



The Seville Festival broadens its scope with a series of parallel activities connecting cinema with literature, thought, and music

Ron Dyens, Claire Simon and Cherien Dabis to headline public encounters

Commitment to Andalusian creativity strengthened through exhibitions and talks by Alberto Rodríguez, Rafael Cobos, Santi Amodeo and Laura Hojman

The first episode of the docuseries *Las 3.000 celebran la vida* to premiere in the very heart of the neighborhood

Sevilla, October 28 de 2025.— Once again, the Seville European Film Festival reaffirms itself as a major cultural event that goes beyond the screening rooms to become a meeting point between the arts. From **November 7 to 15**, the city will host an extensive program of parallel activities that will incorporate perspectives from **literature, music, and critical thought**.

These **38 proposals**, distributed across some twenty emblematic venues, engage in dialogue with the films featured in the **Official Section** and the other strands of the festival.

This year, the festival will welcome three essential figures of contemporary cinema: **Ron Dyens, Claire Simon, and Cherien Dabis**, who will take part in public conversations to explore both their most recent projects and their overall creative journeys.

French animation producer **Ron Dyens**, responsible for the Oscar-winning *Flow* (2024), will give a master talk entitled *The Seven Lives of a Film: The Producer as Creative Bridge*, at **Cine Cervantes on November 10**. The feature, led by animal characters in a submerged world, received the **Best Editing Award**, the **Grand Jury Prize**, and the **Puerta América Award** at last year's festival.

In this session, Dyens will share his experience across the multiple stages a film undergoes—from concept development and scriptwriting to financing and distribution—offering audiences a unique insight into the challenges and opportunities of contemporary animation, and into the producer's role as an artistic mediator.

Meanwhile, **director and actress Cherien Dabis**, one of the most distinctive voices in international independent cinema, will participate on **November 10** at the **Pablo de Olavide University** in a conversation titled *The Art of Narrating Family Lineage*. She will discuss her film *All*

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That's Left of You and the construction of Palestinian memory through cinematic storytelling. Her intergenerational epic competes this year in the Official Section.

Completing this trio is filmmaker **Claire Simon**, who will lead a talk at the **Cultural Initiatives Center of the University of Seville (CICUS)** on **November 14**, delving into *The Art of Writing Life* through her documentary *Writing Life – Annie Ernaux Through the Eyes of High School Students*, programmed in the **Embrujo** section. For the past half-century, Simon and Ernaux have developed their works in parallel, side by side. The film explores how the Nobel Laureate's writings are read, interpreted, and analyzed in French high schools.

Conversations with the Giralddillo of Honor Awardees

The presentation of the **Giralddillo of Honor** to **Alberto Rodríguez** and **Costa-Gavras** will be accompanied by public conversations with both filmmakers.

Director **Alberto Rodríguez** will take center stage in *The Sevillian Voice in Spanish Cinema* on **November 8** at **CICUS**. In this session, he will revisit his filmography and reflect on the presence of **Seville as a narrative space** in his work—an invitation to rethink the urban identity of the Andalusian capital through film.

The director and screenwriter —behind such essential titles as *Marshland (La isla mínima)*, *Smoke & Mirrors (El hombre de las mil caras)* and *Modelo 77*— will speak with journalist **Pedro Álvarez** about the city's transformation into a cinematic character imbued with both authenticity and universality.

Produced by **Movistar Plus+**, Rodríguez presents two new projects at this **22nd edition** of the festival: the thriller *Los Tigres*, starring **Antonio de la Torre** and **Bárbara Lennie**, and the miniseries *Anatomy of an Instant*, about Spain's 1981 coup attempt, featuring **Álvaro Morte**, **Eduard Fernández**, and **Manolo Solo**.

Meanwhile, the Greek master **Costa-Gavras**, a fundamental figure of contemporary cinema, will receive his **Giralddillo of Honor** on **November 9** at **Cartuja Center CITE**, where he will also engage in an open dialogue with the audience, moderated by journalist **Luis Martínez**.

The discussion will revolve around his career, his lifelong commitment to **human rights**, and his vision of cinema as a **tool for social transformation**. The event will include a retrospective of his work, with the *Essentials* section screening two of his most celebrated films: *Z* and *The Confession*.

