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Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream



Par Joshua Davis

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurFour undocumented Mexican American students, two great teachers, one robot-
building contest . . . and a major motion pictureIn 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine
Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They
were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high
school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to muchbut

two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They were going up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 grant from

ExxonMobil. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts. This was never a level competition and yet, against all odds . . . they won! But this is just the beginning for these four, whose story which became a key inspiration to the DREAMers movement will go on to include first-generation college graduations, deportation, bean-picking in Mexico, and service in Afghanistan. Joshua Davis's Spare Parts is a story about overcoming insurmountable odds and four young men who proved they were among the most patriotic and talented Americans in this country even as the country tried to kick them out. Presentation de l'auteur Four undocumented Mexican American students, two great teachers, one robot-building contest . . . and a major motion picture In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California,

Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They

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Americans in this country even as the country tried to kick them out. Biographie de l'auteur JOSHUA DAVIS is a contributing editor at Wired and co-founder of EPIC magazine, and he has written for The New Yorker, GQ, Outside, Men's Journal, Men's Health, Maxim and Food Wine. His writing was anthologized in the

2012 edition of The Best American Science and Nature Writing, as well as the 2006, 2007 and 2009 editions of The Best Technology Writing. In 2002, Davis completed The Beast Within, a documentary film about his attempt to become the lightweight armwrestling champion of the world. The film won Best Documentary at the 2003 Telluride Mountain Film Festival. In April of 2003, Josh snuck into Iraq to cover the war for Wired

and later that year became a contributing editor at the magazine. In 2005, he published his first book, The Underdog, a recounting of his arm-wrestling, bullfighting, sumo, sauna and backward running adventures.

La Vida Robot is his second book. WEB: joshuadavis.net TWITTER: @JoshuaDavisNow FACEBOOK:

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