

Breaking Bad as *Narconovela*—Michael’s Rock and Roll Posse

In a recent Posse Posting, a review of “The 33,” the movie about the Chilean mining collapse, I enclosed a copy of a recent e-magazine review of *narcotraficantes* and the growing genre of *Narcocorridos* and other drug songs. A recent *Billboard Latin* story delved into this very disturbing development, and identified television as a growing venue for such drug-laced fare, accurately characterizing “Breaking Bad,” made in my own Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM, as an important exemplar of the “*narconovela*.” In fact, I would not watch it when I discovered its premise about the public school chemistry teacher turned *drogero*, until one of my brothers urged me to watch it, and then, like its blue meth subject matter, I was hooked. And Netflix is harboring any number of good and dreadful movies and shows on the subject. **THIS** is one of the few venues, like playing major league baseball, where Latinos predominate. (Yet another: singers who have valorized El Chapo Guzman...)

Here is the article, in case you get stranded in a snow storm or just cannot sleep: New Insights into Latino Film History – and the Future, SOMOS En Escrito.com (September 2015), <http://www.somosenescrito.com/2015/09/we-have-talent-but-where-are-roles.html> and also posted as a PDF--
http://lawofrockandroll.com/Meet_Professor_Olivas/Articles/index.html .

And here is the Billboard Latin piece, by the exceptional reporter Leila Cobo: http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/latin/6851811/druglords-music-tv-narconovelas-westerns?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latin%20Update&utm_term=biz_latin

I also recently had a radio show class on the subject, and in case you missed it (shame on you), here is a copy of the recording, attached above. It is copyrighted, and I ask you not to pass it on, even though its educational purpose here is classic fair use. I hope you will enjoy it—Class 25: Music South of the Border: Narcocorridos and Drug Lyrics.

Michael

(Con su pluma en el mano)