

8th London Spanish Film Festival

28 September – 10 October 2012

at Ciné Lumière

PRESS RELEASE

1 August 2012

The London Spanish Film Festival launches its 8th edition (28 September - 10 October) with an extraordinary line-up of recent Spanish films and, although we have some special previews of films that will later be distributed in this country, most of them are UK premières and this will be a unique opportunity to view them in London. From engaging thrillers to exhilarating comedies, from moving dramas and action movies to documentaries and shorts, this selection will demonstrate the compelling variety of Spanish cinema in all its richness. As in previous editions, some of the films will be presented by their directors and actors. Coming from all corners of Spain they will be available to answer questions from the public, among them: **Manuela Vellés** and **Emma Suárez** will present *Buscando a Eimish*, **Vicente Villanueva** will present his debut film *Lo contrario al amor*, and actor and now also filmmaker **Paco León** will present with his mother **Carmina Barrios** his crazy, hilarious debut film *Carmina o revienta*.

We will also have a look at the recent Catalan film productions in its rich variety, such as the documentary *El Bulli: Cooking in Progress*, by the German Gersom Wetzel, the fresh and unconventional *El sexo de los ángeles*, which will be presented by lead actress **Astrid Bergès-Frisbey** and **Isaki Lacuesta's** double bill *Los pasos dobles* and *Cuaderno de barro*, which will be presented by the filmmaker and the co-scriptwriter **Isa Campo**. *Cuaderno de barro* and *El Bulli: Cooking in Progress* will be presented in collaboration with the **Spain Now!**, the London season of contemporary arts and culture from Spain.

Our Basque Window will bring some novelties from the Basque Country, including the beautiful and poetic documentary *Bertsolari*, which will be presented by director **Asier Altuna**, and the highly enjoyable *Extraterrestre*, the awaited second feature by Nacho Viagalondo.

Luis Tosar, one of Spain's most outstanding actors, will be the subject of our special feature and he will join us for a special on-stage interview. We are also delighted to include in our programme an examination of the acting registers promoted by Pedro Almodóvar. For this we'll have a small selection of his films introduced by actors **Lluís Homar**, **Marisa Paredes** and **Antonia San Juan** and Prof. Maria Delgado will be speaking with them in the library of the Institut Français.

Finally, this year we are also introducing "A Treasure From the Archives", a chance in our programme to re-discover forgotten gems from Spanish cinema.

Most of the screenings and events will take place at Ciné Lumière, but we'll also have some extra screenings at Instituto Cervantes and International House.

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 go to: www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

For further information, please, contact:

at the **London Spanish Film Festival**:

Noemi Cuetos Fernández | noemi@tristanamedia.com

Joana Granero | 07733 164 053 | joana@londonspanishfilmfestival.com

at **Ciné lumière**:

Natacha Antolini | 020 7871 3521 | natacha.antolini@institutfrançais.org.uk

Justine Goy | 020 7871 3521 | justine.goy@institutfrançais.org.uk

SCREENINGS AT CINE LUMIERE

fri 28 sep	6.30pm	Buscando a Eimish + Q&A	dir. Ana Rodríguez Rosell
	7.45pm	Public drink	
	8.40pm	El sexo de los angeles + Q&A (tbc) preceded by the short Plenamar	dir. Xavier Villaverde dir. Joan Carles Martorell
sat 29 sep	2.00pm	Take My Eyes	dir. Icíar Bollaín
	4.15pm	12+1: A Metaphysical Comedy	dir. Chiqui Carabante
	6.30pm	Carmina o revienta + Q&A preceded by the short Anacos	dir. Paco León dir. Xacio Baño
	8.40pm	Los Pelayo + Q&A preceded by the short El barco pirata	dir. Eduard Cortés dir. Fernando Trullols
sun 30 sep	4.00pm	Arriya preceded by the short Bucle	dir. Alberto Gorritiberea dir. Artiz Moreno
	6.00pm	Todo sobre mi madre + presentation	dir. Pedro Almodóvar
	8.15pm	Del lado del verano + presentation	dir. Antonia San Juan
mon 1 oct	6.15pm	Los Pelayo	dir. Eduard Cortés
	6.30pm	■ Talk: Acting Almodovar	
	8.15pm	Los abrazos rotos + presentation preceded by the short The Cannibalistic Counsellor	dir. Pedro Almodóvar dir. Pedro Almodóvar
tue 2 oct	6.15pm	Tralas luces preceded by the short Joining the Dots + intro	dir. Sandra Sánchez dir. Pablo Romero Fresco
	8.30pm	La flor de mi secreto + Q&A	dir. Pedro Almodóvar
wed 3 oct	6.00pm	Bertsolari + Q&A	dir. Asier Altuna
	8.15pm	■ Luis Tosar in Conversation	
	9.00pm	Mientras duermes	dir. Jaume Balagueró
thu 4 oct	3.00pm	Verbo	dir. E. Chaperó-Jackson
	6.15pm	O Apostolo	dir. Fernando Cortizo
	8.15pm	Lo contrario al amor + Q&A preceded by short Papá se ha ido	dir. Vicente Villanueva dir. Sonia Sebastián
fri 5 oct	3.00pm	O Apostolo	dir. Fernando Cortizo

