

Films in Spanish at the Language Laboratory. DDH 102E. *(All of them in Spanish with English subtitles, unless something different is specified).*

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A day without a Mexican (2004). México. (English and Spanish with subtitles)

Directed by Sergio Arau

Genre: Comedy / Drama / Fantasy

One day California wakes up and not a single Latino is left in the state. They have all inexplicably disappeared. Chaos, tragedy, and comedy quickly ensue.



Todo sobre mi madre (All about my mother) (1999). España.

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar. With Penélope Cruz.

Genre: Drama

A single mother in Madrid sees her only son die on his 17th birthday as he runs to seek an actress's autograph. She goes to Barcelona to find the lad's father, a transvestite named Lola who does not know he has a child. First she finds her friend, Agrado, also a transvestite; through him she meets Rosa, a young nun bound for El Salvador, and by happenstance, becomes the personal assistant of Huma Rojo, the actress her son admired. She helps Huma manage Nina, the co-star and Huma's lover, and she becomes Rosa's caretaker during a dicey pregnancy. With echoes of Lorca, "All About Eve," and "Streetcar Named Desire," the mothers (and fathers and actors) live out grief, love, and friendship.



Amores perros. (Life's a bitch) (2000). México

Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu. With Gael García Bernal.

Genre: Drama / Thriller

Three interconnected stories about the different strata of life in Mexico City all resolve with a fatal car accident. Octavio is trying to raise enough money to run away with his sister-in-law, and decides to enter his dog Cofi into the world of dogfighting. After a dogfight goes bad, Octavio flees in his car, running a red light and causing the accident. Daniel and Valeria's new-found bliss is prematurely ended when she loses her leg in the accident. El Chiro is a homeless man who cares for stray dogs and is there to witness the collision.



Bread and Roses (2000). UK / France / Germany / Spain / Italy / Switzerland (English and Spanish with subtitles)

Directed by Ken Loach. With Pilar Padilla and Adrien Brody.

Genre: Drama

Maya is a quick-witted young woman who comes over the Mexican border without papers and makes her way to the LA home of her older sister Rosa. Rosa gets Maya a job as a janitor: a non-union janitorial service has the contract, the foul-mouthed supervisor can fire workers on a whim, and the service-workers' union has assigned organizer Sam Shapiro to bring its "justice for janitors" campaign to the building. Sam finds Maya a willing listener, she's also attracted to him. Rosa resists, she has an ailing husband to consider. The workers try for public support; management intimidates workers to divide and conquer. Rosa and Maya as well as workers and management may be set to collide.



Días contados (Running out of time) (1994). España

Directed by Imanol Uribe

Genre: Drama / Thriller

In Spain, an ETA member comes from the Basque Country to the city of Madrid to commit some terrorist actions. There he will start a relation with a prostitute addicted to the heroine. This love will overlap his mission and will involucrate him in other problems. The story is about an ETA activist, but it's not a story about ETA. It's a thriller about heterogeneous relationships and non-hopes; because none of the characters have any future.



Días de fútbol (Days of soccer) (2003). España

Directed by David Serrano

Genre: Comedy

An ensemble film about an ex-convict, Antonio, who returns to his circle of friends. His associates include Jorge, who is as repressed and fearful as Antonio is outgoing and fearless. Jorge pines for Antonio's sister Violetta, but she is not inclined to reciprocate those feelings. Antonio feels he knows a thing or two about people having undergone therapy in prison and decides to build up Jorge's self-confidence by forming a soccer team. Among the new teammates are local policeman Miguel, ambitious young actor Charlie, and bus driver Ramon. The travails in their personal lives and their coming together as a team form the action in this character-driven vehicle.



En el tiempo de las mariposas. (In the time of the Butterflies) (2001). USA/México. English language

Directed by Mariano Barroso. With Salma Hayek, Edward James Olmos and Pilar Padilla

Genre: Drama / Romance / Crime

On November 25, 1960, the bodies of three sisters were found near the bottom of a cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official daily 'El Caribe' reports that it had been an accident, but it does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it mention the sisters' fierce opposition to the General Trujillo's dictatorship. This is their story: how Minerva started the tragedy by refusing Trujillo; how Patria became an opponent from the church itself; how Maria Teresa joined the revolution through the love, and how they lost their wings, but not their courage. They were Las Mariposas - "The Butterflies".



