

STUDENT LIFE

Women's Film Series

Series kicks off with powerful 'Maria Full of Grace'

Review by Daniel J. Stasiewski
editor in chief

To simply say that "Maria Full of Grace" runs the gamut of emotions discounts the film's beauty. It is tragic and bittersweet. There are even rare, but poignant moments of joy. The film, however, is only emotional when it is taking insightful glances at a people whose perceived shame is the only pathway to hope.

Catalina Sandino Moreno plays Maria, a 17-year-old whose family and boss use and abuse her. She works at a flower plantation, dethorning roses that she'll never be able to buy. Her money goes to supporting her mother, grandmother, sister and sister's son, all who live in the same small apartment.

Maria's life gets more complicated when she finds out she's pregnant. The father is a boy who doesn't love her and she doesn't love. At a community dance she meets the young man who offers her a chance to get more money than she could ever imagine and a life for her child she could never afford. She has to carry cocaine pellets in her stomach to America. Once the drugs make it to the States, Maria gets more than \$6,000 to live the life she wouldn't have dethorning roses in her small Colombian hometown.

In a twisted (but realistic) way, this drug

trafficking drama is a story about the American dream. Maria's life is one of imprisonment, working in what amounts to be a sweatshop for money that she doesn't get to keep. To work for a drug cartel is like having an American employer (the Colombians aren't buying the drugs). It is her chance at freedom. Our idea of the American dream will come to fruition in the final moments of the film, but until then, Maria is still a victim of circumstance seeking out a dream in the only way she can.

Maria is an easy character to understand, even love, with director Joshua Marston getting right in Maria's face. The story is often told with faces, showing the freshman director has a way with actors that most directors working on their tenth or even fifteenth film never have. Sandino Moreno and Marston have a working chemistry that is usually only apparent when both people are on screen. Here, that chemistry comes across in Sandino Moreno's often silent, but always powerful performance.

Sandino Moreno's performance is rare and emotionally evocative. The harrowing tale of a 17-year-old mule is tragic enough, but with her sensitive portrayal, the small moments captured by Marston's camera push the boundaries of our own understanding of the human condition. Sandino Moreno's con-



HBO FILMS
Catalina Sandino Moreno plays 17-year old Maria, a teen who decides to smuggle cocaine pellets in her stomach to earn money to care for her unborn child in Joshua Marston's "Maria Full of Grace."

fidence, combined with such astute photography, makes the narrative points come together seamlessly, so we can easily move past them.

Marston is a former journalist; to say it is more than a simple story is obvious. What makes this film so potent is Marston's ability as a filmmaker. "Maria Full of Grace" is like peeking into detailed notes and understanding, not just what, but how this journalist sees. In

a way, it is more truthful an article on the front of the New York Times. I wouldn't expect anything less than a movie this close from perfect.

★★★★
out of
4 stars

"Maria Full of Grace" will be shown Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Reed 117. Up Next... "How I Killed My Father."

Trivia: Women's work

DallasNews.com
(KRT)

March is Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women Change America," honoring the role of American women in transforming culture, history and politics. See how much you know about the annual celebration and some of the women who have been recognized in previous years.

1. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In what year did the government officially expand that week of recognition to a full month?

- A. 1987
- B. 1992
- C. 1998
- D. 2003

2. Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias was honored for being one of the greatest female athletes of all time. In which of the following events did she win a gold medal at the 1932 Olympics?

- A. Javelin throw
- B. Diving
- C. Figure skating
- D. Basketball

3. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space in 1983. How many shuttle missions did

she fly before leaving NASA in 1987?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

4. Sandra Day O'Connor earned her place in the history books as America's first female Supreme Court justice. Which president appointed her?

- A. Gerald Ford
- B. Jimmy Carter
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. Bill Clinton

5. Katharine Graham, who died in 2001, is arguably the most celebrated female newspaper publisher in American history. Which Pulitzer Prize-winning paper did she run?

