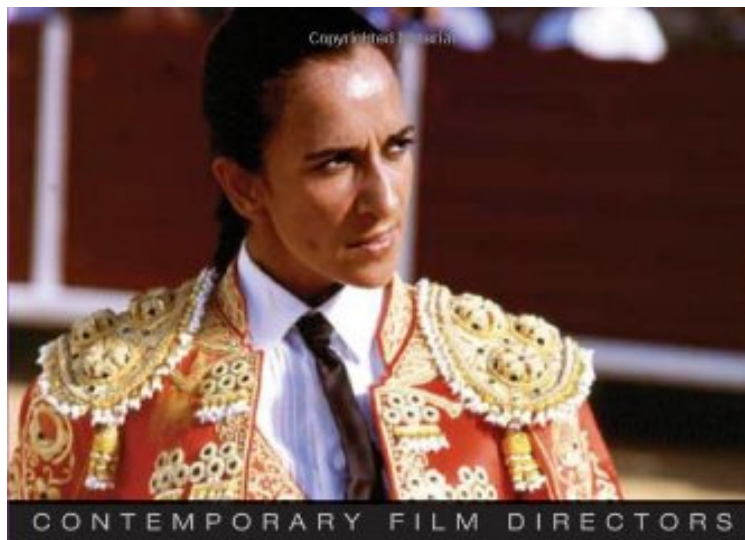


(Mobile book) Pedro Almodovar (Contemporary Film Directors)

Pedro Almodovar (Contemporary Film Directors)

Marvin D'Lugo


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Marvin D'Lugo : Pedro Almodovar (Contemporary Film Directors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pedro Almodovar (Contemporary Film Directors):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to Almodovar By William F. Heidbreder This short book is one of the best things available in English on Almodovar. It's part of a good series. I also recommend Pedro Almodovar: Interviews; Peter William Evans, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown; and "Almodovar's Girls (All About my Mother)" in Leo Bersani and Ulysse Dutoit, Forms of Being: Cinema, Aesthetics, Subjectivity. There is better literature in French (Notably Frederic Strauss, Conversations avec Pedro Almodovar,

published by Cahiers du Cinema) and undoubtedly in Spanish.

Offering a commentary on Pedro Almodovar, who has become a preeminent force in modern cinema and by far the best known Spanish filmmaker among English-speaking audiences, this work follows Almodovar's career chronologically and understands the films' increasing complexity in terms of the director's central themes."

From Publishers Weekly Spanish film director Almodvar is a master storyteller and celebrity auteur, who has captured post-Franco Spain in such provocative films as *Labyrinth of Passions* and *Bad Education*. He is famous for his eccentric characters, gender-bender plot twists and homage to American film genres and D'Lugo, a Clark University professor of Spanish and screen studies, succinctly chronicles his life from modest rural beginnings to his explosion on the Madrid culture scene in the 1980s and subsequent international acclaim. Be it early Super 8 shorts or creating Oscar winners *All About My Mother* and *Talk to Her*, Almodvar's forte is exploring the intricacies of sex, death and violence. En route, he has kick-started the careers of Penelope Cruz and Antonio Banderas, while perfecting his own brand of melodrama. His appeal is traced to what D'Lugo calls his "geocultural positioning" an ability to transform his marginal status as a gay director from the provinces into a worldwide visual language. "I try to solve the problem of how to get the big emotion from the audience," says Almodvar. D'Lugo analyzes his films and influences, and even provides a clever self-interview: Almodvar on Almodvar. For fans and film students alike, D'Lugo's contribution to the Contemporary Film Directors series celebrates the director's camp aesthetic and artistic sensibilities with insight and elan. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist When Pedro Almodovar surfaced in the early 1980s with a series of provocative films inspired by punk culture and strongly evincing a gay sensibility, few foresaw him becoming Spain's most prominent and commercially successful filmmaker. D'Lugo traces the director's career from his 1970s Super 8 shorts onward. Almodovar's early features were influenced by film noir, melodrama, and Italian neorealism and incorporated large doses of camp and pop culture. His international commercial breakthrough came in 1998 with *Woman on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, and mainstream success more recently with *Talk to Her* and *Bad Education*. Despite apparently softening his approach, Almodovar retains a rebellious streak--his remarks about the Madrid train bombings provoked the Spanish government to threaten him with arrest--and D'Lugo convincingly limns the connection between his subversive work during the decade of Spain's transition to democracy and his more conventional recent movies. An excerpted 1987 interview and a 2004 "self-interview" are appended. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "For fans and film students alike, D'Lugo's contribution to the Contemporary Film Directors series celebrates the director's camp aesthetic and artistic sensibilities with insight and elan."--Publishers Weekly "[D'Lugo] significantly extends the critical discourse on Almodovar's work by focusing on the cluster of ambiguities and polarities that sustain the most controversial aspects of Almodovar's authorship."--Screening The Past "Providing a thoroughly researched synthesis of the many years of study of Almodovar's work by other scholars in both Spanish and English, D'Lugo nevertheless makes the narrative his own through contrasting Almodovar's early films to the films that inspired the director and the ones he seemed to revile and react to, and by emphasizing the auteur's own role in the creation of his personality as a celebrity-author ... With such a thorough and well-written book as D'Lugo's, a full appreciation of ... the genius of its creator has become a lot easier and more enjoyable."--European-films.net