rave reviews in the female version of Neil Simons *The Odd Couple*, Andrew Lloyd Webbers *Sunset Boulevard*, Terrence McNallys *Master Class* and Tennessee Williams *The Glass Menagerie*.

Her TV roles have included *The Electric Company*, the sitcom version of *9 to 5*, *B.L. Stryker*, *The Cosby Mystery Series*, HBOs *Oz*, and, currently, CBSs *Cane*.

Moreno also continues to be busy performing concerts across the country and as a guest artist with symphony orchestras. She performed at President Clintons inauguration in 1993. Her latest endeavor has been in cabaret, where she has met with great critical success.

Moreno is the recipient of a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She has served on the National Endowment for the Arts, as a commissioner for the President's White House Fellowships, and as a member of the Presidents Committee on the Arts and Humanities. At a White House ceremony in June 2004, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom the highest honor bestowed on a civilian, and second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor as the nations highest award.