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12-17-75

SABBATICAL REPORT  
FOR  
SPRING SEMESTER  
1975

by  
Frank Acuña

November 14, 1975  
Mount San Antonio Community College

#### PART ONE: THE TOURING COMPANY AND TEATRO POLL

The first section of this sabbatical report consists in presenting what the "touring company" of the Mount San Antonio Community College Chicano Theater Workshop ("El Teatro Quinto Sol") accomplished under my supervision as part of my sabbatical project. My sabbatical took on as part of the work to be done the development of such a touring company and the visiting of local highschools and junior colleges. The company consisted of ten students, nine of which were actors and one of which was a musician. Under my guidance, we developed three plays or "actos" for the company. The first entitled "Porfi y el Jues" (Porfi and the Judge) was written by me and is based on an actual court incident. Brief, biting and humorous, the acto states the case for changes needed in both the legal and police professions concerning discriminatory attitudes and actions toward Chicanos by police, lawyers and judges.

The second acto entitled "Los Vendidos" (The Sellouts) satirizes Anglo stereotypes of "Mexican-Americans". Written by Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino, this play is probably the most popular and best known work of that particular group. The third acto was written by a student member of the company, Roberto Vasquez. It is an improvisational piece entitled "Chato y Chuy" (Chato and Chuy); it is a showpiece that involves an incident in the lives of two "vatos" (men) and the "jura" (police). The company went into rehearsal and production prior to the beginning of Spring semester.

Only twice did we deviate from this program; our presentation at the Pomona Public Library on Tuesday May fifth, consisted in the performance of the long acto which I specifically wrote, produced and staged for the company for "Cinco de Mayo" week: "La Cancion De La Raza" (The Song of the People); also, when we visited Imperial Valley College, "La Cancion De La Raza" was our only production.

Our first performance on the three actos, for Spring, took place on April 10, at Rio Hondo College where we performed for the College MECHA organization and for visiting students from three grammar schools. Prior to this, the company had performed the three actos at Nogales High School on January 10. On April 30, the company visited Chaffey College in order to witness the performance of "El Fin Del Mundo" (The End of the World) by El Teatro Campesino. This performance bolstered the desire and performance of our touring company because students were able to see the "grand daddy" of all Chicano Teatros in actual performance.

From May 2, to May 10, the company was on a hectic schedule. May 2,

we toured Baldwin Park High School; May third, we were performing in the streets of the Pomona "barrio": Cherrieville Park. This performance was extremely rewarding because we performed for the "people of the community" and not for a school group; also, we participated with the Teatro group from Cal Poly University of Pomona. On May 5, we performed twice. In the morning, we toured Frank C. Nelles Youth Training Center, Whittier, and performed for two separate groups of "inmates". We were extremely satisfied with our warm reception. These young men are rarely visited by any organization; so, we were treated like visiting royalty. That evening, we presented our first performance of "La Cancion De La Raza" at Mount San Antonio Community College in the Social Science Lecture Hall to a standing room only audience. This performance was the high light of the semester because we had not performed the play before an audience till then. Our feelings were explosive that evening as parents friends and fellow students engulfed us with tears and applause at the end of the performance.

On May 6, we again performed twice. In the morning we were Fremont Junior High School's assembly, and that evening, we were given the distinction and honor of performing for the Pomona Public Library as part of their continuing bi-cultural, bi-lingual program. We presented "La Cancion De La Raza" on the steps of the library. We were enthusiastically received, and we have been invited to perform again at any time that is convenient to us. Special thanks must go to Ms Joy Ellen Thomas (Librarian/Program Coordinator) and Mr Michael Cart (Library Information Coordinator).

On May 7, we performed the trio of actos for Ganesha High School; on



May 8, we again performed twice. In the morning we were at Sierra Vista High School where we performed for the entire student body, and that night we performed at Garey High School for a MECHA family dinner.

