



NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

16th ANNUAL
HALL *of* FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY & BANQUET

July 27, 2019
Radisson Hotel - Fossil Creek

FORT WORTH  TEXAS

A dramatic scene featuring a cowboy in a black hat riding a black and white spotted bucking horse. The horse is rearing up, kicking its legs. In the background, a large, ornate arena building with a prominent tower is visible under a cloudy, golden-hued sky. The overall atmosphere is one of excitement and action.

2020
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Mayor's Welcome Letter



It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Fort Worth for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum 16th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet on July 27, 2019. We hope that you will savor your stay and time spent here enjoying the unique mix of cultural activities found only in the city “Where the West Begins.”

As Mayor, it is with great pride that I would like to tell you about our city, a city of cowboys, culture and community. In one visit you can enjoy an enormous range of experiences – from art to animals, from fashion to family fun. We offer lessons in western history with a tour of the Historic Stockyards, auto racing at the Texas Motor Speedway or a relaxing night of shopping and dining in downtown’s historic Sundance Square. The choice is yours!

While you are in Fort Worth, we hope you get a chance to visit:

- ◆ Our downtown area... a nationally noted model of successful urban renaissance filled with restaurants, museums, art galleries, theaters and an abundance of retail shopping. The Sundance Square area of downtown is a “must-see” for everyone visiting the city.
- ◆ The Cultural District... recognized as the “museum capital of the Southwest,” is home to world-class museums. We are proud to be home to the Texas Cowgirl Hall of Fame, and we have an outstanding Equestrian Center, one of the country’s top-ranked zoos, and a multitude of beautiful parks and gardens.
- ◆ Northside’s historic Stockyards area... a delightful journey into the city’s western heritage. You are sure to enjoy the area’s many shops and restaurants while finding a real-life cowboy or two outfitted with horses and even the cattle drive of the Fort Worth Herd of longhorns!

One of our most valuable assets is our people. Visitors often cite the “Fort Worth Friendly” spirit of our citizens and businesses as the top reason they plan a return visit.

We are pleased you chose Fort Worth for your banquet and hope you enjoy your time in Cowtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betsy Price".

Betsy Price
Mayor



BETSY PRICE, MAYOR

Founder's Letter



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Gloria Reed Austin

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July 27, 2019

Good Evening Friends!

Welcome to the 16th Annual National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet. It is our sincere pleasure to congratulate the 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees that are being recognized for the significant contributions to western history and culture, they have each made. The aim of the Museum and Hall of Fame is to tell the stories that many history books have failed to include. These forgotten American heroes are excellent examples of the past, present, and future of this great country; while acknowledging our current generation of Hall of Fame Inductees who continue to work to keep western culture alive and well. With foundation, corporate and community sponsor support, we continue to provide the Cultural Heritage Youth Workshop and Museum Tour Program; on-site School Assemblies and Career Day events for schools and organizations.

Celebrating our first year in the new location of the historic Fort Worth Stockyards has been exhilarating! We have been very busy making new friends in our new neighborhood. We continue strengthening partnerships with museums in the area and around the nation so that we may increase the Museum's capacity to outreach and impact society globally.

If you have not yet visited our new location, it's time to schedule a visit on your calendar. We extend a warm and friendly invitation to each of you, your families and friends! We kindly ask each of you to support the continuing growth and development of the programs the Museum offers by obtaining a Museum Membership and becoming a new Museum Volunteer. You are wanted! You are needed!

We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to the Sponsors of the 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and the National Day of the American Cowboy programs as well as to each of you who purchased tickets for tonight; made donations to the Rodeo Tickets for Youth Program or gifted the Museum with items for the Silent Auction.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy this special evening of learning more about this remarkably talented, intelligent and civic minded Hall of Fame Class of 2019; followed by world class musical entertainment brought by the phenomenal Grammy award winning guitarist Norman Brown and saxophonist extraordinaire Tom Braxton, in concert for your listening pleasure.

Sincere regards,

James N. Austin
Founder & President

Gloria Reed Austin
Founder & Executive Director



About the Museum

Our Mission

The primary objective of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame is to offer the visitor a true and complete historical perspective of the people and activities that built the unique culture of the American West. The work of artists who documented the people and events of the time through journals, photographs and other historical items are part of this new collection. These long overlooked materials tell, perhaps for the first time, the complete story. The American West of today still operates on many of the principles and cultural relationships begun so long ago.

