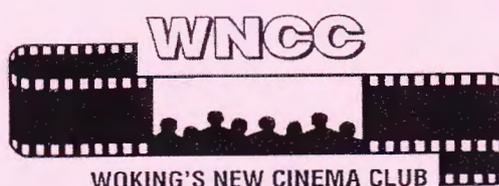


The Main Feature



Issue Number 16 – 8th May 2008

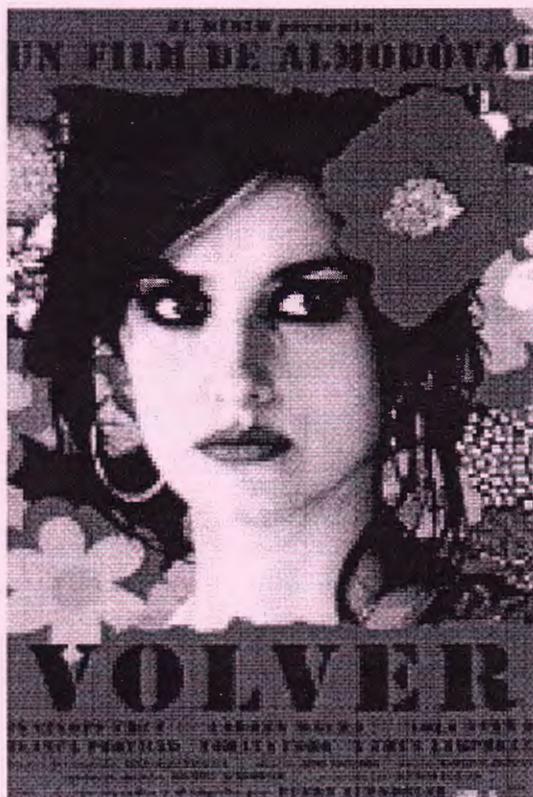
Volver

Spain/2006/121mins

Cast

Raimunda	Penelope Cruz
Irene	Carmen Maura
Sole	Lola Duenas
Agustina	Blanca Portillo
Paula	Yohana Cobo
Tia Paule	Chus Lampreave

Director/ Screenwriter :
Pedro Almodover



Almodover has returned to his usual preoccupation with the fairer sex and he couldn't be on better form. As usual, Almodover's women are faced with peculiarly female dilemmas.

A sexual assault, a brutal act of violence and the cover up which follows it starts off the story line. Although there is great concern about this crime and the punishment if any that will follow, it is the relationships between mothers and daughters, sisters and friends that dominate this film.

Volver (pronounced boll bear) is a story about three generations of women. Raimunda (Cruz) works menial jobs to support her daughter Paula (Cobo) and deadbeat husband. Her sister Sole (Duenas) is separated and runs a hair salon business from her apartment. The two sisters lost their parents in a fire in La Mancha, their birth village, about 3 years ago. Their aunt, Tia Paula (Lampreave) still lives in the village and continues to speak about her sister Irene (Maura), mother of Raimunda and Sole, as if she were still alive.

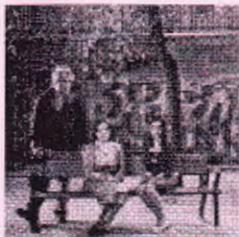
A good neighbour Agustina (Portillo) takes care of Tia Paula. Agustina is unwell with cancer and the sadness of her own missing mother. When Tia Paula dies the situation changes and the past returns (volver) in a twist of mystery and suspense.

Penelope Cruz gives a startlingly good performance as put-upon housewife and breadwinner Raimunda. Her discontent with her lot in life is palpable in every brisk movement, and it is clear she is driving her own daughter away from her just as her own mother once alienated her. The central theme is that of Raimunda trying to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past and her mother's efforts to atone for them.

Almodovar's '80's muse Carmen Maura represents the past and is aged beyond all recognition as the ghostly figure of Irene, in this mature and beautifully told tale of family and the ghosts that haunt us.

Penelope Cruz became the first Spanish actress ever to be nominated for Best Lead Actress at the Oscars

Ishret Mirza



Reactions to

Away from Her - 28th April 2008

Score 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 Votes ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 1 6 23 5 3

Total Votes - 50 Average Score - 7.2 Position in Season - 6th

Film	Score	Position
The Lives of Others	8.23	1 st
The Painted Veil	8.09	2 nd
Little Miss Sunshine	7.886	3 rd
Notes on a Scandal	7.73	Joint 3 rd
Last King of Scotland	7.73	4 th
Jour de Fete	7.26	5 th
Away from Her	7.2	6 th
Belleville Rendevous	6.97	7 th
Pans Labyrinth	6.88	8 th
The Prestige	6.86	9 th
Offside	6.56	10 th
L'Enfant	6.37	11 th
Consequences of Love	6.24	12 th
Belle et la Bette	5.97	13 th
Black Cat, White Cat	5.74	14 th
The Day I became a Woman	5.72	15 th

Your views

Beautifully acted
A bit too sad for me
A very sensitive treatment of a depressing subject despite superb acting I wouldn't watch it again
Beautiful – terrifying
Well filmed with sympathy
A very compassionate rendering of a very difficult subject
Heart wrenching
Sensitive and moving performances from Julie Christie and George Pinsent. A remarkable film
A disturbing experience – splendid evening
A sad brave film
A very thought provoking film
A very good and moving film with wonderful acting by Julie Christie – but not “entertainment”!
Brilliant acting against such a sad background
Heartbreaking
Very moving
Very disjointed
Compelling viewing – Unsatisfactory ending
Off to Meadowlands – forgot pen and money!

Next Time



- AGM Followed by The Page Turner

Ten-year-old Mélanie Prouvost, is a gifted piano player. She sits for the Conservatory entrance exam but is distracted by the president of the jury's offhand attitude and she fails. Ten years later, Melanie becomes this same man's page turner, waiting patiently for her moment of revenge.

 France/2006/85mins

Repropoint

sponsors photocopying of the main feature