



22ND EDITION

16-23 SEPTEMBER 2026

The London Spanish Film Festival returns for its 22nd edition with a selection of some of the most exciting films made recently in Spain - and much more!

This edition will open with a truly special event: the screening of the successful Movistar Plus mini-series *Anatomy of a Moment*, directed by **Alberto Rodríguez** and based on Javier Cercas's novel by the same title. The screening will be followed by a Q&A hosted by Prof. Maria Delgado with the filmmaker, scriptwriter **Rafael Cobos**, and producer **José Manuel Lorenzo**.

These days will present a unique opportunity to experience powerful stories, rich cultural perspectives, and unforgettable performances. Most of the films presented are UK premieres and often the only chance to see these films in the big screen, be it from our core program our Basque Window, our section dedicated to the cinema made in Galicia, or our Catalan Window.

Having screened along the many years of this festival most of his films, we are thrilled to welcome **Asier Altuna** to present his sweeping historical drama, *Karmele*. We are delighted that **Lluís Miñarro** will visit us again, this time to present his latest film as a director, *Emergency Exit*, which was also the last film Spanish actress Marisa Paredes made. Actress **Bea Segura** will present Víctor García León's sharp dark comedy *Better Class*. Filmmaker **Gala Gracia**, comes back to London after her studies in the British capital, to present her debut feature film, *The Remnants of You*. Actress **Mara Sánchez** will come to talk to us about her work in the Galician film *As liñas discontinuas*. The documentary about Spanish fashion icon Adolfo Domínguez, *The Echo of Other Voices* will be followed by a Q&A with his daughter **Adriana Domínguez**, who is the current CEO of the firm and directed the documentary.

On the occasion of Penguin's publication of the correspondence between Spanish actress Maria Casares and French writer Albert Camus. Spanning love, work, literature, and the cities they inhabited, their letters offer an intimate portrait of two remarkable artistic lives. To mark the occasion, we will host a special reading of a selection of this correspondence, led by actress **Greta Scacchi**. Exiled from her native Galicia by Franco's regime, Casares built most of her distinguished career in France, particularly on the stage, where her

achievements earned her election to the Académie Française. The event will be accompanied by a screening of Robert Bresson's *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne* (1945), Casares's first leading role in a feature film.

All recent feature films are eligible for the Best Film Award. This year's jury comprises director and voice and text teacher Kate Littlewood, Rebel Reel Cine Club founder and owner Chris McGill, and curator, lecturer, and writer Maria McLintock.

For any press enquiries, please, contact:

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PROGRAM

Special Event: ANATOMIA DE UN INSTANTE

The Anatomy of a Moment

dir. Alberto Rodríguez, with Alvaro Morte, Eduard Fernández, Manolo solo, Raúl Arévalo, Miki Esparbé | Spain/France | 2025 | 175 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

Based on Javier Cercas's acclaimed book of the same title, *The Anatomy of a Moment* recounts the dramatic events of the failed 1981 coup attempt that nearly brought an end to Spain's young democracy. As Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero stormed the Spanish Congress with gun in hand, only three men remained seated while everyone else ducked for cover: Prime Minister Adolfo Suárez, Communist leader Santiago Carrillo, and General Gutiérrez Mellado. Widely acclaimed in Spain, the series traces the political tensions, personal convictions, and pivotal decisions that brought the country to the brink of a return to the military regime.

Followed by a Q&A hosted by Prof. Maria Delgado with filmmaker Alberto Rodríguez, scriptwriter Rafael Cobos and producer José Manuel Lorenzo

Join us from 5.30pm to enjoy a refreshing beer courtesy of Alhambra

Wed 16 Sep | 6.45pm | Ciné Lumière I | £25, £23 conc.

EL ECO DE OTRAS VOCES

The Echo of Other Voices

dir. Adriana Domínguez, with Adolfo Domínguez, Adriana Domínguez, María Eugenia Alberti, Pepa Bueno | Spain | 2024 | doc | 71 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

Adolfo Domínguez is both a fashion icon and an enigma. His slogan, *"Wrinkles Are Beautiful,"* captured the spirit of a generation in the early years of Spain's democracy, expressing a new aesthetic for a country embracing a new set of values. Directed by his daughter, the film looks beyond the iconic fashion brand

to reveal the man behind it, offering an intimate portrait of the visionary who helped redefine Spanish fashion during a period of profound social and cultural change.

Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Adriana Domínguez

Sat 19 Sep | 6.00pm | Riverside Studios | £15.50, conc. £13.50

LO QUE QUEDA DE TI

The Remnants of You

dir. Gala Gracia, with Laia Manzanares, Ángela Cervantes, Ruy de Carvalho, Anna Tenta | Spain/Italy/Portugal | 2025 | 91 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish with English subtitles and English | UK premiere

In her debut feature, Gala Gracia follows Sara, a young jazz pianist living in New York, who returns to her hometown in the Spanish Pyrenees after the sudden death of her father. As she navigates her grief, Sara discovers she has inherited the family sheep farm alongside her sister, Elena, anchoring her once again to a place that feels both deeply familiar and quietly suffocating. Deeply personal and profoundly moving, Gracia's film explores the tension between personal ambition and family duty. Faced with the possibility of giving up her musical career to preserve her father's legacy, Sara must decide whether honouring the past is worth sacrificing her own future.

Followed by a Q&A with the director

Tue 22 Sep | 6.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

LOS JUSTOS

The Righteous

dir. Jorge Lara & Fernando Pérez, with Carmen Machi, Vito Sanz, Pilar Castro, Bruna Cusí, Ane Gabarain | Spain | 2026 | 89 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK premiere

Nine members of a jury are sequestered while deliberating a controversial corruption case. The evidence is overwhelming, public opinion has already reached its verdict, and no one seems to have any doubts... Until they receive a secret offer: each juror will earn one million euros if they change their vote from guilty to not guilty. But to take the deal, they must reach a unanimous decision. The challenge will expose the hidden motives of every member of the jury. A gripping and thoughtful thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Wed 23 Sep | 6.15pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

ALTAS CAPACIDADES

Better Class

dir. Víctor García León, with Marian Álvarez, Juan Diego Botto, Bea Segura, Israel Elejalde, Pilar Castro, Natalia Reyes | Spain | 2026 | 101 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK Premiere

Alicia and Gonzalo, a middle-class couple, are given the opportunity to enrol their son, Fer, in an elite secular school. For them, it offers a glimpse into a more privileged world—new social circles, greater opportunities, and the promise of a better future. They tell themselves they're doing it for their son. But as they become increasingly drawn to the lifestyle they once observed from a distance, their ambitions begin to clash with their values, forcing them to question everything they once considered unquestionable. A sharply observed and darkly funny dramedy, *Better Class* dissects the aspirations, compromises, and contradictions of the middle class in its relentless pursuit of upward social mobility.

Followed by a Q&A with Bea Segura

Wed 23 Sep | 8.15pm | Riverside Studios | £15.50, conc. £13.50

BASQUE WINDOW

KARMELE

dir. Asier Altuna, with Jone Laspiur, Eneko Sagardoy, Javier Barandiaran, Nagore Aranburu | Spain | 2025 | 154 min | cert.15 | In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

Basque Country, 1937. After being driven from their home by the Civil War, Karmele and her family seek refuge in France. There, she is recruited by the Basque Government's cultural delegation in exile, which keeps the spirit of a displaced people alive through music and dance. She meets Txomin, a professional trumpet player, and the two fall in love. After several years in Venezuela, they return to their homeland, determined to rebuild the life that war had taken from them.

Adapted from Kirmen Uribe's novel *The Hour of Waking Together*, *Karmele* is a sweeping historical drama in which Altuna delicately balances the strength and vulnerability of his characters, making their love, resilience, and unwavering convictions profoundly moving and relatable.

Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Asier Altuna

Thu 17 Sep | 7.50pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

LOS DOMINGOS

Sundays

dir. Alauda Ruiz de Azúa, with Blanca Soroa, Patricia López Arnaiz, Miguel Garcés, Nagore Aramburu | Spain/France | 2025 | 115 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

Sundays tells the story of Ainara, a bright and idealistic 17-year-old facing what should be a straightforward decision: choosing a university degree. At least, that's what her family expects. Instead, Ainara reveals that she feels increasingly drawn to God and is considering entering a cloistered convent. Her unexpected announcement shocks the family, opening a deep emotional divide and putting each of them to the test. A poignant and beautifully observed drama, *Sundays* is a profound reflection on faith, family, and the deeply human need to believe in something greater than ourselves.

Fri 18 Sep | 8.30pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

CATALAN WINDOW

HERMANOS

Bros

dir. Carol Rodríguez Colás and Marina Rodríguez Colás, with Badr Oubahassou, Omar Mills, Pau Márquez, Mar Blanch | Spain | 2026 | 84 min | cert. TBC | In Spanish and Catalan with English subtitles | UK premiere

After being invited to the birthday party of the girl he has a crush on, Ayman and his friends Eric and Rober set off on a journey to Barcelona's affluent uptown district. What begins as an exciting adventure soon becomes a test of courage, friendship, and the fears that shape their lives.

In this coming-of-age story, sibling filmmakers Carol and Marina Rodríguez Colás strike a delicate balance between the promise of new opportunities and the invisible barriers that stand in their way. With an honest and direct approach, they avoid unnecessary drama while preserving a youthful energy, warmth, and sense of humour.

Fri 18 Sep | 6.15pm | Riverside Studios | £15.50, conc. £13.50

MI AMIGA EVA

My Friend Eva

dir. Cesc Gay, with Nora Navas, Rodrigo de la Serna, Juan Diego Botto, Àgata Roca, Francesco Carril, Marian Alvarez, Miki Esparbé | Spain | 2025 | 99 min | cert. 15 | In Spanish and Catalan with English subtitles | UK premiere

At 50, after more than twenty years of marriage to Víctor—the father of her two teenage children—Eva makes a life-altering realisation during a business trip to Rome: she wants to fall in love again before it is “too late.” Once back in Barcelona, she makes the bold decision to leave her husband and re-enter the uncertain world of seduction and romance. Gay's film is a tender reflection on

the power of belief—belief in life, in desire, and in oneself. In the director's first film centered on a female protagonist, Nora Navas delivers a deeply relatable and quietly moving performance as Eva, capturing both her vulnerability and her fierce determination to reclaim her own story.

Sun 20 Sep | 7.30pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

EMERGENCY EXIT

dir. Lluís Miñarro, with Marisa Paredes, Emma Suárez, Arielle Dombasle, Oriol Pla, Francesc Orella, Naomi Kawase, Aida Folch, Albert Pla, Myriam Mézières | Spain | 2025 | 96 min | cert. TBC | In Catalan, Spanish, Japanese and French with English subtitles | UK Premiere

An actress reflecting on her career, a lost anthropologist and two legendary divas travel with other strangers through unreal landscapes in a mysterious vehicle from which they cannot easily get off. Along the way, they fable about their identity while Desire, Eros, incarnates to seduce them all. A liminal journey between life and death, dream and magical realism. Partly inspired by Miñarro's youth years in Barcelona's counterculture in the 70s, where he regularly frequented Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa and Roberto Bolaño among others, *Emergency Exit* is a road movie reflecting on life's ultimate trip.

Followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker

Tue 22 Sep | 8.30pm | Ciné Lumière I | £18, conc. £16

SCHOOL & FAMILY SCREENINGS: L'OLIVIA I EL TERRATRÈMOL INVISIBLE

Olivia & The Invisible Earthquake | Olivia y el terremoto invisible
dir. Irene Iborra, with Emma Suárez, Elvira Mínguez, Ona Bagué | Spain/France/Belgium | 2025 | 71 mins | Cert TBC | In Catalan with English subtitles

Olivia, 12, her little brother Tim and their mother are forced to leave their apartment and move to a new neighbourhood. To shield Tim from their lives being turned upside down overnight, Olivia has him believe that this is all part of a film in which he's the main character. Through laughter, tears, magic and the solidarity of a strong community, they will find out that they are the heroes of their own life.

