

"Cinco de mayo: Fiesta Days"

Poetry Reading



*South Gate Middle School Library
4100 E. Firestone Blvd.
South Gate, California*

*Wednesday, May 4, 1994
9:25 a.m. - 11:26 a.m.*

FLAME, SPEECH

by
Octavio Paz

I read in a poem
to talk is divine
But the gods don't speak
they make and unmake worlds
while men do the talking
They play frightening games
without words

The spirit descends,
loosening tongues,
but doesn't speak words
it speaks fire
Lit by a god,
language becomes
a prophecy
of flames and a tower
of smoke and collapse
of syllables burned
ash without meaning

The word of man
is the daughter of death
We talk because we are mortal
words are not signs, they are years
Saying what they say,
the words we are saying
say time they name us
We are time's names

To talk is human

We wish to thank our invited guests, Gloria Alvarez, Frankie Estrada, Ricardo Ibarra, Manuel Luna, Michelle Serros, and Mr. Chris Gillett of the Aroyo Book Store. Also Mr. Sandoval, Ms. Gonzales, Mr. Buboltz, Ms. Holguin, Ms. Rivera, Mr. Gallardo, Ms. Duronslet, and Mr. Luna.

BIOGRAPHIES OF POETS

GLORIA ALVAREZ is a Chicana/Mexican poet and artist who was born in Guadalajara and raised in L.A. She attended Regina Cheli High School and graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills. She is a cultural activist and Inter/Media artist who has been involved in literary/artistic events, conferences both locally and internationally, as well as produce a radio show. She teaches creative writing and works as a literary consultant and translator. Her books of poetry include *La Excusa/The Excuse* and *Emerging in Un Mar de Olaves*. She has received awards from Cal Arts Council among others.

FRANKIE ESTRADA was born in East L.A. She graduated from Sacred Heart High in Lincoln Heights and will be attending Pasadena City College in the Fall. She has been featured on several radio talk shows including KPFK and KPCC on the Sancho Show. She works with the Kaiser Hospice program presenting writing workshops. She is a member of the L.A. poetry group called *Y Que Mas?* Her poetry has been published in literary journals including *Untitled*, *La La Land*, among others.

RICARDO MEANS YBARRA is a sixth generation Californian born and raised in the Silver Lake Echo Park area of L.A. He currently lives in Malibu. He graduated from UC Santa Cruz in Latin American Studies. He has been published in over 20 literary journals, including: *Blue Mesa Review*, *Cafe Solo*, *Electrum*, *On the Bus*, *Revista Mujeres*, *Bakunin*, *Poetry L.A.*, *The Kenyon Review*. He co-wrote and acted in a downtown LA theatre project called, *Dark Horse* in a play called *Homeboys Have No Home*. His novel, *The Pink Rosary*, was published by Latin American Literary Review Press in 1933. His current projects include: *Swimming with the Dolphins*, a novel, and *The Cat in the Mailbox*, a children's novel. He has received writing awards from American Academy of Poets and *Electrum Magazine*.

MANUEL LUNA is from El Salvador. He is a poet and teacher of literature, as well as a critique of cultural arts. He travels and teaches creative writing in schools throughout the LA area including Holenbeck, Hoover, and Nimitz Middle Schools. He was appointed to the Federal Dept. of Cultural Affairs in Mexico City. Currently he is an artist in residence in the Echo Park Library after receiving an award from the Arts Council. He is published in *Provacaciones* and other literary magazines.

MICHELE SERROS was born in Oxnard, California and now lives in Santa Monica. She graduated from Santa Clara High School and is currently attending U.C.L.A. She is an outstanding Chicana poet whose first book of poetry, *Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard*, was recently published by Lalo Press. She has been published in literary journals including *L.A. Magazine*. In 1992 she won the 1st Prize in the Latino Literary Contest in Santa Monica College.