Our performance of "La Cancion De La Raza" at Imperial Valley College on May 9, was incredible. Accompanied by the Mount San Antonio Community College Soccer Team (I was the faculty advisor for both the soccer team and El Teatro Quinto Sol), we left early that morning and arrived with only five minutes to prepare for our performance. We were boisterously and explosively received; we were performing for students who themselves either work in the fields or whose parents work the fields of the growers of the Imperial and Coachella valleys; thus, our play which in part is concerned with plight of the migrant worker was well understood and hotly applauded. That evening the company and the soccer team were treated to a lavish Mexican dinner at the home of the president of MECHA. We left the next morning exhausted but happy, and we arrived back in Pomona at three in the afternoon and immediately left for Sharkey's Park (again a Barrio street performance) where we ended our Spring tour with the trio of actos. By then, we were totally depleted, but we had certainly established Mount San Antonio Community College as an institution that both presents "live viable and relevant" drama as well as an institution that is concerned with the role of the Chicano in American society. Also, by then the Touring Company had proven its existence and we took the next step and became an actual class in the Drama Department.

## THE CHICANO THEATER POLL

As part of my investigation of the Chicano Theater (Teatro) in America, I sent off a questionnaire which the students of El teatro Quinto Sol had developed. The questionnaire asked for the following information: When did the theater first organize; how was it organized; how did they obtain material; how were they financed; were they associated with any school, college, or institution; how could our Teatro obtain material from them and send material of our own to them; how they maintained their spirit of "Chicanismo"; were they associated with any Chicano Teatro Organization; did they use music and or dance; did they have specific rules and regulations for their members, and did they perform any "non-Chicano" plays and works?

The answers were both exciting and depressing; many of the groups had either collapsed or were in the process of re-organizing. The main reason:

lack of finances. All of them write and develop their own works and are willing to both share with us and accept works from us. Mount San Antonio Community College is not quite at the stage of producing many original works. Outside of Roberto Vasquez, who is no longer at Mount SAC, and me, we have no working authors of Chicano Theater. Hopefully, the new class in Bi-lingual Creative writing will in time develop the talent for such original works. The only Teatro which requests financial payment (as opposed to simple "recognition" payment) is El Teatro Campesino; this is only to be expected since it is a touring professional company. They have performed both for Channel 28 and at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

Those Teatros which are still in existence are mostly associated with colleges or have actually become part of the College Curriculum. Mount San Antonio Community College is now one of such schools which offers a course in Chicano Theater (also the result of my sabbatical work). Most Teatros have not yet arrived at the point of including music and dance as part of their productions. Again Mount San Antonio Community College is ahead of other schools and groups.

Only two groups perform "non-Chicano" theater: Centro Cultural Mascarones (which is based in Mexico) and Teatro De Los Pobres. Mount San Antonio Community College will soon be a third member of this select group that acknowledges "non-Chicano" theater as a viable educational factor in the development of Chicano awareness. We hope to do the British play "The Royal Hunt of the Sun" within the next year.

Thus, I discovered that Mount San Antonio Community College with its

newly developed "El Teatro Quinto Sol" (the performing extension of The Chicano Theater Workshop) has within one year (we first organized as an informal student group in March of 1974) achieved what many other "teatro" groups have not been able to: a continuing working group; a touring company; and an actual class (Drama 20: Chicano Theater Workshop) in the school curriculum. I especially wish to thank Ms. Colleen Tan (Chairperson for Speech and Drama) and Messers. Carter Doran and Gary Davis (Drama) for their outstanding backing, support, and guidance in helping me and my students develop the Workshop program. We are presently preparing for our first campus performance as a "class". Hopefully, the first weekend in January of 1976 will see our current effort, my dramatization of "Yo Soy Joaquin". I also wish to thank Dr. Joseph P. Canavan for his outstanding efforts in helping me develop the "Bi-lingual Creative Writing Class".

