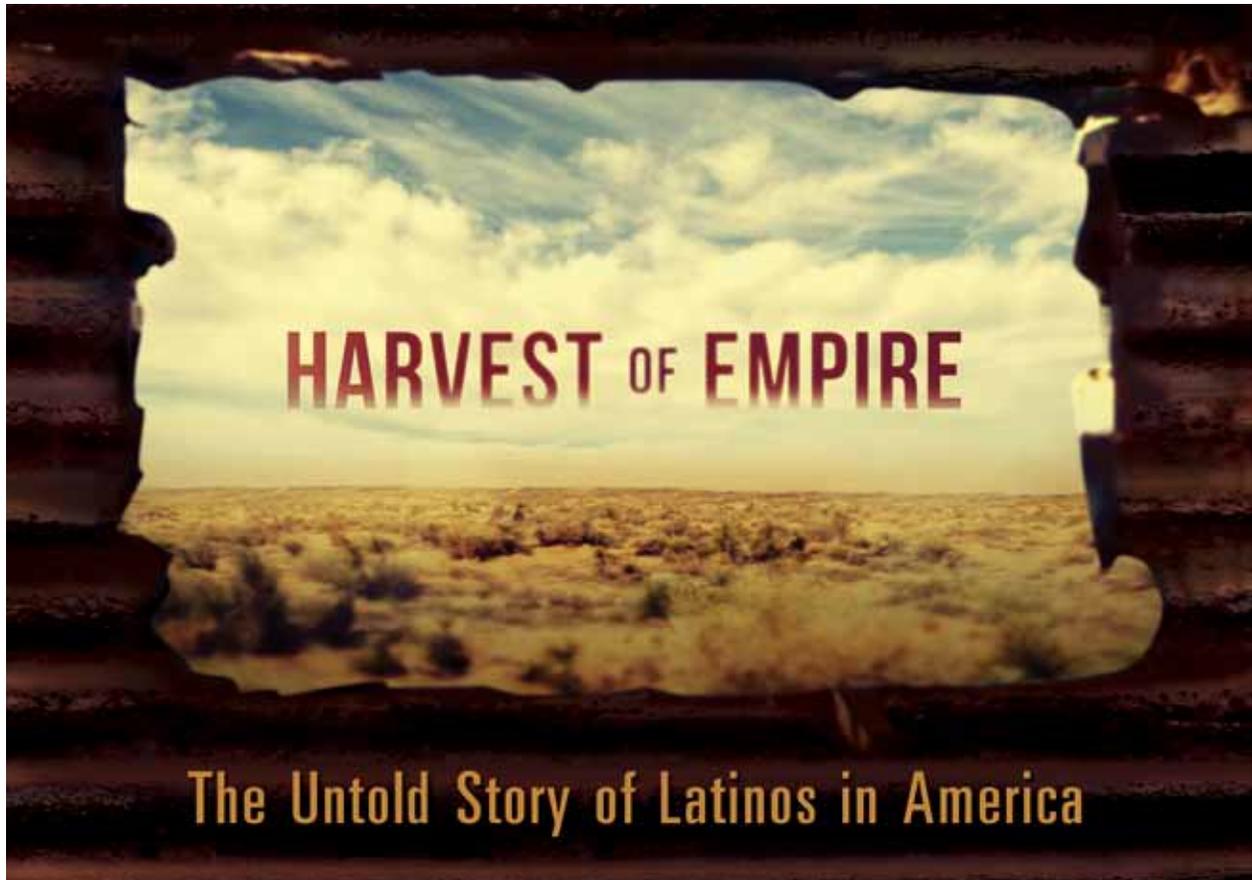


ONYX FILMS

EVS COMMUNICATIONS

LOQUITO PRODUCTIONS

PRESENT



90 mins | Unrated | English and Spanish with English subtitles / U.S. | All Rights Available

**Based on the landmark book, "Harvest of Empire,"  
by award-winning journalist Juan González**

DIRECTED BY

Peter Getzels &  
Eduardo López

PRODUCED BY

Wendy Thompson-Marquez &  
Eduardo López

SALES & PRESS CONTACTS:

Wendy Thompson-Marquez  
President and CEO  
EVS Communications

301.928.2211

wthompson@evscommunications.com

[www.HarvestofEmpireOnline.com](http://www.HarvestofEmpireOnline.com)

# HARVEST OF EMPIRE

THE UNTOLD STORY OF LATINOS IN AMERICA

---

“We are all Americans of the New World,  
and our most dangerous enemies are not each other,  
but the great wall of ignorance between us.”

