# 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



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### 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!

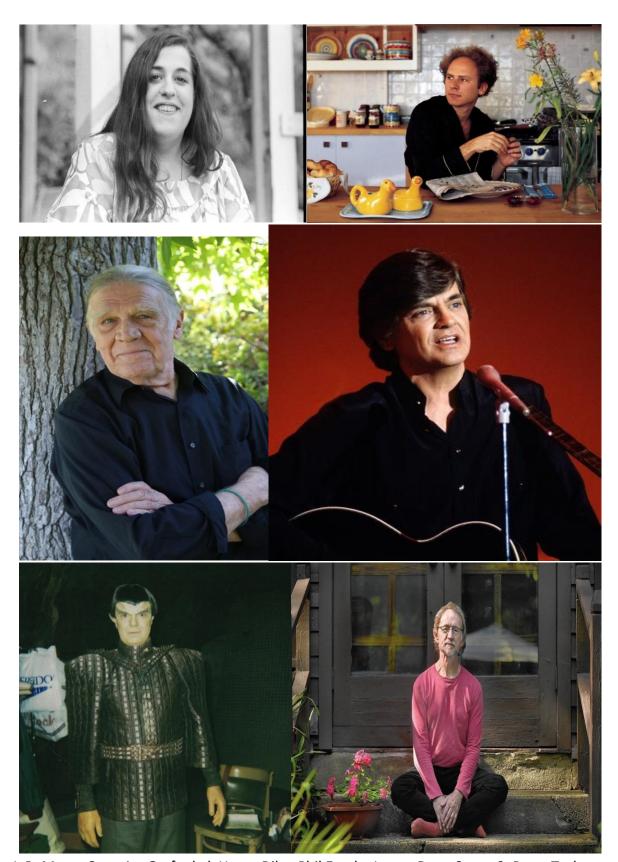
As a master storyteller, James takes us on a behind-the-scenes journey that includes an A-list cast of characters. The Doors, John Densmore, Eagles & Poco, Timothy B. Schmit, Comedian, Steven Wright, Photographer, Henry Diltz, Wings Guitarist, Laurence Juber, Singer/Songwriter's Stephen Bishop, John 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 8o'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 9o's, he moved his family to the Sierra foothills. A small town called Twain Harte. There he wrote his book entailed *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.

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### A Pegasus Flight Beachwood Recordings Production

Directed by Gary J Katz

Produced by Gary J Katz & James Lee Stanley

www.theopeningact.org 818-633-4279

### Soundtrack on Beachwood Recordings

