



presents

Los Novios Bulgáros
Bulgarian
 **LOVERS**

a film by Eloy de la Iglesia

based on the novel by Eduardo Mendicutti

www.tlareleasing.com

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BEWARE OF LOVE IN RADIOACTIVE PACKAGES

Daniel (Fernando Guillén Cuervo) is a middle-aged, gay man who comes from an established family and lives a charmed, middle-class existence. He is a “regular” of Madrid’s gay bar scene sometimes hunting for good-looking, young foreigners. At one of these bars, he meets Kyril (Dritan Biba), a hunky 23-year-old Bulgarian. After a night of animalistic passion, Daniel is under his Eastern European spell. Wild, reckless and slightly dangerous, Kyril seems to turn Daniel’s conservative and rather predictable life upside down. With each sexual encounter with his Bulgarian lover, Daniel is pulled deeper into Kyril’s web of nefarious activities. Can Daniel meet the challenges of his brand new lover or has he bitten off more than he can chew?

OFFICIAL SELECTION
2003 Berlin International Film Festival

WINNER
2003 Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Best Feature Film Award

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This film origins mysteriously transpired over three years and four seasons...

Autumn 2000: I read Mendicutti's novel in one sitting. I found it fascinating, so much so that I forgot it was autumn and figured I could turn this heartrending, amusing text into a theatrical feature film. But I hadn't directed in years something like this in years. Was I capable of doing this again?

Summer 2001: One warm summer evening, I was sitting in a park in Guindalera, Spain with my good friend Pedro Olea, a well-known writer/director. He told me "Eloy, you need to be courageous and make another film. Reach down into your soul and go for it!" He tantalized me by offering me personal and professional support through his production company. Suddenly, the night became humid because of his seductive offer. I quietly confided in him that I was toying with the idea of adapting Mendicutti's novel, "Bulgarian Lovers." We became silent, for an inspiration emerged from the depths of the park bush leaving us sweaty, excited and speechless...

Spring 2002: On a spring night at the Aranjuez gardens, I was in the middle of shooting Caligula for Spanish Television with Fernando Guillén Cuervo. I proposed to him to help me adapt "Bulgarian Lovers" for a theatrical feature. I shared with him the story about the book getting under my skin and that warm summer evening where Pedro presented me with his seductive offer to produce the film. 'Fer' as he likes to be called by his friends, accepted my offer right away even though he had never read the novel. It didn't faze us that he was standing around in a Roman centurion costume, that it was nighttime in this park and that the spring friskiness permeated the air around us...

Winter 2003: I'm only one winter's night away from the premiere of *Bulgarian Lovers* in Berlin. As I scribble these notes, I feel like all those nights and meetings were a dream. How Pedro, Fernando and I got entangled in our creative juices on so many nights. Even the dark-souled, difficult and frustrating evenings of making *Bulgarian Lovers* added an ebb and flow to the creation of this film. I am at ease now, because I know it was the unpredictable, undeniably sexy, and mysterious animal that we call night, that was the source of inspiration for this film.

CAST

DANIEL	Fernando Guillén Cuervo
KYRIL	Dritan Biba
GILDO	Pepón Nieto
KALINA	Anita Sinkovic
ABODAGO	Roger Pera
MOGAMBO	Fernando Albizu
SIMEÓN	Román Luckanar
DANIEL'S FATHER	Simón Andreu
DANIEL'S MOTHER	Julia Martínez
ROSITA	Gracia Olayo
REMEDIOS	Emma Penella
BAMBI	Aure Sánchez
VLADMIR	Shai Bercovich
YORDAN	Labinot Nuredini
CAB DRIVER	Alberto Lozano
EMIL	Óscar Iniesta
KYRIL'S FATHER	Yanev Marin Dimitrov
KYRIL'S MOTHER	Elena Konstantinova Raynova
KYRIL'S COUSIN	Nikolay Maksimov Genchev
KYRIL AS A CHILD	Alejandro Nuñez
SISTER #2	Inés Sájara
HUSBAND #2	Antonio del Olmo
SISTER #1	Isabel Ampudia
HUSBAND #1	Alberto Vázquez
ACCOUNTANT	David Pinilla

CREW

Director

Eloy de la Iglesia

Screenplay

Fernando Guillén Cuervo

Eloy de la Iglesia

Additional material provided by

Antonio Hens

Based on the novel by

Eduardo Mendicutti

Executive Producer

Oihana Olea

Co-Executive Producers

Eduardo Campoy

Jesús Ciordia

Fernando Guillén Cuervo

Pedro Olea

Original Music

Antonio Meliveo

Cinematography

Néstor Calvo

Editor

José Salcedo

Editing Studio

Tusquets Editores, S.A.

