

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a brown jacket over a light blue shirt, is holding a black handgun and pointing it towards the camera. She is standing in a desert landscape with rocky hills in the background under a clear blue sky.

12th London Spanish Film Festival

22 — 29 September 2016

REGENT
STREET
CINEMA

C'NÉ LUMIÈRE

CALENDAR

CINÉ LUMIÈRE

17 Queensberry Place, South Kensington, London SW7 2DT
Tel: 020 7871 3515 Web: www.institut-francais.org.uk

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REGENT STREET CINEMA

309 Regent Street, London W1B 2UW
Tel: 020 7911 5050 Web: www.regentstreetcinema.com

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Welcome to the London Spanish Film Festival

The London Spanish Film Festival launches its 12th edition with an extraordinary line-up of recent Spanish films, most of them UK premieres and a unique opportunity to watch them in London.

We'll open with the much acclaimed *La novia*, Paula Ortiz's second film, based on Federico García Lorca's classic *Bodas de sangre*. Our closing film, *Endless Night*, is Isabel Coixet's international production, which opened last year's Berlin Film Festival, starring Juliette Binoche and Rinko Kikuchi.

We are happy to welcome back Ana Rodríguez Rosell, who comes with her second film, *Falling*, an international production in which she's worked again with Emma Suárez and the German-Turkish Birol Ünel. The three of them will be on stage to present the film. Another co-production we are happy to present is Fernando León de Aranoa's *A Perfect Day*, featuring an extraordinary international cast challenged by the Balkans war effects in this comedy-drama.

The extraordinary actress Blanca Portillo will join us as well to present Lydia Zimmermann's documentary *María conversa* and talk with Prof. Maria Delgado about her acting work.

As part of our Basque Window, veteran Imanol Uribe will present *Lejos del mar*, a film about the feelings of absence and vengeance provoked by terrorism, and Bárbara Goenaga will present *Pikadero*, by the Scottish, Basque Country-based, Ben Sharrock. Model and actor Jon Kortajarena, not exactly a newcomer to film as his debut was in Tom Ford's *A Single Man*, will present the short *36 Hours* and *Acantilado*.

Our 8th Catalan Window will bring the fresh but solid debut of four film students, *Les amigues de l'Àgata*, a drama about the youths who participated in the last big battle of the Spanish Civil War, *Ebre*, which will be presented by the historian and Hispanist Paul Preston.

Last but not least, we are proud to partner with BFI in the presentation of *El Sur*, Víctor Erice's masterpiece about loss and memory, which is part of Pedro Almodóvar's *carte blanche* for their full retrospective.

We hope you will enjoy our selection and all the events of our 12th edition!

Joana Granero | Director
Patricia Pérez | Programmer

María Ugarte | Basque Window Programmer
Almudena Escobar | Shorts Programmer

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white, long-sleeved dress, is seated in a wooden chair. She is looking back over her right shoulder towards the camera. The setting appears to be an interior room with a window in the background showing a lamp and some furniture. The lighting is soft and warm.

CORE
PROGRAMME



LA NOVIA

The Bride

dir. Paula Ortiz, with Inma Cuesta, Alex García, Asier Etxeandia, Manuela Vellés, Leticia Dolera, Luisa Gavasa | Spain/Germany | 2015 | 96 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Based on Federico García Lorca's play *Blood Wedding*, which is considered one of his best works, *La novia* tells us the story of a tragic love triangle set in the deep south of Spain. Ortiz's treatment of Lorca's play is respectful and very close to the original poetic dialogue, while the photography of Miguel Amoedo enhances a fable-like atmosphere with nuances of a catastrophe. All performances are powerful but Luisa Gavasa deserves special mention, with a performance worthy of a Greek tragedy, in the role of the cold-hearted widow, mother of the groom.

▶ **thu 22 Sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**

The film will be followed by a Q&A (tbc) with Prof. Maria Delgado (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama)

With the support of: 

MARÍA CONVERSA

Maria Converses

dir. Lydia Zimmermann, with Blanca Portillo, Agustín Villaronga, Colm Tóibín | Spain | 2016 | 59 min | col | doc | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Blanca Portillo has one of Spain's richest acting careers in film, TV and theatre. She won the Cannes Film Festival's Palm Award for her work in Pedro Almodóvar's film *Volver* and her work has been awarded several times. Zimmermann's documentary follows her creative process as she prepares to embody the role of Maria of Nazareth in Colm Tóibín's play *Mary's Testament* under the direction of Agustín Villaronga.

▶ **fri 23 Sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**

The film will be followed by an on-stage conversation between Blanca Portillo and Prof. Maria Delgado (RCSSD)

With the support of:

Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and some Spanish ham after the screening. Courtesy of

ROYAL CENTRAL
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



FALLING

dir. Ana Rodríguez Rosell, with Emma Suárez, Birol Ünel | Spain/Dominican Republic | 2015 | 89 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish, English, German and Turkish with English subtitles | European première

Alma and Aslan, now separated, meet in the place where they spent their best years while married. While they remember their shared dreams and try to figure out what went wrong, Aslan tries to change Alma's memories and make sense of them for a new life. Shot with a very small crew in the dream setting of the Dominican Republic, *Falling* is a very intimate film where the enormous talent of the actors thrives under the perceptive and sensitive direction of Rodríguez Rosell, who visited us with her debut film, *Buscando a Eimish*, also featuring Suárez and Ünel, a few years ago.

▶ **sat 24 Sep | 6.00pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema**

Followed by a Q&A with Ana Rodríguez Rosell, Emma Suárez and Birol Ünel

With the support of:





LA PUERTA ABIERTA

The Open Door

dir. Marina Sereskesy, with Carmen Machi, Terele Pávez, Asier Etxeandia | Spain | 82 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Through the years, we have programmed Marina Sereskesy's shorts (*La boda* and *El cortejo*) and are delighted now to show her first feature film, the moving, at times even poetic, story of Rosa, an embittered middle-aged prostitute living with her mother – who was a prostitute as well. When Rosa accepts to take Lyuba, a little orphan Russian girl, it seems that redemption might still be possible. Machi's is a poignant, memorable performance. The humour is brought by a superb Etxeandia in the role of a foul-mouthed transvestite.

▶ sat 24 Sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière

Followed by a Q&A with director Marina Sereskesy and actress Carmen Machi

A PERFECT DAY

dir. Fernando León de Aranoa, with Benicio del Toro, Tim Robbins, Mélanie Thierry, Olga Kurylenko | Spain | 2015 | 106 min | col | cert. 16 | In English and Serbian, French, Serbian and Spanish with English subtitles

Fernando León de Aranoa's film revolves around the efforts of a group of aid workers to remove a corpse from a well in an armed conflict zone in the Balkans. What initially seemed like a relatively simple task turns out to be a nearly impossible mission complicated by bureaucracy and the stubbornness of the population in conflict. The director achieves, with remarkable skill, consistency between the different yearnings of the international, polyglot array of characters in a frustratingly complicated context. Like a Russian doll, the film is a drama inside a comedy, inside a road movie, inside a war movie...

▶ sun 25 Sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema

Followed by a Q&A (tbc)

BERSERKER

dir. Pablo Hernando, with Julián Gémisson, Ingrid García Jonsson, Vicenc Miralles | Spain | 2015 | 100 min | col | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

When Hugo Vartán, a struggling writer, finds out that someone he vaguely knows was connected to a murder, the next thing he does is to set out to investigate the facts and use the story to write his next book – which needs to be delivered in a few weeks. As his investigation progresses, Hugo finds himself entering an enigmatic, dangerous world that he doesn't belong in. Will he go ahead with the investigation for the sake of his new book or will he stay away aware of the consequences it may have in his life? Hernando's second feature film is an accomplished and compelling thriller balanced with graceful suspense.

Preceded by the short, **EL CORREDOR** | **The Runner**

dir. José Luis Montesinos, with Miguel Ángel Jenner, Lluís Altés | Spain | 2014 | 12 min | col | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première | Five years ago the boss closed the company and fired 300 workers. The first day that he goes out to run he meets one of them.

▶ sun 25 Sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema



LOBOS SUCIOS

Dirty Wolves

dir. **Simón Casal**, with **Marian Álvarez, Ricardo de Barreiro, Manuela Vellés** | Spain | 2015 | 105 min | col | In Spanish and German with English subtitles | UK première

Manuela works in the mines retrieving and processing wolfram for the Nazis, who need this rare metal for the Third Reich's war machine. When some of the miners plan a revolt against Franco's military men and the Nazis, and her sister starts helping Jews cross the border into Portugal, Manuela must decide if she can remain neutral in a time of war. Inspired by real events in the early 1940s, Casal manages to infuse the Galician mountains, forests and wolves with a mysticism in line with the mythology of that part of Spain. Marian Álvarez, as usual, delivers a powerful performance.

Preceded by the short, **ECO** | Echo

Dir. **Xacío Baño**, with **Xosé Barato, Rocío González** | Spain | 2015 | 20 min | col | In Spanish and Galician with English subtitles | UK première | Echo's voice was stolen and she was sentenced to repeat what everyone else said. Trapped, she decides to distance herself from human touch.

▶ **tue 27 Sep** | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema

Followed by a Q&A with *Lobos sucios*'s Scriptwriter **Paula Cons** and **Nir Cohen**, Film Programmer at UK Jewish Film

Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine from 8.00pm, courtesy of



NACIDA PARA GANAR

Not What It Looks Like

dir. **Vicente Villanueva**, with **Alexandra Jiménez, Victoria Abril, Cristina Castaño** | Spain | 2016 | 95 min | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Encarna, a thirty something girl from Móstoles (Madrid) traumatised from childhood by a joke made by the most successful comedy duo in Spain on national TV, is trapped in a monotonous life between selling mattresses and hiding her lover from her mother. It seems impossible to change anything in her life... until she meets an old school friend whose life seems to be one success after another. Ironic, and cruel at times, Villanueva's is a comedy with tinges of surrealism and *esperpento*, which includes Victoria Abril playing a fictitious Victoria Abril.

Preceded by the short, **DETOUR**

dir. **César Espada**, with **Eulàlia Ramon** | Australia/Spain | 2015 | 11 min | col | cert. 16 | In Spanish and English

with English subtitles | UK première | The adventures of a Spanish nymphomaniac smuggling drugs in Australia.

▶ **wed 28 Sep** | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière

Followed by a Q&A with *Eulàlia Ramon* & *Cristina Castaño*

ENDLESS NIGHT

Nadie quiere la noche

dir. **Isabel Coixet**, with **Juliette Binoche, Gabriel Byrne, Rinko Kikuchi** | Spain/France/Bulgaria | 2015 | 104 min | col | cert. 12A | In English and Inuktitut with English subtitles | London première

Josephine Peary is trying to reach her husband, who is on a geographic quest to the North Pole. Upon the impending arrival of the Arctic winter, she finds herself stuck with an Inuit woman while trying to survive the impossible conditions and the scarcity of food. Inspired by real events, the intimacy of the two women is superbly shown by the Catalan filmmaker. The costumes by Clara Bilbao together with Jean-Claude Larrieu's cinematography make for some really stunning images.

▶ **thu 29 Sep** | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière

Followed by a Q&A (tbc)

7th BASQUE WINDOW



ACANTILADO

The Cliff

dir. Helena Taberna, with Daniel Grao, Juana Acosta, Goya Toledo, Ingrid García Jonsson, Jon Kortajarena | Spain | 99 min | col | cert. 12A | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Gabriel (played by Daniel Grao, currently also starring in Almodóvar's *Julieta*) has to put his promising political career on hold when a mass suicide of members of a sect takes place and his little sister, Cordelia, whom he hasn't seen for years, seems to be involved. With the help of his sister's former lover, Helena, and the police inspector, Santana, he'll try to find Cordelia and the sect's leader. The beautiful cinematography of Javier Agirre captures the extraordinary landscape of the Canary Islands, helping to reflect the emotional state of the characters.

Preceded by the short, 36 HOURS

dir. Vincent Lacroq and Kristell Chenut, with Jon Kortajarena, Clément Chabernaud | US/France | 9 min | col | cert. PG | In Spanish and French with English subtitles | Against the stunning backdrop of Lanzarote, a poetic reflexion on life and unexpected encounters.

► fri 23 sep | 8.45pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema

Followed by a Q&A with Jon Kortajarena

Event presented in collaboration with

FASHION
& CINEMA

AMAMA

Grandma | Abuela

dir. Asier Altuna, with Nagore Aramburu, Amparo Badiola, Klara Badiola | Spain | 2015 | 103 min | col | cert. PG | In Basque with English subtitles | London première

Amaia grew up on a farm with her parents, brother and grandmother. A video-artist, she finds inspiration in the context in which she grew up and, particularly, in her *amama* (grandmother) and in the conflicting relationship with her father. A poetic homage to the Basque rural world and matriarchy, a world that is disappearing, Altuna's *Amama* is a film with several layers, which, in the end, aims for reconciliation between tradition and modernity.

► mon 26 sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema

Followed by a Q&A (tbc)



PIKADERO

dir. Ben Sharrock, with Bárbara Goenaga, Lander Otaola, Joseba Usabiaga | Spain | 2015 | 98 min | col | cert. 12 | In Basque with English subtitles | London première

The eyes of the Scottish filmmaker based in the Basque Country, Ben Sharrock, perfectly capture the mood among Basque youths caused by the economic crisis gripping Spain and making them unable to fly the parents' nest. Penniless Gorka starts an unlikely relationship with Ane. Both broke, they try to consummate their relationship in the car of Gorka's friend Iñaki. The frustration in light of a hopeless economic future gets hold of Gorka, while Ane dreams of leaving for another country...

▶ **mon 26 Sep | 8.40pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**

Followed a Q&A with actress Bárbara Goenaga

*The Basque Window
is Supported by:*



Special Thanks:



LEJOS DEL MAR

Far from the Sea
dir. Imanol Uribe, with Elena Anaya, Eduard Fernández | Spain | 2015 | 105 min | col | In Spanish with English subtitles

When Marina, a doctor living in Almería, leaves her work place one day, the last thing she expects to see is Santi, who she had a terrible encounter with when she was a child. Recently released, Santi, who has been in prison since then, has come to visit an old cell mate, who is terminally ill and who Marina is taking care of. One of the most established filmmakers in Spain, with unforgettable films like *La muerte de Mikel* (1983), *Días contados* (1994) or *El viaje de Carol* (2002), Uribe offers us a wonderful meditation on love, loss and absence with the support of the superb performances of two of Spain's best actors, Fernández and Anaya.

▶ **tue 27 sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema**

Followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker

UN OTOÑO SIN BERLÍN

An Autumn Without Berlin
dir. Lara Izaguirre, with Irene Escolar, Tamar Novas | Spain | 2015 | 95 min | col | cert. 12 | In Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

June comes back to her home town after some time spent abroad, but her family and her first love are not the same. Like the southern autumn wind, June is going to change everything, getting back her place in the family and the dream shared with Diego of going together to Berlin. Izaguirre's first feature film is, in a fresh and elegant way, a story about love and personal growth. Irene Escolar, sixth generation of one of the most established actor dynasties in Spain, the Gutiérrez Caba, received a special mention for her work at the San Sebastian Film Festival last year as well as the Best New Actress Goya Award. Tamar Novas, best known to British audiences for his work in *The Sea Inside* and *Broken Embraces*, delivers as well a strong and nuanced performance.

▶ **wed 28 Sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière**

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



8th CATALAN WINDOW

EBRE. DEL BRESSOL A LA BATALLA

Ebre. From the Cradle to the Battle

Ebro. De la cuna a la batalla

dir. Román Parrado, with Oriol Plà, Roser Tapias, Àlex Monner | Spain | 2015 | 80 min | In Catalan and Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

The Spanish Civil War was a war of attrition. In 1938 the War had already worn out both armies and the spirit of the whole population. The National army however had the support provided by Hitler and Mussolini whereas the Republican army was ignored by the rest of Europe as these countries were more worried about a possible world war. It is in these conditions that, in an effort to stop the National army from crossing the river Ebre, the Republic called to arms thousands of youths aged 17 and 18. The story of some of these youngsters is narrated by Parrado with fresh enthusiasm and passion, all the while staying true to the facts.

▶ sat 24 sep | 4.30pm | £12, conc. £11, University of Westminster students £8 | Regent Street Cinema

Preceded by an introduction by Hispanist Prof. Paul Preston (London School of Economics)

LES AMIGUES DE L'ÀGATA

Àgata's Friends | Las amigas de Àgata

dirs. Laia Alabart, Alba Cros, Laura Rius, Marta Verheyen, with Marta Cañas, Carla Linares, Elena Martín, Victoria Serra | Spain | 2015 | 70 min | col | cert. 12 | In Catalan and Spanish with English subtitles | UK première

Les amigues de l'Àgata is a thoughtful and delicate portrait of four young friends through the eyes of Àgata, now in her first year at university, who sees how the relationship with her school friends is transformed in their lives in Barcelona as well as during a trip to the Costa Brava. An exceptional final thesis in which all four directors have shared all tasks, the film establishes itself as their *opera prima*, with the assistance and tutorials of, among others, Isaki Lacuesta and Elías León Siminiani.

▶ sun 25 sep | 4.15pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière

The film will be followed by a Q&A with two of the directors, Laura Rius and Alba Cros.

The Catalan Window is supported by:

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SPECIAL SESSION

EL SUR

The South

dir. Víctor Erice, with Omero Antonutti, Sonsoles Aranguren, Icíar Bollain | Spain/France | 1983 | 95 min | col | cert. PG | In Spanish with English subtitles

In collaboration with the BFI, as part of Pedro Almodóvar's *carte blanche* for their full retrospective about him and upon the re-release of this timeless masterpiece, we are proud to programme Víctor Erice's melancholic reflexion on the passing of time and loss. He does so through the eyes of Estrella, a little girl who grows up in a town in the North of Spain, fascinated by the secrets and the past of her beloved father, who was raised in the South...

■ thu 22 sep | 6.30pm | £12, conc. £10 | Ciné Lumière

The film will be introduced by Geoff Andrew, film critic and programmer



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2016 JURY

We feel very honoured that the following Arts, Letters and Film professionals agreed to be part of the Jury deciding the 2016 winner.



DAVINA CATT

London based Davina Catt studied English literature at University College London and has worked as a journalist writing and editing for publications including Vogue.com, British Vogue, Financial Times. She is currently a UK contributing editor at Interview magazine, as well as new biannual title, Violet, alongside world known film directors and actors. From a family immersed in writing and film, Davina has written/directed an arts based documentary, featuring amongst others Stephen Fry, Bonnie Wright, which launched in UK cinemas earlier in 2016.



ALASDAIR FLIND

Alasdair Flind, a former journalist, has been running independent film and TV production company Cowboy Films alongside producing partner Charles Steel, since 2007. Previous feature film credits include Kevin Macdonald's adaptation of the best selling novel *How I Live Now* and BBC Films family comedy *Bill*. Most recently Alasdair produced Natasha Khan's (aka Bat for Lashes) first short film as part of MTV's *Madly* anthology feature that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival this year. Television credits include two seasons of the RTS and BAFTA award winning *Top Boy* and the BAFTA winning single film *Poppy Shakespeare*.



GARETH HARRIS

Gareth Harris is an established freelance arts and culture journalist. He is chief contributing editor at The Art Newspaper, the "art world bible" where he began his journalism career in 2003. He has contributed numerous articles to the Financial Times, and has written for The New York Times, Vogue, The Guardian, and The Independent.



MICHAEL ROBINSON

Michael Robinson is a London based producer at MGR Films, which he founded in 2013. Michael's credits include *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, *Mr Nice* and *The Sea*. His upcoming productions include *Unqueened* - the story of Queen Caroline of Brunswick with Simon Curtis directing; an adaptation of Ed Docx's tragicomic novel *The Calligrapher* with PJ Hogan writing and directing; a biopic of Vivien Leigh, and an adaptation of Saul Bellow's seminal novel *Herzog*, as well as co-producing outside projects such as Michael Mann's adaptation of Bernard Cornwell's novel *Azincourt*.



FEDERICO SPOLETTI

Born and raised in Italy, Federico Spoletti is co-founder and Managing Director of SUB-TI, an international subtitling company based in London, which provides audiovisual translation services all over the world, working with well over 30 languages and international film festivals such as the Venice Film Festival, the Locarno Film Festival, the British Film Institute and the MoMA in New York. He co-founded SUB-TI ACCESS, which works on cultural accessibility for the hearing and visually impaired. In 2011, he launched FRED Film Radio - The Festival Insider, a web-based radio network which boasts 29 channels, broadcasting in 25 languages.



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12th London Spanish Film Festival

22 — 29 September 2016

Ciné Lumière

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We'd like to thank as well for their personal efforts, interest and support: Nickolas Grace, Michela Bertolini, Gennaro Fiorenzi, Jorge Sobredo, Antonio Molina Vázquez, Natacha Antolini, Fernando Villalonga, Carmen Brieva, Beatriz Mérida, Charlotte Saluard, Shira Macleod, José Manuel Gómez, Prof. Maria Delgado, Prof. Peter W. Evans, Vincent Roussel, Francisco Collado and Carlos García

www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com