

this book? Then this would be just another little camp. You know, nobody would know, nobody would care, you know, and what Guthrie was talking about, what Tom Joad was talking about, I mean, that's something that, in its time, when everything is being written and everything is being signed, it had to have been said, because if they're not speaking out for everybody, or speaking out for the people who are downtrodden, I mean, who is, you know?

And it's important because of that, because it's not just a vicious book and a vicious movie. The fact that they had the balls to come out and just literally say, you know, "There're these people out there that you don't know about," and it coincides with what is happening right now, you know, the whole immigration debate and everything and the government shutdown that we're currently in right now, like, right now. Maybe not when this comes out, but there are certain people, or what not, that you don't necessarily think about, you know. All these people that are anti-immigrant and doing these things against basically the downtrodden people right now. How many people think about them when they go eat a salad, you know? They never think about the people that are doing the harvesting, and Steinbeck shed light on that, and that's why it's important, and he spoke through Tom Joad, and Woody Guthrie spoke through both of them, and the whole thing is all connected in that this isn't seventy-five years ago, this is going on right now, you know, and people need to speak up for these people.

You know, this land is your land, this land is my land, and Guthrie was talking about that, you know, the haves and the have-nots or whatnot.

Even if I do get the degree and pursue a masters, come back as a PhD, I still want to come back to Lamont because, you know, I'd say Lamont lets you dream. But you know, like, I hate it when people move out of Lamont, you know, they have kids, live in Bakersfield, they're like, "When are you gonna get out of Lamont?" I was like, "Well, fuck, it was perfect for you to grow up. You came out right. Shit, you have a job, you have a family. Why are you talking all this shit about Lamont, Arvin, and Weedpatch?" It's like, it's not about, no *cabrón*. Go back. Go back and give something back, even if it's only for a year. Even if you only show up, like, once a year, I don't know, do something. Go back to wherever it is that you're from. It could be

Lamont, it could, like I was talking, Oklahoma. It could be anywhere in the United States. Go back to where you're from and give back. You know, whether or not it changes anybody, I mean, you know, put it on the map.

## P.J. PALMER

*Roadside Cemetery in New Mexico, 2013*  
single frame 1:85:1, digital capture



courtesy: National Steinbeck Center and (twenty)2 films