Artistic Director

Julio Torrecilla

Costume Design

Pedro Moreno

Assistant Directors

Javier Soto

Federico Untermann

Luis Cordero

Pedro Ruigómez

Nerea Lacruz

Sound Director

Aitor Berenguer

Script

Yuyi Beringola

Production Assistants

David Chagoyen

Rosa Pariente

Isana Sacristán

Chandra Ferreiros

Laia Valiente

Production Supervisor

M José Musiera

Production Coordinator

Mercedes Andrino

Production Secretary

Olga Blázquez

Financial Advisor

Elena Llaneza

Chief Administrator

Bernardo Crespo

Legal Advisor

Coty Montalvo

2nd Operator

Albert Carrera

Cameraman

Camera Assistants

Photographer

Video Assistant

Digital Video Camera Assistant

Decorator's Assistants

Logistics Crew

Logistics Assistant

Sound Recording

Sound Recording Assistant

Set Decorators

Check Disc Coordinator

Make-up

Make-up Assistant

Sound Engineer

Microfilm Archive

Chief Electrician

Electricians

Machinery Coordinator

Machinery Assistant

Special Equipment Coordinator

Grip

Digital Post production

Special Effects Supervisor

Salvador Gómez

Alvaro Gutiérrez

Rita Rodriguez-Noriega

David Calle

Javier Navasques

Maria Reiné

Clara González

Alvaro Cortázar

Itzlar Goicolea

José Noriega

Nerea Torrecilla

Denitza Deneva

Javier Barba

Alberto González

Antonio López

Luis M Echevarria

José Daniel Sanz

Elena Picaza

Francisco Javier Aranda

Ana M Garcia Pulido

Luis Jiménez

Manuel Laguna

José Antoinio Bermúdez

Juan Dibarboure

Juan Carlos Rodriguez

Alvaro Gómez

Roberto Cuadrado

Oscar de Luna

Angel Gómez Alcoholado

Fernando López

Miguel Pedregosa

Juan Carlos Gimeno

Angel Gómez

David Galindo

Telson (dpto. De cine)

Alfonso Nieto

Special Effects Production

Alvaro Rodriguez

Nóelia Gorrón

Silvia Torralba

Special Effects Composition

Gabriel G. Figueroa

Gonzalo Moure

Helmuth Barnert

Marco Onaindia

Nacho Cepero

Graphics

Javier Martinez Calvo

Filmado

Juanjo Carretero

Kike Jiménez

Yolanda Hurtado

Telecine HDTV

Kike Jiménez

Edicion HDTV

Manolo Ortega

Avid Edtior

Alejandro Dupry

Supervisor EGI

Segundo Casero

3D Operators

Dani Fernández

David Edez. Girón

Pablo PK

René Chesta

Systems

Fernando Morales

Title Credits

Gabriel G. Figueroa

Javier Martinez Calvo

Film Negative

Fuji Film

Lab

Fotofilm

Film Lab

Foto Qué Laboratorios

Editing Lab

Cinearte

Sound Lab

Cinearte

Post-production Lab

Cinearte

Technical Effects supervision

Jordi Florensa

Camera Rentals

Camera Rent

Electric Equipment Rental

Cinetel

Sound Production

Soundrec

Postproduction Studio

Multidesing 99

Transportation

Galindo

Travel Agency

Viajes Sol Y Mar

Catering

La Diligencia

Casting

Language Advisor

Making of

Kracter Company Casting

Oktay Alich Meted

The Cameraman 98

Enrique del Visó Arranz

Juan Carolos del Viso

Javier Bellot

Toni Torrecillas

Pablo Lopez

Marketing & Press

Press Assistants

BULGARIA CREW

Executive Producers

Dimitar Gochev

Borislav Chuchkov

Production Chief

Lubomir Anev

Director's 1st Assistant

Krasimir Hasurbasanov

Casting Director

Dian Rusev

Interpreters

Teofana Maneva

Desislava Hristova

Denisa Hazarbasanova

Music credits

EGB

Written, produced & performed by
Jorge Sanchez & Roberto Garcia

GALAXY 77

Written, produced & performed by
Jorge Sanchez & Roberto Garcia

BULGARIAN LOVERS

is unrated

Contains nudity, sexuality, adult situations and language

TRT: 101 mins, Spain, 35 mm Color, Dolby Digital, Spanish and Bulgarian with English subtitles

