

MARIACHI GRINGO

ACTORS

Shawn Ashmore

Martha Higareda

Lila Downs

Fernando Becerril

Adriana Barraza

DIRECTOR

Tom Gustafson

SINOPSIS

Edward (Ashmore) is a young American who lives with his parents in a small town in Kansas, he is about to turn 30 years old and his monotonous life is the most boring thing in the world, until he meets Alberto (Becerril) the owner of El Mariachi, a typical mexican restaurant, who introduces Edward to the mariachi music and Mexican folklore.

Edward quickly becomes fascinated with the newly-learned-Mexican culture, so he decides to go to Guadalajara and become a mariachi.

During this trip he meets Lilia (Higareda) an enigmatic woman who helps him pursue his dream.

PRODUCTION NOTES

- Tom Gustafson, besides directing, has worked in different areas of the film industry, from the casting department to production.

- This is the second film of Gustafson, he made his debut with the film *Were the World Mine* (If the world was mine). This movie that was invited in over 150 international festivals and won a total of 26 awards worldwide.

- *El Mariachi Gringo* was the opening film at the International Film Festival of Miami (March 2) and after that of the FICG 2012. The movie also participated in other festivals, such as: Cinequest Film Festival 22, Dallas International Film Festival and The Chicago Latino Film Festival.

- The soundtrack for the film features songs like *Tequila with lime*, *Guadalajara*, *Rider*, *El Mariachi crazy*, *Ay Jalisco you do not crack!*, *Cielito Lindo* and *Black Dove*, among others.

- While Lila Downs has been involved in other films such as *Frida* (2002) and *Desire* (2010); *El Mariachi Gringo* marks her debut on the big screen, as in this film, in addition to singing, she plays one of the main characters of the film.

- Shawn Ashmore took six months to learn to play the guitar and sing in Spanish the mariachi songs.

- In words of the director: "Most movies about Mexico address the issue of drugs, illegal immigrants and others ... This movie is actually a celebration of music, culture and Mexican food ... It is a unique perspective, because it also comes to immigration, but in reverse, something that we almost never see "

-*El Mariachi Gringo* was filmed in a small town in Illinois called Momence, in the city of Guadalajara, and Mexico City.

-Martha Higareda and Shawn Ashmore spent hours with the cooks of a popular restaurant in Guadalajara called "Nine Corners Birrieria" to teach them to prepare the mole poblano, making tortillas, and other Mexican food chores. I also taught Finance khimar in one of our contributors *Tequila Herradura*.

Alejandra Cárdenas BIO
Producer Sin Sentido Films

Alejandra studies theatre at the Dimitrios Sarrás Actor's Studio and Latinamerican Literature at the Ibero-American University in Mexico City.

She starts her career coordinating the short *Perriférico* by Paula Marcovich. Then, in the year 2000 she co-produces the film *Beat* directed by Gary Walkow with Courtney Love and Kiefer Sutherland and that same year acts as supervising producer on three other films: *Crocodile*, directed by Tobe Hooper, *Mexico City* by Richard Shepard and *Historias del Desencanto* by Alejandro Valle.

In 2004 she produced the short film *Me mirabas* by José Antonio Lendo. That year she founds Sin Sentido Films, a production services company while she continues as line producer for Sony and Showtime TV shows such as *Huff*, *Sleeper Cell* and *American Family*.

Among her extensive filmography are films such as *Babel* directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, *The Matador* by Richard Shepard, *Jarhead* by Sam Mendes, *Vantage Point* by Pete Travis and *Frida* by Julie Taymor.

In 2009 she and Rafael Cuervo partner up to transform Sin Sentido Films into a company that develops and produces its own content as well as co-producing and continuing to offer production services [*Héroes del Norte* (2010), *The Girl* (2011)]. From 2010 to 2011 Alejandra and Rafael produce the films *Espacio Interior* directed by Kai Parlange Tessmann and *Mariachi Gringo* by filmmaker Tom Gustafson, both are selected in the official competition at the Guadalajara International Film Festival (FICG27). *Mariachi Gringo* also opens the Miami International Film Festival 2012.

