

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION

MOTION

Orson Bean was a veteran actor, comedian, writer, producer, and beloved member of the Venice community. Born Dallas Frederick Burrows, Bean's career in show business stemmed from a childhood interest in magic and making people laugh. Following a two-year stint with the U.S. Army serving in post-World War II occupied Japan, Bean took his comedic magic act to the stages of service clubs and small nightclubs throughout Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Leaving magic behind and embracing the comedian in him, Bean became a favorite guest on TV talk shows, especially "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson, on which he appeared more than 100 times. He guest starred on many television series and had a regular role as a store owner on "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." On the big screen, he had a memorable role in "Being John Malkovich."

Theater was Bean's passion. He moved to Venice from Pacific Palisades in the early 1980s, buying a small wooden cottage on the canals. He was Chief Creator of the Pacific Resident Theatre in Venice. The theater, located at 707 Venice Boulevard, was founded as an actors cooperative in 1985 and dedicated to producing both classic and unknown plays, and promoting work by new authors. The company has received over 90 awards, including from the L.A. Drama Critics Circle, the NAACP, LA Weekly, and more.

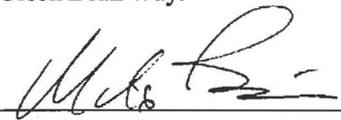
"It's wrong to make a living off the theater," he told The Times. "Theater should be supported, like redwood trees. You should make your living — whether you're a writer or an actor or a director — in movies or commercials. But you do theater out of love."

Bean was a Venice icon; a well-loved local you could see at the Venice Farmers Market when you weren't seeing him on TV. Married to actress Alley Mills for over 25 years, they were staunch advocates for Venice, receiving the 2016 "Venice Spirit Award" at the 32nd Abbot Kinney Festival, and most recently became members of the Venice Mar Vista Art Coalition.

Orson Bean tragically lost his life just steps from his beloved Pacific Resident Theater, which sits adjacent to "Pisani Place." The Venice community lost a neighbor, community advocate, and shining light of optimism and generosity. It is fitting that we rename this portion of Pisani Place in his honor.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the City Engineer to begin the process of changing the name of Pisani Place from Venice Blvd to Amoroso Ct. to "Orson Bean Way."

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:

PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 5th District