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Fernando Guillén Cuervo (Daniel) is a popular actor, producer, and director in his native Spain. He has appeared in over 30 films including 1987's *Law of Desire*, directed by Pedro Almodovar. Additional films include *The Year of Maria* which he co-directed with Karra Elejalde, *Todo Menos La Chica*, *Testigos Occultos*, *I Won't Let You Down*, *Don Quixote*, *Night Errant* and *El Florido Pensil*. Cuervo was also the co-writer and one of the producers of *Bulgarian Lovers*.

Dritan Biba (Kyril) has been in countless film, television and theatrical productions around the world. Film credits include *The Inevitable*, *One Year, It's a Game*, *Arrivederci Capisco*, and *Café*. He has also appeared on-stage with "Woyzeck," "The Tempest" and "Tiempos Mezclados."

Pepón Nieto (Gilda) works in film, television and theatre throughout Spain. Nieto has worked with directors Francisco Alvarez, Juan Campos, Enriqueta Morena and Domingo González Redondo and previous film credits include *Excuse Me Darling, But Lucas Loved Me*, *Asunto Interno*, *Suerte*, and *Happy Men*.

Eloy de la Iglesia (Director/co-writer/producer) Iglesia was the first prominent Spanish intellectual to publically declare his homosexuality. He has enjoyed a prolific and popular career as a filmmaker despite censorship restraints. Referred to as Spain's Fassbinder, his first commercial success in his native country was *El Techo De Cristaz* in 1970. He has also made two English-language films including 1973's *A Drop of blood to Keep on Loving* starring Sue Lyon. His next film, 1976's *Los Placeres Ocultos (Hidden Pleasures)* was Spain first openly gay film and his following films 1978's *El Diputado (The Deputy)*, *Navajeros (Knifers)* in 1981, and 1982's *Colegas (Pals)* (1982) established him in filmmaker willing to take on controversial subjects and present openly gay stories. *Bulgarian Lovers* marks Iglesia's return to filmmaking after a 15 year hiatus.

Eduardo Mendicutti (Novelist) In 1973, Mendicutti was awarded with the Premio Sésamo for his short novel "Tatuaje", which was banned by censors in Franco's later years and has remained unpublished. In 1974, He won the 'Premio Café' Gijón with another short novel, "Cenizas". The 'Nueva Estafeta' in 1980 and 'Ciudad de Irún' in are additional awards he has obtained for his short stories. His writing has been widely published by newspapers, journals, and have been included in various anthologies. His novels have been translated into French, Italian, Bulgarian, Dutch and Portuguese and "Una mala noche la tiene cualquiera" has even been adapted for the stage. "El palomo cojo"(The Lame Pigeon) was made into a film by director Jaime de Armiñan. Mendicutti contributes a column to daily paper "El Mundo" and combines his career in literature and journalism with his position as Secretary General to the Spanish Association of Consulting Firms.

PRODUCTION STORY

Early in 2001, film director and producer Pedro Olea encouraged his friend Eloy de la Iglesia, to return to filmmaking after a 15-year hiatus. With the help of Olea's production company, Altube Filmeak, the two decided to make a film adaptation of Eduardo Mendicutti's well-known novel "Bulgarian Lovers" (Los Novios Búlgaros).

Catching news of the collaboration, Fernando Guillén Cuervo signed on to play the lead character of Daniel, co-write the script and also co-produce through his own company, Cuervo Films. Eventually, Jesús García Ciordia with Conexión Sur and Eduardo Campoy as the head of Cartel jumped on board and the *Bulgarian Lovers* project set sail for filming in the Summer of 2002.

From inception to completion, *Bulgarian Lovers*, the whole creative process was a seven months undertaking: ten weeks of pre-production, seven weeks of shooting in Spain and Bulgaria, and twelve weeks of post-production. This film was made possible by the financial support of ICAA, TVE, VIA DIGITAL and ETB, and the Official Credit Institute. The final budget for *Bulgarian Lovers* came to approximately 2 million Euro.

Bulgarian Lovers premiered in Spain in February 2003, after making it's world premiere at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival.

