



# ALEBRIJE HAS 'A Beautiful Secret'

Legendary actress Katy Jurado's last film comes to DVD

By Angelique Flores

Before her death in 2002, celebrated Mexican star Katy Jurado wrapped up filming the drama *Un Secreto de Esperanza* (*A Beautiful Secret*). She passed away while the film was in post-production, before she could even see it.

Alebrije Home Entertainment has just released the drama on DVD for the first time, priced at \$14.98.

The film tells the story of a reclusive elderly woman, Esperanza (Jurado), who develops a friendship with 12-year-old Jorge (Imanol). Both are rebellious and incorrigible. Jorge appreciates her wisdom, life experiences and the way she talks to him so honestly like an equal. Esperanza is drawn to his youth and his defiance against societal norms.

Jurado, at age 78, illuminates the screen in *Un Secreto de Esperanza* as much as she ever did. Her career began during the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema and has worked with the likes of directors Luis Buñuel and Sam Peckinpah, as well as actors Pedro Infante, Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy, Marlon Brando and Anthony Quinn. Jurado was the first Mexican

actress to be nominated for an Academy Award, when she received the recognition in 1955 for her supporting actress role in *Broken Lance*. (The only other Mexican actresses to have been nominated by the Academy since are Salma Hayek as Best Actress in 2003 for *Frida* and *Adriana Barraza* as Best Supporting Actress in 2006 for *Babel*.)

The veteran actress also won a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress in 1953 for *High Noon*, as well as numerous Ariel awards in Mexico.

According to producer Moy Jafif, the way the film pays tribute to the character of the renowned writer Esperanza, so it does to the actress Jurado. One scene even features a montage of footage of a younger Jurado.

"She also worked with the writer on her character," Jafif said. "I think he had a lot of help from her insight."

The film also stars rising Mexican actress Ana de la Reguera (*Nacho Libre*, *Paraiso Travel*) in one of her first feature films.

"We didn't have an idea she [would be as popular as she is now]," Jafif said. "But she



was always very talented. We knew that when we hired her."

*Un Secreto de Esperanza* premiered in 2002 at the Los Angeles Latino Film Festival and was released theatrically in Mexico in 2005, to industry acclaim. This year it aired on the cable channel CineLatino.

"I think this film has a lot of potential on DVD," Jafif said. "I know that it will bring a lot of interest in the market."

## COMING UP

■ **LIONS-GATE** Nov. 11 (prebook Oct. 27) presents *Amar, Dolor y Vice Versa* (DVD \$19.98), a romantic thriller starring Barbara Mori and Leonardo Sbaraglia. Due Nov. 30 (prebook Nov. 1) is *Jillian Michaels: 6 Week Six-Pack* (DVD \$14.98), available in Spanish audio.

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## ■ PBS HOME VIDEO

has *Latin Music USA* (DVD \$34.99), a documentary about the history of musicians using Latin rhythms in jazz, rock and R&B. Also available in Spanish audio are *Baseball* (six-DVD set \$99.99), *Baseball: The Tenth Inning* (DVD \$24.99, Blu-ray \$29.99) and *Roberto Clemente* (DVD \$24.99)

## ■ MAYA ENTERTAINMENT

Nov. 9 presents *The Dry Land* (DVD \$27.98, Blu-ray \$29.88), executive produced by Sergio Aguero (*Y Tu Mama Tambien*) and America Ferrera, who also stars in the film alongside Melissa Leo, Jason Ritter and Wilmer Valderrama. The drama is about a veteran of the Iraq War coming home to a small town in West Texas.



## ■ VIVENDI ENTERTAINMENT

has another wave of telenovelas coming out on DVD. Nov. 9 offers *Alma de Hierro* (four-DVD set \$19.93), a drama series following an off-kilter family. All the telenovelas are in Spanish with English subtitles.



## Butaca.tv Launches a New Latino Movie Site

By Angelique Flores

Multiplatform Latino entertainment content delivery service Butaca recently launched a new site that offers viewers free access to Latino films.

The ad-supported Butaca.tv offers a range of films from classics from Mexico's Golden Age of Cinema to contemporary films in a variety of genres, including action, comedy, horror, drama and children's titles. The platform is built with a user-friendly interface available in both Spanish and English.

"Our site provides consumers of Latino entertainment a diverse choice of content that up until now was not readily available on traditional Span-

ish and along with the other online general market resources will eventually replace expensive subscription cable or satellite services," Green said.

He said he aims to make Butaca.tv a sort of Hulu for Latino content. "When I miss an episode of 'Lost,' I can go to Hulu and watch it," Green said. "When someone misses a telenovela, there's nowhere to go right now."

Before Butaca.tv, the company had been offering its films on YouTube, where it garners 3 million video views a month, and Impremedia's film site via Impre.com.

"It's all about watching online," Green said, adding that they have plans to be available through Inter-

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Many of the films already include subtitles, Alonzo said, and Butaca will eventually add subtitles to all programming.

While much of the available titles are classic Mexican films, Alonzo and Randall Green, COO of Butaca.tv, said they will continue to grow their offerings.

"We're really interested in independent Latino film," Green said. "A large percentage never gets distribution in the U.S., so I think we can really be that platform."

Alonzo added that they're looking to obtain rights to films from other Spanish-speaking countries in addition to Mexico.

In addition, live programming, music, sports and television shows

## BRIEFS

### ■ 'BEDROOMS' TO CLOSE BEL AIR FILM FESTIVAL

Cima Productions' relationship drama *Bedrooms* has been chosen as the closing night selection of the Bel Air Film Festival Oct 19.

The film is produced in association with Olmos Productions, Castle2000 Films, Fireball Group and RIP Media. The cast includes Jesse Garcia (*Quinceañera*), Moon Bloodgood (*Terminator: Salvation*) Julie Benz (*"Dexter"*) and Xander Berkeley (*"24"*).

The project was a collaboration among first time writer/director Victor Teran, Michael Olmos (*Splinter*) and Youssef

