

# Surviving The Toughest Times in Rural America

As told by Mario Telles  
Socorro, New Mexico

## Story Narrative:

My teachers have always been my inspiration. The good ones and the bad ones.

I started as a golfer at age 4. I signed up for the summer golf lessons and ended up with a college scholarship to the New Mexico Military Institute. I left NMMI early to help out at home with my mom who was beating cancer up at the time. I couldn't go anywhere, so I began to play my dad's bass. Slowly, I began to learn songs that I liked--metal, 70s songs, reggae, anything. I got to share the stage with worldwide acts and even performed on network television.

Next came acting. I went to a casting call one day with a buddy who was getting made fun of for being an actor. I told him I would go with him and that he didn't have to take that kind of bullying. I didn't have any car, phone, nothing, and at the time I was a dish washer on weekends at a restaurant in Albuquerque. Now, I have over 30 different movies and tv shows on my resume, and I am now officially a Stella Adler Art of Acting Studio Alumni as of 2020.

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