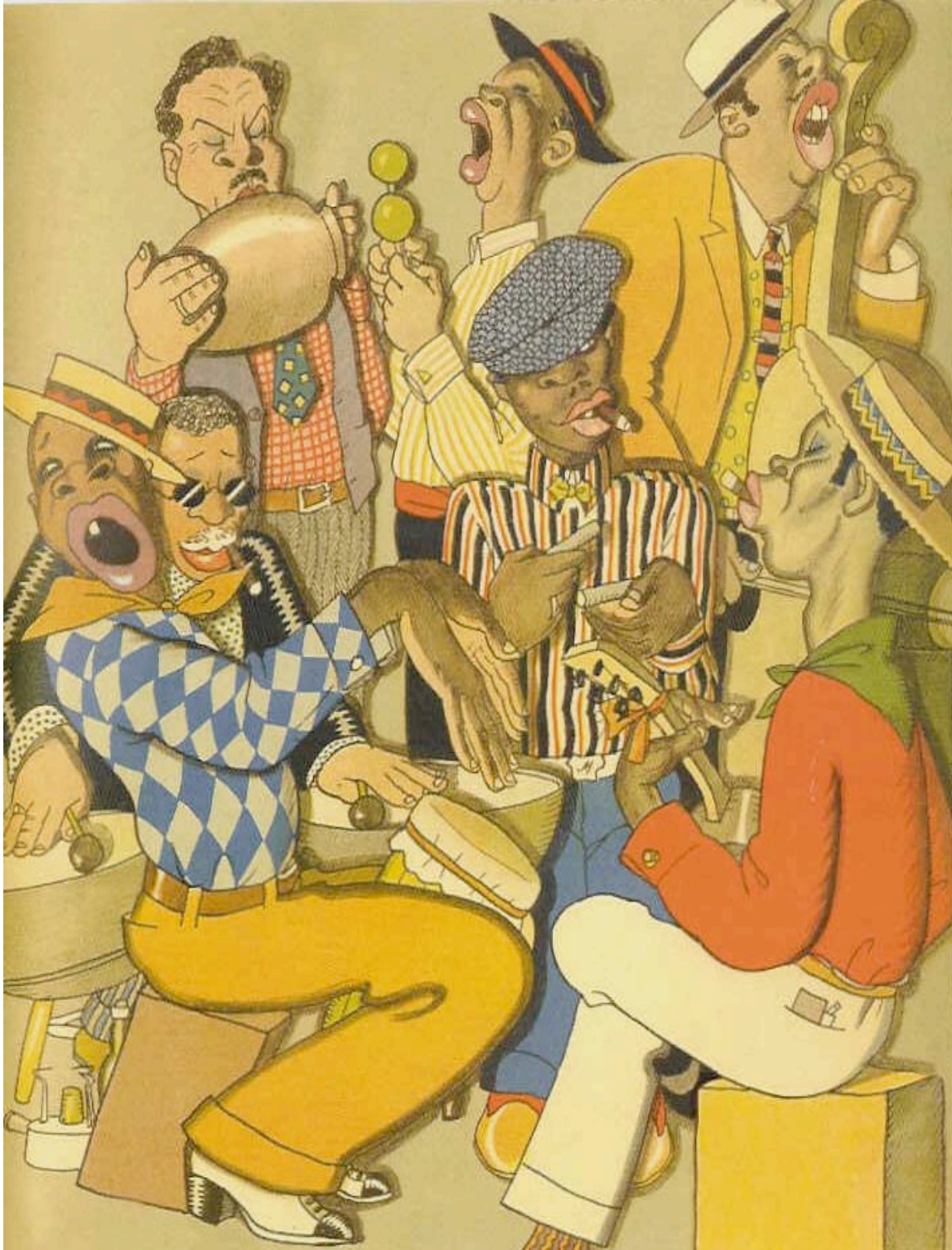


MIAMI MAMBO



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Genre: Ethnic Romantic Comedy

