



Canguro Producciones & Antena 3 Films

present

# **CHEF'S SPECIAL**

**(Fuera de carta)**

**A film by Nacho G. Velilla**

**WINNER OF AUDIENCE AWARDS at**

**2009 OUTFEST: Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**

**2009 Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**

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# SYNOPSIS

**Energetic performances from Almodóvar regulars Javier Cámara (*Talk to Her*) and Lola Dueñas (Almodóvar's new film *Broken Embraces*) anchor this wholly entertaining farce bustling with quick-witted dialogue and comical hi-jinks.**

Bright, breezy and briskly directed by Nacho G. Velilla, this Spanish delight was the Opening Night of the Lincoln Center's Spanish Cinema Now and even had The New York Times declaring it "a raucous comedy."

Chef Maxi (Cámara) has plenty on his plate. Between running a high-end restaurant, keeping it in the black and corralling his unpredictable staff, who could begrudge him a foul-mouthed outburst, or two, or several? His best gal pal and next door neighbor Alex (Dueñas) is desperate to find a good man while sous-chef Ramiro can't put his hard-partying days behind him. Add to the mix an unexpected reunion with two estranged children and a blossoming gay romance with a closeted international athlete, and you've got one troubled gourmet. Now the Michelin Guide food critic is coming to review his restaurant and it whips Maxi into such a frenzy the he must learn to juggle the new dynamics his children and lover bring to the table, with over-the-top, hilarious results.

## **Chef's Special has been the Official Selection for the following festivals:**

2008 Spanish Cinema Now Lincoln Center	2009 Palm Springs International Film Festival
2009 San Diego Latino Film Festival	2009 Qfest: St. Louis LGBTQ Film Festival
2009 Cleveland International Film Festival	2009 London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival
2009 Philadelphia CineFest	2009 Wisconsin Film Festival
2009 Chicago Latino Film Festival	2009 Miami Latin Gay Film Festival
2009 Boston LGBT Film Festival	2009 Inside Out Toronto
2009 Connecticut G & L Film Festival	2009 Seattle International Film Festival
2009 Filmout San Diego	2009 Denver Film Society GLBT Film Festival
2009 Walker Art Center: Queer Takes	2009 Philadelphia Qfest
2009 Outfest	2009 Cinema Arts Center
2009 North Carolina G & L Film Festival	2009 Fire Island Pines Int'l Film Festival
2009 Image Out Rochester	2009 Southwest GLFF / Closet Cinema
2009 Reel Pride - Winnepeg	2009 Tampa GLBT Film Festival
2009 Reel Affirmations/DC	2009 Image Nation

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The rapid changes that have taken place in Spanish society over the last thirty years have produced a country of enormous contrasts. Spanish law has gone from considering homosexuals as criminals to pioneering their rights. In the same week you can witness thousands of people demonstrating against gay marriage and then cross the road and find thousands celebrating Gay Pride Day. This rich collage provides the perfect back-drop for the style of comedy developed in the Italian and Spanish cinema of the 50's and 60's. A comedy full of misplaced yet loveable characters in a constant search for happiness.

One of those characters is Maxi, the lead role in *Chef's Special*, a man who has morphed just as much as Spanish society. In the space of twenty years he's gone from going through a sham marriage in his home town to openly declaring his homosexuality and managing one of Chueca's trendiest restaurants. However, sometimes, such radical changes also bring unpredictable consequences. This unpredictability lies at the heart of *Chef's Special*, a romantic comedy with touches of period drama.

Nevertheless *Chef's Special* isn't a straightforward romantic comedy as there is no female lead. Well, there is, but it happens to be a boy. There aren't two girls fighting over the film's beau, but rather a girl and Maxi, our main character. This twist to the typical romantic comedy provided the inspiration for the project.

*Chef's Special* doesn't just tackle the typical problems between couples it is also a film about fatherhood, a universal conflict. Everybody has had a father and everybody is somebody's son. However, this doesn't mean that the relationships between fathers and sons are always easy. Especially when the person who takes on the responsibility of bringing up the kids hardly knows them and has no idea of what makes them tick. Because when you're fifteen (the age of Edu, Maxi's first child) and your dad leaves you in order to come out of the cupboard, he's not just gay but also a downright "pooftah."

The fact that Spanish creative cuisine is also making an impact on the world stage provided us with the perfect excuse to make our main character a chef. And from there came the idea of Xantarella (now *Chef's Special*), which is the name of Maxi's restaurant, as well as being the name of a wild mushroom. But the most important thing is that Xantarella is the only thing that five people can depend on when everything else is crumbling around them.

