

Filmmaker's Statement

I have been doing indie music docs that look at Mexican American influences on Texas music primarily conjunto and Tejano, which are American music genres native to Texas. I had been wanting to do a story on Mexican American music from West Texas where I'm from. I heard about a band of three young brothers called Los Lonely Boys from my hometown of San Angelo in West Texas that I should check out. A few months passed, and I finally got a chance to go see the boys perform at an intimate music venue in Austin, the Saxon Pub. It was at that moment watching them perform an amazing rendition of their song *Cottonfields and Crossroads* that I felt an immediate connection. I knew I had to tell their story. For a filmmaker, the timing couldn't have been any better as I was able to capture what became their rise in the American music scene. This was a time when the stars aligned in the boys' favor and things finally started happening for them after so many years of struggle-yet it seemed to be happening suddenly and quickly. This was an innocent and magical time in their rise- and that was part of what I was able to capture in this film.

To me, Los Lonely Boys have a unique West Texas sound that is reminiscent of music I listened to growing up in San Angelo. It was a sound created by a people with a dual identity, that of Mexican and American. Through their musical performances I was able to tell a story with deep West Texas Mexican roots. The music of the three Garza brothers provoked in me a profound sense of identity. I understood where the influences of their music come from. It's a music born of the working class.

Los Lonely Boys are weaving their experiences of West Texas and those of their family into a new American musical genre they call "Texican." In a cut-throat music industry where image and marketing are the cornerstones of any successful musical act, it's refreshing to see Los Lonely Boys keeping true to their roots with their "pachuco" style and music that pays homage to their people, to their past. Theirs is a rock n roll that is unapologetically Mexican American and supremely real. Theirs is a music of West Texas Mexican Americans.

- Hector Galán