

The
SERNA CENTER
at Sacramento State

Presents

RUBEN SALAZAR: MAN IN THE MIDDLE

PBS Documentary Screening & Panel

Phillip Rodriguez, Director & Producer, *Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle*

Dr. Lorena Marquez, Lecturer, UC Davis Department of Chicana/o Studies

Marcos Breton, Journalist, Sacramento Bee

William J. Drummond, Professor, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, LA Times Reporter 1967-79

Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle, a PBS documentary, examines the life and mysterious death of pioneering journalist Ruben Salazar. Born in Mexico and raised in El Paso, Salazar got his break with the Los Angeles Times in 1959, at a time when the staff was nearly 100 percent white and male. After serving as a foreign correspondent in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam, he took the post of bureau chief in Mexico City. He was also brought back to Los Angeles to cover the growing Chicano power movement.

At the heart of the story is Salazar's transformation from a mainstream, establishment reporter to primary chronicler and supporter of the radical Chicano Movement of the late 1960s. Killed under mysterious circumstances by a law enforcement officer in 1970, Salazar became an instant martyr to Latinos—many of whom had criticized his reporting during his lifetime. Adding to the Salazar mystique is that the details of how he was killed have been obscured in the ensuing four decades since his death.

Featuring material from recently released files obtained by the filmmaker, *Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle* removes Salazar from the glare of myth and martyrdom and offers a clear-eyed look at the man and his times. The film, produced and directed by Phillip Rodriguez, includes interviews with Salazar's friends, colleagues and family members, and Salazar's own words culled from personal writings. "The Salazar story had long been considered to be an ethnic story, a regional story," says filmmaker Rodriguez. "But it is much bigger than that. This is a story about a regular guy who, motivated by principle, challenges an abusive authority at great risk to himself—it's a classic American story."



Monday, November 10, 2014 • Redwood Room, University Union • 6:00 – 8:50 pm

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