

OFRIENDAS LITERARIAS

JORGE SANDOVAL, PRESENTE!

Jorge Sandoval, photographer extraordinaire, world traveler, writer, filmmaker, actor and beloved community member joined the spirit world on October 30, 2024 at the tender age of 71. An unassuming man, Jorge lived simply but managed to extract much joy from life and shared his experiences through his beautiful photography that he sold yearly at the Esperanza Peace Market and other venues. He honored his community as an actor playing individuals that exemplified the cultura and gente of San Antonio. He also gifted us with his own creations such as the film *Las Tesoros de San Antonio, A Westside Story* in which he immortalized a group of elder women brought back into the limelight by the Esperanza Center to sing once



Jorge selling photos at Peace Market in front of Esperanza

again as they did in their heyday as young musical stars. Jorge did not let his life of limited means stop him from pursuing his dreams as a world traveler and chose instead to live life to the fullest depending on the universe to guide and provide for him. Thus, he lived to enjoy many adventures abroad and brought home many stories to tell. His love of people and his openness to receiving love in return, was one of his greatest strengths. A graduate of Lanier High, Jorge was proud of his Westside roots and his familia. Now, he is on his ultimate adventure. He will long be remembered. Jorge Sandoval, presente!

The Raid

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intently, his concern palpable. I ran to hug him while Mother placed a steaming plate on the table. Our unity in adversity was a source of strength and comfort.

“Wash your hands and eat before the food gets cold,” she said calmly.

“Were you mistreated?” he asked with concern in his eyes; he seemed emotional. Mother arranged tortillas and a molcajete filled with red Pequin Peppers.

“No, el hombre just wanted to check our papers!” she said, as she brought a batch of recently made flour tortillas. Father looked at me, feeling like he wasn’t getting a full report from my mother, and he held me close.

« Did he scare you, mi’jo (son) ? » Remembering my accident, I looked towards Mother. She, in turn, saved me from embarrassment: «He was fearless and acted responsibly,» she said, quickly changing the conversation.

“Bueno, let’s enjoy a good supper and thank God for a good day.” Our faith in God and each other was a beacon of hope in uncertainty.

I could not help blaming myself for not being more like Mother.

This crucial incident was my first traumatic experience facing adversity; how my parents handled it, and the political and psychological impact on me served as a platform to deal with future problems. The raid brought a new awareness that America, the country we called home, was not entirely ours; we could be questioned and removed at any moment. This stark difference between us and them ignited a sense of vulnerability and resilience, shaping my identity. It fueled my determination to understand belonging, and advocate for my family and community against such challenges. Our family’s resilience in such adversity is a testament to the human spirit’s ability to overcome.

I praise my parents’ thought process for turning what could have been a negative experience into a practical learning lesson. This lesson ultimately developed into a problem-solving methodology, a strategy that became useful in many future encounters.

BIO: Born in the Rio Grande Valley, Lupe began life as a migrant laborer experiencing exploitation and harsh conditions but amidst it all got an education and joined the Chicano movement becoming one of the founders of a Chicano school, Colegio Jacinto Treviño in Mercedes, TX in 1970.