

London Spanish Film Festival

2nd Spring Weekend

20 – 22 April 2012

at Ciné lumière

PRESS RELEASE

Before celebrating the 8th edition of the London Spanish Film Festival in September, we once again bring to London audiences a Spring Weekend packed with recent Spanish productions, most of them UK premieres, including Alex de la Iglesia's latest film *La chispa de la vida*, a brutal satire on our current media-driven world with Salma Hayek and Spanish TV comic José Mota, and the winner of the Goya Award for Best Animation *Arrugas*, a pleasantly sharp humoured story about solidarity between the seniors at a nursing home. The timely and poignant *Cinco metros cuadrados* will open the weekend on Friday and we'll also have a preview screening of Dominik Moll's *The Monk* featuring a Franco-Spanish cast and crew.

David Trueba will visit us to present his latest film, *Madrid, 1987*, an eloquent film about generational differences with superb performances by veteran José Sacristán and María Valverde.

The 2nd Spring Weekend of the London Spanish Film Festival is organised by **Tristana Media** in collaboration with the **Institut français**, the Cultural Office of the **Spanish Embassy** and the **Instituto Cervantes**.

For the full programme, please, go to: www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

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SCREENINGS

Cinco Metros Cuadrados

Five Square Metres

Spain | 2011 | col | 86 mins | dir. Max Lemcke, with Fernando Tejero, Malena Alterio, Emilio Gutiérrez Caba | cert. 12 | in Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

Alex and Virginia buy a flat still in construction with the financial help of her parents, but the works are halted as it was being built illegally... A very timely drama on the collapse of the construction sector in Spain, the film is dark but also comic with Tejero, best known in Spain for his comic roles, delivering an impressive performance of a common man who, thanks to his perseverance, becomes a hero. The film and Tejero won both the Best Film and Best Actor awards at the Málaga Film Festival.

Fri 20 Apr 6.30pm

La chispa de la vida

As Luck Would Have It

Spain | 2011 | col | 98 mins | dir. Alex de la Iglesia, with José Mota, Salma Hayek, Fernando Tejero, Carolina Bang, Blanca Portillo | cert. 15 | in Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

A brutal satire on our current media-driven world and the morbid fascination with others' tragedies, *La chispa* is about Roberto (José Mota, one of Spain's most popular TV comics), a jobless marketing professional who, after yet another unsuccessful job interview, ends up trapped in a Roman amphitheatre. Desperate and confronted with death, he is ready to sell his death to secure his family's future. Written by Randy Feldman, the film is visually stunning and maintains a high level of tension and emotion at all times, while Salma Hayek's character is the anchor of the whole story with her heroic dignity and integrity.

Fri 20 Apr 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10

Arrugas

Wrinkles

Spain | 2011 | col | 89 mins | dir. Ignacio Ferreras, with Tacho González, Alvaro Guevara | animation | cert. 12 | in Spanish with English subtitles | London Premiere

Set in a nursing home, *Arrugas* is a moving story about the unlikely friendship between two patients: Emilio, a former banker, and Miguel, a mysterious Argentinian who protects his friend with zeal as he slowly succumbs to the effects of Alzheimer. Avoiding melodrama and with a pleasant sharp humour, the film is also about the compassion and solidarity needed to confront one of today's major issues: coping with the elderly in a rapidly ageing society. Ferreras' solo debut feature has recently won the Goya Award for Best Animation Film.

Preceded by the short *Desanimado*
(dir. Emilio Martí López, 2011, 7 mins, animation)

Sat 21 Apr 4.00pm

Madrid, 1987

Spain | 2011 | col | 104 mins | dir. David Trueba, with José Sacristán, María Valverde, Ramon Fontserè | cert. 15 | in Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

A cultivated, chain-smoking, and whisky-loving ageing newspaper columnist agrees to meet a pretty young journalism student seeking his advice. They accidentally end up naked in a gloomy bathroom, where they spend the rest of the film... Veteran actor José Sacristán and María Valverde play in a superb acting *duetto* showing the vulnerabilities of their respective generations, while the writer and director captures the conflicts of a period of social and political changes in Spain in a smart, loquacious

way.

Sat 21 Apr 6.00pm

Followed by a Q&A with director David Trueba

The Monk

Le Moine

France/Spain | 2010 | col | 101 mins | dir. Dominik Moll, with Sergi López, Vincent Cassel, Déborah François, Joséphine Japy | cert. 15 | in French with English subtitles

Based on Matthew G. Lewis' 1796 Gothic novel about a man's descent into depravity, the film stars Vincent Cassel as a monk, Ambrosio, who grew up in a monastery after being abandoned at its door. He becomes a revered preacher, admired and feared for his religious passion and his rigour. Everything changes when Valerio, a masked novice, enters the monastery driven by the desire to be close to him... Shot in impressively arid Catalan exteriors, the film features powerful photography by Patrick Blossier and an impressive score by Alberto Iglesias.

Sat 21 Apr 8.30pm

Las Olas

The Waves

Spain | 2011 | col | 94 mins | dir. Alberto Morais, with Carlos Alvarez-Nóvoa, Laia Marull, Armando Aguirre, Sergio Caballero | cert. 12 | in Spanish with English subtitles

Miguel, an ageing man, undertakes an uncertain journey into his own past but also into that of Spain, by reliving his trip to France many years ago, along with a woman and many other Spanish exiles. In his second film and first feature, Morais follows Miguel's slow movements with austerity, precision and finesse while avoiding sentimentality. A sober but moving reflection on the memories and the scars of Spain's Civil War.

Preceded by the short *La Mujer del hatillo gris*
(dir. Luis Trapiello, 2011, 19 mins)

Sun 22 Apr 4.30pm | £8, conc. £6