Andalusian Cinema as a Creative Force

As a platform for Andalusian audiovisual talent and professionals, the festival reaffirms its commitment to **regional creation** in this edition through talks, tributes, book presentations, and the premiere of a documentary series.

Factoría Cultural, in the **Polígono Sur** district, will host the premiere of the first episode of the docuseries *Las 3.000 celebran la vida* (*The 3,000 Celebrate Life*) on **November 12 at 7:00 p.m.**, right in the heart of the neighborhood where this **co-production between Proamagna and RTVA** was filmed.

Following the preview screening of this series —directed by **Loles López Montenegro**— a discussion will take place with its protagonist **Manuel Jiménez**, alongside several cast members including **Juanka Lobato “El Granjero”** and **Susana Jiménez “La Pepino de Mar”**. The docuseries offers a luminous and honest portrait of Seville’s *3,000 Viviendas* neighborhood, celebrating its community and resilience.

A tribute to journalist, poet, and film critic **Juan Antonio Bermúdez** will mark one of the most emotional moments of 2025. On **November 13**, **CICUS** will host the presentation of *La mano en el fuego* (*Poesía íntegra*), a volume published by **Libros de la Herida** that collects the complete works of this extraordinary poet of cinema and affection.

The event will bring together **David Eloy Rodríguez** —poet, editor, and author of the book’s introductory essay— along with friends and collaborators of Bermúdez such as **Gervasio Iglesias**, **María Cañas**, **Remedios Malvárez**, and **Rafael Cobos**, who will read his verses aloud. The presentation will also feature live music by **Daniel Mata**, performing songs based on his poems.

The festival’s bond with Bermúdez endures through the **Juan Antonio Bermúdez Award**, named in his honor, which recognizes each year the best films from the *Panorama Andaluz* section he helped create.

The program also includes the presentation of the book *Rafael Cobos. Escritura y pantalla* (*Writing and Screen*), on **November 10 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Teatro Central**, in collaboration with the **Andalusian Agency of Cultural Institutions**. The session will feature a conversation between screenwriter and filmmaker **Rafael Cobos** and actor **Antonio de la Torre**.

This volume gathers eight essays by critics, producers, and scholars examining the meaning and influence of Cobos’s body of work. It also includes photographs and personal memories from his private archive, working documents, script drafts, unpublished materials, and a final chapter consisting of a conversation with director **Alberto Rodríguez**, his long-time creative partner and one of the key duos in contemporary Spanish cinema.

Cobos appears twice in this edition’s *Panorama Andaluz*: first as director, with his debut feature *Golpes*, and also as producer of *Ellas en la ciudad* (*Women in the City*), directed by **Reyes Gallegos**.

On **Thursday, November 13**, he will deliver a masterclass titled *The Art of Writing a Screenplay* (5:00 p.m.) as part of the series *The Art of...* The following day, **director Laura Hojman** will explore *The Art of Listening to the Past* (November 12, 5:00 p.m.) in a parallel session. Her work is characterized by its poetic approach to **recovering silenced voices from history**, uniting memory, culture, and social commitment. Both events will be held at **Hotel NH Plaza de Armas**.

Filmmaker **Santi Amodeo** will also lead two conversations: *The Art of Visualizing Texts* (at **IES Néstor Almendros**, Wednesday, November 12) and *Santi Amodeo and David James Poissant: From American Literature to Andalusian Cinema*, scheduled for **Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m.** at **NH Plaza de Armas**, one of the festival's main venues.

This encounter will offer a dialogue between the director of *The Heaven of Animals* —screening in *Panorama Andaluz*— and the author of the original short story collection, **David James Poissant**.

Other highlights include events developed with the support of Andalusian universities, such as *Georgi M. Unkovski: The Art of Music as a Healing Experience* (November 10, Fundación Valentín de Madariaga, in collaboration with Universidad Loyola); and three sessions organized with the **University of Seville**, one of the festival's strongest institutional allies.

