

UCSB Receives Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino Collections

The papers of director and playwright Luis Valdez, along with the archives of the theatre group he founded in 1965, El Teatro Campesino, will be housed at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

Unlike most archives, these collections will be the repository of a working playwright and theatre group and will be in the special collections department of the university library. Unpublished and ongoing scripts, correspondence, lectures, artwork, video and film footage, reviews, props, photographs, dissertations, and books will make up the archives.

Valdez, 45, is best known for his 1978 play *Zoot Suit*, which is based loosely on events surrounding the 1942 "Sleepy Lagoon" murder trial in Los Angeles and the zoot suit riots of the following year. It became the first play written and directed by a Hispanic to be produced on Broadway. He currently is working on a new concept, "Theatre of the Sphere," a form that combines Mayan philosophy with music, theatre, and dance.