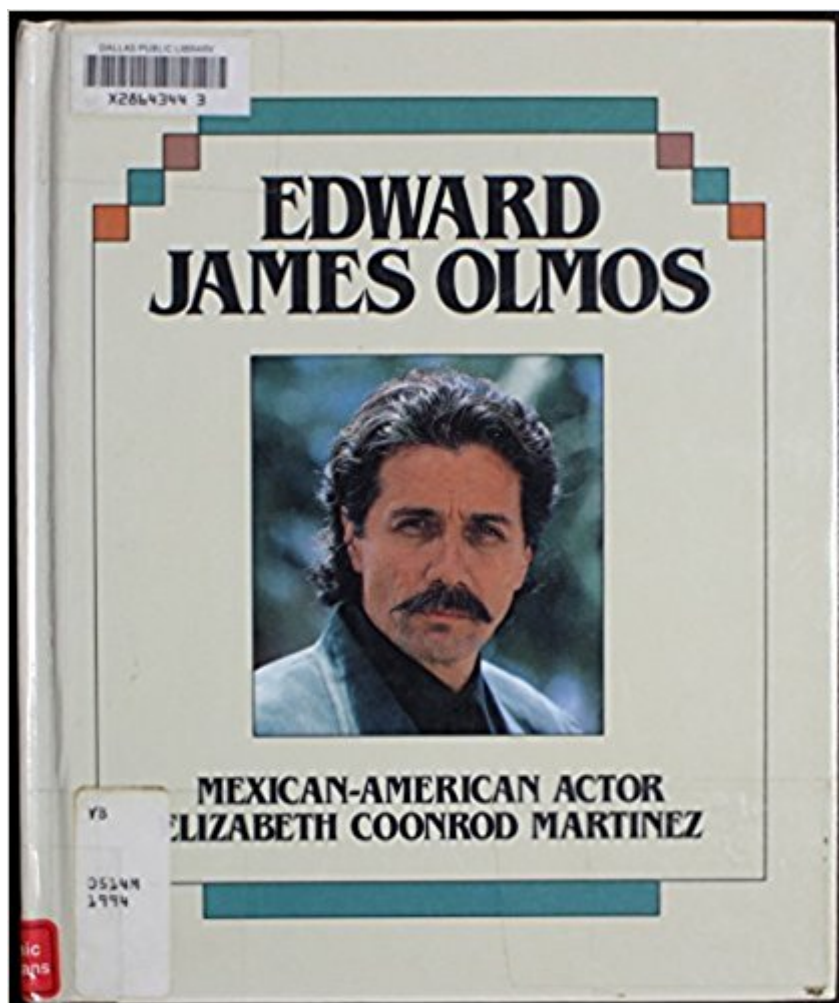




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Edward James Olmos (Hispanic Heritage)



Synopsis

Book by Elizabeth Coonrod Martinez

Book Information

Age Range: 9 and up

Series: Hispanic Heritage

Library Binding: 32 pages

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8?This easy-to-read biography touches on Olmos's early life and education, concentrating mainly on his acting career and mentioning his recent participation in "Rebuilding Los Angeles," a group founded after the riots of 1992. The book is well illustrated with full-color and black-and-white photographs that give a sense of Olmos and the culture that influenced him, but there are no pictures of him as a young boy. Quotes from the subject are included, but they are not documented. An index and chronology are helpful for research, but the list for further reading cites books about acting and other Mexican-Americans rather than additional sources about Olmos himself. Aimed at reluctant readers, this title provides a brief but useful look at an accomplished Hispanic American.?Phyllis Graves, Creekwood Middle School, Kingwood, TXCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 3-5. Although a biography about an actor might seem lightweight, Olmos proves a worthy subject for this latest addition to the Hispanic Heritage series. Olmos, winner of Tony, Emmy, and Golden Globe awards as well as an Oscar nomination, grew up in East L.A. (Martinez deftly relates

Olmos' youth to the experience of today's Chicanos). After Olmos received a Tony, he was offered many roles that he refused on principle because the parts typically portrayed Latinos as criminals or drug addicts. Olmos' integrity was rewarded, as he moved on to Miami Vice and Stand and Deliver. His peacemaking in the L.A. riots, his talks to schools and prisons, and his disavowal of drugs and alcohol make him an outstanding yet somehow accessible role model. Claiming his achievements come from hard work guided by the virtues of patience, faith, and dignity, Olmos personifies attainable success. Chicanos and budding thespians of any race will find much food for thought here. Julie Yates Walton

This book wasn't what I expected. I have seen (and own) most of Mr. Olmos's movies and he is an actor that I conscientiously seek out for contemplative entertainment with perspective and depth of character. He visited our campus back in 2006, and I like to read anything that I can obtain that reveals the philosophical motivation behind his interpretations of stories as an actor. This book was a little too unsophisticated for my aspirations. I was looking for something more like a biography of around 150-300 pages about his early life in East LA and South Central LA, and the effects of major life events that compelled the actor into Hollywood. I read the entire book in about 30 minutes, and I didn't learn anything that I didn't already know with the exception of EJ's enrollment at East LA originally intending psychology as a major. This is a good read for a fanatic or someone who wants to a brief familiarity with Mr. Olmos and where he comes from, but not for those seeking more explanations and revelations on the true complexity of Hispanic Heritage and Hollywood's correct perceptions and misperceptions about Hispanic Heritage.

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