

Miguel Ángel Muñoz

“Everything is very difficult for me, and I struggle to the end”

About to turn 30, the actor native to Madrid crosses borders and returns to the spotlight with three movies, in which he shared the credits with Andy Garcia, Sharon Stone and with his partner, the actress Manuela Vellés. “I am happy and grateful to life,” he tells us. And it is no surprise.

Text: M^a ANGELES ARAGONESSES

“Passionate, discrete and hard-working.” That is how the actor Miguel Ángel Muñoz Blanco (Madrid, 1983), defines himself; and his life and his comments in the social networks demonstrate this. Four years ago, he left to try his fortune in the Americas, and since then he lives between Los Angeles and Madrid. He is happy in his professional life, where he lines up one job after another, and happy in his love life together with the actress Manuela Vellés, who has been his partner for the last three years. You need only take a glance at his Twitter account (@miguelamunoz) and see the contagious energy and optimism of his tweets, which are chock full of positive messages and images where the actor displays an XL smile. His phase of teenage whims thanks to the series *Un paso adelante* (2002-2005) and his facet as music idol under the stage name MAM (2006) are long over. After various sporadic roles and just when we started to think that he had been swallowed up by the earth, the Madrid native reappears victorious to reap the fruits of his effort and determination. In 2013, movie theaters impatiently await the debut of his latest three movies: *What About Love*, together with Sharon Stone and Andy Garcia; *Al final todos mueren*, sponsored by Javier Fesser, and the paranormal film *Viral*. Nothing can stop a career destined to shine with its own light.

Simply satisfied. “I am very happy and thankful to life for being able to enjoy this moment. I consider myself a lucky guy, and this is cause for daily celebration. The truth is that I cannot complain. An actor’s life is always complicated, and more so now with present state of affairs. Luckily I am still on track.”

His adventure in America. “My curiosity to see the world motivated me: I love to travel and to relate to persons from different cultures. As a child I loved the stories that they told me about that part of the world. Moreover, I was born on the fourth of July (Independence Day in the USA). I had it in mind since I was little, and when the opportunity arose to do the remake of *Ben Hur*, I made a decision. I came to improve my English and study at Lee Strasberg’s acting school, but I was open to anything. The truth is that a lot of good things have happened to me.”

A born fighter. “There are few people who wake up, and find they have work without doing anything. At least, that is not my case. Everything is difficult for me and I struggle with it to the end. I don’t complain, quite the contrary: thanks to this I don’t let myself fall asleep and think that I have a right to things without working, but rather because I struggle to the end.” →

A motto. “Honesty, in the first place and above all.”

“

Sharon Stone and Andy Garcia are two great people in the broadest sense: As professionals and as persons. They made me feel like a colleague from the first day”





If as a child they would have told you how your life is now... “What would have surprised me the most is that I act more than I play soccer. That was my other great passion.” [In fact, he played in the junior league of Real Madrid.]

His most prized possession. “My baby pillow. It goes with me in all my travels. Although I try to be less superstitious and sentimental about material things. When you are away from home a lot, you note that the indispensable thing is your health, not objects. You have your memory to remember them.”

Discretion, above all. “I always like to keep my personal subjects out of interviews or social networks: this is a gift that I wish to dedicate to my friends and family.”

The good son. “Yes, I am very much of a family person. I owe everything that I am to my parents and my family. Respect and eternal thanks for giving me life.”

And what about love? “I am romantic and I try to be as thoughtful and passionate as possible. My character in *What About Love*— one of his most recent movies, which has not yet debuted – is very much like me in this respect. I have learned a lot shooting this movie; it teaches you how important love is in life, but not only for your partner. Friends, family and life itself also deserve to be loved. There is love behind every little thing in our surroundings.”

Manuela Vellés, his better half. “She is an actress with an exceptional talent, and in every project in which I have coincided with her I have learned a lot.” They worked together in *La piel azul* and *Infames* on television, and in theater with *Amor casual* and in the movies in the film about to debut *Al final todos mueren*.

With Andy García and Sharon Stone. “They are two great people in the broadest sense of the word. As professionals and as persons. From the first day they made me feel like a colleague. They were a source of inspiration for the filming, and after the movie was over, they still are. I also treasure the moments off the set sharing anecdotes as an unforgettable memory.”

