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## Reflection 1

After analyzing the classic film Stand and Deliver I found that the film did manage to escape the longstanding Latina/o stereotypes that I learned in The Bronze Screen and Charles Ramirez Berg's "A Crash Course." Stand and Deliver is an inspiring film not only in its story line but the entire production and Edward James Olmos' dedication to the film itself.

One of the many reasons why this film escapes the typical stereotypes of Latinos in films is because the script itself makes the Latino male lead role the hero which is hardly ever the case in films. Latinos are more than likely to play the anti-hero in films, as explained in Ramirez Berg's "Stereotypes in Films," that societal scapegoats are vulnerable minorities groups and the viewer has to take sides while watching the movie and chooses a character he/she can identify with which is the hero. This is all because of the "efficient workings of the Hollywood paradigm, which deploys a host of cinematic effects to ensure that they identify with the hero" which is of course the male Anglo dominant. (Berg, pg.63) It's really refreshing when you see someone on the screen representing for your people and doing an amazing job doing it and that is why it's so important that Latinos/as continue making films about ourselves so that we can bury all those negative stereotypes about us and show people around the world that we are more than what actor Ejai Morales says are the four H's of Hispanic Hollywood.

Another reason why this film escapes the Latino stereotypes is because of everything done by Latinos/as behind the scenes. Edward James Olmos is strong, dedicated, and incredibly talented and went above and beyond for this film by spending a great length of time researching

his character for the film. Olmos taped up to 30 hours of conversations with Escalante in order to master his patterns of speech and thought. He also spent 18 hours a day with Escalante to capture fully the teachers personality so he could do justice to the role. Olmos gained 40 pounds so that he could capture Escalantes true body type and movement, now thats real dedication! Olmos also contributed his considerable industry knowledge and contacts to help the project along.

Everything done behind the scenes to make this film happens shows us how much hard work and dedication it takes to make a powerful Hispanic film. All these tasks had a part in making the film happen including raising money, story rights, script, pitch, interviewing, financing which took over a year to raise the balance, support from foundations, post production, production, distribution deal, terms of deal, marketing campaign, theatrical release, and other markets. After all is said and done, Stand and Deliver is on the most successful independent films released over the last decade and measured a \$14 million box office gross. Olmos received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor and paved the way for future Latino/as actors as well as opening doors for new Latino made films.

Another reason why this film escapes the stereotypes presented by Berg is because there aren't any examples of the bandido, the harlot, the male baffoon, the female clown, and the dark lady. The only thing one would argue is that there is a gang like member in the film but as you watch the film you see that Angel played by Lou Diamond Phillips starts off on the wrong path but ends up passing the exam with the highest score possible! Angel is dressed as your typical gang member with dark clothing, dark shades, hair net, fighting, and skipping class but ends up cleaning his act and shows the viewers that is possible to become successful when you have “Ganas!”

Although Beltran argues that Olmos character Mr. Escalante doesn't challenge hollywoods racial paradigm by playing the humble teacher I would have to disagree. Teachers are generally humble professions especially in public schools. It's known that people that become teachers don't do it for the money because their salary isn't half as much as they should be making. Mr. Escalante was positive that his students didn't cheat on the exam and felt disrespected when the system questioned his intelligence and ability to make 18 students pass the test and breaking records for years to come.

In conclusion, Stand and Deliver truly manages to escape the longstanding Latina/o stereotypes that I learned in The Bronze Screen and "A Crash Course" essay. The ways in which they do escape is by having a Latino as the male lead role, Latina/os making the film themselves, Olmos' dedication and contributions to the film, and there weren't any examples of overly humble, hostile, hormonal, or hysterical characters in the film.