

Document Citation

Title	The films of Pedro Almodóvar
Author(s)	
Source	<i>New Yorker Films</i>
Date	1993
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	86
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Almodóvar, Pedro (1951), Calzada de Calatrava, Ciudad Real, Spain
Film Subjects	Laberinto de pasiones (Labyrinth of passion), Almodóvar, Pedro, 1982 La ley del deseo (Law of desire), Almodóvar, Pedro, 1987 Entre tinieblas (Dark habits), Almodóvar, Pedro, 1983 Matador (The bullfighter), Almodóvar, Pedro, 1986 Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios (Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown), Almodóvar, Pedro, 1988

Western Europe

SPAIN

The films of Pedro Almodóvar



WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Almodóvar's most sheerly entertaining film to date, a post-modern Pop-boiler about dubbing-studio actress, Pepa (Carmen Maura) who receives an answering machine kiss-off from her lover and sets forth across Madrid to track him down, encountering, along the way, a pot of drugged gazpacho, a pompadoured cab-driver, and a vengeful, gun-toting ex-wife prematurely released from a mental hospital.

Spain, 1988. 88 mins. Color.

Rental: 500



LAW OF DESIRE

The Almodóvar trademark mixture of sexual adventurousness, lurid theatrics and camp excess is in abundance in this gleefully perverse, vigorously directed black comedy-thriller-melodrama about a successful gay director whose possessive lover goes much too far. Starring Almodóvar regulars Antonio Banderas as the boyfriend who wants it *all*, and Carmen Maura in an outrageous and heart-warming performance as Pablo's lusty, busty brother (sic), Tina.

Spain, 1987. 100 mins. Color.

Rental: 400



MATADOR

Sex and death run rampant in Madrid in Almodóvar's bright black comedy about an ex-matador and a female criminal lawyer who get off on dispatching their lovers at the height of passion. Peopled with assorted deviants and religious fanatics and containing some of the most mind-boggling sex-and-death connections since *Un Chien Andalou*, *Matador* wonderfully combines elements of softcore pornography, theatre of the absurd and whodunit murder mystery.

Spain, 1986. 107 mins. Color. Rental: 350



DARK HABITS

Almodóvar's most outrageous film centers on a nightclub singer with the police on her tail seeking refuge at a convent in which the holy sisters partake of mind-altering substances, keep a full-grown tiger as a pet and raise funds through extortion and drug-dealing. This exercise in breezy blasphemy is rendered in Almodóvar's patented style of gaudy, eye-popping glitter and contains some of the most amusingly bizarre images in recent memory.

Spain, 1984. 116 mins. Color. Rental: 300



LABYRINTH OF PASSION

The tangled tale of an insatiable nymphomaniac, her crackpot gynecologist father and a homosexual punk-rock star was Almodóvar's hilarious second film, which J.Hoberman called "an enjoyably garish cartoon of the gay-nympho-rock'n'roll underground". A veritable compendium of Almodóvarian themes, gags, and stylistic flourishes, its wild humor runs the gamut from scatological slapstick to in-jokes on Lacanian psychoanalysis.

Spain, 1982. 100 mins. Color. Rental: 300

(All films in Spanish with English subtitles)