Sat 19 Sep | 1.30pm | Ciné Lumière II | Family screening | £6

Sun 20 Sep | 11.05am | Ciné Lumière II | Family screening | £6

Tue 22 Sep | 1.00pm | Ciné Lumière I | School screening | £5/pupil & free for teachers

LETTERS FROM GALICIA

RONDALLAS

Band Together

dir. Daniel Sánchez Arévalo, with Javier Gutiérrez, María Vázquez, Tamar Novas, José A. Touriñán Judith Fernández | Spain | 2025 | 112 min | In Spanish and Galician with English subtitles | UK Premiere

The story begins when a shipwreck survivor teams up with his new love interest, the widow of one of the missing crew members. Together, they rally the entire town—from children to the elderly—to revive the traditional *rondalla*. By participating in local musical competitions using instruments like tambourines and bagpipes, the villagers aim to overcome their loss, rediscover their joy, and look toward the future. What starts as a drama evolves into a charming and uplifting comedy about memory, resilience and the powerful sense of belonging that comes from feeling part of a community.

Fri 18 Sep | 8.30pm | Riverside Studios | £15.50, conc. £13.50

A SELECTION OF SHORTS FROM GALICIA

AS MAOS DA PULPEIRA | Pulpeira's hands | Las manos de la pulpera

dir. Silvia Cachafeiro | Spain | 2025 | 14 min | In Galician and Spanish with English subtitles | International Premiere

Galicia, 1950s. In a harsh, male-dominated world, Concha and her friend Ramona begin their day before dawn. As pulpeiras—women who prepare and sell octopus—they work at the river and later serve pilgrims. When Concha faces an unexpected problem and her husband is away, her fellow pulpeiras come to her aid. Determined to understand what happened, she sets out to uncover the truth and ensure it never happens again.

ALBOROQUE

dir. Sabrina Fernández | Spain | 2025 | 14 min | In Galician and French with English subtitles | London Premiere

To protect their villages and restore biodiversity to the landscape of Galicia, a unique collective unites to fight invasive plants and municipal neglect. Activist brigades organise a green-fingered resistance against destructive plants and neglected overgrowth around their villages in Galicia.

ESCALA UN CINCUENTA MIL | Scale One Fifty Thousand

dir. Ángel Suanzes | Spain | 2026 | 17 min | In Galician with English subtitles | World Premiere

July 1974, Spain was moving towards unpredictable political change. Carmen also changes: her marital status. From a life attached to the father figure, to a life attached to her husband.

CORPO DE CRISTO | The body of Christ | El cuerpo de Cristo

dir. Bea Lema | Spain | 2025 | 12 min | In Galician with English subtitles | UK Premiere

With an unacknowledged mental disorder, Adela seeks answers in popular rituals. She feels that something is watching and harming her, and only religion seems to understand her.

BUTT FACE | Cara de cona

dir. Guillermo de Oliveira | Spain | 2026 | 18 min| In Galician and Spanish with English subtitles | World Premiere

Moncho, a lonely man who develops an irrational hatred for his cheerful new neighbor, Pardavila. What begins as simple annoyance soon becomes an obsession. Determined to get rid of his neighbor, he starts planning the perfect crime. A dark comedy about envy, loneliness, and the absurd lengths one man will go to.

Sun 20 Sep | 5.30pm | Ciné Lumière II | £16, conc. £14

AS LIÑAS DISCONTINUAS

The Dashed Lines | Las líneas discontinuas

dir. Anxos Fázans, with Mara Sánchez, Adam Prieto, Ana Fornéas, Mónica García Cadahía | Spain | 2025 | 91 min | cert. TBC | In Galician with English subtitles | UK Premiere

Bea is a 50 year old woman who is separating from her husband. The day she has to leave the house where she has lived for the last twenty years, she arrives and finds everything upside down as well as one of the thieves sleeping in her bed. Denís is a 28 year old young trans man who, despite having studied a career, struggles with job insecurity and lack of opportunities. After spending three days together, when they keep going with their lives, they are no longer the same. *The Dashed Lines* is a beautifully told story about human connection and friendship.

