

London panish Film Festival

16th EDITION

22-30 September 2020

AT CINE LUMIERE

The London Spanish Film Festival, now in its 16th edition, comes again to Ciné Lumière with an exciting selection of some of the best films made in Spain recently.

Most of the films are UK premieres and probably your only chance to watch them! Our core program and Basque and Catalan Windows offer a variety of films covering many genres and showing the wealth of talent Spain has to offer.

For the full program go to www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

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PROGRAM

INTEMPERIE

Out in the Open

dir. Benito Zambrano, with Luis Tosar, Luis Callejo, Jaime López | Spain, Portugal | 2019 | col | 103 min. | cert. 15 | London premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

A boy runs away from home, dashing through the heartlands. Leaving his penniless family behind him, he is desperate to reach the city and earn a living. But his pursuers are giving chase... Out in the open, he finds a shepherd who offers protection, a mysterious man who spent many years in Morocco before the Civil War. Zambrano's thriller is a breathtaking, gorgeously-shot western, boasting the stunning cinematography of Pau Esteve Birba.

Tue 22 Sep | 8.30pm | £13, conc. £11

INVISIBLES

The Invisible

dir. Gracia Querejeta, with Emma Suárez, Adriana Ozores, Nathalie Poza | Spain | 2020 | col | 84 min. | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Elsa, Julia and Amelia are three middle-aged women who meet every Thursday morning to walk and talk. Strolling through the park, their rich, lively conversations provide a window onto their lives, aspirations, and day-to-day complications amid a verdant and fecund landscape. A tenderly-crafted film, a passion project by Querejeta and her long-time collaborator Santos Mercero, it manages to be compelling from beginning to end, shedding light on the problems faced by women in their fifties – a group oft-forgotten in both cinema and wider society. Full of sparky dialogue and nuanced performances from the central cast, *Invisibles* is a work of charming care and attention.

Wed 23 Sep | 8.30pm | £13, conc. £11

UNA VEZ MÁS

Once Again

dir. Guillermo Rojas, with Silvia Acosta, Jacinto Bobo, Teresa Arbolí, Beatriz Arjona | Spain | 2019 | col | 112 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Una vez más transports us to the marvellous city of Seville, where Abril, an architect living and working in London, is attending her grandmother's funeral. There she meets her friends and her ex-boyfriend, whom she has not seen since she left five years before. A beautiful meditation on life set in a superbly photogenic city, Guillermo Rojas's opera prima as director is also a portrait of a generation of young Spaniards who are more European than ever before, and whose lives remain full of uncertainty due to numerous national crises.

Thu 24 Sep | 8.30pm | £13, conc. £11

75 DÍAS

75 Days

dir. Marc Romero, with Javier Albalá, Txema Arribas, Javier Ruiz Bobillo, Eulàlia Ramón, Antonia San Juan, Ana Fernández | Spain | 2020 | col | 130 min. | cert. 18 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

It was a case no Spaniard would ever forget. In 1992, three teenage girls from Alcàsser, Valencia, aged 14-15, disappeared one night after hitchhiking to reach a nightclub in the nearby town of Picassent, only for their bodies to be discovered three months later. Nearly thirty years after the case of the Alcàsser girls, Marc Romero revisits the story that shook a nation due to the extreme brutality of the crimes, the highly criticised police investigation, and the extensive, venal media coverage that trailed the story. With documentary-style rigour, the film steers clear of gory sensationalism or melodrama, focusing instead on the incompetence and lack of empathy with which the case was handled.

Fri 25 Sep | 8.00pm | £13, conc. £11

CATALAN WINDOW

OJOS NEGROS

dir. Iván Alarcón, Ivet Castelo, Sandra García, Marta Lallana, with Julia Lallana, Alba Alcaine, Anna Sabaté | Spain | 2019 | col | 67 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

A teenager is sent to spend the summer with her grandmother and aunt in a remote Spanish town called Ojos Negros. There she meets other youngsters, tastes a newfound freedom, and discovers more about her mother's childhood and family. A coming-of-age tale depicting a life enriched and challenged over a long, stifling summer, this highly emotional film packs a powerful punch and offers several moments of cinema magic. Backed and partly funded by a production company, Nanouk Films, expect skilful editing and emotive storytelling.

Preceded by the short
EL CÓDIGO INTERIOR
The Inner Code

dir. Pau Subirós, with Isabel Rojas, Francesc Ferrer, Gerard Oms, Pepo Blasco | Spain | 2020 | col | 15 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish and Mandarin with English subtitles

What if you stopped speaking your own language?

Wed 23 Sep | 6.20pm | £13, conc. £11

EL SITIO DE OTTO

A Place for Otto

dir. Oriol Puig, with Iñaki Mur, Emma Arquillué, Oriol Vila, Nora Navas | Spain | 2019 | col | 80 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Otto has just lost his father. Without much prospects in his life, he tries to keep what he perceives as his position and respect in his town and tries to do what is expected from him. After meeting a girl, an outcast of the town, who plans on leaving and a young man living in a caravan, he starts to question himself about what he really wants and about what's beyond his own world. The opera prima of Oriol Puig is a moving and nuanced story about the path to become an adult.

