

# Tomás Rivera

## at the University of Oklahoma

**Celebrating 50 Years of Achievement  
in Latinx Scholarship and Higher Education  
1969–2019**

**Thursday, November 21, 2019**

Tomás Rivera (1935–1984) was a legendary Chicano author, poet, and educator. Born in Texas to migrant farmworkers, he also worked in the fields as a young boy. Rivera achieved social mobility through education, however, eventually earning a PhD in Spanish at the University of Oklahoma in 1969. As an author, Rivera is best remembered for his Faulknerian stream-of-consciousness novella . . . *y no se lo tragó la tierra* (. . . *and the Earth Did Not Devour Him*). From 1979 until his death in 1984, he was chancellor at the University of California, Riverside, the first Mexican American to hold such a position at the University of California.

### **Adapting Rivera's Work for the Stage: A Presentation & Workshop**

Dr. Tiffany Ana López, founding director of the Latinx Play Project at UC Riverside's Culver Center for the Arts, will discuss her experience of adapting *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* for the stage. She will also demonstrate the process by leading an open workshop featuring University of Oklahoma student actors.

Lab Theatre | Old Science Hall 201 | 640 Parrington Oval  
Noon-1:00pm

### **The Poetry of Tomás Rivera: A Bilingual Reading**

OU students will read selected poems from Rivera's *Complete Works* in Spanish and English, including the seven-part poem "The Searchers," which is considered the summa of Rivera's poetic achievement.

Kaufman Hall 221B | 780 Van Vleet Oval  
2:00-3:00pm

### **Tomás Rivera's Legacy: A Reception & Roundtable Discussion**

Following a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments, Tiffany Ana López (Arizona State), Julián Olivares (University of Houston), and RC Davis-Undiano (OU) each give a short talk about Rivera's life and work, his OU connections, and the importance of his legacy in 2019, followed by Q&A.

Gould Hall Gallery | 830 Van Vleet Oval  
4:00-4:30pm reception  
4:30-6:00pm roundtable

#### **Co-sponsored by**

OU's Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics  
& *World Literature Today*

All events are free and open to the public

*Photo: Dr. Rivera with his son, Javier, in Norman, Oklahoma, ca. 1969 / Courtesy of Irasema Rivera*