Our Vision

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Fame was founded to give recognition to the outstanding pioneers who played a role in settling the early American western frontier. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame also acknowledges individuals that have contributed to the western culture and tradition and play a part in keeping this important piece of American History alive.

For more information, please visit www.cowboysofcolor.org, email info@cowboysofcolor.org, or call 817.534.8801.

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Program

Master of Ceremony ♦ *Scott Murray*

Chairman/CEO of Murray Media • 2017 Hall of Fame Inductee

Opening Ceremony ♦ *Color Guard*

Boy Scout Troop 528 • Tony Lampkin, Scout Master
Chartered by Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church • Fort Worth, TX

National Anthem

Pledge to the Texas Flag ♦ *Bob Holmes*

NMWHM Museum Advisory Board Member

Welcome ♦ *Joycelyn Barnett*

NMWHM Museum Board of Directors Member

Invocation ♦ *Harold Cash*

2010 Hall of Fame Inductee

Dinner

Recognition Period

Dignitaries ♦ *Scott Murray*

Sponsors ♦ *Steven Heape*

Hall of Fame Alumni ♦ *Clara Wallace Holmes*

NMWHM Museum Board of Directors Member & Advisory Board Member

2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Closing Remarks ♦ *Jim and Gloria Austin*

Founders • National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame

Final Words and Announcements ♦ *Scott Murray*

Master of Ceremony



Scott Murray 2017 INDUCTEE

From U.S. Presidents to U.S. Opens, the World Series to the World Cup, the Olympic Games to 30 straight Super Bowls, Scott Murray has covered them all. He spent over three decades with NBC television as a multi Emmy Award-winning television sports anchor and broadcast journalist. Scott was named Sportscaster of the Year 17 times by various news organizations. He has been recognized as a Living Legend of Journalism by the Press Club of Dallas and is a recipient of the prestigious Silver Circle Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Although retired from nightly television news, Scott returned to NBC/DFW to host the weekly TV public affairs/philanthropic program, Talk Street for several years, while hosting the Emmy Award-winning program, Conversations with Scott Murray and the The Scott Murray Radio Show, weekly on 570 KLIF. Scott continues to be a sought-after keynote speaker and published author of 2 books (Whatever It Takes and Bring Out The BEST). In addition, he regularly serves as an emcee/host/moderator for corporate conferences and charitable events, a TV/radio spokesperson and is also Chairman/CEO of Murray Media, an Emmy Award-winning video/HD television production and A/V event media company.

Scott served on the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee and as chairman of the Honorary Committee of the NCAA Final Four Tip-Off Gala. He is on the board of trustees of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dallas Sports Commission, National Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame Gridiron Club; charter board member of the SMU Athletic Forum Board and the Doak Walker National Running Back Award; executive board member of the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award and chairman of the O'Brien Legends Award and Founder's Award Committees; executive board member of the Armed Forces Bowl; executive board member of the Heart of Dallas Bowl; former President of the Texas Motor Speedway Children's Charities Board of Directors; member of the Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities Advisory Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation Board and Children at Risk Advisory Board; member of the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the President's Advisory Council of the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Scott stays very active in the north Texas community as a volunteer, serving on the board/advisory boards of countless children's, civic, charitable and non-profit organizations. His commitment to community has resulted in his being honored with such awards as Citizen of the Year, Man of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year, and recipient of the following: Governor's Award; Director's Award from the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice; George Washington Medal of Honor Freedom Award; The Military Order of the World Wars Patrick Henry Award; National Youth Leadership Council Gift of Leadership Award; Tom Landry Award of Excellence; Taste of the N.F.L. Man of the Year; National Philanthropy Day AFP Special Recognition Award; People of Vision Award; Johnny Stallings Award; Barbara Jordan Citizenship Award; Komen for the Cure National Individual Community Service Award; United Way Hercules Award; Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Excellence in Media Award; Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society-Honorary Inductee; Daughters of WWII Carry the Torch Award; National Congress of Parents and Teachers-Honorary Inductee; American Cancer Society Sword of Hope; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Honoree; Special Olympics Torch Award; Legacy of Men Tackling Domestic Violence Award; Boy Scouts of America God and Service Award; Philanthropy World Hall of Fame Inductee; Texas Baseball Hall of Fame-Honorary Inductee; National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum 2017 Inductee; and, Scott's two most cherished awards, Dad of the Year and Father of the Year.

