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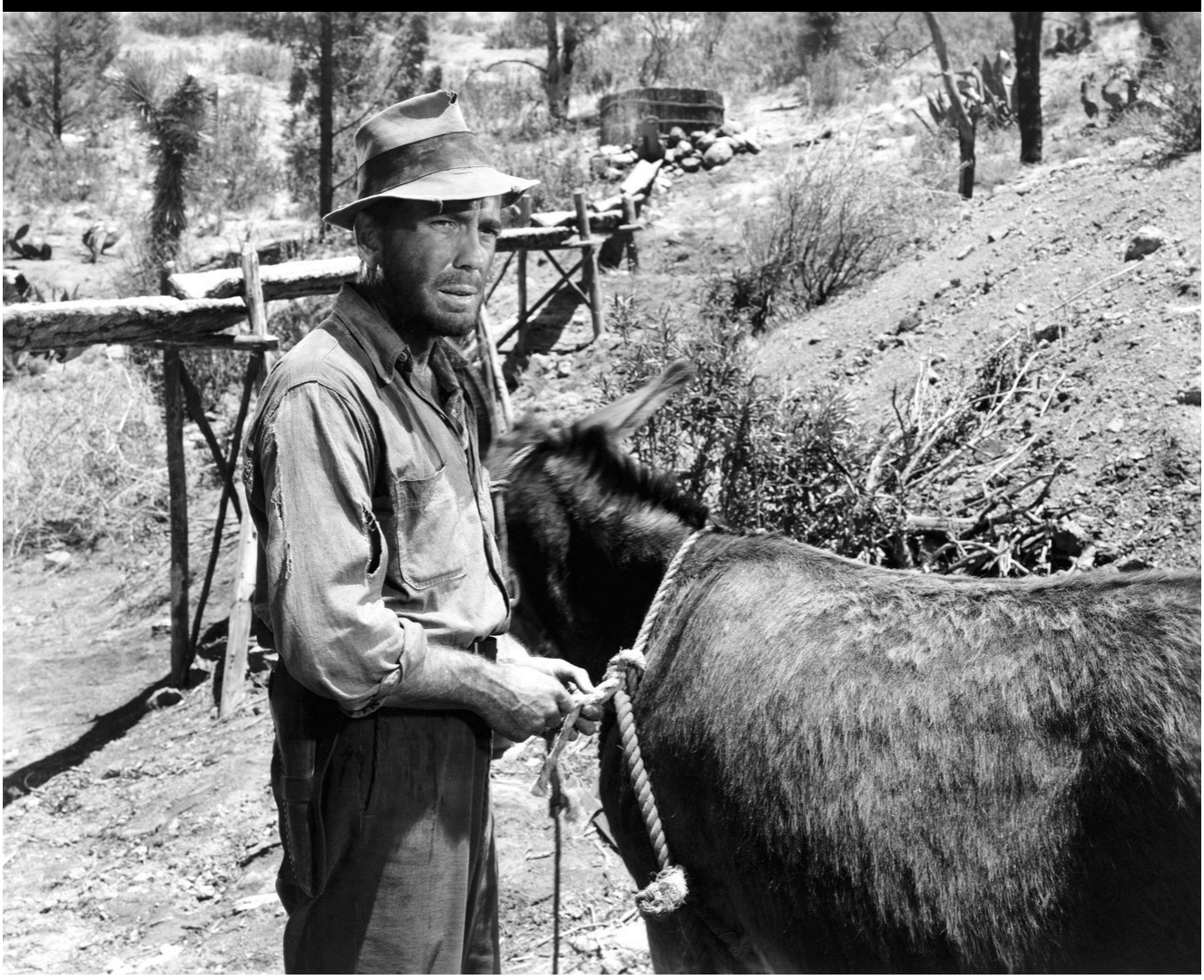
THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE (1948)

Directed by John Huston

WEDNESDAY August 20th 7PM



“One of the best things Hollywood has done since it learned to talk!”

John Huston’s **The Treasure of the Sierra Madre** (1948) is considered one of the greatest films in Hollywood history, regularly placing in films-to-see-before-you-die lists and one of the first fifty films deemed worthy of preservation by the Library of Congress. Adapted from the B. Travers novel of the same name, it explores the futility of greed, the collapse of man’s character under pressure, and the way a landscape forces its will on the people within it. A stellar cast (Humphrey Bogart, Walter Huston, Tim Holt) deliver some of the greatest performances of their careers, making Western film history in the process.

Huston began work on the film immediately following The Maltese Falcon (1941), but production was delayed by the onset of WWII and his subsequent military service. He leapt back into it upon his return, and the delay freed up Humphrey Bogart for the lead. **Treasure** was shot in Mexico, the first Warner Bros film to be shot almost entirely on location outside of the United States. The studio soon became livid about the costs, as Huston’s perfectionism (and endless pranks) nearly doubled production time beyond predictions. But its subsequent commercial, critical, and award-season success rescued Huston’s reputation and only strengthened his commitment to create films as free from studio interference as possible.

The impact of **Treasure** cannot be overstated. From having its own constantly misquoted line (“We don't need no stinkin’ badges!”) to being the film Paul Thomas Anderson watched every night as he was making There Will Be Blood, its visual and storytelling impact has reverberated ever since release. The story’s themes are as old as storytelling itself -- the original 1927 book was based on a much older ballad -- but the precision and commitment of the execution created a telling that has been “remade but never duplicated”. A can't-miss feature for the end of summer, come see it in stunning 16mm!