

# GRAFFITI VERITE'

GV DOCU-SERIES

www.graffitiverite.com



FILM REVIEWS of



Who Am I?

Wisdom From The Bones

Featuring Author & LA Poet Laureate

Luis J. Rodriguez

*“A powerful, well-conceived and executed piece of work. A singularly unique and artful documentary on my poetry and key aspects of my life... Your imprint is definite and works well with my words, photos, and story.”*

*I'm truly grateful we connected and this film could happen. Anyway, congratulations on the great work you do.”*

- Luis J. Rodriguez, Award Winning Writer / Poet



## GV28 WHO AM I? Wisdom From The Bones

A Film by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

Featuring L.A. Poet Laureate Luis Javier Rodriguez

Review written by Don Kingfisher Campbell



“I think **GV28 WHO AM I?** will inspire poets to be like Luis Javier Rodriguez, to attempt to change the local world with their words put into action. This is the valuable message of your film. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators, as ‘Shelley’ wrote 200 years ago.

Great job, Bob. The artistic emphasis of this film is on Luis’ words. His poems speak haunting truths and mind-expanding epiphanies. He is an example of the drive inside us to learn from our experiences and discover one’s purpose in life.

His spirit sought an avenue for self-expression as a way of finding personal sanity. He was lucky enough to find it and has shared his discovery. We are all richer from his (and your) efforts.”

## This Guy Is Truth In Every Sense Of The Word

*Film Review by Matthew Moppins, Educator*

A Documentary Film Review of

### GV28 WHO AM I? Wisdom From The Bones

Featuring L.A. Poet Laureate Luis Javier Rodriguez,  
Writer/Poet

Film Directed by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

"Although I feel for him having endured such mental and physical abuse in his life; I feel he is blessed with the gift of expression that most people only dream about. His pain and triumphs are clearly conveyed to the readers or listeners in such an extravagant way, yet a humble way, so as not to belittle the masses.

This guy is **TRUTH** in every sense of the word."



### GV28 WHO AM I? Film Review

*Written by Ed Rosenthal, Poet*

Directed and Produced by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

Featuring Writer / Poet Luis Javier Rodriguez

"**GV28 WHO AM I?** Produced by Filmmaker Bob Bryan is a fantastic documentary of the life and poetry of Los Angeles' Poet Laureate Luis Javier Rodriguez.

This is a wonderful video which places the poet's works into the context of his life. It's extremely worthwhile due both to those life circumstances and the quality of the artistry. Bob you did a great job!

The post of Poet Laureate is innately political, i.e. the occupant of the position must embrace some treatment of the power relationships of society.

Very worthwhile film about LA's poet laureate !!"



### I Always Feel That Struggle As A Writer...

A **GV28 Wisdom From The Bones** Film Review

Featuring Luis Javier Rodriguez

Directed by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

*Review written by Stephen Hutchins*

"Thanks for sending me **GV28 WHO AM I? Wisdom From The Bones**. I really felt a lot of what Luis was saying. I related to the poem that he wrote and recited about his relationship to his mom. I also

connected with his opinions on the mechanics of the writing process and how the first thing you need in your back pocket is to first have something to say... To know how to express that, even before mastering what may be considered the writing skills. I've always felt the same way ever since I started writing seriously.

In conclusion, it was great what he said about the balance between exaggerating the facts of your life and/or dumbing down your art for the sake of your perception of the audiences' appreciation. I always feel that struggle as a writer."



### GV28 Review

*Written by Jaha Zainabu, Poet*

"I thought it was important when Luis discussed his feelings about 'rejection and belittling dismissal' in **GV28 WHO AM I?** I love how he kept going.

So many artists have that story and I'm glad it was brought up. Great work. Great film!"



### GV28 Review

*Written by Thomas Braxton Jr., Artist*

"Wow! Your film **GV28 WHO AM I?** is deeper than deep!"



### GV28 Review

Featuring Luis Javier Rodriguez

Directed and Produced by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

*Review written by Star Veronica, Visual Artist*

"Thank you Mr. Bryan for the private screening of **GV28 WHO AM I?** it really captures your artistry. In my opinion, you are one dope artist / filmmaker!

Initially when I opened it, I thought it was a clip of some video. I didn't expect to see what I saw. The whole documentary is compelling from start to end.

