

Press Release

29 July 2013

JORDI MOLLA. A RESTLESS ARTIST.

As part of the 9th London **S**panish Film Festival

27 September – 9 October 2013

One of Spain's most exportable talents, Jordi Mollà started acting in 1988 and shortly afterwards his career took off when he starred in what was soon to be considered a cult movie, *Jamón, jamón* (Bigas Luna, 1992), alongside Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem. His performances, unvariably compelling and authentic, vary from dark characters with nuanced perverse twists to shy, tormented types and have won him several awards both at home and abroad, making him one of the most outstanding and versatile international actors. His cinematographic career, both in front and behind the camera, spans now some seventy films, including Spanish as well as Italian, British, French and US films. His debut film in Hollywood was the critically acclaimed *Blow* (Ted Demme, 2001) and was succeeded by a multitude of notable films such as *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (Shekhar Kapur, 2007), the successful *Knight and Day* (James Mangold, 2010) or *Colombiana* (Olivier Megaton, 2011) - in Spanish, English, Catalan and Italian.

Mollà's writing has not been limited to film and he has published two books that enjoyed much success in Spain: *Les primeres vegades* (Empúries, 1997) and *Agua estancada* (Muchnik, 2000).

A restless artist, Mollà has been developing, in parallel to his cinematographic career and for over seventeen years, his passion for the visual arts, producing an important body of work that has been exposed in different countries: New York (2012, Mr. C), Venice (2012, Ca' Damasco – as part of the Venice Film Festival), Madrid (2010, E8 Gallery / 2007, Sotheby's Madrid / 2006, Photo España), Los Angeles (2011, Chateau Marmont / 2006, Glu Gallery), Barcelona (2009, Sotheby's Auction), Saint Petersburg (2005, Museum of Contemporary Art) and several others.

His artistic production ranges from abstract and conceptual work on canvas to video installations in which he plays visually with his public. With a penchant for colour, his work is characterised for his expressivity, irony at times, and variety, showing Mollà's braveness to experiment with materials and ideas as well as the influence of film on him. His work proves that art relates to both art and life and his ability to communicate has garnered him a steadily growing and loyal pool of avid collectors on various continents including names such as Johnny Depp, Zoe Saldana, Miguel Bosé, Carolina Herrera or Vin Diesel.

The 9th edition of the London Spanish Film Festival will have in programme a small selection of Jordi Mollà's cinematographic work, both in front and behind the camera, with an exclusive on-stage interview with him.

Part of the programme will include a pop up exhibition – his first one yet in the UK - from the 2nd-10th October in association with **Blakes** Hotel, **Coll & Cortes** Fine Art Gallery & the London Spanish Film Festival.

For the full programme, please, check: www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

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PROGRAMME

27 September – 10 October at Ciné Lumière

JAMON, JAMON

dir. Bigas Luna, with Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz, Jordi Mollà | Spain | 1992 | col | 95 min | cert. 18 | In Spanish with English subtitles

Director Bigas Luna, who died earlier this year, had an enduring interest in exploring sexual desire. Shot in the aridity of Zaragoza's desert, *Jamón, Jamón* – which juxtaposes erotic desire and food - explores the complex relationship between Silvia (Cruz), the daughter of a roadside prostitute, her boyfriend José Luis (Moyà), son of the richest man in town, and Raúl (Bardem), a would-be bullfighter attracted by Silvia. It also lays bare the aspirations and frustrations of their parents. The film was a big break for the three lead actors, the then extremely young Jordi Mollà, Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem.

Preceded by an on-stage interview with Jordi Mollà about his career and the short

WALTER PERALTA

dir. Jordi Mollà, with Antonio Mollà, Laureano Ramírez Padilla, Juan Carlos Vellido | Spain | 1993 | col | 13 min | cert. tba | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK premiere
Walter is a man who isn't afraid to get close to who he is ...

Sat 5 Oct | 8.00pm | £12, conc. £10

LOS AÑOS BARBAROS

Barbaric Years

dir. Fernando Colomo, with Jordi Mollà, Ernesto Alterio, Juan Echanove, Josep Maria Pou | Spain/France | 1998 | col | 120 min | cert. tba | In Spanish, English and French with English subtitles

UK premiere

A fact-based drama, *Los Años Bárbaros* tells the story of two university students, Tomás and Jaime, who are arrested and convicted for painting revolutionary *graffitti* during Franco's dictatorship. They manage to escape their prison camp, and on their travels find two American women. They travel with them through Spain, towards the French border, pretending to be two wealthy men living it up. Without losing his trademark sense of

humour and irony, Colomo here portrays the brutality dominating Spain at this time, which is contrasted by the vitality of the young men.

sat 28 sep | 4.10pm | £8, conc. £6

NADIE CONOCE A NADIE

Nobody Knows Anybody

dir. Mateo Gil, with Eduardo Noriega, Jordi Mollà, Natalia Verbeke, Paz Vega | Spain | 1999 | col | 108 min | cert. tba | In Spanish with English subtitles

