

= Graduados =

Graduados ( English : The Graduates ) is a 2012 Argentine telenovela which was broadcast by Telefe from March 12 to December 19 . The plot concerns a group of people who graduated from high school in 1989 and reunite twenty years later . The main character , Andrés Goddzer ( Daniel Hendler ) , discovers that María Laura Falsini ( Nancy Dupláa ) was pregnant in 1989 and married Pablo Catáneo ( Luciano Cáceres ) , who thought that he was the child 's father . The resulting parental dispute , the love triangle of the main characters and 1980s nostalgia are frequent plot elements , and story arcs related to school bullying and LGBT rights are also featured . The frequent flashbacks of the characters to their high @-@ school days use the same actors , playing teenagers .

The series , written by Sebastián Ortega , was produced by Endemol and Underground producciones . Although Andy Kusnetzoff was offered the lead @-@ character role , Hendler was cast when Kusnetzoff turned it down ( the latter joined the cast several months later as another character ) . The telenovela featured cameos and guest appearances by Argentine rock musicians and other celebrities . Graduados was widely successful , prevailing in the ratings over the blockbuster competitive dance program Showmatch and the telenovela Sos mi hombre . Although it received the 2012 Golden Martín Fierro award , seven other Martín Fierro Awards and ten Tato Awards ( including Program of the Year ) , plans for theatrical and film adaptations were abandoned . The telenovela 's proposed second season was renamed Viudas e hijos del Rock and Roll , with most of the cast and similar storylines . Local versions of the series have been made in Chile , Colombia and Greece .

= = Plot = =

A group of high @-@ school students graduates in 1989 . María Laura Falsini ( Nancy Dupláa ) is the girlfriend of Pablo Catáneo ( Luciano Cáceres ) , the school bully . When María Laura sees Pablo having sex in the bathroom with another girl during the graduation party , she leaves the party . Andrés Goddzer ( Daniel Hendler ) accompanies her , and they have sex in his car . María Laura becomes pregnant and her father , Clemente Falsini ( Juan Leyrado ) , owner of McCan , a successful dog @-@ food company , orders her to marry Pablo ? unaware of her encounter with Andrés .

The first episode then makes a timeskip from 1989 to 2012 . Pablo works for Clemente 's company , and Andrés is a slacker without a stable job who works as dog walker . María Laura hires Andrés by chance , and remembers their 1989 encounter ; a DNA test confirms that Andrés ( not Pablo ) is the father of her son , Martín . These events give the series its basic plot : Andrés tries to adjust to his newly discovered paternity , Pablo resents his intrusion , Martín tries to stay on good terms with both of them and María Laura begins a romance with Andrés . Pablo cheats on her with Patricia Longo ( Isabel Macedo ) , Clemente 's wife and secretary . She becomes pregnant by Pablo , but claims that Clemente is her son 's father .

Andrés ' family is Jewish . His parents are Elías ( Roberto Carnaghi ) and Dana ( Mirta Busnelli ) , and his sister Gabriela ( Violeta Urtizberea ) works at McCan and has been unlucky in love . Andrés maintains his friendship with two high @-@ school classmates : Benjamín " Tuca " Pardo ( Mex Urtizberea ) and Verónica Diorio ( Julieta Ortega ) , who runs a radio station which plays 1980s Argentine rock music . María Laura keeps in touch with her best friend in high school : psychiatrist Victoria Lauría ( Paola Barrientos ) , a single woman looking for a couple with whom to have a surrogate child . Guillermo Almada ( Juan Gil Navarro ) , another classmate , takes a job at McCan and comes out during a meeting of the graduates . Clemente 's wife Patricia is , unknown to everybody else , another classmate . Obese at school , she lost weight and changed her face and name .

Patricia 's secret is slowly revealed to the other characters . Pablo learns her true identity in the series finale , and they stay together . Andrés and Maria Laura leave the city ; Victoria has a son with Tuca ; Elías and Dana open a knish shop and Gabriela marries her neighbor , Marito ( Alan

Sabbagh ) . The series ends with a party hosted by the school for the 1989 graduates , similar to the graduation party in the first episode .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

Graduados refers frequently to the 1980s ( the decade in which the main characters attended high school ) , using 1980s Argentine slang and flashbacks to evoke nostalgia . The series uses 1980s music ? in particular , Argentine rock ? and several Argentine musicians made cameo appearances . Graduados was part of a trend in 2012 Argentine television toward nostalgia . According to Argentine consumer @-@ trends consultant Ximena Díaz Alarcón , " The 80s are nowadays far enough to be idealized and close enough to laugh about the earlier versions of oneself " . Psychologist and consumer @-@ trends consultant Mariela Mociulsky also suggested that the show 's structure invited viewers to compare their lives with the plans they made when they were younger .

