

# Made in Hollywood:

Photographs from the John Kobal Foundation

By **KERRY METHNER** / CASA

**T**HE CHANCE TO LOCK GAZES WITH STARS photographed from 1919 through 1961 was afforded Santa Barbara Museum of Art supporters at a preview event, on Friday, July 11th, when *Made in Hollywood: Photographs from the John Kobal Foundation* opened its shutters in an international debut.

Patrons of the Museum moved into *Made in Hollywood* to the luscious notes of a grand piano after a stimulating multi-media presentation about the exhibit.

Arranged in chronological order, and divided roughly by decade, the 94 plus images were a backdrop for the discussion of the place of photographers in creating the mythic lives and stories of Hollywood and for a relaxed and glamorous interlude.

The Museum's own Karen Sinsheimer, SBMA Curator of Photography and Larry Feinberg, SBMA Director welcomed guests from the Benefactors Circle, Director's Patron, PhotoFutures, and others. Feinberg began the evening with "The last exhibit was a fantasy for children. This one is a fantasy for adults."

John Kobal spoke posthumously from the silver screen in a taped BBC interview from years gone by. The segment was introduced by Simon Crocker, Director of the Foundation and long-time friend of Kobal, the collector who began the process of directing attention to those behind the camera creating Hollywood magic.

Crocker flew in from England specifically for the

opening events and regaled those present with stories and background information, making the subject come alive, beginning with "As you walk through time, some of the faces may be familiar." They were. The photos, the stars of the exhibit, varied in size from 8 by 10 gelatin silver prints to five murals printed on vinyl specifically for the exhibit.

Crocker explained, "John asked the question, 'Who were the guys who took the photos?' He made it his quest to get these people recognized."

The exhibit's co-curators Karen Sinsheimer and Robert Dance each spoke of how they came to work together, the Museum's Hollywood photography history, and the shows' development.

"The exhibition is organized from the point of view of the photographers that helped build the stars," Dance explained.

The preview was followed on Saturday with an opening reception for Museum members where hundreds of fascinated viewers took a look and fell into the magic created by the photographers of Hollywood's golden years.

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- Simon Crocker

The generosity of PhotoFutures, a group of avid collectors who have helped to build SBMA's permanent photography collection as well as support the photographic exhibitions; Susan and John Sweetland; and an anonymous donor made the exhibit possible.



**Patsy Blake** and **Jane Gottlieb**, both PhotoFutures members and SBMA Trustees



**Tim Walsh**, PhotoFutures member and **Kristi Wallace**, SBMA Director of Development



**Jane Gottlieb**, and **Amanda McIntyre**, both PhotoFutures members and SBMA Trustees



**Karen Sinsheimer**, Co-Curator and SBMA Curator of Photography; **Simon Crocker**, Director John Kobal Foundation; **Robert Dance**, Film Historian and Co-Curator; and **Larry Feinberg**, SBMA Director



**Michelle Sullivan**, curatorial assistant; **Jack Kukoda**; **Laina Malm-Levine**, former curatorial assistant who worked on *Made in Hollywood*; and **Ian Malloch**



**Sheila McGinity**, SBMA Trustee and **Mercedes Eichholz**



**Mimi Michaelis**, SBMA Women's Board; **Simon Crocker**, Director John Kobal Foundation; and **Lil Nelson**, SBMA Women's Board, VP Fundraising.



**Penny Jenkins** and **Gregg Hackethal**, SBMA Trustee.



Rev. **David** and **Barbara Greene**



**Andrew Douglas** and **Lenore Thomas**



Photographer **Birgitte Acrestrup**



**Ellen Webb**



**Peggy Wiley** and **Shirley Stapleton**