## PART TWO: LETTERS

The following items are letters of invitation and letters of thank you for our performances. Of special interest are the letters from The Pomona Public Library and the Fred C. Nelles Youth Training Center.





*Rowland*

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Stanley G. Oswalt .... Superintendent

## NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL

401 SO. NOGALES ST., LA PUENTE, CALIF. 91744

(213) 965-3437

DAVID BERTEAUX, Principal

December 13, 1974

Mr. Frank Acuna  
Director, Teatro de la Gente  
c/o Mt. San Antonio College  
1100 North Grand  
Walnut, California 91789

Dear Mr. Acuna:

This letter is to invite the Teatro de la Gente to perform for the Nogales High School student body. As per my telephone conversation with a member of the Teatro, Luis Gonzales, the Teatro will perform on Friday, January 10 at 12:30 in the gym.

If there are any questions regarding this, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Santillán".

Gloria Santillán  
MECHA Sponsor

sc/GS

DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY  
FRED C. NELLES SCHOOL  
11850 EAST WHITTIER BOULEVARD  
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90601  
PHONE 698-6781

1-3:30



March 27, 1975

Sr. Francisco Acuna  
Director El Teatro ~~De las Placas~~  
Mount San Antonio College  
1100 N. Grant Ave.  
Walnut, California (91789)

Mr. Acuna:

I have been given the responsibility of coordinating the "Cinco De Mayo" festivities at Fred C. Nelles School in Whittier. In seeking assistance from our staff I was given your name and told that Mr. Rudy Holguin had been in contact with you.

We are interested in having a Theatre Group perform in our auditorium on Monday, May 5, 1975.

If you can be of any assistance to us please give me a call at (213) 698-6781 - extension 240 Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vince Palmer".

Vince Palmer  
Teacher

VP/ib

DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY  
FRED C. NELLES SCHOOL  
11850 EAST WHITTIER BOULEVARD  
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90601  
PHONE 698-6781



Sr. Francisco Acuna  
Director, El Teatro Quinto Sol  
Mount San Antonio College  
1100 N. Grant Ave.  
Walnut, California (91789)

May 9, 1975

Sr. Acuna:

I find writing a thank you note a very difficult task, typewritten words on official stationery cannot adequately convey the message I wish to express.

You and your theatre group accepted a difficult challenge when you voted to come here, rather than to perform at Mount Sac. The choice of where to perform and the enthusiasm with which you performed are solid evidence of your efforts to influence positive social change.

Thanks again for coming to Fred C. Nelles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vince Palmer".

Vince Palmer  
Academic Teacher/Trainer

VP/ib

# SIERRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

Phone 962-3311

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

3600 No. Frazier Street  
Baldwin Park, California 91706

*How long*

February 25, 1975

Dear Miss Ochoa,

The Sierra Vista High School Title VII Program would like to extend a formal invitation to the Mt. San Antonio College ~~Folklorico dance group~~ and Teatro Las Placas. We know that a performance by these two excellent groups would be of inestimable value to our Title VII Bi-lingual program students in their Mexican Cultural Studies.

We would really appreciate a performance by these two groups at our school and would be so happy to have them here.

If you could let us know when a performance would be convenient for you we would greatly appreciate it.

11:30

Sincerely,

*Charlene Fried*

Charlene Fried  
Title VII Pontobrr Leader

or

*Tonia Buchanan*

To Frank Acuña

May 8 10:00  
1 Hour

*Miss Mary Lind  
10:00 A.M.*



# GAREY HIGH SCHOOL

321 West Lexington Avenue  
Pomona, California

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

4/16/75

Mr. Frank Arcure  
Director of MSAC Teatro  
Mt. San Antonio College  
1100 E. Grand Ave.  
Walnut, California 91789

Dear Mr. Arcure:

I would like to take this opportunity, by way of this letter, to introduce myself and to confirm by a performance the Mt San Antonio College Teatro at Garey High School. My name is Fernand Canedo and I am the sponsor of H.E.Ch.A. at Garey High School in Pomona. We are holding our annual "Cinco de Mayo Cena" on Thursday May 8, 1975 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. At the earliest convenient time can we schedule the MSAC Teatro for a particular time on May 8? We are in the process of finding a source of funds for a donation in return for the Teatro's presentation. In any case we certainly believe that a donation is necessary and we certainly will make one.

