



Corridos! Tales of Passion and Revolution by Luis Valdez. PBS-TV. Luiz Valdez, Linda Ronstadt. Courtesy: Allen Nomura.



"Soldadera," from *Corridos! Tales of Passion and Revolution* by Luis Valdez. PBS-TV. Alma Martínez, Clancy Brown. Courtesy: Allen Nomura.

KQED's Production of Luis Valdez's *Corridos* Wins Award

KQED-TV, San Francisco, recently received the Hispanic Academy of Arts & Sciences' New York Image Award for Outstanding Achievement in Television for "Corridos! Tales of Passion and Revolution."

Produced in association with El Teatro Campesino, "Corridos," a one-hour, prime-time public television special featuring selections from the acclaimed stage production of the same name, debuted October 7, 1987. Joining members of the original cast were new artists, including popular entertainer Linda Ronstadt, San Francisco Ballet artist Evelyn Cisneros and actor Clancy Brown.

Written and directed by Luis Valdez, founder of El Teatro Campesino, "Corridos" is a moving collection of the vibrant traditional Mexican-American folk ballads, or "corridos," which have been dramatized. This bilingual production featured Valdez in the central role of the Maestro, Linda Ronstadt in the roles of La Chata and Adelita, Evelyn Cisneros as Delgadina, Sal Lopez as the Butler and Juan, Alma Martinez as Elisabeta and the Mother, Jorge Galvan as the father and El Caballo Blanco, Clancy Brown as John Reed, and Daniel Valdez as El Lavaplatos. The dramatic dialogue was spoken in English, while the "corridos" were sung in Spanish, with the music provided by "Los Camperos," the country's premier mariachi group.

Two full-length "corridos" were presented: "Delgadina," a haunting parable of incest in a wealthy Mexican family; and "Soldadera," based on the dispatches of American journalist John Reed. There were also highlights from other, lighter "corridos." "Yo soy el corrido," the story of the corrido itself, was sung by Linda Ronstadt and the company, in a rousing free-spirited way; and "El lavaplatos," the story of an immigrant who dreams of becoming a movie star and ends up washing dishes, incorporated elements of slapstick comedy in its presentation.

"Corridos" was made possible by grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ford Foundation, and by the members of KQED-TV, San Francisco.