

Hispanic Cinema Series

Not even Funny

SELECTED WEDNESDAYS

April 2

EL VERDUGO (1963)

The Executioner

DIR.: LUIS GARCÍA BERLANGA

An undertaker gets married to an old executioner's daughter and, although he doesn't want to, must continue the profitable profession of his father in law when he retires.

A dark comedy that portrays the paradoxical situation of Spanish middle class during the 60s, enjoying the benefits of development under a harsh and eternal dictatorship. In contrast to Franco's attempts to create a national identity based around the family, church and nation, Berlanga exposes the institutional crime that underlies the fascist government.

April 23

EL MILAGRO DE P. TINTO (1998)

The Miracle of P. Tinto

DIR.: JAVIER FESSER

P. Tinto and his wife were trying for years to have a child, a heir, a successor that can successfully take care of the family business: the elaboration of sacred wafer-hosts for the Catholic Church. The arrival of a couple of extraterrestrial midgets and a fugitive mental patient will give them an answer to all their prayers.

Fesser constructs a metaphor of the *Spanish miracle* that portrays a wit critic to the Fascist National-Catholic culture Spain inherited from the dictatorship.

All the movies in original Spanish with English subtitles
Contextual information, brief analysis and reading suggestions will be provided

May 7

EL DÍA DE LA BESTIA (1995)

The Day of the Beast

DIR.: ÁLEX DE LA IGLESIA

A basque priest finds by means of a cabalistic study of the bible that the anti-christ is going to be born on Christmas day in Madrid. Helped by a heavy-metal fan and by the showman of a TV esoteric program, he will try to invoke the devil to find out the place of birth and kill the baby.

THREE COMEDIES UNDER AND AFTER FRANCO

The serious aspects of class culture are official and authoritarian; they are combined with violence, prohibitions, limitations and always contain an element of fear and intimidation. Laughter, on the contrary, overcomes fear, for it knows no inhibitions, no limitations.

Mikhail Bakhtin. *Rabelais and His World*

Kiely 246
12.15 P.M.

Free Admittance
These films contain scenes that some viewers may find disturbing



65-30 KISSENA BLVD.
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Curated by Álvaro Fernández
Hispanic Languages and Literatures / Cinema Studies