Please confirm the Teatro's availability for this performance.

Fraternally,

Fernando, Canedo

623.5251





# Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

15959 E. Gale Ave. — La Puente — Calif. 91749 — (213) 333-2201

January 27, 1975

Student Activities Office  
Mount San Antonio College  
Mr. Acuna  
1100 N. Grand Avenue  
Walnut, California

Dear Mr. Acuna:

On behalf of Sunset School I wish to thank you for performing at our Christmas party.

Your dancing group was enjoyed by everyone. I really appreciate you taking time, at a busy time of the year, to perform for us.

Your appearing at our party helped to make our entertainment the success it was.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenna Terrell".

Glenna Terrell

GT

# **BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL**

**755 North Ardilla Avenue  
Bassett, California 91746  
Telephone: 333-5251**

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*Ray R. Warner, Principal  
Henry F. Dalton, Assistant Principal  
Jesse L. Gonzales, Assistant Principal  
Robert F. Nero, Dean of Boys  
Bette Wells, Dean of Girls  
Ralph Cutruzzula, Acting Director of  
Activities*

January 27, 1975

Frank Acuna,  
Instructor, English Department  
Mount San Antonio College  
1100 Grand Ave  
Walnut, California 91789

Dear Mr. Acuna:

I am interested in having your "TEATRO" group perform at Bassett High School at your earliest convenience. I would prefer a 2:00 p.m. performance if possible. All facilities will be arranged.

If you have any questions, please call me on 968-8456, extension 38.



Arturo Moncayo  
Counselor  
M.E.C.H.A. Sponsor

AM:bb

# BASSETT HIGH SCHOOL

755 North Ardilla Avenue  
Bassett, California 91746  
Telephone: 333-5251

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Ray R. Warner, Principal  
Henry F. Dalton, Assistant Principal  
Jesse L. Gonzales, Assistant Principal  
Robert F. Nero, Dean of Boys  
Bette Wells, Dean of Girls  
Ralph Cutruzzula, Acting Director of  
Activities

April 28, 1975

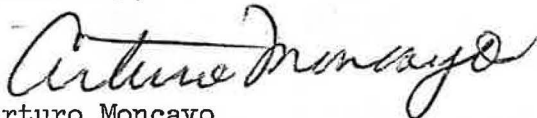
Mr. Frank Acuna  
Mount San Antonio College Teatro  
1100 N. Grand Ave  
Walnut, California

Dear Mr. Acuna:

I want to thank you and your talented "teatro" for the excellent program you provided for our students. As you probably noticed we had a standing room only audience who responded enthusiastically to your actos. It was a first experience for us to have a teatro group perform on our campus and found it to be most positive. Some of our students were able to understand the communication as well as appreciate the entertainment.

Thank you again for your performance.

Sincerely,

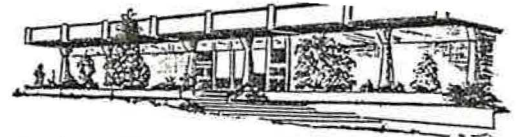


Arturo Moncayo  
Counselor

bb

# POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

625 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 2271  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766 • (714) 620-2033



Bradley A. Simon, City Librarian

March 21, 1975

Frank A. Acuna  
1585 Alameda  
Pomona, Ca. 91768

Dear Mr. Acuna:

We are delighted that you have offered El Teatro Quinto Sol to present a pageant of Chicano history on the Library lawn on Tuesday, May 6. If it is agreeable to your group, we would like to plan on 6:00 p.m., so that natural lighting can be used. Sunset that date is approximately 7:46 p.m.

