

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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The 2016 Miami Film Festival celebrates films from Spain

HIGHLIGHTS

Iconic pop singer Raphael will attend the opening night film, the comedy 'My Big Night'

Nine other features from Spain will make their U.S. premieres at the festival

Organizers also announced the festival's first computer-animation seminar





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My Big Night (Mi gran noche), a glitzy comedy about the backstage antics at a taping of a television New Year's Eve special, will open the 33rd Miami International Film Festival, to be held March 4-13, 2016.

The movie, directed by Spanish wildman Álex de la Iglesia (*The Last Circus, Witching and Bitching*), stars the iconic pop star Raphael as a fictionalized version of himself. The singer, a giant name in the Spanish music industry, will attend the festival screening at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts.

Nine other features from Spain will make their U.S. premieres at the festival:

- *Truman*, director Cesc Gay's comedy-drama about the friendship between two old pals, starring Ricardo Darín and Javier Cámara.
- *Ocho apellidos catalanes (Spanish Affair 2)*, Emilio Martínez Lázaro's sequel to the 2014 romantic comedy *Ocho apellidos vascos*, which became the highest-grossing Spanish film of all-time in Spain.
- *Palmeras en la nieve (Palm Trees in the Snow)*, a big-budget adaptation of Luz Gabás's novel of Spanish Guinea in Central Africa.

- *El rey de La Habana* (*The King of Havana*), director Agustí Villaronga's adaptation of the scabrous novel by Pedro Juan Gutierrez about the sexual escapades of a young man after he is released from juvenile prison.
- *El apostate* (*The Apostate*), the winner of the festival's 2015 post-production Encuentros prize sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, an eccentric comedy about a young Spaniard seeking to remove the official Catholic status from his birth records.
- *La novia* (*The Bride*), a new adaption of Federico García Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, directed by Paula Ortiz.
- *A cambio de nada* (*Nothing in Exchange*), a comedy about four strangers who form a makeshift family, written and directed by the popular Spanish actor Daniel Guzmán.
- *Embarazados* (*We Are Pregnant*), a romantic comedy about a couple trying to conceive, directed by Juana Macías.
- *My Bakery in Brooklyn*, the story of two inseparable cousins who inherit their aunt's Boulangerie, directed by Spanish filmmaker Gustavo Ron.

Other movies from Spain to screen at the festival include Julio Medem's *Ma Ma*, starring Penelope Cruz as a woman recovering from a tragedy; *Happy 140*, about a group of friends who gather to celebrate the 40th birthday of their mutual pal (Maribel Verdu); and *Anacleto: Agente secreto* (*Spy Time*), a live-action adaptation of the popular Spanish comic strip.

Organizers also announced a seminar, "From Doodles to Pixels," about computer animation to be held at the new Miami Animation and Gaming International Complex at the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College, which presents the Miami International Film Festival.

The complete festival lineup will be announced in January. Advance ticket packages, plus tickets for the opening night gala, are now available at www.miamifilmfestival.com or by calling 1-844-565-6433.