Hall of Fame Inductees



Valeria Vason Cunningham

Valeria Vason-Cunningham is Owner/President of the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo (BPIR), the only African American traveling rodeo in the United States and Lu Vason's Presents, a Denver based promotional company for music and theatrical productions. Valeria retired from a 43-year distinguished career in the Insurance Industry in 2018 as Senior Vice-President of Corporate Risk Management for USI Insurance, one of the nation's largest Insurance Brokerage firms. BPIR thrives today, under the leadership of Valeria, reflecting the power, influence and determination of a strong Black Woman. The rodeo explores new cities and exposure opportunities. According to Valeria, *"Seeing devoted rodeo fans; walking with canes, in wheelchairs or just slowly taking their time with deliberate steps, not letting their physical challenges keep them from coming to the rodeo, provided me clarity of the impact of BPIR on rodeo fans;"* this intensifies her passion and fuels the mission to continue Lu Vason's legacy.

Valeria believes giving back to communities served is a priority and guides the non-profit, Bill Pickett Memorial Scholarship Fund (BPMSF). BPMSF provides opportunities to students to experience the excitement of rodeo and learn about the history and contributions of the Black Cowboy and cowgirl in the development of the West. Valeria has volunteered skills, time and other resources to various organizations, including the NAACP, Metropolitan Urban League of Denver, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater and the Black America West Museum. She has mentored young African American girls in weekly open forums and participated as a speaker to African American youth encouraging them how to successfully compete in a diverse society. In January 2010, Valeria was one of 25 African American women recognized from across the nation by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc. at their "High Tea with High Heels," event in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to guiding and directing her companies, Valeria assists her husband, Ronnie Cunningham with his non-profit, Ryan's Village USA Inc., which focuses on community connection, training and generational collaboration, specializing in youth and young adult development. Valeria is a 24-year breast cancer survivor and believes, *"Everything happens for a reason, whether good or bad"*. She feels you may not understand when things happen, but time will always unveil the benefit, if you have faith. Her motto is *"Take each step, one step at a time"*.



Lu Vason

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE

Visionary and Founder (April 6, 1939 - May 17, 2015): The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo was created and managed by a promoter who established himself as an innovative leader in special events marketing. Lu Vason grew up in Berkeley, California and moved to Denver in 1977. He had over 50 years experience, as a producer, media impresario and marketing consultant. He was a trend setter and creative spirit. In 1977, during Wyoming's Cheyenne Frontier Days, Vason's interest turned toward rodeo. His curiosity was aroused when he noted that there were no Black cowboys participating that day. He was curious as to whether people were aware of the role the Black cowboy had played in this country's history. Convinced that the time had come to uncover the cultural past of the Black cowboy, in 1984, he created an all-Black rodeo named after the legendary Black cowboy, Bill Pickett. The first Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo held in 1984, in Denver, Colorado, was an inspiration Vason had after visiting the Cheyenne Frontier Days, in Wyoming. *"My experience was exciting but lacked one thing"*, according to Vason; *"Black cowboys."* While in Denver he visited the Black American West Museum of History where he was introduced to the history of Bill Pickett. *"People knew the name Will Rogers"*, said Vason, *"but who they hadn't heard of was Bill Pickett, and if they had, they didn't know he was Black."* The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo was Vason's passion. Through his impressive career as a producer, he made it possible for many to have access to a piece of denied history. Still today, children and adults can travel a short distance by bus, car or maybe even horse, to a place where the dust from the bull pen, the fearless strength of Black cowboys and the audacious displays of bulldogging is as authentic now as they were over a hundred years, ago. The legacy of Lu Vason lives on through the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo.

Hall of Fame Inductees



Double R Rodeo Livestock Company - CK Reid

CK Reid is a rancher, stock contractor and trick roper from Hill County, Texas. Born into a rodeo family, CK was raised in the saddle and embarked upon his professional trick roping career at age 15, after winning Waco's regional FFA talent competition. In 1978 he was named Champion Youth Trick and Fancy Roper at Will Roger's 100th anniversary hosted by Clem McSpadden in Claremore, OK.

With Homer, his trained Brahma Bull, CK went on to perform in many events and venues across the country including performances for President Jimmy Carter in the Fort Worth Stockyards and the American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri - the worlds largest livestock show. From 1981 to 1983 CK crisscrossed the US to PRCA and major rodeo events in Iowa, Idaho, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Florida, Missouri, Nebraska, and Hawaii.

