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Food for Thought Screens Film Noir Classic

Sacramento – The May event in the California State Library’s cultural series, ***Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library***, will be held on **Wednesday, May 19**. This free evening program includes refreshments, a classic film, and a lively post-film discussion.

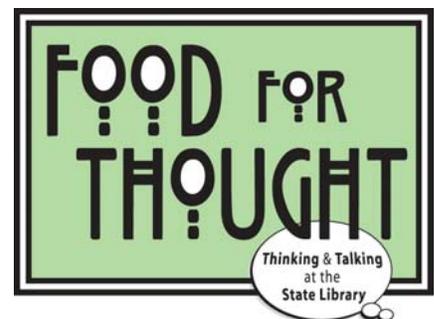
This month ***Food for Thought*** presents *Chinatown*, an acclaimed neo-noir film set in Los Angeles in the 1930s. Loosely based on a 1908 scandal involving theft of water rights for a thirsty Los Angeles, this stylish 1974 film tracks the greed and ruthlessness of men who sought to control LA’s future.

Jack Nicholson delivers a masterful, controlled performance as private eye Jake Gittes, whose investigation into a case of adultery uncovers a maze of murders, lies, and conspiracy. Faye Dunaway is Evelyn Mulwray, the inscrutable femme fatale, and John Huston is Noah Cross, a charming, depraved, and utterly corrupt tycoon.

“There is so much to *Chinatown*—performances, mood, texture, set design, cinematography—that pretty much everyone will come away happy, even if they are scratching their heads at the intricacies of the plot,” said critic Dan Jardine. Though nominated for eleven Academy Awards, Robert Towne’s complex but well-structured screenplay took home the movie’s only Oscar.

In the film, Chinatown was metaphor for a place best left alone, where attempts to rectify situations were futile. “Reflecting the country’s national cynical mood in 1974,” said reviewer Emanuel Levy, “the movie emphasized the futility of honest individuals fighting against corruption.” In an era that also tilts toward despair, revisiting *Chinatown* may provide contemporary food for thought.

The California State Library launched ***Food for Thought*** because it believes that libraries and the free expression of ideas are essential to a healthy democracy. ***Food for Thought*** is a unique monthly venue where film buffs and thinking people talk freely about ideas and issues. By helping Californians stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role in shaping the future of this great state.



Join us on **Wednesday, May 19** from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the California History Room, Room 200, Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, Sacramento. Doors open at 5:00 pm; the program begins at 6:00 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; 8th and O light rail access is nearby. Seating in this venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or rfontaine@library.ca.gov.

***Food for Thought* is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation**

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