

Title: Tango: The Greatest Rock Album Never Heard

Filmmaker: Gregory Esparza

When:

1972-1974

What is it about:

Rock 'n' roll we never heard, because the music industry generationally mishandled Chicana/o music talent. This is a critique of the music industry toward Chicanas/os while remembering and celebrating great American rock 'n' roll made by Chicanas/os. As Tango was denied a chance at a long career, their invisible outcome echoed for generations with the youth who never had a chance to see them yet had dreams about a life in music.

Why:

Tango, by their lack of exposure and representation, was just one of many groups that could have modeled a way for potential Chicana/o/x music makers to see and dream what could be possible. Seeing bands that look like you, do help marginalized music makers to dream their possibility.

Note:

In the case of "we," the film includes Mark Guerrero and bandmates John Valenzuela and Ernie Hernandez doing the remembering of Tango, as I analyze and report. When I asked Mark why this film is important to him, he said that he didn't want anybody forgetting about the music and the band. Mark's latest music project will be a release of his entire body of music called *Rockin' in the Shadow*.

Biography:

Gregory Esparza is a faculty lecturer at Cal State Los Angeles in Chicana/o Latina/o Studies. He earned his Master's degree at Cal State LA in Chicana/o Latina/o Studies in 2023 and two bachelor's degrees at UCLA 2020 in History and Chicana/o Studies. He is an Emeriti Associate Fellow (2022-2023), singer songwriter, short story writer, poet and former lead vocalist with Thee Midniters and Cannibal and the Headhunters; two legendary groups from the Eastside 1960s and the writer and director of *Tango: The Greatest Rock Album Never Heard*.

Video Link: <https://tinyurl.com/film-tango>

