

## CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

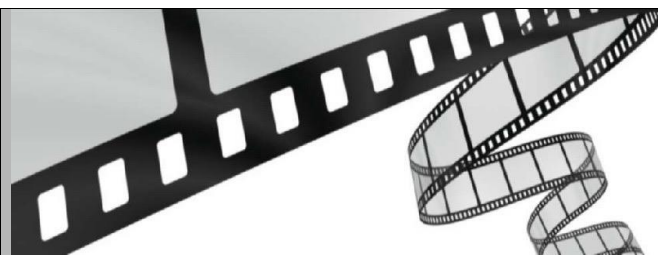
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**THE ROOM NEXT DOOR** Monday 23 March '26

107 mins

Language: English

We have shown practically all Pedro Almodovar's films, and some he has only produced, over many years. Here is his first English language film, scripted and direct by him from a novel by Sigrid Nunez: *What Are You Going Through*. Although it won the Golden Lion at the Venice film festival in 2024, a few critics were bemused that it should do so. However, Derek Malcolm, in *The Guardian*, found it "...as extravagant, engrossing and doggedly mysterious as anything [Almodovar] has done recently."

Here are the Almodovar trade marks: seductively rich blocks of colour with his keynote arterial red; a lush, omnipresent orchestral score and a layered story interspersed with flashbacks and incidental scenes.

Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton give their usual stylish, maybe too stylish, performances as two old friends who come together after many years when one of them, Martha (Swinton), is dying from cancer and wishes to spend a last peaceful weekend in a rented house in the country before ending her life with a special pill. She wants Ingrid (Moore) to be in the next room while she does this, armed with deniability - she can tell the cops (yes, most of the story is set in the USA) she knew nothing of these intentions. Martha is honest with Ingrid in telling her that she had asked others to help her but they had refused. She is less honest, however, about something even more important, despite their closeness, keeping us guessing until the very end.

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And so, with this screening, the Club reaches the end of another season, our first being in 1988/9. We hope you have enjoyed it. Our successful and rewarding discussion group, following 'On Falling', so well attended, seemed to suggest that most of you have. We now look forward to another season beginning on **Monday 21 September**. As the recent News Letter made clear, we rely on continued sufficient membership and guests to keep going. Have a good summer: see you all in the Autumn.