



**Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s  
"THE BALLAD OF ESEQUIEL HERNÁNDEZ"**

By Kieran Fitzgerald

"Gripping. . . . The film . . . puts the killing [of Esequiel Hernández] in the context of geopolitics."  
— **Mike Hale, *The New York Times***

"Audiences who see this engrossing report will wonder why such an important event has been allowed to drift into obscurity. . . ."  
— **Robert Koehler, *Variety***

"The documentary draws parallels between the rhetoric used in the 1990s to promote the war on drugs and that used today to promote the border fence."  
— **Michelle Casady, *Houston Chronicle***

"Fitzgerald's intimate, empathetic approach is one of the most distinctive features of *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández*. . . . In Fitzgerald's hands, it's a tale that invites a wide array of emotional response: outrage, sorrow, regret and even forgiveness. . . ."  
— **Brad Buchholz, *Austin American-Statesman***

"Kieran Fitzgerald has carefully crafted this hour, showing empathy for both sides."  
— **Mike Hughes, *Gannett News Service***

"A chilling tale of collateral damage in the American government's war on drugs."  
— **Glenn Garvin, *Miami Herald***

"A poignant and impressively detailed documentary that puts a human face on the U.S.-Mexico border debates that continue to heat up elections today."  
— **Jeannie Jakle, *San Antonio Express-News***

"The complex, emotional story from both sides is retold in *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández* on P.O.V., which resonates as another border uproar continues."  
— **Roger Catlin, *Hartford Courant***

"[The film] meticulously sifts through the sketchy details surrounding the real shooting. . . . Eleven years later, Hernández's death illustrates how the war on drugs and the militarization of the border have only added to the sense of foreboding along the Rio Grande."  
— **Joyce Tang, *Mother Jones***

"The killing of Esequiel Hernández Jr. is retold in candid detail. . . . a timely analysis as the United States debates complex immigration issues, national security and terrorists and recurring demands for putting troops on the border."  
— **Ramón Rentería, *El Paso Times***

"*Ballad* focuses intensely on the cultural and political ramifications, how the murder ruined lives and reshaped policy (the military was removed from the border until 2006), and what the case reveals about U.S. official priorities, then and now."  
— **Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com***

"Powerfully tragic and hauntingly complex, the story of Esequiel Hernández Jr. is as relevant today as it was when the incident occurred more than a decade ago."  
— **Michael Aaron Gallagher, *Syracuse Post-Standard***