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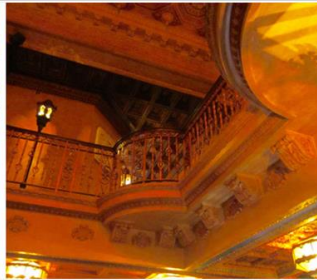
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'Recent Cinema From Spain' Opens

Four-Day Film Festival Celebrates Best of Spanish Cinema

By Daisy Cabrera

Wednesday, November 16, 2016



If you want to learn about Spain, watch a Spanish film. Look past the cinematic art to get a taste of the country's identity, customs, richness, passions, charms, people, eccentricities, humor and way of life.

Get your fill from Thursday, Nov. 17 through Sunday, Nov. 20 at the annual "Recent Cinema from Spain" film series, which will take place at the historic Olympia Theater. Over 600 guests, including Univision's Emmy Award-winning host Raúl "El Gordo" De Molina, *Despierta América's* Karla Martínez and Chilean actor Cristián de la Fuente, crowded the opening reception on Oct. 27.

Now in its sixth year in Miami, the film festival is produced by EGEDA (Spanish Audiovisual Producers' Rights Management Association) and The Olympia Theater with the special collaboration of ICAA (Spanish Institute for Film and Audiovisual Arts). The 22nd edition of "Recent Cinema from Spain" was recently presented in Los Angeles, and the organizers hope to expand the series to other markets, such as New York City, in the future.

At the opening reception, the atmospheric theater's golden lights cast a bright glow, and the bubbly sangria flowed. Movie lovers nabbed complimentary popcorn and took their seats. It was showtime.



Photos by Daisy Cabrera

The theater went dark as Las Migas took the center stage spotlight. Alba, Marta, Alicia and Roser, four talented musicians hailing from Barcelona, blended their voice, guitar and violin rhythms into classic and contemporary flamenco and Mediterranean sounds.



The Honorable Candido Creis, Consul General of Spain in Miami, took the podium to share the value and importance of this film festival to our backyard, a city where the predominant Latino population

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shares the motherland's tongue and culture. Next, the current City of Miami Mayor, Tomás Regalado, presented a proclamation to LatinWE's Luis Balaguer for his contributions to the film industry and support of Latin talent.

"We are thankful that the film series is growing every year, and bringing Spanish cinema to bigger audiences in Miami. We had over 4,000 people in attendance in the last edition," said Elvi Cano, Executive Director, EGEDA US. "It's growing with English-speaking audiences interested in Spanish movies."

Cano and the Olympia Theater's Robert Geitner presented a glimpse into this year's "Recent Cinema from Spain" film festival line-up, in which all six groundbreaking movies are in Spanish with English subtitles.

The roster of enriching films includes two dramas, one of which is "The Olive Tree (El Olivo)" (*Sunday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.*) Directed by Iciar Bollain, who has won several Goya Awards (the Spanish equivalent to the Academy Awards), Cannes Film Festival Award, Panorama Award and Ariel Award – this raw and emotional film focuses on a sentimental young girl's pursuit of her grandfather's beloved thousand-year-old olive tree. The second drama, "The Open Door" (La Puerta Abierta) makes its Miami premiere on *Friday, Nov. 18 at 6:45 p.m.* At the heart of this award-winning debut feature by Marian Seresky is the gritty story of a middle-aged sex worker, her Alzheimer's-suffering mother and a seven-year old orphaned girl.

What's a film fest with a thriller? "Boy Missing (Secuestro)", featuring award-winning TV and film actor José Coronado, is a chilling mystery about a child who was kidnapped, found, and falsely identified the perpetrator. The resulting chain of events spiral out of control, way out of control. *The movie shows at 9:45 p.m. as part of a double feature on Saturday, Nov. 19.*

If you love to laugh, boy, you're in for a very special treat! Three comedies made the cut, including the U.S. Premiere of "Night Tales ("Rumbos)", directed by Manuela Burló Moreno. This is the opening night kick off with the red carpet festivities beginning at 6 p.m. and the film unspooling at 7 p.m. on *Thursday, Nov. 17.* With a star-studded ensemble, this feel-good comedy shares the tale of several colorful

characters, all embarking on interesting and quite different life journeys, who are listening to a radio show one August evening set in present-day Barcelona. Love is in the air with the next U.S. Premiere, "Our Lovers ("Nuestros Amantes") on *Friday, Nov. 18 at 9:45 p.m.* This romantic comedy, directed by Miguel Ángel Lamata, reflects the many unexpected twists and turns about life, love and so much more. Rounding off the category is "Party Town" ("El Pregon"), which makes its Miami Premiere on *Saturday, Nov. 19 at 6:45 p.m.* Directed by Dani de la Orden, this sidesplitting movie about two musical brothers who set aside their many differences in order to reunite their duo act one last time.

On *Sunday night*, don't miss the winner of the New Filmmakers From Spain Short Film Contest Winner, "The Suitor" at 7:30 p.m. During Orson Welles' infamous radio broadcast of War of the Worlds, a lonely man tries to bond with a panicked young woman as they fearfully wait for the end of the world together.

The reception shared a special screening of "We are Pregnant" ("Embarazados"), which was directed by award-winner Juana Macías. This romantic meets dramatic comedy stars the revered, former TV actors Alexandra Jiménez and Paco León, whose mother, Carmina Barrios and sister, María León are equally accomplished. The clock is ticking on a long-term couple approaching their forties, and they decide to have a baby before time runs out. Believe it or not, you'll find yourself laughing out loud as they contemplate low sperm count and the quality of eggs. Naturally, a full-on meltdown ensues, and the break-ups and make-ups will tug at your heartstrings.

Following the films, audiences are welcome to stay for the exclusive Q&As with actors Miki Esparbé, Ernesto Alterio, Andreu Buenafuente and filmmaker Marina Seresky. In the past, the festival has brought world-class actors to Miami, such as Javier Cámara and Lluís Homar and the acclaimed Antonio de la Torre Martín - with over eighty films under his belt. Last year alone, the special guests included Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain.

The full "Recent Cinema from Spain" schedule and prices, can be viewed at <http://www.miami.recentcinemafromspain.com>

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