

This film is about the American journey of 19th century Shakespearean actress Helena Modjeska. Born on October 12, 1840 in Kraków, Poland, Modjeska debuted in San Francisco on August 20, 1877 at the California Theater at 88 Bush Street. Based on Modjeska's letters, memoirs, biographies and interviews with scholars and descendents, this documentary tells the story of one woman's commitment -- to herself, to Shakespeare, to her family, to her "countries" and to humanity through her art. Modjeska was a muse for world-class artists, inspiring composer Ignacy Paderewski, American author Willa Cather, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Shakespearean actors Edwin Booth and Maurice Barrymore as well as Nobel Prize winning author Henryk Sienkiewicz.

**[www.modjeskawomantriumphantmovie.com](http://www.modjeskawomantriumphantmovie.com)**

An arts initiative to benefit the Polish Club  
undertaken by Poland in the Rockies participants,  
Maureen Mroczek Morris, Joasia Szupinska, and Basia Suroz.

A Special "Polish Movie Nite" **POLISH CLUB** Event

**[www.polishclubsf.org](http://www.polishclubsf.org)**

***EVENT SPONSORS:***

*Maureen Mroczek Morris*  
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*The Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in San Francisco, C. Kerosky*  
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*The Literary and Dramatic Circle at the Polish Club*  
*The Polish Society of California*  
*The Polish Arts and Culture Foundation*  
*Muth's Candy*



***MODJESKA –***  
***WOMAN TRIUMPHANT***  
**SAN FRANCISCO PREMIERE**

***MODJESKA-WOMAN TRIUMPHANT***

is the first feature-length documentary made about Helena Modrzejewska, one of the greatest nineteenth century legends in both Polish and American theatrical history.

Sunday, October 17, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.  
Delancey Street Screening Room  
600 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

Created by Filmmakers Basia and Leonard Myszynski  
Produced by OC INFLUENTIAL PRODUCTIONS, LLC  
in association with GetBizzy Entertainment, Inc.

Wine and Cheese Reception / Film Screening / Q&A  
**Celebrating the San Francisco – Kraków Sister Cities Partnership**

## Synopsis

The film takes an in-depth look at the life of the iconic Polish actress **Helena Modjeska** whose struggles to build a career as an independent female actor and businesswoman, amid confrontations and societal constrictions, becomes a thing of art. Beginning in her native Krakow in mid-nineteenth century, **debuting in San Francisco's California Theatre in 1877** and ending in Newport Beach, where she died in 1909, Helena's successful 30-year American career as a stage actress crossed cultures, classes and status. She performed in mining towns, Victorian opera houses and theatres across America. As a bi-national star, Modjeska discovered her own natural acting style, refining theatre and redefining culture in America. Continually haunted after visits to her beloved Poland, she transformed herself into the voice of Poland and the voice of women--the dignified, the fallen, and the conflicted. Modjeska's extraordinary vision, creativity and drive became unstoppable.

This stylized film explores the role of the modern woman and the life of an artist missionary. It promotes cultural diversity, advances Polish-American relations and encourages a preservation of the environment and the arts. The film dovetails nicely with the newly created San Francisco—Krakow Sister Cities Partnership established by Honorary Consuls of the Republic of Poland, Tad Taube and Christopher Kerosky.

The voice of Modjeska is portrayed by **Danuta Stenka**, the contemporary "Queen of Polish Theatre". Her emotional voice reveals the inner worlds that haunted Modjeska.

The film is produced by filmmakers **Basia & Leonard Myszynski, OC Influential Productions, LLC**, both graduates of the prestigious Polish National Film Academy in Łódź, Poland. They live and work in Southern California, also managing sOlar eye communications in Costa Mesa. Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, a patron of the arts in Orange County, co-produced their documentary with Thaddeus Kryczko of GetBizzy Entertainment, Inc. (former Walt Disney Records executive and Grammy-award winning producer).

The film accompanied an exhibit honoring Modjeska on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death: "**For the Love of Art**" at both the History of Krakow Museum and at the Theatre Museum, Warsaw in 2009. Screened in Toronto, Chicago, Ann Arbor, Warsaw, Newport Beach and Los Angeles at international film festivals, it recently aired on a Los Angeles PBS television station and will be broadcast in Chicago for Polish Heritage month (Oct 2010).

To order DVDs, please visit the movie website:  
[www.modjeskawomantriumphantmovie.com](http://www.modjeskawomantriumphantmovie.com)  
Contact: Basia Myszynski at [ocinfluential@solareye.biz](mailto:ocinfluential@solareye.biz) or call 949.400.7193

## PROGRAM

**3:00pm RECEPTION**

*Display of Chef-Selected Domestic & Imported Cheeses*  
*Vermont Black Wax Cheddar*  
*Brie*  
*Smoked Gouda*

*Freshly-Baked Flat Breads & Crackers*

*Grapes, Sliced Melons, Strawberries*

*Salmon Creek Chardonnay*  
*Cabernet Sauvignon*  
*Pellegrino Sparkling Water*  
*Assorted Sodas & Flat Water*  
*Freshly Brewed Coffee & Assorted Teas*

**Muths Candies: MODJESKAS**

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## FILM SCREENING

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## Q&A

*Mistress of Ceremonies: Caria Tomczykowska*  
*President, The Polish Arts & Culture Foundation*

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**  
**Helena Modjeska's Family**  
**[Emily Silver & John Pattison]**  
**Filmmakers Basia and Leonard Myszynski**  
**Co-producer Ted Kryczko**  
**Sound Mixers E. Larry Oatfield & Ewa Sztompke**