The Library's Information Coordinator, Michael Cart, is active in little theater productions, and is eager to talk with you about the exact staging area, lights, props, etc. He can be contacted at 620-2038 Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

We will be printing bilingual fliers advertising your pageant, for distribution directly to the people as well as through our usual mailing list. I will send you copies of the fliers and Mr. Cart's press release just as soon as they are available.

Thank you again for offering to bring this pageant to the Library. We are pleased that you would wish to use our facilities as a vehicle for increased cultural awareness. Mr. Cart and I look forward to seeing you April 2 to discuss specific arrangements.

Sincerely,

Joy Ellen Thomas,  
Librarian/Program Coordinator

**Date**

1 May 1975

**CONTACT: MICHAEL CART**  
Library Information Coordinator  
(714) 620-2033**FOR RELEASE:** Immediately  
**SUBJECT:** Pageant at Library

"La Cancion De La Raza," a bi-lingual pageant of Chicano history, will be presented Tuesday, May 6, on the plaza in front of the Pomona Public Library.

Written and directed by Frank A. Acuna, a faculty member at Mt. San Antonio College, the pageant is performed by El Teatro Quinto Sol, a student repertory group.

With a cast of fifteen, the five-act pageant employs acting, singing and dancing to trace the Chicano experience from ancient history to the present.

Describing it as "a mythic journey into the Chicano experience," Acuna explains that the pageant, through using the recurring symbol of Quetzalcoatal, calls for a return to ancient standards.

El Teatro Quinto Sol, founded two years ago, has performed locally at high schools and is scheduled to appear this month at Imperial Valley College. The company has ten plays in

MORE



2-2-2

Pageant at Library

its repertoire, several of which were written by the students themselves. All of the plays deal with the Chicano experience.

Tuesday's performance is one of the regular series of free, public programs offered by the Pomona Public Library. It will begin at 7:00 and run approximately two hours. Since seating is not available, persons planning to attend may wish to bring a blanket or cushion.

For further information call the Library at 620-2011.

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Date May 1, 1975

CONTACT: MICHAEL CART  
Library Information Coordinator  
(714) 620-2033

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY  
SUBJECT: PROCESION POR LA BIBLIOTECA

"La Canción De La Raza", un procesión bi-lingual de la historia Chicana, seá presentada Martes, May 6, en la plaza enfrente de la biblioteca publica de Pomona.

Escrito y directido por Francisco A. Acuña, un miembro de la facultad del colegio Mt. San Antonio, esta procesión seá practicada por El Teatro Quinto Sol, un grupo desposito de estudiantes.

Con quince actores, la procesión de cinco partes emplear, dramatizando, bailando, cantando, para trazar la experiencia Chicana de la historia antigua hasta el presente.

Describiendo lo como "un viaje mitico entre la experiencia Chicana" Acuña explica este procesión, entre usando la emblema Quetzalcoatl repetido, yama por un regresada a los antiguos medidas.

El Teatro Quinto Sol, se fundio hace dos años, ha performado local en la escuelas secundarias y esta lista para presentarse este mes en el colegio de Imperial Valley. Esta compañía tiene diez juegos en la repertorio, unos quantos de que estan escritos por los estudiantes mismos. Todos los juegos tratan de la experiencia Chicana.

La realización el Martes es una de los sucesiones regulares de programas publicas ofrecidas gratis por la biblioteca publica de Pomona. Se comienza a las siete y camina proxima dos horas. Puesto que, asientos no estan aprovechadas, los personas que piensan a venir, pueden traer un cojín o un frazada.

continuado

The following schools and groups had to be turned down because of time limitations.

