

## REACTIONS

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...well directed, lit, shot, edited...

**Stephen Schwartz**

*Academy Award Winning Writer*

...a style that really maximized the dramatic impact of the story...

**Stu Feldman**

*Writer, Law & Order*

...tight and dramatic...

**Jack DePalma**

*National Artists Management Company*

Exciting camera work...emphasized the emotional narrative...

**Colin Spoelman**

*Filmmaker*

...visually interesting...I will be interested in seeing what comes next!

**Jeffrey Abramson**

*Film Division Director, Gen Art Film Festival*



Actress ...it totally worked without looking like a music video...

**Gwynn MacDonald**

*Producer*

...very intense! ...rawness of reality today with heartfelt lyrics.

**Truman Cox**

*Hypnotic*



Bravo Bravo and Bravo again!

**Nicole Hudson**

*Executive Producer Bitflip Interactive Group*

...this is the way to make movie musicals for today's audiences.

**Cristin Boyle**

...vibrant and compelling...musically and dramatically satisfying.

**Jon Karp**

*Vice President, Random House*



## FESTIVALS

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***Special Achievement Award Best Musical Short***

Santa Monica Film Festival

***Best Director (Women's Category)***

Zoie Film Festival

Hamptons International Film Festival

***In Academy Award Eligible Competition***

Rhode Island International Film Festival

***In Competition***

Palm Beach International Film Festival

***Opening Night Film***

2003 San Francisco World Film Festival and Marketplace

***In Competition***

2003 Ohio Independent Film Festival Independent Pictures 10th Anniversary Celebration

***In Competition***

Annapolis Film Festival

***In Competition***

Deep Ellum Film Festival

San Diego Latino Film Festival

Raindance International Film Festival (London)

Great Lakes International Film Festival

Bear Lake International Film Festival

Dahlongega International Film Festival

DaVinci Film & Video Festival

First Glance Film Festival (Philadelphia)

Tiburon International Film Festival (CA)

Festival of Festivals (Palm Springs)

Long on Shorts (Dallas Museum of Art)

Northwestern University Entertainment Alliance Showcase

Palm Springs International Short Film Festival Market (Palm Springs)

Clermont Ferrand International Film Festival Market (France)

Cal State Latino Film Festival (Los Angeles, CA)



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

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Tragedy on her wedding day turns Isabella Rico into a woman she never imagined she would become. An original musical.

## SYNOPSIS

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When her husband is assassinated on their wedding day, Isabella is expected to be a part of the property that passes on to the next in line of the drug gang her husband controlled. Instead, she fights to lead the gang herself.

*Isabella Rico* is the gritty, personal, urban cousin of the opulent, Brechtian *Moulin Rouge*. The 15-minute movie musical is about a woman struggling for independence and the isolation that power brings. The score is completely original.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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*Isabella Rico* is my experiment in approaching dramatic material in as naturalistic a musical style as possible.

The hardest part of making a musical work, on stage or screen, is justifying the transition from spoken dialog to singing. Movie Musicals need a larger-than-life sensibility and/or a fantastical, stylized world to distance the audience and enable the suspension of disbelief.

While the story of *Isabella Rico* is still larger-than-life and the violence stylized, the environment is real and the acting naturalistic. *Isabella Rico* eases the viewer into the musical aspect, beginning with a wedding reception, where people would naturally be dancing, and possibly even singing along to the music. A naturalistic hymn at a funeral is co-opted by rival gang members into a song attacking Isabella in the same manner children might transform nursery rhymes to make fun of each other on the playground. It is not until the music goes entirely into Isabella's head, reflecting her internal struggle, that the visual style breaks out into non-linear fragmentation, a psychological landscape of her mind.

*Isabella Rico* is part of the Movie Musical renaissance that has been infiltrating all forms of media and sweeping the Oscar race, including: theatrical releases *Chicago*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *O Brother Where Art Thou*, *Dancer in the Dark*; television productions such as the Hip-Hopera *Carmen* on MTV, *South Pacific*, and episodes of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Oz*; and commercials by high profile companies.



## ELIZABETH LUCAS (director/producer/screenplay)

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### **Short Bio**

Elizabeth Lucas has developed new musicals for the theatre at every stage. She is thrilled to be making the leap to movie musicals, combining her loves of film and musical theatre.

### **Continued Bio**

Though a recent film graduate, Lucas has already completed several film and video projects and is in development on several more. She has acquired the rights to the feature length musicals *Walk Away*, a Folk-Rock montage exploring the lives of four friends, and *The Cure*, a Club Rock tale of Vampire intrigue in modern New York. Other projects include the DV short *The Audition*, the noir murder mystery *The Patsy*, a documentary on the musical development process for the Musical Writers' Playground and a short dance film for the multi-award winning Howard Fishman Quartet.

Favorite stage directing credits include *Victor/Victoria*, *Jekyll & Hyde* and the play *Art* for the Surflight Theatre, the musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, the inaugural Musical Writers' Playground event, the Midwest premiere of *Hello Again* (two After Dark Awards, recommended for a Jefferson Award), *The Old Maid and the Thief* and Mizer & Moore's premiere *The Bus to Buenos Aires* for her own Door County Opera, *Rapunzel* for Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, and the musical *Nine*.

