Bardem & Cruz

In recent years Spanish cinema has achieved a new economic and cultural prominence, both nationally and internationally. This began with Pedro Almodóvar’s colourful comedies of the eighties, but became a fully blown renaissance with the new wave of Spanish filmmakers that came out of the nineties, including Fernando Trueba, Icíar Bollaín, Alex de la Iglesia, Bigas Luna, Alejandro Amenábar and Julio Medem. This, in no small part, is attributable to a cinema that has embraced modernity over tradition, with its emphasis on youth, fast paced editing and genre. Crucially, Spanish cinema has benefited from the availability of an exceptionally talented pool of stars, many of whom have had flirtations with mainstream Hollywood, such as Carmen Maura, Victoria Abril, Antonio Banderas and the subjects of this brief retrospective, Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz.

By tracking the careers of the hyper-masculine Bardem and the sensuous Cruz, who both shot to fame in 1992 with the release of Bigas Luna’s deliciously sardonic celebration of Spanish machismo Jamón, jamón, we are able also to track the development and maturity of contemporary Spanish cinema, representations of national identity and gender, and the influence of Spanish artists on mainstream Hollywood.

Programmed in association with and based on an original idea by Sandra Franco and Carlos Redondo of CinemaAttic.

Jamón, jamón
Sat 26 Sep at 1.00pm
Bigas Luna • Spain 1992 • 1h34m • 35mm
Spanish with English subtitles • 18
Cast: Javier Bardem, Stefania Sandrelli, Penélope Cruz, Anna Galiena, Jordi Molià.

Conchita, the status-conscious wife of a wealthy factory owner, is none too happy to hear that her ne’er-do-well son is bedding the luscious Silvia, daughter of the town prostitute – especially as the girl’s mother once had an affair with Conchita’s husband. So Conchita concocts a scheme to end the relationship: she hires Raul, the town hunk, to seduce Silvia. But even the best-laid plans can go awry, and it’s not long before Raul is bedding both women... and a confrontation is on its way. A movie that combines lurid melodrama with vast improbabilities, sexy soap opera with heartfelt romance, and cheerful satire with heedless raunch.

Belle époque
Sun 27 Sep at 1.00pm
Fernando Trueba • Spain/Portugal/France 1992 • 1h49m • 35mm
Spanish with English subtitles • 15
Cast: Penélope Cruz, Miriam Díaz-Aroca, Gabino Diego, Fernando Fernán Gómez, Michel Galabru.

Provincial Spain, 1931. Elderly artist Manolo offers shelter to Fernando, a young deserter from the royalist army, who is happy to accept, especially when he sets eyes on Manolo’s four daughters. To his surprise, Fernando is seduced by each in turn... On one level, this charming Oscar®-winner is a bedroom farce about the joys of passionate, bucolic union between the sexes. But it’s also a tender and humanistic saga, punctuated with amusing digs at church, marriage and politics.
**Live Flesh**  Carne trémula  
Mon 28 Sep at 6.15pm  
Pedro Almodóvar • Spain/France 1997 • 1h41m • 35mm  
Spanish and Italian with English subtitles • 18  
Cast: Javier Bardem, Francesca Neri, Liberto Rabal, José Sancho, Angela Molina, Penélope Cruz.

A story of obsession, hatred, jealousy and revenge, this free but sensitive adaptation of Ruth Rendell’s thriller concerns a young man sent to prison for his accidental involvement in a police raid that went disastrously wrong. When he comes out, he goes after the cop who helped to put him away, who has been confined to a wheelchair since. The performances are spot on, the visuals are crisp, stylish and imaginative, and, focusing for once on male characters, Almodóvar gives us a compelling portrait of men on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

**Volver**  
Tue 29 Sep at 5.45pm  
Pedro Almodóvar • Spain 2006 • 2h1m • 35mm  
Spanish with English subtitles  
15 – Contains moderate sex references and violence  
Cast: Penélope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Blanca Portillo, Yohana Cobo.

Pedro Almodóvar’s wonderfully vivacious Volver is a serio-comic melodrama featuring a career-high performance from Penélope Cruz and the return to the fold of former muse, Carmen Maura. The less said about the plot the better really – to give away any of it would lessen its considerable impact – suffice to say it’s a characteristically clever, intricate tale, brilliantly told, of death, superstition, secrets and lies amongst the women of three generations of the same family.

