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# deFalla's music enhances new film about gypsies

**El Amor Brujo** ("Love, The Magician"), Carlos Saura's sizzling new film, inspired by the music of famed Spanish composer Manuel de Falla, is set to open on Tuesday, December 23 at the Cinema Studio, Broadway at 66th Street.

Following "Blood Wedding" (1981) and "Carmen" (1983), **El Amor Brujo** is the third, and most grandly conceived, flamenco collaboration between Spanish director Carlos Saura (Cria!, Mama Turns One Hundred) and Antonio Gades, the international acclaimed Spanish dancer, choreographer and director. **El Amor Brujo** was selected as the Closing Night film at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival, and Saura receive Special Jury Prize for this remarkable trilogy of dance films at the recently concluded Montreal Film Festival.

Expanding de Falla's composition, first performed in 1915, with dialogue, additional story, and the traditional songs of Andalusian gypsies, **El Amor Brujo** reunites the extra-

ordinary team of performers from **Carmen** — Gades, Christina Hoyos, Laura del Sol and Juan Antonio Jimenez — in a passionate and highly stylized contemporary drama of love, blood and death.

Attracted since childhood, Candela (Hoyos) and Carmelo (Gades) are separated by her arranged marriage to Jose (Jimenez), who continues his love affair with Lucia (del Sol). When Jose is killed in a knife fight, Carmelo is wrongly jailed for the crime. Upon his release from prison, Carmelo discovers that Candela is haunted by the ghost of her dead husband. The performance of the ritual Fire Dance allows the lovers — Candela and Carmelo, and Jose and Lucia — to be properly reunited.

To achieve **El Amor Brujo**'s imaginative mixture of harsh naturalism and charged surrealism, the film was shot entirely on an elaborately constructed set of a gypsy shantytown built at the old Samuel Bronston Studios outside Madrid, where such

films as "El Cid" "55 Days At Peking" were made in the early 1960s. The cinematography by Teo Escamilla, who has worked often with Saura since the mid-70s, brilliantly captures the challenging dance sequences with an energetic camera choreographed to match the impassioned movements of the dancers. The

powerful score is performed by the National Orchestra of Spain, under the direction of Jesus Lopez Cobos, and sung by popular Spanish singer Rocio Jurado.

**El Amor Brujo** was produced by Emiliano Piedra, who produced "Falstaff Chimes At Midnight"

with Orson Wells, and previously collaborated with Carlos Saura on "Blood Wedding" and "Carmen" Like the Academy Award-nominated "Carmen", **El Amor Brujo** is an Orion Classics Release.

Running time: 100 minutes  
MPAA rating: PG In Spanish with English subtitles.