



“Si Se Puede”

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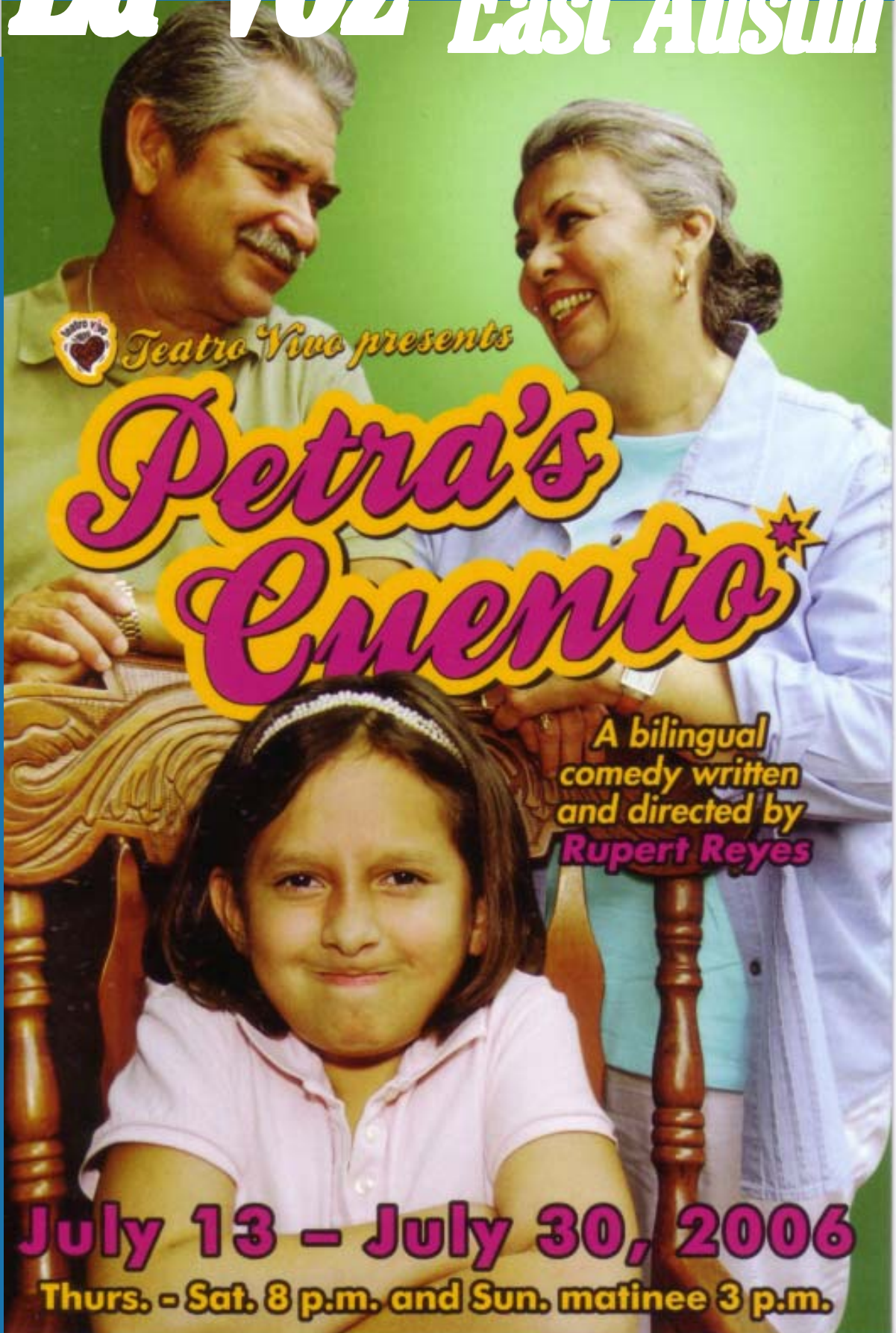
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La Voz de East Austin

June/July, 2006
Vol # 1 Num. 3 & 4



Teatro Vivo presents

Petra's Eumento

A bilingual comedy written and directed by **Rupert Reyes**

July 13 - July 30, 2006

Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. matinee 3 p.m.

