

NEWS FROM:

Marketing Division, Office of the City Administrator

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Stage and Screen Legend Rita Moreno To Introduce “West Side Story” at Old Oakland Outdoor Cinema on July 16

OAKLAND, Calif. (June 29, 2005) – The highly successful Old Oakland Outdoor Cinema returns for a second season beginning Saturday, July 16, 2005, with a screening of “West Side Story.” Stage and screen legend Rita Moreno, who received an Oscar for her memorable performance as Anita, will introduce the ever-popular classic at 8:00 p.m. The series transforms Washington Street between 10th and 9th streets into an outdoor cinema. Limited seating is available; filmgoers are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. For more information, call (510) 238-4734 or visit www.filmoakland.com.

The Academy Award winner for “Best Motion Picture” in 1961, “West Side Story” is a musical adaptation of “Romeo and Juliet” set in New York City. Rival street gangs and a love affair between a boy from one gang and a girl from the other leads to conflict and death. The film was recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 Greatest Movies. During filming, the actors in the rival gangs were encouraged to play pranks on each other behind the scenes to keep tensions high. The movie won a total of 10 Oscars including the “Best Directing” Oscar which was shared for the first time by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins and Moreno’s Oscar for “Best Actress in a Supporting Role.”

Rita Moreno, who now resides in Oakland, has enjoyed an illustrious stage, screen, television and singing career spanning more than four decades. Born in Puerto Rico, she moved to New York with her family as a young child. A multi-talented performer, Moreno is the only female to have won all four of the most prestigious show business awards: the *Oscar (West Side Story)*, an *Emmy (The Muppet Show, The Rockford Files)*, a *Tony (The Ritz)* and a *Grammy (The*

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**Rita Moreno To Introduce “West Side Story”
Page Two**

Electric Company Album). Her most recent television appearance was as a guest star on “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” in May 2005.

Free parking is available at 8th and Washington streets. Old Oakland is just one block away from the 12th Street/City Center BART station.

The public is invited to arrive in historic Old Oakland early and enjoy dinner at one of the districts many eateries. Cuisine varies from pub food and juicy steaks to Cajun seafood and sushi. Four new Old Oakland restaurants are opening this season: Breads of India (948 Clay), Tamarindo (468 - 8th Street), Kai’s Japanese (801 Washington) and B Restaurant (499 - 9th Street). During the movie, popcorn and other treats will be available for purchase. For more information on restaurants and cafes in Old Oakland, visit www.oldoakland.com.

The 2005 Old Oakland Outdoor Cinema series continues with screenings on August 20, September 17 and October 15. The last two dates feature a double feature bill with a late night feature following the main presentation.

The Old Oakland Outdoor Cinema series is presented by the City of Oakland in association with the Old Oakland Historic District Business Association.

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