

Flamenco, Wine and Film: New Spanish Cinema Kicks off New Year at VIFF Centre



They Will Be Dust, New Spanish Cinema, VIFF Centre, 2025

VANCOUVER, BC (DECEMBER 20, 2024) – The fifth [New Spanish Cinema](#) festival kicks off the new year with a vibrant celebration of Spanish storytelling at the VIFF Centre. Running from January 3 to 7, the event, presented by Ibero American Images and VIFF, will feature five premieres of standout Spanish films.

New Spanish Cinema begins with a special [Opening Gala](#) on Friday, January 3, spotlighting Patricia Font's acclaimed debut feature *The Teacher Who Promised the Sea* (*El maestro que prometió el mar*). Nominated for five Goya Awards—including Best Actor (Enric Auquer) and Best Adapted Screenplay—this gripping drama is based on a true story and explores a dark chapter in Spanish history.

Following the screening, guests will be treated to a festive reception with delicious tapas, savory Serrano ham, Spanish wine, and a captivating flamenco dance performance.

Titles screening during the festival also include:

- [I Am Nevenka](#) (*Soy Nevenka*), Dir. Icíar Bollaín: Bollaín's film is based on the true story of a young city councillor who reported the mayor for sexual misconduct, and faced a barrage of sexist innuendo and criticism -- but refused to back down. **Canadian Premiere**
- [Little Loves](#) (*Los Pequeños Amores*), Dir. Celia Rico: Teresa (María Vázquez) is compelled to change her holiday plans to help her proudly independent mother (Adriana Ozores), who has had a fall. Mother and daughter will spend a stifling summer disagreeing on everything -- but finding each other again. **Canadian Premiere**

- [***They Will Be Dust***](#) (Polvo serán), Dir. Carlos Marques-Marcet: When stage veteran Claudia decides she doesn't want to wait out her terminal illness, longtime partner and director Flavi calls the family together to break the news... Fantastic musical numbers and comedy offset scenes of wrenching emotion. **BC Premiere**
- [***The Teacher Who Promised the Sea***](#) (El maestro que prometió el mar) , Dir. Patricia Font: Based on a true story, Patricia Font's drama excavates a dark period in Spanish history. Antoni Benaiges takes up a village teaching position in 1935. But his new-fangled ideas about learning outrage the local priest. **BC Premiere**
- [***Rioja, Land of a Thousand Wines***](#), Dir. José Luis Lopez-Linares: Directed by multiple Goya award winner José Luis Lopez-Linares, this lip-smacking tour of Spain's best known wine region dives into the push and pull between tradition and innovation in an industry that is led by family dynasties. **BC Premiere**

Cristina Serrano, Ibero American Images said: "New Spanish Cinema celebrates exceptional Spanish storytelling, culture, and the art of filmmaking. We're delighted to collaborate with our friends at VIFF to bring the festival back for another year."

VIFF Centre Year-Round Programmer Tom Charity said: "This year's titles explore some challenging subject matter, from assisted death to sexism, the civil war to motherhood, but do so with hope, heart, song, dance, and a side serving of fine red wine. New Spanish Cinema is a joyous way to ring in the new year in the comfiest cinema in town."

Tickets are available now at <https://viff.org/series/new-spanish-cinema/>

Special Events

Opening Night Gala \$35 including screening of *The Teacher Who Promised the Sea*, tapas, Serrano ham, a glass of wine or beer and a flamenco performance | Sun, Jan 3, 7pm

Rioja Wine Event \$25 including screening of *Rioja, Land of a Thousand Wines* and guided wine tasting | Sun, Jan 5, 5:20pm

Film Screenings

Adult 19+ \$18

Senior 65+ \$16

Student 19+ \$13

Accessible 19+ \$13

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