

IGNITE FILMS

CLASSICS FOR THE FUTURE

SALT OF THE EARTH

1954 / 94:00 / B/W / Drama

Director: Herbert J. Biberman

Starring: Rosaura Revueltas, Will Geer, David Wolfe, Mervin Williams



SYNOPSIS:

Salt of the Earth occupies a unique place in film history. Produced by blacklisted Hollywood refugees in the McCarthy era, it was boycotted by major studios and never widely distributed. The film is a fictionalized documentary telling the story of a mining strike in New Mexico. The Mexican miners are played by non-professional actors involved in the actual strike. The mining company tries to break the strike through intimidation and force, but the miners and their families endure. Simultaneously the film depicts the struggle of the wives for equality with their husbands. The Variety Movie Guide describes this film as having moments of true pictorial excellence. Rosaura Revueltas, a Mexican actress playing the wife of the strike leader, gives a taut, impressive performance that has real dimension.

REVIEWS:

"Salt of the Earth's value as an historical document is greatly enhanced by its use of actual participants of the struggle... [it] lends an air of authenticity not often encountered in other efforts of this type." Frederic Chiles, University of California, Santa Barbara in Film and History (1974)