People in the News



Community Elder raulsalinas is in Poor Health

In a recent email from friends of raulsalinas we have learned that he is in poor health. On a recent trip to **Houston**, he was rushed to the hospital with internal bleeding. After a short stay at **St. Luke's Hospital** in the Medical Center, he was released and is now back in **Austin** where he is resting. Friends and supporter are asked not send prayers and words of inspiration.

Salinas, who was born in **San Antonio, Texas** in 1934, spent 20 years in **Austin** before moving to **California** in the late 1950s. When he came to Texas he had fallen in love with poetry and writing. Now a published author he travels the country in support of social justice causes and human rights. Here in **Austin**, he runs **Resistencia Book Store** and **Red Salmon Press** with the help of a number of dedicated friends.



Mike Ramos Newest Addition to Los Lonely Boys

It's been a long road from **Angleton, Texas** to **Austin** and places beyond for **Michael Ramos**. **Ramos** came to **Austin** in the early 1980s to find his musical calling.

Over the years he has played with **John Mellencamp**, the **BoDeans** and **Paul Simon**. Today you will find him working the keyboards for **Los Lonely Boys**. With the band hitting the top of the charts and on tour all over the United States, **Ramos** is riding the wave.

But when he is in **Austin** at his Lake Travis home, he can be found hard at work on other music. On his own he has released a CD titled, *Loteria CD*, and the *Cumbia Lounge*. **Michael Ramos**, now in his 40s, has worked very hard to get where he is now, and he shows no signs of resting. ¡Avientate Michael!



Rick Calzadilla: The Worlds Greatest Painter

The world's greatest painter? That's what he says on his website. I met **Rick Calzadilla** recently while walking at **Auditorium Shores**. He was painting outside and had several paintings on display.

Just like his websites says, he likes to paint in bright and bold colors. I was observing four of his paintings and we just started to talk about art and the how friendly **Austin** is for artists.

Rick, who is from **El Paso**, says it is getting harder and harder to find a place to work or exhibit in **Austin** because of the rising rents. He commented that **San Antonio** seemed to be more inviting at times.

His paintings have been placed with clients in **New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, and The Netherlands**.



LULAC Elects New President: Rosa Rosales

Washington, DC – The **League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)** elected **Rosa Rosales** as its new president with over 70% of the vote by the delegates to the 2006 **LULAC** National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *"I am elated at being elected the new President of LULAC and I am ready to work with all groups to take LULAC to the next level of activism.* said **Rosa Rosales**.

Born April 7, 1944, in **San Antonio, Texas**, **Ms. Rosales** was among the first Mexican American women to become labor organizers in recent times. Active in **LULAC**, she was the first woman to hold the position of State Director of that organization. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from the **University of Michigan**. **Rosa** was recently on the National **LULAC** Board of Directors holding the position of National Vice President of the Southwest.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. **LULAC** advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 **LULAC** councils nationwide.

✓ Mar 7 ✓ Apr 11 ✓ Nov 7 DEMOCRAT

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ALVARADO

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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**Publisher's
Statement**

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Welcome to the June/July, 2006 issue of **La Voz de East Austin**. It has been a very busy month with lots of breaking stories. But allow me to start this editorial by sharing with you some of the internal reorganizational efforts that are taking place.

We started publishing **La Voz de East Austin - 78702** in April of 2006. And as with all new publications we have learned many things along the way. One thing we learned, is that summer time in **Austin, Texas** is like summer time in the other cities where we have newspapers. People go on vacation, people go back to **Mexico** for a cultural recharge, and things tend to slow down.

This is not shocking news for us since we have been in the newspaper business for 17 years, but we do recognize there is a change in the tempo of the community in summer.

So as you might have noticed from our cover, we have decided to run a combined June/July issue. We have also made the decision to take **La Voz** into an electronic format until September. In September, once school is back in session and things have settled down, we will return to our hard copy edition.

Having said this, we now wish to call to your attention some of the articles in this double issue of **La Voz**. On page # 2, People in the News, we join with many others in praying for the speedy recovery of **raulsalinas**. He is back in **Austin** resting but his health has become delicate.

