Celebrating the 350th anniversary of New Jersey’s statehood, A Celluloid Story: New Jersey’s Filmmaking History exhibition opens at the Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University on November 6.

Curated by Sarah Hart and Romana Schaeffer, A Celluloid Story: New Jersey’s Filmmaking History explores the state’s pivotal role in film history from 1890-1920. According to the exhibition, New Jersey’s culture of invention, creativity and storytelling gave our fine state a place in the history of film innovation and laid the foundation for today’s movie culture.

Through objects and images, A Celluloid Story explores the stories of New Jersey inventors, studios, communities, films, and celebrities who helped film to grow from a technological fad into a form of art. Featured inventors include New Jersey resident Thomas Edison, who led the way in film technology, and accounts from Fort Lee, New Jersey, explore the development of the studio industry. Portions of movies filmed in New Jersey, such as He Did and He Didn’t will be on view, and both cinema celebrities and everyday New Jerseyans who embraced the movies will tell the story of the birth of film in New Jersey.

A screening of Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle’s A Reckless Romeo will follow the presentation.

In conjunction with the exhibit, on November 17, film historian and author Dr. Richard Koszarski will give a presentation on New Jersey’s role in the film industry. According to Dr. Koszarski, “Before Hollywood captured the world’s imagination, audiences knew Fort Lee as America’s first film town…. and a host of silent-screen pioneers, from D.W. Griffith to Theda Bara, created the American motion picture industry right here in the streets and studios of New Jersey.”

A screening of Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle’s A Reckless Romeo will follow the presentation.
A Celluloid Story: New Jersey's Filmmaking History

Opening Reception on Thursday, November 6 from 5-8 pm / Runs through December 12, M-F 10:30 am to 4:30 pm

Seton Hall University, The Walsh Gallery, 400 S. Orange Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey, 07079

The exhibition and program are free and open to the public


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