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## **Dona Flor E Seus Dois Maridos**

**(Dona Flor And Her Two Husbands)**

**(BRAZILIAN-COLOR)**

Paris, Sept. 6.

Gaumont-Coline release of Luis Carlos Barreto-Newton Rique-Cia Serrador production. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Bruno Barreto, from book by Jorge Amado. Camera (Eastmancolor), Maurilo Salles; editor, Raimondo Higino; music, Chico Buarque. Reviewed at Monte-Carlo, Paris, Aug. 25, '77. Running time, 106 MINS.

Dona Flor ..... Sonia Braga  
Vadinho ..... Jose Wilker  
Teodoro ..... Mauro Mendonça  
Rozilda ..... Dinorah Brilhante  
Mirandao ..... Nelson Xavier  
Carlinhos ..... Arthur Costa Filho  
Cazaza ..... Rui Rezende

Reportedly the all-time Brazilian pic hit which out-paced "Jaws" on its home grounds, "Dona Flor" is now getting international rounds and is set for a Gotham release this fall. A simplistic human comedy of manners and mores in the colorful Bahia part of Brazil in the '40s, pic has a certain raw charm but does not quite achieve the needed cohesion and directorial finesse it calls for.

A lovely mulatto woman, brought up as religious and conventional by her rather hardnosed mother, marries a small-time playboy addicted to bordels, gambling and carousing. But he awakens the woman, Dona Flor, as proven by some torrid soft love scenes and talk.

She keeps accepting his absences, even on their wedding night when he is off to gamble after love-making. One day he dies during a Mardi Gras dance. She marries an exact opposite, a meticulous, unimaginative druggist who makes love twice a week and wants order above all.

Her secret yearning for her first husband, despite his faults, has him materializing one night. She fights him off but finally gives in. Nobody but her can see him as he takes his place alongside her in bed and she is happy with her two lovers and husbands.

There is some hothouse local color, fair performances, alongside the expert one by Sonia Braga as the demure but sensual Dona Flor. Direction is uneven but does capture the folksy fable quality which is what might have had it catching on at home.

May be iffy for other climes but worth a chance. However, it would need canny placement and handling with a possibility that its exotic and disarming morality might find a niche among the violent or more familiar adventure opuses now striking audience fancies. Technically uneven, at least in the color prints seen locally, but with a plus in the colorful Bahia settings.

—Mosk