

Sing, Soledad

By Claudia Galati⁽¹⁾

Soledad Villamil; her name may not be well-known in Italy, but if you look up "Soledad" on Google, you'll see that hers appears first. She is known as the main character of "The Secret in Their Eyes", the beautiful Argentine movie by Juan José Campanella which won the Oscar in 2010 for the Best Foreign Language Film. This role helped her win the Goya Award as the Best New Actress, among others. In addition to being a very good actress (she has performed in the theater, movies, TV), Soledad is also an extraordinary tango singer – shown by the awards in only four years as a solo artist, among them the Gardel for Music Award. This artist, in the strictest sense of the word, as a tango and folklore singer had her first concert in Rome at the Music Park Auditorium last May 31. She was accompanied by five very good musicians (among them was conductor José Tei-xidó) and with the participation of The Macana Brothers dancers who always go at very high speeds, Soledad fascinated the Roman audience thanks to her deep and expressive voice and the intensity of her interpretations of the Argentine tango and folklore repertoire (a delicious "Chamarita"). Passionate and full of energy in her smart red dress, Soledad has offered an appealing show – the interpretation of "They say about me", made famous by Tita Merello was very nice, fun and sometimes dramatic (when she sang Violeta Parra). Confident, vigorous and



Soledad Villamil

owner of the stage, shy and reserved in the private scene, Soledad agreed to an interview during which, beyond her stunning beauty and her wonderful green eyes which are not seen from a distance, we have met one of the best tango singers of our times.

When did you take your first steps in music?

I began as a child, but later, when I took drama lessons, I started to work as an actress. It took me several years to combine both things: music and acting.

And as a singer?

Around 1997, I started playing the role of a singer in a musical theater show, and after that experience, in 2006, I decided to try being a solo singer. In 2007, I released my first record, "Sing" and in 2009, the second, "To Die of Love."

Actress and singer: do you feel more of an actress or a singer?

Both are equivalent. I've worked longer as an actress, so the public knows me as an actress, but music has been present from the beginning of my life, so I think both passions have the same intensity. **Let's talk about "The Secret in Their Eyes" and its message.**

It's a movie that has a complex plot with many argumentative lines, it doesn't have only one message, it talks about many things, but above all, the search for our memories, the importance of reviewing the past, so that it won't be hidden and won't be a burden, not only in the people's lives but also in the political and social life.

When did you become interested in tango?

It began 14 years ago, more or less. Thanks to that musical theater show "Porteñas Glories," I started

working as a singer in a tango show. And so I fell in love with tango, though I already danced it and went to the milonga, but it was thanks to the show that I fell in love and started doing research on the genre, above all, the great female referents and singers of the first decades of the last century, like Libertad Lamarque, Rosita Quiroga...

What is the main characteristic of your way of singing tango?

I think it is the way I interpret the lyrics, its message, its content, and not only the music. Since I'm also an actress, I'm very interested in interpreting emotions and the story immersed in the lyrics.

Tita Merello and Soledad Villamil, how do they "meet"?

I've sung Tita's repertoire for a short time, since Porteñas Glories, where I sang "Pipistrela". I don't imitate her because it's impossible to do so, she had a very personal style, but I feel we have "met" because we're both actresses who sing tangos. I see myself in her.

Your first show in Rome: what's your impression of the Italian public?

They're very warm! I thought that the language would be a barrier. Instead, I felt in tune with the public.

How did collaboration with The Macana Brothers emerge?

It was the producer's idea to introduce some dance in the musical show, which generally doesn't have it. I think it was a good idea because the guys are great and because it adds another dimension to the show.

Your next commitments?

I'll keep on traveling all the year long, I'll go on a tour around Brazil, the United States and I'm about to shoot a movie. I have a lot of work!

A dream, a wish?

Life has always given me great surprises; I hope it will continue surprising me.

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Festival

Continued from page 36

II La Boca Republic Tango Festival

This Festival will take place November 24-27, 2011. The activities include recitals, concerts, dance exhibitions, milongas, classes of dance, art exhibits, reading of poetry. Free admission to all of them.

The first La Boca's Popular School of Tango will be inaugurated. Nelly Omar (Godmother), Osvaldo Bayer (Literary Godfather) and Leopoldo Federico (Musical Godfather) will attend this event. This School is a self-managed undertaking. Pablo Bernaba will be in charge of direction and coordination.

There is a large list of artists that will participate. Among others, La Boca Black Quintet, Typical Orchestra The Vidu, Loves Tangos, Typical Orchestra Agustín Guerrero, Atypical

Orchestra Catalinas South, Karina Beorlegui and The Gabino Cousins, Jacqueline Sigaut, Lucrecia Merico, María Volonté, Lulú and The Saavedras Guitars, Hernán "Cucuza" Castiello and Moscato Luna, The Argentine National Folk Ballet.

The venues where the different activities will take place are: Theater Verdi, Theater El Galpón de Catalinas, To The Stage, The Malevaje Art Club, Restaurant South Bank, Maguncia Museum, Marjan Grum Museum, The Impulse Society, Bar The Bridge and the bridge terrace located at Admiral Brown and Pedro de Mendoza avenues.

The complete schedule of activities can be found on the Web: www.festivaltangelaboca.com. E-mail: festivaltangelaboca@gmail.com.