



Official Movie Poster by Cindy Hammonds, Director of the NTCC Copy Center

Chicano Thermidor: Art and Identity in San Antonio 1970-1995

American society can be a stern taskmaster, leaving little room for cultural expression. Ethnic being, on the other hand, is a poetical and artistic challenge. How does a group with a similar background, and one facing similar challenges, define itself? How can it orient group members to best respond to society, and project winsome ideals?

“Chicano Thermidor,” the fourteenth, feature-length premiere of Honors Northeast and the NTCC Webb Society is a story about two dueling Mexican American art associations in late twentieth-century San Antonio. As the Fiesta City has long had a reputation as the center of Mexican American culture in Texas, the two art associations saw themselves as crucial arbiters and architects of the Tejano consciousness. The Chicano group, *Con Safo*, hearkened to the Aztec revivals dating back to the Mexican quest for independence, and the Mexican revolution. *Con Safo* wanted to re-examine the scorecard of bigotry in American society, and ingrain a more powerful solidarity. The other group, the Community Culture Arts Organization (CCAO), was more concerned to fight poverty, and short-circuit westside gangs. The CCAO wanted economic progress, and a culture of inspiration that would gird Mexican Americans to obtain the amenities of the civilization. *Con Safo* had ties to the city’s leading Mexican American artists, the CCAO to celebrity Mayor, Henry Cisneros, and the business interests. *Con Safo* encouraged protest, the CCAO, pride.

As we will see tonight, one group persevered and the other faltered. Though this reflects the actual experience of Mexican-Americans in San Antonio, tonight’s story represents the case of many other ethnic groups at various times as they have tried to negotiate their place in American society. Thus, we will allude at the beginning of the film to another San Antonio ethnic group, at a different time, which also concerned itself with the possibilities and limits of ethnic expression in the larger society.

Film Leaders:

Director: Emma Frances Mendoza, NTCC's Gladys Winkle Scholar

Unit Production Director: Hailey Randall, NTCC Presidential Scholar

Associate Producer (Film Editor): Johnathan Ventura, Russel Mowery Scholar

The Con Safo Chicano Group

Mel Casas, Leading San Antonio Artist: José Fuentes, NTCC Dr. Jerry Wesson Scholar

Felipe Reyes, Lead San Antonio Chicano Artist: Ian Mares, NTCC Presidential Scholar

Rosie Castro, Fiery Chicana Mother of Future Presidential Candidate, Julián Castro: Alison Majors, Former NTCC Presidential Scholar, and University Student

Carmen Garza, Model: Jasmine Landaverde, NTCC Cypress Bank Scholar

The Community Culture Arts Organization (CCAO)

Maria Berriozábel, First Hispanic Woman to Serve on San Antonio's City Council: Araceli Landaverde, NTCC Presidential Scholar

Cinthia Garcia, Wealthy Supporter of Hispanic Art and Culture: Madeline Simmons, NTCC Theatre Major and Local Singer

Anastacio Torres, Social Worker, and President of the CCAO: Tristan Dierflinger, Former Member of NTCC's Phi Theta Kappa, now in U.S. Military

Famous Mexican Americans of Texas

Henry Cisneros, Celebrity Mayor of San Antonio, and President Clinton's HUD Secretary: Remington Covey, Former NTCC Honors Scholar now at SFA

Jesse Treviño, Recognized as the Great San Antonio Artist of the 20th Century: Andrew Perez, NTCC Honors Scholar

Selena Quintanilla, Superstar Tejana Singer: Stephanie Hernandez, NTCC's Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar. Also, Highly Decorated Film Scholar

Our Thanks To:

Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery of Mount Vernon for their constant, generous stream of support for our *Honors Northeast*/Webb Society films, 2014-2026.

David Lee Stevenson and Family of Longview, and Carol Hodges of Hughes Springs for their remarkable degree of recent support.

Kenny Goodson, Texas Composer who has graciously scored seven films of Honors Northeast.

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Carolyn Franks, Director of the Whatley Center for the Performing Arts.
Jodi Pack, NTCC Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Hudson Old, Publisher of *East Texas Journal*

NTCC Administration: President: Dr. Kevin Rose; Vice President: Dr. Anna Ingram. NTCC Business Office, Humanities/Honors Secretary: Elizabeth Simas **Establishments where we filmed in the Summer of 2025:** B&Bs of Jefferson, Texas: The Kennedy Manor, The Carriage House; Also: Thruston House of Mount Vernon, Whatley Center for the Performing Arts.

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Webb Society: Kimberly Peña, Director of Education, Texas State Historical Association



The Film projects each year not only supply a team dimension to the honors program of NTCC, *Honors Northeast*, they also supply subject material for presentations, publications, and scholarly awards. For our previous Texas films, query <Honors Northeast, Films> or: the QR Code to the left. They have concerned: the Morris County-born father of prohibition--Morris Sheppard; the Texas Hughest Springs populist--Wright Patman; Harriet Potter Ames—early Lake Caddo Settler; Sam Houston, and the Fall of the Texas Cherokee; the story of the great cosmetics CEO, Mary Kay; the story of future opera singer

Barbara Conrad (from Camp County) and the University of Texas, 1956-57; Adina De Zavala and the Making of the Alamo; the story of Bo Pilgrim; the Carroll Shelby Story; Texas Suffragette: The Minnie Fisher Cunningham Story; The Traveling Preachers of Early Texas; Crude Conquest: Big Texas Oil and Texas Politics. The scripts, records of awards won, and the stories about how each film was made are also available on this site.