



THE IRON ORCHARD

A film by Ty Roberts



THE IRON ORCHARD

Set in the West Texas oil fields "The Iron Orchard" is a vibrant, brutal story of the men who labor, lust and gamble their money and their lives in search of a prize few are lucky enough to find. Jim McNeely is a high school dropout from the wrong side of the tracks who has the temerity to aspire to one of the hometown society darlings. The beloved Mazie refuses to follow Jim into a life of sublime poverty and so he takes to the oil fields to prove himself. Jim soon discovers that he has fallen into "the sinkhole of the universe" where "you make like an animal or you don't make it." Jim makes it with guts and brawn and departs years later a man with a carefully saved stake and the lovely wife of a local engineer. Lee, now Mrs. McNeely, is a real brick. Beautiful and smart she sticks with Jim through the uncertain years as they build up their own wildcat operation. Wheeling and dealing like a derrick, Jim can soon count himself among the Gods of industry until it is time for a triumphant return to the hometown that had rejected him. Jim does everything gaudy and big buying a baroque castle and hosting lavish parties as he crashes on to the social scene. Meanwhile, little Mazie has blossomed into "a big vulgar Venus" and Jim cannot resist as Lee arrives home one night just in time to literally pour cold water on the affair. Lee leaves and Mazie moves in as Jim slowly disintegrates and degenerates. On a path of self-destruction and despair, where one dry hole after another pushes him to the brink of financial ruin, Jim gambles it all for one last chance to win it all back and prove to the world that he is worth a damn.



THE IRON ORCHARD

Genre: Drama

Cast: Lane Garrison, Ali Cobrin, Austin Nichols, Lew Temple, Hassie Harrison, Rooster McConaughey, Temple Baker, Allen McLoed

Running Time: 111 minutes

Directed by Ty Roberts

Script by Gerry de Leon & Ty Roberts

Produced by Houston Hill, George Sledge, Camille Scioli Chambers & Ty Roberts

Contact: Ty Roberts | ty_roberts@mac.com | 512-799-9540

Houston Hill | houstonhill9@gmail.com | 512-699-3905

PRESS

Texas Monthly, "The Wildcatters", January 2018

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/iron-orchard/>

HISTORY OF THE NOVEL & FILM

Tom Pendleton's THE IRON ORCHARD shared the Texas Institute of Letters Jesse H. Jones Award for best fiction in 1966 with Larry McMurtry's legendary novel, THE LAST PICTURE SHOW. Soon thereafter, both books were slated for production but THE LAST PICTURE SHOW was the only one that made it to the big screen. Garnering the attention of director, Peter Bogdanovich, he directed the film and it was released to critical acclaim and nominated for ten Academy Awards. THE LAST PICTURE SHOW became one of the classic American films of all time. THE IRON ORCHARD did not make its mark on Hollywood at that time but was supposed to. In the early 1970's the project was in development with Paul Newman and Steve McQueen being considered for the lead roles but the film would ultimately never materialize until 2017.