

Chapter 1 : El cantante () - IMDb

Héctor Juan Pérez Martínez (30 September - 29 June), better known as Héctor Lavoe, was a Puerto Rican salsa singer. Lavoe is considered to be possibly the best and most important singer and interpreter in the history of the salsa music because it helped to establish the popularity of this musical genre in the decades of s, s and s.

It was my enjoyment to recognize, through the development of the movie, the faces of those who stand to me as Salsa icons on their own right: Ismael Miranda, Domingo Qui?? The ever-outspoken Willie Colon, for example, is quoted by the L. Instead they did another movie about two Puerto Rican junkies. While I understand that having known Hector Lavoe intimately gives Willie Colon and a few others an insight the rest of us will never have, I believe the exposure that this movie is giving to this music we love, to our Salsa musicians and dancers, and to our Latin actors and producers, is priceless. It is not often that I get goose bumps during a movie at the sound of La Lupe singing in the background, or at a representation of what it would have been to see Hector Lavoe up on stage acclaimed by thousands. Hector Lavoe, along with a magnificent voice, had a knack for trouble. He became a heroin addict, which is, no matter how one may put it, an ugly addiction. Perhaps that bittersweet combination even helped turn Hector Lavoe into the icon he is. In my opinion, a movie of Hector Lavoe without the depiction of his troubled life would have resulted in a CD turned DVD of one song after another, and that already exists out there. I say that, for purposes of exposure, it is necessary to have Jennifer Lopez be a main character. Her name is bringing into the theaters people who would not have watched it otherwise. This film could have been only a cult movie, but with her name attached to it, it has an actual chance of mainstream exposure. I had a conversation with the webmaster of a popular Latino L. Well, all of the above will at least have an idea of him after watching this film. Were we expecting Victor Manuelle to sound like Ruben Blades too? One great decision made was the subtitles provided for the lyrics of the songs. It gives the non-Spanish speakers the important knowledge that those songs are more than tra-la-las; that they have lyrics that deliver a message. The film is, in my opinion, a should-watch for the Latino community, and an absolute must for the Salsa lovers. Anything we do about Latin music is good for Latin music.

Chapter 2 : Héctor Lavoe | Biography & History | AllMusic

The Hector Lavoe Story was originally published in Due to popular demand the book was translated in Spanish. Since the Spanish version had new graphics and photographs, the need for a new English version emerged.

