

# ***CARLOS GALLARDO***



# BIOGRAPHY

- Born in Acuña, Mexico, Gallardo's first taste of fame came with the feature film 'El Mariachi', which he starred in and produced. The film was directed by his close friend Robert Rodriguez a critically acclaimed film. It was renowned for costing only \$7,000 to produce. The film went on to win the 1993 Sundance Film Festival and was picked up by Columbia Pictures.

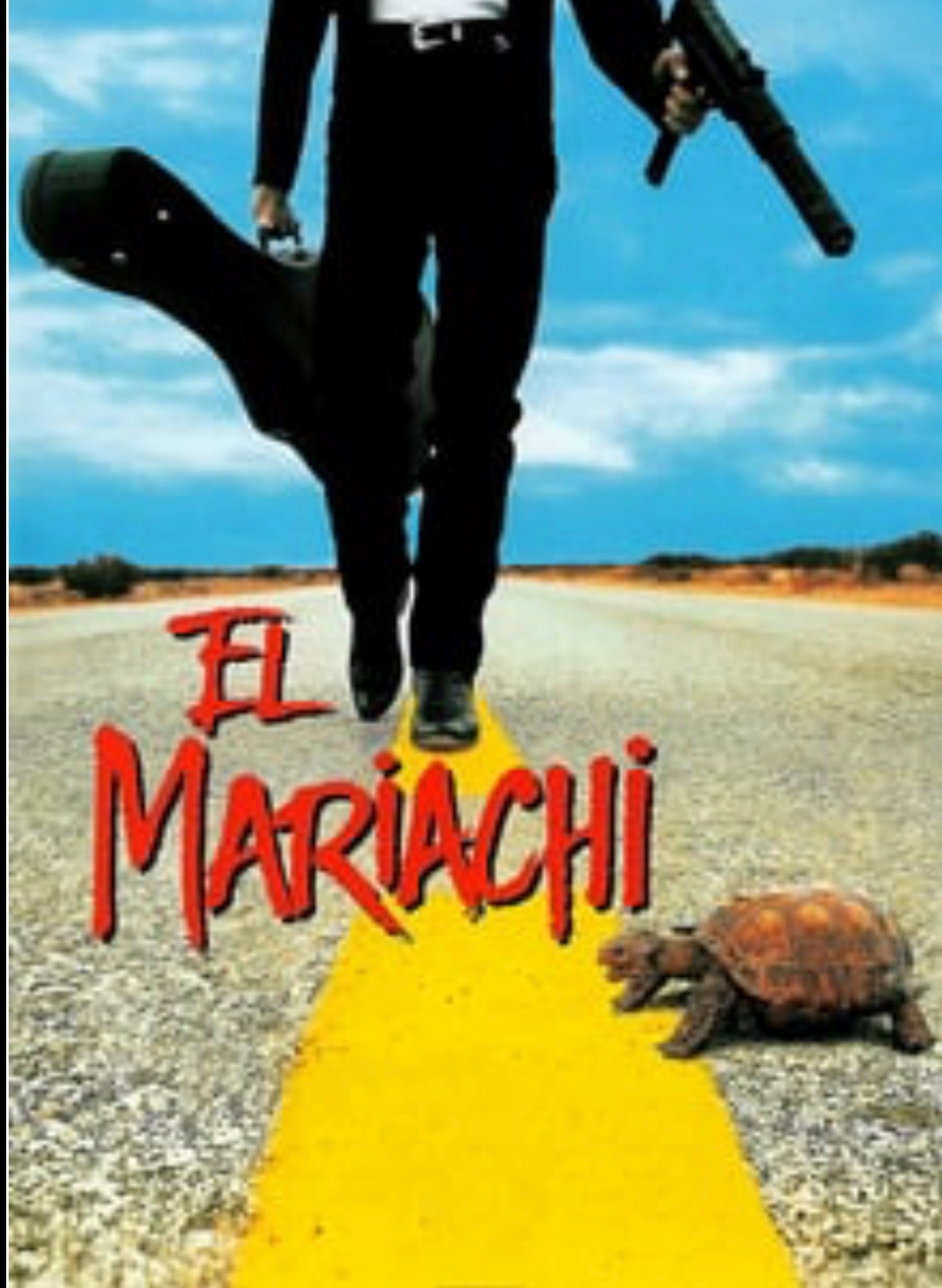
- Following his success with 'El Mariachi', Carlos proceeded to work as an actor and co-producer on the "El Mariachi" film franchise, which would help launch the English language careers of Salma Hayek and Antonio Banderas, in the sequel film 'Desperado'. This movie opened the door to many new projects, including "Bravo", "Bandido" and "Single Action", in which Carlos filled the roles of producer, director, actor and screenwriter.
- Carlos went on to be one of the Producers of the third film in the trilogy "Once Upon a Time in Mexico", featuring Johnny Depp, Willem Defoe, Enrique Iglesias, Eva Mendez, Salma Hayek and Antonio Banderas. The Mariachi trilogy franchise has grossed over \$246 million worldwide.