Screenwriters: Luis Santeiro & Josi W. Konski

Producers: Benni Korzen & Josi W. Konski

Executive Producers: James DeMasi & Juan J. Llauro

Director: Josi W. Konski

Composer: Gonzalo Rubalcava

Photography: Mario Garcia Joya

Suggested Cast: Javier Bardem or Andy Garcia (Manolo), Lorraine Bracco (Gloria), Alfred Molina (Ramon)

Synopsis: A romantic comedy which shows a glimpse into the Cuban American community in Miami, revolving around a down-on-his-luck record producer (Manolo) who's struggling to pay for a spectacular "SWEET FIFTEEN" party for his daughter. He struggles with issues of an oversexed wife (Gloria) money, an IRS inspection, generation gap, family, politics, and the surprise reappearance of a long lost political prisoner brother (Ramon) assumed death. And when he thinks that events cannot get any worse he has to get a job from his red-neck neighbor (Sonny)

SYNOPSIS

Fed up with the influx of Cubans into their city, Americans are leaving Miami in droves. The THOMPSONS-SONNY and CANDY - wave good-bye to the JONES family, who are moving to Orlando because the Cubans have taken over Miami. The Thompsons can only agree; they note that loud Cuban music is playing in the neighborhood. Candy bids them a fond farewell and predicts that they'll soon be joining them. But Sonny is a stubborn man. He has no intention of leaving; they are not driving him out!

Across the street live the MUÑOZ family, handsome MANOLO a nostalgia record producer, ushers his sexy and lovely wife GLORIA, daughter MARITZA (14) a would-be rock'n roller and his grumbling elderly mother ANTONIA across the street to a party being given by affluent ROLANDO FUENTES a banker and his wife ELENA (the Thompson's next door neighbors). They meet with GREG THOMPSON on the walk over, he videotapes Maritza and Antonia singing and dancing. The music is coming from the Fuentes' house, where a party is already in full swing.. The Fuentes' are nouveau riche; their home contains every imaginable gadget, and this particular evening activities include the screening of a videotape of little BARBARA FUENTES, very lavish, very expensive sweet-fifteenth birthday party. The Muñoz older daughter, RAQUEL (19), is there with her new husband, PETE. Manolo watches Barbara, envious of her obvious stability and naiveté (he detests the way his daughter dresses and the fact she's obsessed with rock'n roll). He decides there and then that his daughter is going to have a birthday party even better than Barbara's...

When they get home that evening, Manolo informs Gloria of his decision, And he thinks it's finally time for him to produce the CD he's been holding off on. Because of Castro's impending downfall, Cuban Patriotism is at an all time high. Manolo's performers OLGA and TONY were the Cuban Sonny and Cher, It's time for them to make their comeback. Gloria is happy and excited. Because of Fidel, neither she nor their other daughter, Raquel, were able to have such a party. When they finally go to bed, Gloria tries seducing Manolo to no avail; he's too preoccupied concentrating on his financial situation.

Manolo brings Maritza along to the recording session, Mari thinks the duo sounds questionably good and suggests for her dad to get with it and start producing some modern stuff.

Gloria brings in a high-priced party planner and choreographer, RODNEY of Broadway fame to handle the party. Because Maritza is a Pisces, Rodney decides an underwater theme is in order. Mermaids will dance, palm trees will sway.. "Oh boy", thinks Maritza. Not wanting to hurt her parents' feelings, she keeps her displeasure to herself, sharing it only with her best friend/neighbor Greg, an avid would be director who goes nowhere without his video camera. Greg comes up with the idea that makes the party a whole lot easier for Maritza to swallow. They'll turn this lavish production into a Music Video, her singing debut and his directing debut. She'll get on stage and sing and dance amongst the

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mermaids... and he'll document the making of the party from beginning to end. It could be the break both of them have been waiting for...