Followed by a Q&A with actress Mara Sánchez hosted by Adriana Páramo, from the Galician Film Forum

Mon 21 Sep | 6.15pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

SPECIAL EVENT

MARIA CASARES AND ALBERT CAMUS. LETTERS

Led by the voice of Greta Scacchi, we will have the pleasure of immersing ourselves in the passionate love story of two artists devoted to their craft, through a selection of the letters they exchanged.

Stay with us after the reading and join us for a refreshing beer courtesy of Alhambra

Fri 18 Sep | 6.30pm | Library | Institut Français | £25, conc. £23, students £5

SPECIAL MARIA CASARES SCREENING

LES DAMES DU BOIS DE BOULOGNE

dir. Robert Bresson, with Lucienne Bogaert, Maria Casares, Elina Labourdette | France | 1945 | 85 min | cert. PG | In French with English subtitles

Bresson's second feature is "a landmark in cinema history ... Its influence on subsequent French cinema is far from exhausted" (David Thomson). Made in collaboration with Jean Cocteau, who wrote the dialogue, and deriving much of its dramatic tension from the counterpoint between Cocteau's dense, ornate words and Bresson's natural austerity, *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne* features the Spanish actress María Casares (Cocteau's Princess of Death in *Orphée*) in her first starring role. She gives a piercing performance as a jilted woman who takes revenge on her ex-lover by luring him into marriage with a sex worker.

The story is freely adapted from a section of Diderot's 18th-century classic *Jacques the Fatalist* and given a lush, contemporary, Cocteau-like setting filled with flowers, furs, jewels, and shiny automobiles. Jacques Rivette and Antonioni, among others, cited the film as a major influence. Although he received stellar performances here, Bresson would never again work with professional actors.

Sun 20 Sep | 2.10pm | Ciné Lumière I | £16, conc. £14

THE JURY

Kate Littlewood is a director, a voice and text teacher and a translator, with 35 years in the fields of theatre and education. After studying Spanish and French at Cambridge University, she translated plays (*Worlds Apart* by Jose Triana and *The Last Days of Don Juan* by Nick Dear) for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Lorca for Red Dog Theatre Company. While lecturing on the Drama BA at the University of Gloucestershire, Kate translated, adapted and directed Lorca's *Yerma* and *Fuenteovejuna* by Lope de Vega. She lived in Grazalema in Andalucia for 6 years with her young family, where she tracked down Lorca's 'wildflowers'.

She has directed *Coriolanus*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Merchant of Venice* for the Edinburgh Fringe and at The Rose Playhouse, Bankside and CLF Art Café in Peckham. Kate has performed in festivals with Dame Harriet Walter and soprano Lorna Anderson and has performed poetry and plays for the BBC. She is in the process of completing an MA in Voice at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Chris McGill is the owner and founder of Rebel Reel Cine Club, a pop up cinema that curates films with artists work and performances, DJs and musicians performing at venues as eclectic as Dungeness Beach to the Rio, Dalston to legendary music venue 100 Club to Vineyards such as Westwell Winery. With introductions and interviews of directors, actors and writers this is

event cinema focusing on cult and counter culture but embracing new films for companies such as Mubi. Chris also founded [MILKTWOSUGARS LIMITED](#), a London-based marketing, partnership and Sponsorship agency connecting brands through cash and in-kind sponsorship and reciprocal marketing opportunities predominantly for theatre productions clients including The Devil Wears Prada Musical, National Theatre Productions, Disney Theatrical, Dreamworks, Sonia Friedman Productions and the Design Museum, London Design Museum and countless others.

Chris also art directs window displays, hosts cultural talks and sits on the committees of two members clubs having served on the Groucho Club committee for 8 years and the Park Theatre board for 3 years around it's opening.

He also regularly serves as an industry expert and judge for the ARTS THREAD Global Creative Graduate Showcase, evaluating emerging talent across disciplines like Digital Visual Communications, Film, and Fashion.

Maria McLintock is a curator, lecturer and writer. She is a former curator at the Design Museum, London, and has worked in a curatorial capacity at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Ikon Gallery, Birmingham. She teaches at Central Saint Martins (UAL) and the Royal College of Art. Maria is one of the curators of the British Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia 2027.

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