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pedro almodóvar

Often described as an *enfant terrible* and the master of the outrageous and transgressive, Pedro Almodóvar is not only the most original talent to emerge from Spain in the last decade but has also become a worldwide success with *Women on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown*.

With two of his first features still unseen in this country, this retrospective comes at the time of the release of his latest *Tie me up, Tie me down*, adding up to an astonishing eight films in ten years. But Almodóvar did not come out of the blue. Although to survive he previously held a job at the Spanish Telephone Company, his 'cultural' activities range from writing articles for magazines, comic strips, independent theatre and rock performances to a great deal of film work in Super 8 which was the only

cinema training he had before launching into features.

Almodóvar is a genre film-maker; he loves melodrama and comedy, writes most of his own scripts and is a great film buff who often mentions other films in his work. An individualist of great determination, he has the ability to draw characters that touch the heart of all of us, an intelligent and original approach to contemporary themes and approaches dialogue with a refreshing freedom from constraints.

Since *The Law of Desire* he has run his own production company with his brother Augustin Almodóvar. He has been compared with Billy Wilder and Fassbinder with whom he shares the candid ability to love and laugh at humanity. He is a Wonder Kid with the magic touch.—Rosa Bosch.

WONDER KID

N.F.T. July 1990



2 Jul
Mon 8.45 NFT1
7 Jul
Sat 2.00 NFT1
8 Jul
Sun 4.40 NFT1
24 Jul
Tue 8.45 NFT1

**Pepi, Luci,
Bom and
Other Girls
on the Heap**

(Pepi, Luci, Bom y
otras chicas del
montón)

The UK première of Almodóvar's first feature in which Pepi (Carmen Maura) a young 'modern' woman seeks revenge for a rape perpetrated by a policeman. The plot, involving a gallery of 'Almodovarian' characters, glides over the life of pop bands, video-making, drugs, a lesbian love affair with sado-masochistic overtones (including a 'golden pee shower' scene) and a 'General Erections Contest'. Non-conformist, with a nerve that takes the permissible to the limits, Almodóvar's film has been described as 'a healthy, well-intentioned punch in the nose'. 1980.



2 Jul
Mon 6.30 NFT1
14 Jul
Sat 8.45 NFT1

**Labyrinth
of Passions**

(Laberinto de
pasiones)

A 'labyrinth' of love affairs tenderly satirised, in which Sexilia, a nymphomaniac, meets Riza Niro, the son of an overthrown emperor of an Arab country while both are checking out men. From this moment on a great farce develops, amid persecution by Islamic students, with everybody avidly trying to sort out their love and sex life. Riza and Sexilia declare their love for each other but they do not make love and will not until ... Don't miss the appearance of Almodóvar doing his club double act. 1982.



16 Jul
Mon 8.45 NFT1

**Special
Preview:
Dark
Habits**

(Entre tinieblas)

In looking at life within enclosed walls, Almodóvar chooses the very unorthodox order of the 'Humble Redeemers' in which sisters engage in practices such as cocaine and acid taking, lesbian relationships and fairly masochistic ways of praying, with names such as Sister Rat of the Sewer, Sister Viper, Sister Manure or Sister Damned. But their main role in life is to help girls in trouble so they give shelter to a young singer accused of murdering her lover. Highly entertaining, delirious and transgressive. 1983. *Preview courtesy of Metro Pictures.*



21 Jul
Sat 9.00 NFT1
24 Jul
Tue 6.30 NFT1
31 Jul
Tue 8.40 NFT2

Matador

(Matador)

Sophisticated and elegantly shot, *Matador* is a film about passion taken to extremes. Diego Montes, a retired bullfighter, now runs a bullfighting school. Andrés, one of his students, has fallen in love with and attempts to rape Eva, a beautiful model. Maria is appointed public defender of the case. An exquisite entanglement of desires develops, culminating in perhaps the most erotic scene in Almodóvar's career in which Diego and Maria, with an eclipse as a background, 'execute' their final pleasure. 1986.

This is undoubtedly Almodóvar's masterpiece and the best film to have come out of Spain in the last decade. Set in a suburban microcosm, the story centres on Gloria, an unhappy and overworked housewife who has no communication with her taxi-driver husband. They have a drug-dealer son, another who enjoys going to bed with his friends' fathers and there's also an eccentric grandmother. In an attack of jealousy, Gloria murders her husband, contemplates suicide and is later redeemed by one of the sons. *1984.*

10 Jul
Tue 6.30 NFT1
13 Jul
Fri 6.00 NFT1
14 Jul
Sat 2.00 NFT1

What Have I Done to Deserve This?

(¿Qué he hecho para merecer esto?)



The story of two brothers Tino and Pablo separated as children by their parents. Tino, now Tina (she had a sex change) despises men while Pablo worships them. Their relationship is changed by a young man Juan ... Almodóvar's treatment of homosexual passion and love is intense and exciting, and the relationship he presents could be a model for heterosexual love as well which is perhaps the greatest achievement of the film. Carmen Maura delivers a magnetic performance as the transsexual. *1987.*

17 Jul
Tue 8:40 NFT2

The Law of Desire

(La ley del deseo)



Fast-paced, extremely funny and the most perfect comedy you will have seen in years. Almodóvar's women are superb, especially the 'magic' Carmen Maura, in this tale of Pepa, a dubbing actress who has everything including a posh flat with a breathtaking view of Madrid and the latest stereo and answerphone. Her world is complete except that in this world, men leave women. Almodóvar has delivered an ensemble piece of high sophistication and entertainment. Unmissable! *1988.*

7 Jul
Sat 6.15 NFT2
19 Jul
Thu 6.30 NFT1

Women on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown

(Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios)



Screen Guardian event

Almodóvar's latest creation is already causing a stir (with an X-rating in the USA). Ricki, just released from a psychiatric ward, has a goal: to find a job, a wife and form a family. He goes in search of Marina, now an actress in a porno/horror film, whom he once hired as a prostitute. She has no time for him so he kidnaps her in her own home and a strange and forced courtship develops. With a witty script and great directorial assertiveness, Almodóvar delivers a story even more disturbing than he intended. *1990.* Following this preview of his latest film, we are delighted to welcome Pedro Almodóvar on stage for a Guardian Lecture in which he will be talking to Rosa Bosch and, as usual, will answer questions from the audience. *Preview courtesy of Enterprise Pictures. Tickets available at combined price of £7.00 only.*

1 Jul
Sun 6.30 NFT1

Tie me up, tie me down!

(¡Atámete!)

