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GOOD LIVING

About the south and the innocence by Karla Hernández / Pictures:

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"Sincere, personal and unpretentious" is how the director Hector Valdez described his latest film *To the South of the Innocence*, a film that shows "that a break point is almost always necessary, responsible for the most radical decisions. There are situations that make people change," continued the young director, who at times looked older." and this is what I want to show, that journey that leads us to grow, love, lose, win and learn "Those words, on the beach contemplating a beautiful sunset, made us think, although not too much-as Frank's jokes, Sarah's laughter and Christian drinking rum on the rocks relieved the circumstances-. If *South of the Innocence* manages to recreate the light and dense environment at the same time, we anticipate a great success.



Héctor Valdez

What do you want to convey with this film?

R. *To the South of the Innocence* arises from circumstances that marked me in my life. As the premature death of my uncle and the surprise birth of my niece. *To the South of Innocence* is an allegory of the cycle of life. It features the journey toward the inner growth that we take at some point of our lives.

Q. Why the South?

R. The South and I have a close relationship since childhood. Once, when I was 13, we went to Bahia de lasAguilas. I remember noticing its beauty contrasting with the living conditions of the people. The South is a region that for many years has been forgotten.

Q. Was the shooting difficult there?

A. Quite the opposite. For us it was like a relief. The most challenging part was the beginning. The first day of shooting were difficult in Santo Domingo, but it helped us refine details to make everything out there easier.

Frank Perozo



Q. What did you learn from Santiago?

R. He rescued my adventurous spirit and a love of nature that I almost had forgotten. Now I try to be on the road every weekend.

Q. Are you at your best Time?

A. I would like to think that I am not, because I do not want this to end; but I am in a very good time.

Q. Tell us about the non-glamorous features of cinema.

A. I have never felt the glamor of film, except that of Hollywood. Our cinema is güiro, drums and guanochairs; it is closer to our roots and is much more grounded.

Q. What has been your best contract?

R. Mine? The medical center when my son was born.

Q. What do you recommend to young actors?

A. To never forget their goals even if they are rejected. The industry is growing the same as the opportunities. It is a matter of hope, faith and discipline.

Q. Has Frank Perozo ever been rejected?

A. Of course! An actor is interviewed an average of 15 to 20 times a week. This is the profession where the person receives more rejection because there are many factors involved, such as physical, the director's vision and even for the sound of the voice. One must learn to live with rejection.

Q. Performance or direction?

R. Performance and direction.

P. Those intimate scenes we see, how are they behind the scenes?

R. Tense, or technical, due to the amount of people involved, but also not less as in a scene driving a car. Whenever I have the opportunity to act it is like getting undressed. I lend my body and soul to every character that I play.

Q. How is it like working with Sarah Jorge León?

R. Divine. Sarah is one of the most academically prepared Dominican actresses, we even call her teacher Sarah. Regarding Christian, I believe that he is the film revelation of this year. He is one of the best actors working with photography and with a passion that defines him. He has great potential.

Q. Will there be Frank Perozo for a while?

A. I am now making a film called *biopic*, regarding the life of an important musician in the Dominican Republic. It is one of the most rewarding challenges in the nearly 20 years of my career. Also upcoming is "A Trio Limpio." The script is almost ready.

Q. How does winning The Soberano award feel like?

R. More than a prize, it is a recognition by the public and all of the art reporters. It is like the icing of the cake. I had already been awarded before but it was the first time that I attended as a nominee. I sat down without expectation because the older we get the less expectations we have. When I heard my name I jumped, and once up, I forgot everything.

“One must learn to live with rejection”

– Frank Perozo.

Sarah Amalia León



Q. cinema or theater?

R. The two of them have different paths and have their challenges. I have no preference.

Q. What did you enjoy the most about your role?

A. The essence of Vera. Although she was raised in a "right" fashion, she was able to break with all those stereotypes, not for rebellion but by courage. That is Vera's legacy, you have to be faithful to the truth within yourself.

Q. Tell us a funny story occurred during the recording process.

R. [Laughs] One of the scenes of the film involved eggs. We had to repeat it several times and in every shot I had to eat an egg. At the end I had eaten 17. I felt terribly nauseous.

Q. Tell us your impression of the Dominican cinema.

R. Our cinema is growing fast and is exploring many genres not previously made. It is all part of its growth and, I honestly believe in the Dominican talent.

Q. How does it feel to see yourself on the big screen?

A. It is a strange feeling. Suddenly I find myself saying that perhaps this or that scene must have done this or that way ... but mostly it is an exercise of letting go. There is no turning back.

Q. Have you lost your innocence?

A. A little. As the years pass one matures and becomes more aware of things, but I am still delighted by something new.

Q. What are your plans after South of Innocence?

R. There are several projects upcoming, including one of mine. It is an adaptation of a theater script. Now I have the permits, so we hope to film in 2015, and, likewise, I am open to everything that comes.

"You have to be faithful to the truth within yourself"

- Sarah Jorge León-

Christian Álvarez



Q. What was difficult and what rewarding on *To the South of Innocence*?

R. The most rewarding was meeting and working with people so cool. We became a family where there was no friction with anyone. Besides, I liked having the opportunity to meet the South, it is beautiful! The hardest thing for me was to play a leading role in a feature film, at first I was very nervous. I see it as a kind of test that I do not yet know if I passed ... but I can say that I gave the best I could.

Q. What does your character wish to convey?

A. I really think that many young people will relate to certain aspects of my character. Andrés does not know what to do with his life, he has never had to struggle for anything and everything was offered to him on a silver platter up to the time when everything collapses. He then realizes that there is a reality and such "reality" is a person who has not a defined north, but that at the end, he finds it.

Q. What do you share and what you do not agree with Andrés?

A. I had been in the same situation until I discovered acting. I graduated from marketing simply to give a title to my mother. It was when I lost my job that a friend told me about a casting they were doing for a short film. I got the role and then they called me to another one and so on until it turned from a hobby to the reason why I get up in the

mornings. On the other hand, I hate how selfish and self-centered Andrés is. In that aspect we do not look alike at all.

Q. After To the South of Innocence, what awaits Christian Alvarez?

A. What life brings to me. I feel totally grateful for everything that is happening.

“I am in love with my career”

– Christian Alvarez

Frank: SHIRT BY PEDRO DEL HIERRO OF THE CORTE FIEL STORE, SWEATER AND PANTS: ADOLFO DOMINGUEZ/**Sarah:** DRESS BY SULLY BONNELLY. SHOES: CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN/**Christian:** Polo: PEDRO DEL HIERRO OF THE CORTE FIEL STORE. PANTS: ADOLFO DOMINGUEZ