UK premiere

Simon is an aspiring writer struggling with his job composing crosswords for a newspaper. When he receives an enigmatic message in his answering machine requesting, under threat, the inclusion of a certain word in a future crossword, he gets entangled in a complex, confusing and dangerous game, that will isolate him from Sapo, his flatmate, and from Ariadna, his girlfriend. Based on Juan Bonilla's book and set in the spectacular festivities of Seville's Holy Week, among Nazarenes and Madonnas, Mateo Gil, a regular collaborator of Alejandro Amenábar, achieved in his first feature film as director a compelling and gripping thriller.

wed 2 oct | 6.15pm | £8, conc. £6

BLOW

dir. Ted Demme, with Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz, Jordi Mollà, Ray Liotta | USA | 2001 | col | 124 min | cert. 18 | In English

Buoyant and dynamic, *Blow* narrates the raise and fall of George Jung, a real-life major player in the cocaine trade in the US in the 70s and 80s. The film benefits from a smart original score by Grame Revell and strong performances by the whole cast that made it a hit when it was first released. *Blow* was the American debut of Jordi Mollà, who plays Diego Delgado, the Colombian partner in crime of Johnny Depp's protagonist. Mollà's impressive performance of the cheerful but troubled drug-trafficker meant that Hollywood was soon knocking at his door.

sun 29 sep | 7.30pm | £8, conc. £6

COLOMBIANA

dir. Olivier Megaton, with Thandie Newton, Jordi Mollà, Michael Vartan, Cliff Curtis | France | 2011 | col | 108 min | cert. 15 | In English

After witnessing her parents' murder in Colombia, a little girl decides to become a skilled killer so she can take revenge. The young woman she becomes is a ruthless, sexy assassin who nonetheless manages to awake our sympathy and who won't stop until she achieves her revenge. Mollà turns in a virtuoso performance as the merciless and vicious criminal. Written and produced by Luc Besson, the creator of *Nikita*, the film is action-packed and will keep you on the edge of your seat.

tue 1 oct | 6.15pm | £10, conc. £8

UNA PISTOLA EN CADA MANO

A Gun in Each Hand

dir. Cesc Gay, with Eduard Fernández, Ricardo Darín, Luis Tosar, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Jordi Mollà, Eduardo Noriega | Spain | 2012 | col | 95 min | cert. tba | In Spanish with English subtitles

UK premiere

Eight ordinary men in their 40s are caught up in everyday situations that shed light on their mid-life crises. Although they are caught up in different situations, they all share feelings of bewilderment and vulnerability. One is depressed and in need of money, another is trying to win his ex-wife back only to discover that she's about to have a child with her current partner, while a third has recently had another child and is trying to make a go of it with an office colleague. A witty and ironic look at masculine insecurities with some subtle comic strokes, Gay's episodal mosaic is nevertheless true to life in a stylish but bourgeois Barcelona.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

fri 27 sep | 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10

4 – 9 October at Blakes

Blakes will host a pictorial exercise on canvases as well as on books about the works by some of the greatest masters of painting, film and design in what aims to be a transmission of Mollà's vision on the creative worlds of some of those who have been inspirational to him through mixing and transforming existing material into something unique.

8 - 12 October at Coll & Cortés

Coll & Cortés will host The Living Room Art, a selection of canvases intended as a wink to the transition between suburbia street art, particularly graffiti, understood as one the maxim expressions of freedom, and that hanging on the living rooms wallpapers of well-off art collectors – corseted in the experts's opinions and admired from an armchair.

Notes to editors:

Tristana Media is dedicated to the creation and organisation of cultural and cinema related events, among which the London Spanish Film Festival, Fashion & Cinema, programmes for the BFI and Washington's AFI. Active since 2005, it has held events in London, Edinburgh and Washington (US).

www.tristanamedia.com

Refurbished and reopened by Catherine Deneuve in 2009, **Ciné Lumière** has established itself as one of London's top repertory cinemas. With a particular emphasis on French, European and World cinema, its programme combines new releases, repertory screenings, previews and exclusive on-stage events attended by directors and actors. All films are screened in their original language, with English subtitles where appropriate.

Ciné Lumière, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

www.institut-francais.org.uk

Blakes is the inspirational creation of world renowned designer Anouska Hempel as the world's finest luxury boutique hotel. Located in the leafy Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Blakes is justly famous for its stunning design, elegance and dedicated service. Its uncompromising stand on privacy has made it the London base for film stars, musicians and all the top designers, earning its reputation as The "Couture" Hotel. Sympathetically converted from a collection of period Victorian town houses, Blakes is now established and recognized as totally unique and has revolutionized and influenced the concept of the small luxury hotel worldwide.

Blakes Hotel, 33 Roland Gardens, London SW7 3PF

www.blakeshotels.com

Coll & Cortés was founded in Madrid in 2005. Since then the gallery has been devoted on Spanish art starting with two exhibitions that were a tribute to the history of painting in Spain between the sixteenth and the nineteenth centuries: Masters of Baroque and The Time of Painting. These exhibitions paved the way a venture in an almost forgotten field: polychrome sculpture. In December 2012 Coll & Cortés opened new premises in Mayfair, London. Since its founding the gallery has collaborated and participated in the enhancement of several museum collections, both in and outside of Europe, such as: The Prado Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of New York or the National Gallery in London.

Coll & Cortés, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4HZ

www.collcortes.co.uk/