- In 2007, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognized Carlos' long time work as a Minority filmmaker and honored him with the award 'Oscar Night America', recognition from the academy as a Latino filmmaker.

- Carlos also participated in a cameo role for Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino's award winning action thriller 'Planet Terror' in 2007, and Quentin Tarantino's "Grind House". His other recent credits include the drama "Curandero" with Robert Rodriguez, released by Lions Gate, and 'Dead Hooker in a Trunk' with Sokos Sisfer and the short "Agent 88" by director Digger Mesch. He also co-starred in the Web series "Pay Day" by Damien Lichtenstein.

- In 2012, 'El Mariachi' was given the prestigious honor of being named by the US Library of Congress as one of only 25 films to be preserved as part of the National Film Registry, the world's largest archive of film, TV and sound recordings.

- Carlos's most recent work is with UK Action director Chee Keong Cheung. In 2009 they started to develop and work together on a film project "Redcon 1". After many years of planning they produced the film and it is completed and released in the US May 2019. "Redcon 1" is receiving many awards on the indi festival circuit. Carlos's most recent project is with partner director Robert Rodriguez in his new film "Red11" which has been accepted to the 2019 Cannes film festival. Carlos also is the Recipient of the Independent Hispanic Actor Award at the BI-National Independent Film Festival 2019.






# El Mariachi Franchise

Created by Carlos Gallardo and director Robert Rodriguez

**CULTURA**  
Book Excerpt



## HISPANICS IN HOLLYWOOD

A Celebration of 100 Years in Film and Television

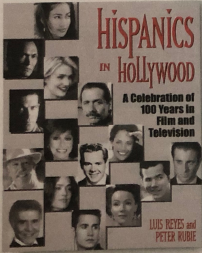
BY LUIS REYES

Being a lifelong film buff and working in the public relations side of the film industry, I discovered [that there was] a whole legacy of lesser-known Hispanic talent in Hollywood ... in danger of being lost if it wasn't documented somehow. For it is a legacy that few know about.


Those who had forged a place in the film industry in the early days

were dying or had already passed away without ever having had their stories recorded. As the years passed, the history of Hispanics in Hollywood was in danger of being lost forever.

This book is an attempt to show the way Hollywood has depicted Hispanic Americans and Latin America, while also pointing out the contributions to Hollywood movies and television made by unsung Hispanic Americans ... as well by those who are more famous. **H**



Above, director Robert Rodriguez coaches Carlos Gallardo in *El Mariachi*; Raquel Welch (below) portrays Maria Stoner in *Bandolero!*



