

FILMS THAT I RESERVED IN THE LIBRARY FOR OUR COURSE

1. "El verdugo"

1963. Spain under military fascist Dictatorship. The criticism is indirect, due to severe censorship. Amadeo is an old executioner at his retirement; he is offered a modern flat by the housing commission, provided, his son-in-law, José Luis, succeeds him as executioner. All goes well until the day comes when the son-in-law is faced with his first execution. Amadeo convinces José Luis that the condemned man will be pardoned at the last minute (by the Dictator Franco, never mentioned). So José and his family travel to Mallorca, where they behave like tourists, waiting for the pardon. But it doesn't come. (VHS 5683, No obscenities, no nudity)

2. "El otro lado de la cama"

2004. The story of two couples, along with a collection of their friends and co-workers, whose switching back and forth between their lovers leads to lies and heartache and lots of song and dance. A real frivolous musical that drove many Spaniards crazy (others absolutely hate it). Tender and funny, but with lots of nudity. (DVD 3104, Nudity: PLEASE do NOT watch this movie if you are offended by naked human bodies)

3. "Alatriste"

2006. Viggo Mortensen (The Lord of the Rings) plays the Spanish soldier-turned-mercenary Captain Alatriste, a heroic, lonely and betrayed figure from Spain's 17th century imperial wars. Alatriste is a brave, honest man, but the Spanish Empire is rotten to the core. Mixture of Adventure and History. Very negative image of Spain's Imperialism. (DVD 7741, Do not watch this movie if you are offended by violence, war scenes and criticism against the king of Spain)

4. "El día de la bestia" (Germán's favorite)

1995. Crazy Madrid in a crazy satanical comedy. Lots of action. Satan is going to be born in Madrid (they say) and a weird priest and a heavy metal fanatic want to stop this. (DVD 7724, Watch it only if you like action movies. PLEASE do NOT watch this movie if you are offended by violence, blasphemy and humor on religious symbols.)

5. "Belle époque"

1992. Fernando, a handsome, young Spanish Civil War deserter who befriends a free-thinking artist, finds himself in a romantic dilemma when the artist's four beautiful daughters return to their country home. Which woman should he love? (DVD 2900, Some nudity, kisses and heavy petting, please do NOT watch this movie if you are offended by nudity and the expressions of earthly love)

6. "Días de fútbol"

2003. Antonio, an ex-convict and amateur shrink, convinces his pals that the best way to overcome their midlife crises and lack of success with women is to reassemble their old soccer team and win something in life, even if only a local championship. Tender, funny, sometimes pathetic. (DVD 5241, Obscenities and rude language, please do NOT watch this movie if you are offended by obscene language)

7. "Fortunata y Jacinta"

1970. Based on the 1886 novel by Benito Perez Galdos. The interpersonal relationships of men and women in Madrid's middle class during the last quarter of the 19th century. A fantastic portrait of 19th century Madrid, and the best actors of the nation in the 70's. (DVD 7749, No obscenities, no nudity)

8. "Historias del Kronen"

1994. Immersed in a world of sex, drugs and rock-and-roll, young men get together every night at a Madrid bar called Kronen, where they seek any kind of adventure and diversion from their empty lives. Both the original novel and the movie based on it, became very popular in Spain and it turned to be the symbol of a whole generation of Spaniards born in Democracy and lost in empty lives. (DVD 7784, Lots of obscenities, lots of drugs and some nudity; please do NOT watch this movie if you are offended by obscenities, drugs and nudity)

9. "La lengua de las mariposas"

1998. A shy young boy is brought out of his cocoon by a wise teacher who shows him the wonder of the natural world around him, amidst the growing tensions and chaos of the Spanish Civil War. (VHS 12290, No obscenities, no nudity)

10. "Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios"

1988. Comedy film about a woman who has been jilted by the love of her life, her friend who discovers her lover is a Shiite terrorist, and her ex-lover's crazed wife. One of Oscar-owner Almodovar's funniest movies. (DVD 1979, Some occasional nudity)

