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Author(s)	Maria Delgado
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Airbag

Sat 15 at 23.30 **ICA**, **Tue 18** at 15.30 **Odeon WE2**

The third film of Basque enfant terrible Juanma Bajo Ulloa (*Butterfly Wings*, *The Dead Mother*) is a gloriously tasteless high action comedy which has proved a huge success at the Spanish box office. On the eve of his impending marriage to a wealthy aristocrat, Juantxo (Karra Elejalde) is taken on a stag night by his two best friends (Fernando Guillén-Cuervo and Alberto San Juan), but when he loses a valuable present in compromising circumstances a frantic search ensues to locate the elusive missing item. Clichés come thick and fast as the three men race against the clock, doing battle with a range of colourful assailants in the hope of getting Juantxo to the church on time. A lavish big budget visual treat, *Airbag* brings together a stellar cast (including veterans Francisco Rabal and Pilar Bardem as well as relative newcomers Vicenta Ndongo and Alberto San Juan) in a riotously funny, erotically charged celebration of the worst excesses of '70s culture and laddish behaviour. An audacious, invigorating and wickedly kitsch change of direction for one of the most exciting film-makers to have emerged in Spain during the 90s. If it's testosterone-driven cinema you're after, it doesn't come much better than this. *Maria Delgado*

Dir Juanma Bajo Ulloa / with Karra Elejalde, Fernando Guillén-Cuervo, Alberto San Juan, María de Medeiros / Spain, Germany 1996 / 124 mins.