

Document Citation

Title	Salt of the earth
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Independent Productions Corporation</i>
Date	1954
Type	press kit
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	5
Subjects	Biberman, Herbert J.
Film Subjects	Salt of the earth, Biberman, Herbert J., 1954

INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS CORPORATION
and the
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MINE, MILL & SMELTER WORKERS

Present

SALT OF THE EARTH

by

MICHAEL WILSON

With

ROSAURA REVUELTAS

and

JUAN CHACON

Staff Executives: SONJA DAHL & ADOLFO BARELA

Music: SOL KAPLAN

Produced by: PAUL JARRICO

Directed by: HERBERT J. BIBERMAN

The Professional Cast

Esperanza Quintero.....	ROSAURA REVUELTAS
The Sheriff	Will Geer
Barton	David Wolfe
Alexander	Mervin Williams
Hartwell	David Sarvis

The Non-Professional Cast

Ramon Quintero	JUAN CHACON
Teresa Vidal	Henrietta Williams
Charley Vidal	Ernest Velasquez
Consuelo Ruiz	Angela Sanchez
Sal Ruiz	Joe T. Morales
Luz Morales	Clorinda Alderette
Antonio Morales	Charles Coleman
Ruth Barnes	Virginia Jencks
Frank Barnes	Clinton Jencks
Sebastian Prieto	Victor Torres
Vance	E. A. Rockwell
Kimbrough	William Rockwell
Jenkins	Floyd Bostick
Kalinsky	E. S. Conerly
Estella Quintero	Mary Lou Castillo
Luis Quintero	Frank Talevera
Alfredo	Adolfo Barela
Vicente	Albert Munoz
District Attorney	Alford Roos

And the Brothers and Sisters of I.U.M.M.S.W.
Local 890, in Bayard, New Mexico

SYNOPSIS OF
"SALT OF THE EARTH"

RUNNING TIME: 94 minutes

Scene: A mining community in New Mexico

Place: The recent past

Esperanza (ROSAURA REVUELTA) is the wife of Ramon Quintero (JUAN CHACON) who has worked in the Delaware Zinc Co. mines for eighteen years. Both are descendants of the original Mexican settlers of Zinc Town, New Mexico. With their children, Estella (Mary Lou Castillo) and Luis (Frank Talavera) they live in a company-owned clapboard cottage without inside plumbing.

On her 35th birthday, Esperanza, who is seven-months pregnant, is fearful about the future of her family. She worries about the difficult conditions of their everyday life and the continuing trouble between management and the union which may lead to a strike. That evening at dinner Ramon is particularly glum because of an accident which occurred during the day due to the company's policy of eliminating "helpers" in the mines. Derogating Esperanza's yearning for such comforts as running hot water, he goes off to the beer-parlor to talk to his working mates, completely forgetting that it is his wife's birthday. Luis follows him to remind him of the holiday and Ramon, ashamed of his thoughtlessness, quickly organizes a traditional "mananita" or serenading party.

A few days later, one of the miners is seriously injured in another accident. This time the men spontaneously refuse to go back to work. That night at the meeting called to formalize the strike, the wives and small children who usually wait outside the hall enter and take seats along the side. As the meeting is coming to a close, Consuelo (Angela Sanchez) asks her husband Sal Ruiz (Joe T. Morales), who is chairing, for the floor. Stumblingly, she proposes that the union set up a ladies auxiliary and that a demand for decent sanitation be added to their demands. Consuelo's proposals are met with some applause, giggling and general embarrassment, and are tabled.

For the next six weeks the picket line holds firm against provocations of the sheriff (Will Geer) and his deputies as well as the truckloads of imported strike-breakers who are afraid to break the line. At first the wives stay home, but soon the men realize the necessity for a ladies auxiliary after all. Esperanza, apprehensive of Ramon's disapproval, and momentarily expecting the birth of her baby, is among those who help with coffee and food at the picket line.

The mine superintendent (Mervin Williams) and Hartwell, the company representative from New York (David Sarvis) promise Ramon a better job if he will lead a back-to-work movement, but he scornfully refuses. A short time later, in his capacity as picket captain, Ramon intercepts a scab and is arrested by two deputy sheriffs for alleged assault. While he is being beaten on his way to jail, Esperanza's labor pains begin and she is delivered of a baby boy in the picket-line-coffee-shack.

A double celebration takes place on the day Ramon is released from prison and the baby is baptized. For the first time, the women join their husbands' serious discussion and break up the all-male card game for general dancing and song.