I really love it! "

## Review of GRAFFITI VERITE' 28 (GV28) WHO AM I? Wisdom From The Bones

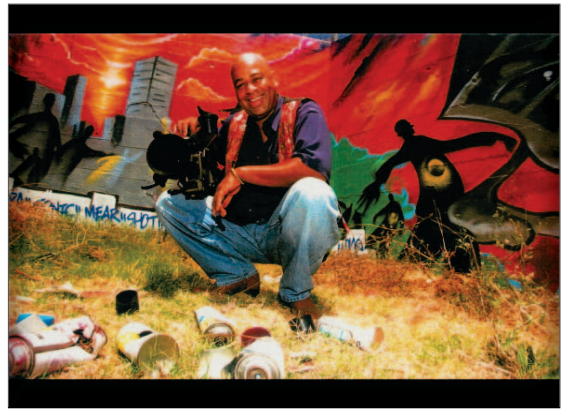
Featuring Poet Laureate of LA - Luis Javier Rodriguez

'A Beautiful biographical documentary by Bob Bryan that's a Literary Gift to the Community'  
*Written by* Nancy Mildren, Artist

"I really liked your **GV28 WHO AM I? Wisdom from the Bones** Luis Rodriguez is great. The close-ups of his face reading so many of his poems is a deeply moving and inspiring literary gift. I appreciate that you wove in a beautiful chronology of family photos honoring every stage of his life heritage and the psychological rites of passage of his strength of will and passionate living / dying in the fire and personal choices in opening new doors through mastering adversities that have broken others. The music sound track and visual and textual editing add fun, energetic quickening of the lively pulse, vitality, and cultural rhythms of city living. There are also profound moments of stopping and savoring--the sparkle in the eye of the wisdom of pain transformed into forgiveness so as not to personally be weighed down by the burden of terribly violating things.

My favorite "gems" I took away was his paternal commitment to pass on knowledge, helping children to trust the power of their own voice, true enough to their own experience to liberate themselves and others. I loved when he said "bad things can happen to you but it is on you if you give up. You have to believe in yourself." Bob Bryan asks good questions about the self awareness it takes to achieve self-mastery of your own life: like "what are your triggers?" Rodriguez answered the difficult question regarding dismissal and rage. Like how judgement or classism or racism or sexism can invalidate someone just with a look and how rage can be good to insist on believing in yourself and asserting that how you look, how you feel, how you think, what you create, what you have to say are all important:) Ha ha! Turn your rage at dismissal into intense, brilliant words and colors to deeply touch people with your intense love and beauty!

I love that his poems about his parents aren't sugar-coated, speaking publicly only of their strengths--he has the courage and authenticity to share their



FILMMAKER BOB BRYAN

shortcomings and even their violent abusiveness and his personal breakthrough at forgiveness. As an artist I just loved Rodriguez's "walking his talk" encouragement to truly bare your soul to do your most authentic work as a gift for life.

Thanks for your lovely care into your work--was wonderful to sit down and drink it in and express back to you how it touched me. I love how he shared how thoroughly he loved drinking and how thoroughly he described loving the "glow" of being a heroine addict. So many bright light geniuses have been snuffed out in this world, numbing their pain of life with using a drug. How lovely his finding of poetry reading forums and birthing himself with the realization that all of his internal fibers were ablaze with poetry celebrating the voice of his own pristine soul alive with the truth of every emotion and authentic Self knowing... ahhh... The healing power of art:) Big hug! Thanks for your beautiful work Bob Bryan"

PS.: Loved listening to your voice in the documentary. Your Soul touches me deep.



## Review of GV28 WHO AM I?

*Written by* Tom Rowe, Director of Photography

"**Wisdom** is amazing! Luis is incredible and the way you edited it together works sooooo well!"



## GV28 Review

*Written by* LaShone Montgomery

“Very informative documentary with great history! Keep up the great work. History is so important.”



## Review of GV28 WHO AM I?

*Written by* Davyd McCoy, Writer

“**GV28** clearly shows Luis’ complex and unique personal history, his strength, indomitable will and his desire to know who he is. This sharing takes form and expression in his love for creative writing. Only he knows the demons and secrets that dwell within and that he’ll silently carry to the grave. Job well done Mr. Bryan and congratulations to author Luis J. Rodriguez.”



