



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lobero Theatre Box Office | 805.963.0761 | boxoffice@lobero.org

Director of Marketing & Communications: Cecilia Martini-Muth | 805.679.6002 | cmartini@lobero.org

Marketing & Communications Associate: Anne Wilde | 805.679.6010 | awilde@lobero.org

The Lobero Theatre Associates present

HATS OFF, BOOTS ON
Country Couture Benefit Luncheon, with Guest Speaker Neal Graffy

Benefiting The Lobero Theatre's Youth and Community Outreach Programs

Friday, April 17, 2026 from 11 AM – 2 PM

at the Carriage and Western Art Museum

Santa Barbara, March 9, 2026 – The Lobero Theatre Associates invite you to **HATS OFF, BOOTS ON – Country Couture Benefit Luncheon, with Guest Speaker Neal Graffy – in support of the Lobero's local Youth and Community Outreach Programs on Friday, April 17, 2026 from 11 AM – 2 PM at the Carriage and Western Art Museum.** The youth programs are an integral part of the Lobero's mission to operate and maintain the historic venue as a performing arts center and cultural asset to the community, and to present the highest quality productions in music, dance, and theater. The fundraising portion of the afternoon includes a silent auction and paddle raise.

The Lobero Theatre Associates is a dynamic women's auxiliary group who are passionate about the Lobero and view the historic theater as a community treasure. Their mission is to aid the Lobero financially in whatever way they can to help keep this architectural and cultural jewel vibrant for future generations. Established in 1972, The Associates have raised more than a million dollars for the Lobero over the last five decades. It's thanks to their stellar partnership that patrons can enjoy improvements to the Lobero's courtyard, a new ticketing system, the Steinway grand piano, an updated ladies' restroom, beautiful holiday décor on the esplanade, replacement of our historic theater's beloved curtain, youth outreach programs, and so much more.

Contributions will support a wide range of arts education and youth engagement initiatives at the Lobero. Funding will help cover the cost of three residency performances with the **Santa Barbara Vocal Jazz Foundation**, underwrite live performance field trips, and offset expenses for **Santa Barbara Youth Symphony** performances on the Lobero stage. Support will also bring the **Derek Douget Band** to local junior high and high school jazz programs for hands-on masterclasses, provide subsidies for youth organizations performing at the Lobero – including **AHA! Santa Barbara, State Street Ballet Academy, Momentum Dance**, and the **Spirit of Fiesta** auditions – and fund ticket scholarships for students to attend Lobero performances. These scholarships will allow music students to experience the Jazz at the Lobero series and provide children served by community partners such as the **Boys & Girls Club, Transition House**, and **CASA** the opportunity to attend family-friendly programming like *It's Magic!*

Historian **Neal Graffy's** passion for Santa Barbara history began at age 13 while working for Leontine Phelan, a descendant of the founder of the Santa Barbara Presidio. Since giving his first slide presentation in 1989, he has delivered more than 250 talks on local history and written for numerous publications and organizations, including

the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, *Santa Barbara Independent*, and the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. A frequent media contributor, Neal has appeared on radio, television, and in documentaries – including the Emmy Award-winning *Impressions in Time* – as well as programs such as *California's Gold* and *This Old House*. He has also served in leadership roles with several historical and civic organizations (such as the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, the Santa Barbara County Landmarks Commission, the Mission Canyon Association, and the Santa Barbara Corral of Westerner) and founded the Santa Barbara History Consortium to share local history through film, publications, and presentations.

The event will be held at the Carriage and Western Art Museum, 129 Castillo St. in Santa Barbara, 93101. Please RSVP by April 1, 2026. The cost is \$175 per person, which includes lunch, with Sponsorship opportunities available. Space is limited. For tickets to the event, visit <https://lobero-theatre-foundation.square.site/>. For questions or more information, please email info@lobero.org.

#

**Calendar Editors, please note:
Friday, April 17, 2026 from 11 AM – 2 PM**

The Lobero Theatre Associates present

**HATS OFF, BOOTS ON
Country Couture Benefit Luncheon, with Guest Speaker Neal Graffy**

Benefiting The Lobero Theatre's Youth and Community Outreach Programs

at the Carriage and Western Art Museum

The Lobero Theatre Associates invite you to HATS OFF, BOOTS ON – Country Couture Benefit Luncheon, with Guest Speaker Neal Graffy – in support of the Lobero's local Youth and Community Outreach Programs. The youth programs are an integral part of the Lobero's mission to operate and maintain the historic venue as a performing arts center and cultural asset to the community, and to present the highest quality productions in music, dance, and theater. The fundraising portion of the afternoon includes a silent auction and paddle raise.

Lobero Box Office: Lobero.org, 805.963.0761, 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101