Also on page # 2, we are going to recognize more local individuals who are hard at work in their respective fields. As you will note, **Michael Ramos** and **Rick Calzadilla** are two people who deserve the spotlight for their work in music and art. **Rosa Rosales**, while not from **Austin**, deserves the spotlight for her years of involvement in **LULAC** that have now resulted in her election as president of this 77 year old organization.

On page # 5 is a plug for **Petra's Cuento**. This bilingual play is running until July 30th and also deserves a look. **Rupert Reyes, Laura Grayson** and the whole cast do a great job of telling a story of someone many of us know.

On page # 6 is a story titled: "There is nothing illegal about wanting to feed your family." This story comes to us from **Watsonville, California** and was written by **Mr. Elias Alonzo**.

Editorial

Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher

On page # 8 there is an update story on the **Social Justice Summer School** that was sponsored by **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** along with several other community based organizations. This school ended on July 13th and was indeed a great success. Following this story in a Fact Sheet on **Austin Voices for Education and Youth**.

On pages 10 and 11, is a photo spread on the **National Association of Latino Producers (NALIP) 48 Hour Film Competition** that was held last month. The 20 plus members of the **Austin Chapter** won two awards for their work in this competition. Check out their website for further information and meeting times.

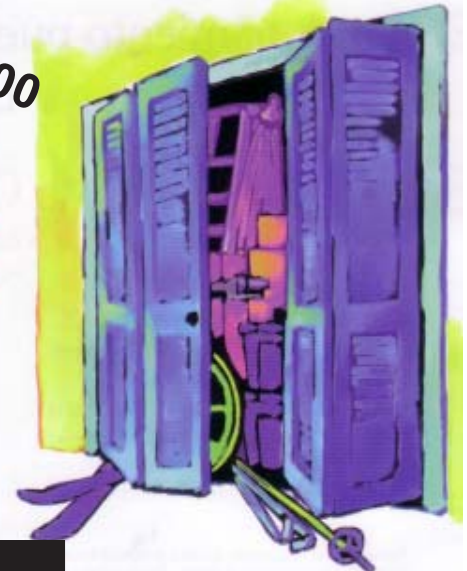
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By the Numbers

- 1** Number of Latinos serving as elected officials in Alaska, Kentucky, North Dakota, Missouri, Virginia, South Carolina and Oklahoma
- 3** Number of Latinos serving as United States Senators
- 7** Number of Latinos serving as elected officials in Georgia
- 25** Percentage of Latinos who turned out to vote in 2005 when Antonio Villaraigosa was elected Mayor of Los Angeles
- 43** Number of States in which Latinos hold elective office
- 3,743**
Number of Latinos serving in elected position in all of Texas in 1996
- 5,132**
Number of Latinos serving in elected positions in all of Texas in 2005
- 26,618**
Number of Latinos who applied to college in Texas in the Fall of 2005
- 45,060**
Number of Latinos in Texas prisons, state jails or substance abuse facilities
- 134,293**
Number of people locked up in the State of Texas

Sources: National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas Commission on Youth

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Teatro Vivo presents

Petra's Cuento

a hilarious bilingual comedy
written and directed by **Rupert Reyes**

July 13 – July 30, 2006

Thurs. - Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. Matinee 3 p.m.

Dougherty Arts Center Theater 1110 Barton Springs Rd.

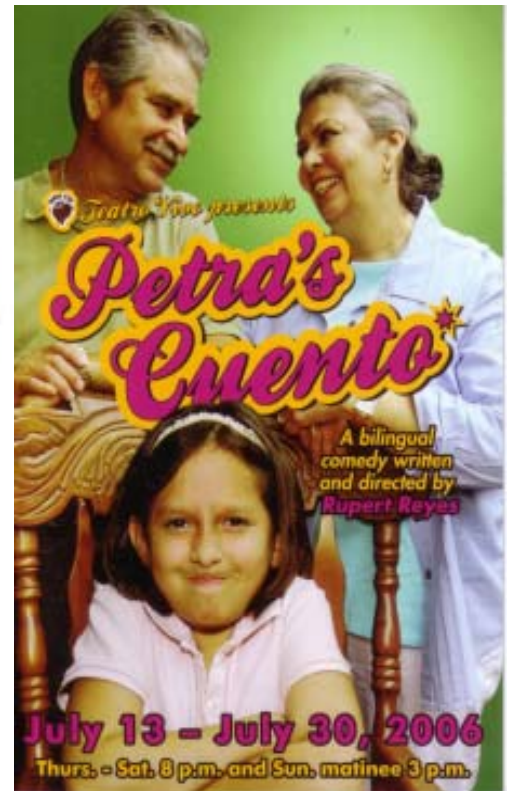
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TEATRO VIVO'S production of *Petra's Cuento* (Petra's Story) marks the return of this hilarious and heart-warming bilingual play written and directed by local Austin playwright Rupert Reyes. This bilingual comedy serves up the wonderfully warm and loving characters we met in *Petra's Pecado* and introduces us to more of Petra's extended *familia*.

