

London Spanish Film Festival

18TH LONDON SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL

22 - 29 September 2022

at Ciné Lumière, South Kensington, Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, London

The London Spanish Film Festival comes back to Ciné Lumière for its 18th edition to celebrate Spanish cinema and its talent!

This year we have partnered for the first time with the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith screening three films at their legendary venue on Wednesday the 28th.

Our line up for this edition includes a variety of productions by veteran as well as new directing talents, special Windows on the cinema from Catalonia and the Basque Country, the first Window ever dedicated to Andalusian cinema, feature films, documentaries and short films as well as films for the family and a "treasure from the archives".

We are also thrilled to welcome the following directors, writers and actors who will come to present their films: filmmaker **Icía Bollaín** (*Maixabel*), director **Pablo Romero Fresco** and documentary-maker **Mike Dibb** (*Where Memory Ends*), veteran flamenco-jazz musician **Jorge Pardo** and director **Emilio Belmonte** (*Trance*), producer and writer **Alejandro Hernández** (Manuel Martín Cuenca's *The Daughter*) and actor **Daniel Grao** (Carlota González-Adrio's *The House of the Cactuses*).

For the full programme go to www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

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PROGRAM

DONDE ACABA LA MEMORIA

Where Memory Ends

dir. Pablo Romero Fresco, with Ian Gibson, Carlos Saura, Mike Dibb, Román Gubern | Spain | 2021 | col | doc | 63 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK premiered

In 1933 the young filmmaker Luis Buñuel traveled to Las Hurdes, an isolated and extremely poor region in central Spain to film his surrealist documentary *Land without Bread*. 85 years later hispanist and biographer Ian Gibson does the same trip as part of his work of recovering the most recent historical memory of Spain through the biographies of the country's famous artists Buñuel, Dalí and Lorca. Gibson's trip will end in Granada, where the search of Lorca's remainings seems to be coming to an end.

Followed by an on-stage conversation with filmmaker Pablo Romero Fresco and documentary-maker Mike Dibb.

Sat 24 Sep | 4.15pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

PAPA O MAMA

You Keep the Kids!

dir. Dani de la Orden, with Paco León, Miren Ibarburen, Sofía Oria, Berto Romero | Spain | 2021 | col | 95 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles

Flora and Victor are a very successful couple - in their jobs as well as in their marriage. They're also terribly competitive and will have no problem arguing to the bitter end in order to win a fight, or simply prove who's right or wrong. When it comes to their divorce, they will reach absurd levels to get their own way. Funny at times, hilarious at others, always witty and benefitting from the wonderful comedy skills of Paco León and Miren Ibarburen, this comedy is a must!

Preceded by the short TRUMOIAK | *Truenos* | Thunder

dir. Iker Maguregi, with Tasio Bilbao, Peio Bilbao, Daniel Peña Gomara | Spain | 2021 | col | 12 min | cert. PG | In Basque with English subtitles

Two brothers play on the beach with firecrackers. When they find a camper the nosy kids get in. Risk is the basis of the relationship explored by the Basque Maguregi in his final work at Barcelona's ESCAC Master.

Sat 24 Sep | 8.40pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

EL TEST

The Test

dir. Dani de la Orden, with Alberto San Juan, Miren Ibarburen, Carlos Santos, Blanca Suárez | Spain | 2022 | col | 105 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

€100,000 now or one million in ten years? Tricky question. Based on the play by Jordi Vallejo, *The Test* follows a two couples: Héctor and Paula, who have serious economic problems, and Toni and Berta, very successful in their careers and extremely well-off. Those with the dilemma are Héctor and Paula. And they will have to agree on their decision. Dani de la Orden delivers another delightful comedy that will make us reflect on greed and the vulnerability of the human being.

Mon 26 Sep | 8.50pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

ALEGRIA

dir. Violeta Salama, with Cecilia Suárez, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Sarah Perles, Laia Manzanares, Joe Manjón | Spain/USA | 2021 | col | 105 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish and Berber languages with English subtitles

Alegría lives in Melilla and has been distancing from her Jewish roots for many years. The arrival of her niece to get married alters the balance of her life. Will this be the time to reconcile with her own daughter, who she hasn't seen for years and is now living in Israel and a mother herself? Inspired by the director's own roots, *Alegría* is a film by and about women, their friendship and understanding beyond religion and culture as well as the conflicts and contradictions within.

