

Spanish Language Films List

Media Room, Addlestone Library (October 2008)

(In addition, please see Spanish Language film listings – Language Lab Collection notebook, in Media Room)

Abre los ojos - PN1995.9.F67 A26 2001

Synopsis: In this steamy, intriguingly complex, psychological thriller the line between reality and fantasy is hopelessly blurred. César tries to make sense of his life after a car crash leaves his once-handsome face grotesquely disfigured. After he is placed into a psychiatric penitentiary for a murder he doesn't remember committing, César's only hope is to delve into the depths of his subconscious mind where the answer to ending his living nightmare lies in his dreams.

All about my mother - PN1995.9.W6 A5 2000

Synopsis: Manuela is the perfect mother. A hard-working nurse, she's built a comfortable life for herself and her teenage son. But when tragedy strikes and her son is killed in a car accident, her world crumbles.

Amores perros (Love's a bitch) - PN1997 .A46 2001b

Synopsis: Three people are catapulted into dramatic and unforeseen circumstances in the wake of a terrible car crash.

Butterfly - PN1995.9.F67 B888 2000

Synopsis: A shy young boy is brought out of his cocoon by a wise teacher who shows him the wonder of the natural world around him, amidst the growing tensions and chaos of the Spanish Civil War in Galicia.

Camila - VIDEO1295

Synopsis: Recounts the true story of a young Catholic socialite from Buenos Aires, Camila O'Gorman, who falls in love and runs away with a young Jesuit priest, Ladislao Gutierrez, in 1847. Eventually they are found and executed by the repressive government.

La pelota vasca la piel contra la piedra - DP302.B53 P45 2003

Synopsis: Documentary about the Basque nationalist movement in Spain, with at least seventy juxtaposed interviews interspersed with documentary footage and clips from other films on the topic ; the sport of jai alai serves a visual metaphor for the conflict. Penitentiary

La muerte y la brujula - PQ7797.B635 M84 2004

Synopsis: A dramatization of the short story by Jorge Luis Borges. This mystery revolves around a series of three identical assassinations, each committed on the third day of the month, for three consecutive months, in three different locations. Following the clues, a clever detective stumbles into the perfect trap.

El padrecito - PN1995.9.C55 P33 2003

Synopsis: El padre Sebastián (Cantinflas) es nombrado como el nuevo ayudante del párroco de un pueblo pequeño. A pesar de que al principio no es muy bien recibido por la gente, poco a poco se va ganando sus corazones.

Plata quemada Burnt money - PN1995.9.L48 P53 2002

Synopsis: When two gay thugs Angel (Eduardo Noriega) and El Nene (Leonardo Sharaglia) join a plan to hold up an armored truck with a group of seasoned gangsters, their love and loyalty to each other is tested. Angel is wounded by police gunfire during the robbery, forcing El Nene to kill them all in a fit of rage. Things become complicated when they escape to Uruguay and the police threaten to torture the driver's moll if she doesn't tell them where they are. With their pictures plastered on the cover of every paper, drowning in drugs and alcohol, the gang begins to bicker. Against his boss's wishes El Nene leaves the apartment and roams the streets where he meets a prostitute named Giselle (Leticia Bredice) in whom he begins to trust.

El sur - PQ7797.B635 S87 2004

Synopsis: A dramatization of the short story by Jorge Luis Borges. In this story, a descendant of famous ancestors dreams of more heroic times ... until a serious accident takes him to the doors of death, where the past and the present mingle -- and where he meets his final destiny.

Tigra - VIDEO 3439

Synopsis: Three sisters - stereotypically the whore, the saint and the virgin - own a cafe in an isolated area of Ecuador. The Tigress (the whore) has supernatural powers which she will keep as long as her younger sister remains a virgin. The Tigress becomes increasingly "macho" until her sisters forsake her and the local police move in.

Volver - PN1995.9.F67 V65 2006

Synopsis: After the death of their Mother, Raimunda (Penelope Cruz) and Sole leave la Mancha for Madrid. Raimunda works menial jobs to support her daughter and deadbeat husband, whilst lonely Sole works clandestinely as a hairstylist. They still visit their friend Augustina, who is struggling to come to terms with the disappearance of her mother, and their Aunt Paula, who speaks of the girl's mother as if she was still alive. When Aunt Paula passes away the situation changes and the past comes back again, in a twist of mystery and suspense.

Y tu mamá también - PN1997 .Y22 2002

Synopsis: Two teens set off on a wild cross-country trip with seductive, 28-year-old Luisa. Lisa schools them in the finer points of passion, but will their mutual desire for her destroy their friendship forever?

Yo, la peor de todas I, the worst of all - PQ7296.J6 Z7249 1990

Synopsis: This historical drama tells the story of Juana Inés de la Cruz, one of the greatest poets of the Spanish Siglo de Oro. In order to pursue her passion for writing, Juana enters the convent. There, she develops an intimate relationship with the vicereine, who inspires her poetry. But when the forces of the Inquisition invade the convent, the women have only each other to turn to.