There is poverty, broken home, limited education, world-wide successful singing career, drug abuse and the tragedies which started with the loss of his mother when he was a young child, and needed her most, followed by his brothers death from a drug overdose on the streets of New York. Lavoe is one of the most interesting and complex Latin music performers; a man of basically simple values who has lived a roller coaster life of wondrous career highs and devastating personal tragic lows. Lavoe s intense need for recognition and the motivational factors that drove him are clues to the events that determined his life s path. Lavoe s burning ambition and quest for recognition was so intense that the swore to let nothing stop him from attaining it. I have something to prove! To better understand Lavoe, the artist, the man and his life, we must examine the various aspects of his background people, things and events during his early formative years, that influenced his life and helped mold the Hector Lavoe we know today. To do this we have to start at the very beginning. Hector comes from a musical family that he says were also a bit wacky. His grandfather Don Juan Martinez sang controversies which often went from vocal conflict to physical confrontations. An uncle that was considered one of Ponce s best Tres players, spent most of his time playing "serenatas" around town and accumulating enemies. His mother Pachita also sang and according to the family and townspeople, sang beautifully. His father Luis supported his wife and eight children by singing and playing guitar with trios and big bands. Perez s influence that spurred six year old Hector to sit by the radio and shout out "jibaro" songs along with his then favorite singer, Chuito El De Bayamon. Hector started out playing the saxophone but soon lost interest because he felt he wasn t good enough. He would have taken more of an interest if he could have only played as good as child prodigy Papo Lucca played the piano. His father sent him off to school against his will and after six months of playing hockey, Hector was expelled. One day his father asked him what lesson he was going to and Hector replied, "the one at 12 noon! He gave me a tremendous whack and said How can you go to a lesson when you were thrown out? So he forced me to go back to school. Hector felt he wasn t accomplishing anything and dropped out of school. Having made up his mind, Hector enthusiastically announced his plans to his father, but instead of giving him his blessings, Don Luis strongly objected to Hector s plans and desperately tried to discourage him. I absolutely forbid you to go. Despite his father s objections, on May 3., Lavoe boarded a plane to New York to pursue his dream of attaining fame and fortune. On the jet and for many years after, Lavoe was haunted by the threatening and hurtful last words of his father, "If you go to New York, forget you have a father! His goal was to earn a lot of money even if it meant working in a factory so that someday he could return to Ponce a rich man. His main purpose was to gain his fathers respect by becoming a successful person that his father would be proud of. Awaiting Hector s arrival in New York was his sister Priscilla. When she saw his pound, 5ft 8inchs scrawny physique, Priscillas first thought was to feed him but Hector wasn t interested in food. The first thing he wanted to do was see El Barrio, that mecca of New York Puerto Rican culture that he had heard so much about. A look of disappointment soon swept across his face as they drove through the streets of Spanish Harlem. Hector was shocked and greatly disappointed as the reality of garbage strewn streets and six story weather-beaten brick tenement buildings quickly wiped away the preconceived vision she had of fancy Cadillacs, tall marble skyscrapers and tree lined streets. He found his sisters Bryant Avenue apartment in The Bronx to be much better. A week after arriving in New York, he was visited by Roberto Garcia, a musician and childhood friend who invited him to the rehearsal of a sextet that was being formed. At the rehearsal, the sextet was playing the romantic bolero Tus Ojos, which the vocalist was singing badly. As a good will gesture, Lavoe volunteered to show the vocalist how it was supposed to sound. After hearing Hector sing a few stanzas, the musicians looked at each other realizing that Hector was just what the group needed and they immediately offered him the job as vocalist. Once Lavoe was heard, other jobs with better known groups quickly followed. He also worked for two weeks with Johnny Pacheco before being introduced to Willie Colon in February This was to

become a historical meeting, which would launch the careers of two of Salsas brightest stars. Johnny Pacheco, co-owner of Fania Records and its recording musical director, arranged for Lavoe to record with Willie Colon on his first album "El Malo. Hector shared the same views but after listening to the playback of the tunes "Chongum," "Quimbombon and "Jazzy," he quickly changed his opinion of the band. According to Hector, Willie never officially asked him to join the band. After the recording, Willie just said to him, "On Saturday we start at 10 p. The unexpected success of that first album radically changed the lives of both Colon and Lavoe. Hector received instant recognition, steady work and enough money to provide a comfortable life style. But according to Lavoe, it all happened so fast that he didnt know how to handle or cope with all the sudden success. Consequently, he developed a serious drug problem and began showing late for gigs. Eventually he didnt even show at all and Willie was forced to fire him. I love Willie like a brother. He took a lot of crap from me but he never gave up on me. No one had ever taken an interest in me the way Willie did. My friendship with Willie is one that I could never break. Willie had decided to broaden his musical potential and disbanded the group. He gave Hector the option of keeping the musicians together by becoming leader of his own band. It was a turbulent period for Lavoe feeling that Willie had abandoned him. He had to deal with his deep-rooted insecurities and the hurt he felt from being betrayed by Willie, the man he loved like a brother and the person he most depended on. When quizzed on the subject in a Latin N. I guess he was trying to figure out a way of telling me. I waited for Willie for over two months before cutting La Voz, my first solo album. Willie didnt play on my recordings after that, but he did continue with me as producer. After the success of the La Voz album, Willie told me that I was ready to lead my own band, so I went ahead and did it. At first I was hurt, but I soon realized the split up had its purpose; it was a test! I had to prove that I could go at it alone. Just in case, one day one of us wasnt around. Thank God, we both came out all right. The split actually helped me gain confidence in myself. Since then, he has traveled around the world with his Conjunto as well as with the Fania All-Stars. He has performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls featuring Salsa, as well as Jazz events like the Newport Jazz Festival. His recordings have also garnered him many awards and gold albums. Hector Lavoe s success is attributed to his unique Jibaro Salsa flavor. Unlike many Puerto Ricans, he does not resent being called a "Hick" and in fact he embraces the term proudly proclaiming, "Soy un Jibaro. A perfect example is the tune he wrote "Paraiso de la Dulzura" from his first solo album. Lavoe has managed to achieve all of his early ambitious goals of attaining worldwide fame, fortune and recognition. And though he firmly established himself along with a successful singing career within a relative short period of time, it would take many more years for Lavoe to finally achieve his personal goal of a reconciliation with his father. That day finally came on one of his many trips to the Island when he gathered enough courage to visit his father. To Hector s surprise and delight, Don Luis received him with open arms. Born with a special talent and driven with a passionate ambition to make something of himself, Hector has attained the personal and career goals he set for himself on that first plane trip to New York. On a personal emotional level, he was finally able to work out the differences with his father and gained the respect he so desperately sought and needed from him. It was of great importance and satisfaction because it was the very core of his underlying thoughts and motivation, "I have something to prove! Professionally, Lavoe has surpassed his original quest for the fame, fortune and recognition he so fervently pursued. He has even attained the status of being recognized as a legend in his own time. A status which very few men reach while they are still as young. Lavoe s life is full of great artistic triumphs; a legacy that he leaves the world. For it is his artistry as a singer that the people will listen to, and remember for many years long after he is gone. If this were someone elses story, it would be a happy ending story. A rags to riches story. A poor Puerto Rican Jibarito boy, born with a unique gift for singing who ends up being loved and recognized by audiences around the globe. Unfortunately, this is the story of Hector Lavoe and not a happy ending fairy tale. His story is that of a man whose life has been plagued by tragic events, a life of emotional turmoil and pain. The Hector Perez Lavoe story is a tragedy. The loss of his mother when he needed her most. The drug overdose death of his brother on the streets of New York that continued to cause the family many painful years of emotional conflicts and constant fear. The fear that Hector might also end up dead on a city street is why his father Don Luis tried so desperately to stop Hector from going to New York. Ironically, there were quite a few times when Hectors drug problem brought him very close to making his