Meanwhile, Sony doesn't like his son Greg hanging out with the Cubans; he won't listen to Greg's affirmation that the Muñoz's are good people.

But things don't go as planned in Manolo's life. Olga y Tony CD's won't sell. Nobody cares about them anymore. Manolo is being audited by the IRS because he hasn't paid taxes in two years. He owes the government \$ 35,000...

Everything isn't quite so bleak, however... His brother RAMON, a renown newspaper reporter and long time political prisoner that according to the Castro government had passed away long ago is found to be alive... being released and is coming to Miami.

The family is ecstatic. Manolo is happy that his brother, the son of Antonia the first husband of Gloria and father of Raquel is finally coming home.

Yes... Gloria's husband and father of Raquel. After the family went into exile and finding out of the passing of Ramon.... Manolo eventually took up with and married Gloria his brother widow and soon thereafter Maritza came along.

Ramon is an immediate celebrity. Arriving to freedom after so many horrible years of incarceration, he's everyone's ideal. He's asked to appear on a game show and wins a new car. Ramon, who doesn't even know how to drive, suddenly finds himself with a fancy car. Then he's hired as the managing editor of the largest Spanish language newspaper in town and instantly becomes part of the power structure of Miami.

Manolo problems continue to worsen. Gloria insists on seducing him at every opportunity but, he continues to show no interest, his mind is elsewhere, the CD is a disaster, the IRS is breathing down his neck and the check he wrote to Rodney bounces.

In an act of true desperation, Manolo allows himself to be talked into going to a voodoo priest (Santero). As a result, Manolo, carrying several chicken parts (a foot, wing, etc.) is arrested by the police for indecent exposure. He'd been peeing on the front steps of the IRS building under direct orders of the Santero.

This is more than Gloria can bear. She's been wracking her brain trying to figure out how to make the passionless Manolo take a sexual interest in her. AND NOW HE'S CAUGHT EXPOSING HIMSELF in public. He won't show IT to her but shows it to the whole world.

Maritza and Greg, meanwhile, have become more and more friendly. Finally one day as they are watching a romantic movie on video, they begin tentatively kissing and groping. Manolo happens to walk by the door, witnesses what's transpiring, and furiously throws Greg out of the house declaring that Maritza's never to see him again. Maritza takes on a hard line - no Greg; no party....

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Manolo, hat in hand, is forced to go to Fuentes, and ask for a loan. Fuentes' a powerful bank executive instantly agrees to help his friend. Manolo's newfound hopes are dashed, however when he arrives at the bank to collect the money, only to discovered that Fuentes is being busted by the cops. He's been arrested for money laundering.

Finally, things improve drastically, however, when, as a result of Antonia's call to a radio station, Tony y Olga become the featured entertainers. They become an overnight phenomenon once again. Music stores can't keep the CD's in stock! Manolo is in the money...!!!

Finally it's time for the big 15th birthday party. Manolo has put his differences with Greg aside; Greg's Maritza's escort for the big party. As the mermaids dance and the clam shell rises out of the "depths", Maritza and her band rush up onto stage and begin to sing. Rodney is at first horrified, but when Maritza call her father up on stage insisting that he, (from whom she inherited her beautiful voice!) join her on stage. Together father and daughter reconcile and rap their love for one another while on the dance floor their assembled families watch with shining eyes.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Miami Mambo is an ethnic romantic comedy aimed at the same audience demographics that made "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" a financial success.

It is the quintessential first generation, hardworking immigrant, success story revolving around a Cuban-American down-on-his-luck, nostalgia music producer, MANOLO, who's struggling to pay for a spectacular Cuban style, "SWEET FIFTEEN" coming out party for his rebellious daughter, MARITZA, while simultaneously dealing with a sensual wife, GLORIA, business reverses and the adversities of an IRS audit.

This project was originally developed with New Line and eventually, I was able to buy it back on turnaround.

