

NORTON SIMON MUSEUM FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norton Simon Museum Presents Jennifer Jones Film Series

Pasadena, CA—In celebration of the life and career of Academy Award–winning actress Jennifer Jones (March 2, 1919–December 17, 2009), wife of Museum founder Norton Simon, the Norton Simon Museum is screening four of her well-known films: *The Song of Bernadette*, *Duel in the Sun*, *Beat the Devil* and *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing*. Immediately preceding the screenings, Chief Curator Carol Togneri talks with Mrs. Simon’s son Robert Walker about growing up with the legendary screen icon.



Films and Schedule:

Saturday, October 9, at 2:00 p.m.

The Song of Bernadette, 1943 (156 minutes)

Saturday, October 16, at 2:00 p.m.

Duel in the Sun, 1946 (129 minutes)

Saturday, October 23, at 2:00 p.m.

Beat the Devil, 1953 (89 minutes)

Saturday, October 30, at 2:00 p.m.

Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing, 1955 (102 minutes)

About the Films:



The Song of Bernadette (1943)

In the film that earned her an Academy Award for Best Actress, Jones portrays Bernadette Soubirous, a poor and innocent young girl who sees a vision of a “beautiful lady” near her hometown of Lourdes in 1858. The news spreads rapidly throughout France, leaving in its wake a variety of consequences: adoration, suspicion and greed among the people of Lourdes, skepticism from the town doctor (Lee J. Cobb), charges of insanity from the town prosecutor (Vincent Price), threats of physical punishment, then support and guidance from the Dean of Lourdes (Charles Bickford), who ultimately becomes convinced of Bernadette’s vision. Directed by Henry King.



Duel in the Sun (1946)

Jones stars with Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten in this steamy tale of passion and romance with “all the sweep and panache of a giant American action movie” (The New Yorker). When her father is hanged for murdering his wife, the stunning beauty Pearl (Jones) is taken in by a wealthy Texan, his wife and their two grown sons (Peck and Cotten). But Pearl soon becomes trapped in an emotional triangle between her love for one son and her lust for the other. Directed by King Vidor.



Beat the Devil (1953)

Filmed on location in Italy, this cult classic stars Jones with Humphrey Bogart and Gina Lollobrigida. A parody of film noir, the film centers on a motley crew of swindlers and thugs hoping to lay claim to land in Kenya that is rich in uranium deposits, though stranded in Italy while their steamer is being repaired. Written by Truman Capote and John Huston. Directed by John Huston.



Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing (1955)

In this romantic drama, Jones plays a Eurasian doctor living in Hong Kong during the Korean War who meets and falls in love with American war correspondent Mark Elliott, played by William Holden. Prejudice from her family and Hong Kong society, and ultimately the war, interfere with this cross-cultural affair. Jones was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role as Dr. Han Suyin. Directed by Henry King.

About Jennifer Jones:

Jennifer Jones (née Phylis Lee Isley) was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 2, 1919. As a student at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, she met her first husband, Robert Walker, who later starred in such films as *One Touch of Venus*, *Strangers on a Train* and *My Son John*. They married in 1939 and had two sons, Robert Walker Jr. and the late Michael Walker. Jones and Walker divorced in 1945. In the early 1940s, Jones moved to Hollywood, where her screen test for David O. Selznick, the legendary producer of *Gone with the Wind*, *Rebecca* and other significant films, resulted in a film contract. (Jones would marry Mr. Selznick in 1949 and have one child, the late Mary Jennifer Selznick.) For her first major movie role, in *The Song of Bernadette* (1944), Jones received an Academy Award for Best Actress. She went on to star in many other films, including *Duel in the Sun* (1946), *Beat the Devil* (1953) and *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing* (1955). Her final film appearance was a cameo role in *The Towering Inferno* (1974).

Several years after Selznick’s death in 1965, Jones met California industrialist and celebrated art collector Norton W. Simon. After a whirlwind four-week romance, they married on May 30, 1971, on a chartered yacht in the English Channel. The couple first honeymooned in Hawaii, but Mrs. Simon, sensing her new husband’s restlessness there, suggested they move on to India. It was there that Mr. Simon developed a passion for collecting South and Southeast Asian art, which lasted the rest of his

life and led him to form a significant part of the Norton Simon collections. After Norton Simon's death in 1993, Mrs. Simon became involved with the operations of the Norton Simon Museum and, as Chairman of the Board, worked with other Trustees to increase the Museum's programming and public outreach. Most notably, Mrs. Simon collaborated with renowned architect Frank O. Gehry on the renovation of the Museum's galleries, which was completed in 1999.

About Robert Walker:

Robert Hudson Walker was born on April 15, 1940, to up-and-coming movie actors Robert Walker and Jennifer Jones. His brother, Michael Walker, was born 11 months later. Walker grew up in New York and Los Angeles and attended boarding schools in Europe. As a young man, he became interested in acting and quickly found roles on television, including the shows *Route 66*, *Ben Casey* and *Star Trek*, where he played the memorable Charlie Evans in the early episode "Charlie X." His movie credits include the title role in *Ensign Pulver* (1964) with Burl Ives and Walter Matthau, *The War Wagon* (1967) with John Wayne and Kirk Douglas, the title role in *Young Billy Young* (1969) with Robert Mitchum, *Easy Rider* (1969) with Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper and *Beware! The Blob* (1972). Walker lives in Malibu with his wife Dawn and their two young children. He has five grown children from previous marriages.

About the Norton Simon Museum:

The Norton Simon Museum is known around the world as one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled. Over a 30-year period, industrialist Norton Simon (1907–1993) amassed an astonishing collection of European art from the Renaissance to the 20th century, and a stellar collection of South and Southeast Asian art spanning 2,000 years. Modern and Contemporary Art from Europe and the United States, acquired by the former Pasadena Art Museum, also occupies an important place in the Museum's collections. The Museum houses more than 12,000 objects, roughly 1,000 of which are on view in the galleries and gardens. Two temporary exhibition spaces feature rotating installations of artworks not on permanent display.

Location: The Norton Simon Museum is located at 411 West Colorado Blvd. at Orange Grove Blvd. in Pasadena, California, at the intersection of the Foothill (210) and Ventura (134) freeways. For general Museum information, please call (626) 449-6840 or visit www.nortonsimon.org. Hours: The Museum is open every day except Tuesday, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday. Admission: General admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors. Members, students with I.D. and patrons age 18 and under are admitted free of charge. Admission is free for everyone on the first Friday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All public programs, unless stated otherwise, are free. The Museum is wheelchair accessible. Parking: Parking is free and no reservations are necessary. Public Transportation: The City of Pasadena provides a shuttle bus to transport passengers through the Pasadena Playhouse district, the Lake Avenue shopping district and Old Pasadena. A shuttle stop is located in front of the Museum. Please visit www.cityofpasadena.net/artsbus for schedules. The MTA bus line #180/181 stops in front of the Museum. The Memorial Park Station on the MTA Gold Line, the closest Metro Rail station to the Museum, is located at 125 East Holly Street at Arroyo Parkway. Please visit www.metro.net for schedules.