



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "AL OTRO LADO"**
By Natalia Almada

"The documentary is handsomely filmed, whether in sun-drenched landscapes or crowded nightclubs. It's not a history of corridos, which have roots that reach back to medieval songs; it's a glimpse of art running parallel to daily life."
— **John Pareles, *The New York Times***

"An often affecting . . . look at a topic that has so dominated the news of late. *Al Otro Lado* looks at all sides of the immigration issue with a dispassionate eye. . . . Compelling stuff . . ."
— **Teresa Wiltz, *Washington Post***

"Poignant, punchy."
— **Los Angeles Times**

"A lyrical and beautiful account of border culture. . . . humane, visually exquisite and resists simple descriptions."
— **Robert Koehler, *Variety***

"Almada steadfastly reserves judgment. . . . she makes a pretty good case for [*corrido* music's] passionate fans. Like them, we're left unable to get the music—and the musicians—out of our heads."
— **Elizabeth Weitzman, *New York Daily News***

"*Al Otro Lado* serves as a primer on a musical style that may be unfamiliar to many, while putting a human face on the problem of illegal immigrants."
— **V.A. Musetto, *New York Post***

"Timely. . . . Almada gives a heart and song to Magdiel's dangerous journey even as she paints a picture of a drug-dependent economy with few job options in the barren Mexican countryside.
Grade: A-"
— **Gloria Goodale, *Christian Science Monitor***

"Natalia Almada's absorbing documentary tells Magdiel's story, a tale that resonates with millions pining for a better life beyond the border and with those who made it through and find themselves toiling in a strange land."
— **Mario Tarradell, *Dallas Morning News***

"*Al Otro Lado* is a chronicle not only of one man's struggle, but of the economic crisis that has forced so many people to risk their lives for drugs or immigration."
— **Time Out New York**

"The story of Magdiel, an aspiring corrido composer torn between two illegal paths . . . gives the documentary its drama, which outdoes anything on CSI."
— **Scripps Howard News Service**

"A graphic illustration of music's power to cross borders and capture history."
— **Sam Adams, *Philadelphia City Paper***

"*Al Otro Lado* is an important contribution to the understanding of the immigrant experience."
— **Belinda Acosta, *Austin Chronicle***

“The richly textured, colorful movie presents the ocean of laughter and tears connecting the people of two countries that, in the past, were one.”

— **Soledad Santiago, *Santa Fe New Mexican***

“The message throughout the film is that people cross the border, not to commit crimes but rather for a better way of life, and to improve the quality of life of family members . . .”

— **Paige Lauren Deiner, *The Monitor (McAllen, Texas)***

“With the upcoming debut of . . . *Al Otro Lado* . . . Americans now have a thought-provoking gateway into the perilously grey area that the immigration debate can find itself lost in today.”

— **C.A. Keller, *Williamsport Sun-Gazette***