Paco Rabal, a master. “I have been very lucky to share projects with very experienced people from whom I have learned a lot ... but if I could only chose one of them, I would not hesitate to choose Paco Rabal. With him I underlined my first script and I learned the basics of the profession: the respect for the colleagues and knowing how to wait, both on the set and in your career.”

No to the cult of the body. “I don’t consider myself arrogant. Honestly, I don’t pay too much attention to the physical aspect. Yes I like to play sports, because more than the physical, it is very good for the mind. If I find myself concentrating too much on the exterior, I correct myself. You have to look yourself over more on the inside than on the outside.”

Social networks, under control. “I was very addicted to Twitter, but now I am keeping a distance. The social networks and the Whatsapp take time away from living life while you are sharing it. Three months ago I eliminated the data fee from my cell phone in order to connect only when I have Wi-Fi. You have to be in the moment, and I share experiences after having lived them, not while I am living them.”

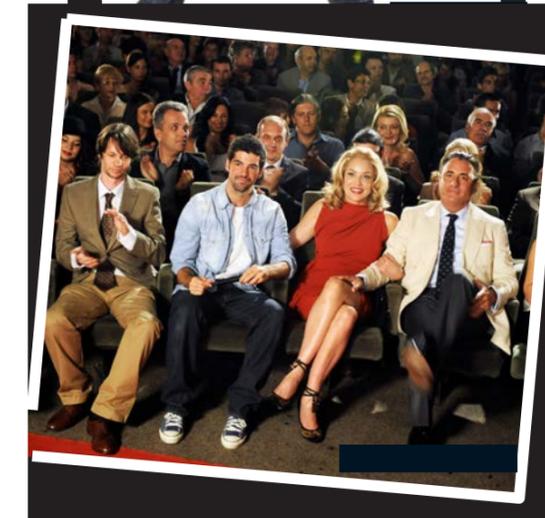
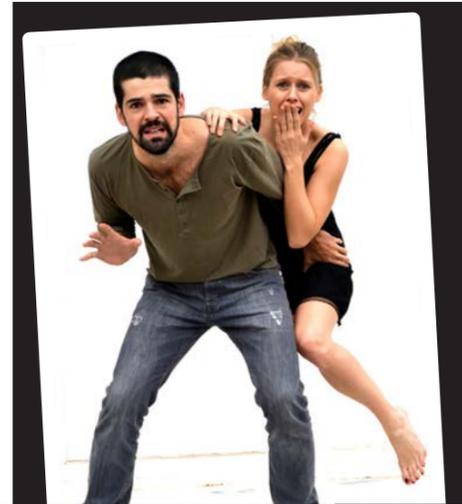
His concept of success. “For me it is being happy with whatever comes up without expecting anything more. This is the true key to getting the most out of your life. I hope to achieve it someday. Right now I am working on it.”

Whoever persists at something, achieves it. “I was taking eight hours of dance class each day for three months to pass the casting call of *Un paso adelante*, and I kept it up for three years. The rest of the cast [Pablo Puyol, Beatriz Luengo, Mónica Cruz...] were much better than I am: I admired them, and I still do a lot.”

In concert. “Each year I receive an offer to return to my musical career. In Europe I had a great deal of success, but I am consistent with my musical talent, and knowing why things happen. The moment will come. When? I don’t know, but it will be wonderful to be up on stage again.”

About to turn thirty. “I try to reconsider my life every day in order to try to improve a little bit more. Children now? Right now would be too soon, but in the future yes I would like to.”

And your dreams? “I dream about being able to express the infinite love that I feel for all the people who love me. About making my love felt ...”

Amor Casual*What About Love*

The man of one thousand faces

Television, cinema, theater... Since his debut at the age of nine in *El palomo cojo*, from Jaime de Armiñán, the actor who as a child dreamed of being a soccer player has not hesitated to reinvent himself in each role. In 2013, we will see Miguel Ángel as an iron soldier in the prestigious HBO series *Capadocia*, as a policeman in the Mexican drama *Infames* – in which his partner, Manuela Vellés, also appears, and with whom he already coincided in the play *Amor casual* – and as a valiant movie director in the film *What About Love*, three productions born of his American adventure. In addition, in Spain, the Madrid native will battle paranormal forces in *Viral* and he will confront the apocalypse in *Al final todos mueren*, produced by Javier Fesser. Unstoppable!