	6.15pm 8.30pm	<i>A puerta fría</i> <i>Grupo 7</i> + Q&A (tbc)	dir. Xavi Puebla dir. Alberto Rodríguez
sat 6 oct	2.00pm 4.00pm 6.00pm 8.30pm	<i>Grupo 7</i> <i>Flores de otro mundo</i> <i>Casual Day</i> preceded by short <i>Taxi?</i> <i>Verbo</i>	dir. Alberto Rodríguez dir. Iciar Bollaín dir. Max Lemcke dir. Telmo Esnal dir. E. Chaperó-Jackson
sun 7 oct	4.00pm 6.30pm 8.30pm	<i>The Limits of Control</i> <i>La casa Emak Bakia</i> + Q&A (tbc) <i>Lobos de Arga</i>	dir. Jim Jarmusch dir. Oskar Alegria dir. J. Martínez Moreno
mon 8 oct	6.15pm 8.15pm	<i>Los pasos dobles</i> + intro <i>Cuaderno de barro</i> + Q&A	dir. Isaki Lacuesta dir. Isaki Lacuesta
tue 9 oct	8.15pm	<i>El Bulli: Cooking in Progress</i>	dir. Gerson Wetzel
wed 10 oct	6.15pm 8.15pm	<i>Un, dos, tres al escondite inglés</i> <i>Extraterrestre</i> + Q&A (tbc)	dir. J. L. Borau, I. Zulueta dir. Nacho Vigalondo

SCREENINGS AT INSTITUTO CERVANTES

tue 2 oct	6.30pm	<i>Bitter-sweet</i> (shorts session)	
wed 3 oct	6.30pm	<i>Los lunes al sol</i>	dir. F. León de Aranoa
wed 10 oct	6.30pm	<i>Lost & Found</i> (shorts session)	

SCREENINGS AT INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

mon 1 oct	7.00pm	<i>Lo contrario al amor</i>	dir. Vicente Villanueva
wed 3 oct	7.00pm	<i>Buscando a Eimish</i>	dir. Ana Rodríguez Rosell
mon 8 oct	7.00pm	<i>Casual Day</i>	dir. Max Lemcke

BUSCANDO A EIMISH

Looking for Eimish

dir. Ana Rodríguez Rosell, with Oscar Jaenada, Manuela Vellés, Emma Suárez, Jan Cornet, Carlos Leal | Spain | 2012 | 85 min | col | cert. G | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

This first feature film by Rodríguez Rosell narrates with delicacy and clarity Lucas's search for his girlfriend, who has just left him. Taking one train after the other, he follows the traces of Eimish's tormented past through Spain, Germany and Italy: a loving ex-boyfriend now with his own family, an absent mother, and a broken music group that replaced the family Eimish never had and always longed for... A moving but dynamic film about finding one's place in the world and the bonds we make.

fri 28 sep | 6.15pm | £10, con. £8

The film will be presented by actresses Manuela Vellés and Emma Suárez

12 + 1, UNA COMEDIA METAFÍSICA

12 + 1, A Metaphysical Comedy

dir. Chiqui Carabante, with Gorka Zubeldía, Aránzazu Garrastazu, Manolo Monteagudo, Julián Manzano | Spain | 2012 | 106 min | col | cert. tbc | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

A group of men walk through the desert looking for something. Only one of them knows what it is and the others call him "Master," although he doesn't like it. Travelling through the desert is dangerous: besides the harshness of the place and its weather, someone called "The Baptist" haunts the dunes. They don't know whether they are looking for God or for death... or if both are the same. This second feature film by Carabante is a daring comedy mingling absurdity with insight on the frictions between the components of a hallowed group of men, the Apostles, and their relationship with a Jesus Christ who, in spite of his role, doesn't try to teach anyone.

sat 29 sep | 4.15pm | £10, conc. £8

CARMINA O REVIENTA

Carmina or Blow-Up

dir. Paco León, with Carmina Barrios, María León, Paco Casaus | Spain | 2012 | 70 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Carmina, a woman in suburban Seville, struggles with the challenges life has dealt her: her bar is robbed for the umpteenth time and the insurance company always manages to find an excuse not to cover the damages, her husband drinks too much and is pretty useless, her daughter is only interested in hanging out with her friends and doesn't have a bright future in front of her, her car is stolen... Well-known in Spain for his film and TV acting, Paco León's debut as a filmmaker is a brilliant, crazy and hilarious film with incredible performances by his own mother (not a professional actress) and sister in the best Sevillian humour.

Preceded by the short:

ANACOS | Pieces

dir. Xacio Baño, with Mabel Rivera, Fernando Morán, Xosé Barato | Spain | 2012 | col | 6 min | *International première*

The life of a person can be as easy and straightforward as a recipe for sponge cake.

Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Paco León and actress Carmina Barrios

sat 29 sep | 6.30pm | £10, conc. £8

DEL LADO DEL VERANO

The Summer Side

dir. Antonia San Juan, with Macarena Gómez, Antonia San Juan, Luis Miguel Seguí, Eduardo Casanova | Spain | 2011 | 100 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Tana, a young and hard-working woman, supports her family as best she can while she tries to find her way out. Meanwhile her mother struggles with the economic difficulties and the deceitfulness of her own family. Antonia San Juan, best known to British audiences for her role as Agrado in Pedro Almodóvar's *All About My Mother*, portrays in her second film as director, the hypocrisies and loyalties of an isolated society in the Canary Islands – where she grew up – in a harsh and uncompassionate way without losing her good sense of humour.

Introduced by Antonia San Juan and actor Luis Miguel Seguí

sun 30 sep | 8.15pm | £12, conc. £10

TRALAS LUCES

Behind the Lights

dir. Sandra Sánchez, with Lourdes Machado, José Estevez, Arturo dos Santos, José Estevez Machado, Lindo Estevez | Spain/Argentina/Portugal | 2012 | 112 min | col | doc | cert. G | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Lourdes was married at 17, she became a mother at 18 and at 34 she is struggling to keep her life, her family and her team from falling apart. In a world of men, that of itinerant fairground attractions, she drives her 40-tonne truck from town to town through the roads of Northern Spain, in the fair months of summer and the harsh months of winter. Sánchez's powerful film is a look into an endangered way of life as well as into the life and the emotional bonds of a gypsy woman who does her best to be a good mother and follow her dream of an itinerant life.

Preceded by the short:

JOINING THE DOTS

dir. Pablo Romero Fresco, with Trevor Franklin, Mags Silbery, Joan Greening, Louise Fryer, Pablo Romero Fresco | UK/Spain | 2012 | col | doc | 12 min | *In English*

World première

Trevor lost his sight at a very young age. Things that used to be very simple became extremely complicated for him. We are proud to present the first documentary on blind people accessibility.

Joining the Dots will be presented by the director and Trevor Franklin

tue 2 oct | 6.15pm | £10, conc. £8

VERBO

dir. Eduardo Chapero-Jackson, with Alba García, Miguel Angel Silvestre, Najwa Nimri, Verónica Echegui, Macarena Gómez | Spain | 2011 | 88 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Sara, a confused, sharp-witted fifteen year old girl feels that there must be more to life than what we can see, something unknown. She starts to see in her monotonous life a series of disquieting messages in striking, mysterious graffittis that will lead her towards a dangerous new dimension... Once there she'll have to fight hard to save her own life. Following a series of very well-received shorts, Chapero-Jackson's visually stunning debut feature makes of Sara a heroine of the new century in a grey postmodern world, combining impressive special effects with skateboard-riding and wonderful references to a *Don Quixote* that is still relevant.

thu 4 oct | 3.00pm | £8, conc. £6

sat 6 oct | 8.30pm | £10, conc. £8

O APOSTOLO

dir. Fernando Cortizo, with Carlos Blanco, Xose Manuel Oliveira 'Pico', Paul Naschy, Jorge Sanz, Celso Bugallo, Geraldine Chaplin, Luis Tosar | Spain | 2012 | animation | 85 min | cert. 7 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

A convict escapes from prison and, with clothes stolen from a pilgrim travelling to Santiago, sets off to recover stolen jewels another convict has hidden in a remote small town. Things turn out quite differently than expected and what he finds in that town proves to be a tougher punishment than prison... A very enjoyable film mixing animation, comedy, thriller, fantasy and horror involving, with irony and gothic touches, strange disappearances, spirits, a sinister old woman, a very peculiar priest, and even Santiago's archpriest!

thu 4 oct | 6.15pm | £10, conc. £8

fri 5 oct | 3.00pm | £8, conc. £6

LO CONTRARIO AL AMOR

The Opposite of Love

dir. Vicente Villanueva, with Hugo Silva, Adriana Ugarte, Guadalupe Lancho, Luis Callejo, Kiti Manver | Spain | 2011 | 105 min | col | cert. 18 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Villanueva's feature debut is a romantic comedy about the challenges of love in the new millenium.

Mercede, a “metamorphic masseuse” as she calls herself, has given up on relationships after her last break-up. When she gets trapped in an elevator with her sister, they are rescued by an incredibly good-looking trio of firefighters. They all call her for a massage and she goes out with each of them, but with the third one sex is not enough and they embark on a complicated love story. A relationship tainted with jealousy, fear of dependency, desire for control, attempts to adapt the other to oneself... just the opposite of love.