## GV28 Review

*Written by* Melanie Wise, Founder Artemis Film Festival

“Luis Rodriguez is a unusual man with an amazing perspective of life. As per usual, you make amazing statements with your editing choices, cuts, subject matter etc. The film says ‘Bob Bryan’ all over it! Great damn job!

“Awesome film!!! Bob kicks it outta the park bringing Luis Rodriguez’s life story to film! An amazing story told by an incredible filmmaker! BAM! Double THREAT!”



## The Process of Probing Deeply Into My Own Psyche

Film Review of **GV28 WHO AM I?**

Directed by Filmmaker Bob Bryan

Featuring Writer / Poet Luis Javier Rodriguez

*Review written by* Pedro Balugo, Master Visual Artist / Tattoo Artist

“Well... I must say you have done it again, but in a different way. **WHO AM I?** is like a narcotic rush of emotion, put it in your face and forcing you pleasantly to ‘deal with it’.

I admit that the 1st time I tried to watch **Wisdom From The Bones**, I “dismissed” this poetic Superhero.

I just would not open up. During my 2nd attempt, I self-realized my own disrespectful dismissal of this Wise, Gifted, Talented, Truthful man. A man, who has lived the struggle as we all do. The only difference was that Luis was able to bare his soul through his Art. Essentially opening the wounds, reaching into himself and healing. In listening to Mr. Rodriguez’ shared words, experiences, memories and thoughts, I found myself picking at the scabs of my own personal emotions and begin the process of probing deeply into my own psyche’, self-inflicted wounds and demons.

“Trauma to transformation’... **GV28**. Bob I love your work! I want my youngest son Kaya to start watching your work. I just bought him his 1st video cam (go-pro). Man, you make me want to WRITE after watching your film **GV28 WHO AM I?** THANK YOU!”



## GV28 Additional Review

*Written by* Nancy Mildren, Artist

**GV28 ‘Wisdom of the Bones’** touched me in as powerful a way as when I was a young woman and read Malcolm X’s autobiography and deeply respected him from the open authenticity of his sharing his feelings, thoughts and key experiences from his childhood, adolescence and adulthood and the pivotal choices that were transformational in his life in becoming a leader in the civil rights movement as well as the journey of spiritual, discernment of truth for Self- Liberation in freedom from things that limit, poison and destroy lives.

We all are on the path of self liberation to not let mainstream conditioning from things like imperialistic economic power deferential of classism, sexism, racism, materialism not thwart our potential as decent, loving creative human beings guiding our kids with a good way to live:)

Luis Rodriguez’s authenticity to bare his Soul sharing some awful, hard things that often kill kids like being abused by both parents... or loving getting really high or devotedly wasted to obliterate shit...and eventually being able to sit and hold the hand of parent/abuser and take breaths of forgiveness and love- this shares finding a difficult, liberating door that is crucial in doing the inner work to heal painful/ closed down/

angry places in the heart to be freed up to blossom into true warrior strength of being a loving parent, teacher elder - passing on experiential wisdom to the younger generation.

The world is hungry for strong loving father's, teachers elders whose strength looks out for the younger generation to be their best. I appreciated Luis reminder that when our options seem limited- there's a timing of when doors open up and we have to believe in ourselves enough to go through, push it open and do the work to make things happen.

To write well you have to think well and to think well you have to write well and not let limits of your mind imprison you. I appreciate Self-Realized Warriors, Teachers, Elders putting their strength into the community. Luis Rodriguez is awesome passing on the tools of writing poetry and stories to kids to hone freeing up the mind for skillfulness in opening doors for us all to give our best into the community.



**REVIEW OF GV28 WHO AM I?**  
Directed by Filmmaker Bob Bryan  
Reviewed by Jessica Wilson Cardenas

"Bravo to Bob Bryan for his exquisite artistry in sharing this inspiring Poets beautiful work! I think **GV28 WHO AM I?** is real and very artistic! I am really diggin it! **GV28** was amazing! You' all gotta check it out!

Thank you, Bob Bryan and Loida for joining us!"