Insomnio (1998). España

Directed by Chus Gutiérrez

Genre: Comedy

Eva is a professional who works at the television; she has just had a baby and wants to pay attention to both aspects of her life. When she is looking for an apartment, she meets Juan, a real state agent, who is about to marry and oppressive girl.



Juana la Loca (Mad love) (2001). España

Directed by Vicente Aranda

Genre: Drama

In 1496, Juana de Castilla, daughter of the Catholic Kings, travels to Flandes to marry the Archduke Fernando de Austria, known as 'El Hermoso' (The Handsome) and son of the emperor Maximiliano. Even though at the beginning this marriage obeys a political decision, later on passion and desire appear beneath the couple. Juana becomes queen of Spain when her mother and her older brothers die in 1504. However, due to the pressure of being queen and the discovery that her husband has many lovers, her mental health starts getting worse. Felipe, seeing his wife in these circumstances, makes the Burgos Court to declare the insanity of Juana and recludes her in the Monastery of Las Huelgas, proclaiming himself as the king.



La Comunidad (Commonwealth) (2000). España

Directed by Alex de la Iglesia

Genre: Comedy / Thriller / Crime

Julia finds 300 million pesetas hidden in a dead man's house while selling an apartment. She's a 40-ish real estate agent (played by Carmen Maura) now forced to face the wrath of a very peculiar community (of neighbors), headed by an unscrupulous administrator. Black humor gives way to suspense, closely followed by horror that doesn't take long in coming to a head in undisguised pandemonium.



Como agua para chocolate (Like water for chocolate) (1992). México

Genre: Drama / Romance

Based on the best-selling novel by Laura Esquivel, this internationally popular romantic fable from Mexico centers on a young woman who discovers that her cooking has magical effects. The tale's heroine, Tita, is the youngest of three daughters in a traditional Mexican family. Bound by tradition to remain unmarried while caring for her aging mother, Tita nevertheless falls in love with a handsome young man named Pedro. Pedro returns her affection, but he cannot overcome her family's disapproval, and he instead marries Tita's elder sister. The lovestruck young woman is brutally disappointed, and her sadness has such force that it infects her cooking: all who eat it feel her heartbreak

with the same intensity. This newly discovered power continues to manifest itself after the wedding, as Tita and Pedro, overcome by their denied love, embark on a secret affair.



Los lobos de Washington (Washington wolves) (1999). España

Directed by Mariano Barroso. With Javier Bardem.

Genre: Action / Thriller

A dark, noir-styled thriller with flashes of edgy wit, *Los Lobos de Washington* looks at a pair of low-level hoods who unknowingly betray each other on the way to a big score. Alberto and Miguel have a bar, but things are not going very well. They need to get out of this black hole and they need money to do it. Alberto is divorced and alcoholic, Miguel has a big secret... Their old friend Claudio is very rich. Why not steal some of his money? Troubles grow when Claudio's wife is planning to steal this money too... The Washington wolfs, in a circus near all this, are the silent witnesses of all that happens that night.



Los lunes al sol (Mondays in the sun) (2002). España

Directed by Fernando León de Aranoa. With Javier Bardem

Genre: Drama

This is the story of those who live in a constant Sunday, those who spend Mondays under the Sun. The story of people who worked in a dockyard but now are unemployed.



Nadie conoce a nadie (Nobody knows anybody) (1999). España

Genre: Thriller

Amid the spectacular festivities of Holy Week in Seville (Spain), an aspiring novelist struggles with his work and pays his bills by composing crossword puzzles. A cryptic recording left on his answering machine demands that he include a certain word in a future puzzle, and he becomes drawn into a spiraling tangle of mystery, danger and confusion. Soon he's forced into participating in a real-life version of a computer game on the narrow streets of Seville, the stakes being extremely high for the entire city.



