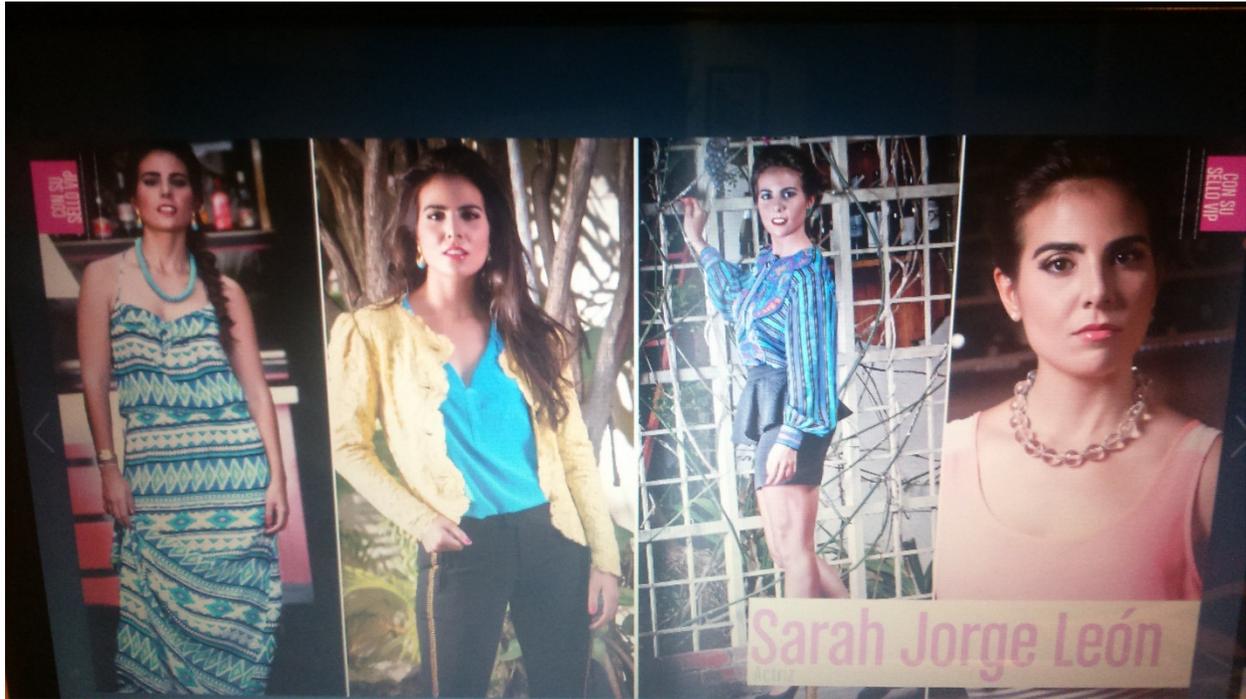


WITH VIP SEAL



By: Leidy PerezPhotos: Luciano MoonMakeup: Ana Maria AndricksonLocation: Restaurant Rossini, Piantini

After many calls and coordinating with the photographer, place and finally with our guest, something that was almost an impossible mission because of her many occupations, and finally; we made it! And it was worth to wait. This time the section bears her seal, we received a woman for whom art lives in a universal language that unites us beyond any ideology, allowing us to "see" without the armor. And without body armor, or even with no poses, she appeared before the lens of our photographer, to know a bit beyond what we can grasp when we see her acting.

Vip: How do you define yourself as a person?

Sarah Jorge León: I hope not to have a fixed answer to that question. It would be very sad to read this in a few years and find out that I have not changed at all. Like any artist I think that I am handling many worlds at the same time.

Vip: Tell us about your family, your siblings, your parents

SJL:My family is my treasure. Even with our differences, I find in them care, honesty and that through the years, more and more, an increasing freedom to love without desiring to change anyone. My parents are examples of love and marriage. In my father I admire his sense of justice and coherence between what he says and what he does. In my

mom I admire her courage, her charisma, her magic. In my brother Marcos, his courage and maturity. And in my sister Nina, authenticity and beautiful heart.

Vip: At that point of your life did you realize you wanted to be an actress?

SJL: Since I was six-year-old I knew that acting was my passion.

Vip: How and when did you start performing in theater?

SJL: Thanks to Mrs. Maricusa Ornes (affectionately, Tia Maricusa) and to her Arlequin presentations at the National Theatre, I closely experienced, how incredibly magical it is to stand on a stage and make of imagined worlds, a reality suspended in time. But it was when I attended to see the work of Don Quixote on Broadway (starring Raúl Juliá), that I knew deeply in my heart that acting, besides being my passion, it was I wanted to embark on a professional level.

VIP: How was your first experience in cinema?

SJL: It was in Los Angeles, when I had just finished my MFA in acting. I made a film entitled Women. The story related the lives of four couples at different points in their relationships, bringing out the similarities and differences that these couples lived. I remember that when arriving on the set I was very nervous and yet excited. I did not know the actor that would play my boyfriend in the movie and it was just when we were having our makeup done that we spoke to each other for the first time. And I had the blessing, and I believe that is the magic of cinema, that immediately after we spoke everything flowed. I remember that I learned a lot from that actor. He was more experienced than me in the 7th. Art . Observing him 100% immersed in the circumstances, with immense freedom to play and "allowing himself to make mistakes" and a beautiful ability to hear beyond what his ears picked up, it was the best gift of that acting experience. That actor gave me a professional environment and self-confidence in acting, qualities that have tried to emulate every time I get to a set or a stage.

