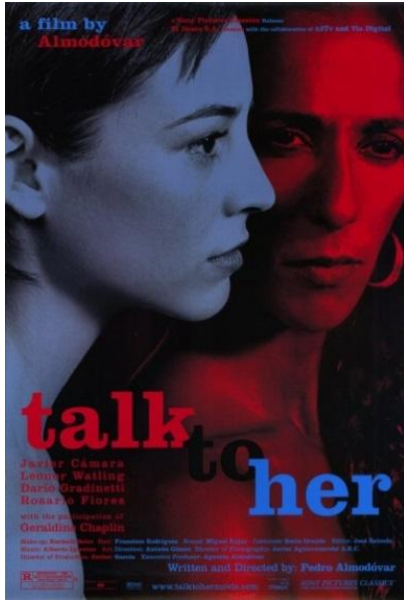


Mark Whelan's Movie Picks

Talk To Her (2002) Director: Pedro Almodóvar. 114m Rated R



Following his exceptional (and Academy Award winning) **All About My Mother** (1999) the ever aspiring Pedro Almodóvar has written and directed his finest feature film: **Talk To Her**.

A mature, contemporary drama--set amid sumptuous Spanish locals--of two comatose women and the men who care for them, **Talk To Her** incorporates all the panache and eccentricities attributed to Almodóvar, augmented by a deeply felt and engaging tale of love, loss, and healing (which earned its director an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay). Almodóvar spiritedly observes the capricious splendor and disturbingly opaque facets of humanity while offering tailor-made roles for his gifted ensemble.

Talk To Her is difficult to define or pigeonhole. It is a rare picture that contests as much as entertains. Like a great novel frivolously unfolding each alluring tier page by page, the conditions adjacent to its central character (played beautifully by Dario Grandinetti) are met with spontaneity, wonder and personal discovery. Grandinetti is coordinated by Javier Cámara (an Almodóvar veteran) who plays yin to his yang. Theirs is a complex yet clicking rapport as they view the world differently but share a bond in affection for the women in their lives.



Talk To Her is a masterful cinematic endeavor from a filmmaker at the peak of his powers and one of the best films of the 2000s.

--Mark Whelan, September 27th, 2014