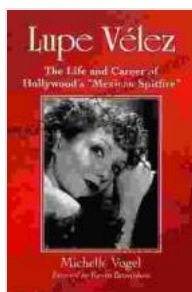


The Life and Career of Hollywood's Mexican Spitfire

Lupe Vélez was a Mexican actress who starred in over 50 films during the 1930s and 1940s. She is best known for her role as Carmelita Lindsay in the "Mexican Spitfire" film series, which ran from 1939 to 1946. Vélez was a flamboyant and outspoken personality, and her films were often filled with humor and romance.



Lupe Velez: The Life and Career of Hollywood's "Mexican Spitfire" by Michelle Vogel

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8195 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 247 pages



Early Life

Vélez was born María Guadalupe Villalobos Vélez on July 18, 1908, in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. Her father was a wealthy landowner, and her mother was a schoolteacher. Vélez had a privileged upbringing, and she attended private schools in Mexico City and Paris. As a young woman, Vélez was known for her beauty and her outgoing personality.

Career Beginnings

Vélez began her acting career in Mexico in the mid-1920s. She appeared in several films, including *The Resurrection of the Dead* (1926) and *The Miser* (1927). In 1927, Vélez moved to Hollywood to pursue her acting career. She was quickly signed to a contract with RKO Pictures, and she made her American film debut in *The Gaucho* (1927). Vélez played a small role in the film, but her performance caught the attention of critics. She was praised for her beauty, her acting skills, and her exotic accent.

The "Mexican Spitfire" Films

Vélez's breakout role came in 1939, when she starred in the first "Mexican Spitfire" film, *The Mexican Spitfire*. In the film, Vélez played Carmelita Lindsay, a fiery and independent Mexican woman who falls in love with a wealthy American businessman. The film was a critical and commercial success, and it spawned six sequels. Vélez's performance as Carmelita Lindsay made her a star, and she became known for her comedic timing and her ability to deliver witty one-liners.

Personal Life

Vélez's personal life was as dramatic as her film career. She was married three times, and she had several high-profile relationships. In 1933, Vélez married Johnny Weissmuller, the Olympic swimmer and Tarzan actor. The marriage was short-lived, and the couple divorced in 1935. In 1937, Vélez married Harold Grieve, a British actor. The couple had one child, a daughter named Lupe Grieve. In 1944, Vélez married Guy Madison, an American actor. The marriage was unhappy, and the couple divorced in 1949.

Later Career

Vélez's career declined in the late 1940s and early 1950s. She appeared in a number of low-budget films, and she struggled to find success. In 1951, Vélez was found dead in her Hollywood home. She had committed suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills. She was 44 years old.

Legacy

Vélez is remembered as one of the most popular Mexican actresses of the Golden Age of Hollywood. She was a talented comedian and a charismatic performer. Her films brought joy to audiences all over the world, and she helped to break down stereotypes about Mexican women. Vélez's life and career were a testament to her strength and determination, and she remains an inspiration to many people today.

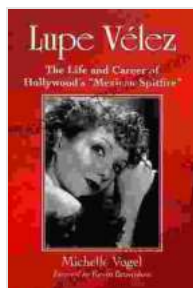
Filmography

- *The Resurrection of the Dead* (1926)
- *The Miser* (1927)
- *The Gaucho* (1927)
- *Captain Salvation* (1927)
- *Lady of the Night* (1929)
- *Wolf Song* (1929)
- *Hell's Angels* (1930)
- *Resurrection* (1931)
- *The Cuban Love Song* (1931)
- *Hot Saturday* (1932)

- *The Half-Naked Truth* (1932)
- *Sitting Pretty* (1933)
- *Jungle Bride* (1933)
- *Palooka* (1934)
- *Hollywood Party* (1934)
- *Strictly Dynamite* (1934)
- *The Mexican Spitfire* (1939)
- *Mexican Spitfire Out West* (1940)
- *Mexican Spitfire's Baby* (1941)
- *Mexican Spitfire at Sea* (1942)
- *Mexican Spitfire Sees a Ghost* (1942)
- *Mexican Spitfire's Blessed Event* (1943)
- *Mexican Spitfire's Honeymoon* (1945)
- *Nana* (1944)
- *Hollywood Canteen* (1944)
- *That Night with You* (1945)
- *The Red House* (1947)
- *The Flame and the Arrow* (1950)
- *The Bandits of Corsica* (1953)

Sources

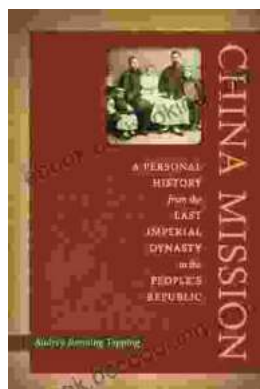
* Lupe Vélez on IMDb * Lupe Vélez on TCM * Lupe Vélez on Britannica



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