

ANNIE THE JR. ANTHROPOLOGISTS

An Animated Series

Written by

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ACT I

THEME SONG PLAYS

ANNIE (SINGING)

The world is our home/There's so
many things to see/ From food,
traditions, culture, and our family
trees/ With knowledge we gain
understanding / From sea to shining
sea / We learn how to treat others
through anthropology

EXT. BRIDGE - PLAZA DE ESPANA - SEVILLE, SPAIN - DAY

ANNIE RODRIGUEZ- BENDEREZ (7) a young Latina girl with long brown hair and hazel eyes walks with her mother, LAURA RODRIGUEZ (32) in the plaza. Annie looks like her twin.

They walk hand in hand. Both carrying large backpacks.

Annie smiles as she looks at the grand plaza. The beautiful multi-colored ceramic tiles glisten around her. A rowboat goes underneath the bridge. TOURISTS snap pictures.

ANNIE (TO CAMERA)

Hi! I'm Annie the Jr.
Anthropologist! This is my mom,
Laura. She's a cultural
anthropologist and this week we're
in Seville, Spain or Seville,
Espana! An Anthropologist is a type
of a job. With this job you learn
about the tradition and culture of
people all around the world!

LAURA

Annie, are you excited to meet the
Leon family?

ANNIE

I am! But I am a little nervous.
What if Maria Luisa doesn't want to
be my friend?

Annie and Laura walk through the plaza and into:

EXT. PARQUE DE MARIA LUISA - CONTINUOUS

LAURA

You too will get along just fine!

ANNIE

But what will we talk about? We watch different things and read different books?

LAURA

Just because Annie is from Spain doesn't mean she doesn't enjoy the same things you do. (a beat) Los dos hablan español. Eso es genial.

ANNIE

Si. But I only speak Spanish with you and papa. Our Spanish is different.

Laura and Annie stop walking and sit down on a park bench.

LAURA

It's true that Latin American Spanish and Castilian Spain are a bit different, but you and Maria Luisa will still be able to talk to one another. You have more in common than you think. Just like different types of Spanish.

Laura takes a world map out of her bag for Annie. As Laura talks her linguistics lesson is animated over the map.

LAURA (CONT'D)

You see. There are many languages that came from one language called Latin. When people sailed across the Atlantic in 1492 from southern Spain, they brought to Latin America a form of Spanish similar to what is now spoken.

ANNIE

So Spanish started in Spain?

LAURA

Over time after a group called the Romans conquered Spain and Portugal, Latin became Spanish. But even in Spain there are still numerous different types of Spanish in the North and South.

ANNIE

So there's a difference everywhere?

LAURA

You see, it doesn't matter what country you go to. There will always be different types of the same language because people have accents and speak differently. These are called dialects. This is true even in the U.S.

ANNIE

Like how Uncle Gio from Texas talks differently?

LAURA

Exactly. Uncle Gio has an accent.

ANNIE

How interesting, mama!

LAURA

We better get going. The Leon family is expecting us.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Annie and Laura walk through the lobby and begin walking up the stairs. Annie looks confused.

ANNIE

Mama, why does the Leon family live in an apartment and not a house?

LAURA

A lot of people in Spain live in what we call flats.

ANNIE

Flats? Because they're small?

LAURA

Flats are very common in busy cities like Seville because they're small and close to jobs and schools.

They reach the fourth floor. Laura knocks on door 44. CLARA LEON (30s) swings open the door with a smile.

CLARA

Hola!

She kisses both Laura and Annie on both cheeks.

CLARA (CONT'D)
 Hola, Annie. I am Clara Leon.

Two children, MARIA LUISA (7) and PHILLIP (4) arrive at the door. They greet Annie and Laura the same.

CLARA (CONT'D)
 This is Maria Luisa and Phillip.

ANNIE
 Hola! Como estas?

MARIA LUSIA
 Muy bien! Gracias!

CLARA
 Adelante!

Annie and Laura enter.

