

Press Release
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For Immediate Release
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NHMC Honored Outstanding Latino Talent

Wilmer Valderrama and Jose Luis Valenzuela Co-hosted Gala

Pasadena, CA. -The stars were indeed bright in Beverly Hills this past Friday, February 26th as the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) hosted its 13th Annual Impact Awards Gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. At the glitzy annual fete, NHMC, one of the country's foremost Latino media advocacy and civil rights organizations, celebrated outstanding theatrical, television and film performances by Latinos both in front and back of camera.

This year, Wilmer Valderrama and Jose Luis Valenzuela served as the Masters of Ceremony. Valderrama, an advocate for the Latino community, is well known for his role as Fez on Fox's "That 70's Show." He can be seen in the dramatic film, *THE DRY LAND*, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Jose Luis Valenzuela is the Artistic Director of the Latino Theater Company, *THE NEW LATC*, an award-winning theater director and a tenured professor at UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television.

Following a champagne reception, comedian Erik Rivera had the crowd roaring as he performed a short stand-up routine. After Rivera left the stage, NHMC honored some of the best upcoming Latino talent in the business.

Young actor Rico Rodriguez received an award for *Outstanding Performance in a Comedy Television Series* for his role as 'Manny Delgado' in ABC's new hot program, "Modern Family." He thanked his family for their support and brought his sister, Raini Rodriguez, to the stage with him to accept the award.

Well known for her work in "Six Feet Under," the talented Justina Machado received the award for *Outstanding Performance in a Dramatic Television Series* for her role on CBS's "Three Rivers." Machado thanked NHMC for the award, and noted the importance of having positive Latina role models on television.

Aimee Garcia took home an award for *Outstanding Performance in a Dramatic Television Series* for her role on NBC's "Trauma." Garcia was ecstatic to receive the first award of her acting career and thanked the network for giving her the opportunity to be on "Trauma." She acknowledged the importance of television's portrayal of American Latinos, as she observed that more people watch television than read books or travel. She thanked NHMC for the recognition and her family for their timeless support.

Oscar Nuñez received the award *Outstanding Performance in a Comedy Television Series* for his performance as 'Oscar Martinez,' the frustrated accountant on NBC's hilarious hit series, "The Office." He thanked NHMC for ensuring that Latinos are being included in television roles, especially in roles that challenge stereotypes.

Please see below or visit our website for photographs of the event. [NHMC.org/Impact Awards](http://NHMC.org/ImpactAwards)





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The National Hispanic Media Coalition is a non-profit, media advocacy organization established in 1986 in Los Angeles, California. Our mission is to improve the image of American Latinos as portrayed by the media, increase the number of American Latinos employed in all facets of the media industry, and advocate for media and telecommunications policies that benefit the Latino community.