

## **Exhibition and film screening pays tribute to influential Spanish filmmaker**

**For immediate release, Tuesday 24 May 2016**

**-Photo opportunity: see Media Information section -**

Influential Spanish filmmaker Bigas Luna, who launched the careers of Hollywood stars including Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz, will be celebrated with an art exhibition and film screenings next month (June 8 to 12).

Durham University is collaborating with Newcastle upon Tyne's Tyneside Cinema, Vane gallery and ¡Vamos! Festival on the five-day long tribute which will also feature Spanish food and music.

Bigas Luna, who died in 2013, is internationally renowned and his hit films include the popular comedy/drama *Jamón, jamón* (1992). The homage to his work is part of a series of international events that started in San Francisco in 2015 and will continue with planned events in Barcelona later this year and in Los Angeles in 2017.

It will begin with a free exhibition of contemporary Spanish video art by Bigas Luna at Vane gallery in Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, which runs from Wednesday 8 June to Sunday 12 June, noon until 5pm, with a preview evening on Friday 10 June, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Called Barbaric Comedies, the exhibition showcases some of Bigas Luna's controversial 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.

For more information contact Vane gallery on 0191 261 8281; [info@vane.org.uk](mailto:info@vane.org.uk); or visit [www.vane.org.uk](http://www.vane.org.uk).

Screenings of four Spanish films by Bigas Luna will also be held at Tyneside Cinema in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.

As well as the world-famous film trilogy Iberian Portraits, including *Jamón, jamón* which launched the careers of Oscar-winning actors Penélope Cruz and her husband, Javier Bardem, Tyneside Cinema will also screen Bigas Luna's final film *Didi Hollywood* starring Elsa Pataky and Peter Coyote.

Screenings will be held on Friday 10 June at 8pm (*Jamón, jamón*); Saturday 11 June at 5pm (*Golden Balls*) and 8.30pm (*The Tit and the Moon*); and Sunday 12 June at 3pm (*DiDi Hollywood*).

All films will be introduced by Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández, Reader in Hispanic Studies, in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, at Durham University.

Films on Friday 10 June and Saturday 11 June will be followed by Q&A sessions with the director's daughter, art curator Betty Bigas, and Consol Tura, actress and casting director of Bigas Luna's films.

For prices and ticket deals go to [www.tynesidecinema.co.uk](http://www.tynesidecinema.co.uk) or call the box office on 0191 2275500; email: [box.office@tynesidecinema.co.uk](mailto:box.office@tynesidecinema.co.uk).

Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández, Reader in Hispanic Studies, in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, at Durham University, said: “The Iberian Portraits trilogy of films by Bigas Luna is among the most thought-provoking material available to learn about a very particular moment of the recent history of Spain.

“In the early 1990s Spanish national identity was being reconfigured both internally (with autonomous regions and nationalist movements) and externally (having entered the European Union in 1986).

“I am always fascinated by how passionately these films are embraced by British audiences and the international experience with this series of tribute events has only confirmed how well these films travel.

“It is a real pleasure to bring the films and the video art to the city where I have lived for the last 20 years in collaboration with Bigas Luna’s family.”

To mark the films’ links with Spanish culture, the Iberian Portraits After Party, including Spanish food and drinks inspired by the movies and a Spanish-themed DJ set, will be held at Tyneside Bar Café, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Friday 10 June 2016 from 10.30pm until late. A special Spanish menu will also be served all weekend.

For more information contact Tyneside Bar Café on telephone 0191 227 5522, email: [enquires@tynesidebarcafe.co.uk](mailto:enquires@tynesidebarcafe.co.uk) or visit [www.tynesidecinema.co.uk/food-drink/tyneside-bar-cafe](http://www.tynesidecinema.co.uk/food-drink/tyneside-bar-cafe)

A Mardi Gras Clubnight will be held at ¡Vamos! Social, Market Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday 11 June 2016, 11pm until late, featuring DJ SelectorChico, PantherPanther live and SidiRum live. A special food menu will also be available throughout the ¡Vamos! Festival (8-12 June 2016).