PASADENA CITY COLLEGE

1570 EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91106

MECHA OFFICE

TELEPHONE 793-6901

Tel. 578-7486

(217)

November 27, 1974

c/o Sr. Frank Acuña  
El Teatro de la Gente  
Mt. San Antonio College  
1100 N. Grand Ave.  
Walnut 91789

Señor Acuña & Teatro members:

We would like the honor of your presence at our banquet which is entitled "Navidad Para Los Niños". We are sponsoring this banquet to raise funds for our Toys for Tots campaign.

We ask that you and your group arrive at the College by 6:30 pm, so that we can familiarize you with the campus. There will be an escort awaiting your arrival on the corner of Hill and Colorado streets. The Teatro will be given forty-five minutes to perform approximately 9 to 10 pm. The audience will be composed of College administrators, parents children, and students.

Dinner will be served between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. We extend our invitation to you and your group to enjoy our other entertainment. We will have a P.A. system and stage available. If there are any further questions please call the Office For Chicano Affairs at 578-7486.

Sincerely,

*Nick Martinez*  
Nick Martinez  
M.E.CH.A. Chairman

*Terry Valenzuela*  
Terry Valenzuela  
M.E.CH.A. Chairwoman

NM/lv

## DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AUTHORITY

Youth Training School  
P.O. Box 800  
Ontario, Ca. 91761



February 20, 1975

2,809

Mr. Francisco Acuna  
Director of El Teatro de Las Placas  
1100 N. Grant Ave.  
Walnut, Ca. 91789

Dear Mr. Acuna:

We understand that you are interested in bringing your theater group out to our school. We definitely would like your group to come and perform for the Chicano population here. Involvement of Chicano students in the "Unidos" organization on campus, and the range of cultural events for them has severely dropped off. A performance by your group could help re-stimulate that involvement and concern.

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can arrange a date and time for you and your group to come perform here.

We would greatly appreciate your time and interest.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy David".

Guy David, Coordinator  
Community Services  
(714) 597-1861 ext. 47

GD:gy

## CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE



SOUTH EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA — 91733 • 443-1321 • 686-0460

March 11, 1975

Mr. Frank Acuna  
1585 Alameda Street  
Pomona, California 91768

Dear Mr. Acuna:

The City of South El Monte is holding a Senior Citizens Day on May 4, 1975. It will be a variety show and we would like to have the Teatro Campesino give a performance on that day.

Mr. Acuna, please keep in mind that the audience will be primarily senior citizens and we would like an appropriate program.

Please let me know if this is possible and if so, what the charge will be.

Sincerely,

*Olivia Ramirez*

Olivia Ramirez

# William Workman High School

16303 E. Temple Ave. — City of Industry — Calif. 91744 — (213) 330-0611

April 8, 1975

Mr. Francisco Acuna  
Director of Teatro de Quinto Sol & Folklorico  
Mt. San Antonio College  
Walnut, California

Dear Mr. Acuna:

The M.E.Ch.A from Workman High School would very much like to have your Teatro and Folklorico perform for the students on campus.

I am fully aware of what kind of material that would be displayed, but under the circumstances, the principal has asked that all language that is in "bad taste" or any material that puts down other ethnic groups be eliminated.

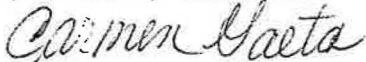
We would greatly appreciate it if your performers could come between April 21 and 25 or between May 6 and 9, 1975. If these dates are not convenient, please contact me at the above number, so we can schedule something at your convenience.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Miss Mary Ramsden  
M.E.Ch.A. advisor



Carmen Gaeta  
M.E.Ch.A. Chairperson

## NOTE

The two plays which I wrote for the touring company "El Teatro Quinto Sol" combined comprise some forty pages of text; therefore, I am not presenting them in this report. Anyone who wishes a copy of either or both plays may obtain a copy by contacting me through the campus mail. However, I wish to remind the committee that "Cinco De Mayo Week" for 1976 will sponsor a production of the play; therefore, anyone who wishes to see the play in actual performance ~~my~~ do so at that time. Also, I extend a warm invitation to the members of the committee to attend an openhouse of the Chicano Theater Workshop on Tuesday, November 25th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Little Theater. We will be presenting our class in open rehearsal, and anyone who wishes to attend to see our work in progress is cordially invited. That evening will more than offer the results of my sabbatical on display.



