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SPAIN 1987

The Law of Desire

La ley del deseo

11.00 am NFT1

also Mon 23 Nov 2.30 NFT1

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Production Company: El Deseo/Laurenfilm

Producer: Miguel A Perez Campos

Screenplay: Pedro Almodóvar

Photography (Eastman Colour): Angel Luis Fernandez

Export Agent: El Deseo, Atocha 89, 28021 Madrid

Leading Players: Eusebio Poncela, Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas, Miguel Molina, Bibi Andersen

Running Time: 101 mins

Festival: Berlin

Sleazy, sexy, sophisticated and gay – but never insistently so – this is the tale of Pablo and Tino, two brothers who have lived apart since their parents separated when they were young. But Tino, now Tina (she changed her sex after moving in again with her father as his wife) now despises men while Pablo adores them. Indeed, his passionate predilections form the basis of the plot, which is part thriller, part black comedy but also a serious exploration of the price that's paid for love and lust – if you're not very careful. 'Almodóvar is the happiest, most entertaining hedonist in film today' (Enrique Fernandez, *Village Voice*) and this is a joyous fusion of his comic and cinematic talents variously at work in previous films like *Matador* and *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* Carmen Maura is incredible as Tina, playing the magnetic transsexual with accomplished glee. Almodóvar's dialogue is witty, the plot effortlessly intricate and the boys beautifully wicked. No wonder the film won a standing ovation at the Berlin Film Festival: it is one of the best Spanish films for many a year. –Peter Packer.