



Boletín

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Valiente brings HIV awareness, testing to Dallas Latino community

100 free HIV-testing kits donated to Valiente for Sunday's event

By Jesse Garcia
Valiente Secretary

Valiente will launch its most ambitious program to date, HIV-testing in the Latino community. The testing will take place at Bachman Lake on Sunday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bachman Lake, located off of Northwest Highway/Loop 12, is a popular park where Hispanic families spend their weekends barbecuing and playing sports. Most of the families are first-generation Americans.

Recognizing the growing trends of HIV rates in the Latino community, Valiente felt it was important to include a health education aspect to its crowded Hispanic Heritage event calendar.

Although Hispanics make up only 14.4 percent of the U.S. population, a recent study from the Centers for Disease Control shows that 21 percent of all AIDS cases reported in 2004 came from Hispanic adults and children.

To address this problem locally, Valiente joined the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) coalition to test Gay and Straight Latinos for the disease during the designated day of Oct. 15, the last day of Hispanic Heritage month.

More than 1,000 institutions in 350 cities across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are participating in NLAAD — a successful annual event that was launched in 2002.

"Dallas will be one of the cities with the most organized effort and most testing equipment," said Efred Garcia, vice chair of Valiente's Education and Cultural Committee. Garcia, the organizer of the local NLAAD initiative, was instrumental in securing 100 free OraQuick® Advance Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Tests from NLAAD's offices in Washington, D.C.



Valiente Member Efred Garcia coordinated this year's National Latino AIDS Awareness Day event taking place on Oct. 15 at Dallas' Bachman Lake.

These tests are valued at \$60 each.

"These quick tests can return results within 20 minutes," said Garcia, who has been working in the HIV counseling and research for four years. "Most people take their HIV test and go home and forget about it. During our NLAAD event, people will be tested, and while they wait, they will be counseled on avoiding risky behavior and how to prevent the spreading HIV."

To help with testing and counseling, professional staff members have been volunteered by the following Valiente partners: Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Mosaic Family Services, Inc., AIDS Arms, Inc., Dallas County Health and Human Services - Ryan White Planning Council and Dallas Legal Hospice. Counselors will provide services free of charge in both English and Spanish. Valiente's board of directors will volunteer that day, and the membership is encouraged to help out. To volunteer, contact Garcia by calling (214) 893-5458 or e-mailing egarcia@gdcada.org. ▽

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Local Gay Latino's film to be featured at this year's OUT TAKES

By Natalie Lopez
Contributing Writer

With Dallas' own eighth annual OUT TAKES, spotlighting Gay and Lesbian Films coming in November, Israel Luna's name seems to be one that you can't help but hearing.

Growing up in small town west of Amarillo, called Wellington, Texas, (a pan-handle town of about 2,000 people), Luna moved to Dallas on Jan. 25, 1993.

"I know the exact date 'cause my mom reminds me. As any Hispanic mother... she didn't wanna see her son leave the nest," he jokes.

Living by the "write what you know" philosophy, Luna says that Gay themes and Gay characters just come about; there's not a contrived plan when it comes to scripting his characters.

"I don't set out thinking of writing LGBT scripts," he says. And just like he doesn't specifically write scripts for LGBT or Latinos, he also doesn't place characters in small towns intentionally. But he does rely heavily on his own experience. "I guess the more experience I have, the broader my range of story lines are," Luna said.

It's that range that seems to have a lot of people talking. OUT TAKES Dallas will screen Luna's film, "R U Invited? 5 Guys & a Sex Party." There are also plans for a stage version of "R U Invited."

"I'm constantly thinking of new ideas and when a good idea hits me," Luna said, "I begin adding details and plot twists to them. It's a lot of fun creating a new world with fun, colorful characters."

He's also writing, directing, editing and posting a web-show called "The Dallas Sheraton Show," a skit-centric serial only available through his website <http://www.lalunaentertainment.com/>.

Luna's love of films began when he saw "The Exorcist." In 2002, Luna wrote his own horror film called, "Is There Anybody Out There?" and has plans to revisit the genre with his next project called "Motel



Director Israel Luna

Hell." "Honestly," Luna says, "[I'd like to try] directing [with] a big budget! I'd love to work with cranes and experiment with crazy, fun shots and cool computer generated air shots."

Luna says he hasn't had an opportunity to work with other Dallas LGBT writers or directors.