Nueve reinas (Nine queens) (2000). Argentina

Directed by Fabián Bielinsky

Genre: Crime / Drama / Mystery

Two crooks - boyish, likable Juan and hard-edged, scheming Marcos - meet by chance. Marcos, who seems to have cheated everyone he knows including his siblings, is missing his partner, so he offers to teach Juan tricks for a day. Juan accepts because he has some savings, but needs more to bribe a judge to release his father from prison. Marcos gets a call from an aging, ill ex-associate needing help to sell a forged set of rare stamps, the Nine Queens, to a businessman about to be deported (he can't take cash out of Argentina, but could take the stamps). When the con men have to improvise, Marcos asks Juan to use his savings to set up the deal. Is Juan about to be conned?



Abre los ojos (Open your eyes) (1997). España.

Director: Alejandro Amenábar (*The others*). With Penélope Cruz

Genre: Drama / Romance / Sci-Fi / Thriller

An imprisoned man who hides his face behind a mask is telling his story, as a flashback, to a psychiatrist: His name is César, he is an orphan but he had inherited a fortune from his parents and used to live in a luxurious house of his own. He was also very handsome and a renowned womanizer. César meets his best friend's, Pelayo, girlfriend, Sofia, and he falls in love with her. But Nuria, with whom César had his last affair, was very jealous; she went to pick him up in her car the next morning, and committed suicide by ramming it into a tree. César survived the crash, but his face was hideously disfigured, his beauty gone. The doctors said they couldn't help him. He was very depressed, and still in love with Sofia. One night he went out with her and Pelayo, and he felt that they were very uncomfortable with him. But the morning after, his luck seemed to change completely: Sofia came to him, saying that it was him who she really loved, and the doctors called him and told him that, with a revolutionary new technique, they could rebuild his face, which they did. César was happier than ever..., but what's real and what's not...?



Por la libre (Dust to dust) (2000). México

Directed by Juan Carlos de Llaca

Genre: Comedy

Two cousins, the very conservative Rodrigo and the very hip Rocco, meet at their grandfather's birthday party. When a startling family announcement is made, their grandfather suddenly dies and family drama ensues. Circumstances force Rodrigo and Rocco to embark on a complicated but adventurous journey to Acapulco. Along the way they will scatter their grandfather's ashes, they will meet the lovely Maria, they will enlist

the help of their grandfather's oldest friend and, most importantly, they will form a brotherly bond that neither thought was possible.



Secretos del corazón (Secrets of the heart) (1997). España.

Directed by Montxo Armendáriz

Genre: Drama

Javi and his friend Carlos visit an old house on the outskirts of a small Spanish village during the 60's. According to his brother Juan this is a haunted house and one can hear the voices of the dead. Later he is intrigued with a room which is always closed (the room where his father was found dead). He is so interested in these mysteries that he starts to investigate all the secrets of these dead people and their stories.



Lucía y el sexo (Sex and Lucía) (2001). España

Directed by Julio Medem. With Paz Vega.

Genre: Drama / Romance

Lucía is a young waitress in a restaurant in the centre of Madrid. After the loss of her long-time boyfriend, a writer, she seeks refuge on a quiet, secluded Mediterranean island. There, bathed in an atmosphere of fresh air and dazzling sun, Lucía begins to discover the dark corners of her past relationship, as if they were forbidden passages of a novel which the author now, from afar, allows her to read.



Sexo, pudor y lágrimas (Sex, shame and tears) (1999). México.

Directed by Antonio Serrano

Genre: Comedy / Drama

This comedic drama features two young couples, and another couple of old friends who reenter the two couples lives. The story takes place mostly in two apartments across the street from each other in Mexico City at the end of the millennium. Intellectual Carlos is not offering as much love as girlfriend Ana needs. Tomas, a world-traveling friend of the couple, reappears after many years abroad (his sentence: “Nada de lo que encontramos nos satisface”-None of the things we find can satisfy us). Across the street, womanizing

executive Miguel and suffering wife Andrea are joined by visiting friend María (her sentence: “Sólo te tienes a ti misma”-You only have yourself). The presence of guests Tomas and María triggers lust, rejection, infidelities, reconciliation and other consequences of suppressed love and marital relations, among the six friends. Being alone, being you, and giving yourself to the others, are the main topics in the movie.



