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What Have I Done to Deserve This?!! Que He Hecho Yo Para Merecer Esto

1984 Color 100 mins.

Director: Pedro Almodovar

Producer: Herve Hachuel

Screenplay: Pedro Almodovar

Cinematography: Angel Luis Fernandez

Music: Bernardo Bonezzi

Editing: José Salcedo

Principal Cast: Carmen Maura, Angel de Andres-Lopez, Veronica Forque, Gonzalo Suarez, Chus Lampreave

Production Company: Tesauro S.A. and Kaktus S.A.

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Gloria, splendidly played by Carmen Maura, has a chauvinist husband, Antonio, who drives a taxi and gets involved in a strange plot to forge letters supposedly written by Adolf Hitler. Gloria's two sons are as mixed up as their father; one, aged 12, is a heroin dealer, while the younger seems to have gay tendencies and gets "adopted" by a lecherous dentist. Also living in the cramped apartment is Gloria's batty, myopic mother-in-law, who has a pet lizard she calls Dinero (Money). As if that weren't enough, one neighbor is a hooker while another is a bluenose whose daughter has mystical powers.

There are other strange characters, too, floating through this fast-paced tragi-farce which is sometimes bawdy, often tasteless, but never dull. This kind of comedy is very much a matter of taste. Almodovar has lots of serious points to make about sexism and the non-liberated Spanish housewife, as well as what's happening to families, especially kids, these days.

David Stratton

US Premiere