

## Film in the Modern Language Classroom: Almodóvar and Beyond

### Clips Used

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_c9qhRQhXE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_c9qhRQhXE): Clip of Penélope Cruz singing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2CutPUE6Us>: Cleavage shot from *Volver* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crkHjOvFHxA>: Trailer for *Matador* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1986)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdXdj-RKfxs>: Trailer for *Julieta* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2016)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_5xYpN9Pwc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_5xYpN9Pwc): Bullfighting scene from *Hable con ella* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2002)

<http://www.bafta.org/film/features/pedro-almodovar-david-lean-lecture-2012>: Clips from Pedro Almodóvar's 2012 David Lean Lecture.

<http://www.rtve.es/alcanta/videos/version-espanola/version-espanola-bajarse-moro/1665283/>:

*Bajarse al moro* (Fernando Colomo. 1989) on *Versión Española* (see

<http://www.rtve.es/television/version-espanola/>

### Articles/Websites Referenced

Piece on Bullfighting: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/25/bullfighting-spain-national-fiesta-now-divides-its-people>

Piece on Spanish Cinema:

[http://actualidad.academiadecine.com/reportajes/detalle.php?id\\_noticia=287](http://actualidad.academiadecine.com/reportajes/detalle.php?id_noticia=287)

Official website for José Luis Alonso de Santos: <http://www.joseluisalonsodesantos.com/>

Wikipedia Entry for José Luis Alonso de Santos:

[http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9\\_Luis\\_Alonso\\_de\\_Santos](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Luis_Alonso_de_Santos)

### Quotations

- (1) Pedro Almodóvar occupies a unique status in Spanish cinema; furthermore, his combination of commercial prowess, critical acclaim and celebrity status singles him out at the international level. What other contemporary director would be able to inaugurate the 2004 Cannes Film Festival with *Bad Education* (2004), a film that depicts abuse inflicted by the Catholic Church and then, three years later, announce plans to turn his breakthrough hit, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (1988) into a major Broadway musical? Who else could have received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Castilla-La-Mancha and Harvard whilst also appearing as the star attraction in a recent celebration hosted by the Prince and Princess of Monaco in honour of *La Movida*, the pop movement that put the director and his adopted city of Madrid onto the international map in the 80s? (Wheeler, 2009: 257)
- (2) If Almodóvar's cinematic stories are both legible and appealing to international audiences, it is not simply the inexplicable genius of the filmmaker but the talent of the eclectic craftsman who knows how to develop stories as collages that produce the ironic and multiple readings that

appeal to a broad range of spectators. At their core, however, his stories are rooted in an effort to use narrative to provide a logic to actions and lives, to dramatize the identity of characters that occupy the emotional center of Almodóvar's films. (D'Lugo, 2006: 11)

- (3) Although he was an older generation to the protagonists of *La Movida*, he shared with them a desire to combine high and low art whilst his appreciation of, and immersion into, the world of popular films, songs, television programs, comics, etc. helped ground his characters in a recognizable milieu. A talent for compelling quotidian dialogues alongside an intuitive yet thoughtful understanding of culture in its many guises find their finest and most influential exposition in *Bajarse al moro*, a play that perfectly encapsulates Alonso de Santos' principal contribution to the contemporary Spanish stage: his capacity to imbue conventional forms with contemporary characters and concerns. (Wheeler, 2013: 10).
- (4) Madrileños – Hemos de estar en extremo contentos y satisfechos porque Madrid se haya convertido en la fábula de Europa. Voces extranjeras la llaman la capital de la alegría y del contento de Europa. Nada puede producirnos mayor gozo, siempre ajeno a cualquier soberbia o vanidad, porque titular así a nuestra ciudad significa que es acogedora, cordial, libre, apacible y universal, todos cuyos adjetivos son muchos y muy ilustres y pocas veces se han dado reunidos en la historia de una Villa tan populosa y concurrida como es la nuestra. (Tierno Galván, 1986: 111)

### Works Cited

- D'Lugo, Marvin, 2006. *Pedro Almodóvar (Contemporary Film Directors)*, (Urbana: U of Illinois Press).
- Tierno Galván, Enrique, 1986. *Bandos del alcalde* (Madrid: Editorial Tecnos).
- Wheeler, Duncan, 2009. 'All about Almodóvar: a passion for cinema', review article, *New Cinemas*, 7.3.257-60.