Doesn't Petra ever have a plan she can do by herself? Thankfully, no. For if she did we might not have another warm and funny bilingual comedy in the style that Teatro Vivo does so well.

Petra, the loving, well-meaning, superstitious and more than slightly meddling grandmother, is back in this hilarious sequel to Teatro Vivo's

signature hit, *Petra's Pecado*. This episode finds Petra facing two significant life challenges. She has just returned from her annual exam with news of a troublesome spot on her X ray.

Thinking the worst, Petra feels her days on Earth are numbered. She is also trying to reconnect with her somewhat distant daughter, Carmen and Carmen's family, who live in far away Austin. But the young family is under a bit of a strain, Carmen's ambitious husband, Michael, is a promising attorney whose busy career is starting to affect his home life, especially the time spent with his two daughters, Carrie and Julie.

Seizing the opportunity to fix it all in the time she has left, Petra volunteers

to baby-sit her granddaughters for the weekend. In her imitable way, she hatches a plan that quickly becomes disastrously funny.

One reviewer characterized a past production of *Petra's Cuento* as a, *A sharp portrait of contemporary Latino life told with a good wallop of humor and plenty of humanity*. Don't miss this great bilingual comedy brought to you by Teatro Vivo.

Otro Review: You fui la semana pasada y la obra esta bien hecha. El papel de Petra y Rafael, los protagonistas "del cuento" y todo los demas actores capturo la atención de todos presente. Los chistes, junto con la actuación de las muchachas Valenzuela/Zamora enseña que el teatro en Austin, Texas deveras esta vivo!

New **BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Directory of 100 A Guide to Community Based Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas 2006

Mexican American Center
for Community & Economic Development

The Mexican American Center for Community & Economic Development is pleased to announce the release of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Community Based Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory represents an update of the last one produced in 1980 by Austin community activist Martha Cotera.

Included in this directory are more than 100 community based organizations in the following categories:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arts | 9. Music |
| 2. Business | 10. Political |
| 3. Civic | 11. Professional |
| 4. Cultural | 12. Religious |
| 5. Dance | 13. Social Services |
| 6. Educational | 14. Student |
| 7. Immigrant | 15. Theater |
| 8. Media | 16. Otras |

Each organization has been contacted personally within the last two months to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory will be updated three (3) times a year and with your order you can subscribe at no extra cost to a monthly newsletter which will contain news items and events on the 100 plus organizations in the directory.

Order Form

Please send ___ copy of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Community Based Organizations in Austin, Texas at \$24.95 per copy. Texas residents please add sales tax: 8.25% (\$2.05 per book) Shipping is \$1.25 per book. Bulk orders will be personally delivered at no cost.

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There's nothing illegal about wanting to feed your family

BY ELIAS ALONZO

He's about 5-feet tall, dark-skinned, with jet black hair. His barrel chest is ideal for the thin air in the high altitude of Oaxaca Mexico and his shoulders and strong arms make him fit for hard labor.

Maybe you've seen him at our Watsonville Plaza following the Sunday Mass at Saint Patrick's Church lying on the grass dreaming - for what else are thoughts if not day dreams - of Esmeralda his wife and their five children in Totontepec.

Octavio arrived in Watsonville in April and, because of the rain and the late strawberry harvest, was immediately out of work. He checked weekly with the ranch foreman, waiting for the earth to dry and yield its fruit.