Graduados had scripts written by Ernesto Korovsky , Silvina Frejckes and Alejandro Quesada . Although it was primarily a comedy , it also had a dramatic approach to LGBT rights and school bullying . In Clarín , Adriana Schettini praised its transitions from dramatic to comic scenes , its acting and scripts and its faithfulness to the characters ' profiles .

= = = Creation and cast = = =

Graduados was created by Sebastián Ortega with the working title of El paseaperros ( Spanish : The Dog Walker ) , a planned miniseries about a character and his group of friends . The writers gradually expanded the storyline , incorporating more characters and story arcs . Although Andy Kusnetzoff turned down a starring role in the show because of his work at Radio Metro , he made cameo appearances in six episodes and later became a regular character . Mike Amigorena was offered the lead @-@ protagonist and lead @-@ antagonist roles , but declined both . Relative unknown Daniel Hendler was finally selected to play Andrés ; he had already been cast as the secondary character Tuca , who was played by Mex Urtizberea after Hendler was recast as Andrés . The character of Verónica Diorio was initially written for actress Verónica Lozano , who turned down the role . Julieta Ortega , initially cast as Victoria Lauría , replaced Lozano and Victoria was played by stage actress Paola Barrientos . Érica Rivas and Ludovico Di Santo also turned down roles in the series and their characters were played by Nancy Dupláa and Marco Antonio Caponi , respectively .

Juan Leyrado played a grandfather for the first time in his career . Unlike the usual telenovela grandfather ( a secondary character ) , his character has a prominent role and his own story arcs . Leyrado , who was 60 years old when the series was made , said that he was still active in his personal life and played the character according to his own experiences . Korean @-@ Argentine Chang Kim Sung , who played Walter Mao , said he was proud that his character did not conform to stereotypes of Asian people .

Although Mex and Violeta Urtizberea are father and daughter , Violeta accepted a role in the series without knowing that her father was also part of the cast and asked him to respect her space . Although they played characters of similar ages , they rarely have joint scenes . Julieta Ortega said that she has nothing in common with her character in the series . Juan Gil Navarro , who appeared in the television drama La Dueña at the same time , said that although he does not normally appear in comedies he followed his wife 's suggestion .

Isabel Macedo had played several villains , including in Floricienta , and took the Patricia Longo @-@ Jimena Benitez role because it was something she had not done before . Although Patricia 's past identity as Jimena was intended to be a secret for only ten episodes , Macedo insisted that the mystery should be maintained for a longer time . She read about victims of school bullying to inform her character and declined other work during the year to stay focused on the series , becoming

emotionally attached to her character .

== = Recurring elements == =

== = = Drama == = =

The series includes a homosexual character , Guillermo Almada ( Juan Gil Navarro ) , who came out in the early episodes and later married his partner in a ceremony featuring guest appearances by Evangelina Salazar and Luis Brandoni . This was the first fictional same @-@ sex marriage on Argentine television since it was legalized in 2010 , reflected the growing acceptance of sexual freedom in Argentina . Another character , Patricia Longo , was an obese girl who was a victim of school bullying . Isabel Macedo had to be heavily made up to appear obese for the flashbacks . Patricia was initially the telenovela 's villain , with the bullying her motivation for inflicting revenge on her former classmates . The episode in which she reveals her true identity was well received .

== = = Flashbacks == = =

The high @-@ school years of the main characters are depicted in flashbacks , a recurring element . For comic effect , the flashbacks were filmed with the actors who played the adult characters instead of younger actors . One episode includes a reenactment of the 1980s game show *Feliz domingo para la juventud* , with an appearance by host Silvio Soldán . This episode also features a guest appearance by Andy Kusnetzoff , who later joined the regular cast . Another episode has a flashback set in Itaipark , an Argentine theme park which closed in 1990 . Since the Itaipark rides are now in Luján , the production moved there to shoot those scenes .

One episode includes a flashback to San Carlos de Bariloche , the location of the graduation trip ( an Argentine prom tradition ) . Pablo Echarri made a guest appearance as the trip 's coordinator , and fans of the show were selected in an internet competition to join the trip to Bariloche as extras . Another flashback features the Pumper Nic fast @-@ food restaurant and a guest appearance by sportswriter Juan Pablo Varsky . Not all flashbacks are focused on the 1980s or high school ; some are events from a character 's adolescence , such as the shotgun wedding of María Laura and Pablo or her 15th birthday .

