

MARIZA



Carlos Ramos

It was one of the surviving tracks after Mariza and Limón put them to the infallible test of voice and guitar. Accompanied by the skilful classical guitarist Pedro Jóia, Mariza sang each of the potential songs to feature on *Mundo*, and she and Limón only let through the ones that left no doubts as to whether it fitted wholly into her singing style and her voice. It was a cruel process; Mariza had to let go of a couple of compositions she absolutely loved but had to concede were not a perfect match. “We spent three whole days just choosing,” she says. “But every time I came back to the studio I had second thoughts about some of the songs that I was eliminating. Javier finally told me I had to make up my mind because we weren’t working on a double album. I almost cried then, because it was so hard parting ways with some of that stuff.”

When Mariza first started to have conversations about a new album with her label, a bunch of names was suggested, trying to entice her into taking a different musical approach. But each and every time she always went back to Limón. They had kept in touch since the recording of *Terra*, and communication was easy with him. She knew it would be tiring trying to explain the sound in her head to anyone else who probably did not

share the same musical language. The way *Terra* was done, allowing for any unconventional ideas to be included, had instilled a trust in Mariza that she felt she absolutely needed for *Mundo* – this was not the time to start anew.

What Mariza had not anticipated was that in the heat of the moment, while already in studio with Limón, a sudden urge to record two fados would sneak up on her. *Mundo* had already secured a Brazilian flavour and a Latin and African twist, but Mariza’s world could not be completed without a small display of her worth as a fadista. ‘Maldição’ and ‘Anda o Sol na Minha Rua’ came along at the last minute but they still managed to make a strong and lasting impression. This flexibility is an acute example of how things have changed in Mariza’s life since she embraced motherhood. “I feel like I have a different and lighter way of dealing with everything in my life,” she says. “I used to be highly competitive – with myself and other fadistas. I felt I had to be the best. I wanted to be on top because I had nothing else, music was all my life. Of course I still need music now, but that situation has changed.” And that is exactly what *Mundo* sounds like. Mariza is not chasing the stars anymore. She’s looking at them from afar and peacefully enjoying it. ♦