

EL CAMARONCITO: THE DEVIL'S DANCE  
PROOF OF CONCEPT

Written by

Arturo Javier Mireles

An original screenplay  
Based on San Antonio's El Camaroncito folklore.

INT. LA GLORIA DANCE HALL - EVENING

On the DANCE FLOOR of the SMOKEY SPEAKEASY LOUNGE, a PIANO trills as FLAPPERS dance various moves like: The BLACK BOTTOM, The TEXAS TOMMY, the FOX TROT and The CHARLESTON.

SUPERIMPOSE: San Antonio, TX - 1920s

JUANITO CASTILLO (33) A BLIND PIANIST tickling the KEYS, enjoys the high that comes with playing music. He is SURROUNDED by PATRONS astonished by his performance.

JUANITO

Thank you, thank you!

(then)

Come back to see me, I'm here every night.

The Pianists concludes the song and everyone drinks and applauds. He begins a new composition.

JUANITO (CONT'D)

Here's an oldie, but goodie.

**CUE: Suite Andalusia - Cordoba**

A Transition of dancers shifts on the floor. People stunter to the BAR and others to the Dance Floor.

Dancers are spinning and conservatively holding each other with distance between them.

An EMPTY GLASS is placed on the counter.

A HAND SIGNALS with 2 FINGERS.

MARICELA (O.S.)

Dos Margaritas, por favor.

The BARTENDER (45) nods. He is concocting a MARGARITA from scratch.

THREE LIMES are cut IN HALF.

One Lime is squeezed from a HAND JUICER into a STEEL SHAKER.

A SHOT OF TRIPLE SEC is added.

Another Lime gushes into the Shaker.

TEQUILA floods into the Metal Container.

The Last Lime streams into the Steel Shaker.

AGAVE NECTAR cascades into the Steel Capsule.

The Bartender Slams the Steel lid on and vigorously shakes.

He lines each GLASS RIM with lime and buries them in SALT.

He drains the mixture into the glasses. Garnished with ORANGE.

MARICELA ESPINOZA (24), A charming, poised, and gorgeous Mexicana in a RED DRESS WITH A LOW CUT BACK, takes the Margaritas and gives the Bartender an enticing look.

MARICELA (CONT'D)

Gracias, guapo.

He pours them both a shot of Tequila. She accepts and they drink.

Maricela gives him her back and he studies every ridge exposed. She studies the room.

Juanito FINISHES the movement and skips to the final movement.

**CUE: Suite Andalusia - Malagueña**

EL CATRIN, a stylish and dapper man adorned in a THREE PIECE PINSTRIPED TUXEDO, penetrates the doorway with a FOG rolling at his FEET.

EL CATRIN

Who wants to dance?

El Catrin scans the crowd and takes the hand of a lady watching Juanito perform alongside her suitor. El Catrin holds her hip with one hand and digs his hips into hers.

EL CATRIN (CONT'D)

Come here a little closer, Mujer.

Maricela finishes her first Margarita as she watches the dance.

El Catrin is an exceptional dancer and leads her every movement. He spins her as the music trills. But never pulls her to return and lets go as he searches for another dancer.

Fog fills the Dance Floor.

EL CATRIN (CONT'D)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Come here, beautiful.

(MORE)

EL CATRIN (CONT'D)

(then)

Want to dance?

El Catrin catches the hand of another woman and she gladly accepts.

The lady left spinning returns to her boyfriend. She wants to continue dancing, but her suitor oozes jealousy. As they storm out of Dance Hall, the lady looks back at El Catrin.

EL CATRIN (CONT'D)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

See you later, beautiful lady.

El Catrin is watching the couple leave as he is pressed up on his new partner. Their legs intertwined in tempo. El Catrin gives the lady leaving a gentle smile and nod.

The crowd is enthralled by the drama unfolding.

Men in the crowd are now tightly holding their girlfriends and some begin to dance at the perimeter of the Dance Floor. Their women continue to watch the way El Catrin moves.

Maricela slams the final Margarita.

MARICELA

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Oh my God, he's handsome!

Maricela infiltrates the Dance Floor as she struts to El Catrin and steals his hand. Maricela stops El Catrin in his tracks.

MARICELA (CONT'D)

(in Spanish; subtitled)

How are you, cutie?

The woman left on the Dance Floor is met by her previous partner and he tries to mimic moves performed by El Catrin.

EL CATRIN

(in Spanish; subtitled)

Frequently imitated, but I am the original.

Maricela spins herself and presses her backside into El Catrin's hips. She sways with the music and breaks contact. El Catrin snatches her back and tries to lead her.

The two battle for the lead. Maricela presses her body against El Catrin's.

MARICELA  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Ooo, you are a great dancer.

EL CATRIN  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Yes, my doll.

Dancers, foot tappers, and wallflowers are all captivated by the two extravagant dancers compete for dominance.

Streaks of light slow Maricela and El Catrin catches her misstep. He begins to lead.

She finds comfort in his control.

MARICELA  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Take me, my love.

They start dancing faster.

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

The Music drops from *ALLEGRO* to *ADAGIO*, but El Catrin powers through to maintain an *ALLEGRISIMO* tempo.

MARICELA (CONT'D)  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Hey, slow down.

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

Maricela obscures her nausea and slumps her head. Her eyes widen.

MARICELA (CONT'D)  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Please, stop.

EL CATRIN  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 Keep up with me.

Beyond the fog, Maricela sees his feet. Terror surges her face.

MARICELA  
 (in Spanish; subtitled)  
 What the fuck are those?!

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

STOMP STOMP SCRATCH.

She tries to push him away, but is too inebriated.

They spin and Maricela is swept off of her feet.

El Catrin has a CLOVEN HOOF and a CHICKEN CLAW instead of tap-dancing shoes.

The audience is confounded as they detect repulsive body language from Maricela and whisper to one another.

A RED SPADED TAIL emerges from between El Catrin's TAIL COATS. They both spin excessively fast.

EL CATRIN  
(in Spanish; subtitled)  
Come with me, Maricela.

Streaks of light overwhelm Maricela. Her vision is blurred and she is dizzy.

The Crowd stands stunned watching the performance.

POOF!

The two dancers vanish into a CLOUD of SMOKE.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: EL CAMARONCITO - THE DEVIL'S DANCE

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