



# Miguel Ángel

MUÑOZ

**HE SIGNED HIS FIRST AUTOGRAPH AT THE AGE OF 10, AND IN 2000 HE BECAME A MEDIA PHENOMENON IN SPAIN. EPIGMENIO IBARRA INVITED HIM TO TAKE PART IN *CAPADOCIA* AND *INFAMES*, AND NOW HE RETURNS TO HIS COUNTRY WITH A NEW, MORE MEXICAN SKIN**



In spite of the fact that his mother was a fortune-teller, she never told him that a promising career in cinema and television was in his future not only in his native Spain, but also in Mexico. Miguel Ángel Muñoz's first opportunity arrived by chance: a friend of the family suggested that he go to a casting call, and from that moment his life changed. "They chose me for an advertisement, and afterwards I was chosen for the lead role in the movie *El palomo cojo*; I was ten years old. That is when I signed my first autograph," he recalls laughing. Years later he joined the cast of the series *Un paso adelante*, which became a television phenomenon in Europe and placed him under the stage lights as the object of desire for thousands of teenagers. In this stage he tried his luck as a singer and the result was fainting fans and chaos in the locations where he performed. A couple of years ago he got to know Epigmenio Ibarra and one of his TV gems, *Capadocia*. In this interview, Miguel Ángel tells us about his experience of being swallowed for 10 months by the whirlpool that is our country.



**When did you decide to take up this profession?**

At the age of 14, I had already done some TV series and cinema, but when a project was over and I went to school I felt like something was missing; what had been a hobby turned into my passion.

**In Spain when did your career really take off?**

My most popular project was a series called *Un paso adelante*, which was the best selling series in the history of Spanish television, this was in 2000, and it lasted for three years; it was something very similar to *Glee*.

**This project was your breakthrough as a singer...**

The fame that the group obtained from the story took us on tour through Spain, and it was a big success. Afterwards I cut a solo album that did very well; they gave me the golden record in France and Italy.

**What motivated you to come to Mexico?**

Epigmenio Ibarra called me to offer me one of the lead parts in the third season of *Capadocia*, I saw the first two seasons of the series and it was very impressive. And so I came here, and when we had filmed more than half of the series they offered me the character in *Infames*.

**How was the culture shock?**

The nice thing about being in a place far from home is that there are new things, you have to learn, you have to get used to the customs. We share the same language but not all the words, and this is a lot of fun. What has been really hard is being far from my friends and the people I care about.

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## SILLY THINGS"

### **Did it take any effort to get used to something?**

Perhaps the sense of time, the meaning of "right now" for you. It does not mean that you are going to do something immediately, maybe you will do it or maybe not (laughter).

### **Capadocia and Infames handle serious themes of current events...**

This is one of the reasons that I came. I like to get involved in programs that have something to say, *Capadocia* is a clear example of a horrible situation that nobody wants to talk about; the violence, the drug trafficking, something that is on the daily agenda. I was also very excited to participate in *Infames*, since it does my duty so that things change a little.

### **Tell us about your characters...**

In *Capadocia* I am Héctor Bolaños, a Mexican who grew up in Spain and hence the accent. Together with Ernesto Gómez Cruz and Gabriela de la Garza he forms an intelligence service at the margin of the law; we are the good guys and we try to capture the worst bad guys. In *Infames* I am a secret agent within the Internal Revenue Service, and I pass myself off as a political advisor for the two candidates in the campaign. The series has many similarities with the reality; Epigmenio is a guy who is politically committed, and he does not put his ideas in the screenplays, but he talks about what nobody usually talks about on television.

### **Did you devour newspapers to bring your characters to life?**

Working in Argos and with Epigmenio as your boss it is necessary, you have to be up-to-date with the current events. Now I have a clearer idea of what is

happening here.

### **Did you make good friends in Mexico?**

The person that I shared the most within *Capadocia* was Dolores Herrera. She took a lot of trouble in making me Mexican (laughter). In *Infames*, since we are together every day, we have formed a nice little group. I get a on pretty well with Ximena Herrera, and with Luis Roberto Guzmán, Aldo Gallardo, Eréndira Ibarra and Lisette Morelos I have a wonderful relationship.

### **Do you think you are the same person before and after having come to our country?**

Of course at the personal level it was very good for me. Indeed, for me it was a marvelous therapy to confront things that are completely the opposite of myself. If you are impatient, being in Mexico is wonderful for getting over these silly things (laughter). I used to get angry when people did not come on time to an interview, now I know that they may come or they may not (laughter). I take from this country the idea that you do not have to worry so much about what is not important.

### **Are you going back to Spain to work?**

I am going to make a movie that is a co-production between Germany and the USA, it is called *What About Love*, and it is completely in English. My character is the star and it is a love story between an American singer and a Spaniard. Halfway through the script it becomes a very interesting thriller. I am very excited about this project, we start shooting in Barcelona, it is like a road trip, and afterwards we go to France, Venice, Hamburg, Romania and Washington. There are projects on the horizon, such as the third season of *Capadocia*, if the third season goes as well as the previous ones.



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