

May 2, 2010  
For immediate release

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***Border Bandits* to screen Thursday, May 6 at  
Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**

**Panel discussion to follow**

*"Much of the recent coverage of Ranger history in this period seems to have been spurred by Kirby Warnock's documentary film, Border Bandits."*

**TEXAS MONTHLY**

*"Border Bandits, which illuminates a particularly heinous period in Texas history, is hardly anti-Ranger, but is instead an invaluable record of a hysterical, racist, and ultimately bloodthirsty version of the American West few willingly recall."*

**THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE**

*"The documentary offers a first-hand account of the killings."*

**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

*"An excellent primer on border conflicts, with a very effective personal angle."*

**Robert Draper, GQ**

After winning the Deep Ellum Film Festival's Audience Award, garnering a "Texan of the Year" nomination, and even sparking a bill in the Texas Legislature, *Border Bandits*, begins a one-week run in Austin, on Thursday night, May 6, 7:00 pm at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in the Texas Spirit Theater, located at 1800 Congress. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for military, students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased by phone by calling (512) 936-4639.

A panel discussion about the incidents unveiled in the documentary will follow the screening with panelists **Dr. Don Graham**, **Dr. Maggie Rivas Rodriguez** and **Tony Leal**, the head of the Texas Rangers. and filmmaker **Kirby Warnock**.

The group assembled for the evening brings a wealth of knowledge and several perspectives to the dialogue. **Tony Leal** became the first Hispanic selected to lead this legendary law enforcement agency. **Dr. Don Graham**, J. Frank Dobie Regents Professor, UT Austin and writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly*, has explored portrayals of Texas and Texans in his book, *Cowboys and Cadillacs: How Hollywood Looks at Texas*. He also is the author of *Kings of Texas: The 150-Year Saga of an American Ranching Empire* and *No Name on the Bullet: A Biography of Audie Murphy*.

**Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**, journalism professor and oral historian at UT Austin is the director of the 10-year-old U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project, which has recorded over 700 interviews, mostly on video. The project is engaged in a pilot expansion into the Korean and Vietnam War eras.

*Border Bandits* is based on a story that filmmaker Kirby Warnock's grandfather, **Roland Warnock**, told him nearly 30 years ago. In 1915 Roland was a 19-year-old cowboy working on the Guadalupe Ranch near present-day Edinburg, Texas, when he witnessed a group of Texas Rangers shoot two unarmed men in the back and leave their bodies by the side of a cow trail. Roland buried the bodies two days later. The graves are still there today, lying by the side of what is now a paved farm-to-market road.

Adding to the interest in the film are the recent revelations that one of the dead men, **Antonio Longoria**, was an ancestor of the popular actress **Eva Longoria-Parker** of *Desperate Housewives* fame, and a native of Corpus Christi.

"As a baby boomer that grew up with *The Lone Ranger*, I was always fascinated and disturbed by my grandfather's story," recalls Kirby. "Now I am just floored to discover that my grandfather buried one of Eva Longoria-Parker's ancestors."

Warnock spent nearly five years tracking down the descendants of the dead men, poring over Ranger reports and interviewing historians to find out what actually happened. The result is *Border Bandits*, a film that is both compelling and disturbing as it tells of a turbulent time in Texas history.

"What makes this film so powerful is the fact that it is an Anglo telling it," says **Jose Angel Gutierrez**, UTA professor, attorney, author, and a founding member of La Raza Unida. "When I try to tell this story I'm portrayed as just another angry Chicano with a chip on his shoulder, but Warnock tells it so convincingly that no one can watch this film and say it never happened."

Using period photos and re-enactment footage, *Border Bandits* is a true tale of justice gone awry during a time when American citizens of Hispanic descent were summarily killed for their lands. It has sparked intense interest in Texas, because of the state's growing Hispanic population and its absence from Texas history books. Following the screening a panel of historians and experts will discuss the issues it raises and where they fit in modern-day Texas.

“We’ve done this at several screenings around the state,” says Warnock, “and it is almost as interesting as the film itself. The first time I showed it in Austin, we had a very, very good response.” Attending this Austin screening of *Border Bandits* a few years earlier, writer **Joe Nick Patoski** was struck by the panel discussion that followed the film and wrote this about it on his blog: “The dialogue was a revelation. Things not talked about between Anglos and Chicanos for more than eighty years were discussed openly. History that had been swept under the rug became too real all over again.”

(Read the entire story here) <http://www.joenickp.com/notes/pivot/entry.php?id=24>

“I am hoping we get the same, healthy, respectful dialogue again on May 6,” says Warnock. “History is not always pretty, but I think that the truth can withstand scrutiny.”

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is located at 1800 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX. Admission is \$5 per person \$4 for seniors, military and children. For more information, visit [www.borderbanditsmovie.com](http://www.borderbanditsmovie.com), or call (512) 936-4639.