## PHOTOGRAPHS

The following pages contain sample photographs of members of the touring company. I wish to request that upon completing the reading of this report that these photographs be returned to me as they are the only copies which I have. Thank you.

- A. Scene from "Porfi y El Jues": The police and their dogs arrest Porfi.
- B. Scene from "Porfi y El Jues": Porfi being accused by the "Jues".
- C. Scene from "Los Vendidos": The secretary for Governor "Brown" attempts to buy a "fieldhand".
- D. Some of the members of the touring company at Imperial Valley College.

### PART THREE: THE TRIP TO MEXICO

As I stated before, the touring company gave its last performance on May 10 at Sharkey's Park in Pomona. That left me with nine days to begin to prepare for my trip to Mexico. Needless to say, the extensive work in both touring and performing and in writing the major work "La Cancion De La Raza" had left me physically exhausted. Therefore, the trip became foremost a trip of recovery. Much of what I did was primarily done in order to re-establish my own personal ties with the country of parents. I am the first member of my family to return to Mexico. I had never been there before; Tijuana does not count because it is really simply an extension of San Diego.

On May 20, I left aboard Mexicana Airlines. The minute I stepped

aboard the plane, I stopped speaking English and did not re-speak it until I returned to Los Angeles three weeks later. Most of the time spent in Mexico City was spent in daily observation of people, habits, customs, and in speaking my original native language. I spoke Spanish before I learned English; thus, in a sense, English is my second language, not my first. The diary which I kept is all in Spanish, and thus I shall quote from it in its original form.

La ciudad de Mexico tiene una larga historia que se remonta a los antiguos tiempos del poderio azteca. Fue la Capital de la Nueva Espana durante la dominacion espanola. Desde el siglo pasado y en particular en el presente ha alcanzado un gran florecimiento, en especial despues de la Revolucion de 1910. En cada etapa de su historia ha sido, y es, una de las mas importantes ciudades de America.

Los aztecas emigraron, desde un lugar llamado Aztlan (also the name of the American Southwest as it is now known by the Chicano movement), hacia el sur, y guiados por su dios Huitzilopchtli se establecieron, en 1325, en un islote del lago sobre que fundaron la ciudad de Mexico-Tenochtitlan. Su trazado era perfecto, con un gran centro ceremonial y cuatro amplias calzadas que la unian con la tierra firme por tres rumbos, y por oriente con el Lago de Texcoco.

Para erigir la ciudad espanola se aprovecho parte del trazado de la antigua capital azteca, y surgio de nuevo Mexico como la capital de la Nueva Espana, que floricio del siglo XVI a principios del XIX. En ella se levantaron templos y palacios magnificos. La Catedral Metropolitana y el Sagrario

resumen todos los estilos del arte de ese periodo.

Durante el siglo XIX, despues de la Independencia Nacional, la ciudad se extendio, pero su gran desarrollo ha tenido lugar en nuestro tiempo. La vida moderna la ha transformado, y las nuevas vias de comunicacion la han dado un caracter distinto. En la actualidad los numerosos edificios modernos, los espendidos museos, los parques, al lado de los templos barrocos de la epoca novo-hispana, hacen de Mexico una de las mas bellas ciudades del Continente, que tiene el atractivo de su clima templado.

La ciudad de Mexico se encuentra a una altura de 2263 metros (7,400 ft above sea level) sobre el nivel del mar, tiene 10 millones de habitantes. Es la Capital de la Republica de Mexico.

