

# 'Causa' portrays passionate '60s

By MIKE HUGHES

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When Rose Cano reaches the Wharton Center on Sunday, she'll face steep responsibility.

She'll be alone on the Pasant Theatre stage, performing "La Causa: Witness the Movement." Alongside video images, she'll relive the passions of the 1960s.

And one thing more: She'll have to remember whether this is in English or in Spanish.

"The Spanish is 15 to 30 percent more words than in English," Cano said. "There are a lot of timing things to worry about."

This is a show she's performed often in either language. Her Wharton stop, however, is one of the first times she's done both the same day; it will be in Spanish at 1:30 p.m., in English at 4 p.m.

"La Causa" is typical of the touring family shows from a group called Living Voices.

"With all the programs, we see the story through the eyes of young people," said Michael McClinton, the executive producer. "They make the important



Wharton Center

**Witness the movement:** "La Causa" is onstage at 1:30 p.m. (in Spanish) and 4 p.m. (in English) Sunday at the Wharton Center.

choices."

The shows are dramatic slices of history, he said. It was logical to focus a show on Latinos. "These are American citizens who were being pigeonholed."

Cano plays a young Chicana, witnessing the rise of Cesar Chavez and his farm-worker

union. As she talks, video images are shown.

For Cano, 44, this is fairly familiar turf. Her family is from Peru and settled in Seattle, far from the core of Chavez's movement. Still, she was aware of it.

"I remember going to the Safeway and hearing about the grape

## Speaking out

► **What:** "La Causa"

► **When:** 1:30 p.m. (in Spanish) and 4 p.m. (English) Sunday

► **Where:** Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre

► **Tickets:** \$7 at 432-2000

boycott," she said.

The boycott began in 1965 and lasted years. Chavez's group became the United Farm Workers.

It was a movement that some people ignored, Cano said. "I think in school, we might have spent maybe one day on it."

Still, she said, it was a key step in bringing a voice to Latinos. "So many people feel like they have no rights," she said.

A 25-minute show was developed, followed by a talkback with the audience. Cano has performed it in schools, in auditoriums — even on the back of a truck, just the way shows were performed during the original movement.

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