

25TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Saturday—March 29, 2008 • 12:30—6:00 p.m.
156 North Foundation Hall



SALT OF THE EARTH (1954)
Produced by Independent
Productions/International Union of
Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers

A fictionalised story of a real life strike by Mexican-American miners in a remote New Mexico town (New Mexico's Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers) against Empire Zinc, lasting from October 1950 to January 1952. The workers lived in a company town in company owned shacks without basic plumbing. The miners strike for safe working conditions and as the strike progresses the issues at stake grow beyond that, driven by the worker's wives. Ultimately, the miners' wives took over the picket line to avoid a court injunction against the all male union workers, an event which profoundly affected the Chicano community's attitudes about women's rights. The emotional tensions generated by the strike—between Chicano and Anglo, and when the women walked the picket line, between husbands and wives—are portrayed in their impact on a fictional married couple, Ramon and Esperanza Quintero who go through a severe role reversal leaving the men to handle the domestic duties. The female characters evolve from men's inferiors into their allies and equals.

The movie received the Karlovy Vary and The Grand Prix de Academie du Cinema de Paris. The film was chosen by The Library of Congress as one of 100 American films to be preserved for posterity.



NORTH COUNTRY (2005)
Produced by Nana Greenwald and directed
by Niki Caro

"North Country" stars Academy Award winners Charlize Theron ("Monster"), Frances McDormand ("Fargo") and Sissy Spacek ("In the Bedroom") in the inspiring story of a single mother who rallies her coworkers to rise above the unfair treatment they face at a local mining company.

In the wake of a failed marriage, Josey Aimes (Charlize Theron) returns to her hometown in Northern Minnesota hoping to build a better life for herself and her two children. Encouraged by her friend Glory (Frances McDormand), one of the few female miners in town, Josey takes a job at the mine. She's prepared for the back-breaking and often dangerous work, but coping with the harassment she and the other female miners encounter from their male coworkers proves far more challenging.



Josey's attempts to carve out a better future for her family put her at odds with her children, her disapproving parents (Sissy Spacek and "Six Feet Under's" Richard Jenkins) and her community. It is through this struggle that Josey finds the courage to stand up for what she believes in—even if that means standing alone. Ultimately, her journey takes her farther than she could have ever imagined and inspires countless others to follow.

The lawsuit which inspired the film was settled in 1998, 14 years after it was first filed and over 20 years after the harassments began.