

# LA FUENTE

UP CÍRCULO HISPÁNICO / AY 2012-2013 / VOLUME 1

## SPECIAL ISSUE: TODO SOBRE PELÍCULAS

### TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SPANISH CINEMA

by Charlotte Hills  
for latinolife.co.uk

**1. The most boring film title of all time?** The first movie ever shot in Spain had a title worthy of preventing any Spaniard from every making a film again, let alone going to see one. It was Eduardo Jimeno's *People Coming out of the Noontime Mass at the Cathedral of the Virgin of Pilar in Zaragoza* (1897), which was followed by a series of shorts by the Lumiere brothers' cameraman, Alexandre Promio.

**2. The 'Golden Age'.** By the 1920s, the Spanish Film industry was producing more than 60 pictures a year. This era encompasses the transition from silent to talking pictures. It was during this time that Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí's surrealist short *Un Chien Andalou* (1928) was screened in Paris, launching Buñuel's controversial and eclectic career.

**3. The Civil War.** The great gains made by the Spanish industry by the 1930s ground to a halt by the start and devastation of the Civil War. Franco's right-wing government brought increased censorship, and Spanish cinema during this time became an ideological tool to steer the population in favour of the new regime.



04-14 October 2012, Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2

Ticket price: Php 65

"The 11th Spanish Film Festival, the most important and most celebrated Spanish-language film festival in Southeast Asia, will showcase the best Spanish and Latin-American films in recent years. Once again, Manila film enthusiasts will be treated to an exciting line-up of multi-awarded films in the Spanish language.

This year's films are a collection of absorbing dramas and compelling narratives that explore the full spectrum of human experience in new and surprising ways. There will also be a number of fun and light-hearted films for the audience to enjoy as well as movies from the Latin American community all presenting a wide range of perspectives and styles."

To see the complete line-up of this year's program and for more information on the Festival, visit [pelicula.ph](http://pelicula.ph).

Alongside the movie screenings at the Greenbelt 3 cinema will be a meet-and-greet with the renowned Spanish director Alberto Rodríguez on October 8. Rodríguez will present his film, [Grupo 7](#), and will talk with the audience after the film showing.

### UPCH's picks: 3 movies from the Spanish film festival not to miss!



**UN CUENTO CHINO (A Chinese Tall Tale):** Roberto is a Malvinas war veteran who lives a very monotonous life, full of routines. His life changes suddenly when in a twist of fate he meets Jun, a young Chinese man who

can't speak a single word of Spanish and who wanders in the city looking for his uncle, his only relative who is still alive.

**Screening dates:** Oct 4 7:00pm, Oct 6 2:00pm, Oct 7, 9:30pm



**PA NEGRE (Black Bread):** Andreu, a kid whose family belongs to the losing camp in the Spanish Civil War, discovers in his hometown of rural Catalonia the dead bodies of a man and his son. The authorities consider his father as the main suspect, but Andreu leads his own investigation to find the true criminals.

During his eventful search, he discovers he can also be evil.

**Screening dates:** Oct 5, 7:00pm, Oct 11 4:30pm, Oct 14, 2:00pm



**ARRUGAS (Wrinkles):** Emilio enters a home for the elderly where he is to live out the rest of his life riddled with Alzheimer's Disease. He meets a new friend in the person of Miguel who, together with the

other patients, help Emilio avoid being sent to the ward for terminal cases.

**Screening dates:** Oct 5 9:30pm, Oct 7 4:30pm



**4. Censorship.** In the 1950s, Spain longed for modernisation and liberalisation, as many people considered the country culturally backward. Over the next decade, major filmmakers such as Juan Antonio Bardem and Luis Garcia Berlanga used their talent to bypass the censors.

**5. Sensibility or Scandal?** Buñuel's *Viridina* (1960) was the ultimate controversial film during the Franco era. It was banned in Spain, but won the Palme d'Or in Cannes despite the Vatican's protests, saying that it was not just an insult to Catholicism but Christianity itself. By this time Buñuel had long lost faith, and used his film to criticise the church for its authoritative rule in the country and for its support for Franco.