INT. LEON APARTMENT - DAY

Annie and Laura set down their bags.

CLARA
 Annie, are you excited for the Fiera Festival?

ANNIE
 I am! My mama says that there will be lots of music, and dancing-

PHILLIP
 Y comida!

ANNIE
 Yes, the food!

CLARA
 Yes, food! Talking in English will be good for Marisa and Phillip to practice.

ANNIE
 Marisa?

MARISA
 Yes, Marisa. In Spain, we have our name and then our Saint's name or middle name. Maria Luisa. Sometimes we combine them.

LAURA
You know, Annie, it's called
Saint's Name day.

CLARA
Es "el día de mi santo".

ANNIE
Like a birthday? That's wonderful!

MARISA
It is sort of similar to a
birthday, yes.

ANNIE
But what's a Saint?

MARISA
In the Roman Catholic religion, a
Saint is like a messenger of God.

ANNIE
How interesting! I've never heard
of anything like that in the US.

LAURA
It's important to be respectful of
other people's traditions and
religions even if they're different
than your own.

ANNIE
That's true! That's what being an
anthropologist is all about!

MARISA
Annie, ¿Quieres probarte algunos de
mis vestidos para el festival?

ANNIE
Tus vestidos?

MARISA
Si es tradición!

Marisa grabs Annie's arm and pulls her to her room.

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. MARISA'S ROOM - LEON APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Marisa opens her wardrobe and shows Annie an assortment of colorful dresses. Annie stares at them in awe.

ANNIE

Wow, these are beautiful!

MARISA

My mama made them. They're called 'faraloes.' They're flamenco style dresses. Choose one to wear to the festival!

ANNIE

I get to wear one of these?

MARISA

Of course! At the fieras de abril women will wear faraloes and men wear 'traje cortos.'

ANNIE

There's so many colors and fabrics. How will I choose?

MARISA

¿Cual es tu color favorito?

Annie pulls the dresses out of the wardrobe. As she begins to sing she references different color dresses and colors around Marisa's bedroom.

ANNIE

Hmmm... (singing) What's my favorite color? / Well, sometimes I don't know / There's verde, rosa, blanco, amarillo y negro / I could dress in morado/ The color of royalty / or be a vibrant rainbow that's called arco iris

MARISA

(singing) I'm glad we get to
celebrate your first Feria Festival
/ I remember my first dress when I
was one year old / Let's choose the
colors of Spain / We'll dress one
and the same / You in yellow and I
in red / We'll put los flores on
your head / Look in the mirror and
you will see how magical la feria
can be

ANNIE

Wow! Marisa! Muchas gracias!

MARISA

De nada.

CLARA

Chicas! Are you ready to go to the
festival?

The girls smile at one another and run out the door.

EXT. FERIA FESTIVAL - DAY

A large ferris wheel, colorful tents, paper flowers. Numerous
people walk around the fair grounds all smiling and laughing.

Annie and her mom walk hand in hand with Clara, Phillip, and
Marisa. They're all dressed in traditional flamenco style
clothing.

ANNIE

Mama, why are there bulls
everywhere?

LAURA

That's a great question, Annie. La
Feria de Seville started as a
cattle trading fair in the 1800s.
Over the years it's become a
festival to celebrate the culture
of Seville, bullfighting and the
art of flamenco dancing.

They all stop walking.

CLARA

Alright chicos, Laura and I are
going to talk to a few community
members.

(MORE)

CLARA (CONT'D)

We will meet back here in one hour.
Marisa, watch your brother.

MARISA

Yes, mama.

CLARA

And remember, your papa will be
here later tonight!

PHILLIP

Yay, papa!

Clara and Laura head the opposite direction.

ANNIE

Where is your papa?

MARISA

Our papa works in Madrid. He takes
the train and visits us on the
weekend.

ANNIE

Are your parents divorced?

MARISA

No, silly. They're together. My
papa just has to work in the city.
(a beat) Where's your papa?

