**RUBEN SALAZAR: MAN IN THE MIDDLE**

Screening and Discussion with Director Phillip Rodriguez

Monday, August 31, 2020
7:00 p.m. PT
Live Webcast

**ABOUT THE FILM**

*Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle* is an hour-long investigative look at the life and mysterious death of pioneering Mexican American journalist Ruben Salazar. At the heart of the story is Salazar’s transformation from a mainstream, establishment reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* to a primary chronicler and supporter of the radical Chicano movement of the late 1960s. Killed under mysterious circumstances by a law enforcement officer while covering the National Chicano Moratorium on August 29, 1970, Salazar became an instant martyr to Latinos—many of whom had criticized his reporting during his lifetime.

Director/Producer Phillip Rodriguez used archival materials held by the USC Libraries to make a film that removes Salazar from the shroud of myth and martyrdom. The result is a clear and honest look at the man and his times. The film includes interviews with Salazar’s friends, colleagues and family members, and Salazar’s own words culled from personal writings.

**PHILLIP RODRIGUEZ**

Phillip Rodriguez is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. In 2002, he founded City Projects, a production company dedicated to challenging ideas about race and diversity in America. Rodriguez’s documentary films bring to light the complexities of Latino culture, history, and identity at a time when our nation’s demographics reflect unprecedented growth in the Latino community and the concomitant demand for relevant storytelling.

In 2014, the *Los Angeles Times* profiled Rodriguez and his work to bring the Salazar film to fruition.

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION**

- Would you agree or disagree that Ruben Salazar’s story is both a West Coast story about ethnic and regional issues, and an important part of the greater American narrative?
- After viewing the film *Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle*, what were the major issues in 1970s Los Angeles facing Mexican Americans that Salazar wrote about in the *Times*, and who was his audience? Do any of these issues still exist today for Latinos, or are there other major concerns?
Salazar reported in the *Times* on activities of Mexican American youth in the growing Chicano Movement and Chicano anti-Vietnam war marches. Identify another recent movement since the 1970s and describe the differences and similarities.

**DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES**

**BARBARA ROBINSON** of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about the evening’s event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items available in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g., e-books, journals, and databases) are electronic resources, which you can access through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu.

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

  
  DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: F787 S18 1995
  
  Also available online.

**RECOMMENDED DATABASES**

- Chicano Database: designed for research and instruction for Chicano and ethnic studies programs, offering materials that explore issues within the greater US Latinx community, in particular the Mexican-American experience, from the late 20th century to the present.
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers: find Ruben Salazar’s columns he wrote while employed by the *Los Angeles Times* from 1959–1970, and articles about him after his death.

**ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS**

- Ruben Salazar (1928–1970) Papers
- Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Records on the Investigation of the Homicide of Ruben Salazar