

LA Weekly June 17-23, 2005

**GO TO THE OTHER SIDE**

(MEXICO/USA)

Natalia Almada's debut documentary feature begins by proposing Mexican *narcocorrido* ballads — whether performed on the streets of Sinaloa and East L.A., or in concert by legends like Los Tigres del Norte — as the Latino equivalent to rap music, commemorating the lives and aspirations of outlaws and outsiders, the ruthless and the uprooted. From there, somewhat disorientingly, it shifts to a portrait of the "coyotes" who usher illegals northward across the Rio Grande, and of those on the far side who seek to block their arrival. By the end, though, the film has gained considerable coherence by virtue of a deceptive juxtaposition of narrative elements that leads to a moment of true and complex revelation — an epiphany of sorts about the compensatory delusions of the disenfranchised. (Sunset 5, Sat., June 18, 7:30 p.m.; DGA 2, Wed., June 22, 4 p.m.) (RS)