**6. La Movida.** "If you lived in the 80's and remember it, then you didn't live them". This is how those involved in the 'la movida Madrileña' described the hedonistic culture born in Madrid. It comprised of an explosion of post dictatorship, pent-up cultural energy that expressed itself in multiple media: music, fashion, painting and photography, as well as film. It was an era of expression that saw the rise of pop and underground music, comics, glam rockers, alcohol abuse, drugs, and sexual experimentation - very similar to the Punk era in 1960s Britain.

**7. Pedro Almodóvar.** One does not think Spanish Cinema without thinking Pedro Almodóvar. Following the collapse of the Franco dictatorship, Almodóvar was one of the budding young Spanish filmmakers to take full advantage of this newfound buzz of liberation, embracing this movement with a string of outrageous story lines highlighting taboo subjects and activities. His films were shocking, flamboyant, irreverent, anarchic as well as warm and funny and sometimes plain daft. Openly referring himself as a 'woman's director',

Almodóvar fully believes in celebrating the beauty and fascination of women on screen. They often play against macho and phallogocentric men.

**8. The Mentor and his Muse: a Spanish tradition?** Carlos Saura and his muse Geraldine Chaplin. After being introduced to Saura, Chaplin would form the essential ingredient to the director's cinema: adding a spell-binding melancholic beauty to the political subtext. Although their relationship disintegrated after twelve years, Saura would not have been able to reach such creative highs without Geraldine as his artistic inspiration. Another famous pairing is that of Penelope Cruz and her Pedro Almodóvar.

**9. Spanish-International Cinema.** Another aspect of Spanish cinema mostly unknown to the general public is the appearance of English-language Spanish films such as *Agora* (dir. Alejandro Amenabar, st. Rachel Weisz), *Che* (dir. Steven Soderbergh, st. Benicio del Toro), *The Machinist* (dir. Brad Anderson, st. Christian Bale), *The Others* (dir. Alejandro Amenabar, st. Nicole Kidman). All of these films were produced by Spanish firms and were great international hits.

**10. Lawrence of... Andalucía?** Did you know that Europe's only desert is in Andalucía? The "bad lands" of Spain proved to be an ideal substitute for outdoor scenes of westerns. David Lean also filmed parts of *Lawrence of Arabia* there. Many years later, Steven Spielberg returned with *Harrison Ford* to film scenes of the *Indiana Jones* series.

For the full version of this article, please visit: <http://www.latinolife.co.uk/film/ten-things-you-should-know-about-spanish-cinema>

## GUESS THE MOVIE AND THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION!

Here are several famous movie quotes... translated to Spanish. Can you guess which movie they came from and remember how the original English quotes go?

1. Volveré.
2. Veo gente muerta.
3. ¡Soy el rey del mundo!
4. ¿Por qué tan serio?
5. Voy a hacerle una oferta que no podrá rechazar.
6. La vida es como una caja de bombones: nunca sabes que te va a tocar.
7. Francamente, mi querida, no me importa un comino.
8. Que la fuerza te acompañe.
9. Yo tengo pezónes Greg... ¿Podrías ordeñarme a mi también?
10. Hasta el infinito y más allá!

Solution at <http://circulohispanico.weebly.com/la-fuente.html>

### ABOUT UP CÍRCULO HISPÁNICO

UP Círculo Hispánico is a non-profit academic oriented organization under the Department of European Languages, duly recognized by the College of Arts and Letters of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The organization was founded in 1964 under the name of Círculo Cervantino. It became dormant during a couple of years. And in 1997, it was re-established as Círculo Hispánico.

UP Círculo Hispánico aims to promote the Spanish language and culture to students and other members of our academic institution. It serves as a venue and support group for students who wish to further their interest in the Spanish language and culture through different activities such as tutorials, exhibits, poetry readings, film showings, etc. It helps in strengthening ties among the Philippines and the Spanish-speaking countries. For years, the organization has been a tool in helping produce esteemed alumni who were and will always be instruments of change in our society and our country.

### CONTACT US

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ISSUE no. 4