FESTIVALS PLAYED

2004 Reel Pride Film Festival, Michigan

2004 Wingspan LGBT Film Festival

2004 Cleveland International Film Festival

2004 Inside Out, Toronto LGBT Film Festival

2003 Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

2003 Newfest, New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Outfest, Los Angeles

2003 Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Austin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Southwest Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Image Nation, Montreal Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Image Out, Rochester Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Milwaukee Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Portland Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Seattle Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

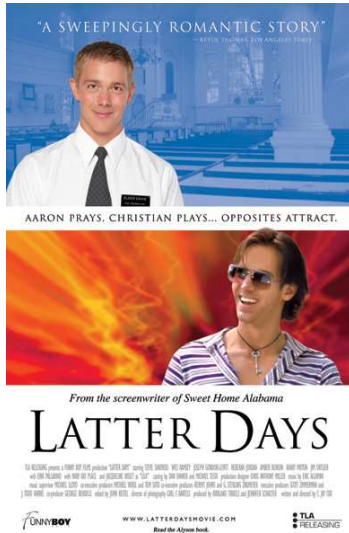
2003 Reel Affirmations: Washington D.C. Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Santa Barbara Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Reeling: Chicago Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2003 Out on Film: Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

2004 THEATRICAL RELEASES



LATTER DAYS

Release Date: *Current*

Written & directed by C. Jay Cox

Cast: Steve Sandvoss, Wes Ramsey, Joseph-Gordon Levitt, Mary Kay Place and Jacqueline Bisset.

Audience Award winning directorial debut from the writer of SWEET HOME ALABAMA explores the possibilities and challenges when a Mormon missionary falls in love with a West Hollywood party boy. The film opened January 30 in New York and the greater Los Angeles area and is scheduled to hit over 100 markets.



BULGARIAN LOVERS (Los Novios Búlgaros)

Release Date: *April 30, 2004*

Directed by Eloy de la Iglesia

Cast: Fernando Guillén Cuervo, Dritan Biba, Pepón Nieto, and Anita Sinkovic.

Openly gay film legend Eloy de la Iglesia returns to the big screen after a fifteen year hiatus with a film that combines elements of comedy, drama, sex and thrills. An older gentleman named Daniel falls deeply in love and lust with a hunky 23-year-old Bulgarian whose own personal dramas could send Daniel into nefarious, potentially life-threatening situations. **BULGARIAN LOVERS** was an Official Selection at the 2003 Berlin Film Festival and received the 2003 Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Best Feature Award.



MY WIFE MAURICE (Ma femme s'appelle Maurice)

Release Date: July 16, 2004

Directed by Jean-Marie Poiré

Cast: Alice Evans, Régis Laspalès, Philippe Chevallier, Götz Otto, Anémone, Martin Lamotte, Virginie Lemoine, and Guy Marchand.

From the director of the blockbuster hit in France, LES VISITEURS (1993), this cartoon-colored farce that centers around an ambitious woman named Emmanuelle who is having an affair with a married millionaire. When she finds out that his money actually belongs to the wife she sets out to expose him. He catches wind of her plan and devises a plan to ask a stranger to pretend to be his wife, the stranger being a man!



COWBOYS & ANGELS

Release Date: August 20, 2004

Written & directed by David Gleeson

Cast: Michael Legge, Allen Leech, and Amy Shiels.

Coming-of-age tale about a young man who ventures off to find success in the big city of Limerick, Ireland, where he moves in with an aspiring fashion design student and meets the girl of his dreams while learning some strong lessons about loyalty, trust, and friendship.



800 BULLETS (Ochocientas Balas)

Release Date: October 1, 2004

Directed by Álex de la Iglesia

Cast: Sancho García, Ángel de Andrés López & Carmen Maura.

Cult director Alex de la Iglesia (*Perdita Durango*) pays homage to Clint Eastwood and the spaghetti western in this action-packed comedy about a Western-themed tourist trap, named "Texas Hollywood" where the employees really think they are cowboys. When a lawyer (Carmen Maura) wants to tear the place down, tumbleweeds begin to fly as the cast of colorful characters protect their land.



BEAR CUB

Release Date: November 15, 2004

Directed by Miguel Albaladejo

Cast: José Luis García-Pérez, David Castillo, Arno Chevrier, Elvira Lindo, Maria Arias, Diana Cerezo, Josele Román and Empar Ferrer.

Warm-hearted comedy about a Spanish dentist who unexpectedly has to become a "parent" after his hippie sister encounters trouble in India. BEAR CUB was an Official Selection of the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival and an official selection of the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival.