Preceded by the short:

PAPA SE HA IDO | Dad Has Left

dir. Sonia Sebastián, with Eulàlia Ramón, Celia Freijeiro, Elvira Lindo, Lorenzo Caprile, Mara Ballester, Karin Salvador | Spain | 2012 | col | 15 min | In Spanish with English subtitles | *World première*

Marina goes to see her mother after work but, where is dad? A delightful and funny film based on a short story by Elvira Lindo,

Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Vicente Villanueva

thu 4 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8

A PUERTA FRIA

Cold Call

dir. Xavi Puebla, with Antonio Dechent, Nick Nolte, María Valverde, José Luis García Pérez, Alex O'Dogherty, José Angel Egido, Héctor Colomé, Sergio Caballero | Spain | 2012 | 88 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish and English with English subtitles*

UK première

Salvador is a salesman in trouble. His job is at risk: he needs to close a deal at a business fair or he'll lose it. At this same fair he meets Inés, a young hostess whom he asks for help. Together they hatch a plan to get the American Mr. Battleworth to sign an important contract. Catalan filmmaker Puebla is here concerned with a generation of men for whom times have changed too quickly, for whom the time has come to clear the way for a new and very different generation. With the powerful and moving performance of Dechent balanced with Valverde's youthful freshness and cynicism, Puebla succeeds in this subtly crafted study of a man's downfall under pressure.

fri 5 oct | 6.15pm | £10, conc. £8

GRUPO 7

Unit 7

dir. Alberto Rodríguez, with Mario Casas, Antonio de la Torre, Joaquín Núñez, José Manuel Poga, Inma Cuesta | Spain | 2012 | 95 min | col | cert. 16 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Set in Seville at the end of the 80s, when the town's politicians were getting ready to track down on delinquency and drug trafficking in order to present it in all its beauty to its future visitors during the approaching 1992 World Expo, Rodríguez's film focuses on the work of a group of policemen who dedicate their efforts to that task, risking their own lives in the process. The director presents his own town in a harsh but moving way with the help of the wonderful performances of the cast, especially those of Antonio de la Torre and Mario Casas.

Preceded by short:

STARTING FROM ZERO

**dir. Gregorio Arroyo, with Andy Hutchison, Marie Brock, Rafiq Richard, Fanny Gatibelza, Alex Spijksma, Fele Pastor, Ester Jiménez | Spain/UK | 2012 | 12 min | *In English*
*World première***

Ordinary people in an ordinary parking lot. A shooting. Time running out. Fear rising. No escapes.

The screening on Fri 5 Oct will be followed by a Q&A

fri 5 oct | 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10

sat 6 oct | 2.00pm | £10, conc. £8

LOBOS DE ARGA

Game of Werewolves

dir. Juan Martínez Moreno, with Gorka Otxoa, Carlos Areces, Secun de la Rosa, Manuel Manquña | Spain | 2011 | 104 min. | col | cert. 12| *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

In 1910, in the small Galician town of Arga, a terrible curse falls on the wicked Marquise of Mariño and her son, who will turn into a werewolf on his tenth birthday. A hundred years later, Tomás, a rather unsuccessful writer and the last of the Mariños, goes back to the town convinced that he will be named “adoptive son” of Arga, never suspecting that he has been summoned to bring an end to the old curse... Martínez Moreno manages to frighten us and to make us laugh with this ode to classic horror movies.

sun 7 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8

CATALAN WINDOW

A GLIMPSE INTO CINEMA FROM CATALONIA

EL SEXO DE LOS ANGELES

The Sex of the Angels

dir. Xavier Villaverde with Astrid Bergès-Frisbey, Alvaro Cervantes, Llorenç González, Lluïsa Castell | Spain | 2011 | 105 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Catalan and Spanish with English subtitles*

Special preview

Carla and Bruno are a couple living in Barcelona. They are young and beautiful, they love and desire each other. Rai is a provocative and mysterious rap-dancer and martial arts teacher who moves from city to city, from love story to love story. When the three of them meet, an unusual love and lust triangle creates a situation that is difficult to handle, especially for Carla. *The Sex of the Angels* is a fresh look at honesty and possibilities beyond conventions with wonderful performances by the cast.

Preceded by the short:

PLENAMAR | High Tide

dir. Joan Carles Martorell, with Lydia Sánchez, Rodo Gener, Santi Celaya | Spain | 2011 | col | 17 min | *UK première*

Erica, Marc and Albert – a married couple and a close friend – are holidaying on a boat along the

Coast of Majorca. During the trip Erica will face an unexpected situation.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with actress Astrid Bergès-Frisbey

fri 28 sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10

Enjoy a glass of Campo Viejo wine from 7.45, courtesy of Pernod Ricard UK

LOS PELAYO

Winning Streak

dir. Eduard Cortés, with Daniel Brühl, Lluís Homar, Miguel Angel Silvestre, Blanca Suárez | Spain | 2011 | 100 min | col | cert. 15 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

Based on an incredible true story, Cortés's film is about the loyalty and the bonds of the members of a family when the head, played by Lluís Homar, calls his son (Daniel Brühl) to reunite them to perform the trick he has discovered to beat a casino – legally and capitalising on the roulette wheel's imperfections. With a witty script and very fine performances by the cast, Cortés manages to keep the tension high throughout this action-comedy-love film.