Shawn Ashmore BIO

Shawn Ashmore is the ultimate in cool. His mark was made when he played Bobby Drake, otherwise known as Iceman, in the box office smash X-Men trilogy. He also starred in the Adam Green film Frozen, about three skiers stranded on a chairlift, forced to make life-or-death choices. He also starred in the equally chilling Bloodletting, a miniseries based on the award-winning Vincent Lam novel Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures. Most recently Shawn secured a Series Regular role in FOX's untitled Kevin Williamson drama pilot opposite Kevin Bacon and James Purefoy. Shawn starred in the post apocalyptic thriller The Day which was a major acquisition by WWE Studios at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival. He played the lead role in the CBC-TV film Diverted, a fictional story about what happened to passengers aboard a flight on 9/11. In 2008 he played the role of Eric in Dreamworks' sci-fi thriller The Ruins. Shawn's career really took off in 1994 when he was nominated for a Gemini Award for his work as Waylon Tibbins in the TV movie Guitarman. Though it was when director Bryan Singer chose him to play Robert Bobby Drake/Iceman in X-Men that his fan base exploded. The film spawned a franchise and in 2004, he won the MTV Movie Award for Breakthrough Male for his role in the sequel X2: X-Men United. In 2006, he reprised his role in the third installment of the series, X-Men: The Last Stand. In 2005, amongst other films, he starred in Terry, in which he played the heroic Terry Fox, who after losing his leg to cancer ran across Canada in 1980 to raise money and awareness for the disease. The film went on to receive numerous accolades and award nominations.

Martha Higareda BIO

Born in Mexico. Daughter of actress Martha Cervantes and artist Jose Luis Higareda. Being very little Martha Higareda started her experience on the stage, winning declamation and Mexican folklore dancing contests. As a child her parents insisted on her arts education. She attended tap, jazz, flamenco and acting classes. Being this last one, the one that excited her the most. She moved from his city of birth Tabasco to Mexico City to pursuit an acting career at the age of 14. Martha graduated from CAC (Mexican Institute of Arts and Comedy) in 2000. She worked on different classic plays in Mexican theaters including Don Juan Tenorio as Dona Ines. Martha's first movie appearance in 2002 was in the highly acclaimed Mexican movie "Amar te duele" (2002)"Love hurts" in where she played her first leading role, the movie was a huge success and gave Martha several [awards](#), including the silver goddess "Revelation Actress" for the Mexican Cinema Journalists and an MTV movie [award](#) Latino for Favorite actress. She worked right after in "Casa de los Babys" directed by John Sayles. She then went on to work on several TV shows. Including "Enamorate" y "Las Juanas" before Martha starred in another hailed Mexican movie "7 Dias" (2005).

Her role in the movie directed by Carlos Carrera "Sex, love and other perversions" (2006) was a mentally ill teenager who lived inside an elevator in an abandon building in downtown Mexico City. She was nominated for this character for the Silver goddess again in 2006.

That same year Columbia Pictures opened his production offices in Mexico City, the first movie they decided to film was "Charm School" (2007) starring Martha as Adela, a punk teenager who's dream is to be an actress. The comedy broke blockbuster records in 2007, along came her Mexican Academy [Award](#) nomination for best supporting actress for her role in "Fuera del cielo" (2007) a drama directed by Javier Patron Fox and released that same year. In 2007 she got a part on a TV pilot directed by, at that time Oscar nominee, Stephen Frears. Then she got a role opposite Keanu Reeves in the movie "Street Kings" Directed by David Ayer. She then worked in "Smoking aces 2" and Olivier Assayas' "Carlos" winning a Golden Globe last year. With her production company in Mexico "Selva Pictures" She produces her own romantic comedies and T.V. series, known in her country as the Mexican Sandra Bullock, her latest movie "She is Laura" written by her, was top ten in box office for nine weeks. Her next productions will be "marry if you can" and a T.V. series called "Garage" She has a strong career ahead of her.Proved to be the only Mexican actress of her age that makes her movies a blockbuster, this is a Mexican actress to keep a look out for.

In 2010 she made her debut as writer and producer with her feature "Te presento a Laura" and a year later she appears in the Tv serie, CSI.

Martha is now releasing Mariachi gringo –FICG oficial competition- and pre producing Cásese Quien Pueda (Marry if you can) her second Films as a writer, producer and actress.