A TRIBUTE TO CESAR CHAVEZ: MEXICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Each March the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center celebrates the legacy of Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) by screening films that reflect the struggle of those that fought for the same civil rights, and equality that Cesar Chavez was so passionate about.

A Class Apart

March 8, 7:00 p.m. & March 9, 8:30

Directed by Carlos Sandoval & Peter Miller • Black Box Theater

In the small town of Edna, Texas, in 1951, a field hand named Pete Hernández killed a tenant farmer after exchanging words in a gritty cantina. From this seemingly unremarkable murder emerged a landmark civil rights case that would forever change the lives and legal standing of tens of millions of Americans. This American Experience film tells the little-known story of an underdog band of Mexican American lawyers who took their case, Hernandez v. Texas, all the way to the Supreme Court, where they challenged Jim Crow-style discrimination against Mexican Americans.

The Fight in the Fields (Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle)

March 8 & 9, 6:00 p.m.

A Film by Ray Telles & Rick Tejada-Flores •Auditorium

This historical documentary tells the story of Cesar Chavez, the charismatic founder of the United Farm-workers Union, and the movement that he inspired-one that touched the hearts of millions of Americans with the grape and lettuce boycotts, a nonviolent movement that confronted conservative politicians like Ronald Reagan and the powerful Teamsters Union. This chapter of American history recounts an inspiring story of hope and courage against over-whelming odds, ad story of poor people taking control of their lives.

Chicano Rock!

March 8, 8:30 p.m. & March 9, 7 pm

Directed by Jon Wilkman • Black Box Theater

Chicano Rock! The Sounds of East Los Angeles is a lively 60 minute PBS television special. It tells the story of generations of young Mexican-Americans who proudly expressed their identity through music. Narrated by Edward James Olmos, Chicano Rock! is filled with intimate first person story-telling, rare film and photos, and ever-changing and exhuberant music from artists such as Lalo Guerrero, the Father of Chicano Music, the legendary Ritchie Valens, Cannibal and the Headhunters, Los Lobos, etc… This television special tells the story of a proud and innovative Mexican-American community.