Juan González, *Harvest of Empire*

---

## SYNOPSIS

At a time of heated and divisive debate over immigration, Onyx Films is proud to present *Harvest of Empire*, a feature-length documentary that examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

Based on the ground-breaking book by award-winning journalist Juan González, *Harvest of Empire* takes an unflinching look at the role that U.S. economic and military interests played in triggering an unprecedented wave of migration that is transforming our nation’s cultural and economic landscape.

From the wars for territorial expansion that gave the U.S. control of Puerto Rico, Cuba and more than half of Mexico, to the covert operations that imposed oppressive military regimes in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, *Harvest of Empire* unveils a moving human story that is largely unknown to the great majority of citizens in the U.S.

As Juan González says at the beginning of the film “They never teach us in school that the huge Latino presence here is a direct result of our own government’s actions in Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America over many decades — actions that forced millions from that region to leave their homeland and journey north.”

*Harvest of Empire* provides a rare and powerful glimpse into the enormous sacrifices and rarely-noted triumphs of our nation’s growing Latino community. The film features present day immigrant stories, rarely seen archival material, as well as interviews with such respected figures as Nobel Peace Prize



winner Rigoberta Menchú, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero, Pulitzer Prize winning writer Junot Díaz, Mexican historian Lorenzo Meyer, journalists Maria Hinojosa and Geraldo Rivera, Grammy award-winning singer Luis Enrique, and poet Martín Espada.

## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

The 2010 Census revealed in dramatic fashion just how quickly Latino communities are changing the face of the nation. Not only did the number of Latinos in the U.S. reach the 50 million mark years ahead of expectations, but Latinos accounted for an astounding 56 percent of the total population growth in the United States since 2000. According to new population estimates, some 500,000 Latino citizens will reach the age of 18 every year — for the next 20 years.



The emerging Latino presence in the U.S. has not been universally welcomed. A growing anti-immigrant movement has succeeded in polarizing communities across the country, tapping into fears about economic uncertainty and demographic diversity. For years, conservative talk radio, Fox News, and even such mainstream networks as CNN, have allowed guests and program anchors to utilize derogatory language to describe Latinos as “illegals,” “illegal aliens,” and “anchor babies.” The issue of immigration is routinely framed as an “invasion” and a “drain on public resources.”

Being Latino immigrants ourselves, we felt compelled to take action. In 2005, we decided that the time had come for Latinos to tell our own immigration story, and to take on the difficult challenge of



showing how the northward journey of millions of immigrant families was, in fact, driven by powerful forces closely connected to the actions our own country had taken throughout Latin America for more than 100 years.

*Harvest of Empire* focuses on seven countries located in the Latin American regions closest to the U.S. We see the true origins of massive migrations from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Nicaragua. We also meet a group of unforgettable Americans — WWII and Korean War veteran

Gonzalo Garza, migrant farm worker turned neurosurgeon Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, torture survivor María Guardado, singer Luis Enrique, as well as mother/daughter Mariana Cabrera and Mariana Zamboni, whose immigrant story symbolizes the daily contributions Latinos make to the U.S.

The living history depicted in *Harvest of Empire* is a moving, inspiring and often heartbreaking tale that must become part of our national conversation about immigration. As filmmakers, our hope is to spark civil dialogue and help to:

- » Challenge the negative stereotypes of Latino immigrants
- » Raise awareness about the true origins of the Latino presence in the U.S.
- » Focus attention on the contributions of Latino immigrants to our society.
- » Expose the harsh language being used to describe Latinos in the media.
- » Develop a deeper understanding for the real life impact of U.S. foreign policy.

