

PopSyndicate.com

[Kristian Dowling](#)

Sea of Dreams

A mystical tale of old Mexico awaits in *Sea of Dreams*.

By [Gmurray](#) | 09/20/2007 | Filed under [Movies](#)



With more blues than a thousand seaside sunsets comes the Mexican fable *Sea of Dreams*, one of the most beautiful-looking films to grace the screen all year.

The story starts with the rescue of a small girl from the water. Grecia (Sendi Bar) is a local from the Spanish Island village, saved in the boat her father had built for her. The villagers consider this a miracle. Once recovered, the girl seems to have magical powers. If she touches the fishermen's nets, they bring in a bounty of golden fish. She has the ability to find black pearls in the water, a symbol of good luck. But as she gets older, the boys in the village begin to vie for her affections. One night Grecia goes swimming and a local lad follows. As he tries to kiss her, the sea turns black and the boy disappears. A matron (Sonia Braga) decries that the sea has laid claim to the young woman and that the sea will kill any man who proclaims to love her.

It is twenty or so years later and a young photographer (Jonathon Schaech) has come to the island village to document the places where his deceased father painted. One of the first pictures he takes is of the young woman Grecia. He is smitten by this beauty and begins to find out about her. Everyone in the village spurns her. She and her grandmother live alone near the water.

But, not everyone hates Grecia. Sebastian is the brother of the drown victim. He loves Grecia but is afraid to proclaim his love for her. He is a bit awkward, both physically and emotionally. He is more like a loving puppy than a serious suitor. She shows signs of affection for him, but it could be that she just longs for anyone to show her attentions.

The photographer doesn't believe in curses or magic. He is a logical man and has come to this quiet place to find a wife. And that wife is to be Grecia. The film becomes a triangle of two men trying to impress a woman. While this goes on, the sea shows signs of disapproval. It is coincidence or is something magical afoot? The balance between science and supernatural is the driving force behind *Sea of Dreams*.

The film literally jumps from the screen is a wash of color. Jose Bojorquez loads his cinematic paintbrush and sprays his moving canvas with exploding hues. This is like a loving postcard, depicting a place in tender terms.

One of the brilliant things about the story is that it never truly telegraphs the ending. As a writer, Bojorquez has not only given his audience interesting characters but a story that has no easy answers. While the ultimate ending makes narrative sense, it also comes across as a surprise.

Although all of the actors do fine jobs, three performances just stand out. First of all Braga still gets that loving caress from the camera. Here she plays a grandmother but still looks perfect. The performance calls for her to be cold and menacing, which she does with icy supremacy. I thought that Schaech, as our voice of reason, was ideally cast. With those matinee idol good looks, he should do well on the silver screen. But the biggest praises have to go to Bar as Grecia. Not only is she one of the freshest faces of 2007, she gives a performance that is equally heartbreaking and heart-filled. In her every scene, she just lights up the proceedings.

Sea of Dreams is a different movie experience and one of the best September releases. For those willing to take a cinematic chance, take a dip into this little gem.

