



**Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation**
El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional high resolution images available upon request

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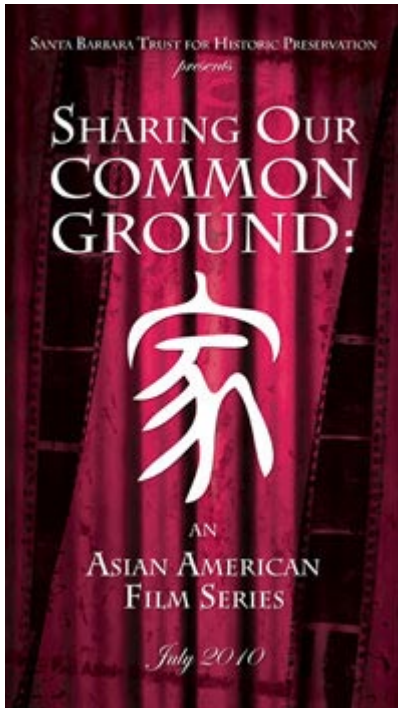
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Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation continues "Sharing Our Common Ground" with an Asian American

Film Series this Summer

Fridays, July 9, 16 and 23

7:00 p.m.

The public is invited to discover the history of Santa Barbara's Asian American community and enjoy a film in the historic Alhecama Theatre.

TICKETS: \$10 for non-members, \$5 for students, FREE for SBTHP members
(membership card & photo ID requested)

Sold at the door at the Alhecama Theatre

INFORMATION: (805) 965-0093 or visit www.sbthp.org

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – This July the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) continues "Sharing Our Common Ground: Asian

American History in Santa Barbara County" with a three-part summer film series focusing on the Chinese and Japanese American community. All films begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Alhecama Theatre (914 Santa Barbara Street), and feature an introduction and highlights from the Presidio Research Center's collection of local Asian American history. Reception to follow.



Friday, July 9: *Flower Drum Song* (1961 - 133 min)

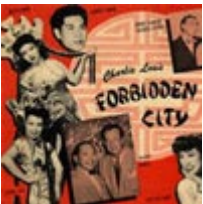
A Rodgers and Hammerstein musical nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Music, this romantic comedy tells the story of a young Chinese girl who travels to the United States as part of an arranged marriage and discovers a very different world. Full of lavish song and dance, the film also addresses how traditional Chinese culture and new American ideals clash. The screening will be preceded by the short documentary, *Faces of the East: Casting Flower Drum Song*, which highlights the first all-Asian cast in an Asian-themed musical and addresses the portrayal of minorities in film.



Friday, July 16: *Sewing Woman* (1982 - 15 min)

Sewing Woman chronicles the bittersweet journey of one woman's determination to survive, transitioning from an arranged marriage in China to working class comforts in modern America. The film is based on a series of oral histories and the life story of the filmmaker's mother, Zem Ping Dong, an immigrant who worked in San Francisco garment factories for over 30 years.

-AND-



***Forbidden City, U.S.A.* (1989 - 56 min)**

During the 1930s and 1940s, crowds in San Francisco were packing the nation's premiere all-Chinese nightclub, Forbidden City. Like the Cotton Club of Harlem which featured America's finest African American entertainers, Forbidden City gained an international reputation with its unique showcase of Chinese American performers in eye-popping all-American extravaganzas. *Forbidden City* looks beyond Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, *Flower Drum Song* (which was loosely based on the Forbidden City nightclub), to show a generation of Asian American pioneers who fought cultural barriers and racism to pursue their love of American song and dance.



Friday, July 23: *Picture Bride* (1994 - 95 min)

With only a picture in hand, a beautiful young Japanese woman leaves her home in 1918 to become the mail-order wife or "picture bride" of a sugar plantation laborer in Honolulu. Upon arrival she quickly realizes her fiancé has deceived her and is nearly twice her age. Though she initially regrets her decision, in time her new life is filled with unexpected discovery and joy.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the area in and around the Santa Barbara Presidio included communities of Chinese and Japanese, residing in what was a unique and culturally rich neighborhood. SBTHP is currently conducting research and community outreach to develop an exhibit on Asian American history in Santa Barbara, with a special emphasis on the Presidio neighborhood. In 2009, SBTHP launched "Sharing Our Common Ground" with a three-part community lecture series discussing the Asian American history in the Presidio neighborhood and greater Santa Barbara area from 1860 to 1960.

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CALENDAR LISTING

“Sharing Our Common Ground: An Asian American Film Series”

DATES: Friday, July 9: *Flower Drum Song*

Friday, July 16: *Sewing Woman* (1982 - 15 min) -AND- *Forbidden City, U.S.A.* (1989 - 56 min)

Friday, July 23: *Picture Bride* (1994 - 95 min)

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Alhecama Theatre, 914 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA

COST: \$10 for non-members, \$5 for students, FREE for SBTHP members

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works *to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace, under a unique agreement with California State Parks. Recently purchased, the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens provides an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP also owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family. The restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills near the town of Solvang as a future California State Park. These are a few of the projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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