The Importance of Culture: Selena

HUM 260
ANGELA TORRES
Values

“Cultural values are preferences people have for how they navigate life…interact, communicate, plan, and complete tasks.” (Cultural Intelligence Center)

Father, Abraham Quintanilla = old values; modesty, career orientated.

Daughter, Selena Quintanilla = new values; dressing trendy, acting freely.

Overall = family is most important.

At 1:30, we see Selena reveal her bustier top that her father heavily approves of.
Assumptions

- “That’s the way it is … she’s just a woman, tu sabes.” This was said about not paying Selena and her group the full amount owed because she’s “just a woman.”

- Selena broke many barriers for the Mexican American community and woman, showing that if she can do it, anyone can too.
The Hispanic Perspective

- Director- Gregory Nava, Latino descent (Mexico)
- Having someone who understands the background, struggles, and cultural context of Selena’s story matters in telling it.
- His perspective allowed for her story to be told in an authentic and honorable way, for which the movie is still revered for.
The Importance of Casting

- Jennifer Lopez - Selena Quintanilla (IMDB)
- Jackie Guerra - Suzette Quintanilla (IMDB)
- Edward James Olmos - Abraham Quintanilla (IMDB)
- Jacob Vargas - Abie Quintanilla (IMDB)

- Having people of Hispanic background gives POC a chance to tell a story that is about one of the most popular Mexican American singers ever in an authentic and sentimental way.
Symbolism

- White rose = Selena’s favorite flower and a sign that many believe she knew she was going to die because of her reoccurring dream. (People)

- Selena herself was a symbol for many of her fans, showing how anyone can make it in the music industry.
Social and Cultural Commentary

- Commentary on cultural pressure from Americans and Mexicans to fit in.
- Selena herself was a cultural phenomenon, with her songs, style, and artistry being used as inspiration to this day.
Works Cited

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