In 1983, CK was contracted to perform at the Southern Palace show for Six Flags over Texas and was also featured in the musical *Oklahoma!* starring John Snyder of Dukes of Hazzard fame. CK and Homer were featured on TV shows such as Mr. Peppermint and PM Magazine. That same year, CK was awarded a full scholarship to Southwest Texas University as a part of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo team. This team went on to win the national championship in 1985.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics, CK continued with competition in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's Texas Rodeo Association Finals every year from 1986-1992 - with his biggest win coming in Sikeston, Missouri.

In 1993 CK took over Double R Rodeo Livestock Company from his rodeo hero, his uncle Roland Reid. Established in 1938, it operates today as the longest running rodeo livestock company in Texas - going on its 76th year in business. Under CK's direction, Double R Rodeo has provided livestock for The Stockyards Champion Rodeo for 21 years. This event is the world's only year around weekly rodeo show produced by Cross D Productions and Hub Baker. In 2005 CK also took over production of the Billy Bob's Texas Bull Riding Show, which also runs weekly in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District.

When not in the Fort Worth Stockyards, producing private events or at the cow sale, CK operates his ranch in Maypearl, Texas along with his wife, Ashlee and their three children, Carter, Harris and Sheridan.

Hall of Fame Inductees



Taylor Hall, Jr., aka "Bailey's Prairie Kid"

Taylor Hall, Jr., was born in 1932, in Bailey's Prairie on the coastal plain of Texas, one of twelve children born to Irma Shelton and Taylor Hall, Sr. It was a land of cows, horses, boots and hats. Bailey, as he is called by his friends, has been on a horse since before he could walk. With Bailey's milk bottle stuck in the pocket of his chaps, his daddy took him on horseback to work. "I started out with my daddy. He was working for the Stanger

Ranch when I born and he would take me to work with him when I was a baby, wasn't nothing but a baby. I wasn't big enough to guide a horse." (*The Brazosport Facts*). He watched as his father broke wild horses for use as ranch horses. Taylor Hall, Sr. marked those he broke by biting a notch in the tip of the horse's left ear.

The Bailey's Prairie Kid started his rodeo career when he went to his first rodeo without his father's knowledge. He was about 19. His rodeo career lasted over 40 years. The Bailey's Prairie Kid's record includes winning championships at the Southwestern National Cowboys Association in 1966 for saddle bronc riding, in 1968 for bareback bronc riding, in 1972 and 1973 for champion steer wrestling, in 1975 for bull riding and in 1978 as the all-around champion in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding and steer wrestling. He competed in Texas, Louisiana, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The Kid competed with other cowboys of color like Cleo Hearn and Myrtis Dightman. In 2001 Mr. Hall was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In the 1960s, Bailey went to New York to rodeo at Madison Square Garden. He carried his gear in a croaker sack and continued his tradition of riding broncs or bulls wearing a white shirt, a bow tie, and smoking on a cigar. Today, the Bailey's Prairie Kid can recall the names of most of the good bulls he rode and where he rode them.

Besides his rodeo career, Mr. Hall says he has worked for just about everyone in Brazoria County that has a cow. At 84, Bailey is still a working cowboy and many ranchers in Brazoria County count on him to help work cows and for advice. He still lives in Bailey's Prairie and works from sun-up to sundown.

Articles about Mr. Hall

http://thefacts.com/article_07f6ee9d-83d0-5250-9352-8caa2ae3981.html

<https://www.texasnotaryprofessionals.org/photo-albums/the-baileys-prairie-kid-4>

<http://collections.starkculturalvenues.org/objects/57893/baileys-prairie-kid-okmulgee-oklahoma?ctx=29fc0ad6-10b2-4fa3-bed3-6cee3c3a6989&idx=1>

<https://vimeo.com/156422835>

<https://kogt.com/museum-looked-like-movie-scene/>

http://www.tdtnews.com/archive/article_a67a9c2f-5bc6-517b-a131-bb4452fca595.html

Hall of Fame Inductees



Wes Studi

Probably the most acclaimed Native American actor working today, it was recently announced that Wes Studi will become the first Native American actor to receive an Oscar. The golden statuette will be awarded October 27, 2019, at the 11th annual Governors Awards. In a statement, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that Studi was chosen for “portraying strong Native American characters with poignancy and authenticity.” He is also on the cover of the August/September 2019 edition of *Cowboys and Indians Magazine*.

