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Spanish-5

29 May 2014

**María Felíx**

 María Felíx es una actríz del cine de Mexico. Ella empezó actuando en películas en el año 1942 cuando un director mexicano la descubrió y le preguntó si le gustaría estar en películas. Ella actuó en dramas y comedias. Su agente (el director de cine) quería que ella trabajara en Hollywood, pero ella se negó y escojió solo hacer películas en México y otros países hispanoparlantes. El cine de México empezó su “apogeo” en los años 1940s, hasta los años 1960s y 1980s, y surgió de nuevo a en los 1990s porque la industria fue patrocinada por el gobierno. Su pasíon es actuar y mi pasíon es actuar. Para mi re-expresíon, voy a recrear el monologo de una escena de la película, “Doña Bárbara”, donde María Felíx protagonizó el papel principal de Doña Bárbara.

María Felíx was a film actress from Alamos, Sonora. She was born April 8th, 1914 and died on April 8th, 2002 from cardiac arrest. María’s family consisted of herself, and her 16 brothers and sisters. Her father, Felíx Bernardo Felíx, was a descendent of Indian Yaqui. María’s mother was Josefina Rosas Güereña. As a child, María was known to be interested in hobbies considered as “boy activities,” such as soccer and other sports. María never got along with her sisters because she did not look like them and she was not interested in the “typical” girl activities they were involved in. So, María became very close with her brother, Pablo. María’s parents became worried that María and Pablo may become involved in an incenstuous relationship, so they sent Pablo away to military school. Later, her family moved to Guadalajara where María was crowned Queen of Beauty while she was a student at the University of Guadalajara. María married Enrique Alvarez in 1931, with whom she had her son, Enrique Alvarez Felíx. She soon divorced Enrique Alvarez in 1938. Next, she married the Mexican musician and composer Agustín Lara in 1945, whom she divorced just two years later in 1947. Her third husband was her co-star in El Peñan de las Ánimas, Jorge Negrete, who died just eleven months after their marriage in 1953. María’s last husband was a French baker named Alex Berger who she married in 1956.

 María Felíx was never interested in acting or performing as a child. In fact, her career began by chance. In 1942, María was shopping in Mexico City when she was approached by Mexican film director, Fernando Palacios, who asked her if she wanted to make movies. To which she replied, “Who told you that I would want to get into the movies? If I feel like it, I will; but when I want, and it will be through the front door.” After many months or persuasion, Fernando Palacios finally got María to agree to do movies. She began doing small films in Mexico, but eventually got invited to do movies in Hollywood, California. Without a second thought, María declined Hollywood and made the decision to only do movies in Mexico or other Spanish speaking countries. Her first lead role was in Grovas Productions film: “El Peñan de las Ánimas” directed by Miguel Zacarías. María is sometimes referred to as “La Doña” because of her lead role as Doña Barbara in Doña Barbara in 1943. She specialized in dramas and comedies about Mexican society, and was very popular in European countries as well as in Mexico.

 By the 1930s, Mexico gained political stability, so movie production took off. In the 1940s, actors and directors had influence on political life through their movies. Mexico had the largest production of Spanish movies because Argentina and Spain had fascist governments. The 1940s was considered the beginning of the “Golden Age” of cinema. In the 1960s-1980s, the popular movie theme was horror and cult movies featuring professional wrestlers as the actors. However, the horror film theme was not successful, since the cinema suffered in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1990s, the cinema began receiving state funding, so they were able to make more films more often. In 1963, the Mexican cinema took a huge step, and began producing films in color.

My passion is acting, so I chose María Felíx because of her success as an actress. She was (and still is) idolized by many and truly loved what she did. I also chose María Felíx because of the amount of emotion she shows through her acting. I also admire how comfortable she is on film, a lot of times actors can be awkward or hold back when playing a character they are unfamiliar with, but she always puts forth her full effort and it really shines through in her films. She truly is a master in her field and I commend her for it.