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Bemberg remembered

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The late María Luisa Bemberg is being hailed as one of the greatest women movie-makers in the world. London's National Film Theatre, as part of its October 10-19 festival "The 50 best films made by women," is showing a retrospective of all her work.

On October 7, British art critic John King organized the International Symposium on Argentine Filmmaker María Luisa Bemberg at the Warwick University, in conjunction with the festival.

Born into a very rich family, Bemberg had a conventional upbringing. She married an architect and dedicated the early part of her adulthood to marriage and her four children. She became a scriptwriter at 48, divorced and set up the Teatro del Globo theatre company with theatrical agent Catalina Wulff. Her first two screenplays - *Crónica de una Señora* (1970) and *Triangular de Cuatro* (1975) - were successful but not what she had intended, so she got behind the camera herself, at age 59.

She became internationally known with her third feature, *Camila* (1984), which was nominated for an Oscar for best foreign film.



María Luisa Bemberg.

(File photo)

Subsequent films were *Miss Mary* (1986) starring Julie Christie, *I, The Worst of All* (1990), based on the life of 17th century Mexican nun Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz, and *We Don't Want To Talk About It* (1992), starring Marcello Mastroianni. When she died on May 7, 1995, she had just completed another screenplay, *Un Extraño Verano*, based on a short story by Silvina Ocampo.

"Everybody who ever worked with María Luisa wanted to do so again," recalled Julie Christie. "She was an inspired woman, a marvellous person with great talent who made her own way in cinema. Considering the age at which she began making films, her merit is doubly important, a real example of tenacity. She had a great sense of humour and was a great friend."