

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR

b. September 24, 1951



“I don’t make judgments about what’s good or bad or what’s real and isn’t in culture.”

Pedro Almodóvar has written and directed 16 movies, including “Mala Educación” and “Volver.” His movies are known for their progressive themes—including transgenderism, homosexuality and feminism—and their racy sexuality, irony and wit.

Born into a poor family in Cazada de Calatrava, Spain, Almodóvar attended the convent school of the Salesian Fathers and the Franciscan Friars. While attending the school, he lost faith and turned to avid movie watching. His educational experience affected the themes of his movies, including “Mala Educación,” about a transgender male who was molested by a priest.

At age 17, Almodóvar moved to Madrid without money or contacts. After working low-paying jobs, he eventually secured a good position with Telefónica, the national Spanish phone company. His new job enabled him to buy a Super 8 camera and shoot his first short film, “Dos Putas, o Historia de Amor que Termina en Boda” (1974).

In 1980, Almodóvar’s first commercial film “Pepi, Luci, Bom y Otras Chicas del Montón,” premiered during the birth of the Spanish democracy. The publicly acclaimed film challenged conventional moral values and breached sexual boundaries. Since then, Almodóvar has directed 15 other films.

Almodóvar discovered actors Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz. Cruz won an Oscar nomination for her performance in “Volver.” Almodóvar and his films have won over 30 awards, including The Best European Director of the Year (1999) and The Best European Film of the Year (1999) from the European Film Awards. Almodóvar continues to direct and write innovative, popular and influential films.

Cinematic genius Pedro Almodóvar has written and directed 16 films and won two Academy Awards.



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