"Many are very territorial about their work," he explains. But that doesn't mean that he isn't influenced by others work.

"Pedro Almodovar... yes, his affect [my own work]. His characters are always so strong. Some are funny, some are transsexuals, some are psychotic, some are sweet, but all are written very strong. I try to write all of my characters like that."

But his sights aren't just set on making a name for himself in one genre or being popular with one demographic group, he's eyeing the mainstream market.

"I feel that the non-Latino LGBT audience really connect with our movies. After we had a private screening of 'R U Invited? 5 Guys & a Sex

Party,' I thought it was our Gayest movie to date and no one but a gay audience would 'get it.' Well, it turns out that the straight audience loved it and said that it was our most mainstream yet. I think it's because I base my scripts on universal themes. Yes, some characters may be Gay, but the problems they go through are issues we can all relate to."

While he's proud of his work and the attention that it receives, he admits that he's his own worst critic.

"Since I was there during the shooting process I notice smaller things that the regular viewing audience doesn't notice. Or I'll be looking at the corner of the screen thinking, 'I can see the boom mic!' It's really not that big of a deal, but I do notice them and cringe. I guess little mistakes happen in all movies."

You can catch "R U Invited? 5 Guys & a Sex Party" on Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Magnolia Theater, located on 3699 McKinney Ave., Dallas, TX 75204. ▽

News Briefs



Dallas Morning News Columnist Mercedes Olivera will speak at the October general meeting of Valiente on Thursday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's.

Valiente finances are healthy:

Valiente began its fourth quarter with a healthy balance of \$4,361.75. September's expenses totalled \$1,108.81, which went toward Q-Cinema sponsorship, LifeWalk sponsorship and donations, pride parade and Hispanic Heritage event expenditures.

Gay LULAC meets Oct. 24:

Valiente members are invited to Gay LULAC's general meeting being held Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. at the LULAC Housing Commission Headquarters, 6500 Greenville Ave. #515, Dallas, TX 75206.

MegaVoto headed to Oak Cliff:

Latino leaders will conduct voter education leading up to the November elections at a mega rally scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Beckley Courthouse, located on 410 S. Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX 75203. To volunteer, contact Valiente Member Juan Ayala at (214) 632-9085 or at jja613@sbcglobal.net. For more information, visit www.megavoto.org

Victory Fund looking for future candidates to train in Houston:

The Leadership Institute's Candidate & Campaign Trainings is providing training to present and future openly LGBT candidates, campaign staff, and community leaders on Nov. 15-18 in Houston. The cost is \$450. Deadline to register is Oct. 31. To learn more, visit www.victoryinstitute.org or contact Tressa Feher at (202) 842-7312 or tressa.feher@victoryfund.org. ▽

Mundo Latino

Bush builds wall along border:

On Oct. 4, President George W. Bush signed legislation that appropriates \$1.2 billion to build a 700-mile wall along the Mexican border. Mexican officials decried the move saying it will disrupt trade and cause a shortage of workers for U.S. farms. Bush defended his decision to sign the bill saying, "it's what the people in this country want." Mexican officials have threatened to take their complaints to the United Nations. Critics say the wall would be ineffective because the border is 2,000 miles long to begin with, and immigrants often rely on "coyotes" to transport them through border checkpoints and through underground tunnels.

Dallas Latino voter registration:

According to a Dallas Morning News report, the Dallas County Elections Department reported that only 7,442 people with Hispanic surnames registered to vote this year — nearly half the amount compared to the last mid-term year election cycle in 2002.

American Gays no longer in closet:

On National Coming Out Day Wednesday, Oct. 11, a Harris interactive online survey was released, which showed that out of 2,932 U.S. adults questioned, seven out of 10 knows someone who is Gay or Lesbian. The poll was conducted in mid-September. It also found that 83 percent of those who identified as Gay or Lesbian were out to the community.

California Gay Marriage denied:

Even though support briefs came from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, California NAACP, National Black Justice Coalition, California Council of Churches and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the California Court of Appeals ruling upheld California's ban on Gay marriage on Sept. 28. The San Francisco court's decision stated that the power to define marriage in a democratic society "rests in the people and their elected representatives," not in the courts. Nearly 4,000 Gay and Lesbian couples were married in San Francisco in 2004, before the California Supreme Court ended the right. ▽

10 Questions

with
Frank Trejo



For two decades Frank Trejo has been chasing the next big story for The Dallas Morning News. Within those 20 years, Trejo has seen the world of media change right before his eyes. The Gay Latino gives Boletín readers some insight about the 13th largest newspaper in the nation with more than 650,000 daily readers.

