



Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s "THE LAST CONQUISTADOR"

By John J. Valadez and Cristina Ibarra

"When a renowned artist proposed creating the largest bronze equestrian sculpture ever made, El Paso leaders thought the project would help beautify the border city while honoring a founding father. . . . The drama caused by the statue is featured in the documentary *The Last Conquistador*."

— **Anabelle Garay, Associated Press**

"We have different views of what constitutes heroic behavior as PBS' P.O.V. explores in *The Last Conquistador*."

— **Robert Bianco, USA Today**

"*The Last Conquistador* is more than a documentary about a big statue and the trouble it caused. It's about a struggle almost as epic as the metal sculpture itself, raising questions about the role of public art, the framing of history and racial and economic divides."

— **Doug Pullen, El Paso Times**

"This even-handed documentary finds sympathy for both sides—and shows a human dilemma."

— **Mike Hughes, Gannett News Service**

"By not taking sides in this dispute, the filmmakers allow Houser's work to stand on its own merits."

— **Aaron Barnhart, Kansas City Star**

"*The Last Conquistador* examines the ethnic divide in an unusual manner. It lets viewers see the issue in different ways and will maybe help them think about the dilemma and others that divide America. . . . you can't help but think about how the El Paso crisis mirrors so many other debates in this giant melting pot of a nation. . . ."

— **Tom Dorsey, Louisville Courier-Journal**

"The documentary is a powerful examination of the role of public art and the responsibility of the sculptor to see both sides of the story. It's an engrossing hour for anyone who wants to create public art or is interested in the history of the American Southwest."

— **Marilyn Noble, Sculptural Pursuit Magazine**

"In the summertime when many adults are frustrated by the fare in the cinemas and on TV, P.O.V. offers films for the thinking man and woman, with more drama and realism than a full season of *Big Brother* or a thousand episodes of *Deal or No Deal*. *The Last Conquistador* is well worth your time."

— **Brian Callaghan, EDGE New England**