

The Queen of the Night

La reina de la noche

Mexico, USA, France/ 1993/ Colour/ 35 mm/ 120'/ Spanish

Direction: Arturo Ripstein

Producers: Gregory Maya, Jean Michel Lacor

Screenplay: Paz Alicia Garcíadiego

Cinematography: Bruno de Keyser

Editing: Rafael Castanedo

Sound: Lucía Álvarez

Cast: Patricia Reyes Spíndola, Blanca Guerra, Roberto Sosa, Ana Ofelia Murguía, Bruno Bichir, Juan Carlos

Arturo Ripstein likes to call this film the 'imaginary biography' of the life of the iconic Mexican singer Lucha Reyes who brought the folk songs known as rancheras from the rural environment to the mainstream. She was an unconventional, sexually liberated woman, a carefree lesbian whose ways and love of alcohol provoked many a public. Her story begins in 1939, where at 33 she still lived at home with her mother, Dona Victoria, the madame of a renowned Mexico City whorehouse. Lucha marries the liberal Pedro Calderon and then buys a beggar's daughter. She becomes the mother to this child, Luzma. Lucha craves lasting love like junkies crave heroin.