



**40th Annual 2019 Society of Camera Operators
Jane Fonda Receives The Governors Award
Harrison Ford Receives The President's Award**

The Society of Camera Operators Annual Lifetime Awards at the Loews Hollywood Hotel recognized the creative contributions of those behind the camera in entertainment. SOC President, George Billinger presented awards to Jane Fonda and Harrison Ford. The SOC is an internationally recognized professional honorary society with charitable commitments to The Vision Center at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



**56th Annual
Publicists Awards
Jamie Lee Curtis
Is Honored With The
Lifetime Achievement
Award**

The event at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills honored actress Jamie Lee Curtis for her celebrated film and television career spanning decades of unforgettable characters. Curtis reprised her role in the new Halloween movie 40 years after the first Halloween debuted. The remake leaves audiences the same as the first time we saw it... Scared!
All Hail Jamie.



**6th Annual Make-up & Hair
Stylist Guild Awards
Honors Actress
Melissa McCarthy**

The star-studded gala at the NOVO at LA Live presented the multi-talented actress Melissa McCarthy with the Distinguished Artisan Award for her vast contribution to the entertainment business. The annual event marked a pivotal moment for the organization as Melissa is the first woman to receive the honor from the guild.

Rita Moreno

Legacy of a Hollywood Pioneer and Humanitarian

Interview Allison Kugel

Multi-award-winning actress, singer and dancer, Rita Moreno, blazed an iconic trail as the first mainstream Hispanic actress to grace Hollywood when she exploded onto the big screen as Anita in 1961's classic film, *West Side Story*. The role earned her an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, crowning her the first Hispanic performer to win an Academy Award. Over the years, she fought for roles that didn't box her into antiquated stereotypes because film roles for a leading lady of color were few between. So, Moreno turned her attention to television and music, and over the years has amassed a collection of Grammy, Tony Award, Emmy and Screen Actor's Guild Lifetime Achievement awards establishing her as one of the world's most versatile and talented performers. Moreno currently stars as Abuelita Lydia Riera, the hilarious and spicy grandmother on the new incarnation of Norman Lear's television creation, *One Day at a Time*, streaming its third season on Netflix. The show's official premise: 'Two Cultures, One Familia.' Moreno recently received a call from Steven Spielberg for a forthcoming remake of the film that made her an icon, *West Side Story*. Moreno will play a role in the film as well as Executive Produce. Before there was Rosie Perez, Salma Hayek or Jennifer Lopez there was the inimitable Rita Moreno.



Allison: When you won Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1962 for *West Side Story* did you think you'd transcend racial stereotypes with parts you'd be offered? Rita: Yes, and I was very disappointed (laughs). Not only disappointed, it broke my heart, but I showed them. I didn't work for seven years, of course, I'm being facetious. I think it was a very good decision on my part, because the only roles being offered were gang movies, and they certainly weren't as interesting as *West Side Story*. I think it would have depressed the heck out of me to go back to that stuff. It paid off in the sense that I had peace of mind and I didn't feel like I was being insulted.

Allison: Let's talk about Norman Lear and the *One Day at a Time* reboot on Netflix you are starring in. Rita: Isn't he something. He is a genius and still going strong. He is going to be 96, and he can speak and he can walk (laughs). He's a remarkable man, lovely person. I'm so happy and proud that Hispanics have more representation. I think we are still underrepresented, but we have gained an American audience. People who are not Hispanic are learning that family is family, is family. It's universal. That's what Norman was hoping for to add some spice and deliciousness, which is the Hispanic nature of the show. For the new season, there is an episode that guest stars Gloria Estefan. It's hilarious. She plays my sister, and all I can say is we hate each other. The whole episode is centered around the funeral of an aunt that Gloria's character comes to town to attend. We're over the top as we are trying to do air kisses that are about three feet apart.

Allison: Hispanic performers such as Jennifer Lopez refer to you as the gold standard of excellence and inspiration that a career in show business could be achieved. Rita: I've heard it from Jennifer, from Rosie Perez, Andy Garcia... there were no role models when I was young and in the movies in my late teens. I chose one for myself. I chose Elizabeth Taylor because she was close to my age and was brunette (laughs); she was beautiful. I made her my role model. There was nobody that looked like me in a public [space]. The Hispanic community very often calls me La Pionera, the Pioneer.

Allison: Let's talk about the upcoming remake of *West Side Story*. Rita: Talk about coming full circle. Steven Spielberg always wanted to do the film. He was a good friend of Robert Wise who co-directed the original with Jerome Robbins. Steven said he hounded him about how the film was shot. The interesting thing is that he's not updating it. It will still take place in 1957. It's *Romeo and Juliet*. What's wonderful about the young girl he chose for the remake (17-year-old newcomer, Rachel Zegler) is a young girl. One, or both of them said, "What about Rita Moreno as Doc's wife?" The story line in the new film will be that Doc passed away, and now it's Valentina who is running the candy store. They offered the Executive Producer credit to me because Steven feels that I'm the bridge to this movie. ■ Photos: Rita Moreno Headshot, Austin Hargrave. Season 3 "One Day at a Time" streaming on Netflix. For more on Rita Moreno visit AllisonKugel.com