- Nacho G. Velilla

## CAST

Maxi	<b>Javier Cámara</b>
Alex	<b>Lola Dueñas</b>
Ramiro	<b>Fernando Tejero</b>
Horacio	<b>Benjamín Vicuña</b>
Celia	<b>Chus Lampreave</b>
Jaime	<b>Luis Varela</b>
Marta	<b>Cristina Marcos</b>
Paula	<b>Alexandra Jiménez</b>
Edu	<b>Junio Valverde</b>

## CREW

Direction	<b>Nacho G. Velilla</b>
Screenplay	<b>Nacho G. Velilla</b> <b>David S. Olivas</b> <b>Oriol Capel</b> <b>Antonio Sánchez</b>
Original Score	<b>Juanjo Javierre</b>
Original Song	<b>Amaral</b>
Producers	<b>Daniel Écija</b> <b>Tedy Villalba</b> <b>Nacho G. Velilla</b>
Executive Producer	<b>Javier Méndez</b>
Line Production	<b>Pepe Ripoll</b>
Cinematography	<b>David Omedes AEC</b>
Film Edition	<b>Ángel Hernández-Zoido</b>
Art Direction	<b>Javier Fernández</b>
Sound	<b>Sergio Bürmann</b>
Costume Design	<b>Silvia García-Bravo</b>

## CAST FILMOGRAPHIES

## Javier Cámara

### **CINEMA**

2009- **QUE SE MUERAN LOS FEOS** Dir. Nacho G. Velilla  
2007- **LOS GIRASOLES CIEGOS** Dir. José Luis Cuerda  
2006- **LA TORRE DE SUSO** Dir. Tomás Fernández  
2006- **PARIS, JE T'AIME** – (SEGMENT “BASTILLE”) Dir. Isabel Coixet  
2006- **FICCIÓN** Dir. Cesc Gay  
2006- **ALATRISTE** Dir. Agustín Díaz Yanes  
2005- **MALAS TEMPORADAS** Dir. Manuel Martín Cuenca  
2004- **LA VIDA SECRETA DE LAS PALABRAS** Dir. Isabel Coixet  
2004- **BAD EDUCATION** Dir. Pedro Almodóvar  
2003- **LOS ABAJO FIRMANTES** Dir. Joaquín Oristrell  
2002- **TORREMOLINOS 73** Dir. Pablo Berger  
2001- **TALK TO HER** Dir. Pedro Almodóvar  
2000- **SEX AND LUCIA** Dir. Julio Medem  
2000- **TORRENTE 2: MISIÓN EN MARBELLA** Dir. Santiago Segura  
1999- **CUARTETO DE LA HABANA** Dir. Fernando Colomo  
1998- **TORRENTE, BRAZO TONTO DE LA LEY** Dir. Santiago Segura  
1997- **EL HERMANO PEQUEÑO** Dir. Enrique Urbizu

## Fernando Tejero

### **CINEMA**

2007- **EL CLUB DE LOS SUICIDAS** Dir. Roberto Santiago  
2007- **DÍAS DE CINE** Dir. David Serrano  
2006- **VA A SER QUE NADIE ES PERFECTO** Dir. Joaquín Oristrell  
2006- **VOLANDO VOY** Dir. Miguel Albaladejo  
2005- **EL PENALTI MÁS LARGO DEL MUNDO** Dir. Roberto Santiago  
2004- **PERFECT CRIME** Dir. Alex de la Iglesia  
2004- **BEAR CUB aka CACHORRO** Dir. Luis Miguel Albaladejo  
2003- **DÍAS DE FÚTBOL** Dir. David Serrano  
2003- **TORREMOLINOS 73** Dir. Pablo Berger  
2002- **LOS LUNES AL SOL** Dir. Fernando León  
2001- **NOCHE DE REYES** Dir. Miguel Bardem  
2001- **LA MUJER DE MI VIDA** Dir. Antonio del Real  
1999- **SOBREVIVIRÉ** Dir. Alfonso Albacete – David Menkes

### **TELEVISION**

“**AQUÍ NO HAY QUIEN VIVA**” Dir. Alberto & Laura Caballero (Antena 3)  
“**GOMINOLAS**” Dir. Nacho G<sup>a</sup> Velilla