- A. New York Times
- B. Wall Street Journal
- C. Chicago Tribune
- D. Washington Post

CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. A. 1987
- 2. A. Javelin throw
- 3. B. Two
- 4. C. Ronald Reagan
- 5. D. Washington Post

Film icon rankings raise eyebrows

By Tamer El-Ghobashy and Bill Hutchinson
New York Daily News
(KRT)

NEW YORK - A magazine's list of the "50 Greatest Movie Stars" is getting more jeers than cheers from film lovers flabbergasted that Tom Cruise outranks John Wayne and Marlon Brando.

Premiere magazine's editors spent two years painstakingly crafting the royal roster that puts Cruise at No. 3, behind only Marilyn Monroe and list-topper Cary Grant.

Another head-scratcher was Julia Roberts, who cracked the top 10 at No. 7, while four-time Oscar winner Katharine Hepburn came in No. 14.

"Julia Roberts shouldn't even make the list yet," said Mark Groblewski, 51, a construction director from Long Island. "You have to put in a lot of work to get there."

Jessica Faurie, 25, of Manhattan said Cruise doesn't rank on her personal list of top-shelf film stars.

"There are many actors who are better than him," said the medical secretary.

But Premiere senior editor Glenn Kenny said Cruise earned his spot on the list, one notch above John Wayne, because he's "the biggest contemporary movie star in the last 20 years." Cruise is so big with the magazine's editors that they put his picture on the cover of the April issue.

Roberts, who won an Academy Award in 2000 for her portrayal of crusading environmentalist Erin Brockovich, earned her high spot on the list for being Hollywood's highest-paid go-to actress.

"Another reason why she's so appealing is because she often identifies - onscreen, anyway - with the working class," reports Premiere.

Part of the reasoning for picking actors like Roberts, Cruise, Will Smith (No. 44), Nicole Kidman (48), Russell Crowe (49) and Brad Pitt (50) was their "staying power."

"We weren't going to do this list based on a whole nostalgic trip," said Kenny. "To just do a list where you're going to ignore contemporary movie stars makes no sense."

Twenty-six of the 50 greatest are dead, including Ingrid Bergman (5), Greta Garbo (8), James Stewart (9) and Henry Fonda (10).

Besides Cruise and Roberts, Paul Newman (6) is the only other living actor to make the top 10.

Al Pacino and Robert De Niro finished 37th and 38th, while Denzel Washington was 39th.

"I think that if you get too hung up on rankings, you're going to miss the enjoyment of the list," said Kenny.

Beverly Dawkins, 56, a receptionist from Queens, thought the list was spot-on.

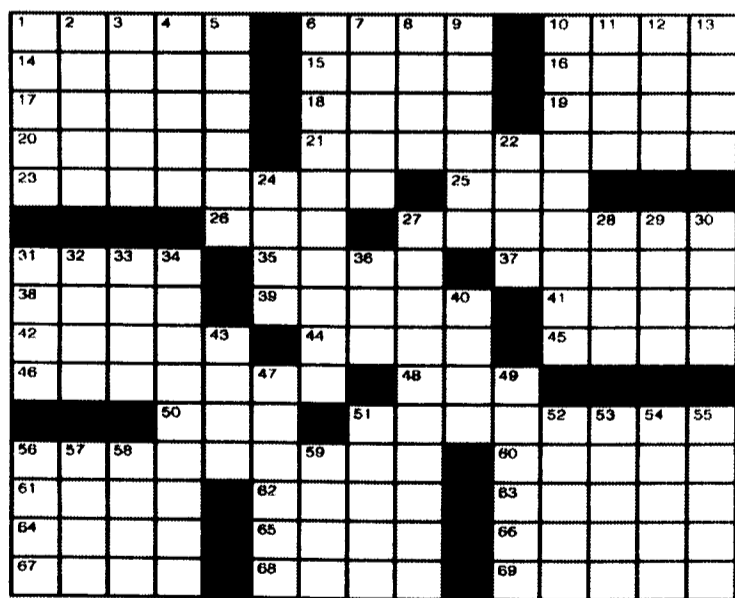
"I love movies, especially old movies," Dawkins said. "I think it's an excellent list. You have all my favorites but not in the right order."