ANNIE

He lives in California. But my mom
and I travel a lot so I don't get
to see him that much.

MARISA

That's too bad.

ANNIE

It's okay. I get to talk to him on
the phone a lot!

PHILLIP

Ferris wheel!

MARISA

No, Phillip. Don't be such a
bother. You're too small to ride
the ferris wheel without mama.

ANNIE

What should we do first?

PHILLIP
I'm hungry!

ANNIE
I am a little hungry too. What's
your favorite food, Phillip?

PHILLIP
Torrijas y el helado!

MARISA
Phillip, it's too early for
dessert.

PHILLIP
Please, Marisa.

A colorful tent selling TORRIJAS sits behind Phillip as he
pleads. Annie smiles at Marisa.

ANNIE
I would sure love to try it.

PHILLIP
Yay!

MARISA
Tres, por favor.

The MAN hands them three plates with torrijas and ice cream.

ANNIE
What is this? It looks delicious!

MARISA
Torrijas are a type of bread with
sugar syrup on top.

Annie takes a bite.

ANNIE
They're incredible!

MUSIC CUE

PHILLIP
Look!

Phillip points out the dancers.

MARISA
Let's dance! Do you hear the music?

ANNIE
It's wonderful!

They hurry to the edge of the dance floor. Annie watches as a dozen people in colorful garments dance to Sevillana music.

MARISA
It's Seville's traditional folk music, Sevillana. It's a lot like flamenco dancing.

ANNIE
What's flamenco dancing?

PHILLIP
Flamenco dancing is a Feria Festival tradition!

MARISA
Shh, Phillip. (a beat) Flamenco dancing is an expressive dance that involves hand clapping, and hand and foot movements. It's all about feeling the music.

Marisa grabs Annie's hand.

MARISA (CONT'D)
Vamos!

Phillip is distracted by the dancers and doesn't see his sister and Annie run off.

The music changes. Annie and Marisa start flamenco dancing. Annie laughs as she trips over her own feet. Marisa slows down and shows her how to follow the steps.

MARISA (CONT'D)
Just make it up as you go along,
Annie! Follow the music!

A young BOY (9) comes up to Marisa and Annie to dance with them. He dances like an expert. A crowd gathers around the three as clap to the music.

The music ends. Everyone applauds. Marisa looks around, confused.

MARISA (CONT'D)
Phillip?

Annie and Marisa push through the crowd.

ANNIE
Phillip! He's gone!

MARISA
¡Oh Dios mío! ¿Cómo lo
encontraremos?

ANNIE
Marisa, just take a deep breath. We
will find him!

MARISA
How? There's so many people?

ANNIE
Don't worry. I'll help you. Let's
retrace our steps!

They head back to the Torrijas stand.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Excuse me, sir? Have you seen a
little boy-

MARISA
Annie, en español.

ANNIE
Oh right! Señor, ¿Ha visto pasar a
un niño por aquí?

MAN
No, no, lo siento.

ANNIE
Gracias!

They hurry away from the stand and look around the crowd.

MARISA
Mama is going to be so upset. We
have to meet her soon.

ANNIE
Don't worry. If you were Phillip
where would you go?

MARISA
I don't know. The festival is huge!

Annie thinks for a moment.

ANNIE
I think I have an idea. Follow me!

Annie runs off. Marisa at her heels. As they run we see just how large the fair grounds are.

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. FERIA FESTIVAL - FERRIS WHEEL - EVENING

Annie and Marisa look up at the tall ferris wheel as it turns. As they look, they see Phillip alone in a cart. Annie runs towards the ferris wheel.

ANNIE

We need to get on!

MARISA

What? No way.

ANNIE

Marisa, c'mon. We need to get Phillip.

MARISA

I...I can't.

ANNIE

Why?

MARISA

Because I'm afraid of heights!

ANNIE

So you telling Phillip he can't ride the ferris wheel with your mama was...

MARISA

A lie. I know. It was wrong.

