

2019 Spanish Film Festival

Since 2012, The ByTowne Cinema, in conjunction with the Embassy of Spain, has presented a festival of new films from Spain that do not have commercial distribution in Canada.

Included are award winners and box-office champions!

These four Ottawa Premieres are superb examples of the quality and vitality of film production in Spain today.

Come and join us in celebrating Spanish film creativity!

Each film \$12; Members \$8

BYTOWNE
C I N E M A

325 Rideau St. · www.bytowne.ca



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
- 6:45 PM -

Campeones (Champions)

🎬 JAVIER FESSER

👤 David Marqués, Javier Fesser

👥 Javier Gutiérrez, Athenea Mata, Stefan López, Jesús Lago, Fran Fuentes, Juan Margallo

One of the biggest box-office successes in Spain last year, and winner of the Goya for Best Film, *Campeones* is a crowd-pleasing comedy of the highest order.

Marco (Javier Gutiérrez) is an unemployed basketball coach who runs into trouble with the law. He's sentenced to perform community service in the form of coaching a team of people with developmental disabilities. Initially horrified at working with 'retards', as he calls them, Marco begins to realize that he has a lot to learn from them.

The film, featuring performances by actors with intellectual disabilities, plays with the ideas of misfits and misunderstandings in recognizable ways. But its execution is energetic and impressively slick, leaning heavily towards laughs rather than relying on maudlin drama. And perhaps even more significantly, *Campeones* celebrates otherness at the same time as it criticizes traditional attitudes towards it.

- Jake Watt, *Switch*

(124 min. Spain 2018. In Spanish with English subtitles. Rated 14A. Cinemascope.)

WWW.BYTOWNE.CA/MOVIE/CAMPEONES



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
- 6:45 PM -

El Reino (The Realm)

🎬 RODRIGO SOROGOYEN

👤 Isabel Peña, Rodrigo Sorogoyen

👥 Antonio de la Torre, José María Pou, Mónica López, Ana Wagener

Antonio de la Torre reigns over *El Reino*, the intensity of his performance matching the magnetism of his character, Manuel López-Vidal, a thrusting and corrupt politician whose upward trajectory is about to take a spiral in the opposite direction.

Director Rodrigo Sorogoyen and his co-writer Isabel Peña start from a place where the screw is already turned and, just when you think they can't get it any tighter, find new ways to increase the tension.

Although the setting is specifically Spain, the theme of absolute power corrupting absolutely is universal. Manuel is on the verge of big-time national politics, and when a leaked tape threatens his ambition, he finds himself trying to outmanoeuvre both the law and his own party.

The plot is complex, but the strong performance from de la Torre, bolstered by excellent acting all round and brisk pacing from Sorogoyen, smooths and speeds us over any bumps in the road.

- Amber Wilkinson, *Eye For Film*

(132 min. Spain 2018. In Spanish with English subtitles. Rated 14A. Cinemascope.)

WWW.BYTOWNE.CA/MOVIE/EL-REINO



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23
- 6:45 PM -

Viaje al cuarto de una madre

(Journey To A Mother's Room)

🎬 CELIA RICO CLAVELLINO

👤 Celia Rico Clavellino

👥 Lola Dueñas, Anna Castillo, Noemí Hopper, Pedro Casablanc

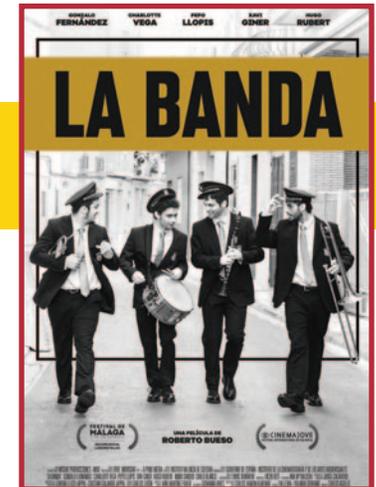
To oversimplify, Celia Rico Clavellino's achingly authentic first feature is an affecting tale about a daughter who craves change, and a mother who fears it.

We think we're about to watch the age-old story of a young girl's thirst for independence, taking her tentative first steps outside of her small Andalusian town - but the script gets flipped. When Leonor (Castillo) leaves for England, we're left behind with her bereft mother Estrella (Dueñas), glimpsing Leonor's new life via occasional WhatsApp messages. As the parent left behind, the eminently talented Lola Dueñas delivers an unshowy performance that slowly but surely commands our attention.

This quiet rumination on growing up, grief, and loosening your grip on those you love is a promising debut, carried by two beautiful central performances. By the time the credits roll, you'll probably want to give your mom a call.

- Katy Moon, *One Room With A View*

(90 min. Spain 2018. In Spanish with English subtitles, and a bit of English. Rated 14A.)
WWW.BYTOWNE.CA/MOVIE/VIAJE-AL-CUARTO-DE-UNA-MADRE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30
- 6:45 PM -

La Banda

(Love Beats)

🎬 ROBERTO BUESO 👤 Roberto Bueso

👥 Gonzalo Fernández, Charlotte Vega, Pepo Llopis, Xavi Giner

After three years at music school in London, Eduardo (Gonzalo Fernández) returns to his home town in Valencia for his brother's wedding. Uncertain about his future, Edu enjoys the carefree company of his friends and former bandmates, and feels a yearning for the simple life of his youth.

He also feels the warmth of his old flame, childhood friend Alicia (Charlotte Vega) who has recently broken up with Juanma (Pepo Llopis), a member of Edu's old band and his best friend.

The film's dramatic tension is simple, but beautifully executed. Edu can stay in the comfort of his old life, where he could surely find love, family and community. Or he could yield to the siren song of a career in the bigger outside world. There is something particular yet universal about Edu's dissatisfaction with both options; writer/director Roberto Bueso must have lived the dilemma himself in order to create such a nuanced, believable set of characters that populate Edu's world.

- Bruce White, *ByTowne*

(87 min. Spain 2019. In Spanish and Catalán with English subtitles. Rated 14A.)

WWW.BYTOWNE.CA/MOVIE/LA-BANDA

Presented by the
Embassy of Spain (Ottawa)