Boletín: How long have you been writing for the Dallas Morning News?

Frank Trejo: "I've been with The News for 20 years. I previously worked for the Dallas Times-Herald, the Fort Worth Star Telegram and The El Paso Times."

Boletín: What are some of the important changes you've seen during your years as a reporter in the newspaper business?

FT: "The biggest change has been in technology. When I started, computer use in the newsroom was just getting started. Now we rely heavily on computers and digital technology, the Internet and so many other things."

Boletín: Does The Dallas Morning News have a diverse staff?

FT: "I think that generally it does have a diverse staff, but I also believe that there much room for improvement. It certainly is much more diverse than when I started here in 1986. There are more minority reporters and editors but I think the staff still has a ways to go before it more closely reflects the community it serves."

Boletín: What are some of the obstacles you've faced as a Gay Latino working for a major daily in the U.S.?

FT: "I really don't think I've faced any major obstacles, being Latino or Gay in a major U.S. daily. In any organization there are people who will not like you for whatever reason, but I don't believe that has prevented me from doing anything I've wanted to do at this newspaper. Most challenges I've faced have had little to do with being a Gay Latino."

Boletín: When The Dallas Morning News publishers decided to run same-

sex engagement/weddings in their paper, how did the staff react to it? **FT:** "I really don't recall any significant reaction. To tell you the truth I don't think many people on the staff were aware of it at the time and some still may not know about the policy."

Boletín: Do you feel the paper gives enough coverage on LGBT issues?

FT: "The short quick answer is no, because I believe there is always much more we could do in covering all of our communities. But, I also recognize that there has been great progress in coverage of LGBT issues. I would certainly urge readers who would like to see more coverage of their community to communicate that to the staff and management of the newspaper."

Boletín: Do you feel the paper gives enough coverage on Latino issues?

FT: "Once again, I would say it is doing a good job, but that it could be much better, especially given the dramatic increase in the area's Latino population. The News has made great strides in providing coverage for non-English speaking Latinos. I think Al Dia provides a very valuable service to that community and I often wish that more of their articles were translated and reprinted in The Dallas Morning News."

Boletín: What does your future hold for you after you retire from the paper?

FT: "I really have no idea. I'm thinking I still have quite a few years before I retire, so I have not given it much thought. Ideally, I would like to continue doing work that involves writing, and of course would love to travel a lot more."

Boletín: If you weren't a reporter, what other profession would you have chosen?

FT: "Again, I have no idea since this is the only work I've done for almost 30 years. I have great respect for several social service organizations and perhaps I would have become involved in some of them if I had not gone into journalism."

Boletín: As you know, Valiente has social and education missions for its membership. What would like to see our group do?

FT: "I see Valiente as a prime example of the kind of growth that has occurred within the Dallas community, not just in numbers but also diversity. I'm not comfortable giving advice any group I don't belong to, but I do think that just the mere presence of a group like Valiente, says so much about the diversity of the Latino and gay communities. ▽

Faces & Places



Above: Valiente sponsored a booth at this year's Lifewalk on Oct. 1. Valiente raised more than \$500. Pictured left to right: Larry Spurlock, Oscar Gutierrez, Fernando Sanchez, Ben Leal, Paty Mancha and Rey Franco.



Above: (Left to right) Valiente Member Ramiro Rutiaga poses with actor Rene Alvarado of "East Side Story," a Gay-Latino film sponsored by Valiente at Fort Worth's Q-Cinema on Sept. 29.



Above: More than 40 people attended Valiente's "Noche Bohemia" event on Oct. 8, including (left to right) Cesar Reyna, Rey Franco, Robert Galvan and Martin Perez.



Left: Noche Bohemia's artists were (left to right) Joey Chabolla III, Alicia Molina, Anna-Marie Lopez, Jesus Chaírez and Rosalinda Gomez.



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Boletín is a monthly publication of Valiente. Views and opinions are those of the members. To contact the editor, e-mail Jesse Garcia at Jgarcia71@aol.com. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President • Fernando Sanchez
Vice President • Juan Ayala
Treasurer • Alicia Molina
Secretary • Jesse Garcia

****Remember:

Valiente General Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 6:30 p.m.
Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.
Featured guest: Mercedes Olivera