Ms. Lucas has assistant directed over 30 musicals, plays and operas with Tony-Winning director Walter Bobbie, Rhoda Levine, Simon Callow, Mark S. Hoebee and many others. As a producer, she founded the Door County Opera and the Chicago Directors' Forum and assistant produced two concert musical Galas for the Chicago Humanities Festival. She has written columns for Great Lakes Stages and Stage Directions magazine.

Elizabeth Lucas is a member of the 1998 Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab, an exclusive honor for emerging directors. She received her Bachelor of Music in Lyric Theatre from Northwestern University and a Film Certificate from New York University.

## CONTACT INFO

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GLASS BUBBLE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# ISABELLA RICO

a movie musical

Book & Lyrics LARRY BEINHART  
Music NEIL ROLNICK  
Additional Music & Lyrics AARON KNEILE  
Screenplay ELIZABETH LUCAS  
  
Directed by ELIZABETH LUCAS

Based on *The Rise and Fall of Isabella Rico*  
Originally developed by The Directors Company, Artistic Director MICHAEL PARVA

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Isabella Rico	JESSICA PAGAN	Music Producer/Arranger	AARON KNEILE
Ricky	DONALD ROMAN LOPEZ	Musical Director	JOSEPH P. WAJDA
Hector	CARLOS A. GONZALES	Music Mix	KEN WALLACE
Jesus	MARCO PUENTE	ADR Engineer/Sound Mix	COREY FOLTA
Juanita	GLADYS PEREZ	Sound Design/Pre-Mix	ROXANNE MUSTAFA
Rosa	GLENYS VARGAS	Guitar Scoring	MICHAEL PATZIG
Carlos	AL D. RODRIGUEZ	Horn Charts	CURTIS MOORE
Bobby	RICARDO ZAMUDIO	Guitar	MICHAEL PATZIG
Cecilia	JANNETTE CLEMENCEAU	Trumpet/Trombone	STEVEN JANKOWSKI
Juan	ANGEL FELICIANO	Sax/Flute	JAY DAVIDSON
Ricky's Mother	DAISY CABRERA	Percussion	VICTOR STEVENS
Ricky's Uncle	PETER DE LA CRUZ	Sound Studio	CITY SOUND
Ensemble	CHRIS BEAN, MALISSA LONGO, MONICA DELGADO, CIARA PRESSLER, HENRY GAINZA, MIGUEL RIVERA, SALINA SIAS-ROMO	Production Manager	LEILA KNOX
Vocalists for Isabella	DIANE PHELAN	Second Assistant Directors	JOSE BAYONA, DAVID BLAZINA
for Bobby	MICHAEL HUNSAKER	Script Supervisor	CAROLYN RENDELL
for Ricky	STUART AMBROSE	1st Assistant Camera	BILL FLOYD
Ensemble	CULVER CASSON, JULIE DINGMAN, ANGEL FELICIANO, LAURIE FERDMAN, MEGAN MCNULTY, GLADYS PEREZ, MARCO PUENTE, ROB RICHARDSON, AL D. RODRIGUEZ, VANESSA VAN VRANCKEN, GLENYS VARGAS, KIM VARHOLA	2nd Assistant Camera	JENNIFER JOHNSON
Line Producer	THOMAS FATONE	Key Grips	JOSH DEETER, RICHARD GRIGGS
Director of Photography	DAVID CASTILLO	Best Boy Grips	CAT CROSBY, MELISSA GRIMARAES
Costume Designer	CRISTINA MARIA RUALES	Gaffers	SHAWN GREENE, JOHN M. SCHWARTZ
Make-Up & Hair Designer	CRISTINA MARIA RUALES	Best Boy Electric	SIMEON MOORE
Art Director	DARYL BURTON	Grip/Electric Swing	MATTHEW CATON
Choreographer	JULIO MONGE	Genny Operators	JAMES GRAY, PETER YOLLES
Editor	ELIZABETH LUCAS	Sound Engineers	DAVID RYAN, THOMAS VARGA
First Assistant Director	NATHANIEL MUNDEL	Sound Assistant	AARON KNEILE
Casting Director	MANUEL HERERRA	Key Production Assistant	KIMBERLY A. THOMPSON
Title Graphic	AARON TILFORD	Production Assistant	COLIN SPOELMAN
Titles	HEAVY LIGHT	Craft Service P.A.	ANTHONY HALSEMA
		Key Hair/Key Make-up	JENNY C. FULTON
		Costume Design Assistant	NICOLE PORTO
		Additional Grip/Electrics	STEVE CALITRI, DANIEL PAULASKAS
		Additional PAs	MARK ROBINSON, ADAM STEINBERG
			WENDY GIMAN, CECILY STRAUB
			AARON TILFORD
		<i>"Siente la Vida"</i>	<i>"Mi Corazon"</i>
		Kneile	Kneile/Beinhart
		<i>"End of Rico"</i>	<i>"End of Rico II"</i>
		<i>"Woman With a Gun"</i>	<i>"Chica"</i>
		Rolnick/Beinhart/Kneile	Rolnick/Beinhart

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## Special Thanks

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