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CAMEO



Law of Desire

Spain 1987. Dir: Pedro Almodovar. Prod: Miguel A. Perez Campos. Script: Pedro Almodóvar. Photo: Angel Luis Fernández. Editor: José Salcedo. Music: Stravinsky, Shostakovich. Cast: Eusebio Poncela, Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas, Miguel Molina, Manuela Velasco. 101 mins.

Pedro Almodóvar is fast becoming Spain's hottest director and a filmmaker who is beginning to create waves around the world. His flamboyant depictions of anarchistic nuns, insouciant punks, love-struck homosexuals and frustrated housewives have created a sensation in a post-Franco Spain which has been denied these images for years. His cartoon-like energy and wild, surrealist imagination have elicited comparisons to Luis Buñuel, Billy Wilder and John Waters, but finally Almodóvar is a genuine original, perhaps a historical product of his times, but nonetheless invested with a singular and outrageous imagination all his own.

Law of Desire opens with a sensational scene in which Pablo, a filmmaker, directs a sequence from his new film which will turn into a big hit, making him something of a celebrity. Pablo lives the high life in Madrid, indulging in casual drugs and homosexual encounters. The few complications in his comfortable lifestyle involve his family, reminiscent in their confusion of the outlandish household in Almodóvar's earlier film, *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* For starters, Tina, his beautiful, strident sister used to be his brother and she is raising a little girl whose mother is also a transsexual.

But the real complications begin when Pablo brings home Antonio, a government minister's son. Antonio falls madly in love with Pablo and is determined to possess him and those around him. What follows is a story of sexual intrigue, where Antonio's blind and casual leap into a night of passion brings with it a nightmare of pain and suffering. — *Piers Handling, Toronto Festival.*