

## **Short Biography of Sonia Herman Dolz . [www.hastenslowlyfilms.com](http://www.hastenslowlyfilms.com)**

Dutch documentary filmmaker Sonia Herman Dolz was born in Madrid in 1962. She has a Spanish mother and a Czech/Peruvian father. Her parents moved to The Netherlands when she was 3 years old. She was educated in The Netherlands, and in 1984 she graduated at the film-department of the Free Academy in The Hague. Since then she has worked on many different Film- and TV productions in Holland and abroad, both as a director and as a director of photography.

In 1993 her first feature length documentary '**Romance de Valentía**', (**'Only The Brave'**), about the art of bullfighting, was awarded several prizes at international film festivals. From 1993-96 she worked as a director for VPRO-TV's prestigious foreign affairs documentary programme '**Diogenes**'. In 1997 her second feature documentary '**Lágrimas Negras**', (**'Black Tears'**), about the senior Cuban musical band 'La Vieja Trova Santiaguera' touring through Europe, became an international hit and received many awards. In 2000 '**Yo Soy Así**' (**'This Is Me'**) came out, about the very special senior artists of a café chantant in Barcelona called 'La Bodega Bohemia'. This film was internationally acclaimed and awarded, and became a hit especially at Gay & Lesbian filmfestivals. '**The Master and His Pupil**' was made in 2003, a compelling film about the famous Russian conductor Valery Gergiev teaching 3 young conductors the art of transmitting music. It won the first prize at the Golden Prague Festival 2003 for Best Documentary, the Grand Prize for Best Documentary at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York 2004, the 'Golden Statue' 2004 for Arts and Culture in the Netherlands, Best Documentary Award 2004 at the Bergen International Film Festival in Norway and Prix de l'AQCC (Association Québécoise des Critiques) / AQCC Award at the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma in Montréal 2004.

In September 2004 the documentary '**She Came To Win**' about the Dutch popstar Frédérique Spigt was premiered at the Dutch Film Festival in Utrecht and had a theatrical distribution on six 35 mm. copies.

In January 2006 her latest documentary film premièred successfully at the International Rotterdam Film Festival: '**Portrait of Dora Dolz**', about Sonia's mother, the artist Dora Dolz.

In 2005 a retrospective of her films was shown at the International Film Festival of Seville, and in May 2007 the same retrospective was held during Documenta Madrid '07 at the Filmoteca Española of Madrid.

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