El hijo de la novia (Son of the bride) (2001). Argentina

Directed by Juan José Campanella

Genre: Comedy / Drama

At age 42, Rafael Belvedere is having a crisis. He lives in the shadow of his father, he feels guilty about rarely visiting his aging mother, his ex-wife says he doesn't spend enough time with their daughter and he has yet to make a commitment to his girlfriend. At his lowest point, a minor heart attack reunites him with Juan Carlos, a childhood friend, who helps Rafael to reconstruct his past and look at the present in new ways.



Fresa y chocolate (Strawberry and chocolate) (1994). Cuba / México / España

Directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío

Diego, a cultivated, homosexual and skeptical young man, falls in love with a young heterosexual communist full of prejudices and doctrinaire ideas. First come rejection and suspicion, but also fascination. *Fresa y chocolate* is the story of a great friendship, that is, a great love between two men, which overcomes incomprehension and intolerance.



Hable con ella (Talk to her) (2002). España.

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar.

Genre: Drama

An offbeat drama that explores the friendship of two men brought together under unusual but strangely similar circumstances. Benigno is a male nurse whose apartment overlooks a dance studio run by Katerina (Geraldine Chaplin); he often sits on his balcony and watches one of Katerina's students, Alicia, and he finds himself becoming infatuated with her. When Alicia is severely injured in an auto accident that leaves her in a coma, Benigno discovers she has been admitted to the hospital where he works, and he spends his days caring for a woman he now deeply loves but has barely met. Marco is a

journalist who was assigned to interview Lydia, a well-known female bullfighter whose on-the rocks romance with another toreador, "El Nino de Valencia", has made her the focus of the tabloid press. Marco has an affair with Lydia, who will be gored by a bull. Alicia and Lydia are both housed in the same ward of the same hospital, and in time Benigno and Marco become close friends, bonding in their shared devotion to women who cannot return their affection.

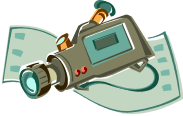


Tango, no me dejes nunca (1998). España/Argentina

Directed by Carlos Saura

Genre: Drama / Musical

Set in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the film tells the story of director Mario Suarez's quest to make the ultimate tango film. Lonely after his wife (one of the film's stars) has left him; Mario must find the themes that will hold the film together, while simultaneously permitting his musicians and dancers the freedom of expression that is necessary to satisfy the tango-hungry Argentine audience. Things become complicated when Mario falls in love with Elena, a beautiful and talented young dancer who is the girlfriend of the powerful and dangerous Angelo Larroca, an investor in the picture. And Mario's creative vision is challenged by his investors when he plans a scene that recreates Argentina's dark years of political suppression and "disappearances".



Taxi para tres (Taxi for three) (2001). Chile

Directed by Orlando Lübbert

Genre: Action / Crime / Drama / Comedy

A taxi driver is given a difficult choice from 2 small time crooks: drive them around while they rob, or get locked up in the trunk.



El crimen del padre Amaro (The crime of father Amaro) (2002). México

Directed by Carlos Carrera. With Gael García Bernal

Genre: Drama / Romance

The movie takes place in Mexico, 2002 (based on a story from the 1800's). A young Father Amaro arrives at his new church post on the orders of the Bishop. After he arrives, things seem to go smoothly at first, but eventually, life becomes very complicated for the

young Father as he spends more time in the community. Politics and sexual passions threaten to corrupt this young, newly-ordained and ambitious priest.



Diarios de motocicleta (The motorcycle diaries) (2004). Country: USA / Germany / UK / Argentina / Chile / Peru / France

Directed by Walter Salles. With Gael García Bernal

Genre: Drama / Adventure

The Motorcycle Diaries is an adaptation of a journal written by Ernesto "Che" Guevara (Bernal) when he was 23 years old. He and his friend, Alberto Granado are typical college students who, seeking fun and adventure before graduation, decide to travel across Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Peru in order to do their medical residency at a leper colony. Beginning as a buddy/road movie in which Ernesto and Alberto are looking for chicks, fun and adventure before they must grow up and have a more serious life. As is said in the film itself, it's about "two lives running parallel for a while." The two best friends start off with the same goals and aspirations, but by the time the film is over, it's clear what each man's destiny has become.



