



“Ladies Night and Latina Hollywood”

Gabriela Tagliavini may not sound as familiar as Stephen Spielberg, but she will soon! Let's learn a little more about her... Armed with a Bachelors Degree in film directing, and a Masters Degree in screenwriting from the American Film Institute (AFI), Gabriela Tagliavini won several accolades. Tagliavini was named Best Director at the New York Independent Film Festival, Best Director at the No-Dance Film Festival in Park City Utah, and Best Director at the Latino Film Festival, for her feature directorial debut "The Woman Every Man Wants." The movie was the Official Selection of the Berlin International, Munich International, Argentina International and Portugal International Film Festivals. All that was a snippet from her short bio! Imagine if she sent me the long one...aye!

Tagliavini emailed me expressing her interest in featuring her on Mija Magazine and after I saw her bio and her story on how she met a 17-year-old Mexican girl who told her, "You're my hero. You're a director, you're a woman, and you're Latina." Well she's right, her story is here and more "Mijas" will be inspired by her accomplishments alone.

Gabriela started studying in music, art, photography and acting then realized film had all of that rolled into one. Some of her personal favorite movies range from comedy to drama, Amelie, Run Lola Run, The Godfather, Groundhog Day, Edward Scissorhands, Women in the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, and Something Gotta Give, are to name a few. It's good to see what a director watches at home.

Her upbringing, just like other artists affects her work and at times ignites new ideas, "Most artists produce art to overcome our past experiences, fears and troubles. So In a way, we should thank them for becoming the source of our creation." said Gabriela. While growing up she didn't see many Latina actresses in films. "Latinas actresses are blooming now. A lot of Latino talent in all the departments is being discovered these days. Our time has finally arrived!"

With a growth of Latina/o faces in film; there is some need of support; not from only the viewing audience, but from the actors alone. In Gabriela's opinion, Latina/o actors in Hollywood are not as united as they should be, "We need more organizations and gatherings that unite us. And we need to go see and support our own Latinos movies in their opening weekend." Even though I am not a Hollywood superstar, I do agree with Gabriela. Some Latina/os in the entertainment industry seem to slightly change when they make it big. One great movie that demonstrated great unification within Latino actors and actresses was "Frida". Salma Hayek had the passion, the drive and friends to pull such a great piece of art together and just to think a long time ago they wanted Madonna to act as Frida ...come on now.

Out of directing and writing, Gabriela prefers both, "Directing gives me adrenaline and power. Writing gives me peace and fantasies." One of Gabriela's recent pieces of art in motion is entitled "Ladies Night" which was directed in Mexico and was the number one movie in there last year and will be released in the US in February 2005. "It's about a conservative girl who is about to get married, and in her bachelorette party, she falls in love with a male stripper. Go see it. It's pure fun!" Some of the actors she wishes to work with are, "Jay Hernandez and Benjamin Brat" then she concluded the sentence by saying "Talented hoties!" She's right about those papi chulos. Ha ha.

One mistake she made was...well I'll let her tell you, "I think I sold out in a scene. When you make a movie, sometimes you have to compromise in little things and you have to learn to let them go, because the movie has a life of its own."

And now for Mija Magazines' golden question:

Do you have any words of wisdom for anyone that would like to follow in your footsteps?

"Just do it! Grab your video camera or your photo camera or your phone digital camera and shoot what ever you see. Find your voice and what you have to say and don't be afraid to say it!" Very well put Gabriela!

Make sure to look out for "Ladies Night" around February 2005 in your area. We Mijas must support each other. Go see it for the comedy, if not go see it for the stripper....OH did I just say that? Ha Ha.

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