



**INTERVIEW conducted on 26.02.2021**

**INTERVIEW WITH JOSE LUIS RUBIO ZARZUELA  
FOR MAGAZINE DIOGEN PRO CULTURE BY SITI RUQAIYAH  
HASHIM.**

**JOSE LUIS RUBIO ZARZUELA**

**Born near the sea, in the Barrio de la Viña, in Cádiz. Became a teacher and an indignant poet who rebels against the time imposed and just injustices. Published twelve poems books, three written when he was a teenager during the dictatorship. Took part in ten anthologies and poems published in national and international journals, both on paper and digital. Runs a poetry magazine that lately is caught in the crisis and is only published online. I still live by the sea, in Conil, while trying to tame time and make it more bearable**

**SRH: Tell me more about your family, childhood background, schooling and university education.**

**JLRZ: I was born into a working class family. My parents were almost illiterate. But they made it possible for their children to study. A childhood without abundance but without scarcity. I did my primary studies in a religious school, my secondary in a public institute and at the University of Cádiz I studied Teaching.**

SRH: You started writing at very young age. And published poem also when you were very young. Tell me more when you started writing and what influenced you into writing?

**JLRZ: I started writing at age 18, although I didn't publish my first book, Burning crumbs, until 2001. I have also written poems, children's storybooks, short stories, and radio scripts. They (family) encouraged me to write my readings, my social and political concerns, and also the impact that the beauties around me had on me.**

SRH: What are your favorite themes in your poetry? And how did you JLRZ get to write them? What inspired you in all these genres?

**JLRZ: Social and love topics are my favorites although I have also written other topics. The poems are emerging and that is how I am writing them. The world around me inspires me, everything I see and sometimes what I dream or imagine.**

SRH: You are a very prolific writer. Tell me more about your publications from beginning until now.

**JLRZ: I have touched on all the topics. My first three books collect my experiences from my student years. They have a political touch because in those years Franco was still ruling Spain. The fourth, "Unborn (Sin nacer)", I dedicated to my children before and after birth. In the fifth, "Between lights and shadows (Entre luces y sombras)", I included three very different collections of poems: "Waters down (Aguas abajo)", "Wail of a land (Gemido de una tierra)" and "Confessions to the sea". Three poems in one, typical of a moment, of a few years in which I fled from solitude, moaned for Andalusia and took refuge in my great friend, the sea. The sixth, Growing between verses ", was a collaboration with my niece. After this came the seventh: "Those who dance with color (Los que danzan con el color". A book with poems dedicated to paintings. Then came the eighth, " The mirage of the kiss". It is made up of three collections of poems where between the confusion and mirages of the reality that surrounds us, we always stop to be caressed by the brush of lips, the softness of a word or the fury of the wind. Four other books**

**followed: "Talking Clear (Hablando claro)", "Flamenco", "The Sound of Nature" and "Imperfect Mathematics ".**

SRH: What are the challenges faced in being a writer in Spain? And how are you coping with them? Please tell me more about AZAHAR online magazine you had worked on diligently.

**JLRZ: In Spain the writer, especially the poet, finds it difficult to find a Publishing House that publishes his works. All my books have been self-published, which is the way many publishers use.**

**As for the poetic magazine AZAHAR I tell you that it appeared for the first time in 1989 as Poetry Workshop. The financial difficulties were about to make it disappear but I saved it by making it digital. At present, more than 900 poets, from more than 60 countries, publish in it. I have also expanded it with pages in English and an artistic gallery.**

SRH: Your Current and coming writing projects?

**JLRZ: I am currently looking for Editorial to publish some of the poetry books that I have finished and for a book of short stories. For the future, I want to finish other collections of poems and resume a novel that I started in 2020 and of course continue with the poetic magazine AZAHAR and seek new paths for it.**

SRH: What are your hopes and dreams for creation and enhancement of world peace and no-war solutions to solving tensions in conflict zones ?

**JLRZ: For peace in the world to be a reality, I think it would be necessary to close down, put an end to the armament factories, the armies and ensure that wealth is better distributed. It would also be interesting if we all respect each other's ideas. Because the truth belongs to everyone and not to a just a few.**

SRH: Is there any more things you want to add?

**JLRZ: Just add that poets of the world have much to contribute to coexistence and peace. Always ahead. Not a step back. It is not an easy task but if we insist we will achieve it. A hug.**

SRH: Thank you very much, Jose Luis Zarzuela. On behalf of Diogen pro culture magazine, I really appreciate it very much, you took the time and efforts to answer these questions.

**Siti Ruqaiyah Hashim.**  
**Deputy Editor In-Chief of Diogen Pro culture magazine**

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