

Luis Valdez founded the internationally renowned and Obie Award-winning El Teatro Campesino (The Farm Workers' Theater) in 1965 during the United Farm Workers (UFW) struggle and the Great Delano Grape Strike in California's Central Valley. His involvement with Cesar Chavez, the UFW and the early Chicano Movement left an indelible mark that remains embodied in all his work. Valdez's screen credits include *Zoot Suit*, *La Bamba*, *The Cisco Kid*, and *Corridos: Tales of Passion and Revolution*. Awards include LA Drama Critic Circle Awards, Bay Area Critics Awards, the George Peabody Award for excellence in television, the Presidential Medal of the Arts, the Governor's Award from the California Arts Council and Mexico's prestigious Aguila Azteca Award. He was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. In 2007, he was awarded a Rockefeller fellowship as one of the 50 U.S. artists so honored across the United States. Valdez was recently inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences as a director. In September, 2016, he was awarded the National Medal of the Arts by President Obama in the White House.