Homage to Bigas Luna

From 8 - 12 June 2016, the Tyneside Cinema, Vane gallery and ¡Vamos! Festival will pay homage to one of Spain’s most fascinating contemporary filmmakers and artists, Bigas Luna. The programme will feature some of Bigas Luna’s most striking films and video artworks along with Q&A sessions, a themed evening and Spanish food & drink.

In an intensive career, Josep Joan Bigas Luna (1946-2013) released seventeen feature films, with considerable international success. Among his best known works are the horror classic Anguish (1987), starring Zelda Rubinstein (star of Poltergeist), the memorable Jamón, jamón (1992), which launched the career of Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem and Jordi Mollà, and the critically acclaimed The Chambermaid of the Titanic (1997), starring Olivier Martinez.

Running over 5 days, this homage is the first of its kind in the UK to celebrate Bigas Luna’s cultural legacy, and is part of a series of events that began in San Francisco in 2015 and will continue in Barcelona and Los Angeles. During the Newcastle festival, UK audiences will have the unique opportunity of seeing some of Bigas Luna’s most critically acclaimed works and will participate in in-depth discussions with special guests. The organisers of the event, Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández, Reader in Hispanic Studies at Durham University, and Bigas Luna’s daughter, Betty Bigas, who is also an artist and art curator based in California, will introduce the works and lead the Q&A sessions, together with Consol Tura, the casting director of all Bigas Luna’s films.

#vamosfestival2016
#bigaslunatruibe

Vane gallery (vane.org.uk)
First Floor, Commercial Union House; 39, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle NE1 6QG
Opening hours 12-5PM
Wednesday to Sunday
PREVIEW Friday 10 June 5.30-7.30PM

Tyneside Cinema (tynesidecinema.co.uk)
10, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle NE1 6QG

Film times
- Friday 10 June,
  8 PM: Jamón, jamón
- Saturday 11 June,
  5.00 PM: Golden Balls
  8.30 PM: Tit and the Moon
- Sunday 12 June,
  3.00 PM: Didi Hollywood

Box Office: 0191 227 5500.
For ticket prices and deals please visit tyensidecinema.co.uk
Tyneside Bar Café special menu all weekend.

¡Vamos! Social (vamosfestival.com)
Market Street
Newcastle NE1 6BH
- Saturday 11 June
  11PM til late:
  Special food menu throughout the festival.

8-12 June 2016
Screenings

The Tyneside Cinema will screen the entire ‘Iberian Portraits’ trilogy, starting with *Jamón, jamón* (1992, starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem) on Friday 10 June at 8PM. The other two films of the trilogy will be screened on Saturday 11 June: *Huevos de oro* (Golden Balls, 1993 – starring Javier Bardem and Benicio del Toro) at 5PM followed by *La teta y la luna* (The Tit and the Moon, 1994 – starring Mathilda May) at 8.30PM. The ‘Iberian Portraits’ screenings will be introduced by Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández and followed by a Q&A session with casting director Consol Tura and Betty Bigas.

Bigas Luna’s last film, part of an unfinished trilogy about women and success, *DIDI Hollywood* (2010 – starring Elsa Pataky and Peter Coyote), will also be shown on Sunday 12 June at 3PM with an introduction by Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández.

For ticket prices and deals please visit tyensidecinema.co.uk

*Jamón, jamón* (1992)

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Exhibition

The Newcastle homage starts with the ‘Barbaric Comedies’ exhibition at Vane gallery, which will run from June 8-12th. The exhibition will showcase some of Bigas Luna’s video artwork, including the famous short ‘Necklace of Flies’ and the five-piece ‘Barbaric Comedies’, which was inspired by the well-known work of Spanish dramatist Valle-Inclán.

Food and Drink

The Tyneside Bar Café at Tyneside Cinema will have a special Spanish menu all weekend with dishes and drinks inspired by the trilogy.

**Friday 10 June**
After party at the Tyneside Bar Café starts after screening of *Jamón, jamón.*
Late opening hours.

**Saturday 11 June**
Mardi Gras clubnight at ¡Vamos! social, featuring: DJ Selectorchico, PantherPanther live and SidiRum live.

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Iberian Portraits

The video art (produced in the early 2000s) and the films (released a decade earlier), are both part of a project of ‘Iberian Portraits’ which, according to Bigas Luna himself, promotes ‘the destruction of the Iberian macho’. They share a symbolic language rich in provocative phallic, fetishistic, and animal imageries. This will be the first time that the video art will feature in a UK programme, having been most recently exhibited in Barcelona, as part of a large retrospective of his artistic practice, and previously in Málaga, Valencia, and New York.