



Editorial Review

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LADY OF GUADALUPE

Based on a true story, this 2020 drama takes a novel and successful approach to telling the 16th century story of Juan Diego and Our Lady Guadalupe while telling a modern-day story to provide contemporary relevance and dramatic overlay. Known as the Mother of God, she is said to have appeared to Juan Diego one day in the Mexican desert, and to have then produced a series of miracles, not the least of which was the voluntary conversion of millions of local natives. This event ended the fighting between the Spanish colonialists and the Aztecs, and Our Lady of Guadalupe thus became known as the Bringer of Peace.

This historical recounting is framed by the present-day story of John Martinez (Guillermo Ivan, who also plays Juan Diego), a Latino reporter from Los Angeles who sets out to write about Juan Diego. Director Pedro Brenner uses flashbacks to tell the story and Martinez's discussions with a local priest and expert on the era shed further light on the history. There's a love story component as well as Martinez falls in love with the beautiful Mary (Kimberly Aria Peterson) and their story parallels that of Juan Diego's and his own wife. As the film shifts back and forth between the two stories, John Martinez slowly finds his faith which is paramount to the story's core. Everything about this film is likeable—from the acting, to the storytelling to the positive message that it imparts.

Recommended – C. Atamian for The Sound View