The eldest son of a ranch hand, Wes was born in 1947 in Nofire Hollow, in Northeastern Oklahoma. He spoke only his native Cherokee until he was 5, when he was enrolled in the Murrell Home to attend public school. He later attended the Chilocco Indian Boarding School in Northern Oklahoma, where he remained through high school graduation. Yet, unlike many fellow Native American students, he never forgot his language. Wes joined the U.S. Army and while stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, stories from returning Vietnam War veterans set his blood on fire. With only 12 months of his six-year service left, Wes volunteered to go to Vietnam. He served one tour in South Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta, living his own future war stories. At one point his company was pinned down in the Mekong Delta – and nearly killed – by friendly fire. After an honorable military discharge, Wes became seriously involved with Native American politics. He joined the American Indian Movement (AIM) and participated in the Trail of Broken Treaties protest march in 1972, where hundreds of Native American activists marched on Washington. He was one of the protesters who briefly occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs Building there. In 1973, Wes participated in the occupation at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, for which he was arrested. Shortly after Wounded Knee, Wes moved to the Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he worked for the Cherokee Nation, and helped start the Cherokee Phoenix, a bilingual newspaper still in publication today. During that time Wes put his linguistic skills to work and began teaching the Cherokee language in the community. Later attending Northeastern University in Tahlequah, he made further attempts at positive influence in his work with his people. After college, Wes shifted his attention to running his own horse ranch and became a professional horse trainer. It was during this era that he began acting at The American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa in 1983, where he found both the adrenaline rush he craved and the cathartic release he needed.

In 1990, Wes portrayed a terrifyingly memorable Pawnee warrior in *“Dances with Wolves.”* Two years later he landed the role of Magua in Michael Mann’s *“The Last of the Mohicans,”* the performance that put him on the map. Additionally, Wes wrote two children’s books, *“The Adventures of Billy Bean”* and *“More Adventures of Billy Bean”* for the Cherokee Bilingual/Cross Cultural Education Center. In 2006, Wes was honored with the Golden Boot Award. In 2013, he was inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s Hall of Great Western Performers. Throughout his 30-year career he’s won numerous awards, including several First Americans in the Arts awards and the 2009 Santa Fe Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2018, Wes was invited to present a tribute to military veterans at the 90th Academy Awards. During his presentation, he shared the following in his native Cherokee language: *“Hello. Appreciation to all veterans & Cherokees who’ve served. Thank you!”*

Wes remains a passionate activist and academic. He’s taken a national leadership role in the promotion and preservation of indigenous languages. He’s a skilled stone carver, working primarily in soapstone and other soft stones. He’s also an accomplished musician. Playing bass and guitar, he fronts the band *Firecat of Discord*. Wes and his wife Maura live in Santa Fe, NM. They have one son, Kholan. Wes also has a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Leah, from a previous marriage.

Hall of Fame Inductees



James Pickens, Jr.

James Pickens, Jr. is an actor, producer and philanthropist. As an actor, he has the distinction of being an original cast member of the longest running medical drama in television history, *Grey's Anatomy*. For his role as former chief of staff, Dr. Richard Webber, he earned a SAG Award, a People's Choice Award and an NAACP Image Award.

Born and raised in Cleveland, OH, he began his acting career at Cleveland's Karamu House, the oldest African-American theater in the United States. He moved to New York and performed in the historic 1981 production of *A Soldiers' Play* at the Negro Ensemble Company with fellow cast members Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson.

Upon moving to Los Angeles, Pickens worked steadily on both small and big screen, appearing in films directed by some of Hollywood's finest directors, including, Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic*, Oliver Stone's *Nixon*, Warren Beatty's *Bulworth*, and four Barry Levinson films: *Jimmy Hollywood*, *Sleepers*, *Sphere* and *Liberty City*. He portrayed slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers in *Ghosts of Mississippi*, which starred Whoopi Goldberg and was directed by Rob Reiner.

His television credits include recurring roles on *Beverly Hills: 90210*, *The X-Files* (both the original and the reboot), *The Practice*, *NYPD Blue*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *The West Wing*, *Roseanne* and the reincarnation of that series, *The Conners*, and many more.