La historia oficial (The official story) (1985). Argentina

Genre: Drama

This is an emotionally gripping, fictional look at a couple torn apart by the infamous Argentine campaign of killings and torture that sent thousands of accused terrorists to unmarked graves in the mid-and late-'70s. Alicia and Roberto adopted a little girl during this period of governmental terror in Argentina. Alicia has always wondered about the parents of their little girl, a topic her husband has forced her into forgetting as a condition of the adoption -- he alone knows the full story. Thanks to censorship, Alicia -- like others -- is not fully aware of how much killing has gone on until her students at school start complaining that their textbook histories were written by murderers. Add to this a long conversation with a friend who had been in exile after she was tortured by the government, and Alicia starts to do some serious political and personal research on her own.



¡Átame! (Tie me up. Tie me down) (1990). España

Director: Pedro Almodóvar. With Antonio Banderas.

Genre: Drama / Crime / Romance

Ricky is released from a mental hospital, and knows exactly what he wants to do. He hunts down Marina, a porn film star he once had sex with, and tries to convince her to be his wife. She is a bit reluctant, so he ties her up... Will this approach endear him to her?



Volavérunt (1999). España

Directed by Bigas Luna. With Penélope Cruz

Genre: Drama

Based on a historical novel, Volaverunt imagines a number of romantic misadventures that enlivened the court of King Carlos IV, a Spanish ruler of the early 19th century. As the story opens, the beautiful Duchess of Alba is sharing a coach passing through Andalusia with artist Francisco de Goya, Prime Minister Manuel de Godoy, and Pepita Tudó (Penelope Cruz), a peasant girl. Goya and de Godoy are obviously charmed by the Duchess's exotic beauty and free-spirited attitude, but the Prime Minister is equally smitten with Pepita. The Prime Minister invites her to the royal court in Madrid, where she becomes his mistress and the subject of several of Goya's paintings. However, Queen Maria Luisa disapproves of de Godoy's new love, and instead arranges for him to marry the Countess de Chinchon, a plain-Jane member of low-level royalty. The Duchess is upset with de Godoy's marriage, as it keeps her away from a collection of royal jewelry she covets. Something happens... and Goya, de Godoy, and Pepita are suspects.



Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios (Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown) (1988). España

Director: Pedro Almodóvar. With Antonio Banderas

Genre: Comedy / Drama

A woman's lover leaves her, and she tries to contact him to find out why he's left. She confronts his wife and son, who are as clueless as she. Meanwhile her girlfriend is afraid the police are looking for her because of her boyfriend's criminal activities. They talk to a female lawyer, who turns out to be the lover's new lover, and everyone's path keeps crossing each other's in a very complicated and confusing manner.



► **CLÁSICOS** (only "El Lazarillo" has subtitles)

La vida es sueño (de Calderón de la Barca)

El burlador de Sevilla, Don Juan Tenorio (de Tirso de Molina)

Fuenteovejuna (de Lope de Vega)

La Celestina (anónimo)

(No es el texto completo, sólo algunas escenas importantes. Con comentarios del filólogo español Alonso Zamora Vicente).

El Lazarillo de Tormes (anónimo)

(1959). España/Italia

Genre: Comedy / Drama

Film based on an anonymous Spanish novel from the XVI century. The classic Spanish picaresque is lovingly transferred to the screen in this marvelous adaptation of one of its first prototypes. In the opening frames the beautiful brooding quality of the Spanish landscape is established as a fitting background to the events which transpire after Lazarillo, a poor boy, is sold into bondage by his mother to the first of a succession of masters. Thus begin the travels of Lazarillo as he learns to live by his wits, first with a greedy blind beggar who beats and starves him. He soon learns to outwit his mean-spirited captor in some delightfully realized sequences and eventually becomes an accomplished street-wise thief who survives quite handily through petty crime. Only one of his masters is kind to him, the impoverished threadbare nobleman who desperately tries to appear eligible to make an advantageous marriage with one of the daughters of the local grandees, but whose pretensions are cruelly mocked as he and his new servant Lazarillo slowly starve together. Cruel necessity causes the canny Lazarillo to leave this most favorite master and move on to yet other unscrupulous patrons and more petty crime in the shadow of the always threatening Inquisition. His travails afford opportunities for much biting social and political satire sharply observed along the way.

