



## SPANISH WOMEN BEHIND THE CAMERA



This film series of five new features and shorts honors achievements and contributions by Spanish women in the areas of directing, screenwriting, editing, and other disciplines. These visionary cinematic voices present audiences with provocative, distinctive, refreshing, and surprising perspectives. Viewers will be challenged to explore the diverse array of themes confronting women in film as well as traditional notions of "women's issues." Presented in collaboration with [Pragda](http://www.pragda.com) ([www.pragda.com](http://www.pragda.com)).

Tuesday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.

**THE HAPPY MAN El Hombre Feliz** | Lucina Gil | Spain | 14 min. | 2006  
Gil's keen eye responds to this daring and good humored question: Does The Happy Man exist?

**53 WINTER DAYS 53 días de invierno** | Directed by Judith Colell | Screenplay, Gemma Ventura | Spain | 91 min. | 2006. **Judith Colell will be present for Q&A.**  
One winter's night, three people waiting for a bus look on as a dog is abandoned. Gentle, character-based "53 Winter Days" interweaves three naturalistic short pieces about troubled lives—one psychological, one emotional, one social—into an unexpectedly resonant, understated whole, and through its themes—loneliness, communication breakdown, the great importance of small events—makes for sporadically powerful and moving viewing. First-time Spanish filmmaker Judith Colell and scriptwriter Gemma Ventura skillfully interweave a trio of stories into a powerful existential experience.

Awards:

Festival Internacional de Cine de San Sebastián – Zabaltegi  
Palm Springs International Film Festival – "Best of the Fest"  
Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara, México  
Munich International Film Festival  
International Women's Film Festival, Revohot – Israel  
Festival Cinespaña de Toulouse – Sección Oficial. Premio a la Mejor Actriz y Mejor Actriz Revelación para Aina Clotet.  
9 Nominaciones en los Premios Barcelona 2007.

Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

**SHE LIES Miente** | Isabel de Ocampo | Spain | 15 min. | 2008  
Doina wants to give a birthday present to her young sister, but it isn't that easy.

**SEVEN BILLIARD TABLES Siete mesas de billar francés** | Gracia Querejeta | Spain | 115 min. | 2007  
Upon receiving news that her father is ill, Angela (Maribel Verdú) and her son Guille travel to the capital but arrive too late. The father's long-time girlfriend (Blanca Portillo) explains how his business (a billiard hall with seven tables) had been doing poorly in recent years, having lost not only clients and money but also a sense of style. Angela is struck with inspiration: Why not take over the business and try to turn it around? Querejeta's film displays a superb narrative that leads to a genuinely satisfying conclusion. Nominated for 10 Goyas (Spanish Cinema Awards) and 9 Spanish Critics Circle Awards, this film does more than merely showcase the magnificent performances of Maribel Verdú (*Pan's Labyrinth*) and Blanca Portillo (*Volver*). It is also proof of Gracia Querejeta's rich talent, crowning her as one of the most interesting and artistically reliable filmmakers working today.

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

**SKUNKS Mofetas** | Inés Enciso | Spain | 11 min. | 2007  
As the sun sets at the Tángier Port Authority, Karin and Aziz attempt to wait silently.

**THE BEST OF ME Lo Mejor de Mi** | Roser Aguilar | Spain | 85 min. | 2007  
In her debut film, director/writer Roser Aguilar makes the perfect addition to an emerging talent team with producers Aintza Serra and Ester Velasco. Locarno award-winning actress Marian Alvarez stars in this emotionally honest melodrama as Raquel, a young woman conflicted about serving as an organ donor for her lover. The dilemma: the lover has been cheating on her, and a nurse deems him unworthy of Raquel. The Hollywood Reporter praised Aguilar's film: "The strength of Alvarez' performance adds depth to the picture's wise and melancholy conclusion."

Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

**THE CLASSROOM La Clase** | Beatriz M. Sanchos | Spain | 20 min. | 2008  
La Clase explores the magic of a first time experience. The pupils of a 4th grade primary class take their first drama lessons. We accompany the children through the learning process, from first rehearsal to opening night before an audience of parents.

**THE HONOUR OF THE WRONGED El Honor de las Injurias** | Carlos García-Alix | Spain | 87 min. | 2007  
This magnificent documentary displays the extraordinary achievements of researcher Lucía Lain and producer Isabel de las Casas. The film is a testament to an obsession: the passionate search for an old anarchist gunman, Felipe Emilio Sandoval, a.k.a. Doctor Muñiz (1886-1936). Lain's keen eye for uncovering material from archives and registers, old movies, and photographs, contributes immensely to the creation of a deeply modern historical document. The invisible hand of Isabel de las Casas is felt throughout the film, in the manner of a music conductor leading an orchestra.

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

**LIBRA** Carlota Coronado | Spain | 4 min. | 2006  
Two weeks. That's what the main character of this short film asks for. Coronado creates a tremendous impact as she powerfully documents everyday issues.

**PRETEXTS Pretextos** | Sílvia Munt | Spain | 88 min. | 2008  
Sílvia Munt, one of Spain's finest actresses, makes an impressive directorial debut with a film she describes as being "written by and for women" and for which she was named Best Director at this year's Málaga Film Festival. The screenplay, written by Munt with Eva Baeza, offers intricate parallels and emotions as it examines the complex and contradictory lives of theater director Viena (Munt) and her husband Daniel (Ramon Madaula), a doctor in a geriatric clinic.