PREMIERE'S LIST OF '50 GREATEST MOVIE STARS'

1. Cary Grant
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. Tom Cruise
4. John Wayne
5. Ingrid Bergman
6. Paul Newman
7. Julia Roberts
8. Greta Garbo
9. James Stewart
10. Henry Fonda
11. James Cagney
12. Grace Kelly
13. Humphrey Bogart
14. Katharine Hepburn
15. Marlon Brando
16. Jack Nicholson
17. Robert Redford
18. Audrey Hepburn
19. Spencer Tracy
20. Sidney Poitier
21. Clark Gable
22. Judy Garland
23. Fred Astaire
24. Doris Day
25. Bette Davis
26. Errol Flynn
27. Gregory Peck
28. Tom Hanks
29. Warren Beatty
30. James Dean
31. Steve McQueen
32. Jane Fonda
33. Shirley Temple
34. Rita Hayworth
35. Harrison Ford
36. Sean Connery
37. Al Pacino
38. Robert De Niro
39. Denzel Washington
40. Elizabeth Taylor
41. Peter Sellers
42. Gary Cooper
43. Clint Eastwood
44. Will Smith
45. Jack Lemmon
46. Meryl Streep
47. Johnny Depp
48. Nicole Kidman
49. Russell Crowe
50. Brad Pitt

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Grounds
 - 6 Electrical unit
 - 10 Frankenstein feature
 - 14 Kofi of the U.N.
 - 15 Fencing foil
 - 16 Kind of stick
 - 17 Unbending
 - 18 Take the train
 - 19 Flagon fillers
 - 20 Prayer ends
 - 21 No matter what happens
 - 23 Moliere's hypocrite
 - 25 Litigate
 - 26 Luau dish
 - 27 Icons
 - 31 Drying powder
 - 35 Delicacy
 - 37 Composer Copland
 - 38 Bright light?
 - 39 Treble-pitched woodwinds
 - 41 Hindu music form
 - 42 Borge's instrument
 - 44 Bound along
 - 45 Feed the hogs
 - 46 Unfamiliar
 - 48 Vegas lead-in
 - 50 Hilo garland
 - 51 City near San Jose
 - 56 Took evasive action
 - 60 Warning signal
 - 61 Capital on a fjord
 - 62 New alum
 - 63 City near Anchorage
 - 64 "The Good Earth" wife
 - 65 Boot binding
 - 66 Construct
 - 67 Whipped up
 - 68 Beholder
 - 69 Prescribed amounts
- DOWN
- 1 Jeweler's weight
 - 2 Jungian soul
 - 3 "The Odd Couple" neatnik



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Solutions

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| 4 Church honoree | 5 Finishes | 6 Certain to pass an audit | 7 Editorialize | 8 Mother of Castor and Pollux | 9 Itty-bitty | 10 Cursor movers on keyboards | 11 Drink in a can | 12 Has a birthday | 13 Ascended | 22 Arizona city on the Colorado | 24 "Variety" pic | 27 Stereotypical elopers' gear | 28 Spoken | 29 Brand image | 30 Brittle cookie | 31 Gratuities | 32 Mine entrance | 33 Regan's father | 34 Part of Panama | 36 Bill and | 40 Navy commando | 43 SSS status | 47 Laugh nervously | 49 Drenched | 51 Tranquility | 52 Olds model | 53 Bowling alley assignments | 54 Smidgen | 55 Overlooks | 56 Go fast | 57 "La Bonita" | 58 Delighted | 59 Go-with-anything color |
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