## Lola Dueñas

### **CINEMA**

2009- **BROKEN EMBRACES** Dir. Almodóvar  
2006- **LO QUE SÉ DE LOLA** Dir. Javier Rebollo  
2006- **VOLVER** Dir. Pedro Almodóvar  
2005- **20 CENTÍMETROS** Dir. Ramón Salazar  
2004- **MAR ADENTRO** Dir. Alejandro Amenabar  
2003- **DÍAS DE FÚTBOL** Dir. David Serrano  
2003- **AYER EMPEZÓ TODO** Dir. Jonay García  
2003- **EN CAMAS SEPARADAS** Dir. Javier Rebollo  
2003- **238** Dir. Andrés M. Koppel  
2002- **HABLE CON ELLA** Dir. Pedro Almodóvar  
2002- **PIEDRAS** Dir. Ramón Salazar  
2001- **TODO ME PASA A MÍ** Dir. Miquel García Borda  
2000- **TERCA VIDA** Dir. Fernando Huertas  
2000- **LAS RAZONES DE MIS AMIGOS** Dir. Gerardo Herrero  
2000- **UNA LUZ ENCENDIDA** Dir. Alber Ponte  
2000- **NADA** Dir. David Abajo & David Fernández  
1999- **MARTA Y ALREDEDORES** Dir. Nacho Pérez de la Paz & Jesús Ruiz  
1999- **EL EQUIPAJE ABIERTO** Dir. Javier Rebollo  
1999- **ELLA** Dir. Juan Carlos Claver  
1998- **MENSAKA** Dir. Salvador García Ruíz  
1997- **EN MEDIO DE NINGUNA PARTE** Dir. Javier Rebollo  
1997- **UN, DOS, TRES, ¡TAXI!** Dir. Ricardo del Castillo  
1997- **DEL FLAUBERT QUE LEÍSTE UN DÍA GRIS** Dir. Pablo Valiente  
1992- **BAJO LA ARENA** Dir. Raúl Hernández Garrido

### **TELEVISION**

2000 – 2002 “**POLICÍAS, EN EL CORAZÓN DE LA CALLE**” Dir. Nacho Cabana, Manuel Valdivia & Chus Vallejo  
1998–“**PERIODISTAS**” Dir. David Molina & Mauricio Romero

## Benjamín Vicuña

### **CINEMA**

2006- **FUGA** Dir. Pablo Larraín  
2005- **SE ARRIENDA** Dir. Alberto Fuguet  
2005- **JUEGO DE VERANO** Dir. Fernando Aljaro & Matías Bize  
2004- **NO ME TOQUES** Dir. Mauro Bravo  
2004- **LAS HORMIGAS ASESINAS** Dir. Alberto Fuguet  
2004- **PERJUDÍCAME CARIÑO** Dir. Alberto Daiber  
2004- **MUJERES INFIELES** Dir. Rodrigo Ortuzar  
2004- **PROMEDIO ROJO** Dir. Nicolás López  
2000- **XS – LA PEOR TALLA** Dir. Jorge López Santomayor  
2002- **PARAÍSO B** Dir. Nicolás Acuña  
2001- **PIEL CANELA** Dir. Cristián Masón

### **TELEVISION**

2006- “**HAIQUIIMÁN Y TOLOSA**” Dir. León Errázuriz  
2005- “**LOS SIMULADORES**” Dir. Rodrigo Sepúlveda  
2004- “**DESTINOS CRUZADOS**” Dir. María Eugenia Rencores & Enrique Bravo  
2003- “**PESCADORES**” Dir. María Eugenia Rencoret  
2002- “**PURASANGRE**” Dir. María Eugenia Rencoret

## The Director

With a wide and varied academic background in screen journalism having studied at the University of Coventry (UK) specialising in Film & television, Nacho G. Velilla started his career as a narrator for Antena 3 as well as working for the newspaper the Heraldo de Aragón before becoming a TV script-writer and director.

He began work as a director and script-writer for music videos and for the documentary *Visiones artísticas para el fin del Milenio*.

The chance to demonstrate his talent for comedy came with the hit series *Médico de Familia*, produced by Globomedia for Telecinco and in which Velilla was a script-writer. The production company didn't think twice when looking for a director, scriptwriter and producer for the now legendary *7 Vidas* and *Aída* series and has also directed and overseen scriptwriting for *Gominolas*, shown on Cuatro.

*Chef's Special* is Nacho G. Velilla's first try at directing a feature-length as well as being in charge of production. He is working with Javier Cámara on his next film, *QUE SE MUERAN LOS FEOS*.

## Production data

<b>North America/United Kingdom Distributor</b>	TLA RELEASING
<b>Production Companies</b>	CANGURO PRODUCCIONES ANTENA 3 FILMS
<b>Shooting Locations</b>	Madrid
<b>Film Format</b>	35MM
<b>Screen Format</b>	2,35:1
<b>Sound</b>	Dolby Digital
<b>Running Time</b>	111´
<b>Nationality</b>	Spanish
<b>Language</b>	Spanish with English subtitles