As a producer, he has several projects in the works, including his passion project, a film on the life of the first black U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves.

In his spare time, he hosts an annual team roping event, which attracts some of the best competitive team ropers in the sport. Proceeds from this event benefit the James Pickens, Jr. Foundation, a charity he co-founded with his wife of 30 years, Gina Taylor-Pickens. The foundation's mission is to enhance the lives of families and children in under-served communities.

Visit <http://www.jpjfoundationroping.com> to find out more about the James Pickens, Jr. Foundation.

Hall of Fame Inductees



Michael Aku RoDriguez

Being Mescalero Apache and Zapotec heritage, RoDriguez was taught and inspired by the traditions of his culture. While in film school at Tarrant County College – Northeast Campus, he started his career working in Video Production, Post Event Meeting A/V Services and Event Management. There he gained the ability to coordinate video tours, television, fashion/trade shows and conventions as a line-producer and cinematographer for the 2000 Frida Kahlo Fashion Show, Martha Stewart Collection Show in 2001, and the 2002 Reba McEntire Shoe Fashion Show.

While at TCC - Northeast Campus, RoDriguez began working as an actor and line-producer for commercials and independent films, where he learned the intricacies of feature film production from some of the most skilled and talented technicians in the industry. From there he went on to act in the indie film, "The Prodigy" in 2005; "Walker Texas Ranger" TV series in 2006; and working production on indie film "Black Nile" in 2006, where he was casted and line-producer in "The Blue Jay" 2007 indie film. Adding to his talents, RoDriguez was a musician with bands such as SpoonFed Tribe and JointMethod. He played bass guitar, keyboards, percussion, and background vocals where he helped to create his company Say What You Want Records in 1990-2005, creating 5 albums and toured with The Bob Marley Freedom Festival: West Coast in 2001/2002 and Lollapalooza Tour: East To West Coast in 2003, and singer songwriter Clay Walker in 2006.

In 2008, RoDriguez was brought on to direct, produce, write, and compose the acclaimed PBS documentary "The Rose A Sense of Place" that received a Telly Award. That same year RoDriguez created Zoom On A Star D. Stories: LearnShops that teaches digital media technology to engage at risk youths in creating stories told through digital images. In 2008 the students created "Dia De Los Muertos" Documentary, 2009 "Monologues" Film that premiered at Rose Marine Theatre. Because of Rodriguez's LearnShops in 2010-2011 he received a NEA: National Endowment of The Arts-Education Arts Grant as the project film coordinator for "Wall Visions" Mural documentary starring the children and communities. While teaching he began working as a Director, Producer, and Director of Photography (D.P.) with indie film "Uprising of The Sixth Sun." He also worked in the sound department on "I See World Peace" documentary film in 2012 and production work on National Geographic's "Eyewitness War" 2013 documentary, "This Changes Every Thing" documentary, and Syfy's "Alien Encounter 3" TV Series. With the extraordinary international success he Produced and Director of Photography (D.P.) a film, through his company So Be It Films... the political documentary "La Gran Falacia" (The Great Fallacy) Documentary in 2013 that received the official selection and best Spanish film at Sunscreen Film Festival, official selection at Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival and Rincon International Film Festival. In 2014 wrapped up "Earth Painters," short documentary filmed in Swaziland Mbabane, Africa & Chiapas, Mexico, and "The Exiled Wife's" short documentary and was Director, Producer, Writer, Director of Photography (D.P.), Editor, and Composer which received 2 Awards in 2015 for Best Local Filmmaker & Emerging Directors; Latino & Native American Film Festival, LANAFF, and also with documentary trailer "THEIR LAST RIDE" he received 2016 BEST Documentary Short Film: Silver Springs International Film Festival, SSIFF, 2016/2017 EQUUS Film Festival TOUR EFF and won 2018 Best trailer; Latino & Native American Film Festival, LANAFF. In 2017 Produced/Directed/Co-Writer/DP CBS7's Mini Documentary Special, "BUFFALO SOLDIERS of WEST TEXAS," Announcing Mini Documentary Short, "SPIRIT" that received the Official 2018 EQUUS Film Festival TOUR EFF, touring in Sedona, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, and Durango, CO.