Preceded by the short:

EL BARCO PIRATA | The Pirate Ship

dir. Fernando Trullols, with Alberto San Juan, Raúl Arévalo, Petra Martínez, Antonio de la Torre, Dylan Figueroa | Spain | 2011 | col | 14 min | *UK première*

David lives with his mother after his break-up with the mother of his son and is about to be fired from his job. But his son has asked for a pirate ship for Christmas, and David will get it even if he has to go to the ends of the earth.

Followed by a Q&A with actor Lluís Homar (tbc)

sat 29 sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10

MIENTRAS DUERMES

Sleep Tight

dir. Jaume Balagueró, with Luis Tosar, Marta Etura, Alberto San Juan, Petra Martínez | Spain | 2011 | 107 min | col | cert. 16 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Special preview

César is apparently a sweet and professional, but sad and unhappy concierge. The truth is that, in his own peculiar way, he leads a quite entertaining life: he spies on the tenants, tries to put them in difficult situations... and he has a penchant for one of them: Clara, a pretty, happy-go-lucky girl who lives on her own while her boyfriend is abroad. César's goal is to make Clara miserable. Set in a beautiful modernist building in Barcelona, this film by Balagueró is a gripping dark thriller with intense and compelling performances by the actors that will keep you on the edge of your seat and may cause sleepless nights...

wed 3 oct | 9.00pm | £10, conc. £8

LOS PASOS DOBLES

The Double Steps

**dir. Isaki Lacuesta, with Miquel Barceló, Djenebou Keita | Spain | 2011 | 86 min | col | cert. 7 |
*In French and Bambara with English subtitles***

UK première

In Mali, a painter contemplates the work of termites on his own works of art as he remembers the story of an old painter who, just like him, found his work destroyed... Visually stunning, Lacuesta's fifth film is an exploration of artistic inspiration and creation. Approaching the work of French writer and painter François Augiéras and that of Spanish artist Miquel Barceló, Lacuesta alternates the adventures of a young man who is Augiéras's alter ego with the contemplation of Barceló's fascinating work production. The film won the Golden Shell in the 2011 edition of the San Sebastian Film Festival.

The film will be introduced by the filmmaker and co-scriptwriter Isa Campos

mon 8 oct | 6.30pm | £10 conc. £8

CUADERNO DE BARRO

The Clay Diaries

dir. Isaki Lacuesta, with Miquel Barceló | Spain | 61 min | col | cert. G | *In French with English subtitles*

UK première

Isaki Lacuesta's unusual work – always surprising, never repetitive – makes him one of Spain's most interesting filmmakers. In this film, concurrent with his work on *Los pasos dobles*, Lacuesta looks at the work of artist Miquel Barceló. Barceló, originary from Majorca, has been spending long periods of time in Africa. There he learnt to paint between termites and scorpions. Lacuesta's camera also follows Barceló's performance with choreographer Josef Nadj of "Paso doble". A unique opportunity to appreciate the work of two artists: Lacuesta behind the camera, Barceló in front of it.

Followed by a Q&A with the director and co-scriptwriter Isa Campo

mon 8 oct | 8.30pm | £10 conc. £8

Los pasos dobles and Cuaderno de barro double bill: £15, conc. £12

Event organised in collaboration with Spain Now!

EL BULLI: COOKING IN PROGRESS

dir. Gerson Wetzel, with Ferran Adrià, Oriol Castro, Eduard Xatruch, Eugeni de Diego, Aitor Lozano | Germany | 2010 | 108 min | doc | col | cert. G | *In Spanish, Catalan and French with English subtitles*

In this documentary Wetzel captures the months that Ferran Adrià and his team spent in his Barcelona-based cooking laboratory to create their menu for his three-Michelin starred restaurant

El Bulli, now closed for good. Adrià is acknowledged as probably the most ingenious and creative avant-garde chef and Wetzell offers us a privileged insight into the physical, chemical and creative processes and the industriousness of Adrià and his wonderful team of chefs working towards the conception of an innovative menu that includes such surprises as ice vinaigrette with tangerine and green olives.

Introduced by Ferran Adrià in a specially commissioned recorded appearance.
tue 9 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8

Organised in collaboration with Spain Now!

BASQUE WINDOW

A GLIMPSE INTO CINEMA FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY

ARRIYA

The Stone

dir. Alberto Gorritiberea, with Ramón Agirre, Joseba Apaolaza, Sara Casanovas, Iban Garate, Iñake Irastorza, Begoña Maestre, Kandido Uranga | Spain | 2011 | col | 101 mins | cert. PG | *In Basque and Spanish with English subtitles*

UK Première

Arriya is the story of a love triangle between Peru, Maria and Jone, whose lives were marked by a childhood event involving the eponymous stone. That stone is the object of a bet between two rival families: each of them has been training a horse to carry it in the main square of the town. Touches of magic realism and an impressive photography give much charm to Gorritiberea's second feature film.

