

Citation for Doctor Honoris Causa  
Jose Antonio Dominguez Bandera, (Antonio BANDERA)  
written by Grace Jarvis Macy, 2000 Carlisle, PA  
Dickinson College

**José Antonio Dominguez Bandera** we honor you today as an international actor,  
as a citizen of the world who has lived and embraced two languages and two  
cultures, as a model of the message that art is truly universal, and knows no  
borders.

You are the son/sun of José and Ana, and of Andalucia. You were raised in the  
warmth of the "sol" of Málaga, "cuidad de paraiso" protected by the mountains,  
and opened to the sea. You chose to reach out across the Mediterranean, to take a  
dramatic leap across the cavernous divide of "despeñaperros", the border that  
separates Andalucia and Castilla, the provinces from the capital.

Your classical training in the School of Dramatic Arts in Málaga in the late '70's  
during politically conservative times gave you the base of strength and confidence  
as well as the desire in 1981 to dare cross that rocky divide that led to theatrical  
roles in the Centro Dramático Nacional in Madrid.

You came of age artistically as Spain's transition to the democracy took shape.

You participated fully in the newly acquired freedoms and liberties of the modern  
Spain of the 1980's. You collaborated with such avant-garde film directors as  
Carlos Saura (*Los zancos*), Betriu (*Requiem por un Campesino Español*) and  
several films with your dear friend and Oscar winning director, Pedro Almodovar,

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{*Matador, Átame , La ley del deseo, Mujeres al Borde de un Ataque de Nervios ,*  
directing you in Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown ,among others.

Crossing the Atlantic you ventured into the New World. In your first film in the United States, *Mambo Kings*, you memorized your lines phonetically because you did not know English. That was 1992, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of another cultural encounter, another frontier crossed, new languages learned, new ideas exchanged.

In Hollywood you have had interviews with vampires, your dark eyes have pierced the mask of Zorro, you have embraced a Philadelphian lover dying of AIDS, and you have sung songs of Argentina's past while dreaming of the future. You are living under Lorca's green moon on both sides of the Atlantic accompanied by your lovely wife and partner Melanie.

With your Green Moon production company you continue the exploration, the direction of films, always seeking other frontiers to cross. You have engaged the world and we embrace you as a model global citizen of this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mr. President, it is a privilege to present to you

**José Antonio Dominguez Bandera** for the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts.