

11th London panish Film Festival

24 — 30 September 2015



CINÉ LUMIÈRE

REGENT
STREET
CINEMA

			page
thu 24 sep	6.15pm	MAGICAL GIRL ★ dir. Carlos Vermut Preceded by an introduction (tbc)	4
	8.50pm	MARSELLA ★ dir. Belén Macías Introduced by director Belén Macías	7
fri 25 sep	8.40pm	REQUISITOS PARA SER UNA PERSONA NORMAL ★ dir. Leticia Dolera Preceded by an introduction by actor Manuel Burque	7
sat 26 sep	4.30pm	LA MUERTE EN LA ALCARRIA ★ dir. Fernando Pomares Piñol The film will be introduced by the director	7
	8.30pm	ÁRTICO ★ dir. Gabriel Velázquez The film will be followed by a Q&A with the director	4
sun 27 sep	4.15pm	A ESCONDIDAS ★ dir. Mikel Rueda Introduced by the director	9
tue 29 sep	6.30pm	SNACKS: BOCADOS DE UNA REVOLUCIÓN dir. Cristina Jolonch & Verónica Escuer The screening will be followed by a round table about this culinary revolution and the influence it has represented worldwide.	5
	8.30pm	PACO DE LUCÍA: LA BÚSQUEDA dir. Curro Sánchez The film will be preceded by an introduction (tbc)	5
wed 30 sep	6.20pm	LAS ALTAS PRESIONES ★ dir. Ángel Santos Preceded by the short GALICIA. PORTOBELLO ROAD and an introduction by filmmakers Ángel Santos and Adriana Páramo	6
	8.40pm	CARMINA Y AMÉN ★ dir. Paco León The film will be preceded by the announcement of the winner of this year's Festival award.	6

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			page
fri 25 sep	6.30pm	OCHO APELLIDOS VASCOS dir. Emilio Martínez Lázaro	8
sat 26 sep	6.30pm	LAS OVEJAS NO PIERDEN EL TREN dir. Álvaro Fernández Armero Preceded by the short CON BUENAS INTENCIONES and an introduction	4
sun 27 sep	6.00pm	TODO EL MUNDO LO SABE ★ dir. Miguel Larraya Introduced by the director	5
	8.00pm	LEARNING TO DRIVE dir. Isabel Coixet The film will be preceded by an on-stage conversation between director Isabel Coixet and Prof. Maria Delgado (Queen Mary)	10
mon 28 sep	6.30pm	EL ÚLTIMO ADIÓS DE BETTE DAVIES dir. Pedro González Bermúdez Introduced by the director	9
	8.30pm	NEGOCIADOR ★ dir. Borja Cobeaga The film will be introduced by the director	9

★ Films in Competition. See page 11 for more information.

Welcome to the London Spanish Film Festival

Once again and for the 11th year, the London Spanish Film Festival returns with a selection of some of the best recent films from Spain including feature films as well as documentaries and shorts. This year some of the feature films will be in competition and the winner will be decided by a Jury. We feel very honoured that the following Arts, Letters and Film professionals have accepted to be part of our Jury: Art Curator Andrew Dempsey, Vanity Fair's journalist Bridget Arsenault, film producer and distributor Frank Mannion and actors Nickolas Grace and Charles Dance.

Filmmakers and actors from nearly all corners of Spain will come to present their work and bring to the screenings some extra background and insight.

We are very happy to welcome filmmaker Isabel Coixet with one of her latest films, *Learning to Drive*. The Catalan filmmaker, who knows no frontiers and works in several countries and languages will be on stage talking about her career with Prof. Maria Delgado on Sunday 27 September.

As usual, the Festival will take place at Ciné Lumière in South Kensington but this year we are also going to be at the recently opened Regent Street Cinema, a cinema full of history at the very heart of London.

We hope you will enjoy our selection and all the events of our 11th edition!

Joana Granero | Director

Patricia Pérez | Programmer

María Ugarte | Basque Window Programmer

Almudena Escobar | Shorts Programmer

CORE PROGRAMME





MAGICAL GIRL

dir. Carlos Vermut, with Bárbara Lennie, José Sacristán, Luis Bermejo | Spain/France | 2014 | 127 min | col | cert. 18 | In Spanish with English subtitles | London première

At the same time that Bárbara struggles with a mental disorder that provokes anti-social behaviour and self-harm, an unemployed father despairs at his terminally ill daughter's wish for an expensive dress from her favourite Japanese TV series. Blackmail, prostitution and a former teacher of Bárbara recently released from prison mix in a cool, calm drama that won Best Film and Best Directing awards at last year's San Sebastian Film Festival.

■ thu 24 Sep | 6.00pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
Preceded by an introduction (tbc)

LAS OVEJAS NO PIERDEN EL TREN

Sidetracked

dir. Álvaro Fernández Armero, with Raúl Arévalo, Inma Cuesta, Alberto San Juan, Candela Peña | Spain | 2014 | 103 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Alberto and Luisa are a couple in a bit of a crisis. They have somehow ended up living in the countryside, but life there is not as idyllic as it promised. Alberto's brother is separated with two daughters and dating a 25 year old girl who loves partying and whose rhythm of life he struggles to follow. Luisa's sister, Sara, is obsessed with finding a man and engages in nearly everything that can lead her to the right one. A delightful comedy about overcoming the challenges of modern life with some of the best character actors in Spain.

Preceded by the short, **CON BUENAS INTENCIONES** With Good Intentions | Dir. Virginia Romero, with Gorka Otxoa, Kiti Mánver, Holly Bodimeade, Jimmy Shaw | Spain/UK | 2015 | 15 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish and English with English subtitles | UK première | After driving all night through a remote region of Spain, Brad, Annie and their teenage daughter are tired and irritable. The girl's apparent distress and the man's obvious discomfort soon fire Eulalia's vivid imagination when they stop in her bar.

■ sat 26 Sep | 6.30pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema
The films will be introduced by the directors

ÁRTICO

dir. Gabriel Velázquez, with Juanlu Sevillano, Deborah Borges, Víctor García, Lucía Martínez | Spain | 2014 | 78 min | col | cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Gabriel Velázquez's fourth feature film is both minimal and bold at the same time. Powerful silences are charged with emotion in the stories of two teenage couples in which the boys, both involved in the small local mafia, have completely opposite views of family: one thinks that having a child at 16 ruined his life, the other one that without a family you are nothing. The splendid photography of David Azcano is both suggesting and precise, giving those spoiled lives a sense of beauty and dignity. The film won the Generation 14plus Best Film last year in Berlin.

■ sat 26 Sep | 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
The film will be followed by a Q&A with the director



TODO EL MUNDO LO SABE

Everybody Knows

dir. Miguel Larraya, with Bárbara Santa-Cruz, Diego Toucedo, Juan Blanco | Spain | 2014 | 75 min | col | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Marta has been dumped by her lover, a married businessman involved in some illegal transactions and she confides in a friend from her home town. At the same time, El Polilla ("The Moth") shares information with a pal about the businessman and his confidences during the time they shared a prison cell. Jorge, a journalist who is in a precarious situation at the newspaper he works for is ready to buy El Polilla's story. The film focuses on illegally taped conversations and offers us a potent, compelling and fresh look at the culture of corruption, intrigue and excess spending.

■ sun 27 Sep | 6.00pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema
The film will be introduced by the director



SNACKS: BOCADOS DE UNA REVOLUCIÓN

Snacks: Bites for a Revolution

dir. Cristina Jolonch & Verónica Escuer | Spain | 2015 | 46 min | doc | col | cert. PG | In Spanish and English with English subtitles | UK première

Jolonch, a gastronomic journalist, and Escuer, Director of the Film & Cook festival in Madrid and Barcelona, have joined forces to explore the revolution that Spain's cuisine has enjoyed, the bases allowing that freedom of creativity and the influences, dreams and aspirations of now world-renowned cooks like José Mari Arzak, Ferran Adrià, Joan Roca, Eneko Atxa...

■ tue 29 sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
Followed by a round table led by Enrique Ruiz de Lera, Director of the Spanish Tourist Office, Verónica Escuer, with chefs and gastronomic journalists about this culinary revolution and the influence it has represented worldwide.

Event organised in collaboration with:



PACO DE LUCÍA: LA BÚSQUEDA

Paco de Lucía: A Journey

dir. Curro Sánchez | Spain | 2014 | 95 min | doc | col/b&w | cert. PG | In Spanish and English with English subtitles | Courtesy of Doc'n Roll Films

This is an exceptionally intimate look at the life of the legendary flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucía, who was well known for his shyness as well as his humble and down-to-earth approach to life, as it was shot "in family" and directed by this own son, Curro Sánchez Varela. Through recent interviews with the guitarist himself, who died suddenly last year, and a wealth of archival footage, we see the amazing journey of a post-war poor child who picked up a guitar aged seven and learned to play by ear to international stardom and recognition.

■ tue 29 sep | 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
The film will be preceded by an introduction (tbc)



LAS ALTAS PRESIONES

The High Pressures

dir. Ángel Santos, with Andrés Gertrudix, Hugo Torres, Diana Gómez | Spain | 2014 | 85 min | col | cert. 7 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Miguel returns to his home town in Galicia, charged with finding locations for a film he is not the director of. Completely disconnected from the real world, the Miguel reconnects with his former friends and observes their lives through his camera. While everyone seems to live a meaningful life, he has long since let his own life drift. This marks the beginning of an emotional journey and analysis about his life. Santos invites us into a subtle modern tale, set to the rhythm of poetic photography.

Preceded by the short, **GALICIA. PORTOBELLO ROAD**

Dir. Adriana Páramo, with Mariana Carballal, Estibaliz Veiga | Spain/UK | 2015 | 15 min | col | cert. 12 | Spain | 2015 | 9 min | col | cert. PG | In Galician with English subtitles | Mother and daughter discuss whether to go back to Galicia or to stay in London and what that means for them.

■ wed 30 sep | 6.20pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
Preceded by an introduction by the filmmakers



CARMINA Y AMÉN

Carmina and Amen

dir. Paco León, with Carmina Barrios, Paco Casaus, María León | Spain | 2014 | 100 min | col | cert. 15 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

After the hugely successful *Carmina o revienta* (*Carmina or Blow Up*), actor Paco León gathers together again his own family in this comedy drama in which *Carmina*, an eccentric and larger than life matriarch living in Seville, refuses to report the death at home of her husband, as she doesn't want to lose his pension payment coming the following Monday. A superb story involving accusations, guilt, tears, complicity and money, always with an sophisticated Andalusian dark sense of humour, the film revolves around the witty *Carmina* and her daughter, two women that are used to struggling in life and won't stop despite any scruples (at one point *Carmina*, says to her daughter threateningly: "I don't lie. When I say something, it becomes true.").

■ wed 30 sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
The film will be preceded by the announcement of the winner of this year's Festival award.



7th CATALAN WINDOW



MARSELLA

Marseille

dir. Belén Macías, with María León, Noa Fontanals, Goya Toledo | Spain/France | 2014 | 95 min | col | cert. 15 | In Spanish and French with English subtitles | UK première

Sara is a young mother who had her daughter Claire taken from her and put up for adoption while she was spending some time in jail. Now Sara is out and determined to take Claire with her and raise her. The first thing they do is to set off to France in search of Claire's father. In the format of a road movie, Belén Macías' second feature film after *El patio de mi cárcel*, is a brave exploration of the relationship between the irresponsible and defiant biological mother, the bourgeois adoptive mother and the mature daughter.

■ **thu 24 sep | 8.45pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**
Introduced by director Belén Macías

The Catalan Window is supported by:

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REQUISITOS PARA SER UNA PERSONA NORMAL

Requirements to Be a Normal Person

dir. Leticia Dolera, with Leticia Dolera, Manuel Burque, Silvia Munt | Spain | 2015 | 90 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

María is an unemployed thirty-something that has to go back to live with her mother and intellectually disabled brother. She feels she's not normal and sets out to achieve "normality" following a list of "requirements" for what she thinks normality is. Well-known in Spain for her work as an actress, Leticia Dolera has been writing and directing shorts for several years, always with a very personal, clever and well-defined style. *Requisitos...* is a fresh, off-beat and brave film about being true to oneself with a deliciously subtle sense of humour.

■ **fri 25 sep | 8.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**
Preceded by an introduction by actor Manuel Burque

LA MUERTE EN LA ALCARRIA

Death in La Alcarria

dir. Fernando Pomares Piñol, with The Cubero Brothers | Spain | 2015 | 83 min | b&w | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

A mix of musical western and road movie, *La muerte en La Alcarria* takes us on a spiritual journey through this splendid and captivating natural region in Castille as well as through a lost childhood world and a way of life that has disappeared. The travellers, of course, are The Cubero Brothers who enrich the film and exalt that sense of a time lost with their wonderful music. With deadpan humour and dazzling black and white photography, the film is reminiscent of Jim Jarmusch, Sam Peckinpah or even John Ford's westerns.

■ **sat 26 sep | 4.30pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema**
The film will be introduced by the director

6th BASQUE WINDOW



OCHO APELLIDOS VASCOS

Spanish Affair

dir. Emilio Martínez Lázaro, with Clara Lago, Dani Rovira, Karra Elejalde, Carmen Machi | Spain | 2014 | 98 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles

Veteran Emilio Martínez Lázaro delights us in this screwball comedy with the cultural challenges and prejudices in the love story between Andalusian Rafa and Basque Amaia. Scriptwriters Diego San Juan and Borja Cobeaga (see film *Negociador* in programme) treat audiences with a wealth of a sparkling and witty Spanish sense of humour while actors engage us with exuberant performances. The film was an enormous success in Spanish cinemas last year becoming a must-see.

■ fri 25 sep | 6.30pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema

The Basque Window
is Supported by:



Special Thanks:





A ESCONDIDAS

Hidden Away

dir. Mikel Rueda, with Germán Alcarazu, Adil Koukouh, Joseba Ugalde | Spain | 2014 | 96 min | col | cert. 15 | In Spanish and Arabic with English subtitles | UK première

In Mikel Rueda's second feature film racism and gender issues overlap in the story of the friendship between Rafa and Ibrahim. Rafa is a 14 year-old learning about his own sexuality as well as about life and the importance of having a view of one's own. Ibrahim is also 14, lives illegally in Spain and is constantly under the threat of aggression in a way or another. With an appealing indie pop score, Rueda explores relevant issues in a close society and the effects on teenagers of concealing emotions both at home and at the schoolyard.

■ sun 27 sep | 4.15pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière
The film will be introduced by director Mikel Rueda

EL ÚLTIMO ADIÓS DE BETTE DAVIES

When Bette Davies Bids Farewell

dir. Pedro González Bermúdez | Spain | 2014 | 76 min | doc | col/b&w | cert. PG | In Spanish and Arabic with English subtitles | UK première

González Bermúdez records in this documentary Bette Davies' final days at the San Sebastián International Film Festival and the intricacies and improvisations behind all of Davies' demands and the enthusiasm with which Spaniards received such a glamorous Hollywood star. A fascinating and impressive work by the director, who interviewed practically everyone who had any direct contact with Davies, many of whom were not aware at the time of the cultural significance of Bette Davies' last public appearance and farewell.

■ mon 28 sep | 6.30pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema
Introduced by the director

NEGOCIADOR

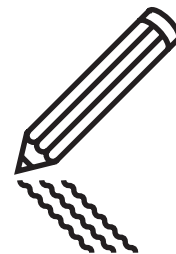
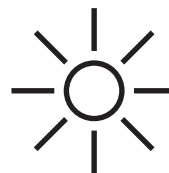
Negotiator

dir. Borja Cobeaga, with Ramón Barea, Josean Bengoetxea, Carlos Areces, Raúl Arévalo | Spain | 2014 | 79 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish, Basque, English and French with English subtitles | UK première

In Spain, following years of violence and bloodshed, negotiations between ETA, the separatist organization, and the Spanish government were an extremely serious business. Nonetheless, writer and filmmaker Borja Cobeaga (Oscar-nominated for his short film *Éramos pocos*) delights us here with a superb and light-humoured look at the talks. The film reveals the intricacies of negotiations between the various representatives. The Spanish Government's easy-going man with a miniscule expenses budget, ETA's rather tight and quiet man, an unlikely intermediary, his interpreter and her annoying boyfriend. Unsurprisingly it was named Best Basque Film last year at San Sebastian's Film Festival.

■ mon 28 sep | 8.30pm | £11, conc. £10, University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema
The film will be introduced by the director

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LEARNING TO DRIVE

dir. Isabel Coixet, with Patricia Clarkson, Ben Kingsley, Grace Gummer | USA/UK
| 2014 | 90 min | col | cert. PG | In English | London première

When Wendy's marriage breaks down she decides to take driving lessons as she cannot depend on her husband anymore. Her instructor ends up being Darwan, an Indian Sikh, who is about to welcome his future wife coming from India. As unlikely as it seemed initially, the immigrant will become instrumental in the self-empowerment of the Manhattan book critic. Coixet's superb work is enhanced by the nuanced interpretations of Patricia Clarkson and Ben Kingsley, with whom she had already worked in her film *Elegy*.

■ sun 27 sep | 8.00pm | £11, conc. £10,

University of Westminster students £7 | Regent Street Cinema

The film will be preceded by an on-stage conversation between director Isabel Coixet and Prof. Maria Delgado (Queen Mary) about Coixet's prolific filmmaking career, which includes work in different countries and languages and with some of the most well respected actors, and her interest in documentary work.

With the support of:



JURY

This year and for the first time we are introducing a competition among some of the film features in programme. We feel very honoured that the following Arts, Letters and Film professionals have accepted to be part of the Jury deciding the winner.



BRIDGET ARSENAULT

A longtime journalist, she is the Associate Editor, Print and Digital at *Vanity Fair* UK and the London Correspondent for *vanityfair.com*. At the end of 2013 Bridget co-founded The Bright Young Things Film Club, an events company that fosters young filmmaking talent. She has received numerous awards and accolades for both her writing and volunteer work, and she is currently working on a novel.



CHARLES DANCE

In some thirty five years as an actor Charles Dance has amassed an impressive body of work in all media from title roles with The Royal Shakespeare Company and major work in London's commercial theatre including *Shadowlands*, through award-winning television series, such as *The Jewel in the Crown*, *Bleak House*, and *Game of Thrones*. Major films include *Plenty*, *White Mischief*, *Good Morning Babylon*, *The Golden Child*, Robert Altman's *Gosford Park*, *Your Highness* and *The Awakening*. His debut as a film director and writer was *Ladies in Lavender* with Judi Dench and Maggie Smith.



ANDREW DEMPSEY

Andrew Dempsey is an independent curator and exhibition organiser. He has curated exhibitions for the Miró Foundation in Barcelona, IVAM in Valencia, the Museo de Bellas Artes in Bilbao and La Caixa in Madrid as well as exhibitions of Chillida for the Hayward Gallery in London and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He was formerly responsible for the exhibition programme at the Hayward Gallery where he initiated and organised the *Homage to Barcelona* exhibition in 1986.



NICKOLAS GRACE

Nickolas Grace was born in West Kirby and trained at Central School of Speech and Drama, where he still teaches. From 1972 to 1978 he played with the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also played Mozart in *Amadeus* at Her Majesty's Theatre, *Richard II* at the Young Vic, Cole Porter in *A Swell Party* at the Vaudeville, Pangloss in *Candide* at the Old Vic and Trinity in *Chariots of Fire* at the Gielgud Theatre. Film and Television roles include *Brideshead Revisited*, *Robin of Sherwood*, the title role in Juan Antonio Bardem's *Lorca, muerte de un poeta*, Merchant Ivory's *Heat and Dust*, Ken Russell's *Salomé's Last Dance*, *Shooting Fish*, *Tom and Viv*, *House of Cards* and *Evita*.



FRANK MANNION

Frank runs the award-winning production and distribution company, Swipe Films. He has produced the independent hits, *Grand Theft Parsons*, starring Johnny Knoxville and Christina Applegate, *Jackboots On Whitehall*, with Ewan McGregor and Rosamund Pike and *Plastic*, with Will Poulter and Alfie Allen. Swipe has had success releasing such Spanish films as *El Otro Lado de la Cama*, *Carmen* (both co-starring Paz Vega) and Icíar Bollain's *Te Doy Mis Ojos* in the UK. He is Senior Lecturer in Film Distribution & Marketing at Birmingham City University and a contributor to the Huffington Post, The Sunday Times and the Entertainment Law Review.



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11th London Spanish Film Festival

24 — 30 September 2015

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