== = = Music == = =

The program uses 1980s music ( usually Argentine rock ) extensively , and several Argentine musicians from the decade were invited to make cameo appearances . Charly García appears in one episode , discussing the lyrics of his song " Inconciente colectivo " ( " Collective Unconscious " ) with the characters . Fito Páez appears in a flashback , meeting María Laura during a sound check and asking her opinion of his new song " 11 y 6 " . Páez resurrected his 1980s look , which differs slightly from his current appearance .

Musician Emanuel Ortega , brother of producer Sebastián Ortega , appeared ( as himself ) as Victoria Lauría 's patient . Similar plots were used in other episodes , with guest stars appearing as themselves ; Victoria Lauría 's character became a psychologist with famous clients , such as soccer player Martín Palermo , tennis player Gastón Gaudio , model Luciana Salazar and soccer agent Guillermo Coppola . All performing members of the Ortega family made cameos on the series .

Bahiano , the former singer of Los Pericos , made a cameo appearance in the Spring Day episode and played " El ritual de la banana " ( " Ritual of the Banana " , Los Pericos ' first hit ) . Bahiano left the band in 2005 , and did not maintain a good relationship with them . Los Pericos sent a cease and desist letter to the production team and complained on Twitter about the episode . Bahiano dismissed their reaction as jealousy . The Spring Day episode also included a cameo by Los Twist , who played their hit " El estudiante " ( " The Student " ) . The scene , filmed in Tigre , also included a

cameo by Lalo Mir .

= = = Holidays and observances = = =

Holidays ( such as Spring Day ) were part of the plot of an episode aired that day , unless the holiday fell over a weekend . Since the Goddzers are a Jewish family , Jewish holidays are included . On July 18 the 1994 AMIA bombing , when the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association was destroyed in a terrorist attack , was mentioned when Elías said he would attend the annual protest of the unsolved case 's handling . Minor Jewish characters ( such as relatives and friends ) returned for Rosh Hashanah , the Jewish New Year celebration . Its Jewish characters and the number of Argentine and Latin American expatriates in Israel helped Graduados obtain good ratings in Israel .

= = Reception = =

The first episode of Graduados was a ratings success , scoring nearly 28 points . Subsequent episodes continued to receive high ratings and El Trece , Telefe 's main rival for prime @-@ time ratings , competed with Graduados by moving its blockbuster program Showmatch an hour earlier ( opposite Graduados ) . The move was unsuccessful , with Graduados more highly rated than Showmatch before and after the change . Showmatch returned to its original time slot and El Trece aired a new series , Sos mi hombre , opposite Graduados . Sos mi hombre 's premiere episode was outscored by Graduados , 26 to 18 @.@ 4 ; according to El Trece this was not a disappointment , since its target rating was 17 @-@ 19 points . Graduados maintained its lead in the ratings for the rest of the season .

It was a multi @-@ target success , with an audience not limited to viewers in their forties as the focus on 1980s nostalgia might have indicated . This countered a contemporary trend in series television to target a specific audience demographic . The plots include characters and situations for all ages , and the series ' general tone is family @-@ friendly . Although it includes a number of flashbacks , the scripts did not limit the actors to a 1980s viewpoint ; according to consultant Mariela Mociulsky , the show reflects more modern realities ( such as men showing their emotions and women having greater autonomy in their lives ) than TV shows of the 1980s did .

The series finale was broadcast from the Gran Rex Theater in a ceremony attended by fans who obtained tickets in a raffle on the Telefe website . The cast ( except for Ortega and Urtizberea , who were out of the country ) attended the performance , watching the episode from a VIP room in the theater , appearing on stage after the episode ended to thank the audience . Also in attendance were actors and musicians who had made guest appearances on the show during the year , including Pablo Ruiz ( the singer of Vilma Palma e Vampiros ) , Sandra Mihanovich , Luciana Salazar , Luisa Albinoni and Max Berliner .

In February 2013 Sebastian Ortega and the cast agreed to produce another season of Graduados after a year off , and Telefe had begun negotiations to bring the series back . The project became a new telenovela , Viudas e hijos del Rock and Roll , which would employ similar themes and most of the cast . Nancy Dupláa left the project , with Paola Barrientos replacing her as the female lead .