**Don’t Move**  Non ti muovere  
Thu 1 Oct at 5.45pm  
Sergio Castellitto • Italy/Spain/UK 2004 • 2h2m • 35mm  
Italian with English subtitles • 15  
Cast: Penélope Cruz, Sergio Castellitto, Claudia Gerini, Lina Bernardi, Elena Perino.

Timoteo is a wealthy doctor, successful and married to a beautiful woman. When his teenage daughter is involved in an accident and is fighting for her life, he waits anxiously for news of her condition and recalls a passionate affair he had before his daughter was born. He met the woman, Italia, when his car broke down on the outskirts of the city. After an initial first encounter that resulted in Timoteo’s brutally raping the hapless Italia, he found himself shunning his beautiful wife Elsa and returning to visit Italia more and more frequently. What began as a dark, shameful outlet for his disgust with his bourgeois existence grew to become a genuine love that would change both of their lives forever.

**The Sea Inside**  Mar adentro  
Fri 2 Oct at 5.45pm  
Alejandro Amenábar • Spain/France/Italy 2004 • 2h6m • 35mm  
Spanish, Catalan and Galician with English subtitles  
PG – Contains euthanasia theme  
Cast: Javier Bardem, Belén Rueda, Lola Dueñas, Mabel Rivera, Celso Bugallo.

Based on the true story of Ramón Sampedro, a Spanish quadriplegic who for 30 years fought for the right to assisted suicide, The Sea Inside features a quite extraordinary performance from Javier Bardem. Confined to a bed for almost three decades after breaking his neck in a diving accident, Ramón is forced to rely on the loving care of his family. He has also, since his legal battle began, come to count on the friendship and counsel of three women: Gené, an activist for a pro-euthanasia organisation; Julia, a lawyer suffering from a progressive disease; and Rosa, a lonely young factory worker and single mother intent on showing Ramón that life is really worth living, mostly because she needs reminding herself.

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**SEASON CONTINUES OVERLEAF**
**No Country for Old Men**

Sat 3 Oct at 1.15pm

Joel Coen & Ethan Coen • USA 2007 • 2h2m • 35mm
15 – Contains strong bloody violence
Cast: Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, Kelly Macdonald.

Out hunting antelope, Lewellyn Moss stumbles upon the gory aftermath of a drug deal and decides to make off with the cash. The decision transforms his life into a nightmare of pursuit, as he is hunted across country by the local sheriff and remorseless assassin Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem). Adapted from the novel by Cormac McCarthy, *No Country For Old Men* is both a searing thriller and an elegy for a collapsing society.

**Vicky Cristina Barcelona**

Mon 5 Oct at 8.45pm

Woody Allen • Spain/USA 2008 • 1h36m • 35mm
Catalan, English and Spanish with English subtitles
12A – Contains moderate sex references and implied sex
Cast: Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz, Scarlett Johansson, Rebecca Hall, Patricia Clarkson.

Two young American women, Vicky and Cristina, come to Barcelona for a summer holiday. Vicky is sensible and engaged to be married; Cristina is emotionally and sexually adventurous. In Barcelona, they’re drawn into a series of unconventional romantic entanglements with Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem), a charismatic painter, who’s still involved with his tempestuous ex-wife Maria Elena (Penélope Cruz). Woody Allen is finally back on form, with this funny, sexy and open-minded celebration of love in all its configurations.

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**I Puritani**

Vincenzo Bellini

Sun 13 Sep only – TICKETS £15/£10
2008 • 3h8m (includes a fifteen-minute intermission)
Digital projection • Italian with English subtitles • 12A

Following five years of extraordinary success with ‘La Sonnambula’, ‘Norma’ and ‘Beatrice di Tenda’, ‘I Puritani’, the last opera written by a young Bellini, who died at the age of 34, is the richest example of transition from the lyrical classicism to the passion of romanticism. This production, filmed live at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, stars Juan Diego Flórez and Nino Machaidze, was conducted by the extremely talented Michele Mariotti, and directed by the internationally renowned Pier’Alli.

The English civil war in the 1640s has divided the land between the supporters of Parliament under Oliver Cromwell (the Roundheads) and the Royalists faithful to the Stuart monarchy (the Cavaliers). King Charles has been beheaded and Queen Enrichetta (Henrietta) has escaped in disguise...

Conductor: Michele Mariotti
Direction, Sets and Costumes: Pier’ Alli
Cast includes: Juan Diego Flórez, Nino Machaidze, Ugo Guagliardo, Ildebrando D’Arcangelo.