

# Career Achievement Award **Betty Kaplan**

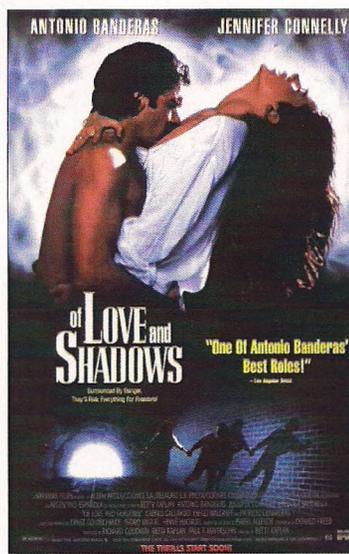


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**B**etty Kaplan is one of the few internationally acclaimed Latinas who is truly bi-cultural, having been born in the United States (New York City) and raised in Venezuela (Caracas). Ms. Kaplan is comfortable both in Spanish and English.

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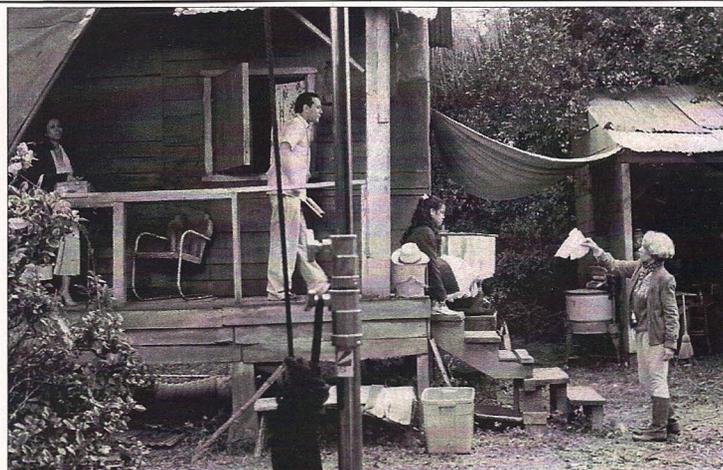
Her first film *Of Love And Shadows* was based on Isabel Allendes' best selling novel



20 2010 Reel Rasquache Art & Film Festival



On the set with Juan Fernandez, Jorge Perugorria and Diego Mantilla

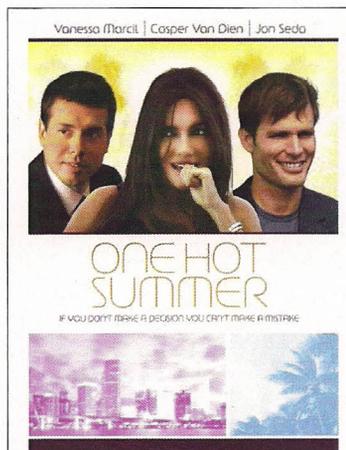


Betty directing Ana Maria Lagasca, Angelo Pagan and Wanda de Jesus in the KCET's Peabody Award winning film *Almost a Woman*

and starred Antonio Banderas and Jennifer Connelly, in one of her first grown up roles. Miramax Films and Disney released it. Sold all over the world, the film received both critical acclaim and audience approval. Her second film, *Doña Barbara* is based on Venezuela's *Gone With The Wind*. This Latin American classic was released by Universal and inaugurated Eddie Olmos' Premiere Latino International Film Festival to a sold out audience. It also introduced Univision's new Premiere movie series to an all time "high rating."

Kaplan's third film *Almost A Woman* based on Esmeralda Santiago's book won the Peabody Award for "a powerful evocative new rendering of one of the most important American stories". It was the first Latino-themed movie in forty years for Exxon Mobil Masterpiece Theatre. She also directed Lifetime's *The Division*, her episode earning the highest rating in the history of the series. She has just directed for Dick Wolf's *Law & Order, Criminal Intent, Legacy*, which aired to record ratings. Her film *One Hot Summer* for Maya Productions and Lifetime just delighted audiences and broadcasters.

Before moving to the U.S. Betty directed the highest rated mini-series in the history of Venezuelan Television, which was the story of Simon Bolivar. It aired in all the Bolivarian countries to resounding accolades and success. A series of fourteen-docudramas on the lives of Latin American writers was written and directed by Betty in



France, Spain, Venezuela, Peru, England and Nicaragua; it won the coveted Guacaipuro de Oro.

Ms. Kaplan has also directed numerous short films, music videos, commercials, documentaries—She studied film production at New York University and the Film Institute; acting with Sonia Moore and has a BA in Communications from the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in Caracas. She studied Ballet with Nina Novak of the Ballet Russe de Montecarlo, performed in the theater as a child and toured internationally as a dancer. She is currently Co-chair of the Director's Guild of America's Latino Committee. **RR**