The Nimoy opened as the UCLAN Theatre on Christmas Day 1940. It was financed by Frances Seymour Fonda, wife of Henry and mother of Jane and Peter. The name was likely an invitation to UCLA students and faculty as UCLAN was a nickname for UCLA community members.

From the collections of the Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
HISTORY OF THE NIMOY

UCLA’s campus newspaper The Daily Bruin, founded in 1919, regularly published UCLAN advertisements and promotions.
In 1956, after a change in ownership, the UCLAN was rechristened the Crest Theatre, a name that persisted for over 60 years (although the theater had a brief stint as the Metro in the eighties).

From the collections of the Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
In 1985, Pacific Theaters and Disney partnered to refurbish the Crest. Disney hired noted theater designer Joseph Musil to oversee the redesign, which included adding a new marquee.

Photo courtesy of the Ronald W. Mahan Collection
In 1987, Leonard Nimoy’s directorial effort *Three Men and a Baby* premiered at the Crest Theatre during the extensive renovations.

Photo courtesy of the Ronald W. Mahan Collection
In 2018, UCLA announced their acquisition of the Crest to create a new home for CAP UCLA — The UCLA Nimoy Theater, named for late actor and philanthropist Leonard Nimoy.

Photo by Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times
The UCLAN’s and Crest’s legacies will live on in The Nimoy while also providing artists from Los Angeles and around the world opportunities to develop and showcase their work. The Nimoy is a true home for artists.

Photo by Jason Williams