***Quinceañera (2006)***

Written and Dir. by Richard Glatzer & Wash Westmoreland

Questions to think about as you view *Quinceañera*:

1. Take notes on your observations as you watch the film. What stands out to you, especially in relation to our class conversations and readings?

2. How is “authenticity” performed in the film? What are the signifiers of Mexicanness that the filmmakers use to produce the film’s “authenticity” as a Latino story?

3. Do you think this film is directed towards someone who is familiar or unfamiliar with Mexican American traditions like the quinceañera? How can you tell?

4. How are the boundaries of ethnic communities drawn by the filmmakers? i.e How is “Mexicanness” signified? How is “whiteness” signified? What role do economic privilege and sexuality play in the way these ethnic differences are rendered?

5. How are the gay relationships depicted in the film? How do they differ from the heterosexual relationships? Is a particular “gaze” privileged in the ways these relationships appear in the film?

6. Magdalena and Carlos are both disowned for what their families perceive to be improper sexualities. Magdalena is eventually readmitted into the traditional family when the doctors confirm her story. Is Carlos given an option to rejoin the family? What is the price of readmission for each character?

7. In the end, does the film offer a queer redefinition of family or does it uphold the traditional heteronormative patriarchal family structure? Is queerness ultimately shown to be incompatible with “Latino,” or is there a place for queers to be queer within Latino home spaces?