



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

To Bring Alive the History of Santa Barbara for Present and Future Generations

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2009

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Discover the history of the Vaquero and his influence on the West at the Candlelight Premiere in the Presidio Chapel of “Los Primeros – The First Vaqueros,” a new documentary by Susan Jensen and Paul Singer



Spanish horsemen demonstrate the art of *Doma Vaquera*, used to test the bravery of fighting bulls
(image courtesy of J&S Productions)

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents the candlelight premiere of **“Los Primeros – The First Vaqueros”** in the Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara, Calif., **Friday, February 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM**. Don't miss this opportunity to preview the highly anticipated fifth film in the acclaimed Vaquero Series by filmmakers Susan Jensen and Paul Singer.

Attendees at this fundraising event are also invited to a post-premiere “progressive party” in the Canedo Adobe and Soliders' Quarters at the Presidio. **Featuring a martini and wine bar, along with a delicious selection of Mexican Antojitos, guests may wander from room to room lit by luminarias and chimineas.**



Patrons of the Los Primeros fundraiser will have a rare opportunity to view this mural by Edward Borein as well as others by famous western artists located in the private Rancho Room (image courtesy of Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation)

A special opportunity for patron guests includes a pre-premiere reception in the Rancho Room. The Rancho Room was the first meeting place of the renowned mens' riding group Los Rancheros Visitadores. Located within the nearby El Paseo complex, this private room is not open to the public. **The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation maintains an easement to preserve its historic character, and recently oversaw the restoration of its original wall murals painted by famous Western artists Edward Borein, Carl Oscar Borg, Joe de Yong, Will James, Frank Tenney**

Johnson, Eunice MacLennan, and Channing Peake.

Los Primeros Premiere Sponsors include: Preston and Maurine Hotchkis, Jedlicka's Saddlery, J&S Productions, Peter and Nancy Jackson, and Lynn P. Kirst and Lynn R. Matteson.



"Arid Day at the Presidio," painted by Thomas Van Stein, oil on canvas, 18 x 26 inches, 2008. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale of this painting in conjunction with the "Los Primeros" premiere will benefit Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (image courtesy of the artist)

Two hundred years ago, Santa Barbara was at the center of a burgeoning horse and cattle culture. During those years, Presidio soldiers and Mission padres taught Indians how to ride and tend their growing herds of cattle. During the Mexican Rancho period in California, these vaqueros developed into some of the finest reinsmen in the world. **While the best vaqueros earned the title "Californio," it was in Santa Barbara where the tradition excelled. In a 1943 article in**

Western Horseman Magazine, Santa Barbara icon Luis Ortega recounted an old familiar expression used at the time to extol a horseman's ability – "He rides like a Barbarano."

Filmed in Spain, Mexico and the American West, *Los Primeros* explores the layered history of the vaquero tradition. The roots of the vaquero can be traced from the Moors in Spain all the way to the New World. From Andalusia, where the art of *Doma Vaquera* was

developed for testing the bravery of fighting bulls, to the Mexican *charros* who managed their cattle on large haciendas, horsemanship techniques reflect unique demands of the local environment and culture. In Old California, Presidio soldiers spread their horsemanship traditions among the native population, who learned to work cattle herds roaming the huge land grants. *Los Primeros* shows how these traditions came together to create the “Californios:” the vaqueros who ride with slickfork saddles, Santa Barbara spade bits, and Santa Ynez reins.

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CALENDAR LISTING

Los Primeros – The First Vaqueros Candlelight Film Premiere

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2009

TIMES: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

COST: To obtain an invitation to this event, and/or to purchase Los Primeros DVDs, contact SBTHP at (805) 965-0093. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$1,000. Reservations must be made in advance—deadline is Monday, February 2.

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

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Join SBTHP for the premiere of *Los Primeros - The First Vaqueros*, a new film by Susan Jensen and Paul Singer. Don't miss this opportunity to preview the newest film in the acclaimed Vaquero Series. Filmed in Spain, Mexico and the American West—discover the history of the vaquero and celebrate his influence on the west. Reception to follow.

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ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization working to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. SBTHP is the primary force behind the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. SBTHP is also preserving and restoring the Santa Inés Mission Mills—the site of a future California State Park and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian community in the Presidio neighborhood. **SBTHP is currently reconstructing the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the** 123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 • (805) 965-0093 • FAX (805) 568-1999 • www.sbthp.org

eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara's birthplace. Using over 50,000 adobe bricks made on site, these additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors' center, and with the help of the new Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center, serve to interpret the city's Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present. **For more information visit www.sbthp.org**

ABOUT the Vaquero Series – The Conquistadors brought Spanish horsemanship traditions to the New World. Their influence grew from Mexico to California, Nevada, Oregon, Hawaii, Montana, Wyoming, and other parts of the Western Hemisphere. In each area, a tradition developed to meet the unique demands of the environment and culture. **Tapadero**, the first in the Vaquero Series, traces the story of the vaquero from Mexico to Alta California. **The Remuda**, the second installment in the series, follows the vaqueros to Nevada and Oregon. **Holo Holo Paniolo** explores the fascinating story of three Monterey vaqueros, employed by the king of Hawaii in 1833, who taught native Hawaiians how to ride horses and catch wild cattle in the vaquero tradition. **Houlihan** takes you to Wyoming and Montana where Buckaroos and Texas Puchers came together, creating a new cowboy culture. Throughout each documentary, filmmakers Susan Jensen and Paul Singer illustrate how the vaquero left his stamp on all these cultures and how it remains evident through the people who are living the life today. **For more information about the Vaquero Series visit www.tapadero.com**

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