**A Review of the New Documentary Film**  
by Filmmaker Bob Bryan  
**"GV28 WHO AM I? Wisdom From The Bones"**  
Review Written by Dr. Mira N. Mataric,  
Writer / Educator / Translator

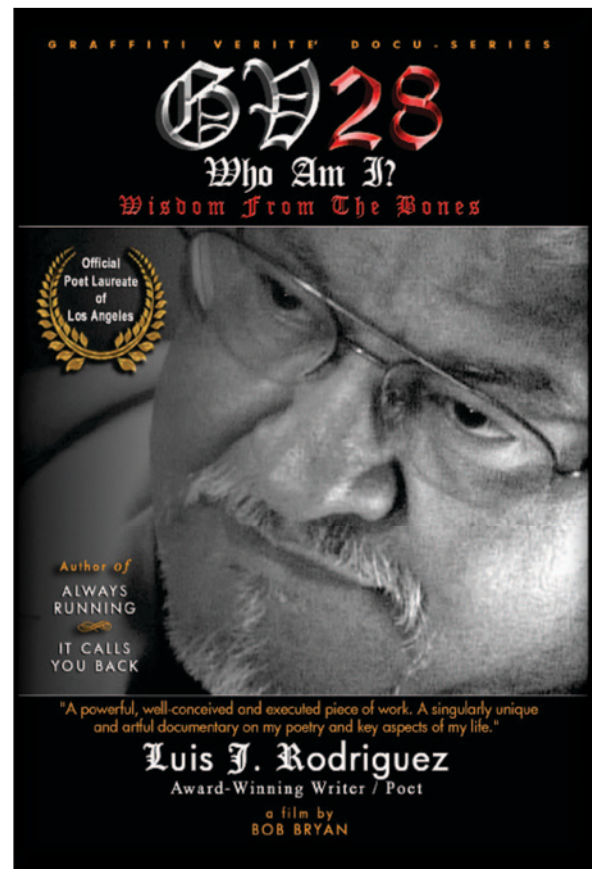
"I have previously seen and listened to the poetry of Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis Javier Rodriguez (in person).

But only after seeing this marvelously done film by Bob Bryan, do I have a complete picture of the poet as a human being... with his vulnerabilities, mistakes and learning. This revelation makes him close to us, so we feel that we can learn from him.

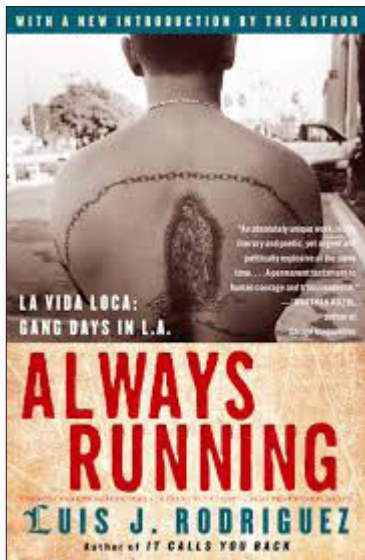
Bravo to both Mr. Rodriguez and Filmmaker Bob Bryan."



**BRYAN WORLD PRODUCTIONS** is proud to announce the release of the new documentary film from multi award-winning indie writer / director / producer and cinematographer Bob Bryan.



**WHO AM I?** is the 28th installment of the **GV DOCU-SERIES**.



In 1993, Luis J. Rodriguez exploded onto the National Literary Scene with the release of his memoir *ALWAYS RUNNING Living La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.*

Based entirely on true events in his furious life *ALWAYS RUNNING* is a Literary “must-read” selection that has sold over half-a-million copies to date.

Praise for *ALWAYS RUNNING*:

“Always Running stands out as one of the most significant coming of age stories of our times.”