Sat 26 Sep | 4.45pm | £13, conc. £11

JOSEP

dir. Aurel, with Sergi López, Xavier Serrano, David Marsais, Alain Cauchi | France, Spain, Belgium | 2020 | animation | 71 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In French, Catalan, Spanish and English with English subtitles

Josep is the debut of editorial journalist Aurélien Froment, better known as Aurel and famous for his illustrations for Le Monde and his graphic novels about jazz and

international politics. The title subject is Catalan artist Josep Bartolí. Rather than focusing on Bartolí's intense and rough life, first as a soldier fighting against Franco, then as lover of Frida Kahlo and finally as a victim of the Hollywood blacklist, Aurel focuses mostly on his life in a French internment camp after the Spanish Civil War and on the friendship he forged with Serge, the gendarme at the other side of the fence. A wonderful and unmissable poetic view on the life of an artist and the forging of a friendship.

Sun 27 Sep | 5.00pm | £13, conc. £11

L'OFRENA

The Offering

dir. Ventura Durall, with Verónica Echegui, Alex Brendemühl, Claudia Riera, Pablo Molinero | Spain, Switzerland | 2020 | col | 111 min. | UK premiere | In Catalan and Spanish with English subtitles

When Violeta, a well-respected psychiatrist, receives a visit from the mesmerising and enigmatic Rita, little does she suspect that their encounter will transform her world. It soon transpires that, as a young woman, Violeta was in a relationship with Rita's husband, Jan, although he abruptly called off the liaison. Now, however, he has something important to offer her – and will have a profound impact on her current way of life. After directing several critically-acclaimed documentaries, Durall returns to fiction with Alex Brendemühl in a surprising, compulsive film about guilt, shame, and redemption.

Tue 29 Sep | 8.30pm | £13, conc. £11

BASQUE WINDOW

MIENTRAS DURE LA GUERRA

While at War

dir. Alejandro Amenábar, with Karra Elejalde, Eduard Fernández, Santi Prego | Spain, Argentina | 2019 | col | 107 min. | cert. 15 | London premiere | In Spanish, English and German with English subtitles

Alejandro Amenábar's seventh feature film takes us back to the days of the Spanish Civil War outbreak and Miguel de Unamuno's fight in Salamanca against everyone to stand for what he believed was right. Not just another Spanish Civil War film, *While at War* goes beyond the depiction of one of its chapters, but shows the dangers of political passivity and the dignity of the famous philosopher and writer who fought against everyone, right and left, to stand for what he believed in.

Preceded by the short

LABO

dir. Jesús M^a Palacios | Spain | 2019 | b&w | doc | 13 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

A fascinating trip to Spain's recent past through valuable archive material about the Francisco Franco Labor University of Tarragona.

Sat 26 Sep | 7.30pm | £13, conc. £11

Mon 28 Sep | 5.00pm | £13, conc. £11 (without *LABO*)

UNA VENTANA AL MAR

A Window to the Sea

dir. Miguel Ángel Jiménez, with Emma Suárez, Akilas Karazisis, Kostas Petrou | Spain, Greece | 2019 | col | 105 min. | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish, Greek and Basque with English subtitles

María is a middle-aged woman who discovers she's suffering from an illness that will probably be terminal. Before starting the treatment in Bilbao, she decides to make a long-wished for trip to Greece with two friends. From Athens they go to a remote island and there she decides to stay. As in *Ori*, Jiménez's first feature film, there's a poetic quality in *A Window to the Sea*'s slow pace and silences, which help us understand María's attitude and decisions. Against complacency and easy emotion, the director opts for an elegant and dignified treatment of sadness and hope.

Sun 27 Sep | 7.00pm | £13, conc. £11

BYE BYE, MR. ETXEBESTE

dir. Asier Altuna, Telmo Esnal | with Elena Irureta, Ramón Aguirre, Iban Garate, Azpea Goenaga | Spain | 2019 | col | 100 min. | cert. PG | In Basque with English subtitles

After a wave of corruption scandals in nearby towns, and before they reach his own, Patrizio Etxebeste alledges health reasons and steps down from his position as mayor of the town. Nevertheless he's determined not to lose control and names his wife, Maria Luisa, the town's first female mayor. But Maria Luisa has her own views on how to run a town... A superb critique of modern-day society and politics with good doses of comicity, *Bye Bye, Etxebeste* is also a reflexion with good common sense of the flaws of us as humans and the ridiculous intricacies of bureaucracy.

Preceded by the short

MATEOREN AMA

Mateo's Mother | *La madre de Mateo*

dir. Jose Mari Goenaga, Aitor Arregi, with Iñigo Aranburu, Mariasun Pagoaga, Itziar Aizpuru, Aitziber Garmendia | Spain | 2019 | col | 15 min. | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Basque with English subtitles

Mateo pays his mother a visit, long-overdue, for he worries that her identity is disappearing under the weight and strain of old age.

Wed 30 Sep | 6.30pm | £13, conc. £11

SPECIAL SCREENING

TRISTANA

dir. Luis Buñuel, with Catherine Deneuve, Fernando Rey, Franco Nero, Lola Gaos | Spain, France, Italy | 1970 | col | 129 min. | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles

Now a classic, exactly fifty years ago Luis Buñuel's *Tristana* caused a stir with his exploration of decadence, repression and desire in Toledo, which was based on Benito Pérez Galdós's novel by the same title and written in 1892. *Tristana* is a young woman who remains orphan and goes to the house of Don Lope under his protection. Don Lope

falls under the spell of her and takes up the role of protector/husband. Things start changing when she falls in love with a young artist and the until then submissive Tristana starts finding her own voice.

Sun 27 Sep | 2.00pm | £13, conc. £11

Tue 29 Sep | 5.45pm | £13, conc. £11

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