



# Recent Spanish Cinema XX, Los Angeles



FILM  
LOS ANGELES

Thu, October 16–  
Sun, October 19, 2014

## Venue

Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood  
Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028

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## More information

[Festival's website](#)

## Credits

Presented by Instituto de la  
Cinematografía y de las Artes  
Audiovisuales (ICAA) of the Spanish  
Ministry of Education, Culture and  
Sport, the American Cinematheque  
and EGEDA. With the support of  
SPAIN arts & culture and the Spain-  
USA Foundation. Image by Demo for  
Recent Spanish Cinema.

The 20th edition of Los Angeles' Recent Spanish Cinema showcase the best of Spain's rich, vibrant and vital films on the big screen at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

Over 19 years, the Recent Spanish Cinema series has introduced international Spanish talents such as Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz and Antonio Banderas. Recently, audiences have enjoyed meeting filmmakers like Bigas Luna, Álex de la Iglesia, Julio Medem, Benito Zambrano, and performers like Ángela Molina, Luis Tosar and Eduardo Noriega to name a few. In these festivals you'll catch films plucked hot off the festival circuit in the company of the passionate, talented Spanish filmmakers and established artists.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 7 PM

### *Living is Easy with Eyes Closed*

- Post-screening discussion with director David Trueba. Spain's official Oscar submission. Los Angeles premiere.
- Directed by David Trueba, 2013, Outsider Pictures, 108 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. Original title: *Vivir es fácil con los ojos cerrados*.
- This charming road movie, inspired by actual incidents, earned six Goya Awards, including Best Film and two for writer-director David Trueba. In 1966, teacher and Beatles fan Antonio (a superb Javier Camara) learns that John Lennon is filming *How I Won the War* in Almeria, Spain, and sets off to meet his hero, joined by a pair of young runaways.



### **Sequence**

- The 20-minute short film *Sequence*, winner of The Newfilmmakers from Spain short Film contest will screen before the feature.
  - Directed by Carles Torrens, 2013, 20 minutes.
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## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 5:30 PM**

### **Recent Spanish Cinema Round Table**

- Join us for a panel discussion with filmmakers and performers attending this year's Recent Spanish Cinema series. Hear from the talent behind *Living is Easy with Eyes Closed* (director David Trueba), *Carmina and Amen* (director Paco León), *Spanish Affair* (actress Clara Lago), and *Family United* (director Daniel Sanchez Arevalo). Moderated by Julián Daniel Gutiérrez-Albilla (Associate Professor, University of Southern California).
  - Free event (first come, first served). At Spielberg Theater inside Egyptian Theater.
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## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 7:30 PM**

### ***Carmina and Amen***

- Post-screening discussion with director Paco León. Los Angeles premiere.
- Paco León follows up last year's popular *Carmino or Blow Up* with another hilarious (if fictionalized) portrait of his mother. When her husband dies, chain-smoking Carmina Barrios is determined to keep it a secret until she gets a check that he had been expecting. The absurd, sometimes vulgar, comic energy of Almodóvar's early films lives on here!
- Directed by Paco León, 2014, Telecinco, 98 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. Original title: *Carmina y Amén*.

### ***Witching and Bitching***

- On the run after a botched robbery, three hapless crooks (Hugo Silva, Mario Casas and Jaime Ordóñez) take refuge in a Basque village run by a family of witches. Like de la Iglesia's earlier *The Day of the Beast*, this kinetic horror-comedy bursts with energy, wild imagery and a couple of jaw-dropping action sequences.
  - Directed by Álex de la Iglesia, 2013, IFC Midnight, 112 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. Original title: *Las Brujas de Zugarramurdi*.
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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 7:30 PM

### ***Spanish Affair***

- Post-screening discussion with *Spanish Affair* actress Clara Lago. Los Angeles Premiere.
- Love-struck Rafa (Dani Rovira, in his feature debut) pursues a Basque woman (Clara Lago), pretending to be Basque himself to gain her father's approval. This screwball comedy take on regional stereotypes quickly became one of the biggest Spanish-made box office hits of all time.
- Directed by Emilio Martínez Lázaro, 2014, Film Factory, 98 minutes. In Spanish and Basque with English subtitles. Original title: *Ocho Apellidos Vascos*.

### ***Three Many Weddings***

- What's worse than getting invited to your ex's wedding? Getting invited to three of them! Inma Cuesta stars as Ruth, a luckless-in-love biologist who gamely runs the gauntlet as boyfriends Pedro (Berto Romero), party-hearty surfer Mikel (Paco León) and transgender Álex (Laura Sanchez) get hitched. This brightly colored, gag-filled farce was Best Comedy winner at the Feroz Awards.
- Directed by Javier Ruiz Caldera, 2013, 94 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. Original title: *Tres Bodas de Más*. Los Angeles premiere.

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## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7:30 PM

### ***Family United***

- Post-screening discussion with *Family United* director Daniel Sanchez Arevalo. Los Angeles Premiere.
- Acclaimed director Daniel Sanchez Arevalo takes a comedic look at a Spanish family's chaotic reunion for a wedding taking place during the 2010 FIFA World Cup final. With Patrick Criado and Arancha Marti. *Shot through with a distinctive wit and flair, the [film] cannily shows how it's possible to straddle the mainstream/arthouse divide.* (Jonathan Holland, *The Hollywood Reporter*.)
- Directed by Daniel Sanchez Arevalo, 2013, Film Factory, 101 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. Original title: *La Gran Familia Española*.

### ***Ismael***

- With a return address on an envelope his only guide, 8-year-old Ismael



(Larsson do Amaral) runs away to Barcelona in search of his estranged father (Mario Casas) but finds instead a grandmother (Belén Rueda) who hadn't known of Ismael's existence. As in his earlier *Kamchatka*, Piñeyro displays a sure hand with young actors and serious subjects, and this tale of family reconciliation is both touching and frequently funny.

- Directed by Marcelo Piñeyro, 2013, 106 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. U.S. premiere.