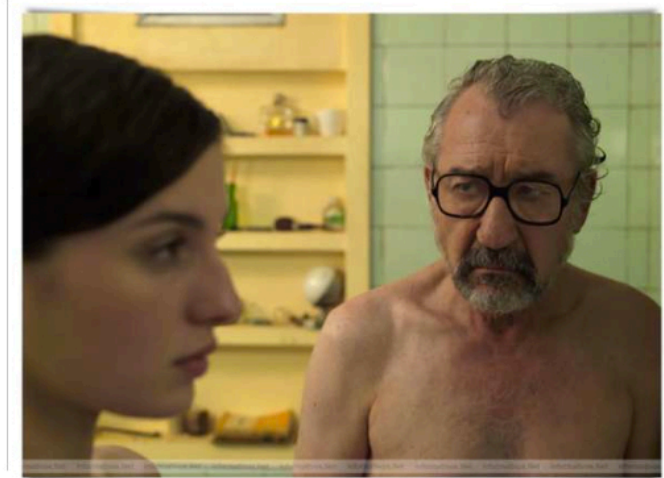


## Films from afar

### Festival of New Spanish Cinema brings forward a caravan of cinematic treasures

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As a travelling caravan of cinematic treasures, the Festival of New Spanish Cinema takes a cache of modern films from its namesake country, and showcases them throughout a spread of North American film centres. This is the festival's fifth year, and it comes bearing five films, faring from the Goya-award sweeping *No Rest for the Wicked* to *Sleep Tight*, a creeping horror flick from the same director that crafted *[REC]*. Before its Edmonton opening, Vue caught up with festival director Marta Sanchez to discuss the festival's genesis. Though stuck in Puerto Rico, denied a trip back to New York by Hurricane Sandy, she seemed in chipper spirits. There are worse places to be stuck, after all.

**VUE WEEKLY:** Tell me about the festival's beginnings.

**MARTA SANCHEZ:** I founded a company called Pragda. What we do is promote Spanish films abroad; we work a lot in the United States, and we wanted to create an event that brings in new films every year. So we create a loyal audience that's eager to find out what happened that year in filmmaking in Spain. We started in five cities, and now we are in 10 cities in all of the United States and Canada. The idea is to have a presence, every year, of Spanish films. Because it's not so easy to get into [North American] movie screens usually.

**VW:** Typically, film festivals tend to stay and grow in one city. What inspired having this one tour around?

**MS:** The idea was that we wanted to reach out to those areas that are film oriented. The presence of the Spanish film is very limited ... we'd prefer to be in more cities for a shorter period of time. We'd prefer to be in different cities, so different audiences can enjoy the films, and maybe be a little bit smaller, be in one screen or one movie theatre—though the movie theatre should be very good. [laugh] That's our philosophy.

**VW:** How do you select the films?

**MS:** It's actually very difficult. You are kind of a gatekeeper: whatever you decide is what people are going to think Spanish filmmaking is, so there is a lot of responsibility in that. But we're very interested in diversity, to show films that are very different between them[selves], the filmmakers [that] have a different way of approaching filmmaking and stories, different stories in general. We want to bring opportunity to everybody to enjoy very well known filmmakers as well as beginners. That's important for us. The common thing among all of them is the quality: you will never find a film that is there just because, y'know, we have a slot more. It's the quality: some years you see 10 films, other years you see six films, this year we see five films in Edmonton. But those are very well curated.

Fri, Nov 2 – Mon, Nov 12, 2012  
Festival of New Spanish Cinema  
Metro Cinema at the Garneau