



THE OREGON
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Exhibit of Mexican Cinematography Opens October 1 at the Oregon History Museum

Exposición Gabriel Figueroa, October 1 – 31, 2010

Press Event and VIP Reception 5:30-7:30, Thursday, October 7th, 2010

*Representatives from the Oregon Historical Society, the Mexican Consulate's office,
and the Northwest Film Center will be available to talk about the exhibition
and the screening of La Perla.*

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Portland, OR – September 21, 2010— On October 1, the Oregon History Museum and The Consulate of Mexico are excited to unveil an exhibit featuring the work of famed Mexican cinematographer, Gabriel Figueroa. *Exposición Gabriel Figueroa* is a collection of stills from the incredible filmography of this distinguished artist. Most notable are Figueroa's work with landscapes, and many of his films feature vast skies and ominous clouds, now known in Mexico as "Figueroa skies."

Gabriel Figueroa, (1907-1997), was a Mexican cinematographer whose work has made a lasting impact on both Mexican cinema and Hollywood. At a young age Figueroa became enamored with painting and photography, and made his entry into the movie industry in 1932. After working on multiple films, he won a scholarship to study lighting techniques in the United States, and his use of lighting and perspective are the cornerstones of his work.

Over his career, Figueroa filmed over 200 movies, and is remembered as the premier cinematographer in Mexico's Golden Age of Film. Uncommon in this era, Figueroa's cultural films were able to transcend borders, earning him the Academy Award nomination in 1966 for *The Night of the Iguana*. In 1995, Figueroa was presented a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Cinematographers, only the third time this award has been given.

The collection of 40 framed stills provides a glimpse into the work of this master of cinematography. The exhibit has come to the Oregon History Museum from Mexico, and is presented in partnership with the Society's other current exhibit, *Arte en la*

Charrería: The Artisanship of the Mexican Equestrian Culture. Both exhibits will be on display in October. Arte en la Charrería closes on October 24, and Exposición Gabriel Figueroa closes October 31.

In partnership, the Northwest Film Center will present one of Gabriel Figueroa's award-winning films, *The Pearl (La Perla)*, on Thursday, October 28th at 7pm. An adaptation of John Steinbeck's well known novel, this film recounts a traditional legend of Mexico's West Coast and is a classic tale of a man drawn toward an inexorable fate. Exhibition visitors are invited to bring their ticket stub from the museum to the NW Film Center for a discounted ticket price of \$6.

About the Oregon Historical Society

The Society has served since 1898 as Oregon's primary research collection and museum about Oregon history. OHS has an extensive collection of historical pieces, including over 85,000 artifacts and 3 million photographs and films. It safeguards and presents Oregon's history through a museum, research library, traveling exhibits, school programs and website content.

Visit the Oregon History Museum during October 1 – 8 and view both exhibits for free during our special open house week in conjunction with Oregon Cultural Trust's Days of Culture.