Tue 27 Sep | 8.50pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

ESPIRITU SAGRADO

The Sacred Spirit

by Chema García Ibarra, with Nacho Fernández, Llum Arques, | Spain/France/Turkey | 2021 | col | 97 min | In Spanish with English subtitles

When Julio, the leader of an ufologists association in Elche dies unexpectedly, the members see their secret humankind-changing master plan endangered. Now José Manuel, one of the members, will have to carry on with the plan. Meanwhile, everyone in Elche is looking for a missing little girl. Exquisitely framed, García Ibarra's debut feature film is uncomfortably amusing and defies expectations in a terrific way.

Preceded by the short SUELTA | Loose

by Javier Pereira, with Olivia Baglivi, Javier Ballesteros, Maria Jáimez | Spain | 2022 | col | 19 min | In Spanish with English subtitles

With a solid and long acting career, Javier Pereira moves to the other side of the camera and surprises us with *Suelta*, his first short, a dark story about trust and preconceptions that won't leave you indifferent.

Wed 28 Sep | 8.30pm | £13, conc. £11, under 25 - £6.50 | Riverside Studios

LA CASA ENTRE LOS CACTUS

The House among the Cactuses

dir. Carlota González-Adrio, with Daniel Grao, Ariadna Gil, Ricardo Gómez | Spain | 2022 | col | 88 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Emilio and Rosa have created a dream family with their five flower-named daughters in an isolated valley in the Canary Islands. Far from civilisation and the lives they left behind, they enjoy their special paradise oblivious to the rest

of the world. Then a stranger arrives to their house among the cactuses... and only Emilio and Rosa know the danger their in, because they keep a terrible secret. Carlota González-Adrio builds tension spectacularly around darkness and silence in her debut film, based on Paul Penn's novel *Desert Flowers*.

Followed by a Q&A with lead actor Daniel Grao

Wed 28 Sep | 8.30pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

SOLO UNA VEZ

Just Once

dir. Guillermo Rios Bordón, with Ariadna Gil, Alex García, Silvia Alonso | Spain | 2021 | col | 80 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Laura is a psychologist working with victims of gender violence. She has recently and continuously been harassed by the husband of one of her patients. Now Eva and Pablo, a couple affirming there's been no violence between them, visit her. They both say there has been a misunderstanding. *Just Once* is a very subtle and stylish psychological thriller playing with the strenght of the characters's gazes.

Thu 29 Sep | 6.20pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

CERDITA

Piggy

dir. Carlota Pereda, with Claudia Salas, Carmen Machi, Pilar Castro | Spain | 2022 | col | 90 min | cert. 18 | In Spanish with English subtitles | Special preview courtesy of Vertigo Films

In a rural Spanish town Sara, an overweight teenager, is the victim of constant and cruel bullying by a bunch of mean girls. When she goes to the town's pool at the time she knows nobody is going to be there, she stumbles upon a mysterious stranger and is surprised by the arrival of her tormentors, who start their usual bullying. What will Sara do when she realises that the stranger has abducted her tormentors? Pereda's formidable debut takes as a starting point adolescence insecurities and delivers a grisly and ferocious psychological horror film which premiered at Sundance Film Festival this year.

Thu 29 Sep | 8.40pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

14TH CATALAN WINDOW

SIS DIES CORRENTS

Seis dias corrientes | The Odd-Job Men

dir. Neus Ballús, with Mohamed Mellali, Valero Escolar, Pep Sarrà | Spain | 2021 | col | 85 min | cert. PG | In Catalan, Spanish and Berber languages with English subtitles

Mohamed, Valero and Pep are a peculiar team of three handymen from different cultural backgrounds that have to face a series of eccentric clients and challenging situations. At the beginning of the film Mohamed says he's always liked observe people's life. Now we'll observe these three men for one week and see that their everyday job is at times exhilarating, at times surrealist, but never boring. Neus Ballús third feature film is an original and audacious approach to documenting everyday life in the Catalan capital.

