



CHEECH & CHONG: STILL ROLLIN'—CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF UP IN SMOKE OPENING ON 4/20

NEW EXHIBIT TO LAUNCH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHEECH & CHONG'S 1978 FILM *UP IN SMOKE*

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. (APRIL 10, 2018) — GRAMMY®-winning comedy duo Cheech & Chong will be the subject of a new exhibit opening at the GRAMMY Museum® on 4/20. Titled Cheech & Chong: Still Rollin'—Celebrating 40 Years Of Up In Smoke, the exhibit is curated in collaboration with GRAMMY-winning producer Lou Adler, who uncovered the legendary duo, produced many of their albums, and directed the film.

On display through spring 2019, the exhibit explores what made the world fall in love with East L.A. native Richard "Cheech" Marin and Canadian Tommy Chong, while chronicling the development and success of their first feature-length film, *Up In Smoke*. Items on display will include the original marked-up script from *Up In Smoke*, the master tape for the soundtrack album, comedy sketches, an assortment of limited-edition 40th anniversary smoking devices, and selections from Marin's "Blazing Chicano Guitars" guitar-art collection, among other items.

As the first strictly counterculture comics, Cheech & Chong helped change the dialogue, and ultimately attitudes, about marijuana use. As recording artists, they utilized the studio much like musicians do—a place to improvise and experiment as they turned their comedy routines into full-length albums. They released an eponymous LP in 1971 featuring studio sketches including "Dave," "Cruisin' With Pedro De Pacas," and "Trippin' In Court." The album's 1972 follow-up, *Big Bambú*, peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 and earned a GRAMMY nomination for Best Comedy Album. The following year's GRAMMY-winning *Los Cochinos* also charted at No. 2 and included the novelty hit "Basketball Jones." These albums, and those that followed, served as a template for future comedy albums and stoner films.

"Cheech & Chong are arguably *the* quintessential comedy duo of the hippie generation," said Scott Goldman, GRAMMY Museum Executive Director. "Individually, they've achieved great success, with Cheech becoming one of the most well-known and respected Chicano entertainers, and Tommy making his mark as an actor, writer, musician, and cannabis rights activist. Together, they became a voice for the counterculture, and to this day their hit film, *Up In Smoke*, is considered one of the best comedies of all time."

"Our Cheech & Chong exhibit will introduce an entirely new generation to one of the most iconic comedy duos to ever exist," said Nwaka Onwusa, GRAMMY Museum Curator. "This experience wouldn't have been possible without the help of Cheech & Chong and our dear friend Lou Adler. We thank them for their involvement, and we can't wait to share this story of comedic success with our visitors."

Just days ahead of the exhibit's debut, the GRAMMY Museum will welcome Cheech & Chong to the Clive Davis Theater for an intimate sold-out Q&A hosted by Goldman on Tuesday, April 17. This exhibit marks the fourth in the Museum's comedy series. Previous exhibits have included spotlights on GRAMMY winners George Carlin, Rodney Dangerfield, and Joan Rivers.

[Download exhibit press kit](#)



ABOUT THE GRAMMY MUSEUM

Established in 2008 as a partnership between the Recording Academy™ and AEG, the GRAMMY Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music. Paying tribute to our collective musical heritage, the Museum explores and celebrates all aspects of the art form—from the technology of the recording process to the legends who've made lasting marks on our cultural identity. In 2017, the Museum integrated with its sister organization, the GRAMMY Foundation®, to broaden the reach of its music education and preservation initiatives. As a unified organization, today, the GRAMMY Museum fulfills its mission of making music a valued and indelible part of our society through exhibits, education, grants, and public programming.

For more information, visit www.grammymuseum.org, "like" the GRAMMY Museum on [Facebook](#), and follow @GRAMMYMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT CHEECH & CHONG

Cheech & Chong are among the preeminent comedy duos of all time. Comprising Richard "Cheech" Marin and Tommy Chong, the duo began performing together in the late '60s at a comedy club that Chong owned in Vancouver, British Columbia. After attempting to form a band, the duo took the comedy route, honing an act that simultaneously championed and lampooned the stoner community that became the duo's most dedicated fan base.

Cheech & Chong were uncovered by Adler in 1972 when they were performing in a talent hootenanny at Los Angeles' Troubadour. This led to the production of five Adler-produced platinum albums, including their GRAMMY-nominated self-titled album (1971), and the GRAMMY-nominated albums *Big Bambú* (1972), *Cheech & Chong's Wedding Album* (1974), and *Sleeping Beauty* (1976), as well as the GRAMMY-winning *Los Cochinos* (1973). The duo also earned a GRAMMY nomination for the single "Born In East L.A." Adler also produced the hit singles "Basketball Jones" and "Earache My Eye." To describe these recordings, Adler coined the phrase "hard rock comedy."

Cheech & Chong subsequently gained fame on the big screen, beginning with 1978's *Up In Smoke*, which earned more than \$100 million at the box office and is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2018. After the duo parted ways in the late '80s, Marin became an actor, best known for his role as Joe Dominguez on the TV police drama "Nash Bridges" starring Don Johnson. Prior to his role on "That '70s Show" as the marijuana-smoking owner of a Foto Hut, Chong appeared as a guest star on "Nash Bridges" in 1997, marking the duo's first public appearance together in years. They reconnected in 2008 for their Light Up America tour.

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CONTACT

Crystal Larsen

GRAMMY Museum at L.A. LIVE

T. 213.763.2133

clarsen@grammymuseum.org