Preceded by the short:

BUCLE | Loop

dir. Aritz Moreno with Kepa Errasti, Jon Calvo | Spain | 2011 | col | 2 min

A man gets up and prepares coffee. A man gets up and prepares coffee. A man gets up and prepares coffee...

sun 30 sep | 4.00pm | £10, conc. £8

BERTSOLARI

dir. Asier Altuna, with Maialen Lujanbio, Andoni Egaña, Joseba Zulaika, John Miles Foley, Miren Amuriza, Jon Sarasua | Spain | 2011 | col | doc | 90 mins | cert. PG | *In Basque and English with English subtitles*

UK Première

Coming from a tradition that goes back to the depths of Basque social history, the *bertsolari* is a person who composes and recites *bertsos* (verses) spontaneously in special performances. Altuna explores in this documentary the past and present of this practice that has lasted for centuries, paying at the same time a moving homage to creativity and courage as well as to the poetry of his own people. The film also benefits from a beautiful photography and some impressive *bertsolari* performances.

Preceded by the short:

ZEINEK GEHIAGO IRAUN | Who Lasts Longer | *Quién aguanta más*
dir. Gregorio Muro | Spain | 2011 | animation | col | 12 min | cert. 12 |

A dangerous children's game will disrupt the lives of Ander and his family forever.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Asier Altuna

wed 3 oct | 6.15pm | £10, conc. £8

LA CASA DE EMAK BAKIA

The Search for Emak Bakia

dir. Oskar Alegría, with Bernardo Atxaga, Ruper Ordorika, Tonino Benacquista, Maria Despina Zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, Abel Hernandez, Flavio Colombaioni, Andrea Degl'innocenti
| Spain | 2012 | doc | col | 84 min | cert. PG | *In Basque, French and Spanish with English subtitles*

London Première

In 1926 the American artist Man Ray filmed a cinepoem in a house called Emak Bakia near Biarritz, on the Southeast coast of France. It was a purely visual film, with no narrative thread, entitled with the name of the house, which in Basque means "leave me alone". The house was originally built by a Romanian prince who wanted to escape the political obligations his family imposed upon him. Hence the use of that expression to name the house, which meaning also suited Man Ray's libertarian attitude in life, as he always defended his total freedom as an artist. Alegría's film is a poetic journey in search of a house, but he uses it as an excuse to explore the past as well as the present.

The film will be followed by a Q&A with the director (tbc)

sun 7 oct | 6.30pm | £10, conc. £8

EXTRATERRESTRE

Extraterrestrial

dir. Nacho Vigalondo, with Michelle Jenner, Julián Villagrán, Carlos Areces, Raúl Cimas, Miguel Noguera | Spain | 2011 | 96 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Special preview

Julio and Julia don't know each other. Nevertheless they wake up in the same bed after a binge they don't remember anything about. Julio falls for Julia immediately. Julia doesn't. On top of that the world is being invaded by UFOs and one of them is right above their town, but what they really care about is appearances... After his debut with *Cronocrímenes (Timecrimes)* here comes Vigalondo's eagerly awaited second film, a low-budget movie with more elements of romance and comedy than of science fiction in spite of its title, and with two convincing characters that, with their weaknesses and insecurities, provoke our empathy while making us laugh.

LAGUN MINA | Close Friend | *Mejor amigo*

dir. Jose Mari Goenaga with Eriz Alberdi, Diego Santos, Alaitz Eguren | Spain | 2011 | col | 12 min | cert. 12 | *In Basque with English subtitles*

Ekaitz and Roman meet in a hostel during their holidays and promise to stay friends forever. But something goes wrong. Either their life is too long or their promise too weak...but now they will have to come to terms with it.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Nacho Vigalondo (tbc)

wed 10 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8

SPECIAL FEATURE ON LUIS TOSAR

Luis Tosar is no doubt one of Spain's most talented actors with a career that spans over nearly twenty years, well over 40 films, a considerable number of shorts, theatre, and several Best Actor Awards won at home in Spain and abroad. He has also met great success in his parallel career as a singer with his band Di Elas and as a film producer.

With his deep voice, he has convincingly played sinister and dark characters with a variety of nuances, from tenderness to misery, but also shy and pleasant types, male chauvinist work colleagues, tough guys... always with such a naturalistic and apparently spontaneous approach that his performances are invariably compelling and convincing. A proud Galician, he has worked in Spanish and Galician, but also in English under the direction of Jim Jarmusch, Michael Mann and Bernard Rose.

In addition to his latest film, *Mientras duermes/Sleep Tight* (in the main programme), we have selected here a very small selection of his extensive work.

