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iconic imagery

New South Shore Arts photo exhibit
gets up close and personal with legends

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Marilyn Monroe, Hitch and James Dean are in the building.

Surprisingly, a new photo exhibit at South Shore Arts spotlights screen icons.

In between scenes for "The Misfits" (1961), Monroe risked her character's life in a photoshoot on location in the Nevada desert. She died of a barbiturate overdose in 1962. Her marriage to Arthur Miller, groundbreaking at the time, ended in divorce. She shot herself on April 5, 1962.

Hitchcock is尤为 known for his film "Psycho" (1960). The famed director is seen putting a cigarette in his mouth in a publicity still for "The Birds" (1963). The partly director is shown puffing a cigarette.

The photo's wires - visible in the final version - were airbrushed from the original.

Ultimate rebel Dean exudes lonliness. - Arts
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Bowin Thursday,

"Celebrity Revealed: Rare and Unpublished Images of Film Legends," organized by Magnum Photos

Where: Thursday through Feb 1, 2009

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays

Where: South Shore Arts at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Muskens

Cost: $40 (35 members), (213) 636-1839; etn. 100.

Four war correspondents founded Magnum in 1947. Charter members Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger and David Seymour chose to chronicle stars, civilians and soldiers with the same respect. Their reputations flourished, and their work graced magazines like Life and Look. The co-op enjoyed exclusive access to the "Misfits" set, a historic coup when the film was the last completed by Monroe and Clark Gable.

All the Magnum founders are represented as are notables such as Philippe Halsman, known for his playful 1950s series of "jump" photos depicting celebrities in mid-air leaps. "When you ask a person to jump, his attention is mostly directed toward the act of jumping and the mask falls so that the real person appears," he once said.

VIP jumpers featured include a latching Brigitte Bardot in a fetching white swimsuit (1955) and comic duo Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis in a slapstick-y double leap (1955). The funnymen yanked it up for the shoot, but their relationship was strained in real life. The act broke up a year later. Such shots are intriguing to contemplate in hindsight. South Shore Marketing Director Tricia Hernandez said.

"We know a lot more about the celebrities now. It makes (the dynamics) that much more interesting," she said.

Equally fascinating are the long-term aftermaths. Some photos raise questions that linger to this day. For example, Austrian-born photographer Inge Morath, one of nine Magnum stalwarts to document the troubled "Misfits" shoot, often trained her lens on Monroe during the assignment.

Thirteen months after Miller and Monroe obtained a Mexican divorce, Morath and Miller tied the knot. The couple were married 40 years until her death in 2002.

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