¡Vamos! Festival Director and Founder of ¡Vamos! Social said: “When we were planning this year’s festival programme, it was an obvious choice to partner with this homage event as it reflects our passion to celebrate success in Spanish art, film and culture.”

For tickets for key festival events please visit [www.vamosfestival.com](http://www.vamosfestival.com).

**Ends**

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

For further information or interviews please contact Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández, Reader in Hispanic Studies, in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures on by email [santiago.fouz@durham.ac.uk](mailto:santiago.fouz@durham.ac.uk) (contact telephone number available by request, please send email first).

A broadcast quality ISDN radio line is also available at Durham University and bookings can be arranged via the Durham University Marketing and Communications Office on +44 (0)191 334 6075; [communications.team@durham.ac.uk](mailto:communications.team@durham.ac.uk) .

The ISDN number is +44 (0)191 386 2749. A landline number is also available in our Media Suite which houses the radio facilities - +44 (0)191 334 6472.

## **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY/IMAGES AVAILABLE**

You are invited to send a photographer and/or reporter to the Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Friday, 10 June, 2016, 7pm to 8pm when Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández, of Durham University, and Betty Bigas and Consol Tura will be available for photographs and/or interviews.

Please send an email to Dr Santiago Fouz Hernández [Santiago.fouz@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Santiago.fouz@durham.ac.uk) by Thursday 9 June 2016 if you wish to arrange for an interview and to confirm attendance at the photo opportunity. Telephone interviews can also be arranged prior to that date. Contact telephone number available by request, please send email first.

A high resolution image of the event poster and other materials can be downloaded from the event website <https://bigasluntribute.wordpress.com/media/>

High resolution photos of the opening night will be added to that webpage on Saturday 11 June 2016 and will also be available on request from Dr Fouz Hernandez on the contact details above.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Bigas Luna Tribute website: [www.bigasluntribute.wordpress.com](http://www.bigasluntribute.wordpress.com)

Twitter @bigaslunahomage

### **About Durham University**

- A world top 100 university with a global reputation and performance in research and education
- Ranked 61 globally in the QS World University Rankings 2015/16
- Ranked 31 globally for the employability of its students by blue-chip companies world-wide (QS World University Rankings 2015/16)
- Ranked 70 globally in the THE World University Rankings 2015/16
- In the 2016 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, Durham was ranked fifth in the UK.
- A member of the Russell Group of leading research-intensive UK universities
- Research at Durham shapes local, national and international agendas, and directly informs the teaching of our students.
- Durham was named as The Times and Sunday Times 'Sports University of the Year 2015' in recognition of outstanding performance in both the research and teaching of sport, and student and community participation in sport at all levels.

### **About Tyneside Cinema**

Tyneside Cinema is one of the UK's leading independent specialised film and media venues. Alongside its programmes of new world cinema and digital media arts the cinema is also famous as a screen heritage attraction, housed in its spectacular Grade II listed building in the heart of Newcastle. In 2014, Tyneside Cinema also includes a Bar Café and The Gallery, a new exhibition space and cinema screen. Tyneside Cinema is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and also receives

revenue funding from Newcastle City Council and BFI.

**¡Vamos! Festival**

In celebrating Spanish and Portuguese speaking cultures, ¡Vamos! combines cuisine, art, film, theatre, dance, music, literature, fashion, sport and education offering an international festival appealing to partners and diverse mainstream audiences. It aims to promote appreciation and understanding of other cultures. This is the eleventh annual ¡Vamos! Festival.

**¡Vamos! Social**

¡Vamos! Social is a city centre cultural space open from Wednesday to Saturday from 12pm to 2am. The space offers food and drink events, live music, DJs on (Friday/Saturday nights) and film screenings, talks, workshops, exhibitions, classes, library, markets and hot desking.

¡Vamos! Social is located in Bambergh House, John Dobson Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6BH.

For more information about ¡Vamos! Festival please contact Rebecca Patterson on 07852 809 416

**END OF MEDIA RELEASE**