"This year God sent us water for Easter," he said. *"It's difficult to be without work, I'm in agreement with God's gift of water."*

Octavio makes his way to the strawberry fields of Watsonville every year. In this sixth year, he crossed the border with a group of 20 men, women and children - a two-day desert hike.

On one trip he and fellow sojourners were caught by the U.S. Border Patrol "la migra" they were treated well, given

water, asked to identify the coyote in charge - a question they anticipated and sacrificed, by agreement, a volunteer who gladly spun a ridiculous story. Later a van, drove them to the Otay Mesa border where the migra smiled, wishing them better luck for tomorrow.



Some of the stories are harrowing. Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file, helping one another to march in rhythm and stay together. They leave their homeland, their family, their culture and religion at great peril, transported by a chain of coyotes that begins in the pueblos of Oaxaca.

They descend 10,000 feet, cross three cultures and a national border; in all, a 2,000-mile trek. They cross the border on foot through jagged canyons and barren deserts, enduring the heat of day and cold of night.

They run a gauntlet, taking World War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights,

They run a gauntlet, taking World War One-like trenches and corridors, caring to avoid ground sensors, Klieg lights, helicopter surveillance, four-wheel drive vehicles and armed border patrols equipped with night vision goggles.

But the border patrol treats them kindly in contrast to a band of armed Cholo bandits on horses who announce themselves as "welcoming ambassadors," robbing, raping and maiming.

Imagine 20 men, women and children walking across the desert like quail in single file,

Once across America's southern Maginot line, they maneuver around checkpoints and continue north, staying in a series of safe houses. Finally, the comparatively easy last leg of the trip north, locked in a van for 10 hours with 12 others.

Once here, they work at menial, low-pay, hard-labor jobs, often cheated by the employer.

Once here, they work at menial, low-pay, hard-labor jobs, often cheated by the employer. Why do they risk and endure so much? This is a complex human tragedy with national and international implications. The undocumented Mexican population is not here to terrorize, plunder and steal, nor do they seek citizenship.

They are victims of a corrupt government that takes advantage of its people instead of working improve conditions for all. Octavio, as many from Mexico, neither reads or writes. He has no ability or desire for American citizenry.

They are here to work, to earn dollars.

At worst, these folks are sojourners - visitors with a country of their own, which they love, flag, poverty and all. A family waits for their return. They are here to work, to earn dollars. They send half their earnings home just so mom and the kids will not starve to death. The more fortunate help harvest our crops in the Pajaro Valley, earning a bonanza of cash compared to wages of maybe \$10 a day in Mexico.

Unable to read and here for only seven months, Octavio is oblivious to the anti-immigration turmoil. Liberal Americans with a social justice frame of mind marched with millions of Mexican-Americans who fear the dreadful "migra" knock at the door, arresting and loading their not-legal parents onto a van bound for the border.

This new generation of Latinos marched in support of President Bush, Republicans and Democrats, men and women who were against what appeared to be racially-motivated legislation with the mindset "build a wall, jail them, deport them, fine and jail those who hire them as well."

America has changed and the flow of undocumented workers will continue, along with our need to keep America's economy moving.

America has changed and the flow of undocumented workers will continue, along with our need to keep America's economy moving. Illegal immigrants will stop filling low-tech, hard-labor jobs only when Mexico, a sovereign nation, cleans up its act, cooperates with our government and we, as a compassionate, understanding neighbor, give a helping hand as part of the solution.

Elias Alonzo is a Watsonville, California resident and community activist. This story was printed with his permission. It first appeared in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian.

La Voz Newspapers
www.lavoznewspapers.com

Social Justice Summer School in Austin, Texas

Dr. Federico Subervi Speaks to Students at Social Justice School

The **Social Justice Summer School** sponsored by **Austin Voices** and a number of community based organizations completed its sixth week of operation on July 13th.

Students participating in the summer school have had the opportunity to see and hear a number of guest speakers including **Dr. Federico Subervi** who came in and did a presentation on the media and imagery. The students were quite surprised to learn how the media works to construct the images we see on television.