Thu 22 Sep | 6.30pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

Sun 25 Sep | 8.40pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

PAN DE LIMON CON SEMILLAS DE AMAPOLA

Lemon and Poppy Seeds Cake

dir. Benito Zambrano, with Elia Galera, Eva Martín, Mariona Pagès, Tommy Schlessler, Pere Arquillué | Spain/Luxembourg | 2021 | col | 118 min | cert. PG | UK premiere | English and Spanish with English subtitles

In a small town in Mallorca, two sisters, Anna and Marina reunite after a many years of separation. They lead very different lives: Anna has barely left the island and is unhappy in her marriage, whereas Marina works at the moment as a doctor for an NGO in Africa. They get together to sell a bakery they've inherited from a mysterious woman they know nothing about. As the two sisters try to uncover the secret behind this mysterious inheritance, they will confront old family disputes. With this brilliant and moving reflection on time and loyalty, Benito Zambrano brings us a memorable film about five women coming together and embracing optimism and practicality.

Fri 23 Sep | 6.15pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

MEDITERRANEO

Mediterraneo: The Law of the Sea

dir. Marcel Barrena, with Eduard Fernández, Anna Castillo, Dani Rovira, Sergi López | Spain/Luxembourg | 2021 | col | 112 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In English and Spanish with English subtitles

Autumn 2015. Two Catalan lifeguards, Oscar and Gerard, travel to the Greek island of Lesbos after seeing the heart-wrenching photograph of a little boy drowned in the Mediterranean Sea. When they arrive the shocking reality is much worse: thousands of people are risking their lives everyday trying to cross the sea in the most precarious of vessels, fleeing from armed conflicts and other miseries in their home countries. And nobody is doing any rescue work. Based on real facts and real people, Barrena's multi-awarded film invites us to think about what can be done when a crisis hits from political, social and human standpoints.

Sat 24 Sep | 6.30pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

13TH BASQUE WINDOW

MAIXABEL

dir. Icíar Bollaín, with Blanca Portillo, Luis Tosar, Bruno Sevilla | Spain | 2021 | col | 115 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

In 2000, Maixabel Lasa's husband, Juan María Jáuregui, was killed by the terrorist organisation ETA. Eleven years later she receives a message from one of the men who killed Juan: he wants to meet with her in the Nanclares de la Oca prison in Álava, where he is serving his sentence after breaking ties with the terrorist group. Based on the inspiring true story of a brave woman whom, after losing her husband at ETA's hands, decided to take a step towards a peaceful coexistence by agreeing to meet the imprisoned terrorist responsible for her husband's death.

Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Icíar Bollaín

Wed 28 Sep | 6.00pm | £13, conc. £11, under 25 - £6.50 | Riverside Studios

ERASE UNA VEZ EN EUSKADI

Once Upon a Time in Euskadi

dir. Manu Gómez, with Asier Flores, Aitor Calderón, Miguel Rivera, Luis Callejo, Arón Piper, Yon González | Spain | 2021 | col | 101 min | cert. 15 | UK premiere | In Spanish with English subtitles

Euskadi 1985. It's summer time and the holidays are finally here. Marcos and his 3 friends, José Antonio, Paquito and Toni, anxiously await the promising summer break. They are 12 year old and live in the most turbulent years of Euskadi, then sunk in a turmoil of political violence and terrorism.

Preceded by the short HELTZEAR | Features

dir. Miguel Gurrea, with Haizea Oses, Mikel Arruti, Oier de Santiago | Spain | 2021 | col | 17 min | cert. PG | UK premiere | In Basque with English subtitles

San Sebastian, 2000. The Basque conflict is active. Sara, a fifteen-year-old girl, writes a letter to her absent brother as she trains for the most difficult climb of her life.

