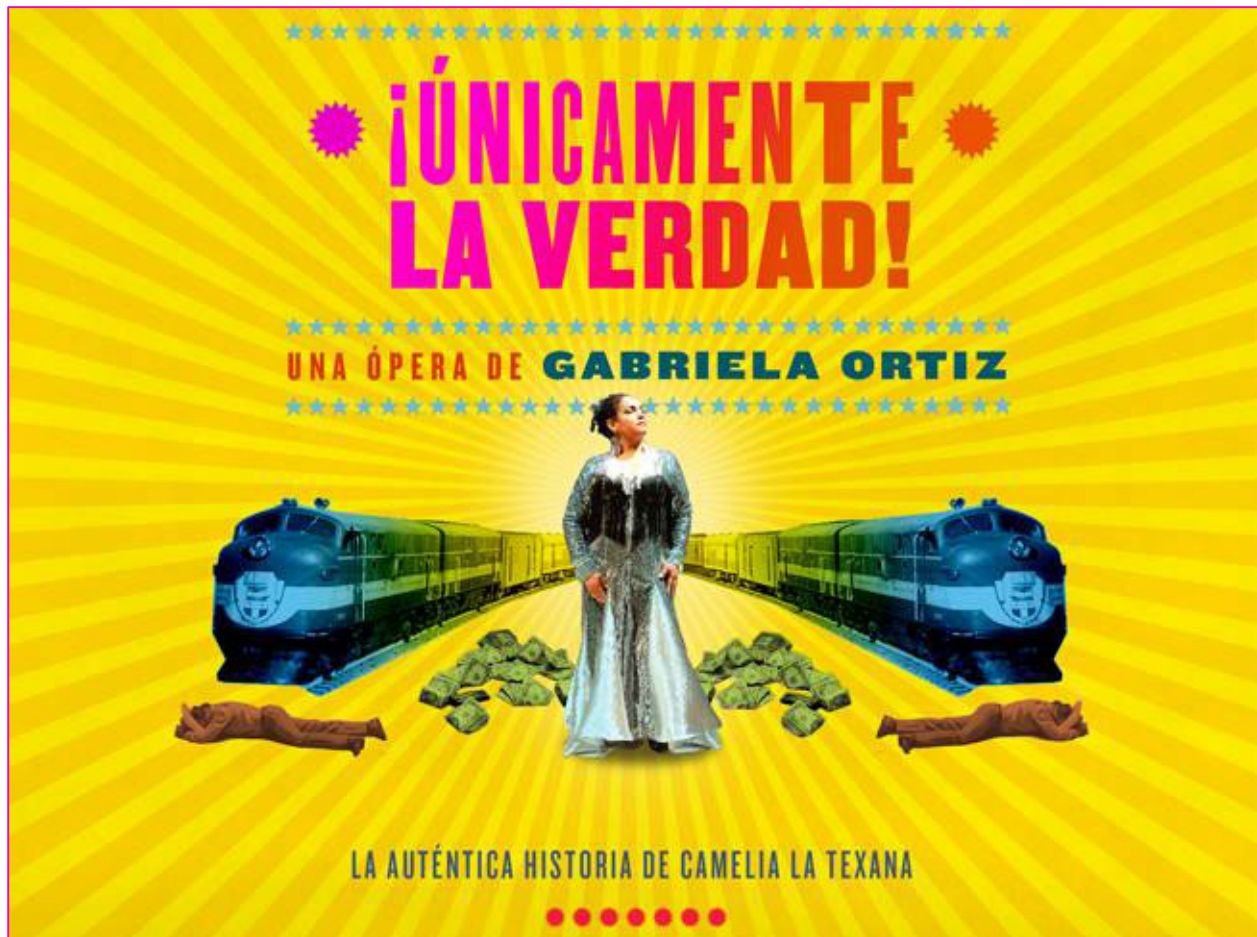


"The libretto holds power and poetry. The music, ranging stylistically from exotic avant-garde to lyrical, fits the subject marvelously. The visual elements called for provide an atmosphere at once real and surreal." --Peter Jacobi, Bloomington Herald Times



ONLY THE TRUTH!

The Real Story of Camelia La Tejana

An opera by Gabriela Ortiz

Libretto by Rubén Ortiz Torres

Outlaws. Love. Deceit. **ONLY THE TRUTH** (*¡Únicamente La Verdad!*) is based on a popular Mexican ballad, "*Contrabando y Traicion*" (Smuggling and Betrayal). This docu-opera, lifted from the headlines, follows Camelia la Tejana and her lover as they smuggle drugs across the border to Los Angeles. The payoff becomes a deadly showdown! Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz creates a pulsing score that fuses classical and Mexican influences.

Principal Roles

Camelia la Tejana – soprano
Escritor – baritone
Periodista – tenor
Compositor/Blogger/Senor – baritone
El Tigre – tenor

Instrumentation

winds
strings
accordion
guitar
percussion

Language: Spanish

Synopsis

For many years now Mexicans everywhere have known about Camelia "La Tejana," who was the subject of three *corridos* popularized by the famous band "Los Tigres del Norte." Unlike women in other *corridos*, Camelia had dared to kill one Emilio Varela, the lover who betrayed her after they smuggled drugs over the border together. Many years later, another man commits suicide by lying on the train tracks in the Mexican town Ciudad Juarez. As soon as this takes place, the tabloid "El Alarma," claiming to report "only the truth" reveals that Camelia is not a myth and that she may have something to do with the man's death. While the media, the public, and many men revel in their ties to Camelia, her myth and her reality; a journalist is intent on finding the truth behind it all.

Performances

US Premiere, Long Beach Opera, March 2013
World Premiere, Mexico City Opera, March 2010
Workshop production, Indiana university, 2007

Web presence

Video trailer for Long Beach Opera production

- <https://vimeo.com/113422400>

NPR article

- <http://www.npr.org/2014/11/20/365473557/only-the-truth-gets-at-reality-through-legend>

Opera Today interview with Ortiz

- http://www.operatoday.com/content/2010/02/gabriela_ortiz_.php

About Gabriela Ortiz

Gabriela Ortiz is one of the foremost composers in Mexico today, and one of the most vibrant musicians emerging in the international scene. Her musical language achieves an extraordinary and expressive synthesis of tradition and the avant-garde; combining high art, folk music, and jazz in novel, frequently refined, and always personal ways. Her compositions are credited for being both entertaining and immediate as well as profound and sophisticated; she achieves a balance between highly organized structure and improvisatory spontaneity. In 2016 Ortiz was honored with the National Prize for Arts and Literature of Mexico, the highest award that any artist in Mexico can receive. Although based in Mexico, her music is commissioned and performed all over the world.

Contact

Barbara Scales
(514) 276-2694
scalesb@latitude45arts.com
www.Latitude45arts.com