Other visitors to the **Social Justice Summer School** have included a number of reporters from both radio and newsprint who have interviewed the students about their activism and what they are learning this summer.

On July 6th, the students were treated to a theatrical presentation by the **Youth Action Network**. The group of approximately 17 students came in did a series of mini skits on dating violence, stereotypes and peer pressure.

The final week of the **Social Justice Summer School** will include a visit to the **University of Texas School of Social of Social Work, the UT Law**



School and the Center for Mexican American Studies.

In the fall when the students return to their respective campuses, they will continue to participate with **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** in organizing a rally around the issue of High School Redesign. This rally is set for September 9th, 2006 at Saltillo Plaza in East Austin.

Students from the **Social Justice Summer School** and others who are being recruited will also have the opportunity to work a number of action research projects. One in research particular that should prove very interesting is the identification and whereabouts of those students who have dropout of high school in the last four years and the whereabouts

of those who did graduate, but did not continue on to college. Through the use of yearbooks, leads and referrals from friends and family, this project will add a very unique voice to the high school redesign discussions currently taking place in the **Austin Independent School District**.

Among the sponsors that have stepped forward to help with this project are:

American Civil Liberties Union	Taco Cabana
Southwest Key Program, Inc.	Dr. Emilio Zamora
Texas Coalition Advocating Juvenile Justice	
Office of the Police Monitor	
City of Austin	Dr. Angela Valenzuela
<i>Unidos de Austin</i>	<i>La Voz Newspapers</i>

Austin Voices for Education and Youth

Mejorando la educación... Incrementando las oportunidades

About Us

Our Mission

Austin Voices for Education and Youth mobilizes the community to strengthen schools and expand opportunities for Austin's youth. We work alongside community members, young people, parents, and educators to improve our schools and neighborhoods.

Our Vision

One day all schools and neighborhoods in Austin will be great places for young people to learn, lead, connect, work, and thrive.



ABOVE: Some of the students who are participating in the Social Justice Summer School at Lanier High School.

Sobre Nosotros

Nuestra misión

La organización Austin Voices for Education and Youth (Voces para la Educación y Jóvenes de Austin) busca comprometer a la comunidad para mejorar la educación pública y ampliar las oportunidades para todos los niños y jóvenes de Austin.

Nuestra visión

Un día... toda la comunidad de Austin estará totalmente dedicada a apoyar y exigir escuelas públicas de alta calidad y oportunidades educativas para todos los niños y jóvenes.

Action Projects

Community Conversations About Education are a series of small-group discussions that explore education issues across the Austin community.

Youth Action for Educational Change mobilizes high school students to research issues and make recommendations from a youth perspective.

To Contact Us

For more information about Austin Voices for Education and Youth or to participate in our efforts, please contact:

Amy Averett, Executive Director
Austin Voices for Education and Youth
3710 Cedar Street, Suite 229, Box 21
Austin, TX 78705
512-450-1880
AAverett@austinvoices.org

Proyectos de Acción

Conversaciones Comunitarias sobre la Educación son una serie de discusiones en grupos pequeños, para explorar asuntos educativos en Austin.

Acción Juvenil para el Cambio Educativo moviliza a los jóvenes de la escuelas para Identificar asuntos educativos que les conciernen, recopilar y analizar información, hacer recomendaciones a los que toman decisiones, desde una perspectiva juvenil.

Comuníquese con Nosotros

Para más información acerca de Austin Voices for Education and Youth, o para participar en nuestra obra, comuníquese con:

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3710 Cedar Street, Suite 229, Box 21
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NALIP

Nationa Association of Latino Independent Producers

48 Hour Film Project

AUSTIN CHAPTER WINS 2 AWARDS

The Austin Chapter of the **National Association of Latino Independent Film Producers** won 2 awards in the **2006 48 Hour Film Project Competition**. The judging took place in front of a packed Alamo Draft House in downtown Austin on July 15, 2006. **Lupe Valdez** won best director and the film won best graphics.

As in years past the 48 Hour Film Competition involves making a short 4 to 8 minute movie in two days without knowing in advance in of the specifics of the film to be produced. This year's event started on Friday evening, June 23, 2006 at 7:00PM when the NALIP chapter drew from a hat the theme "Road Show"

While one might have expected a film involving vehicles and motion, **Manuel Garcia**, president of the local NALIP chapter and **Rupert Reyes**, **Chris Eska**, who signed on as one of writers, decided to do a spin on the "Antique Road Show" which is seen on television.

