

# **Introducing María Novaro**

# Novaro: Early Career

- Born 1951
- Studied sociology at National Autonomous University of Mexico in mid 1970s
- Involvement with Cine-Mujer (1979-1981) leads to study at Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematográficos from 1980-1985
- Made shorts films while at school
- Worked as sound mixer and cinematographer, then assistant director to Alberto Cortés (*Love Around the Corner*, 1985)
- First feature, *Lola* (1989), focusing on neglectful, street-vendor single mother



Image source: [Course Blog for Feminist Film/Media Studies](#)

# Women in the Mexican Film Industry, 1970s-1980s

- Colectivo Cine-Mujer forms in 1975 (disbands 1986)
- Two main film schools, Centro Universitario de Estudios Cinematográficos (CUEC) and the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC) receive increased funding, admit more female students and allow independent film production
- Film unions, which had restrictive rules regarding female participation, declined in influence as President Luís Echeverría Alvarez (1970-76) restructured film industry



Image source: Juarez

# *Danzón* (1991)

- Premiered at Cannes Director's Fortnight (1991)
- Festival awards for film and Novaro
- Profitable art-house film distributed internationally
- Look for: Elements of *mise-en-scène*



Image source: [Movie Maker](#)



# Other Feature Films

- *El Jardín del Edén* (1994)
- *Sin Dejar Huella* (2000)
- *Las Buenas Yervas* (2010)
- Focus on borderlands and women “on the margins”



Still from *Sin Dejar Huella* (2000). Image source: [FilmInc](#)