

Feliz año nuevo! New Spanish Cinema kicks off New Year at the VIFF Centre with biggest festival yet

VANCOUVER, BC (DECEMBER 8, 2025) – The sixth New Spanish Cinema festival is back and bigger than ever, kicking off the new year with a vibrant celebration of Spanish storytelling at the VIFF Centre. Running from January 9–14, the event, presented by Ibero American Images and VIFF, will feature 13 new Spanish films, one classic and one live performance. The selection includes multiple Goya (Spanish Oscar) winners, as well as award-winners from many festivals and acclaimed new works from established auteurs. All of the 13 new films are BC premieres.

New Spanish Cinema begins with an [Opening Gala event on January 9](#), the West Coast premiere of *The Captive*, the new epic from established auteur Alejandro Amenábar. Inspired by the life of Miguel de Cervantes (Julio Peña), author of *Don Quixote*, this is, in the director's words, "an origin story about the man who invented the modern novel". Following the screening, guests will be treated to a Spanish-style buffet of delicious tapas, savory Serrano ham and Spanish wine.

Another highlight will take place on [January 11 with a special VIFF Live event](#) featuring a live flamenco performance *Por Derecho* (On Their Own Right) by Flamenco Rosario, followed by a screening of *The Flamenco Guitar of Yeraí Cortés*. Flamenco Rosario blend contemporary and traditional flamenco styles in a performance of self-expression and self-exploration through dance. The film is an exquisite and surprisingly intimate portrait of the brilliant young guitarist Yeraí Cortés, presented by fellow musician, Antón Álvarez, exploring Cortés's relationship with his parents, how this informs his drive and artistry and the *gitano* subculture.

Cristina Serrano, Ibero American Images said: "Each year New Spanish Cinema grows thanks to the support of our audiences and partners. This sixth edition is our most ambitious yet, and we're honoured to share such an exceptional selection with Vancouver."

VIFF Centre Year-Round Programmer Tom Charity said: "A Mediterranean fiesta is always a great way to beat the January blues. It's been a joy to curate this year's New Spanish Cinema selection, films of passion, audacity, diversity and good conscience -- as well as three stellar music-related movies. Enjoy!"

Titles screening during the festival also include:

- [The Blue Star](#) (La estrella azul), Dir. Javier Macipe: In crisis, a popular singer quits Spain to backpack in Argentina. There he comes under the spell of a veteran musician, who teaches him the art of chacareras, zambas and vidalas. It's a journey of musical kinship and spiritual reawakening.
- [Sleepless City](#) (Ciudad sin sueño), Dir. Guillermo Galoe: The first dramatic feature by documentary filmmaker Guillermo Galoe, this is a scintillating slice of contemporary neo-realism set among the gitano community in southern Europe's largest shanty town, La Cañada Real.
- [Forastera](#), Dir. Lucía Aleñar Iglesias: In this mysterious and subtle coming of age drama, teenager Cata is soaking up the sun, smoking furtive cigarettes, and enjoying a summer break with her grandparents and her younger sis in Mallorca. That is, until Cata's beloved abuela collapses...
- [El 47](#), Dir. Marcel Barrena: Winner of five Goya Awards including for Best Film, this is the true story of a frustrated bus driver who hijacks his own bus to draw attention to the neglected shantytown on the outskirts of Barcelona where he made his home in the 1950s.
- [Afternoons of Solitude](#) (Tardes de soledad), Dir. Albert Serra: Pacification director Albert Serra turns his unflinching gaze on the subject of bullfighting, and in particular the famous young matador Andrés Roca Rey. Named the best film of 2025 by Cahiers du Cinema magazine, the film challenges us to look its subject square in the eye and draw our own conclusions.
- [Maspalomas](#), Dir. Aitor Arregi & Jose Mari Goenaga: Vincente came out of the closet late in life. But elects to go back in it when he's sent to a nursing home. Under the influence of his gregarious roommate, he starts to regain some of his old spark...
- [The Executioner](#) (El verdugo), Dir. Luis García Berlanga: Regularly cited as the greatest Spanish film ever made, Berlanga's masterpiece is a pitch black comedy about an undertaker lined up by the state executioner to marry his beautiful daughter -- but he'll also have to inherit the old man's job.
- [Deaf](#) (Sorda), Dir. Eva Libertad: Writer-director Eva Libertad has made a revealing, compassionate film about the fears and anxieties of a deaf woman (played by Libertad's sister, deaf actress Miriam Garlo) who is about to have a baby.
- [Saturn Return](#) (Segundo Premio), Dir. Isaki Lacuesta & Pol Rodríguez: This fascinating, highly acclaimed movie is a thinly disguised history of 90s indie rockers Los Planetas, a Granada grunge outfit who cited the Velvet Underground as inspiration. It's one of the best rock movies in years.

- [Salve Maria](#), Dir. Mar Coll: Laura Weissmahr won the Goya award for Best New Actress for her portrait of Maria in Mar Coll's third feature film, a tense and compelling drama on taboo emotions.
- [Black Butterflies](#) (Mariposas Negras), Dir. David Baute: This Goya-winning animated feature is based on the filmmaker's previous documentary, *Climate Exodus*, following the stories of three women forced into exile by climate change.
- [8](#), Dir. Julio Medem: The always stylish, idiosyncratic Basque auteur Julio Medem is back with one of his most ambitious films (and our closing night gala), a sweeping historical romance in eight chapters, spanning eight decades in Spanish history from the 1930s to the present day.

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

Special Events

[Opening Night Gala \\$35](#) including screening of *The Captive*, tapas, Serrano ham, Spanish wine tasting and a flamenco performance | Fri Jan 9, 7pm

[The Flamenco Guitar of Yerai Cortés + Por Derecho \(On Their Own Right\) Live \\$35](#) | Sun Jan 11, 7:30pm

Ticket Pack and Series Pass

3-ticket pass \$42 (excludes the Opening Gala and VIFF Live events)

All Access Pass \$150 (includes the Opening Gala and VIFF Live events)

Film Screenings

Adult 19+ \$16

Senior 65+ \$14

Student 19+ \$12

Accessible 19+ \$11

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Press Enquiries

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About VIFF | viff.org

Beyond film exhibitions, VIFF strives to engage and empower communities, encourage dialogue and champion local artists. With decades of experience and an unwavering commitment to creating exceptional programs, VIFF has transformed into a highly esteemed annual festival and a premier arthouse cinema.

Founded in 1982, the Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society is a not-for-profit cultural society and federally registered charitable organization that operates the internationally acclaimed Vancouver International Film Festival VIFF and the year-round programming at the VIFF Centre. All year, VIFF produces screenings, talks, conferences and events that act as a catalyst for the community to discover the creativity and craft of storytelling on screen.

VIFF is presented on the traditional and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səłlwətaʔt (Selilwitulh Tseil-Waututh) Nations.