Despite increasing hardship to the strikers' families, the picket line continues unbroken. After a time, the company gets a court order restraining the miners from picketing. For the moment, it looks as though the strike is lost. Then - the wives of the miners propose that they take over the picket line, since the legal restrictions are directed only against "striking miners." Although many of the miners oppose the idea, the motion is carried by the unanimous vote of the women, plus some of their husbands.

Hundreds of women pour out of their homes to join the picket line. Unable to enforce the court order, the sheriff and his deputies resort to verbal insults and tear gas in their efforts to disrupt the women's picketing.

Esperanza, one of the last women to join the picketing, walks with her infant in her arms.

Finally, the sheriff, aided by an informer, begins to arrest the key women, among them Esperanza's infant and her four-year-old daughter, are taken to the small, ill-equipped lock-up with their mothers. Once behind bars, the women set up an unceasing clamor for milk for Esperanza's baby, food and baths for themselves.

When Ramon comes to the jail to get his children, the sheriff is only too happy to hand them over.

Now it is Ramon who must stay at home to take care of the children and perform the endless chores of a housewife.

In the jail, the women maintain their ceaseless clamor for food and baths and, after a few days, the sheriff decides to release them. Immediately, the women return to the picket line and resume their march.

Ramon, who resents the secondary role he is obliged to play in relation to his wife and the strike, disapproves of Esperanza's new self-assertion. Thus, when he is asked by some of the men to join a hunting expedition for food, he decides to go.

While Ramon and his companions are absent, the sheriff and his deputies go to the company-owned Quintero home with an eviction order. The Quinteros are to serve as the "terrible example" which is calculated to break the spirit of the strikers. As the law enforcement officers begin carrying the pitiable furnishings out of the house, a silent and bitter crowd begins to gather. At this moment, Ramon returns. By now even the "Anglo" miners from across the tracks have joined the large crowd watching the eviction. At long last recognizing Esperanza's indomitable leadership, Ramon suggests to her that the women and children begin to carry their furnishings back into the house - as quickly as the sheriff's men bring them out. This last attempt to break the strike is defeated, as have been all the others, by the courage and determination of the women and their husbands.

Equal partners, Ramon and Esperanza now share the sweetness of the victory as they had shared the bitterness of the struggle.

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MICHAEL WILSON, author of the script, won an Academy Award for the screenplay for "Place in the Sun" (Paramount) based on Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy." He was nominated for a second Award for his script for the film "Five Fingers" (20th Century-Fox)...

HERBERT J. BIBERMAN, director, prior to going to Hollywood, was an active director for the Theater Guild, for whom he staged: "Miracle at Verdun"; "The Man Who Reclaimed His Head"; "Green Grow the Lilacs"; "Valley Forge"; "Red Rust"; "Roar China"... His motion picture credits include: Writer-Director, "The Master Race" (RKO); Associate Producer, "Abilene Town" (UA); "New Orleans" (UA).

PAUL JARRICO, producer, is the author, or co-author, of thirteen screenplays including: "Tom, Dick and Harry" (RKO); "The White Tower" (RKO); "The Search" (MGM-release); "Song of Russia" (MGM); "The Little Giant" (Universal). He makes his debut as a producer of "Salt of the Earth"...

ROSAURA REVUELTAS, twice-winner of the Mexican "Oscar," plays her first English-language role in "Salt of the Earth." Her previous starring roles were in "Islas Marias"; "Maiden in Uniform"; "One Day of Light"...

JUAN CHACON, President of Local 890, International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, Bayard, New Mexico, makes his first appearance as an actor in "Salt of the Earth"...

WILL GEER, veteran stage and screen actor, was seen recently in the Phoenix Theater (N.Y.) production, "Coriolanus." He was featured prominently on Broadway in "Tobacco Road"; "Of Mice and Men"; "Cradle Will Rock"; "Sing Out the News"... His film credits include: "Intruder in the Dust" (MGM); "Tall Target" (MGM); "Anna Lucasta" (Columbia); "Lust for Gold" (Columbia); "Comanche Territory" (Universal); "Billy the Kid" (Universal); "Broken Arrow" (20th Century-Fox)...

SOL KAPLAN, who composed and conducted the music for "Salt of the Earth," composed the musical scores for a number of Hollywood films including: "Tales of Manhattan"; "Titanic"; "Secrets of Convict Lake"; "I Can Get It For You Wholesale"; all 20th Century-Fox productions.