



CASSANDRO

World-renowned wrestler and winner of several world titles, Cassandra has toured the world for nearly three decades, but had his start on the U.S./Mexico border. Cassandra was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, but spent much of his time across the border in Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua. At the age of fifteen, Cassandra began training lucha libre in Juárez. He officially began his professional wrestling career in 1987, working under a mask as Mister Romano. The character, made up by well-known luchador Rey Misterio. Less than a year later, Cassandra was encouraged to abandon the character and take on a new exótico persona. Exóticos are male wrestlers portraying gay caricatures. While most exóticos were straight, Cassandra was gay. Cassandra wrestled his first match as an exótico in Juárez, working unmasked and under the new ring name Rosa Salvaje. On October 15, 1988, he was christened Cassandra, and continues to be known by that name today.

In late 1989, Cassandra joined the highest Mexican wrestling association, Lucha Libre Internacional, affiliated with Universal Wrestling Association (UWA.) He managed to win his first title, the UWA World Lightweight Championship, on October 29, 1992, becoming the first exótico in history to hold a championship in UWA. After a twenty month reign, he would lose the title. He wrestled for UWA until 1995, when the organization closed its doors, at which point Cassandra began wrestling on the independent circuit both in Mexico and the United States.

Cassandra returned to mainstream lucha libre in December 2005 by joining top Mexican promoter Asistencia Asesoría y Administración (AAA) where he remained until April 2008, Cassandra began working for promoters including National Wrestling Alliance (NWA), Perros del Mal Producciones (PdM), Independent Wrestling Association Mid-South (IWA-MS) and in early 2009 signed a contract with American promoter Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA). Cassandra made his TNA debut on January 27, 2009, working under the ring name Cassandra el Exotico. On June 25, 2011, while touring the United Kingdom, NWA Mexico set up a match to determine the first NWA World Welterweight Champion since getting the title back from Consejo Mundial de Lucha Libre (CMLL). Cassandra was set to fight in the match and went on to defeat Dr. Cerebro to win the NWA Mexico championship.

Thanks to his amazing talent and partnership with Lucha Vavoom, Cassandra has travelled the world. He has participated in Festival Biarritz Amerique Latine in Biarritz, France, Le Grand Soufflet in Rhenne, France, Big Day Out Festival in Australia, and the Fuji Rock Festival in Nigata, Japan, amongst others. Cassandra has toured four continents, and countless countries including Canada and Mexico and all areas of the United States. Cassandra has had many honors, but wrestling at the Museum D' Louvre was one of the highlights.



Aside from Lucha Libre, Cassandro has participated in several short documentaries including one by Michael Ramos Araizaga. A feature documentary is currently in production by T. Hunter McCann, and another is still filming by Marie Lossier. Cassandro has become a muse for many photographers who have had exhibits of their work featuring him, including Annick Donkers and Izaskun Gonzalez. Annick Donkers exposed Cassandro's life through her lens in an exhibit that opened during Pride Week 2012 in La Academia de San Carlos in Mexico, and remained on exhibition for one month.

Additionally, Cassandro has been a circuit speaker on a wide variety of topics including discrimination, spirituality, overcoming adversity, and LGBTQ issues. He has presented his story at high schools, universities, conventions and other venues. Whether in front of a classroom of 20 students or on stage in front of 8,000 attendees, Cassandro has a way of relating to his audience regardless of their walk of life.

Currently, Cassandro heads Mama Lucha Promotions. In slightly over one year, Mama Lucha Promotions has become the leading lucha libre promotor in El Paso. Led by Cassandro, it is no surprise that the greatest talent of the region works under Mama Lucha Promotions. Cassandro is now focusing his efforts in training promising wrestlers and showcasing their talent throughout the world. When not globetrotting, Mama Lucha can be found at local schools, children's hospitals, and other community organizations, giving back to those less fortunate.

Cassandro has known great adversity, however he has also been blessed with incredible talent and tenacity that has helped him overcome that, consequently he has accomplished a great deal and has achieved tremendous success. Cassandro continues to make history and make a difference with the amazing life he has been blessed with.