ANNIE

Marisa. I know you're scared, but Phillip isn't going to come off alone.

MARISA

But it's so high up.

ANNIE

I'll hold your hand the whole time.

Annie and Marisa join hands. They march the ferris wheel entrance and give the attendant two euros.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I see Phillip. He's just two carts away. Let's wait.

The ferris wheel spins and spins until it stops. The attendant opens the door for them.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Gracias!

Marisa and Annie get in Phillip's cart. Marisa hugs her brother tight. Annie hugs them both.

MARISA

Phillip, why did you run off?

PHILLIP

I didn't mean to. I lost you both when we were watching the dancers.

ANNIE

We're sorry, Phillip.

PHILLIP

When I lost you both, I thought it was better if I just left you two alone. I didn't want to bother you anymore.

ANNIE

You didn't bother us at all.

PHILLIP

I didn't?

ANNIE

Of course not! Without you I would have never tried my new favorite dessert.

MARISA

And I would have never gotten over my fear of heights!

They all realize how high up they are and laugh. They can see the entire festival from the top.

ANNIE

It's amazing! You two are so lucky you get to celebrate the Feria Festival every year.

MARISA

Annie, you're always welcome to come and visit us. Festival or not.

ANNIE

Muchas gracias.

They smile. On the ground, Laura and Clara are looking around for the children.

PHILLIP
Mira! Mama y Laura!

Mama! ANNIE Mama! MARISA

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Mama! Look!

Laura and Clara look up at the ferris wheel and smile. They all wave to one another.

FADE TO:

EXT. FERIA FESTIVAL - CASETA - NIGHT

The family sits around a table in a private tent as they dance and eat tapas. Annie yawns.

ANNIE
I feel so tired. What time is it?

Marisa laughs.

MARISA
Annie, it's only 10 pm. It's finally dinner time!

ANNIE
Dinner time! Why so late?

MARISA
It's tradition. You have to try the food.

PHILLIP
Comida!

They laugh. A SERVER brings out tapas on trays and lay them on the table.

LAURA
Annie, these dishes are called tapas. People in Spain eat what we would call family style.

ANNIE
So everyone shares?

MARISA

Si!

CLARA

Marisa! Phillip! Look who's here!

MR. LEON enters the caseta and hurries over to the kids.

MARISA

Papa!

PHILLIP

Papa!

Mr. Leon grabs the kids in a huge embrace. Annie smiles and sighs. Laura sees this and hugs Annie. Annie yawns.

LAURA

C'mon my junior anthropologist. I think that's enough excitement for one day.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - LEON APARTMENT - NIGHT

Annie is curled up in bed. An iPad on her lap. On the screen is her father, KEVIN BENDEREZ (40s).

ANNIE

...and then we tried Torrijas which is like breaded dessert with ice cream and we danced and then Marisa, Phillip and I went on the ferris wheel! Seville is incredible, papa!

KEVIN

I'm so glad you're having a good time, Annie. I miss you a ton.

ANNIE

And guess what, papa! Marisa and Phillip's papa goes away for work too. They don't get to see him that much but he came to the festival tonight.

KEVIN

I wish I could see you more often, Annie.

ANNIE

Don't worry, papa. I'll see you soon. I miss you too.

KEVIN

Where are you and your mama off to next?

ANNIE

We're going to Athens, Greece to research Greek mythology!

KEVIN

Wow, I can't wait to hear all about it.

Annie yawns.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Well, it looks like it's late over there. I better let you get some sleep.

ANNIE

Buenos noches, papa!

KEVIN

Buenos noches, Annie.

Laura enters the room in her pajamas and smiles at Annie. Annie turns off the iPad and sets it on the bedside table.

LAURA

So Annie, was the festival everything you expected?

ANNIE

No. (a beat) It was different, but it was better.

LAURA

Our differences are what make us unique.

ANNIE

That's true. (yawns) And that's what being an anthropologist is all about.

Annie dozes off. Laura kisses her forehead and turns off the lamp.

THE END