

# Rita Moreno



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Carey, Period 3

Hispanic Heritage Month Assignment

# Early Childhood and Education

Rita Moreno was:

- ~ Born on December 11, 1931
- ~ She was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico
- ~ Her given name is Rosita Dolores Alverío.
- ~ She spent the first five years of her life in Puerto Rico until her mom uprooted the both and moved them to the Bronx, New York.
- ~ She started professionally performing at the age of nine in a Greenwich Village nightclub.
- ~ At the age of sixteen, she dropped out of high school to perform full-time.



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# Career Highlights and Accomplishments

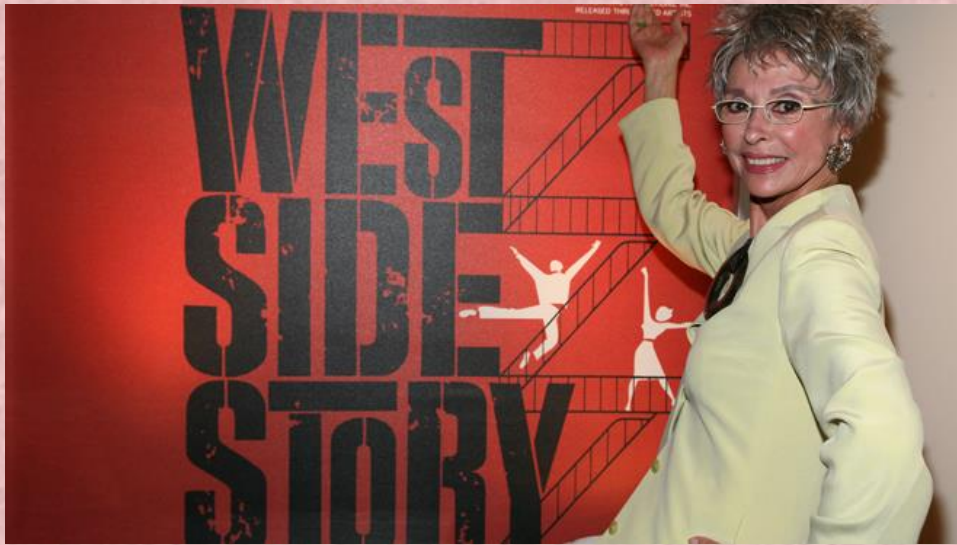
- ~ She has shown her versatility from starring on Broadway, acting in movies, and work on television shows.
- ~ Rita Moreno is most credited for portrayal of Anita in *West Side Story* (1961)
- ~ She is well known for her performances on Broadway during *The Ritz's* run (1975).
- ~ Moreno became a character on a children's television program, *The Electric Company*, staying on for six seasons and creating the catchphrase : "Hey, you guys".
- ~ She also made guest star appearances on TV shows like *The Muppet Show* and *Rockford Files*.
- ~ She has been a part of over 57 productions, movies, and TV programs.
- ~ Some of her more iconic appearances in productions include , *West Side Story*, *The Night of the Following Day*, *Singing in the Rain*, *The King and I*, *Summer and Smoke*, and *Carnal Knowledge*.
- ~ She also performed on Broadway in *The Last of the Hot Lovers*, *The Gantry*, and *The Ritz*.





# Notable Awards and Achievements

- ~ Rita Moreno is one of the fourteen, and only Hispanic, people to have received all four major entertainment awards: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (also known as an EGOT).
- ~She was the first Latina actress to win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress (she earned it for her role as Anita in West Side Story in 1961).
- ~Moreno has been nominated for 20 different major awards for her various contributions to the entertainment world, and has won 16 of those nominations.
- ~She has won an Academy Award, Golden Globe, Joseph Jefferson Award, Grammy, Tony, two Emmys, Golden Apple, Library of Living Legends, two HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Latin Actresses) Awards, Sarah Siddons Award, Special Recognition Award,, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievements Award.
- ~ From politicians, she has received Presidential Medal of Freedom (George W. Bush) California Hall of Fame (Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger), and the National Medal of Arts (B. Obama).
- ~ She has also contributed a lot of her later life to raising awareness of osteoporosis for the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and received an award from them for all her work.

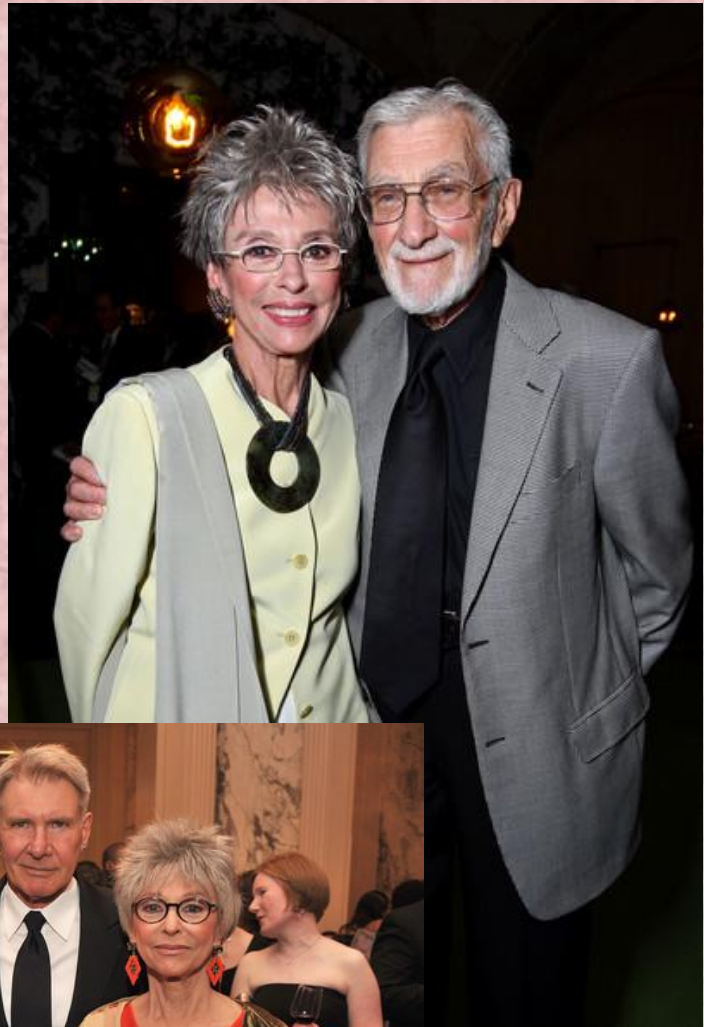




# Aspects of Personal Life

- ~ Rita lived in Puerto Rico with her mother (Rosa María), and father (Paco José Alverío) until she was five, when her mother moved them to New York.
- ~ She calls this move “the opposite of Dorothy going to Oz”, and this is understandable due to Puerto Rico being a beautiful, colorful, tropical island and New York being quite drab at the time of her move.
- ~ Rita Moreno was married to Leonard Gordon, her manager who was also a cardiologist, from 1965-2010 (upon his death).
- ~ They had one child together, a daughter named Fernanda Luisa Fisher.
- ~ Fernanda had two sons, Justin and Cameron Fisher.
- ~ Moreno admits that her daughter and grandsons were the best gifts given to her.
- ~ Before Gordon, she was seriously involved with Marlon Brando, claiming him to be her first true love. One night, after being forced into an abortion by Brando, she attempted to commit suicide in 1962.
- ~ Moreno also briefly dated Elvis Presley, but they did not last long.





Thank You