VIP: In which projects have you played a part?

SJL: In Short films: Queen, In the Face of Madness, 729. Series: Dumped, Slit-NY and El Don. Documentaries: Five Centuries of Advent. Musical Video: Colonial Fest 2012; feature films: Women, Lotoman, Lotoman 2.0, To the South of Innocence. Theater: Pantaleón y las Visitadoras, Cardenio, Donnie Darko, The Lacy Project, Trigger, Blood Weddings, Miss Julie, among others.

Vip: which do you prefer, cinema or theater and why?

SJL: I am passionate about both of them. No matter the means, the element "truth" must always be present to act. The work of the actor must reveal "living truthfully under imaginary circumstances" (Sanford Meisner); as my mentor Roman Kozak, used to say "the actor has to risk the heart and tell the truth." But, having said that, the channel used to project the truth, demand different skills from the actor. For example, the

filmperformance being more introspective and intimate, demands an inner life so vivid that could be able to translate its essence without the need to use words.

Regarding the theater, I could say that it is "bigger" in shape, and a more extroverted expression. Requires a wider "energy field" for play, so that when acting the message reaches the last row of the audience. Finally, the two media pose delighting challenges to me, causing adrenaline and fun, so I have no preference. Both theater and cinema make me feel alive, awake and grateful to be here/now.

VIP: Tell us about your most recent filming "To the South of Innocence".

SJL: To the South of the Innocence, undoubtedly, was a magic set. A number of elements that made this an unforgettable experience came together. In conjunction with a team of excellent work, were present the South, as well as creativity, empathy, patience, synchronicity, adventure, nostalgia, sunsets, full moons, courage, freedom, honesty, family ... With this film, the ability to dream and play like children came back to us. .. We moved closer to the humanity that we all share.

VIP: Do you appreciate any development of the 7th. Art in our country?

SJL: I am eager and proud due to the local efforts undertaken to expand our cinema beyond the previously established parameters. I do not mean by this, that comedies do not cover a necessary space within the local film industry, I think they are important and have boosted our audience to go to the cinema. What I see as positive is that they are not only comedies what is being done locally. Other genres are being explored by our directors and investors, what I understand is an indicator that our public is ready and willing to be exposed to other topics. Furthermore, It can be seen an initiative of "daring" and "launching" from the filmmakers. In my point of view, this is what has greater value. That even at the risk of being wrong, we want to make movies. And this is the way we learn. Doing it.

VIP: What is your opinion on the participation of TV presenters as performers in films and theater, mostly if they have not studied acting?

SJL: We are at a time in our history where genres are combined and touch their borders. From the culinary arts, the visual arts, literature and also the theater, film and television, do not escape this phenomenon. After all, it is a matter of interest, talent, commitment and passion.

VIP: You teach performing arts at the Lux Mundi Educational Community, and you are doing private coaching in Casamaya-Montesacro. How do you feel when you teach your knowledge to other people?

SJL: Teaching is a privilege. I always feel that I learn more from students than they from me. It is a very special exchange when someone is passionate about the same thing you are passionate about and have the joy of sharing with them the love that you have for what you do, in my case, acting. It is fascinating to see the growth of a student. See how he/she becomes more comfortable in his/her own skin; witnessing how he/she overcomes his/her fears; expanding.

VIP: You believe that being the daughter of parents who love art and culture has influenced you; how?

SJL: Of course. My parents have always loved art in its different forms. I grew up listening to my father play bossanova on his guitar, my mother reading me Cervantes stories, attending with both to the theater... to museums. I think that such reverence that my parents always showed for art and culture have made me perceive actors with great respect and admiration. I feel that through that love towards the creative quality, I also learned that in some way, art lives in a universal language that unites us beyond any

ideology, ethnicity, religion ... and bears the unifying power of letting us “see ourselves” wearing no armors. That is something that only art gives us.

VIP: What is yoga for you?

SJL:It's another of my passions. I love yoga as a philosophy of life and as a physical practice. When I practice Vinyasa Flow, the type of yoga that I practice, I feel more connected with my interior and at the same time connected with the universe. I finish doing yoga and I feel happy, energized, and grateful to be alive. It's a beautiful practice.

VIP: What are you passionate about?

SJL:An authentic life.

VIP: What are your fears?

SJL:Not being able to live fully, to let fear beat me and consequently go through life, but not necessarily, being present and conscious.

VIP: What makes you feel sad or glad?

SJL:Glad, to be alive. Details make me happy. Those things that maybe we cannot buy, but that fill the soul. Injustice makes me sad, as well as abuse, the lack of voice of those who have had not had opportunities when I see others suffer or living in conditions not taken into account or when people do not show any respect to human dignity.

VIP: Do you have new projects in your folder?

SJL:Yes, I am very excited about a project I have been working for already a year. I cannot share details right now, but I can say that I am thrilled to share with the team with which I am currently working. I feel privileged to embark in this creative journey with professionals of the highest level and filled with a sensibility that will definitely be conveyed on the big screen.

VIP: Your greetings to all our readers who have enjoyed your work and that from now on will follow you.

More than greetings, thank you. Thanks for the opportunities life has given me to do what I love. Thanks to my colleagues for their talent and for welcoming me in the projects we have done together and thanks to the the audience that continues to support the Dominican film.