## **HARVEST OF EMPIRE — AUTHOR**

### **JUAN GONZÁLEZ**

JOURNALIST & COHOST OF *DEMOCRACY NOW!*

Juan González has been a professional journalist for more than 30 years and a staff columnist at the New York Daily News since 1987. He is also the cohost of the daily radio and television program, *Democracy Now*, with Amy Goodman. González is a two-time recipient of the George Polk Award for commentary (1998 and 2010), and the first reporter in New York City to consistently expose the health effects arising from the September 11, 2001 attacks and the cover-up of these hazards by government officials.



He is a founder and past president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), and a member of the organization's Hall of Fame. A founding member of the Young Lords Party in the 1970s, and of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights in 1980s, González has twice been named by *Hispanic Business Magazine* as one of the country's most influential Hispanics and has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Puerto Rican Coalition.

González has written four books: *Fallout: The Environmental Consequences of the World Trade Center Collapse*, documents cover-ups by Environmental Protection Agency and government officials with regard to health hazards at Ground Zero in New York; *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*; and *Roll Down Your Window: Stories of a Forgotten America*. His latest book, *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media*, coauthored with Joseph Torres, is a landmark narrative history of American media that puts race at the center of the story.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### WENDY THOMPSON-MARQUEZ

#### PRODUCER

Ms. Wendy Thompson-Marquez, is the President and CEO of the Onyx Media Group and EVS Communications, Inc. Prior to joining EVS and the Onyx Media Group, she was the Vice President of ZGS Broadcast Holdings, a minority-owned communications company where she supervised the daily operations and advertising sales of eleven Telemundo network affiliates.

In 2004, she was honored by the National Conference for Community and Justice with the Media and Community Service Award. She has been featured in numerous newspaper and trade publications, including the Washington Business Journal, and has made several appearances on television and radio stations throughout the country. In addition, she is actively involved with a number of academic institutions in the Washington, D.C. area that have invited her to speak at student and faculty conferences, including Montgomery College, where she was the 2002 commencement speaker.

She is currently a board member of Latino Public Broadcasting, the Washington Performing Arts Society and the Community Foundation in D.C. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery (2000), and Leadership Washington (2001).

### EDUARDO LÓPEZ

#### CODIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Eduardo López is the cofounder of EVS Communications and the producer of *Línea Directa*, an award-winning Spanish-language television series that provides Latino families living in the Washington metropolitan area with information on their rights, as well as on important health, education, legal, and social service issues. In recognition of his ground-breaking work in public education, Mr. López was named a winner of the Ford Foundation's prestigious 2002 Leadership for a Changing World Award. Nearly 1,500 organizations were originally nominated for the honor, which was given to 20 leadership groups for demonstrating outstanding creativity, effectiveness, and community impact in their work.

### PETER GETZELS

#### DIRECTOR

Peter Getzels is an Emmy-winning documentary director, producer and cinematographer. He is the Executive Producer, Director, and Writer at Getzels Gordon Productions, an independent production company in Washington, D.C., where he is leading a team in the production of, *Closer to Truth*, an ambitious 117 episode science series on Cosmology, Consciousness and God for PBS. Mr. Getzels has also served as a staff producer at National Geographic, where he produced a major, four-part series on ancient Egypt for National Geographic Film and Television. He also directed, shot and wrote a number of award-winning documentaries for the flagship series *Explorer* and *Ultimate Explorer*. Prior to joining

National Geographic, Mr. Getzels, along with his partner Harriet Gordon, headed an award-winning independent production company (Getzels Gordon Ltd) in England, where they produced, shot and wrote documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4 (UK), ZDF, Canal Plus, and the Discovery Channel.

## **CATHERINE SHIELDS**

EDITOR

Catherine Shields is a multiple Emmy-winning editor with more than 25 years of experience at the highest levels of production. She has edited two winners of the Oscar for Best Documentary Short, *The Johnstown Flood*, and *A Time for Justice*, both directed by the legendary Charles Guggenheim. Ms. Shields also edited the Oscar-nominated feature documentary, *George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey*, directed by his son, George Stevens, Jr. Her national Emmys were won for her work on *The Kennedy Center Honors*, and the *AFI Tribute to Lillian Gish*, as well as for the film, *George Stevens: D-Day to Berlin*. She has worked closely with Peter Getzels for three years, and her work has been shown on CBS, NBC, PBS, BBC and the National Geographic Channel.