EARTH DAY 2018 RoDriguez released "SHATTERING SACRED GROUND," documentary film 4 years in the making which he was the Director, Producer, Writer, Director of Photography (D.P.), Editor, and Composer. 2019 he worked on ID Investigation Discovery reality/Doc (TV) production team, and this summer in Puerto Rico as a DP & Sound Mixer on the feature film, "The Golden Boys". Currently RoDriguez is working on Writing, Directing and Producing 2 feature films based on true events, 2 documentaries that focus on social problems and global social change - both inside the United States and throughout Africa, Brazil, India, and Haiti while working with very modest budgets.

Hall of Fame Alumni

2003

Bill Pickett
Posthumous Induction
Bose Ikard
Posthumous Induction
Charles Sampson
Herb Jeffries*
Jose "Pepe" Diaz*
Myrtis Dightman
Quanah Parker
Posthumous Induction
Steven R. Heape

2004

Jim Lane
Mantan Moreland
Posthumous Induction
Mary Fields
Posthumous Induction
Walter Charles Morse*

2005

Ed "Pop" Landers
Posthumous Induction
Gerardo "Jerry" Diaz
Luke "Leon" Coffee
Melvin "Mel" Carnell Blount
Vicki Herrera Adams

2006

Bass Reeves
Posthumous Induction
Charley Pride
Colonel Juan Seguin
Posthumous Induction
George Fletcher
Posthumous Induction
Jackson Sundown
Posthumous Induction
Ken Pollard
Knox Simmons
Posthumous Induction
Patricia E. Kelly
Rosieleetta "Lee" Reed

2007

Cathay Williams
Posthumous Induction
Frank White
Nathaniel "Rex" Purefoy
Red Steagall
Rufus Green Sr.
Posthumous Induction
Tom Three Persons
Posthumous Induction
Verna Lee Booker Hightower
Posthumous Induction

2008

Art T. Burton
Holt Collier
Posthumous Induction
Matthew "Bones" Hooks
Posthumous Induction
Paul Cleveland
Taylor H. Haynes, M.D.
Tommie Haw
Posthumous Induction
Willie Thomas

2009

Albino Tais
Posthumous Induction
Alex Dees*
Ben F. Tahmahkera*
Calvin Norris Greely, Jr.
Posthumous Induction
Dean Smith
Henry Harris
Posthumous Induction
Isaac Burns Murphy
Posthumous Induction
Mayisha Akbar

2010

Abe Morris
Charles Hank Banks*
Harold Cash
Lowell "Stretch" Smith
Captain Paul J. Matthews
Robert Strauss*

Hall of Fame Alumni

2011

Freddie "Skeet" Gordon
Glynn Turman
Joe Beaver
Peter Perkins Pitchlynn
Posthumous Induction
Ruth Scantlin Roach
Posthumous Induction
Shirlie Sanders
Posthumous Induction
Walter Clarence "Buck" Taylor
William "Will" Penn Adair Rogers
Posthumous Induction

2012

Burl Washington
Colonel Allen Allensworth
Posthumous Induction
Floyd "Buck" Wyatt
Posthumous Induction
Fred Whitfield
Lawrence Homer Coffee
Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Jr.
Pam Grier
Woody Strode
Posthumous Induction

2013

Walt Willey
James Butler Hickok
Posthumous Induction

2014

Barry Corbin
Vincent Jacobs
Anne Lockhart
Nathan Jean Whitaker Sanders

2015

Judge Paul Brady
Jamie Foxx
Walt Garrison
Holt Hickman
Posthumous Induction
Harvey Means
Posthumous Induction

2015 (continued)

Steve Murrin
Danell Tipton
Gordon Tonips
Posthumous Induction
Randy White

2016

H.B. "Hub" Baker
James P. Beckwourth
Posthumous Induction
Timmy "Mule" Brooks*
Floyd Frank
Isador "Lolo" Munoz
Posthumous Induction
Cleveland F. Walters, Sr.

2017

Fort Worth Herd
Billy and Pam Minick
Scott Murray
Bob Tallman
William J. Grandstaff
Posthumous Induction
Wilbert D. "Wil" Robinson
Posthumous Induction

2018

Douglas Harmon, Ph.D.
Will Arthur "Artie" Morris
Jay Novacek
Eugene "Gene" Smith*
James Watson, Jr.
Libby Willis
Dale Evans
Posthumous Induction
Roy Rogers
Posthumous Induction
John Ware
Posthumous Induction
Charley Willis
Posthumous Induction



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