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HISPANIC • SEPTEMBER 2000

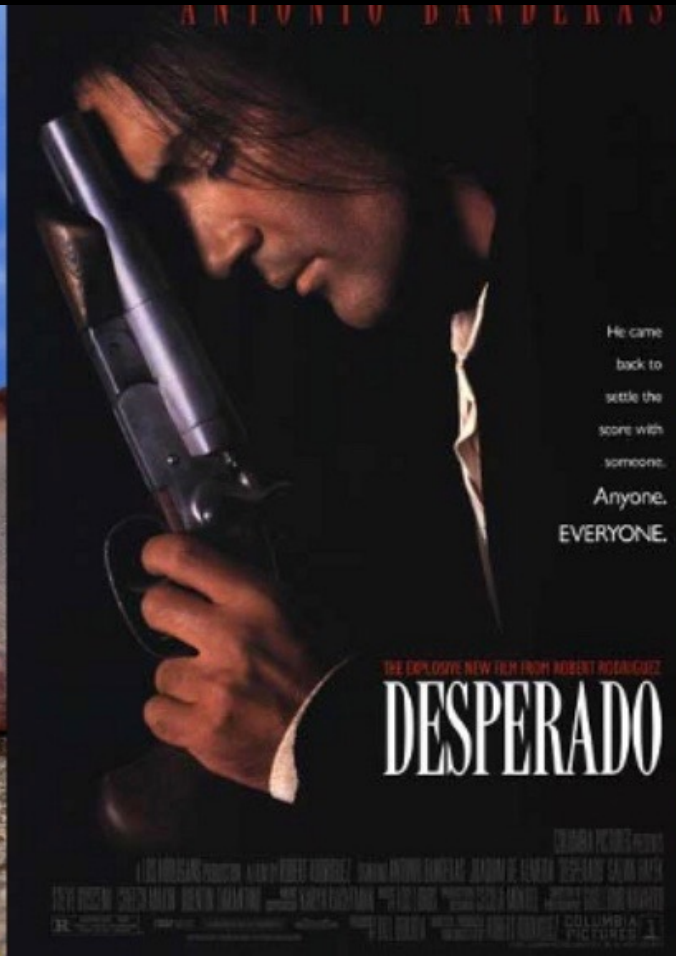
# DESPERADO





# EL MARIACHI TRILOGY

## FRANCHISE



# SPOTLIGHT ON EL MARIACHI

by Rosie Hughes

- This week on our spotlight section is an Icon Latin filmmaking. With his most recent film, Redcon-1 spreading its virus far and wide, Carlos Gallardo is a name made not only in the acting world; but also in the writing, producing and directing world. In 2007, Carlos received the award 'Oscar Night America' by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, to recognize him as a Latino Filmmaker, which proves his worth in the filmmaking world.
- Born in Acuna, Mexico, Carlos met long time friend, and collaborator Robert Rodriguez (director of Sin City) when "they were at a Catholic Boarding School in San Antonio in the 9th Grade; after going to the cinema with their group of friends, they quickly struck up a friendship and this is when Rodriguez showed him some animated films made with clay in 8mm for about two minutes and became mesmerized by it". From that point, both Carlos and Rodriguez began to make video movies with a video camera and recorded little movies leading up to their first movie, El Mariachi some eight or nine years later.
- El Mariachi, probably Carlos and Rodriguez's most famous movie came about in 1992; with only a budget of \$7,000, it went onto win the Sundance Film Festival and Carlos went on to win an Independent Spirit Award for the movie; Carlos went on record stating that "El Mariachi" is one of the movies he's most proud of making, along with "Bandido" and "Redcon-1" – "El Mariachi" has also been preserved in the National Film Registry by the US Library of Congress, and is one of twenty-five films to be preserved; this truly shows the power of independent movies even back in 1992, which is now currently on the rise more and more in modern day cinema.
- I put the question to Carlos whether independent movies are under pressure to deliver movies like big studio blockbusters, to which his response was very clear; "having worked in both studio and independent movies, he feels that there is more pressure in studio films, but, independent movies can always try and control things better; independent movies are more
- difficult because they are smaller groups working harder, whereas within studios, money tends to go into other things". Carlos did make it very clear that he respects both studio and independent movies equally.
- Since El Mariachi, Carlos has dipped his toes into more acting, producing, screenwriting and directing; credits include; Desperado, Bravo, Single Action, Curandero: Dawn of the Demon, Grindhouse: Planet Terror and Redcon-1; all very different movies, but still have one thing in common; the charisma and flavour of Carlos' attitude within film.
- Last year, Carlos was back with Redcon-1, and it has become massive worldwide. The movie, is a virus spreading infection, mixed with horror, gore and Kung fu, and doesn't leave anything to the imagination – it has quickly become one of my all time favorite movies. Carlos met with Redcon-1s director, Chee Keong Cheung by a third party, "looking for a director on another film, however, sadly Carlos' mum passed away and he decided to take a year out. Once returning to the project, both Carlos and Chee decided to make Redcon-1 in Chee' home, Britain, with the independent spirit of El Mariachi". Since its release, Redcon-1 has won many awards; including Best Thriller at the 2019 National Film Awards.
- Carlos has worked with many iconic Hollywood stars; Johnny Depp, Kurt Russell, Mickey Rourke plus so many more, including helping the careers of Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek take off when working on Desperado; all of whom are very laid back and great to work with – but, this is nothing compare to his idols in Hollywood, which include; Mel Gibson, Clint Eastwood and Kurt Russell (who he had the dream of meeting at the premiere of Grind House).
- After doing this article, Carlos said something, that not only touched me, but, will touch the readers of this article; he said "I can't say its been easy, but I can say it's been fun" – this sums up Carlos' approach to his work; not glamourizing the life in film, but, in fact, appreciates the hard times, and the good, and will always remember how he made it in the world of cinema.



# SPOTLIGHT ON EL MARIACHI



**“I can’t say it’s been easy,  
but I can say it’s been fun”  
- Carlos Gallardo**

“Redcon-1”  
Executive Producer/Actor





# “REDCON-1”

Award Winning Film Indi Circuit



“RED 11”

Directed by Robert Rodriguez  
Cannes 2019





# RED 11 PREMIERE



# Carlos Gallardo

