

ANTEQUERA, A CINEMA ENCLAVE

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Since the second half of the 20s, when there are records of the first film-makings in Antequera, up to now, ten fiction movies and three episodes of TV series have been filmed in our borough, plus around twenty documentaries and several professional and amateur movies and short films. We must not forget the cameras of the News and Documentaries (NO-DO) – compulsorily showed in the Spanish cinemas between 1962 and 1973- which were in our town to film several material for the *Revista Imágenes* magazine or for their News.

Apart from that, in the last two decades, Antequera has been the setting for many commercials and some video clips. Among the latter, those which most attracted the attention on the media, in special of the press, were two promotional video of Madonna directed by Tarsem Singh, being the first one “Take a Bow” –introducing the “Bedtime Stories” record- which was shot partially in Ronda and in the Antequera’s bullring in Autumn 1994. The second one called “You’ll See” –from the record “Something to Remember” was shot in Antequera in the following year and, in this case, by a Madonna stand-in.

Even though Ronda, its *Serranía* and the city of Málaga were the main locations chosen by the cinema industry in the 20s, the producers also visited others places in the province, such as Antequera. However, the relationship of our town with the sector of the cinema industry has been exceptional and occasional and, in spite of our magnificent natural and historical-artistic heritage, there just was a short period of continuity at the beginning of the new century.

As it has already been told, between 1929 and 2004, at least 10 fiction films and three TV episodes were partially filmed in the Antequera scenes. It is worthy pointing out that six of them were of Spanish nationality: *La copla andaluza* (Ernesto González, 1929); *Nada menos que un Arkángel* (Antonio del Amo, 1958); two episodes of the *Curro Jiménez* series (Francisco Rovira Beleta, 1975); *La casa de Bernarda Alba* (Mario Camus, 1986); an episode of the *La forja de un Rebelde* series (Mario Camus, 1989) and *Ellos robaron la picha de Hitler* (Pedro Temboursy, 2004).

Besides the above mentioned directors, several outstanding national and international performers have worked in Antequera. Among others, it stands out Sancho Gracia, José Sancho, Álvaro de Luna, Francisco Algora, Fernando Cebrián, Pilar Velázquez, Irene Gutiérrez Caba, Florinda Chico, Ana Belén, Enriqueta Carballeira, Pilar López de Ayala, the British actress Judi Bowker, the North American Harry Hamlin, Burgess Meredith, Mira Sorvino, Kathy Bates and Fahrid Murray Abraham, the Italian Valeria Cavalli and the French Claude Rich y Olivier Martínez.

The main Antequera settings which have been requested and visited by the film industry are mainly related to its natural, historical-artistic and architectural heritage. They are the following:

- Landscapes in the *Vega* (lowland); Don Fernando street, San Sebastian square, etc (*Nada menos que un Arkángel*, 1958).

- El Torcal and its environment (*La quebrada del diablo*, 1969; *Furia de Titanes*, 1980; and the third episode of the TVE series *La forja de un Rebelde*, 1989).

- The area of the *Peña de los Enamorados* (Lovers' Rock) where sequences for the episodes *El secuestro* y *La Dolorosa*, from to the first shooting stage of the TV series *Curro Jimenes*, were filmed in 1975 by the director Francisco Rovira Beleta.

- Los Remedios church (*La Casa de Bernarda Alba*). This setting was chosen because the beauty of the Baroque altarpiece where, in a cold day of November 1986, the initial scenes representing the funeral of Bernarda Alba's husband were shot.

- The Bullring (*Nel profondo paese straniero*, 1997; *Easter*, 2000; *Awara Paagal Deewana*, 2001; and *El Puente de San Luis Rey*, 2003).

- The *Portichuelo* square, *Virgen del Socorro* chapel and *Santa María* Royal Collegiate (where in May 2003 several short sequences for the film *El Puente de San Luis Rey* were shot).

We hope that this review and the following bibliography help the cinema sector to rediscover and visit the mentioned locations as well as many others offered by the town of Antequera which still have not been brought to the big screen but which are worthy to be filmed.

APPENDIX Productions filmed in Antequera

I. Films and episodes of TV series.

La copla andaluza (Ernesto González, Spain, 1929).

Nada menos que un Arkángel (Antonio del Amo, Spain, 1958).

La quebrada del diablo (Burt Kennedy and Niska Fulgozi, Italy-Yugoslavia, 1969).

Curro Jiménez (TV series, *El secuestro* and *La Dolorosa* episodes) Francisco Rovira Beleta, Spain, 1975).

Furia de Titanes (Desmond Davis, United States, 1980).

La casa de Bernarda Alba (Mario Camus, Spain, 1986).

La forja de un Rebelde (TV series, third episode, Mario Camus, Spain, 1989).

Nel profondo paese straniero (Fabio Carpi, Italy-France-Switzerland, 1997).

Semana Santa (*Angel of Death*, Pepe Danquart, Germany-Great Britain-France-Italy-Spain-Denmark, 2000).

Awara Paagal Deewana (Vikram Bhatt, India, 2001).

El Puente de San Luis Rey (Mary McGuckian, Great Britain-France-Spain, 2003).

Ellos robaron la picha de Hitler (Pedro Temboursy, Spain, 2004).

II. Documentaries

Festivity and Goya young bull fight in Antequera (Luis Alonso, 1928).

Antequera (Patronato Nacional de Turismo, 1929).

Trip around Andalucía (Patronato Nacional de Turismo, 1929).

The Dolmen valley of Antequera (Manuel España, 1963).
Trip to the Muslim Andalucía (Juan García Atienza, 1969).
The population of Antequera (Juan Manuel Calvo, 1976).
The Viznar ravine (José Antonio Zorrilla, 1976).
One man, one ideal: Blas Infante (Manuel Carlos Fernández Sánchez, 1979).
Antequera at dawn (César Fernández Ardavín, 1982).
Costa del Sol, days without hours (Luis Mamerto López-Tapia, 1985).
The Torcal of Antequera (Antonio J. Betancort, 1987).
Antequera: Meetings of passion (episode of TV series *De año en año*, Pilar Távora, 1988).
Antequera, the sun of future (Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, 1993).
Antequera / Antequera and the El Torcal (respective title of two episodes of the series *Andalucía es de Cine*, Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón and Juan Lebrón, 2003).
Antequera, City of art (Salvador Álvarez, 2007).
Antequera - Santa Eufemia 2010 (Salvador Álvarez, 2010).
 (All the above mentioned documentaries have been produced in Spain)

Others fiction works

a) Amateur

Lepto (Salvador Álvarez, 1992, film).
Rutherford in concert (Salvador Álvarez, 1992, short film).
Lepto... suum mortus (Salvador Álvarez, 1993, film).
Sin límite (Salvador Álvarez, 1994, film).
Confesión (Salvador Álvarez, 1995, film).
Lágrimas de Navidad (Salvador Álvarez, 1996-97, short film).
El Tempranillo (Óscar Orzábal, 2000, short film).

b) Professional

Hijos de Caín (Salvador Álvarez, 1998, short film).
Tel. 090 (Salvador Álvarez, 1999, fantastical and experimental short film).
Otra Alternativa (Salvador Álvarez, 2008, short film).
The Blues (Salvador Álvarez, 2009, experimental short film).
Alas de Fénix (Salvador Álvarez, 2010, short film).

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Film posters of film shot partially in Antequera settings.