

## DIARY AND UCLA SPEECH

By Raphael Montañez Ortiz June 8, 2017

I thought of a lot of things to say... There are so many People to Thank... I am 83 years of Age and imagined there was nothing that would surprise me, I had just opened the letter from UCLA informing me that I had been awarded the UCLA MEDAL... Well I was surprised, like I had just inherited California... I was running around my living room shouting at the ceiling to my Angel, my deceased wife Monique who had performed with me throughout 14 of our 20 years of marriage in Museums here in the USA, Germany, and Canada... If Monique was still here she would have been jumping up and down with me...

I sat down on the floor THERE WAS A QUITE MOMENT I heard myself Thanking my wife Monique for teaching me about courage during the 5 years She was dying of Cancer Monique would tell me often... Raphael you better live long enough past the Racism for people to recognize all you have Accomplished and Contributed....

Well here I am, a Brown American, who's Portuguese Father and Puerto Rican Mother are Brown, who's Brown Grandfather was born in Mexico, whose Brown Grandmother was born in Southern Spain... who stands here before you with the Spirit of my Great Grandmother a YAQUI, born and raised in Mexico who grew up in Vera Cruz... THANK YOU UCLA, Thank you Chon Noriega Director of The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center for taking me past the Racism, for being the first to as a Scholar and Cultural Warrior recognize and give recognition to my Contributions to Art and Culture... I also thank the UCLA Institute of American Cultures...

I say these things because its all related to my being here before you... I am indebted to my wife Monique who inspired me to trade-in my Macho-hood for Person-hood... She lived her life with the belief that a Woman is as brilliant and strong as she challenges the ignorance of Misogyny and Patriarchy the way Lillith challenged Adam she used to say... By the way Monique was a Phi Beta Kappa with a Blackbelt in American Mixed Martial Arts...