



SWPACA Film Series — February 16–17 | #SWPACA17

Please join us for the first annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Film Series

Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17
Hyatt Regency Downtown
Grand Pavilion I-II

Thursday: 1:15-2:45

Father Unknown

David Quint, Director/Producer;
KT! Eaton, Writer/ Producer/Editor

Captured on a camera phone as it happened, FATHER UNKNOWN is the true story of a man's struggle to face the emptiness he carries inside. Disconnected from the people closest to him and haunted by the secrecy in his family, he records his desperate search for connection on a journey with the father he's never truly known.

Thursday: 3:00-4:30

Six Word Adoption Memoir Project

Andrew Ridghaus

Short interviews with those individuals in an adoption journey to share their experience in a six-word memoir. Ridghaus and co-director Derek Frank are adoptees, fathers, media professors, and filmmakers.

Friday: 11:30-1:00

The Head of Joaquin Murrieta

Filmmaker: John Valadez

For over a decade filmmaker John J. Valadez searched for the remains of Joaquin Murrieta, a legendary Mexican outlaw who blazed a trail of revenge and rebellion following the theft of his land, and the rape and murder of his wife. In the summer of 1853, Joaquin was killed by bounty hunters; they put his head in a jar, displayed it across California, and charged people a dollar to see their trophy. One hundred and sixty-two years later, Valadez is convinced he finally has the head. So together they embark on a quixotic, cross-country road trip through history, memory, and myth to bury the fabled head of Joaquin Murrieta, and finally lay to rest a dark and troubled past - one that has chilling parallels with the filmmaker's own family story.

Friday: 11:30-1:00

Bendición del agua

A poem by Olivia Romo

Written and performed by Olivia Romo





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Co-directed by Daniel Sonis and Levi Romero

Artistic Director: Levi Romero

Cinematography: Daniel Sonis

Bendición del agua is a cinematographic glance into New Mexico's acequia cultural landscape as seen through the eyes of a young woman expressing both the loss and perseverance of traditions, language, and culture. The film seeks to give voice to communities that have maintained centuries' old acequia traditions despite facing the challenges of development, rural gentrification, and cultural erosion. The film based on a poem by Olivia Romo, is a cinematic call-of-awakening for the honoring of ancestral traditions that will help lead toward a sustainable future through acts of respect, charity, resiliency, and a regard for water, land, and cultural preservation.

Friday: 1:15-2:45

No I'm Not a Dentist

Starring Rex Rosenberg

Director Bobby Obermite

Producers Zach Oswald, Omid Heidar, Rex Rosenberg

Short documentary of art car artist Rex Rosenberg.

A Meal Out of Reach

Director: Jessika Vandivier

Associate Director: Ren Westerman

Producer: Beth E. Bonnstetter, Ph.D.

Associate Producer: Paul Echeverria, MFA

Despite the large agricultural industry present within the San Luis Valley, it is often difficult for families to find healthful foods. Due to the vastness of the land, some families need to travel long distances for fresh produce and often must make do with the processed and canned foods they find at the nearest gas station. A lot is being done to help those in need, but for some, their next meal is still a meal out of reach.

Friday: 3:00-4:30

NA II ES: Apache Coming of Age

Filmmaker Dale Sonnenberg

In 1883 the United States government banned Native American religious practices by passing the Indian Religion Crime Code. It remained illegal for young Apache women coming of age to dance the NA II ES sunrise ceremony. Until the American Indian Religious Freedom Act was passed in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter.