Sun 25 Sep | 6.40pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

1st ANDALUSIAN WINDOW

LA HIJA

The Daughter

dir. Manuel Martín Cuenca, with Javier Gutiérrez, Patricia López Arnaiz, Irene Virgüez | Spain | 2021 | 122 min | col | cert. 18 | In Spanish with English subtitles

Irene is a pregnant teenager that has escaped from a juvenile detention centre. Javier, who works there, and his wife take her in their isolated home in the beautiful mountains of Jaén, hiding her for months from the rest of the world and living together as they all have agreed to a plan... Manuel Martín Cuenca explores again a dark and sinister side of human beings with a well-measured and atmospheric pace as well as a magnificent direction of the talented actors's craft.

Followed by a Q&A with producer and co-writer Alejandro Hernández

Thu 22 Sep | 8.35pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

LA MANIOBRA DE LA TORTUGA

Unfinished Affairs

dir. Juan Miguel del Castillo, with Natalia de Molina, Fred Tatien, Mona Martínez, Ignacio Mateos | Spain/Argentina | 2022 | 101 min | col | cert. 18 | In Spanish with English subtitles

When the body of a young girl is found inspector Manuel Bianquetti sets, despite the opposition of his superiors and colleagues, on a solitary crusade to find those responsible for the crime, which reminds him of his own troubled past. The only person who seems to be on his side is his neighbour, a fragile and distrustful nurse. Adapted from the bestselling novel by Benito Olmo and set in the city of Cádiz, Unfinished Affairs is a true noir full of misleading clues, revenge, corruption and bold decisions as well as a portrait of the harsh reality of gender-based aggression.

Followed by a Q&A (tbc)

Mon 26 Sep | 6.20pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

TRANCE

dir. Emilio Belmonte, with Jorge Pardo, Chick Corea, Mark Guiliana, Niño Josele | France | 2021 | 98 min | doc | UK premiere | In English and Spanish with English subtitles

Emilio Belmonte and his crew follow for two years Jorge Pardo, the legendary flutist and saxophonist of Paco de Lucía's sextet, in a journey to the heart of flamenco music. Pardo's flamenco-jazz work is essential to understand the evolution of contemporary flamenco. Belmonte's road movie contains some exceptional musical moments and captures Pardo's conception of art as a way of life and life as art.

Tue 27 Sep | 6.20pm | £15, conc. £13 | Ciné Lumière

A TREASURE FROM THE ARCHIVES
HOMAGE TO BERLANGA

PATRIMONIO NACIONAL

National Heritage

dir. Luis García Berlanga, with Luis Ciges, Luis Escobar, José Luis de Vilallonga, Amparo Soler Leal, Agustín González | Spain | 1981 | 112 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles

After the death of Franco, the Marquis of Leguineche returns to Madrid from thirty years of voluntary exile in his countryside farm. From his palace he intends to approach the King to resume the court life of yesteryear and a series of jests and unscrupulous people will start to hang around waiting for an opportunity to make some profit. Berlanga, with his usual sharp wit, revises Spanish life from the standpoint of the Spanish high society's opportunism, which, with the end of the Franco period have to find new ways to keep their privileges.

FAMILY SCREENING

TAD THE LOST EXPLORER AND THE CURSE OF THE MUMMY

dir. Enrique Gato, with Trevor White, Joseph Balderrama, Elena Sanz | 2022 | Spain | animation | In English

Tad accidentally unleashes an ancient spell endangering the lives of his friends: Mummy, Jeff and Belzoni. With everyone against him and only helped by Sara, he sets off on an adventure, in order to put an end to the curse of the Mummy. An exciting and extremely funny story written by Manuel Burque and Josep Gatell.

Sat 24 Sep | 2.00pm | £5 | Ciné Lumière

ESTIU 1993

Verano 1993 | Summer 1993

dir. Carla Simón, with Laia Artigas, Paula Robles, Bruna Cusí | Spain | 2017 | 97 min | col | cert. PG | In Catalan with English subtitles

After her mother's death, six-year-old Frida is sent to her uncle's house in the Catalan countryside to live with his family. However Frida can't avoid missing her mother and struggles to settle in this new family and life. Carla Simón's spectacular debut feature is a beautifully crafted film made with a keen sense of poetry as well as delicate sensitivity.

Sun 25 Sep | 1.25pm | £5 | Ciné Lumière