11. "Los santos inocentes"

1984. A rural Spanish family dreams of rising out of poverty and changing their life of subordination. Awsome actors in state of grace. Terrible portrait of rural Spain under the fascist Dictatorship. Many awards. (DVD 7782, Some obscenities, no nudity)

12. "Bienvenido, Mr. Marshall"

1952. The inhabitants of tiny Villar del Rio hear that they have been selected for aid under the Marshall Plan. The promise of great wealth transforms the village overnight. This is by far and without any doubt one of the best (and most sarcastic) movies ever made in Spain. The sarcasm is that after World War II, Spain remains isolated under the only nazi-like, Hitler-friend regime left worldwide. Yet unlike other European nations (Italy or Germany) it is not liberated by the Allies, and folks at this village long for international aid, which is an impossible goal if they do not have Democracy. The script is a very subtle work of crossed references and jokes that managed to pass through dictatorial censorship with wit and humor. (VHS 7695, No obscenities, no nudity)

13. "El cochecito"

1960. Black comedy about an old man who wants a motorized wheelchair so he can ride through town with his disabled friends. The best example of Neo-Realism that Italians

created after WW II, here with lots of black humor and almost nihilist social criticism. (DVD 7739, No obscenities, no nudity, but watch it only if you like acid humor)

14. “La tabla de Flandes”. VHS 9065

1995. Book by Arturo Pérez-Reverte. Action, intrigue on a centuries-old murder that involves a young art conservator. Some nudity and obscenities.

15. “El maestro de esgrima”. VHS 6829

1993. Book by Arturo Pérez-Reverte. Intrigue plot in a 1868 action, swordsmanship and love. Some nudity and osbcenities.

16. “The ninth gate” (El club Dumas). DVD 1010

2000. Book by Arturo Pérez-Reverte, adapted by Roman Polanski (this is a very high quality movie). A demonic manuscript that can summon the devil. It might be offensive for very religious viewers.

17. “El lápiz del carpintero”. DVD 7580

2002. Book by Manuel Rivas. Loyalty, Love and obsession during the Spanish Civil War. Some nudity.

18. “Soldados de Salamina”. DVD 3529

2003. Book by Javier Cercas. A writer investigates an obscure episode from the Spanish Civil War.

19. “Bajarse al moro.” DVD 5301

2001. Theater play by Alonso de Santos. A fun-loving resident of Madrid who enjoys her policeman boyfriend and smoking pot supplements her income by making trips to Morocco with her young friend Elena to smuggle hashish. A portrait of 1980’s Madrid. Drugs, nudity, obscenities.

20. “La colmena” DVD 5302

1982. Novel by Nobel Prize Camilo José Cela. A terrible portrait of Madrid right after the Civil War. The best actors of the nation then, in a state of grace. The writer of the book has a brief role in one of the scenes.

21. “Esquilache” VHS 6988

1992. Based on the theater play “Un soñador para el pueblo”, by Antonio Buero Vallejo (the writer of “Historia de una escalera”). In 18th century Madrid the people rise against the monarchy. The destiny of the crown and the Marqués de Esquilache depend upon the next few hours. Reflections on Political movements and theories.

22. “El laberinto griego” VHS 6713

1992. Novel by Manuel Vázquez Montalbán. An example of “novela negra” from the “Escuela de Barcelona”. This is one adventure in the long series of political/detective novels based on the character Pepe Carvalho (the first book was “Yo maté a Kennedy”). Private eye in Barcelona is involved in the search for a misterious Greek character.

23. "Plenilunio". DVD 2644

2000. Book by Antonio Muñoz Molina. A detective investigates a murder in a small provincial town in Spain.

24. "Don Quijote" DVD 7480 (Rafael Gil, 1947)

25. "Don Quixote" DVD 9569 (Orson Welles, 1992)

26. "Don Quijote" VHS 6538, pts. 1 & 2 (Gutiérrez Aragón, 1993)