



News Bytes

AFI Silver kicks off North American tour of Spanish Cinema Festival April 3

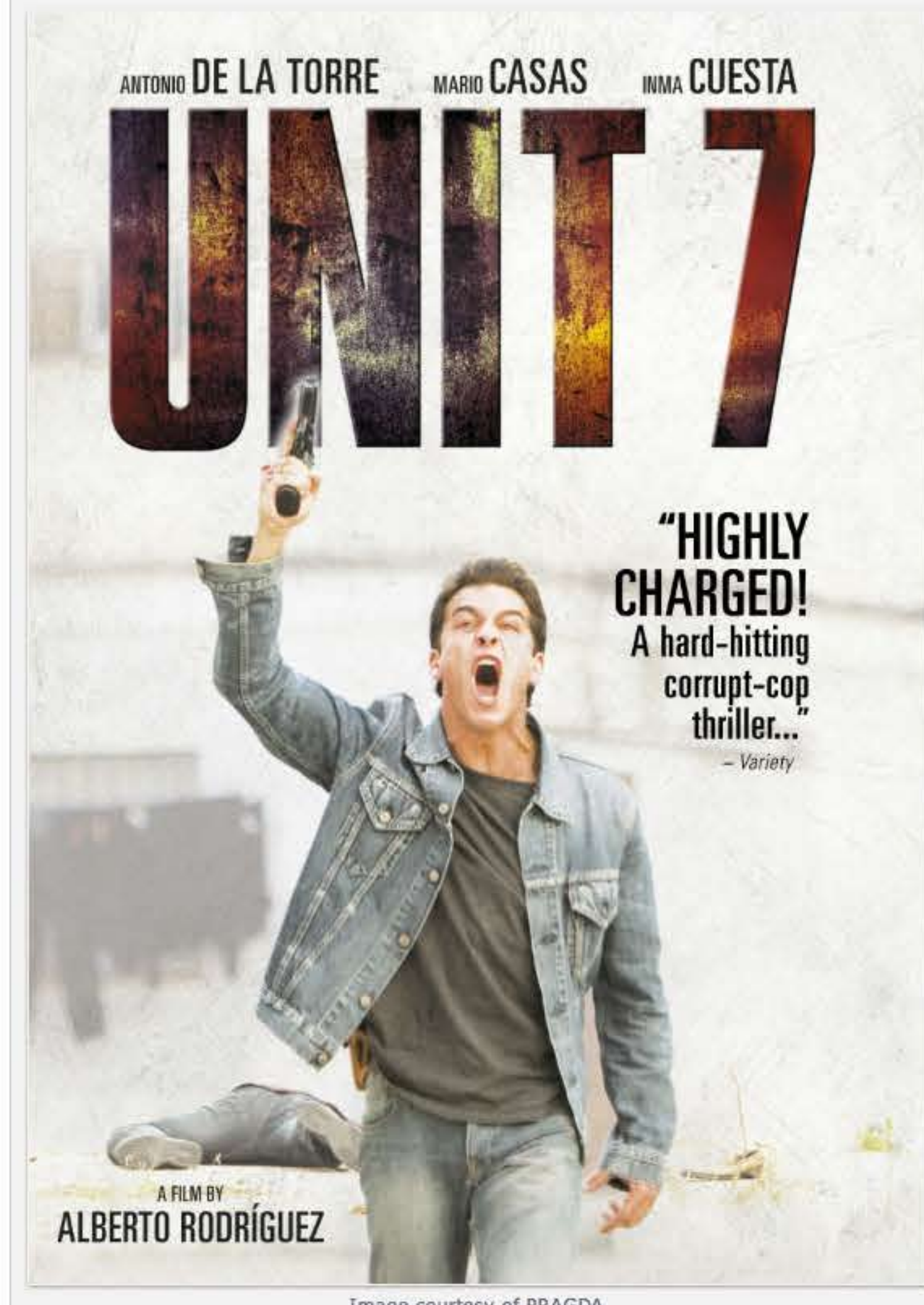


Image courtesy of PRAGDA

Join World Footprints on April 3rd at the AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, MD, as the Festival of New Spanish Cinema launches its 10-city North American tour. The Festival starts Thursday, April 3, 7:30 pm with the 16 Goya nominated film "Unit 7" and filmmaker Alberto Rodríguez in attendance. A reception to follow hosted by SPAIN arts & Culture.

Now in its sixth year, and still as fresh as ever, North America's leading showcase of Spanish cinema comes to Silver Spring, allowing audiences to discover and

fall in love with the latest and most exciting films from Spain.

