

I Don't Want To Talk

About It by Adrián Carrasco

"To make a film is always an adventure and a defiance"

—**María Luisa Bemberg**

I Don't Want To Talk About It (*De Eso No Se Habla*), the new film of Argentinean Director María Luisa Bemberg will be playing at the Opera Plaza Cinema starting on November 11. Bemberg received international acclaim with her Academy Award nominated *Camila* (1984) and later with *Miss July* (1986) and established herself as the first successful women director in the Argentine film industry. Throughout her career, she has developed a distinct cinematic voice often writing her own scripts and directing them. Her films often include references to her aristocratic upbringing and offer a critical view of the local oligarchy lifestyle. She has established herself as a woman director by imprinting her films with a feminist perception that questions the traditional roles of Argentine society and reveals women's influence in every day life.

I Don't Want To Talk About It, is a film that began when Julio Llinas, a unknown writer sent Bemberg 20 typewritten pages telling the story of Charlotte, a young talented dwarf living in a provincial town in search of her own identity. The director immediately felt compelled to make a film about it since for her Charlotte is a metaphor for all of us who are in one way or another different from the rest. Due to her mother's unwillingness to accept her daughter's handicap, Charlotte is raised with all references to dwarfs eliminated by her mother who in a rage buries a neighbor's plaster yard seven dwarfs burns all children tales that mention size or abnormality and imposes a permanent ban on the subject to the people of the town. Bemberg suc-



—**María Luisa Bemberg**

cessfully illustrates the claustrophobic pace of a pre-Peron village complete with a disabled mayor, a condescending priest and a macho general. Marcello Mastroianni plays Ludovico D'Andrea, an eccentric and well-traveled foreigner who not surprisingly falls in love with the intelligent Charlotte. Over the years, she is the only one that really understands him and shares his interests in the wonders of the world, when he talks about his past,

she dreams about her future, and after seeing her riding in a white horse, Ludovico falls irremediably in love with her. After escaping in horror from the town he is drawn back by his passion and to the astonishment of the society, asks Doña Leonor, the mother (Lusina Brando) for Charlotte's hand. Although their marriage is finally accepted by the people and Ludovico becomes the mayor, one day everything changes when he defies Doña Leonor and lets a circus come to town. In spite of the mother's pleas not to let Charlotte

go to the performance and her apparent indifference to the event, at the end of a stormy night, Charlotte leave the marital bed and compelled with curiosity drifts towards the circus where she meets other dwarfs and decides to join them in their act. The next day she leads the circus parade atop her white horse riding in public for the first time and leaves the town forever.

This film is a needed reminder of the importance of allowing the other to flourish. *Vive la difference!*

Cambio!
11/94.