



CANNES FILMFESTIVAL
OFFICIELLE SÉLECTION 2023
OUT OF COMPETITION

cinéart



STRANGE WAY OF LIFE

EEN FILM VAN **Almodóvar**

ETHAN HAWKE

PEDRO PASCAL

PERSMAP



CANNES FILMFESTIVAL
OFFICIELE SELECTIE 2023
OUT OF COMPETITION

ETHAN HAWKE PEDRO PASCAL

STRANGE WAY OF LIFE

EEN FILM VAN **Almodóvar**

Western, drama - 2023 - Spanje - 31 minuten
Bioscooprelease: 7 september 2023

Meer over de film:

[Cineart.nl/films/strange-way-of-life](https://www.cineart.nl/films/strange-way-of-life)

Persmaterialen:

[Cineart.nl/pers/strange-way-of-life](https://www.cineart.nl/pers/strange-way-of-life)

Distributie

Cinéart Nederland
Herengracht 328-III
1016 CE Amsterdam

Contact

Julia van Berlo
M: +31 6 83785238
julia@cineart.nl

www.cineart.nl

[f/cineartnederland](https://www.facebook.com/cineartnederland)

[t/cineartnl](https://www.twitter.com/cineartnl)

[y/cineartnl](https://www.youtube.com/cineartnl)

[i/cineart_nl](https://www.instagram.com/cineart_nl)

Synopsis

De nieuwe korte film van Pedro Almodóvar is een moderne Western met Pedro Pascal (GAME OF THRONES, THE LAST OF US) en Ethan Hawke (BOYHOOD, BEFORE-trilogie) in de hoofdrollen.

Silva (Pascal) heeft er 25 jaar over gedaan om eindelijk de woestijn te doorkruisen om zijn oude vriend Jake (Hawke) te bezoeken. Jake is inmiddels sheriff en staat op het punt de verdachte in een moordzaak in te rekenen. De mannen denken terug aan hun jonge jaren in Mexico. Toen maakten ze plannen voor de toekomst. Als duidelijk wordt waarom Silva juist nu de reis door de woestijn heeft gemaakt, is het de vraag of er nu wel een toekomst voor hen samen is.

STRANGE WAY OF LIFE ging in première tijdens het Filmfestival van Cannes. Na THE HUMAN VOICE met Tilda Swinton is dit Almodóvar's tweede Engelstalige en korte film. Het kostuumdesign was in handen van modehuis Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello, die als co-producent verbonden is aan de film.





Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Pedro Almodóvar - filmografie

2023	STRANGE WAY OF LIFE
2021	MADRES PARALELAS
2020	THE HUMAN VOICE (SHORT)
2019	DOLOR Y GLORIA
2016	JULIETA
2013	LOS AMANT
2011	LA PIEL QUE HABITO
2009	LOS ABRAZOS ROTOS
2006	VOLVER
2004	LA MALA EDUCACIÓN
2002	HABLE CON ELLA
1999	TODO SOBRE MI MADRE
1997	CARNE TRÉMULA
1995	LA FLOR DE MI SECRETO
1993	KIKA
1991	TACONES LEJANOS
1989	¡ÁTAME!
1988	MUJERES AL BORDE DE UN ATAQUE DE NERVIOS
1987	LA LEY DEL DESEO
1986	MATADOR
1984	¿QUÉ HE HECHO YO PARA MERECEER ESTO?
1983	ENTRE TENIEBLAS
1982	LABERINTO DE PASIONES
1980	PEPI, LUCI, BOM Y OTRAS CHICAS DEL MONTÓN
1978	FOLLE...FOLLE...FÓLLEME TIM!

Pedro Almodóvar - biografie

Op 24 september 1949 werd Pedro Almodóvar geboren in de Spaanse gemeenschap Castilla-La Mancha. Al vanaf jonge leeftijd was Almodóvar een vaste bezoeker van de dorpsbioscoop. Op zestienjarige leeftijd vertrekt hij naar Madrid met het idee te gaan studeren op de filmacademie. Aangekomen in Madrid blijkt echter dat Franco de filmacademie heeft laten sluiten. Ondanks deze teleurstelling besluit Almodóvar in deze periode alsnog te beginnen met het maken van films.

Hij maakt eerst vooral korte stomme films, die hij zelf inspreekt tijdens de vertoningen. Pas later gaat Almodóvar over tot het maken van speelfilms met daarin terugkerende thema's omtrent transseksualiteit, travestie, homoseksualiteit en drugsgebruik. Met zijn film MUJERES AL BORDE DE UN ATAQUE DE NERVIOS breekt hij door bij het grote publiek. De film wordt genomineerd voor een Oscar en wint diverse nationale en internationale prijzen. Voor TODO SOBRE MI MADRE sleept Almodóvar een oscar in de wacht, waarna hij ook in 2003 het felbegeerde beeldje mee naar huis mag nemen. Ditmaal voor het scenario van HABLE CON ELLA.