La historia oficial (The official story) - PN1995.9.F67 H57 1995

Synopsis: The wife of an Argentinian businessman faces the ultimate challenge when she begins to suspect that her own daughter, adopted at birth, may have been stolen from a family of "los desaparecidos."

Bitter sugar (Azucar amarga) - VIDEO 3316

Synopsis: A love story set against the political and economic tensions of contemporary Havana.

Fresa y chocolate Strawberry & chocolate - PN1995.9.C55 F69 1995

Synopsis: A young college kid meets a writer and a passionate woman who teach him the things that aren't taught in school

La vida es silbar - PN1995.9.F67 V52 2001

Synopsis: Three characters in present-day Havana must choose between clinging to their self-restricting beliefs, or getting rid of them to live more freely. Ballerina Mariana has promised God celibacy if she gets the role of "Giselle"; social-worker Julia always faints after hearing a certain word; and pot-smoking percussionist Elpidio was abandoned by his mother, coincidentally named Cuba, some time ago and has not yet gotten over the loss.

Como agua para chocolate like water for chocolate - PN1997 .L554 1994

Synopsis: Romantic fantasy set in the early 20th century about a young couple blocked from marrying by the demands of her cold and selfish mother. To be near his love the young man marries her sister, and she expresses her passion for him through her cooking.

El laberinto del fauno - PN1995.9.F36 P367 2007

Synopsis: Set in 1944 Spain, against the backdrop of the anti-Franco guerrilla warfare. When young Ofelia and her mother go to live with her new stepfather on a rural military outpost, she finds herself in a world of unimaginable cruelty. Soon Ofelia finds the creatures of her imagination in which she used to escape have become a reality and she must battle them to save both her mother and herself. In the terrifying battle that ensues, Ofelia soon learns that innocence has a power that evil cannot imagine.

Maria full of grace - PN1997.2 .M362 2004

Synopsis: Maria, a poor Columbian teenager, is desperate to leave a soul-crushing job. She accepts an offer to transport packets of heroin - which she swallows - to the United States. The ruthless world of drug trafficking proves to be more than she bargained for.

El Mariachi - PN1995.9.F67 M375 2003

Synopsis: All he wants is to be a mariachi, like his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather before him. But the town he thinks will bring him luck brings only a curse--of deadly mistaken identity. Forced to trade his guitar for a gun, the mariachi is playing for his life.

La muerte de un burocrata (The death of a bureaucrat) - VIDEO 3037

Synopsis: A hilarious account of the tyranny of red tape in Cuba. The comedy begins with a sculptor who is buried with his union card. The widow needs his card to get her pension. A nephew is sent to get permission to exhume the body. A social satire

Viva Pedro -- the Almodóvar collection - PN1997.A1 V5483 2007

- **Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios (*Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown*)** -- **Synopsis:** A film about a woman who has been jilted by the love of her life, her friend who discovers her lover is a Shiite terrorist, and her ex-lover's crazed wife.
- **Todo sobre mi madre (*All about my mother*)** -- **Synopsis:** Manuela is a loving mother and a devoted nurse. She has made a comfortable life for herself and her adolescent son, but when tragedy strikes, her world is shaken.
- **Hable con ella (*Talk to her*)** -- **Synopsis:** In a private clinic Barco and Benigno strike up a friendship while caring for comatose women.
- **La flor de mi secreto (*The flower of my secret*)** -- **Synopsis:** Leo writes romance novels, but with a loveless marriage, she finds herself fresh out of inspiration. Angel is a tough and gruff journalist with an iron will and a heart of gold. When their paths cross, they discover something neither had expected, a real-life love affair.
- **Carne trémula (*Live flesh*)** -- **Synopsis:** The lives of five people are intertwined by romance, friendship and rivalry. Synopsis: Victor has fallen for a woman, Elena. Elena wants nothing to do with Victor and she calls the cops when he shows up at her apartment. The two cops that show up are David and Sancho. Sancho is a chronic, abusive drunk and believes his wife, Clara may be having an affair with his partner, David.
- **La ley del deseo (*Law of desire*)** -- **Synopsis:** Filmmaker and playwright Pablo takes up with jealous Antonio, even though he is in love with Juan.
- **Matador** -- **Synopsis:** The story of a retired torero and a beautiful lawyer who both need death as an aphrodisiac. The lovers are brought together when a young bullfighting student confesses to a string of murders.
- **La mala educación (*Bad education*)** -- **Synopsis:** Filmmaker Enrique gets a visit from an aspiring actor claiming to be his old school friend Ignacio, who has written a story about their traumatic childhood spent at Catholic school. In the story, a drag performer attempts to blackmail a predatory priest by exposing their scandalous past. When Enrique produces a film based on the story, the villainous priest from their school days arrives to tell his own version of the events.