Pragda, AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center, SPAIN arts & culture and ICAA — Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain welcome the festival to DC. The festival arrives after its presentation in Toronto, Houston, Vancouver, Chicago, San Juan de Puerto Rico, Ottawa and Portland.

"We have hand-picked the best films Spain has to offer. From our favorite directors such as Cesc Gay and Gracias Querejeta, to impressive indie feature by avant garde directors Elias Leon Siminiani and Juan Cavestany, these films are not to be missed. Of special note is the premiere of the fast speed thriller UNIT 7 by Alberto Rodríguez, which got 16 nominations to Goya Awards (Spanish Academy Awards). You will see the best performers working in Spain today, including Maribel Verdu, Luis Tosar, Eduard Fernandez, Candela Peña, Javier Cámara, Ricardo Darin, and Ernesto Alterio. We have an array of genres from surreally-Buñuelian stories to thrillers, romantic comedies and social charge features." - Marta Sanchez, founder of Pragda and the main organizer of this important event.

The festival will spotlight seven hits from Spain:

- The box office success and award-winning comedy about men that will delight women, A GUN IN EACH HAND, (Una pistola en cada mano, by Cesc Gay)
- The impressive debut film MAP (Mapa, by Elias Leon Siminiani)
- The thriller UNIT 7 (Grupo 7, by Alberto Rodríguez), nominated for 16 Goya Awards
- The surprising and hilarious portrayal of Spanish current affairs, comedy of the year PEOPLE IN PLACES (Gente en Sitios, by Juan Cavestany)
- The Oscar selection to represent Spain FIFTEEN YEARS AND 1 DAY (15 años y un día, by Gracia Querejeta)
- The controversial eye-opener OPERATION E (Operacion E, by Miguel Courtois Paternina).
- The documentary for all food lovers PERU SABE. CUISINE AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE (Peru Sabe. La cocina, arma social by Jesús M. Santos) All films will be screened at AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center. 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD Tickets on sale at theatre's box office. To buy tickets online, visit: www.AFI.com/silver

To view trailers and more visit www.pragda.com

**Ticket prices for AFI Silver only

\$12 General Admission

\$10 Seniors (65+), students and military (with valid ID)

\$8.50 AFI Members (Two Star level and higher)

\$7 Children (12 and under)

\$9 Matinees (Mon-Fri shows before 6:00, holidays excluded)

AFI Silver Schedule:

OPENING NIGHT

UNIT 7 (GRUPO 7)

Dir. ALBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

Spain / 2012 / 96 min / Spanish with English subtitles, nominated for 16 Goya Awards With Antonio de la Torre, Mario Casas and Inma Cuesta

ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ IN ATTENDANCE!

A group of renegade cops decides to take the law into their own hands in this gritty thriller. The drug problem in Seville, Spain is spiraling out of control as the city prepares to host the 1992 World Exposition. With pressure mounting to clean up the city, an overworked group of cops starts writing their own rules. Selling dope for cash and information, padding their bank accounts and arrest records, they become local celebrities, poster boys for a new tough-on-crime era in Seville. But their brutal tactics draw press attention and the local drug lords secretly plot their revenge. A dark and pulse-pounding neo-noir, UNIT 7 asks if the ends truly justify the bloody means.

Thu, Apr 3, 7:30; Alberto Rodríguez in attendance! Sat, Apr 5, 9:45

OPERATION E (OPERACIÓN E)

MIGUEL COURTOIS PATERNINA

Spain, France / 2012 / 108 min / Spanish with English subtitles With Luis Tosar, Martina García

A controversial film in Colombia due to the real event on which it is based (the kidnapping of Clara Rojas and Ingrid Betancourt), Operation E was at risk of being banned but was finally released in the country after a politicized trial.

Crisanto (a magnificent Luis Tosar) is a poor cocaine farmer who lives with his family in the Guaviare jungle, a region ruled by the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). A group of guerrilla fighters give them a moribund baby and tell them to take care of him. The doctors heal the baby, but believing he's been abandoned and abused, and they take it away.

Two years later, the guerrilla asks urgently for the child as he is at the center of an exchange of hostages, negotiated between the presidents of Colombia and Venezuela that is bringing both countries to the brink war. This international political crisis has significant media impact and is widely reported across the globe. They give him three days to find the boy or he and his family will be killed... This is a political thriller which shows what happens away from the cameras and microphones, a contrasting view of the official version.