Out of 24 total entries, 19 made the deadline of Sunday evening. Over 20 people participated in the production which was shot a home in the Hyde Park area and at a local flea market on Lamar Blvd. On this and the following page are some of the behind the scene photos from the filming. To find out more about NALIP visit the website: www.nalip-austin.org.



ABOVE: Left to right, Director **Lupe Valdez** discusses a scene with Co-Producer and Assistant Director **Christian Cisneros**.



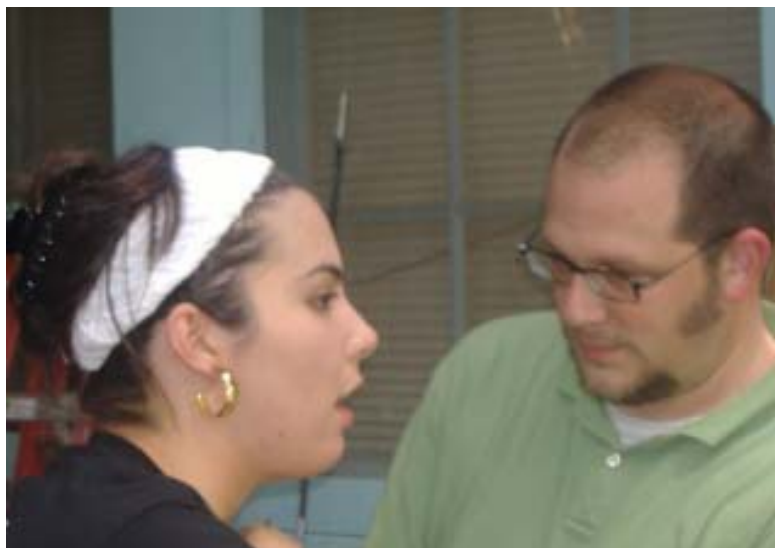
LEFT: **Melisa Diaz** worked on the set design and was an audio technician for the 48 Hour Film Competition.

National Association of Latino Independent Producers 48 Hour Film Project

Behind the Scene Shots



ABOVE: J.T. Campos and Frank Barajas rehearsing their scene



ABOVE: Yesenia Garcia is getting microphone adjusted.



ABOVE: J.T. Campos, Annie, and Christian pose for this camera shot between scenes.

EYES OF TEXAS

Prevent Blindness Texas is celebrating 50 years of providing Vision Services to Texans. Several people from the community have teamed up and are organizing this 50 Year Celebration Event to be held at the Rosewood-Zaragoza Neighborhood Center at 2800 Webberville Road (at Pleasant Valley Rd) in East Austin on Saturday, August 26, 2006. The Event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will wrap up at 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the FREE activities for the children, door prizes, food and drink. There will also be face painting and other fun activities for the kiddos. For more information please contact:

Vicki Weston
Program Director, Austin Branch
Prevent Blindness Texas
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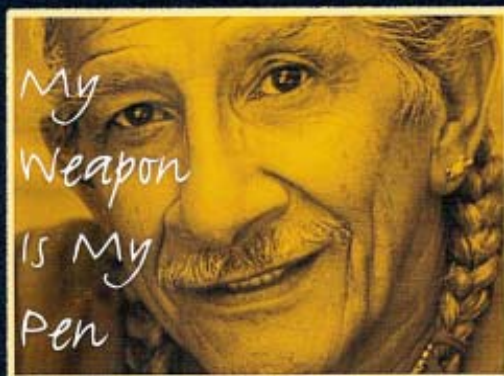
Produced by Hector Gálvez and Luis G. Mendoza
Directed by Hector Gálvez

Screenplay by Hector Gálvez and Luis G. Mendoza
Casting by Hector Gálvez

Edited by Luis G. Mendoza
Music by Los Lonely Boys
Distributed by...

raúl salinas and the Jail Machine

selected writings
by Raúl Salinas



EDITED BY LOUIS G. MENDOZA