

# Pesticide Awareness Theater



*A Beyond Translation Production—EPA R6*

Increasing Hispanic Community Involvement



**PILOT PARTNERS:** Texas Department of Agriculture, University of Texas at El Paso, San Elizario ISD, La Unión del Pueblo Entero Center, Del Pueblo Press, and Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos

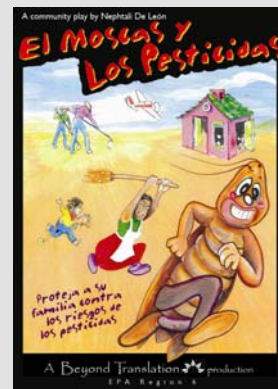


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## **“El Moscas” y Los Pesticidas Involves Community, Informs, and Draws Big Laughs**

**"El Moscas" y los Pesticidas** (by Nephtalí De León) is a comical, interactive community play created to increase safety awareness for individuals who work in areas that are treated with pesticides, and the "take-home" risks they may be bringing to their families. While this information could be viewed as dull or not very interesting in a typical presentation, "El Moscas" and his friends, deliver a dialogue that is clever, funny, and most important, gets the key messages across.



On April 14, and 15, and May 1, 2009, the play was piloted in San Elizario, El Paso, and San Juan, Texas.

Over 300 individuals who ranged from established farmers to migrant workers to community activists viewed the presentations. Based on the evaluations and comments received from the viewings, the pesticide awareness information was much



needed and very well understood. Kids and parents gave it excellent reviews for the use of a child actor and roach characters, and it was stated that the play was “performed with passion” and “with deep care and understanding of the people we call farm workers.”

### **Community Participation at it's Best!**

*Volunteers created costumes, student painted murals, farm worker advocates provided venues and publicity, and local talent donated time and effort.*

In the next two months we will be completing a packet that will include the script, a sample of the performance on DVD, and a 'how to' booklet. Packets will be available to groups and organizations wishing to put on similar pesticide awareness productions.