Almodóvar staat bekend om zijn herkenbare visuele stijl met felle kleuren en opvallende personages. Het was deze stijl die al in Almodóvars eerste film PEPI, LUCI, BOM Y OTRAS CHICAS DEL MOTION goed naar voren kwam. Daarnaast keren diverse actrices, zoals Penelope Cruz en Rossy de Palma regelmatig terug in Almodóvars films.

In 2019 presenteert Almodóvar zijn meest persoonlijke film met rollen voor Antonio Banderas en Penelope Cruz. DOLOR Y GLORIA ging in première op het Filmfestival van Cannes, waar Antonio Banderas de prijs voor Beste Acteur won. THE HUMAN VOICE is een kortfilm vrij gebaseerd op het toneelstuk van Jean Cocteau. De film is de eerste samenwerking met Tilda Swinton en opgenomen tijdens de Corona pandemie in 2020. In 2021 opende MADRES PARALELAS het filmfestival van Venetië en werd er geselecteerd voor de hoofdcompetitie. Actrice Penélope Cruz won er de prijs voor Beste Actrice.

Voor STRANGE WAY OF LIFE castte Almodóvar Hollywoodsterren Ethan Hawke en Pedro Pascal. Zijn tweede korte en Engelstalige film ging in première op het Cannes Filmfestival 2023.



Director's note

A man crosses the desert...

...that separates his ranch from the town of Bitter Creek on horseback. He is going to visit Sheriff Jake, a friend from his youth, when both worked as hired gunmen. The action takes place in 1910, and the two men are in their fifties. Silva (Pedro Pascal) is of Mexican origin, a solid guy, emotional, elusive, a cheat, if necessary, warm. It's been twenty-five years since he last saw Sheriff Jake (Ethan Hawke), blond, strict, cold, inscrutable, almost the opposite to Silva. That night, at the Sheriff's house, they eat a meat stew Jake has cooked, they drink, and they make love, all of it in abundance.

The next morning, Silva wants the party to continue, but he finds a stony Jake, who is nothing like the man from the night before. (This was the first thing I wrote, the sequences that follow that orgiastic night in which both characters confront their past and their present in totally different ways.)

This is the heart of the story:

the argument while they get dressed the following morning. In this argument, the ulterior motives are revealed (as well as the passion that they lived when they were younger, and that is still beating within them, even though Jake doesn't want to admit it once they are sober). Jake has to go after a murderer who, according to an eyewitness, was Silva's son. And Silva has to intercede for him, trying to convince Jake that his son is innocent and that he should stop searching for him. All this, the sheriff's duty as opposed to a father's grief, mixed with reproaches and declarations of love from two lovers who haven't seen each other in twenty-five years and who live their lives at opposite ends of the desert. These are the ten central minutes of the film, the first I wrote. I still didn't know what the story would be, or if there would even be a story, but my first intention was to give voice to these two middle-aged, queer men who traditionally have remained silent in a genre like the western. I was attracted by the idea of breaking that silence. *Brokeback Mountain* by Ang Lee is the closest Hollywood has come to telling a story about two men who love each other and talk about it, but the lovers in Ang Lee's film are shepherds, so I don't include the film in the western genre.

There are westerns with gay characters, like *Warlock* by Edward Dmytryk. The script abounds in data about the passionate relationship between its two protagonists, Anthony Quinn and Henry Fonda, but no one talks about it even though their relationship is one of the axes of the film. This turns Dmytryk's film into a strange western or one with a badly written script. The film is only understood if both of them are lovers, but that word is never mentioned.

Although I'm a great admirer of the genre, I never thought that I'd end up making a western. I greatly enjoyed this shoot, despite the unbearable temperatures of the hottest summer in our history. We filmed in a town built in Almeria for Sergio Leone as a set for his legendary dollar trilogy, with Clint Eastwood. (*The Good, The Bad, The Ugly*; *For a Few Dollars More* and *A Fistful of Dollars*). The passing of time, fifty years of it, has given authenticity to the place, today being dusty and old. The typical artifice of what had been a film set fifty years ago, built back then only weeks before shooting, had now disappeared.

It was also a thrilling experience to work with Ethan Hawke and Pedro Pascal, both extraordinary in their respective roles.

As for the décor, I have respected the rules of the genre without falling into any anachronistic temptation, except for the song at the beginning, with the voice of Caetano Veloso and the angelical face of Manu Ríos, which gives the film its title.

