

Document Citation

Title	Ay! Carmela
Author(s)	Rosa Bosch
Source	<i>London Film Festival</i>
Date	1990 Nov 23
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	36
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Ay, Carmela!, Saura, Carlos, 1990

WORLD PANORAMA



SPAIN 1990

23 Fri 2.15 6.45pm NFT1

Ay! Carmela

Director: **Carlos Saura**

Production Company: Iberoamericana Films-ELLEPI in collaboration with TVE

Producer: Andres Vincente Gomez

Screenplay: Carlos Saura, Rafael Azcona

Photography (Colour): Jose Luis Alcaine

UK Distributor: Palace Pictures, 16-17

Wardour Mews, London, W1V 3FF.

Tel: 071 734 7060

Leading Players: Carmen Maura, Andres Pajares, Gabino Diego, Maurizio di Razza

Running Time:

Festivals: Montreal

Carlos Saura is back on top form with this tragi-comic tale of two travelling actors and their tribulations set during the Spanish Civil War. Carmela (Carmen Maura) and Paulino (Andres Pajares) entertain the Republican troops, together with Gustavete, a mute they pick up after an air raid. However, living conditions are difficult so, exploiting Carmela's sex appeal, they obtain petrol and on a foggy night set out on the road to Valencia. By dawn they realise they have crossed enemy lines and are arrested by Franco's fascist troops. Fortunately their theatre experience comes to their aid and they stage a show for the conquering army. The scenes previously enjoyed by the Republicans are hastily changed to fit Fascist taste but this dangerously amusing double game is crowned with tragedy. Saura's commentary on the Civil War and its' consequences for ordinary people is poignant, amusing and very touching. Simply unmissable. - *Rosa Bosch.*