= = = Awards = = =

Graduados received 12 Tato Awards from 20 nominations on November 17 , 2012 , including the special award for Television program of the year . Graduados was nominated for daily serial , fiction production , actress in a daily serial ( Nancy Dupláa ) , arts and images in a fiction program and soundtrack , winning in all those categories . Nominations for new actor , actor in a daily serial , supporting actor in a daily serial and supporting actress in a daily serial were shared . The new @-@ actor award nominees from Graduados were Mercedes Scapola , Gastón Soffritti and the winner , Chang Kim Sung . Luciano Cáceres and Daniel Hendler were nominated for the actor in daily drama award , won by Hendler . Roberto Carnaghi , nominated with Juan Leyrado and Mex Urtizberea , received the Best Supporting Actor in a Daily Serial Award . Paola Barrientos was the

best supporting actress in a daily serial ; her fellow nominees were Isabel Macedo , Mirta Busnelli and Violeta Urtizberea . The series was nominated for the best fiction director and script awards , both won by the telenovela *El hombre de tu vida* . Producer Sebastian Ortega refused to attend the ceremony to avoid Marcelo Tinelli , with whom he had an ongoing dispute . With a total of 11 awards *Graduados* was the most successful production at the ceremony , followed by *El hombre de tu vida* and *La voz argentina* with four awards each .

The series received 14 nominations for Martín Fierro Awards and won eight , including the Golden Award . It won awards for best daily serial , production , writing and opening theme , and was nominated for best direction ( won by Juan José Campanella for *El hombre de tu vida* ) . Daniel Hendler and Luciano Cáceres were nominated for best lead actor in a daily serial , which Hendler won . Paola Barrientos was the best supporting actress in a daily serial , with Mirta Busnelli also nominated . Isabel Macedo and Nancy Dupláa were nominated as best lead actress in a daily serial , and Macedo ( not Dupláa , as expected by the cast ) won . Chang Sung Kim , Jenny Williams ( new actor ) , Andy Kusnetzoff , Betiana Blum ( guest appearance ) , Mex Urtizberea and Roberto Carnaghi ( supporting actor in daily drama ) also received nominations .

= = = Internet = = =

In 2012 the use of hashtags in television was new in Argentina , and programs had limited interaction with social networks . Although in August 2012 *Showmatch* had a higher number of tweets than *Graduados* ( despite trailing it in the ratings ) , by October *Graduados* was the 2012 Argentine TV program with the highest number of tweets ( averaging 244 @, @ 540 per episode ) . *Showmatch* was second , with an average of 203 @, @ 922 tweets per episode . As of October 14 , September 3 was the day with the greatest number of tweets for a single episode ( 47 @, @ 357 ) .

A September 2012 analysis of tweets found that *Graduados* was the Argentine television program most frequently mentioned . The most popular characters were Vero Diorio , Dany Goddzer , Pablo Catáneo , Guillermo Almada , Tuca and Vicky Lauría . Several unofficial Twitter accounts were created by fans and modeled after the characters ; the best known was @ Jimena \_ Benitez \_ ( Patricia Longo 's supposed account ) , with 12 @, @ 765 followers .

= = Other media = =

The producers of *Graduados* released a compilation album of music used in the series . It features the theme song , composed by Tan Biónica , and 1980s Argentine rock hits as background music . Musicians appearing on the album are Soda Stereo , Los Fabulosos Cadillacs , Charly García , Sumo , Virus , Raúl Porchetto , Andrés Calamaro , Los Violadores , Suéter and Los Ratones Paranoicos . The first CD went gold in Argentina , encouraging Telefe and Sony Music Entertainment to release a second CD of soft songs by international artists . Artists on the second CD are Bonnie Tyler , Europe , Paul Young , Jimmy Harnen , Spandau Ballet , Dover , Martika , The Alan Parsons Project , Toto , The Bangles , Cyndi Lauper , Bad English , Air Supply and Billy Joel .

As the series wound down , Telefe considered a theatrical version for the 2013 summer season . It would have been similar to a 2010 version by the producers of *Valientes* , but the cast had other commitments . Telefe then asked series creator Sebastian Ortega to make a film . Negotiations were confirmed by producer Pablo Culell , who said that although *Underground* produces television series it can also produce stage plays and films .

Chilevisión produced a Chilean version of the series , *Graduados , historias que no se olvidan* ( *Graduates : Unforgettable Stories* ) . The first remake produced by the station , it starred Fernanda Urrejola , Marcial Tagle and Ricardo Fernández and its soundtrack features Chilean bands ( such as Upa and Los Prisioneros ) and Argentine bands successful in Chile ( such as Soda Stereo , Charly García and Virus ) . The production tries to reflect 1980s Chilean life in a broad appeal to audiences . A Colombian version debuted on RCN Televisión on September 18 , 2014 to low ratings . *Symmathites* , a Greek version , airs on Antenna TV . In Mexico , TV Azteca bought the rights for a local version in production as of November 2013 . The original telenovela has aired in Panama , El

Salvador and Nicaragua .