

# ***The Opening Act***

***The Extraordinary Journey of James Lee Stanley***

***Winner of 30 Film Awards***  
***Best Documentary Feature, Nashville***  
***Best Music in a Feature, Santa Cruz***  
***Best Original Score, San Diego***

Timothy B. Schmit John Densmore Stephen Bishop Steven Wright Henry Diltz

# The Opening Act

The Extraordinary Journey of James Lee Stanley  
Award Winning Documentary

Three award certificates are displayed. The left one is from the Nashville Film Festival, awarded in Fall 2022 for Best Documentary Feature. The middle one is from the San Diego International Film Awards, awarded in Spring 2023 for Best Original Score. The right one is from the Santa Cruz Independent Film Festival, awarded in Spring 2023 for Best Music in a Feature Film.

Winner of 30 Film Awards

The Opening Act  
Chicago Filmmaker Awards  
Semi-Finalist 2022

Certificate OF APPRECIATION  
THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO  
The Opening Act  
BEST ORIGINAL SCORE  
Spring 2023  
DATE

The Opening Act  
Santa Monica Film Awards  
Semi-Finalist 2022

The Opening Act  
San Jose Independent Film Festival  
Semi-Finalist 2022

The Opening Act  
Atlanta Movie Awards  
Semi-Finalist 2022

The Opening Act  
Vancouver Movie Awards  
Semi-Finalist 2023

The Opening Act  
2022 Erie International Film Festival  
Award Nominee

The Opening Act  
London Lift-Off Film Festival  
Audience Choice Award

The Opening Act  
Los Angeles Lift-Off Film Festival  
Official Selection 2022

The Opening Act  
Santa Fe Independent Film Festival  
Semi-Finalist 2023

The Opening Act  
Dallas Movie Awards Festival  
Semi-Finalist 2023

The Opening Act  
Detroit Independent Film Festival  
Semi-Finalist 2024

The Opening Act  
Hawaii International Film Awards  
Best Original Soundtrack Nominee 2023

The Opening Act  
Hawaii International Film Awards  
Best Feature Documentary Nominee 2023

The Opening Act  
Atlanta Movie Awards  
Best Music 2023

The Opening Act  
Santa Monica International Filmmaker Awards  
Semi-Finalist 2023

The Opening Act  
Denver Movie Awards  
Award Nominee 2023

The Opening Act  
Oakland Film Festival  
Semi-Finalist 2023

The Opening Act  
San Jose Independent Film Festival  
Best Music 2023

# ***The Opening Act***

## ***The Extraordinary Journey of James Lee Stanley***

James Lee Stanley has been the opening act for just about every famous performer in the music and comedy industry for over 50 years. A brilliant storyteller, James weaves us through his epic journey. An uplifting story about perseverance and a commitment to succeed regardless of the odds.

Starting his career in the early 60's, James' story is woven through the fabric of music itself, the folk era, the rock era, the unplugged era. Always receiving brilliant reviews for his performances as well as his album releases, his songs are on a par with the best known troubadours of the time; James Taylor, Cat Stevens or Gordon Lightfoot, to name a few. Songs about love, adventure and defiance. These songs span his entire career. Twenty-four of his most revered compositions are included in this documentary.

This is not another story about the vagaries of show business. This is a story about hope, perseverance and the pursuit of the American dream! The feel good story of the year!

As a master storyteller, James takes us on a behind-the-scenes journey that includes an A-list cast of characters. The Doors, John Densmore, Eagles & Poco, Timothy B. Schmit, Comedian, Steven Wright, Photographer, Henry Diltz, Wings Guitarist, Laurence Juber, Singer/Songwriter's Stephen Bishop, John Batdorf, Severin Browne, Dan Navarro and Disco Star, Pamala Stanley.

As well as being the opening act for dozens of stars, James also recorded and released over 34 CD's, had a recurring role in Star Trek Deep Space 9 and was one half of a duet with Peter Tork of the Monkees, called Two Man Band. Rare footage of these events are intertwined in compelling stories.

\* Project has been completed.



L-R James, Bonnie Raitt, Steven Wright, John Batdorff, Stephen Bishop, John Densmore, Timothy B Schmit



L-R: Mama Cass, Art Garfunkel, Henry Diltz, Phil Everly, James-Deep Space 9, Peter Tork

## Director

Gary J Katz started his film making career in industrial videos, producing projects for a large retail company. In the mid 80's he left his position and started the American Institute of Video (AIV). The post-secondary school focused on all aspects of video production. Leaving the business for a short period in the 90's, he moved his family to the Sierra foothills. A small town called Twain Harte. There he wrote his book entitled *Death by Rock & Roll – The Untimely Death of the Legends of Rock*. Two stories from within the book, led Gary back into film making.

His first documentary *Badfinger* was released in 1997 and was about the first band signed to The Beatles' Apple Records. The project took over two & half years to complete and was literally a Mr. Toads Wild ride. However, *Badfinger* was the first independent production approved by Apple Corps LTD & The Beatles.

*The Life & Times of Steve Marriott* was released three years later along with *Eric Burdon & The New Animals Live at the Coach House*. During this period, Gary & his business partner had become the American Agents for Studio Hamburg & their live music archive. They released 24 DVD's featuring shows from *Beat Club*, *MusikLaden* & *RockPalast*.

Gary's newest documentary, *The Opening Act*, embarks on a remarkable musical journey that starts in the early sixties and continues on into today. Always optimistic and hopeful, James recalls his extraordinary journey through his decades long career.

# The Opening Act



The Extraordinary Journey of  
James Lee Stanley

A Pegasus Flight  
Beachwood Recordings Production

Directed by Gary J Katz

Produced by Gary J Katz & James Lee Stanley

[www.theopeningact.org](http://www.theopeningact.org)

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Soundtrack on  
Beachwood Recordings