The **Faculty of Communication** will host the *Cinematic Journalism Lab*, featuring open talks with renowned film journalists **Marta Medina** and **David Sequera**. It will also be the venue for the screening of the winning shorts from the *CREA* competition on **Wednesday, November 12 at 12:00 p.m.**

On **November 13**, the **Faculty of Fine Arts** will present *Giovanni Columbu: The Art of Dialoguing with Painting and Memory. Visual References in Animation* (12:00 p.m.); while later that evening (7:00 p.m.), the **Faculty of Philology** will host *Hana Jušić: The Art of Communication Between Characters. Language as Border and Bridge*.

Cinema in the Neighborhoods

The festival's commitment to reaching every corner of Seville is also reflected in initiatives that bring cinema directly to its neighborhoods.

A prime example is the project “**Ellas en la ciudad**” (**Women in the City**), a series of screenings across the districts where the protagonists of **Reyes Gallegos's** documentary live. Each screening will be followed by a discussion with the women themselves and the director. The route will include **Centro Cívico Torreblanca** (East Zone), **Centro Cívico Los Carteros** (North Zone), and **Factoría Cultural** (South Zone).

In the same spirit, a **roundtable discussion** has been organized in collaboration with **Fundación Triángulo** to explore **the representation of intersexuality in film** and its visibility in society, inspired by **Marc Ortiz Prades's** feature *Els mals noms*, programmed in the *Rampa* section.

Entitled *Els mals noms: Beyond Names — Memory, Identity, and Diversity in Film*, the event will feature the debut director from Tarragona alongside **writer Elena Solanas** (niece of the person portrayed in the film and author of *Florencio Pla, La Pastora: The Stolen Dignity*), **Andrés Vega**, director of **Andalesgai** and member of Fundación Triángulo, and **Bernar Usk**, illustrator and chronicler.

Finally, to foster **new narratives** and increase the **visibility of Romani cinema** both within and beyond academic circles, the festival has organized the roundtable *Rromavisión: Self-Narratives in Romani Cinema* on **Friday, November 7**, at **CICUS**.

The discussion —moderated by **Carmen Carbón** from the **Federation of Roma Women's Associations (FAKALI)**— will feature **Sami Mustafa**, producer and curator of the *Rromavisión* cycle; **Jero de los Santos**, visual artist; and a representative of the **European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)**.

This session forms part of a program developed jointly by the **City Council of Seville**, the **Seville European Film Festival**, **ERIAC**, and **CICUS**, reinforcing the festival's dedication to **cultural diversity and inclusion**.

The Soundtrack of Our Cinemas

Music once again takes center stage at the 22nd edition of the Seville European Film Festival, in a program designed to celebrate the enduring alliance between film and sound.

Under the title “**The Soundtrack of Our Cinemas**,” this year's program brings together a diverse range of **live concerts, audiovisual performances, and special sessions** that will allow audiences to experience cinema through sound.

The **Festival Opening Concert** will be led by **Zahara**, who will perform a **live reinterpretation of her own film scores and soundtracks** from iconic European films. The performance will take place on **November 7 at Teatro Lope de Vega**.

Throughout the week, the **Cartuja Center CITE** will host a series of **cinema-concerts**, including a screening of **Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*** accompanied by **live electronic music** from Spanish producer **Alicia Carrera**, and a **tribute to the late composer Ryuichi Sakamoto**, featuring reinterpretations of his most memorable film pieces by young Andalusian artists.

In addition, **Teatro Alameda** will welcome “**Silent Raves: A Cinematic Club Experience**”, a late-night session merging **silent disco** and **film projection**, where attendees can choose between multiple synchronized soundtracks through wireless headphones — transforming the experience of watching a film into a communal, immersive event.

Finally, in collaboration with the **Conservatorio Superior de Música Manuel Castillo** and the **University of Seville**, the festival will host a **masterclass series on music for film**, featuring internationally acclaimed composers who will share their creative process and the challenges of composing for contemporary cinema.

Through these events, the Festival reaffirms its belief that **music is not just an accompaniment to images**, but a powerful narrative force that shapes the way we see and feel cinema.

[Complementary Activities Assets](#)

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More information in www.festivaldesevilla.eu

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