LUIS TOSAR IN CONVERSATION

Before the screening of *Mientras duermes* Luis Tosar will join us for an exclusive on-stage interview to talk about his acting career. (TBC)

wed 3 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8 (Interview Only) | £15, conc. £12 (Interview + Screening)

Special thanks to Air Europa

TE DOY MIS OJOS

Take My Eyes

dir. Icíar Bollain with Laia Marull, Luis Tosar, Candela Peña | Spain | 2003 | 109 min | col | cert. 15 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Uncompromising and provocative, just like its director, *Take My Eyes* is the story of Pilar, a young mother who tries to make a new life for herself after years of brutality at the hands of her husband, Antonio, who keeps trying to win her back. The subject of domestic violence is handled here with intelligence, compassion and subtlety creating, thanks to the intense and deep performances of Tosar and Marull, an outstanding film that avoids sensationalism.

sat 29 sep | 2.00pm | £10, conc. £8

LOS LUNES AL SOL
Mondays in the Sun

dir. Fernando León de Aranoa, with Javier Bardem, Luis Tosar, José Angel Egido, Nieve de Medina, Celso Bugallo, Aida Folch, Serge Riaboukine, Laura Domínguez, Fernando Tejero | Spain/Italy/France | 2002 | 113 min | col | cert. 7 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Three men who used to work in a shipyard, now unemployed, regularly meet up at Rico's bar, another former colleague. There they stick together: Santa, a big, heavy-bearded man with a golden heart who babysits when Rico's teenager daughter "subcontracts" him; Jose, a shy man who thinks he has no dignity because his wife has a job and he doesn't; and Lino, an older man who keeps applying for jobs that are meant for guys the age of his own son, refusing to admit he is now out of the market... Socially and politically committed, like all of Aranoa's films, this is a powerful film thanks to its accomplished and naturalistic dialogues, and to the cast's superb performances.

wed 3 oct | 6.30pm | free entry | Instituto Cervantes

FLORES DE OTRO MUNDO Flowers from Another World

dir. Icíar Bollain, with José Sancho, Lissete Mejía, Luis Tosar, Marilín Torres, Chete Lera, Elena Irureta, Amparo Valle, Rubén Ochandiano | Spain | 1999 | 106 min | col | cert. G | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Santa Eulalia is a little town in rural Spain with no marriageable women and little more than farming. Its single men hope to find wives by organising a party to meet available women. The special bus from Madrid arrives and the group of women in it is very varied, but all of them hope to find something: stability, companionship... or immigration papers. A bittersweet story about coexistence, Bollain's second feature film is a compelling balance between realism, humour and hope.

sat 6 oct | 4.00pm | £10, conc. £8

CASUAL DAY

dir. Max Lemcke, with Juan Diego, Javier Ríos, Luis Tosar, Estíbaliz Gabilondo, Arturo Valls, Alberto San Juan, Secun de la Rosa, Malena Alterio, Marta Etura | Spain | 2007 | 95 min | col | cert. 12 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK première

A group of work colleagues spend a weekend in a rural retreat as part of a new policy put forth by their conservative family-owned company: a "casual day" in which they all have the opportunity to interact and which is meant to foster teamwork. José Antonio, the boss, wants twenty-something Ruy, boyfriend of his only daughter, Inés, to succeed him, but Ruy, who has never taken any real decision, wants to say no to this job, to his boss, to Inés and to this farce. This weekend, which was meant to be a mere chore, ends up being a turning point for all of them. Lemcke's film presents a group of dissatisfied people forced into an uncomfortable situation in which, with some amusing situations, their prejudices and weaknesses come to the surface.

Preceded by the short:

TAXI?

dir. Telmo Esnal, with Luis Tosar, Arturo Valls, Marta Etura | Spain | 2007 | 5 min | col | cert. PG | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

The city taxi drivers have all followed a course on kindness. If you do not make the grade, you will not arrive at your destination.

sat 6 oct | 6.00pm | £10 conc. £8

THE LIMITS OF CONTROL

dir. Jim Jarmusch, with Isaach De Bankolé, Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, John Hurt, Gael García Bernal, Paz de la Huerta, Luis Tosar, Óscar Jaenada, Hiam Abbass, Youki Kudoh, Jean-François Stévenin, Alex Descas, María Isasi, Héctor Colomé | US/Spain/Japan | 2009 | 111 min | col | cert. 13 | *In English*

A mysterious man travels alone through Spain. During this trip he meets a series of peculiar characters who give him enigmatic instructions on small pieces of paper that, once read, he eats followed by two single espressos. What he is doing, who is he doing it for, or where is he going, we don't know. Jarmusch, with Christopher Doyle's impressive photography, takes us on an unusual trip with an impeccable sense of poetry in which less is more.

sun 7 oct | 4.00pm | £8 conc. £6

ACTING ACROSS FRONTIERS

ACTING ALMODÓVAR

'Acting Almodóvar' examines the acting registers promoted by Spain's most significant living director, Pedro Almodóvar, in his extensive cinematic trajectory. His influence runs across the performance of taboo subjects and in the forging of nuanced modes of performance that draw on melodrama, the tragic, high comedy, farce, and the neutral mask. His work with actors often involves three months of rehearsals prior to shooting and the crafting of a character using external tools (wigs, costume, prosthetics, make-up) as well as discourses more associated with the internal processes of Method acting. This programme looks at the performances he has constructed with actors – from the melodramatic register of *The Flower of My Secret* (1995) to the high theatrics of *All About My Mother* (1999) and the noirish drama of *Broken Embraces* (2009). We are delighted to invite three of Almodóvar's most emblematic actors, Lluís Homar, Marisa Paredes and Antonia San Juan, to discuss the process of creating a role with a cinematic auteur who has acknowledged the seminal role played by theatre and the theatrical in his work with actors.