Born in Cuba, with parents that escaped communism from Eastern Europe, then raised in Miami after our family once again had to abandon everything due to Castro, and having a vivacious fifteen year old "Made in the USA" daughter more American than apple pie, I have lived and shared many of the experiences related and enhanced in the story.

This background gives me as a Writer/Director a personal and insightful prospective of the Cuban emigrant which even though is unique in many ways, is a story not unlike the Italian, Armenian, Irish, Greek or Jewish assimilation into the melting pot of American culture.

Relating the story in film, I strive for a warm and sympathetic look at a Cuban-American family who has struggled to make new lives in this great land. A positive message with interesting and sweet characters. A romantic comedy which shows the unlimited love a "good-man" has for his family.

In the writing, I gave each performer a distinctive voice based on composite characters from my personal experiences, such as the plot twist with the reappearance of - RAMON, the long-lost brother/son/husband whom appears out of nowhere and immediately becomes very successful - RODNEY, the over the top, gay party choreographer - ROLANDO, the big time banker whom is arrested after being found money laundering are some of these specific examples giving this story its unique and diverse prospective.

MANOLO has his ideals and heart stuck in the old country (Cuba); he is struggling to survive.... to keep up! MANOLO loves his family but he is being pulled in all directions at once. His vivacious daughter MARITZA has fully embraced the American-Way and there is no holding her back and to make matters worst, she has fallen in love with the young AMERICANO neighbor. What is MANOLO to do?

Expression will be the clue, expression achieved by abbreviation, by essence. Instead of a heavy accent (ala Ricky Ricardo), intonation is what will be portrayed, while paying

special attention to the deep seated natural humor of "Los Cubanos" and their internal Caribbean sensualism at it's utmost, through dance and movement, scenographic detail and situations, color, light and least not we forget the world renown music that made Ricky Ricardo (Desi Arnaz), Tito Puente, Xavier Cugat, Gloria Estefan, Shakira, Marc Anthony and Ricky Martin world famous.

Sometimes it takes someone like myself who comes to the United States from elsewhere to recognize America's greatness and make it shine while having an enjoyable time.

Josi W. Konski
Writer/Director

Josi W. Konski.
DIRECTOR
CO-WRITER
PRODUCER

A long time member of the Directors Guild of America, has either produced, production managed or directed over 50 feature films with such stars as Robert Downey, Jr., Stephen Baldwin, Claudia Schiffer, Burt Reynolds, William Forsythe, Andy Garcia, Kathleen Turner, Peter Weller, Robert Duvall, Danny Nucci, Alison Eastwood, Kelly McGillis, Christopher Walken, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Raul Julia, Beverly D'Angelo, Amy Irving, Linda Blair, Ernest Borgnine, Lorraine Bracco, Charles Durning, Terence Hill, Bud Spencer, Ray Sharkey, John Saxon, Tomas Milian, Lee Horsley, Dillon MacDermoth, Jennifer Rubin, Jackie Mason, Lisa Hartman, Frederic Forrest, Bo Swenson, Stuart Whitman, Christine Lathi, Ken Whahl, Judge Reinhold.

Josi studied to be an Aeronautical Engineer and then served on active duty in the US Air Force.

Fluent in Spanish and Italian, he entered the film industry as a production manager and has produced films in Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

His experience ranges from Studio Pictures to Independents. Josi is a well-respected professional with an extensive track record who has made films for Columbia, Paramount, Sony, Lorimar, Universal, Cannon, Vestron, New Century, Vista, Viacom as well as numerous independent production companies.

On May 7th, 1987 Xavier Suarez, then Mayor of the City of Miami, proclaimed "Josi W. Konski Day"

Josi is also a member of the Writers Guild of America and has written 10 screenplays.

