

Capitol and California

Jane Fonda, Jack Nicholson join California Hall of Fame

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Under the faint glow of portable heaters, a warmly bundled crowd of admirers Monday night waited to catch sight of some of the state's more illustrious musicians, actors and leaders who were inducted into the California Museum's California Hall of Fame.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and first lady Maria Shriver awarded the 12 newest inductees the Spirit of California medal at the California Museum of History, Women & the Arts in downtown Sacramento.

Among the recipients were actor Jack Nicholson and actress Jane Fonda, music impresario Quincy Jones, jazz musician Dave Brubeck, fitness guru Jack LaLanne and chef Alice Waters.

"It's a huge honor for me. I have to pinch myself to make sure it's real," said Fonda, while walking on the red carpet before the event.

Also attending were family members representing author Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, photographer Dorothea Lange, architect Julia Morgan, scientist Linus Pauling and California founding father Leland Stanford, who received posthumous awards.

Robert Graham, the sculptor who designed the Spirit of California medal given to Hall of Fame honorees, was ill and did not attend.

The inductees are diverse in disciplines and accomplishments.

Brubeck, who fundamentally reformed the way jazz music is played, was born in Concord and graduated from the University of the Pacific. He helped establish California as a focal point for jazz in America.

Shriver founded the California Hall of Fame in 2006, and this year's celebration featured an accompanying 3,000-square-foot exhibit at the museum.

The interactive collection of more than 100 artifacts highlights the accomplishments of its inductees and includes such features as a Dr. Seuss reading room, a piano that plays Brubeck classics and early LaLanne videos.

Nicholson loaned his second-grade report card and his Joker costume from 1989's "Batman" for the exhibit.

Fonda offered the pantsuit she wore when accepting her Academy Award for "Klute" in 1972, along with her two Oscars (the second was for "Coming Home" in 1978).

Among the other artifacts on display through November 2009 are Pauling's 1961 electric car, Lange's cameras, LaLanne's red workout jumpsuit and Morgan's drafting table.

The California Museum is at 1020 O St. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7.50 general, \$6 ages 65-plus, \$5 ages 6-13. For information: (916) 653-7524, www.californiamuseum.org