El prestigio del Ballet Folklorico de Amalia Hernandez es de caracter internacional. Desde el ano de 1961, incio sus presentaciones en el extranjero, participando en el Festival del Teatro de Las Naciones en Paris y obtuvo el premio correspondiente a dicho ano.

Poco tiempo despues realizo una gira de continuo exito en los Estados Unidos de Norteamerica y Canada, despues de una brillante presentacion en la Feria Mundial de las republicas de Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brasil, Panama, y Venezuela y Colombia; en el Festival de Cali obtuvo el Primer Premio.

En 1964 y 1965, hizo el Ballet Bolklorico dos nuevas giras por Europa y esto represnto su consagracion definitiva. Los principales lugares en que se presento fueron, Londres, Liverpool, Birmingham y Manchester, en la Gran Britana; Paris, Francia; Lausana, Interlaken y Ginebra, Suiza; Nervi, Como,

Trieste y Torino, en Italia; presento funciones en Rusia, Polonia, Dinamarca y Alemania.

En el año de 1966, realizo una exitosa gira en Australia y Nueva Zelanda.

La figura de Amalia Hernandez es realmente extraordinaria. Como artista ha dado al público sus mejores esfuerzos presentando un espectáculo que ya se conceptua como uno de los mejores del mundo; como Mexicana, se ha propuesto conservar y formentar la danza folklórica del país en todo su pureza y ha recibido por ello distinciones y honores en México y en el extranjero y a pesar de su labor invaluable, posee la sencillez y simpatía y una bondad natural que la hacen aun mas admirable.

El Museo Nacional de Antropología de México es un bello, moderno y funcional edificio inaugurado en septiembre de 1964. Sus instalaciones fueron expresamente planeadas para salas y exposiciones museográficas y para laboratorios y bodegas, en donde se exhiben, se guardan y se estudian las colecciones de piezas y monumentos de las culturas, indígenas de México.

These simplified excerpts from my Mexican diary in a way sum up the rewarding and enriching experience which was of primary importance in re-connecting me with my personal and rather privately acknowledge heritage. The experience has certainly blossomed into two main classes: The Chicano Theater Workshop and the Bi-Lingual Creative Writing Class. If that alone had been the result of my entire sabbatical, it would have been worth it.

I wish to end this report by thanking both the Mount San Antonio Community College Board of Trustees and the Sabbatical Leave Committee for the



rich experience of allowing me the time to establish two new classes,  
write, stage, and produce two plays, and to visit the homeland of <sup>my</sup> fathers.

How the sabbatical leave helped me in rendering a more "effective service to the college":

The taking of a sabbatical leave allowed me to be of service to the students of MSAC by granting me the opportunity to develop programs for the "Chicano" student population. These students, as well as any other interested persons, may now avail themselves of the educational opportunity to engage in the drama department's newly created Chicano Theater Workshop. In a single semester, enrollment in the workshop has doubled.

Also, the touring company created permanent positive contact with the "Chicano" community and established strong viable public relations with the high schools in the MSAC district. Thus, the college community as a whole has felt a consciousness raising impact.

The college benefitted by my establishing an "effective" bond with the Pomona public library and its continuing bi-cultural, bi-lingual program under the direction of Ms. Joy Ellen Thomas.

The results of the Chicano Teatro Poll have made us aware that Mt. San Antonio College is now in the lead on a national scale in terms of Chicano drama.

Also, by establishing such bi-cultural programs as the Teatro Workshop and the expansion of Creative Writing into the bi-lingual area, the college's Affirmative Action program has been strongly bolstered.

Since MSAC is a community college, it seems obvious that by accomplishing all of the above-mentioned items I rendered great service to the college in helping it to meet the needs of a large part of its constituency.

By returning to Mexico, I re-enforced my own cultural ties not only to Mexico, but to those students at MSAC whom I serve. I now feel much closer to those students from "Latin" backgrounds in all of my classes, especially in the newly established class "English as a Second Language".

Frank Acuña