

For the Record, "La Mulata de Córdoba," 1948

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
MOTION PICTURE DIVISION
NEW YORK CITY

51550

FROM Ward C. Bowen TO
SUBJECT "LA MULATA DE CORDOBA" DATE May 14, 1948

For The Record

This picture was rejected by our Reviewers on October 9, 1946 (see folder 48973).

On April 21, 1948 Mr. Ehrenreich came to this office to request permission to re-submit this picture. In view of the circumstances involved, I agreed to accept the picture for rescreening without the previous filing of a formal application and fee. However, I informed Mr. Ehrenreich that if our decision was to license the picture it would then be necessary for him to submit an application and fee.

On May 6, 1948 the picture was reviewed by the full Board and the Acting Director. The Board unanimously voted its rejection on the ground that the theme of miscegenation made the picture a dangerous subject for presentation in New York City because of the racial tensions existing here.

On May 11 I discussed the problem with Dr. Brind, Counsel for the Board of Regents and the Education Department. Dr. Brind advised that we license the picture but only on condition that the distributor would agree to withdraw the picture from exhibition if protests or disorders resulted from its showing.

In view of Mr. Ehrenreich's agreement to this condition, expressed in telephone conversations and in his letter of May 13, the picture is now approved for license.

WCB/lp
ACTING DIRECTOR

Memo detailing the original application for license of the Mexican film "La Mulata de Córdoba" ("The Mulatto of Córdoba"), 1948. The film was originally denied a license because of fears that depictions of miscegenation (interracial marriage) would inflame racial tensions in New York City. However, the division was directed to provisionally license the film, and revoke the license if protests occurred.; "La Mulata de Córdoba," directed by Adolfo Fernández Bustamante, told a tense, violent story of race relations in Cuba. The original film was banned in New York by the Motion Picture Division. However, a later version was approved in 1948.

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Alternate Identifier

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Date

May 14 1948

Repository

New York State Archives

Source

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Special Project

Ventana al Pasado/Window on the Past

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Geographic Locations

New York (is associated with)

Mexico (is associated with)