

Dancing with Dolores

by Bob Boucher 2011

Gitaneria's is hopping,
Champagne corks are popping
the patrons are singing
their voices are ringing
with Gitano Rhyme.

Young ladies are twirling,
their full skirts are swirling
their heels and toes tapping
their castanets clapping
in Flamenco time.

The headliner chanting
with poetic rambling,
His falsetto quavering
with Gitano flavoring,
Andalusian Rhyme.

My Elena and me
and her Mama you see.
Romancing and dancing
and reciting rhyme
in flamenco time.

Each of us given
a long serpentine,
to toss into the air
with Andalusian flair
in Flamenco time.

My serpentine flew
high into the air,
landing on a shoulder
oh so lovely and fair,
A lady, quite debonair.

I slowly retrieved it
just inching it in.
She sauntered right over.
She then joined right in.
let the party begin.

Maria Asunsolo
her Mexican name,
Dolores del Rio
her American name.
A Star of Hollywood fame.

Romancing and dancing,
and sipping sweet wine
we recited rhyme,
romancing and dancing
in Flamenco time.

The party was over,
we are ready to go,
Mama whispers to me,
Go home with Del Rio
I'll take the others you see.

Thinking of Elena,
not sure what to do
I politely declined.
I was only twenty five,
Dolores was fifty two.

I was so stupid
No, fifty's not old.
That woman of fifty
was pure solid gold,
twenty four carat,
or so I was told.

Back Grounder

Maria de los Dolores Asunsolo Lopez- Negrete was born in Durango Mexico in 1905. She studied at Liceo Franco Mexicano and spoke perfect French. She had a passion for ballet and performed at many gatherings for wealthy Mexicans. She met Jamie Martinez del Rio, they fell in love and were married in 1921. She was sixteen and he was 34. She was discovered by Edwin Carewe and the couple was invited to Hollywood, Dolores as an actress and Jaime as a screenwriter. Her first film was Joanna released in 1925. Jamie died in 1929. In 1930 Dolores married Cedric Gibbons. They lived in Santa Monica in a beautiful home built by Gibbons. In 1940 Dolores met Orson Wells, the two fell in love and stayed together for two years. She was divorced from Gibbons in 1941. She returned to Mexico and became a very big star in Spanish movies. She married Lewis Riley in 1959 and returned to the USA. Dolores died in 1983 at age 77 in Newport Beach Ca. She was cremated. Her ashes are interred in Mexico.

Gitaneria is a supper club in Mexico City that is unique in specializing in Andalusian poetry, Flamenco dancing and Flamenco guitar as entertainment.



Dolores at 50. (photo Hollywood Film Museum)



Dolores at 25 (photo Hollywood Film Museum)