Luis Santeiro
CO-WRITER

Wrote 30 episodes of the successful PBS series "Que Pasa, USA?" for which he won an Emmy also for PBS he has written "3-2-1 Contact", "Oye Willie!" and Carrascalendas as well as the ABC "After School Specials" and developed 2 situation comedy pilots for CBS Television and the Norman Lear/Embassy Productions. Mr. Santeiro is a member of the Writers Guild and the Dramatist Guild. He has been awarded 9 EMMY's for his writing

Gonzalo Rubalcaba
COMPOSER

Renown musician and composer has performed with the likes of Dizzi Gillespie, Charlie Haden, Jack de Johnette, Ron Carter, Paul Mutian, John Pattituchi. In 1994 he was nominated for a Grammy and was a guest performer during the ceremony and again in 2000 he was nominated for a second time. and has just been nominated again this year

The music academy in Paris has awarded him the Palma D'Or and has also received the key of the city of Lugano, Switzerland

The Association of Art Critics of Japan have bestowed on two occasions Best Performer.

His recent CD releases include, **“Live in the USA”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“Diz”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“Rapsodia”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“Suite 240”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“Images”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“The Blessing”** Somethin'Else/Blue Note, **“Discovery”** “Giraldilla” Messidor, **“Mi Gran Pasión”** Messidor, **“Live in Havana”** Messidor, **“Concatenación”** Melopea, **“Gonzalo Rubalcaba”** Areito, **“Concierto Negro”** Areito.

Rubalcaba created the music for the motion pictures **“Confesiones de Laura”** Directed by Jaime Orsorio and **“Cartas del Parque”** of Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. He also created the music for the ballets: **Pas de Deux**/Lourdes Ramírez-Republica Dominicana and **“Panorama de la Música”**/Victor Cuellar-Cuba

Mario García Joya
PHOTOGRAPHY

He has photographed over 90 feature films amongst them **“Fresa y Chocolate”** (nominated for an Oscar), **“Cartas del Parque”**, **“La Ultima Cena”**, **“Una Pelea Cubana Contra Los Demonios”**, **“Los Sobrevivientes”**, **“Hasta Cierta Punto”** y **“Contigo en la Distancia”** directed by Tomas Gutierrez Alea. **“Tiempo de Morir”** directed by Jorge Ali Triana of a Gabriel García Márquez, screenplay, **“Milagro en Roma”**, directed by Lisandro Duque and also penned by Gabriel García Márquez, **“Lejanía”**, of Jesús Díaz, **“Río Negro”** of Atahualpa Lichi y **“Malabrigo”**, **“Alias la Gringa”** y **“Coraje”** of Alberto Durán.

García Joya was the Director of Photography of the scenes filmed in Cuba of **“Havana”** directed by Sidney Pollack and recently shot **“Modern Rhapsody”** directed by Elly

Friedman, **“Paradise Lost”** by Herb Freed and **“Emerald Cut”** by Arturo Barquet.

In addition to cinematography, García Joya has developed a solid still photography pedigree. His stills have been published in: A World History of Photography, The International Center of Photography USA, The Encyclopedia of Photography USA, La Photographie Contemporaine in Amerique Latine Suiza, 41st Venice Bienal Italy, and the magazines Aperture, Art Forum and Art in America.

García Joya guest artist to the XLI Bienal de Venecia and the 1st and 2nd Bienal de la Havana. His work has been shown in over 40 individual expositions and over 70 with other artists. Amongst them in the Centro Georges Pompidou and the Festival de Arles in France, Kunthaus in Zurich, Ledel Gallery in New York, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo in Madrid, Museo de Arte Moderno and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico D.F. Centro Cultural de Sao Paulo and Centro Cultural de Buenos Aires.

Has received numerous awards for his cinematography and still work, amongst them Premio Coral for the BEST Cinematography in the VII Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano, The First Prize for Best Cinematography in the International Festival Of Bogota, Colombia and Premio Casa de Fotografia, Casa de las Americas in Havana, Cuba.

