

He arrives almost alone to the interview. With scarcely one assistant from the office of Public Relations, who doesn't bother him and gives him a lot of freedom of movement and contact with the environment, something difficult to find in these matters, especially when it is a case of an international star.

It is possible that Miguel Ángel Muñoz (Madrid, 1983) is not a well-known figure in local show business, but in his country of origin his face is known to the public at large thanks to an artistic career of almost 20 years.

He is 28 years old, which makes him very young, but he began working at 9, which makes him a war veteran in a profession that he describes upfront as difficult, and for which he has renounced the fame and money that music brought him. Especially for someone who has been a shining star of pop music, first as the leader of the group UPA Dance, a spin-off of the successful series *Un paso adelante* (2002-2005) and then in his solo career in which he cut two records and participate as an invited guest in the Sanremo Music Festival.

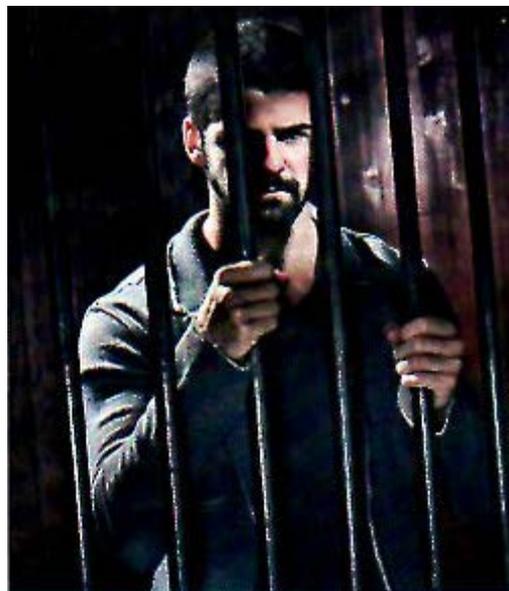
Muñoz has been in Mexico for two months shooting the third season of *Capadocia*, at the special invitation of the producer Epigmenio Ibarra. He feels comfortable here, after having passed through Montezuma's curse, become *enchilado* after having eaten *chile en nogada* and then become a serious consumer of *tacos al pastor*.

In the series he plays a good guy who takes a risk to carry out his mission. He works at the orders of Ernesto Gómez Cruz and falls somewhat in love with the character played by the Mexican Gabriela de la Garza. Muñoz appears in 13 chapters of the season that debuts this year, and for this reason he will have to spend Christmas Eve in Mexico, since the shooting came to an end last December.

A fan of Real Madrid by birth and by conviction, skilled in the individual development trend called Eneagram, created by the Chilean Claudio Naranjo, and the former boyfriend of the actress Mónica Cruz (Penelope's look-alike sister), he considers himself a lucky young man.

For now he did not suffer the traumas typical of child actors, although he admits that "it is very dangerous to begin in the profession so young, especially because you begin to think that you have to behave like an adult." "In my case, since there were no artistic antecedents in my family, there was no pressure, and my parents let me act as long as I was passing my classes. When I was being a little bit silly, they gave me a little slap on the neck, and I came out of it right away," says Miguel Ángel.

Often this actor, dancer, singer and songwriter feels like a real long-distance runner. The metaphor comes from his love of sports, and the recognition that he is pursuing a career where nothing is written down firmly. "One day they call to offer you three jobs at the same time, and then you spend a long period where the telephone never rings."



This year we will see the actor in the third season of the series *Capadocia*.

This fickle and risky system for a profession that requires a lot of resistance "has nothing to do with talent or the last project, but rather with whether you are lucky enough that someone remembers you.

"In this period, of course, you have to get money to continue with your life and to have a mental state that allows you to withstand your surroundings, to resist whatever doesn't seem to you to be too good or clearly bad, without letting it affect you too much," he explains.

THE OUTSIDERS ARE MADE OF STRAW

The nature of the so-called garbage-TV in Spain is well-known, and many of "our people" are made to look truly infantile in this medium. An unfortunate family episode that took place four years ago put Miguel Ángel Muñoz in the spotlight, and the yellow and the "pink" press pursued him.

His mother, the clairvoyant of the famous, Cristina Blanco, was accused of robbery and fraud, and then sent to a psychiatric clinic, and finally she escaped media attention, and her present state of health is unknown to the media.

In all this time, the actor never spoke publicly of the case. And that will not be the exception. "I only share my private sphere with the people that I love and who are with me every day. I do this because it is a gift of trust and friendship."

In Mexico, Miguel Ángel came into contact with the complex national idiosyncrasy, our own style of "loving while hating" our famous countrymen. An irremediable fan of Real Madrid, he had the opportunity to meet Hugo Sánchez, a real idol for fans of Real Madrid. He was very surprised to note that among the Mexican soccer fans were those who called him a legend, and others who said things that were not so flattering. "I thought 'but this man is God!' Until recently when Ronaldo beat all his records. Hugo Sanchez was the top," he concludes.