



JOSE MIGUEL VARAS: EN LAS DOS ORILLAS

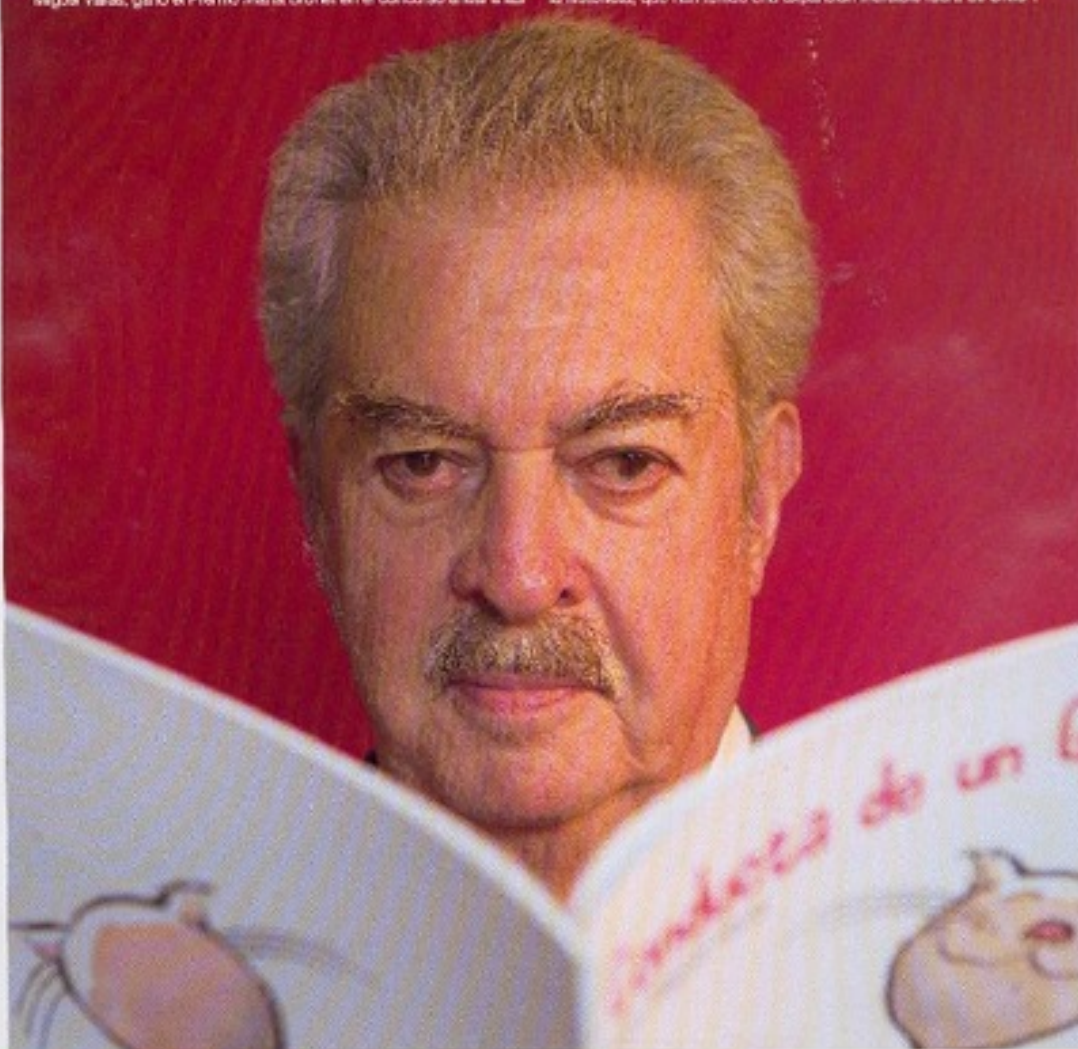
Hay una pake vieja. De esas que se arreglan sobre un ring y con guantes de box. Y que enfrenta a varias generaciones. ¿Hay que aprender leyendo a los clásicos o a autores que escriben con la cabeza puesta en los niños? De un lado de la bca están Salgar, Verne o Colón y, del otro, Michael Ende o J. K. Rowling. Dentro de una lucha que no sólo define un canon, sino hasta las funciones de la literatura -¿los libros deben enseñar o entretener?- también hay escritores que transitan de una a otra orilla, incluso sin saberlo. Hay muchos ejemplos de escritores "serios" que han incursionado en este género. José Saramago, el nobel portugués, apareció el año 2001 con "La flor más grande del mundo". O Paul Auster y "El cuento de Navidad de Auggie Whien". Incluso el experimental y ávido Aldous Huxley escribió en esta vertiente "Los cuervos de Peaniblossom".

Hace un par de meses, el Premio Nacional de Literatura 2006, José Miguel Varas, ganó el Premio Marta Brunet en el concurso anual a las

Mejores Obras Literarias de 2007, en una categoría que debutó este año: la de los libros infantiles. La razón para obtener los \$ 8 millones se llamó "Conducta de un gato", un cuento que Lom Ediciones decidió publicar como un libro independiente a fines del año pasado.

José Miguel Varas dice que todo se produjo sin querer. "Yo nunca me he planteado la necesidad de escribir directamente un cuento para un público infantil, aunque algunos de mis cuentos terminen interesándose a ese segmento. Y no siempre lo hago porque hay que colocarse un traje especial, estar con un determinado estado de ánimo para escribir de esa forma. Y aunque no me considero un especialista, creo que varios de los cuentos que he escrito tienen un estilo semejante a "Conducta de un gato".

Varas asegura que "hay grandes emociones de cuentos infantiles en el país que los medios nunca toman en cuenta". Y también lanza una voz de alerta, para "estar más atentos al desarrollo del cómic y la historieta, que han tenido una expansión increíble fuera de Chile".



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