fathers worst fears become a reality. For example, the time that he was brutally beaten and robbed of his jewelry. Another tragedy was the fire that destroyed his home in Queens and almost wiped out his entire family. Yet another, was the brutal murder of his mother-in-law. But I imagine that no tragedy could have ever been more difficult or more painful for Hector to endure than the death of his year-old son who was accidentally shot by a friend. All those tragedies and many others, must have sapped Lavoe's will to live, and may help to explain why he jumped from a hotel window in Puerto Rico, a fall from which he never fully recovered.

Chapter 3 : LatinoLA | A&E :: The Drama of Hector Lavoe's Life

Hector LaVoe is a character of mystery, humor, tragedy, and intrigue. I wanted to learn more about why he did the things he did and why so many unfortunate destinies followed him and ultimately destroyed him.

Chapter 4 : THE KING - Official Trailer on Vimeo

This is the newly revised version of The Hector Lavoe Story. We had the privilege to have this English version edited by Interior Design's senior editor Monica Geran. The book includes clear beautiful graphics and drawings. It chronicles the rise and fall of a singing sensation and covers the.

Chapter 5 : Lavoe () - IMDb

This feature is not available right now. Please try again later.

Chapter 6 : Smashwords â€œ The Singer, Hector Lavoe â€œ a book by Antonio Mejias

Category Music; Song Somewhere Out There - FirstCom; Artist Bruce Chianese, Geoff Levin; Album AMQ_Intense Dramatic Themes; Licensed to YouTube by.

Chapter 7 : Joe Cuba | Hector Lavoe Biography | Latin Musicians

The Singer, Hector Lavoe is a tragedy of Latin America's favorite Salsa singer, "El Cantante de los Cantantes." The story outlines his rise and fall, while covering the culture, romance, tragic accidents, "Santerismo," drug abuse and the AIDS affliction he endured.

Chapter 8 : The Hector Lavoe Story: by JosÃ© PÃ©rez

While Hector Lavoe was alive, he was honored with celebrity status as the Singer of Singers, "El Cantante de Los Cantantes." In spite of the tragic elements of his life, many echoed the sentiment that he had achieved legendary fame in his own time.

Chapter 9 : Hector Lavoe Biography | Latin Musicians | Joe Cuba

Hector Lavoe Biography: this is a story of a complex personality. When you analyze the character of Joe Cuba, you are able to envision the innovative artist.