



FIRST EXPELLED STUDENT OF LA ACADEMIA USA: FATIMAT, RESIDENT OF HOUSTON

- Gustavo, from Los Angeles, is the great surprise of the evening
- María Conchita Alonso joins the La Academia USA judging panel

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Mexico City, Nov. 29, 2005- The second live concert of La Academia USA was full of surprises and contrasts as the acclaimed singer and actress María Conchita Alonso joined the judging panel of La Academia USA together with Lolita Cortés, Arturo López Gavito and Adrián Pieragostino.

In an evening full of harsh critiques of performances by **Frankie**, of Puerto Rican ancestry and resident of Dubuque Iowa with his interpretation of "Visa por un Sueño," "**El Chino**" (Alejandro) from Sacramento, with "Torero" and **Gabriel** from Miami with "Presumida," the surprises of the evening were **Adán**, from Chicago, with his rendition of "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" **Diana**, from Chula Vista, with "Quién Como Tú" and **Nohelia**, from Miami, with "En El Último Lugar del Mundo."

The evening was kicked off with the 18 contestants presenting a powerful rendition of the La Academia theme song.

The solo performances began with **Jazmín**, from Salt Lake City, singing "Bandolero." Despite a good effort, the judging panel was not forgiving with her lack of breathing control, which they attributed to a lack of physical condition.

Next were **Catalina**, from Miami, with "Hasta el Fin del Mundo", **Iván**, from Phoenix, with "Valió la Pena," **Carlos**, from Santa Ana, with "Como te Voy a Olvidar" and **Bianca** from Dallas, with "Te Aprovechas."

As for Bianca, the comment from the judge Arturo López Gavito was as follows:

“There’s one thing saving you this evening, and that’s the attitude and confidence that you bring to the stage and the honor you do to your homeland (Mexico). But this is not a Miss Universe pageant. Transform this attitude into song, and you will see some interesting results.”

Despite a very strong showing during concert one, the judges were harsh with **Afid**, from Houston this week. “El Oso,” as he is known to his fellow students, was perhaps doomed to over-confidence with his version of “México Lindo y Querido”.

A big change for the positive was with **Michael**, from **San Antonio**, who was sporting a new look with darker and shorter hair, which appeared to have a reverse Samson effect. The performance left the judge Lolita Cortés in awe:

“Michael... you look great. You were reborn, with new energy, a voice that is no longer breaking up, and much better Spanish. You’re looking and moving great... You’re back!”

But the men were not the only provocative entertainers. **Heloísa**, born in Brazil and resident of Seattle Washington, won over Adrián Pieragostino’s heart with her sensuous rendition of “Hijo de la Luna”.

“Heloísa, Heloísa, Heloísa... you’re looking very good this evening. There was an incredible improvement this week. Here we have a woman who may not have the strongest voice, but nevertheless gave a very good performance.”

The performances closed on an uplifting note as **Gustavo**, from Santa Ana, presented an excellent rendition of “Mujeres Divinas,” worthy of a standing ovation from the crowd and very positive comments from the judging panel, especially considering his mediocre performance the prior week.

At the end of the evening, when Alan Tacher opened the envelope, it was Fatimat, from Houston, who was asked to leave La Academia USA.

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