Spanish star Luis Tosar (Even the Rain, Cell 211) lived in the Colombian jungle in order to prepare for this role, based on the real man who was charged with Emmanuel, Clara Rojas' son.

Fri, Apr 4, 7:30

A GUN IN EACH HAND (UNA PISTOLA EN CADA MANO)

Dir. CESC GAY

Spain / 2012 / 97 min / Spanish with English subtitles

With Ricardo Darín, Luis Tosar, Javier Cámara, Eduardo Noriega, Leonor Watling, Candela Peña, Cayetana Guillén Cuervo, Eduard Fernández, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Jordi Mollà

Eight men in their 40s are caught up in everyday situations that reveal their main conflict: a masculine identity crisis. Their behavior forms a mosaic of emotions men usually don't reveal. J. is depressed and is the perfect victim for psychoanalysis. E. has lost everything and lives with his mother and his cat. S. is attempting to win his ex-wife back. With the help of drugs, G. is trying to understand why his wife is having an affair. The rest of their friends are doing their best with similar catastrophes. Ordinary men in extraordinary situations form this hilarious comedy and merciless portrait of manhood today.

Fri, Apr 4, 9:45

PERU SABE. CUISINE AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE (Perú Sabe. La cocina, arma social)

Dir. Jesús M. Santos

Peru/Spain / 2012 / 70 min / Spanish with English subtitles With Ferran Adrià and Gastón Acurio

There is an unprecedented phenomenon happening in Peru today. Cuisine, something so ordinary in many other countries, has turned into an engine for change. Ferran Adrià, the world's most prestigious chef, and Gastón Acurio, Latin America's most influential chef, together embark on a journey to explore the roots of the splendor of Peruvian cuisine and its potential to transform lives. This film is the result of their journey—an exciting testimony of the way in which Peruvian cuisine has found a perfect recipe for spurring social and economic development. Indeed, this is part of a growing movement throughout Latin America, where gastronomy is becoming one of the region's most important assets.

Sat, Apr 5, 6:10

FIFTEEN YEARS AND ONE DAY (QUINCE AÑOS Y UN DÍA)

Dir. GRACIA QUEREJETA Spain / 2013 / 96 / Spanish with English subtitles With Maribel Verdú, Tito Valverde, Arón Piper, Belén López .

Spanish selection for the Oscars 2014. 15 Years + 1 Day is a moving drama that marks the triumphant return of director Gracia Querejeta to the big screen.

Margo (Maribel Verdú, Belle Époque, Y tu mamá también) is struggling to deal with her son, Jon (Arón Piper) a rebellious and freespirted teenager who runs with a bad crowd. After Jon is expelled from school, Margo sends him to live with his grandfather Max (Tito Valverde, El comisario, Todos los hombre sois iguales), a retired military officer who lives in a small coastal town and believes he can fix his grandson with his own style of discipline. This new home does not equal an attitude change, and when Jon is seriously injured after being involved in a grave crime, both boy and man will learn to face their fears and limitations. Sat, Apr 5, 7:45

MAP (MAPA)

Dir. ELIAS LEÓN SIMINIANI

Spain / 2012 / 85 min / Spanish with English subtitles

A "romantic documentary," as described by Siminiani, Map follow as young Spanish director as he gets fired from his job at a broadcasting company. Recovering his dream to make movies, he travels to India in "search" of his first feature film, only to discover that his real search isn't in India but back home: actually, he was escaping... Back in Madrid, however, things don't exactly work out as expected...

Shot in first person, this road movie with interior dialogue is a hybrid between personal fiction, documentary, and travelogue that redefines the autobiographical genre. Eccentric and fun at the same time, Map is wonderful reflection on the artist's disoriented existence and the creative process created by one of the best respected independent filmmakers working today.

Sun, Apr 6, 9:30

PEOPLE IN PLACES (GENTE EN SITIOS)

Dir. JUAN CAVESTANY

Spain / 2013 / 83 min / Spanish with English subtitles

With Ernesto Alterio, Carlos Areces, Raúl Arévalo, Enric Benavent

Working with the tiniest of micro-budgets, playwright and independent filmmaker Juan Cavestany stages a series of bizarre, Buñuelian scenarios that offer a cracked view of contemporary Spain in the wake of the economic crisis. To uncover the strange in the ordinary, the unsettling in the everyday: this is the mark of imaginative wizardry that can be found in abundance in People In Places. Moving from one nondescript location to the next, a theme, or perhaps more of an undercurrent, emerges — until the fiercely political nature of the film becomes apparent.

Sun, Apr 6, 7:45

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