



Valente Rodriguez was born and raised in Edcouch, Texas, He is the youngest of eight in a family of migrant farmworkers. He put himself through college by doing children's theatre in south Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas-Pan American in 1987 he went to Los Angeles to become an actor.

Valente's acting career has been nothing short of spectacular. He debuted

his film career in 1988 with his portrayal of Chuey in the romance film Salsa. His films include Blood In Blood Out, McFarland, USA, and the critically acclaimed, Mi Familia/ My Family.

Rodriguez has been part of numerous films and TV shows and gained public recognition after starring in the successful ABC Network sitcom, George Lopez where he played the role of Ernesto "Ernie" Cardenas, George Lopez's best friend. He was also a regular on Happily Divorced with Fran Drescher, playing the part of Cesar.

Along with being an actor Valente has written several theatre pieces that have been seen in LA. He was a member of the Latino Lab in Los Angeles and has performed both their DAY OF THE DEAD show as well as the Christmas pageant "La VIRGEN". He has performed at numerous stages in LA and throughout the United States. He produced three films in the Rio Grande Valley (Texas), directing one of them, in 2010. He also went back to school, completing his Masters in Theatre in 2015.

Valente has been a friend of the South Texas International Film Festival since its inception, serving as a mentor and guide. Each year he not only serves as the festival host but also as an inspiration to aspiring actors.