

Guide to Chicano Poet Raul Salinas [videorecording]

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Stanford University. Libraries. Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Stanford, California

April 2012

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Overview

Call Number: V0385

Creator: Genero, Jack.

Creator: Olguin, Ben.

Creator: Salinas, Raúl.

Creator: Salinas, Raúl

Title: Chicano poet Raul Salinas [videorecording]

Dates: 1994 May 6

Physical Description: 0.5 Linear feet 2 videotapes (VHS)

Language(s): The materials are in English.

Repository: Department of Special Collections and University Archives

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Cite As

[identification of item], Chicano poet Raul Salinas (V0385). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Biographical Sketch

Raul / Roy / "Tapon" Salinas was born in San Antonio, Texas on March 17, 1934. He was raised in Austin, Texas from 1936 to 1956, when he moved to Los Angeles. In 1957 he was sentenced to prison in Soledad State Prison in California. Over the span of the next 15 years, Salinas spent eleven years behind the walls of state and federal penitentiaries. It was during his incarceration in some of the nation's most brutal prison systems that Salinas' social and political consciousness was shaped. His prison years were prolific ones, including creative, political, and legal writings, as well as an abundance of correspondence. In 1963, while in Huntsville, he began writing a jazz column called "The Quarter Note" which ran for eighteen months. In Leavenworth he played a key role in founding and producing two important prison journals, *Aztlan de Leavenworth* and *New Era Prison Magazine*. It was in these journals that his poetry first circulated and gained recognition within and outside of the prison walls. As a spokesperson, ideologue, educator, and jailhouse lawyer of the prisoner-rights movement, Salinas also became an internationalist who saw the necessity of making alliances with others. This vision continues to inform his political and poetic practice. Initially published in the inaugural issue of *Aztlan de Leavenworth*, "Trip thru a Mind Jail" (1970) became the title piece for a book of poetry published by Editorial Pocho Che in 1980. With the assistance of several professors and students at the University of Washington -Seattle, Salinas obtained early release from Marion Federal Penitentiary in 1972. As a student at the University of Washington, Salinas worked in various community development projects and forged alliances with Native American groups in the Northwest, a relationship that was to intensify over the next fifteen years. Although Salinas writes of his experiences as a participant in the Native American Movement, it is a dimension of his life that has received scant attention. In the twenty-two years since his release from Marion, Salinas' involvement with various political movements has earned him an international reputation as an eloquent spokesman for justice. Salinas literary reputation in Austin has earned him recognition as the poet laureate of the East Side

and the title of "maestro" from emerging poets who seek his advice and leadership. His literary work is perhaps most widely known for its street aesthetics and a sensibility which documents the interactions, hardships, and strife of barrio and prison life. The influence of jazz within his oeuvre connects it with the work of "Beat Generation" poets, musicians, and songwriters. His poetry collections include dedications, references, and responses to Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, Charles Bukowski, Charles Parker, Herschel Evans, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis, for example.

Scope and Contents

Raul Salinas talks about his life and his transition from criminal to human rights activist.

Access Terms

Salinas, Raúl -- Form subdivision--Interviews.;

Chicano Community at Stanford University.

Mexican American poets--Interviews.

Videorecordings.

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| Box 1 | 1.1 part 1  | Physical Description: 1 videotape(s) (VHS) |
| Box 1 | 1.2 part 2  | Physical Description: 1 videotape(s) (VHS) |
| Box 1 | 1.3 part 3  | Physical Description: 1 videotape(s) (VHS) |