

## Document Citation

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## Hable con ella

### Talk to Her

#### Pedro Almodóvar

SPAIN, 2002

112 minutes ■ Colour/35mm  
 Production Company: **El Deseo**  
 Executive Producer: **Augustín Almodóvar**  
 Producer: **Pedro Almodóvar**  
 Screenplay: **Pedro Almodóvar**  
 Cinematographer: **Javier Aguirresarobe**  
 Editor: **José Salcedo**  
 Production Designer: **Antxon Gómez**  
 Sound: **Miguel Rejas**  
 Music: **Alberto Iglesias**  
 Principal Cast: **Javier Cámara,**  
**Darío Grandinetti, Rosario Flores,**  
**Leonor Watling, Geraldine Chaplin**

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One of the revelations of 1999 was Pedro Almodóvar's subtle, sensitive portrait of a group of women in *All About My Mother*, which won the Academy Award® for best foreign film. It was clear that the previous bad boy and lover of garish pop culture had discovered another side of his artistic personality – surface beauty had given way to a filmmaker attuned to the deeper currents and concerns of his characters. There is no question that this increasing maturity has carried over to the equally brilliant *Talk to Her*. Indeed, the two can almost be seen as companion pieces: *Mother* is about women and how they love; *Talk to Her* is about how men love women, and the manner in which Almodóvar treats this subject attests to his singular creativity.

The film presents us with two men who fall for different women, but find themselves in similar situations. Marco, a journalist, meets Lydia, a daring young matador. She is as wary of Marco as she is of the bulls she fights in the ring but, before long, the two are involved. One day, Lydia has a horrible accident and is rushed to the hospital in a coma. There, Marco befriends a young male nurse, Benigno, who is in charge of the daily care of another beautiful young woman, Alicia – who is also in a coma. The two men begin a friendship based upon their intense feelings for two women who can no longer speak to them. What follows is a cinematic conversation of undeniable force and beauty.

Almodóvar moves his quartet of characters through a variety of situations, highlighting their loneliness, their passions and their obsessions. He pushes his material to its emotive and moral limits, asking a wealth of questions about the nature of love in all its manifestations. Strange and unsettling, *Talk to Her* is a film from a director whose work is taking on an increasing complexity as he digs deeply into the human condition. One cannot help but be affected by the emotions that Almodóvar taps.

#### ■ Piers Handling



**Pedro Almodóvar** was born in Calzada de Calatrava, Spain. While making his early films in the seventies, he also worked with underground magazines, wrote and performed for the theatre and was a member of a punk-rock group. His previous film, *All About My Mother* (99), won the Academy Award® for best foreign language film in 2000. He was the subject of the Festival's Spotlight programme in 1987. Selected filmography: *Pepi, Luci, Bom and the Other Girls* (80), *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (88), *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* (90), *High Heels* (91), *Kika* (93), *The Flower of My Secret* (95), *All About My Mother* (99) and *Talk to Her* (02).

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