

ARGENTINA

Vocals: Argentina
Guitar: José Quevedo "Bolita", Eugenio Iglesias
Palmas (Hand Clapping): Bobote, Torombo
Percussion: José Carrasco

Choruses: Los Mellis, Toñi Nogaredo
Bass: José Manuel Posada "Popo"
Piano and Keyboard: José Mestre
Trumpet: Puntas
Trombone: Julito

Song

MADRID

TEATROS DEL CANAL-SALA ROJA (TEATROS DEL CANAL THEATER – RED HALL)
FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 20:30

LAS MINAS DE EGIPTO (EGYPTIAN MINES)

This is what happens to your career when you feel responsible and are so committed to your work that you feel like you are at a vital moment in your life. You won't settle for just anything. You won't like everything. You won't accept just anything. You have to dig deep in the earth to find the center of your being, to find the precious minerals that fill you and give you enough of the energy you need to feel alive.

Knowing your journey's destination gives you the necessary peace of mind to know what direction you should head in each time you take off. When we found these minerals, we melted them down with the metal of a prodigious voice full of light, of age-old and contemporary colors, modern and ancestral sounds, a brutal and unusual mineral depth that moves people and makes them feel the most intense emotions they will ever experience.

Speaking from the point of view of personal experience, speaking from the most clamorous ovation possible, speaking from inside the kitchen, speaking from a person's expertise, speaking from an artist's skill, speaking from a sense of rhythm, speaking from the humblest of all humility, speaking from the most natural expression, speaking ever since you were born just in order to sing, speaking from the galleries that make up these Egyptian Mines where ten minerals lie waiting to be discovered through listening, like any good explorer would do. Speaking from all this is a privilege that nature grants us human beings, and we cannot miss out on the opportunity to experience this musical gem now within our reach.

Exotic world, world music, cutting edge generation, age-old roots, infinite existence, sublime combustion. Argentina. Flamenco.

PROGRAMA

- *Siento que la vida pasa* – I Feel Life is Passing By (*tangos*)
- *Veras las flores nuevas* – You'll See the New Flowers (*bulerías*)
- *Las minas de Egipto* – Egyptian Mines (*soleá*)
- *Cada vez* – Each Time
- *Si te dicen de Cai* – If They Tell You I Fell (*alegrías*)
- *Suspiros da el alma* – Sighs from the Soul (*rumba*)

- *Nana del sueño* – Dream Lullaby
- *Entre Utrera y Jerez en Casa Vela* - Between Utrera and Jerez at Casa Vela (*bulerías*)
- *Malagueña y media granaína de Don Antonio Chacón* – Don Antonio Chacón's *malagueña* and *media granaína*
- *X Huelva* (*fandangos*)

Argentina is not a stage name. It's this young and brilliant flamenco singer's given name. Argentina was raised in Huelva, where she was born 26 years ago.

When she was just three years old, she began taking dance lessons at a neighborhood association. But, she did not start studying flamenco singing at Huelva's *Peña Flamenca* (Flamenco Folk Club) until the age of twelve. The turning point in Argentina's career is when she joined the group *Niños de Huelva* at age fourteen. The group became increasingly popular and recorded two albums: *Herencia* (Heritage) and *Felices Pascuas* (Merry Christmas), both recorded in 1998. Throughout that time, Argentina frequently appeared on TV shows such as *Veo veo*, hosted by Teresa Rabal, and *Senderos de Gloria*, presented by Consuelo Berlanga.

After her time with *Niños de Huelva*, she joined the group *Cané* where Argentina sang with another four girls from her music school. She recorded another two records with this group: *Caudal de Pasiones* (Surge of Passion), in 2001 and *Beso de Amor* (Kiss of Love) in 2003. Argentina also participated in *Historia Antológica del Fandango de Huelva* (Historical Anthology of Huelva's *Fandango*) in 2001 and in *Fandango Joven* (Young People's *Fandango*) in 2003, where she had the chance to apply her many years of learning her homeland's own special flamenco *palo* (or style). According to the artist herself, Huelva's *fandango* has many more nuances and techniques than one can possibly grasp just by listening.

According to critics, the way Argentina sang reminded one of Arcángel, Estrella Morente and Carmen Linares. She did not go unnoticed for her manager, Luis Miguel Baeza ("Luismi") who discovered this flamenco singer's true potential as a performer. Luismi encouraged her to enroll in Christina Heeren's Flamenco Art Foundation in Seville, where she took classes with such important flamenco masters as Paco Taranto, José de la Tomasa and Esperanza Fernández.

Argentina then began a tour of the Andalusian flamenco *peña* (folk club) circuit, where she was a huge success. Her presence became indispensable at the most prestigious flamenco festivals and concerts. In 2005, Argentina began to participate regularly on Canal Sur's program *Punto y Medio*. She also presented her work at the Madrid Medical Association during the Flamenco Pa'Tos festival, which has always been a showcase for young artists.

She toured Spain, Italy and Portugal, along with Portuguese flutist Rao Kyao, Galician *gaitero* (bagpipe player) Carlos Nuñez and Italian accordion player Ricardo Tessi, for the *Sete Sois Sete Luas* (Seven Suns, Seven Moons) International Music Festival, sponsored by writer José Saramago.

Her first solo album, *Argentina*, was launched on the market in 2006 under the Al Compás record label. The album was produced by Jerez-born guitarist José Quevedo "Bolita" and featured guitarists Juan Diego, Diego de Morao and Manuel Parrilla. It includes *cantes* (flamenco songs) such as *bulerías*, *alegrías*, *tangos*, *guajiras*, *seguiriyas* y *fandangos* all of which Argentina brings up to date without forgetting about classic *cante* (flamenco singing). In September, Argentina debuted at the Flamenco Biennial in Seville and, in December, she made history in her hometown at Huelva's Gran Teatro, where she completely sold out 24 hours before the concert. Argentina enjoyed a 15-minute round of applause.

Soon afterward, she received the National Flamenco Critics' Flamenco Hoy (Flamenco Today) award for Best Album by a New Singer at the legendary Corral de la Pacheca in Madrid. She then recorded a live concert at the Prado del Rey Studios for the radio program *Los Conciertos de Radio 3* (Radio 3 Concerts) and she was a huge success at the Barcelona *De Cajón* Flamenco

Festival in its 2007 edition. That same year, Argentina also got great reviews after participating in Barcelona's La Mercé festivities.

In 2008, she became a regular guest artist on Canal Sur TV's show *Ratones Coloraos*, hosted by famous presenter Jesús Quintero.

In June of that same year, she received the 2008 Venencia Flamenca Award at Seville's Teatro Municipal de los Palacios.

In 2009, she carried out a massive tour that took her to such places as the Teatro Alhambra in Granada, as part of the Flamenco Viene del Sur festival; the National Auditorium in Madrid, with the show *Argentina en la corte* (Argentina at the Court); the Santiago de Úbeda Hospital Auditorium in Jaén, where she received the City of Úbeda's 8th Active Flamenco National Award; and the 21st Flamenco Festival in Mont de Marsan (France).