

# London Spanish Film Festival

13TH SPRING WEEKEND

12-14 April 2024

at Ciné Lumière, South Kensington,

The London Spanish Film Festival's Spring Weekend brings in its 13th edition a breath of fresh and festive air from Spain with a small but exceptional selection of six films, three of which remarkable *opere prime* - all from the most varied corners of the country, all compelling in their diverse genres.

For the full programme go to [www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com](http://www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com)

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## PROGRAM

### CERRAR LOS OJOS

Close Your Eyes

dir. Víctor Erice, with Manolo Solo, Ana Torrent, José Coronado, Mario Pardo, María León | Spain/Argentina | 2023 | col | 169 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | Screening courtesy of New Wave Films

After his masterpieces *The Spirit of the Beehive* and *El Sur*, and 30 years after his Cannes prize-winning *The Quince Tree Sun*, legendary filmmaker Víctor Erice comes back with a compelling reflection about identity, memory, and filmmaking. Starring Manolo Solo and José Coronado, *Close Your Eyes* also reunites Erice with Ana Torrent 50 years after *The Spirit of the Beehive*. Considered by many as one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, Erice mesmerize us again with this story about the unresolved mystery of the disappearance of an actor during the shooting of a film.

Fri 12 Apr | 7.00pm

### UPON ENTRY

dir. Alejandro Rojas and Juan Sebastián Vasquez, with Alberto Ammann, Bruna Cusí, Laura Gómez, Ben Temple | Spain | 2022 | 87 min | In English, Spanish and Catalan with English subtitles

Diego is and urbanist from Venezuela living with his partner, Elena, a contemporary dancer in Barcelona. With their approved visas, they want to

move to the land of opportunities with the intention of boosting their professional careers and start a family. However, upon entry, they are taken at the immigration area in New York's airport for secondary inspection and are subject to a grueling interrogation process. A gripping psychological thriller on immigration limits and the appeal of the American dream, this is the directors's debut feature film and is based on personal experiences.

Sat 13 Apr | 4pm

### LAS CHICAS ESTAN BIEN

The Girls Are Alright

dir. Itsaso Arana, with Irene Escolar, Bárbara Lennie, Helena Ezquerro, Itziar Manero, Itsaso Arana | Spain | 2023 | 85 min | cert. 15 | In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

A group of young women, four actresses and a writer and director, gathers at a sleepy tucked away country house for a week to rehearse a play. Female friendship, reflexions and dialogue about their experiences and views will be encouraged. Further to a successful career as an actress, Itsaso Arana's debut feature film is a warm summer story about princesses, horses, toads, a fire, a party, a river, lots of letters, and even a confused prince. Written by Arana herself, it is also about independent and resolute women in a feminine and gentle way, delicate and playful like a summer breeze.

Followed by a Q&A with actress Itziar Manero

Let's toast to Spanish cinema with the compliments of Alhambra beer after the screening

Sat 13 Apr | 6.15pm

### MATRIA

Artificial Justice

dir. Alvaro Gago, with María Vázquez, Santi Prego, Tatán, Susana Sampedro | Spain | 2023 | 99 min | In Galician with English subtitles

Ramona lives in a Galician fishing village. She works in a canning factory, hardly speaks with her husband and her daughter, who has given her a grandchild is now ready to stand on her own. She lives life successfully, but the moment to make a change may have arrived. María Vázquez offers a wonderful performance as Ramona, a strong and nuanced female lead, carrying the entire film on her shoulders with great dignity. Alvaro Gago, who won Sundance's Grand Jury Prize in 2018 with his short by the same title, develops it and creates characters that are rich and relatable offering an engaging take on resilient womanhood. The film has won the director and the lead actress several national and international nominations and awards.

Let's toast to Spanish cinema with the compliments of Alhambra beer before the screening and from 7.30pm

Sat 13 Apr | 8.30pm

## SOBRE TODO DE NOCHE

Foremost by Night

dir. Víctor Iriarte, with Lola Dueñas, Ana Torrent, Manuel Egozkue | Spain/Portugal/France | 2023 | 95 min | cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles

Víctor Iriarte's remarkable first feature film explores the issue of stolen children in Spain. Vera was forced to give up her newborn child for adoption when she was very young. Cora was unable to have children and adopted one, raising him as her own. Vera's passionate and obsessive search for her biological son will lead her to uncover a horrific network of abducted children from women who were considered "unsuitable" by both the State and the Church and that went on into the 1990s.

Sun 14 Apr | 6.00pm

## LAS BUENAS COMPAÑÍAS

In the Company of Women

dir. Silvia Munt, with Alícia Falcó, Itziar Ituño, Elena Tarrats, Itziar Aitzpuru, Sara Barroeta, Nagore Cenizo | Spain/France | 2023 | 93 min | cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles

Inspired by real events and set 1976, right after Franco's death, Munt's is a poignant film about a group of women from Rentería, in the Basque Country, who fought tirelessly for women rights throughout the 1970s, helping many to cross the border into France, where they were able to secure safe and dignified abortions. It is also about young Bea, a feminist activist whose ideas are constantly reinforced by the sight of the lives of the older generation of women and which she doesn't want to repeat. Amidst a country in transformation, family difficulties and feminist manifestations, Bea discovers love and romance with another girl and sees herself forced into adulthood.

Sun 14 Apr | 8.00pm

# THE LONDON SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL

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