

## About The Nimoy's

The opening of the UCLA Nimoy Theater, named in honor of artist, actor, and director Leonard Nimoy, marks a momentous occasion for the legacy of The Nimoy's philanthropic support and advocacy for the arts. The Nimoy was made possible by a major gift from his widow, filmmaker, director, writer, actress, art collector and philanthropist Susan Bay Nimoy.

Recognizing the profound influence that artistic expression has on individuals and communities, The Nimoy's have provided vital support to numerous arts organizations and cultural institutions, making possible the creation of spaces that enrich the cultural fabric of our communities and create opportunities for artistic exploration and engagement, including The Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theatre at Symphony Space in New York City, The Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon at the Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles, and The Hammer's Susan Bay Nimoy and Leonard Nimoy Studio at UCLA.

Susan Nimoy currently serves on the advisory board of Symphony Space, and is a member of the Leadership Council at the Sundance Institute. She is also a former co-chair of The Environmental Leadership Forum of The California League of Conservation Voters and former board member of both the Directors Guild of America and the board of the Foundation for National Progress, a nonprofit that publishes *Mother Jones*. She currently sits on the Board of Advisors at the Hammer Museum, and a longtime supporter of Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA.

Leonard Nimoy's early passion for acting led him to study theater arts at Boston College and later at the Pasadena Playhouse in California. He began his acting career in the 1950s, taking on various roles in theater, film, and television. However, it was his iconic portrayal as the logical and enigmatic character Mr. Spock in the popular science fiction television series "Star Trek" that propelled him to international fame and made him a household name.

Leonard Nimoy's portrayal of Spock continued in subsequent "Star Trek" films and television spin-offs, solidifying his status as a science fiction legend. However, his talents extended far beyond his iconic role and versatile acting career. His directorial skills were widely acclaimed, particularly for his biggest directorial success, *Three Men and a Baby*, which premiered at the Crest Theater, now known as The Nimoy, in 1987. Beyond his contributions to the entertainment industry, Leonard Nimoy was also a talented photographer and poet.

For the last 15 years of his life, Leonard focused on photography projects, creating exhibitions and books from his images: photos as varied as women in traditional Jewish garb to artful nudes of large women, to a project where he asked 100 strangers to "reveal their secret selves" to the camera.

Susan Bay Nimoy, an accomplished actress and artist, has showcased her talent and creativity in various artistic pursuits. She began her career as a theater and film actor. Later Bay Nimoy went behind the camera, working as a producer, TV director and documentary filmmaker. A recent short film she wrote, directed, and starred in was accepted into the 2018 Sundance Film

Festival. Currently she is working on adapting this short film, *Eve*, into a full length feature. She was one of the original 6 DGA women directors that banded together to challenge the male-run Hollywood machine in 1979.

Philanthropy has been a cornerstone of Susan and Leonard Nimoy's life's work. In 2003 they established the Susan and Leonard Nimoy Foundation, dedicated to supporting various charitable causes, with a particular emphasis on the arts, education, healthcare, and social justice. Their foundation has provided vital resources and support to organizations and initiatives, making a tangible and positive difference in the lives of many. Their creative spirit, generosity, and commitment to making a difference continues to inspire others to embrace their own passions and contribute to the betterment of the world.