'Acting Almodóvar' is the first of three short film seasons that make up the 'Acting Across Frontiers' project, presented with the support of Queen Mary, University of London's Centre for Public Engagement.

Prof. Maria Delgado, Queen Mary
Curator

TODO SOBRE MI MADRE

All About My Mother

dir. Pedro Almodóvar, with Cecilia Roth, Penélope Cruz, Antonia San Juan, Marisa Paredes, Rosa María Sardà, Candela Peña | Spain | 1999 | 101 min | col | cert. 15 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

In one of his most acclaimed and resonant features, Pedro Almodóvar creates an intense emotional climate where death and illness bring the main characters of the film together.

Manuela is a mother who cannot overcome the loss of her son; Huma Rojo is an insecure actress dependent on her junkie girlfriend; Agrado is a transsexual with a heart of gold and Sister Rosa, an innocent but daring nun who is all kindness and compassion. Shaped by the outstanding performances of a top-notch cast, this is a highly original melodrama shaped by a strong vein of comedy and a highly distinctive aesthetic language. A modern classic.

Introduced by actress Antonia San Juan

sun 30 sep | 6.00pm | £10, conc. £8

ON-STAGE CONVERSATION: ACTING ALMODOVAR

Actors Lluís Homar, Marisa Paredes and Antonia San Juan in conversation with Prof. Maria Delgado discuss the acting registers promoted by Pedro Almodóvar and the creation of screen characters with the director.

mon 1 oct | 6.30pm | £8, conc. £6 | Library at the Institut Français

LOS ABRAZOS ROTOS

Broken Embraces

dir. Pedro Almodóvar, with Penélope Cruz, Lluís Homar, Blanca Portillo, José Luis Gómez, Angela Molina | Spain | 2009 | 129 min | col | cert. 15 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

A man lives, loves and writes in darkness. Fourteen years previously he was involved in a terrible car crash on the island of Lanzarote. During the accident, he not only lost his sight, but also Lena, the love of his life. Now it is time to deal with the events of the past. Moving across two time periods and incorporating a delightful film within a film, *Broken Embraces* is both a visually sumptuous treatment of lost love and a heartfelt homage to the lasting pleasures of cinema.

Preceded by the short:

LA CONCEJALA ANTROPOFAGA | The Cannibalistic Councillor

dir. Pedro Almodóvar, with Carmen Machi | Spain | 2009 | 15 min | col | cert. 15 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Shot on the same set as *Los abrazos rotos*, this impressive monologue offers a revealing tale from an intriguing character who holds a number of important secrets.

The screening will be introduced by lead actor Lluís Homar

mon 1 oct | 8.15pm | £10, conc. £8

LA FLOR DE MI SECRETO

The Flower of My Secret

dir. Pedro Almodóvar, with Marisa Paredes, Imanol Arias, Juan Echanove, Carmen Elías, Rossy de Palma, Chus Lampreave, Kiti Manver, Jordi Mollà, Nancho Novo, Joaquín Cortés | Spain | 1995 | 98 min | col | cert. 13 | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Leo is a woman who writes romance novels under the pseudonym of Amanda Gris. Only on the

domestic front things aren't going as smoothly as she would like. Her husband seems to have other things on his mind, she's developing a dependence on the bottle, her medication is producing some strange side effects and then there's the problem of meeting her writing deadlines.... Almodóvar's eleventh feature is a wonderful reinvention of the classic woman's picture – and a veritable change from the more sensationalist register of the earlier *Tacones lejanos* [High Heels] and *Kika*. Almodóvar's deft script juggles humour and compassion and is skillfully complemented by a compelling central performance by Marisa Paredes as a woman rediscovering hope and self-esteem in trying circumstances.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with lead actress Marisa Paredes

tue 2 oct | 8.30pm | £10, conc. £8

A TREASURE FROM THE ARCHIVES

UN, DOS, TRES AL ESCONDITE INGLES

dir. José Luis Borau and Iván Zulueta, with José Luis Borau, Antonio Drove, Carlos Garrido, María Isbert, Justa Mercedes, Ramón Pons, Patty Shepard, Judy Stephen, Tina Sáinz, José María Íñigo | Spain | 1969 | 90 min | col | cert. G | Video screening | *In Spanish with English subtitles*

UK Première

A group of English pop music lovers in Madrid have a music shop in which they only sell what they like without compromising on quality. As the national TV starts its campaign to unveil the musical group that will represent Spain in the forthcoming Mundocanal contest (a parody of the then-popular Eurovision contest), the friends embark on their own personal campaign to prevent any musical group from playing the selected song. Although co-directed with Borau, it is impossible to miss Iván Zulueta's touch - author of the cult film *Arrebato*. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy an undeservedly unknown gem from Spanish 60s cinema and some priceless musical performances from the time.

This film is also part of a season at Instituto Cervantes, *Parejas de baile*. Screenings on every Friday of September.

wed 10 oct | 6.30pm | £8, conc. £6