- El Paso Times

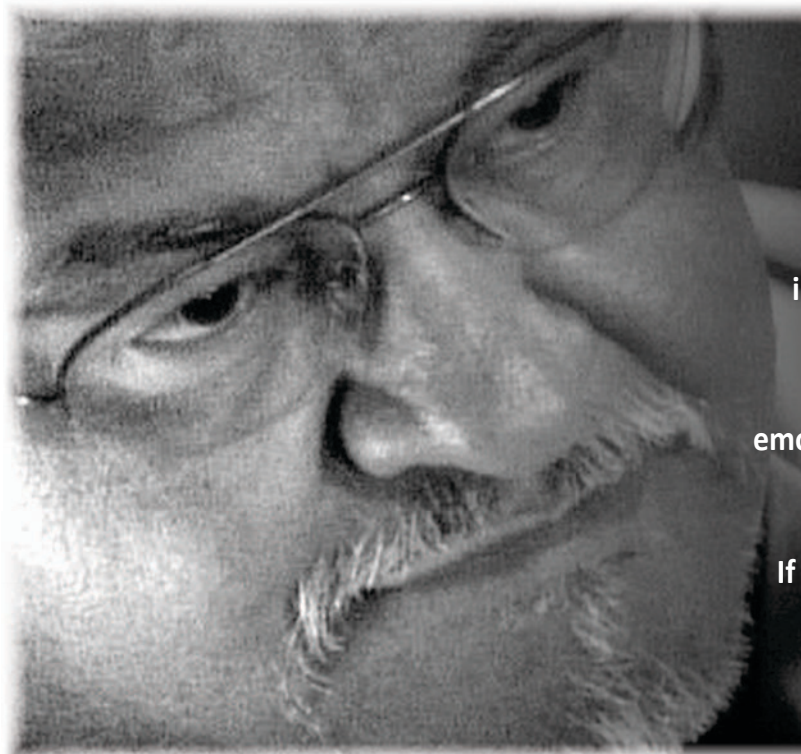
“Vivid and well-written... A particularly timely and welcome exploration of the roots of Latino rage... as inspiring as it is grim.”

- Terry Pristin, New York Newsday

“Luis Rodriguez’s books bring us into the turbulent vortex of gang life in all it’s bitter complexity... By expressing the pain of those most destroyed, Rodriguez never lets us forget where we need to go together.”

- Fred Whitehead, The National Catholic Reporter

*ALWAYS RUNNING* went on to win the prestigious Carl Sandburg Literary Award (for Non-Fiction,) as well as to collect a considerable amount of important National awards and recognitions. Recently appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, Luis is currently serving as the Official Poet Laureate of the City of Los Angeles, California.



**GV28 WHO AM I?**  
**Wisdom From The Bones**  
 explores the complex psyche of a flawed but incredibly talented and prolific artist in an intimate no holds barred one-on-one interview format conducted by the filmmaker. Also integrated into this special presentation is Rodriguez’s dramatic readings of his unforgettable poetic works, performed in emotionally evocative settings. Luis J. Rodriguez has written more than 21 memoirs, novels, poetry books and anthologies to date.

If you’d like to review **GV28**, please contact us at [bryworld@aol.com](mailto:bryworld@aol.com).

Running Time 77 Minutes.

PLEASE REQUEST THE ONLINE URL

GV28 Web Page: [http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV28\\_Who-Am-I.htm](http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV28_Who-Am-I.htm)





The complete **GV DOCU-SERIES** is currently available online at **Amazon.com Instant Video** where DVD's can also be purchased for Schools and Libraries domestically and abroad.

**Contact:** BRYAN WORLD PRODUCTIONS  
PO Box 74033 Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Telephone (323) 856-9256

**Website:** [www.graffitiverite.com](http://www.graffitiverite.com) **E-mail:** [bryworld@aol.com](mailto:bryworld@aol.com)

#### OTHER LINKS:

- Schools & Libraries where GV DOCU-SERIES can be found <http://www.graffitiverite.com/LIBRARY.htm>
- GV Awards & Festival Honors <http://www.graffitiverite.com/GVawardsFestivalHonors.htm>
- GV DOCU-SERIES Articles & Media <http://www.graffitiverite.com/MagazineCovers.htm>
- Product Information [http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV1-GV11\\_Product\\_PDF.htm](http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV1-GV11_Product_PDF.htm)
- Brief Synopsis <http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV1-GV7SYNOPSIS.htm>
- GV DOCU-SERIES Trailers [http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV\\_DocuSeries\\_Trailers.htm](http://www.graffitiverite.com/GV_DocuSeries_Trailers.htm)

#### ORDER YOUR DVDS DIRECT OR THROUGH YOUR LIBRARY DISTRIBUTOR

Amazon | Baker & Taylor | Crystal Art | Follett | Midwest Tape | Quality Books | MVD | OverDrive

#### DIRECT ORDERING INFO:

GV eStore | [www.graffitiverite.com/GVPurchaseOrderPPR.pdf](http://www.graffitiverite.com/GVPurchaseOrderPPR.pdf)