BIGAS LUNA TRIBUTE

From 28 to 31 March and as part of the ¡VIVA! Spanish and Latin American festival, HOME Manchester and The Instituto Cervantes Manchester, in collaboration with Durham University, 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 presentations, Q&A sessions, and a drinks reception.

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 4 days (although the exhibition will be open for the duration of the ¡Viva! Festival until April 12th), this homage is part of a series of international events that began in San Francisco in 2015 and have continued in 11 cities so far, including Newcastle, Barcelona, Valencia, Mexico City, Melbourne, Sydney or San José (Costa Rica). During the Manchester festival, UK audiences will have the opportunity of seeing some of Bigas Luna’s most critically acclaimed works introduced by specialists in his work and to participate in discussions.

Highlights include the launch events:

**March 28th from 18.30H at the Instituto Cervantes:** opening of the exhibition ‘Barbaric Comedies’ and the presentation, for the first time in the UK, of the posthumous documentary *BigasxBigas* (2016) with an intro and Q&A with co-director Santiago Garrido.

**March 29th from 19.50H at HOME Manchester:** screening of the classic *Jamón, jamón* (1992) with introduction by Prof Santiago Fouz Hernández (Durham University) and a drinks reception from 21.30H.

The closing event on **March 31st at HOME Manchester from 17.40H** will include a presentation by Dr Abigail Loxham (Liverpool University) and a Q&A with her and Santiago Fouz Hernández.

**HOME Manchester**
www.homemcr.org
2, Tony Wilson Place, Manchester M15 4FN

**Instituto Cervantes**
manchester.cervantes.es
326-330 Deansgate
Campfield, Av. Arcade,
Manchester M3 4FN
10.00-20.00H, Mon - Fri
Exhibition PREVIEW
Thurs 28 March 18.30H
Iberian Portraits

The videoart (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' and reflects on the cultural impact of Spain's entry into the European Union. They share a symbolic language rich in provocative phallic, fetishistic, and animal imageries. This is a rare opportunity to see these artworks in the UK, having been most recently exhibited in Tarragona, as part of a comprehensive retrospective of his artistic practice. They were previously shown in Zaragoza, Málaga, Barcelona, Valencia and New York.

Exhibition

The Bigas Luna Tribute Manchester starts with the 'Barbaric Comedies' exhibition at Instituto Cervantes, which will run from March 28th to April 12th. The exhibition will showcase some of Bigas Luna's videoart, including the famous short ‘Necklace of Flies’ and the five-piece ‘Barbaric Comedies’. The videoart was inspired by the work of Spanish dramatist Valle-Inclán, known for his invention of the espetpento, one of the themes of this year’s ¡Viva! Spanish and Latin American Festival, at HOME, Manchester, from Friday 22 March to Saturday 13 April.

Screenings

The Instituto Cervantes Manchester will host the first UK public screening of the posthumous documentary BigasxBigas (2016) with an introduction and Q&A session with its co-director, Santiago Garrido Rúa, on Thursday 28 March from 18.30H, just after the opening of the exhibition.

HOME Manchester will screen the entire 'Iberian Portraits' trilogy, starting with Jamón, jamón on Friday 29 March at 19.50H, introduced by Prof. Santiago Fouz Hernández (Durham University) and followed by a drinks reception from 21.30H (first drink is included with the ticket).

The other two films of the trilogy will be screened over the weekend; on Saturday 30 March at 17.50H: Huevos de oro (Golden Balls, 1993 – starring Javier Bardem and Benicio del Toro) and on Sunday 31 March at 17.40 La teta y la luna (The Tit and the Moon, 1994 – starring Mathilda May) – introduced by Dr. Abigail Loxham (Liverpool University).