For the choice of paintings on the walls of the two most important sets, the interior of the sheriff's house and the ranch where Silva lives, I have turned to artists of the time. In Sheriff Jake's house there are several paintings by Maynard Dixon, one of the first artists, if not the first, to paint landscapes from the American West, with native Indians and cowboys. For me it has all been a discovery, his work possesses a coloring untypical of the time that brings it close to pop and at times to impressionism. There is also a portrait of the artist Lily Langtry, very famous at the start of the century, who actually made a silent film and whom Ava Gardner plays in *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean* along with Paul Newman. The other great artist who appears on the walls of the ranch is Georgia O'Keefe, the Mexican landscape that hangs over Silva's bed.

Saint Laurent by **Anthony Vaccarello** was in charge of the entire wardrobe. We took our inspiration not so much from the reality of the time but from cinema, how actors were dressed in westerns between 1900 and 1915. If anyone wonders about Pedro Pascal wearing a green jacket, I recommend watching *Bend of the River* by Anthony Mann, where James Stewart wears an identical green jacket. And I have a lot of respect for Anthony Mann and James Stewart.

We are also inspired by *Veracruz* (Robert Aldrich), specifically for the outfit worn by Silva's murderous son Joe. It is inspired by Burt Lancaster, all black.

And Sheriff Jake, he's in a suit, with a vest and bola tie, like almost all the sheriffs in the Westerns I have watched. Kirk Douglas is one of the models, whether playing a sheriff or a card player, *Gun Fight at the OK Corral* or in *Last Train from Gun Hill*, both by John Sturges. I have re-watched many westerns so as not to fall into anachronisms and the truth is that the male wardrobe has changed very little, the sheriff is always the most elegant, usually with a suit, waistcoat (the fabric of the waistcoat was the only thing that allowed you some fantasy, with shiny damasks), shirt and around the neck a bola tie.

The rest of the male characters always wear a scarf around their necks, in different colours and patterns, a checked shirt and a waistcoat. The dresses of the Mexican prostitutes are inspired by *El Dorado* (Howard Hawks). I have done my research with a multitude of westerns, especially Hawks, John Ford, John Sturges, Raoul Walsh, Anthony Mann, Peckinpah, Robert Aldrich, etc.

As for the narrative in general and the music, I have followed the classical canon. Despite the fact that in Spain we have a great tradition of spaghetti westerns, more than a hundred were filmed in the 60s and 70s. I have not been inspired by any of them and the composer Alberto Iglesias has avoided Ennio Morricone, who would have been the easiest reference.

Pedro Almodóvar

SAINT LAURENT BY ANTHONY VACCARELLO

With the debut of Saint Laurent Productions, a registered subsidiary of the house, Saint Laurent is proud to become the first brand fully in the business of producing films. The division, envisioned by creative director Anthony Vaccarello for Saint Laurent, is in line with Vaccarello's assured steering of the brand into the future, while echoing the cinematic breadth and nuances of his collections.

"I have always admired the women in Pedro's films, both strong and vulnerable. In Strange Way of Life his male characters have the same complexity."

Anthony Vaccarello



Cast

Jake	ETHAN HAWKE
Silva	PEDRO PASCAL
Carpenter	PEDRO CASABLANC
Singer	MANU RÍOS
Joe	GEORGE STEANE
Young Silva	JOSÉ CONDESSA
Young Jake	JASON FERNÁNDEZ
Conchita	SARA SÁLAMO
Calixta	OHIANA CUETO
Patricia	DANIELA MEDINA

Crew

SAINT LAURENT BY ANTHONY VACCARELLO PRESENTS AN EL DESEO PRODUCTION

Written and directed by	PEDRO ALMODÓVAR
Producer	AGUSTÍN ALMODÓVAR
Executive producer	ESTHER GARCÍA
Music	ALBERTO IGLESIAS
Director of Photography	JOSÉ LUIS ALCAINE AEC
Editing	TERESA FONT
Production Designer	ANTXON GÓMEZ
Costume Design	SAINT LAURENT BY ANTHONY VACCARELLO
Associate Producers	BÁRBARA PEIRÓ DIEGO PAJUELO
Associate Producers	SAINT LAURENT
Line producer	CÉSAR PARDIÑAS
Sound	SERGIO BÜRMAN
Sound Editing	ANNA HARRINGTON
Mix	MARC ORTS
Make-up Design	ANA LOZANO
Hair Design	NOÉ MONTES
Casting	EVA LEIRA - YOLANDA SERRANO

cinéart

STRANGE WAY OF LIFE

