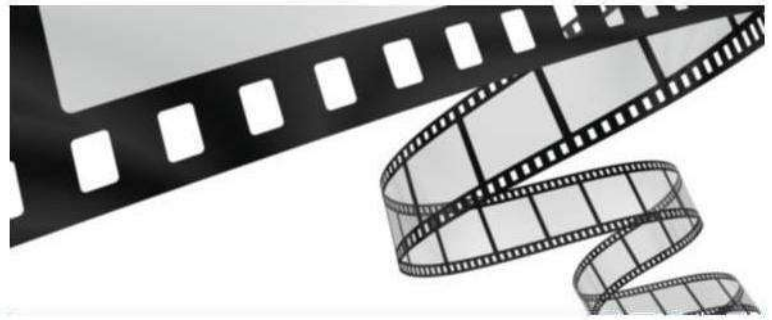


# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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## **I'm so excited! (Los amantes pasajeros) 2013**

**Spain 90 minutes**

**Director: Pedro Almodóvar**

**Writer: Pedro Almodóvar**

**Cast: Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz, Antonio de la Torre, Javier Camara**



With “I’m so excited!” we find Almodóvar back to the more lightweight comedy of his youth like ‘Labyrinth’, ‘Pepi, Luci, Bom’ and ‘What Have I Done to Deserve This?’ with this comedy based upon the problems that Peninsula flight 2549 from Madrid to Mexico City suffer following the accidental damage of the plane’s landing gear before take off.

Almodóvar, now 64, has reportedly been keen to make a statement on the problems that Spain has been facing since the Global Financial Crisis and whilst on one level this is a frothy, camp, “screwball” comedy set in a “doomed” airplane it is also a satire on how Spain has been facing up to the crisis. The second class passengers sleep through the turmoil, whilst the handful of first-class passengers are fully involved in the drama but no one knows how to solve the problems and no one seems to be in charge. It may be that many of these references are lost on non-Spanish viewers; Almodóvar himself described the film as his most “local”.

Almodovar was clearly trying to capture some sense of lost youth; in an interview in The Telegraph he describes the film as follows:

*“I tried to recapture the same mood when I was writing in the Eighties, when Madrid had changed. The movie is a tribute to the Eighties. That was when we started with democracy and there was an incredible explosion of freedom in every sense. So in the movie, the passengers and stewards on the plane drink a lot, --- a lot and take drugs. For me that was the spirit of the decade – but above all it breathes freedom.”*

Peter Bradshaw, writing in The Guardian, found a different frame of reference suggesting that the film in many ways “resembles nothing so much as 90s BBC TV sitcom *The High Life with Alan Cumming as the high-camp air steward Sebastian Flight*. And might it be that, in some international hotel room, somewhere, Almodóvar once caught an episode of the David Walliams and Matt Lucas comedy docusoap *Come Fly with Me?*”

That said, the film features many Almodóvar touches, Ben Walters writing in Time Out referenced “*high camp and high drama, family secrets and festering lies, the uses of storytelling and abuses of the unconscious, supernatural twists and melodramatic turns, telephones and television, the power of patterns – his signature concerns are all aboard and ready for take-off.*”

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## **Club notices:**

### **Discussion Evening**

This presentation will be followed by an informal audience discussion of the films in the second half of the season. Tea and coffee will be provided and we hope you can join us.

### **Our previous presentation:**

**Nostalgia for the Light (7th May)**

22 members and guests returned feedback for the film. From the forms returned, the breakdown was ‘Excellent’: 5 votes, ‘Very good’: 7 votes, ‘Good’: 2 votes, ‘Satisfactory’: 3 votes and ‘Poor’: 0 votes.

Please visit the current season page at <http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk> to read all the feedback comments.

You can still provide feedback on this, or any other film, by visiting the Discussions page (<http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk/discussion/>).

### **Our next presentation:**

**Amour**, the last film of the 2013/14 season, will be shown on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014, starting at 8:00pm.

### **Next season:**

The short list of films for the 2014/15 are now available to view on the website, and we can confirm that membership will remain at £50 for the season.