

The 71st SEMINCI will screen 208 films, including 121 premieres, and will award Elvira Mínguez the Honorary Spike

- SEMINCI Night will play a central role in the collective tribute to José Luis Cienfuegos. Eight days of music in the centre of Valladolid will transform the evening programme following the screenings into a space for gathering and celebration throughout the festival
- The jury for the International Official Section will comprise Italian producer Francesca Andreoli, French composer Grégoire Hetzel, programmer and writer Dennis Lim, Spanish filmmaker Elena Manrique and Uruguayan-Spanish director Federico Veiroj
- On 28 October, the festival will present a screening of Andrzej Wajda's *Innocent Sorcerers*, with live music by the Albert Karch Quintet, a band from the young Polish jazz scene
- Advance sales of individual tickets and the 10-Film Pass for the 71st SEMINCI will begin on 16 October, both online and at the box office

Valladolid, 15 October 2026.—From 23 to 31 October, the Valladolid International Film Festival will present a programme of 208 films —71 short films and 137 feature films— including 121 premieres: 88 Spanish, 30 world premieres and three European premieres. Twenty-two feature films will compete for the Golden Spike in an edition that will open with *My Notes on Mars* by **Lili Horvát**, close with *Hombre al agua* by **Gael García Bernal**, and will centre its 71st edition on sound as a fundamental narrative and expressive tool in filmmaking. The Valladolid-born actress, director, screenwriter and writer **Elvira Mínguez** will receive one of the festival's Honorary Spike, whilst the festival will also place special emphasis on music and the memory of José Luis Cienfuegos, director of SEMINCI between 2023 and 2025.

The Mayor of Valladolid, **Jesús Julio Carnero**; the Councillor for Tourism, Events and City Branding, **Blanca Jiménez**; and the co-directors of SEMINCI, **Mariona Viader** and **Javier H. Estrada**, presented the new edition of the festival today at the Town Hall, at an event which also brought together institutional representatives, sponsors, partners and the media.

Elvira Mínguez, Honorary Spike for a career spanning acting and filmmaking

The 71st SEMINCI will award the Honorary Spike to **Elvira Mínguez** (Valladolid, 1965), one of the most acclaimed actresses in Spanish cinema, whose career spans more than three decades of working with national and international filmmakers and who has also built a significant career as a writer and director.

Mínguez made her film debut in Imanol Uribe's *Días contados*, a role for which she received her first Goya nomination for Best New Actress and the Ondas Award alongside Candela Peña and Ruth Gabriel. Since then, she has worked with directors such as John Malkovich, Steven Soderbergh, Paul McGuigan, Antonio Chavarrías and Asghar Farhadi. Among the awards she has received are the Goya for Best Supporting Actress for *Tapas*, two Silver Biznagas from the Málaga Film Festival and the Crystal Globe for Best Actress at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

Her most recent achievements include the Actors' Union Award for her performance in *La cena* by Manuel Gómez Pereira, and further nominations for the Goya and Feroz Awards. Alongside her work as an actress, Mínguez has been writing since 2006. Her short story *Hace tiempo pasó un forastero* was adapted for the screen and won an award at SEMINCI. In 2023, she published the novel *La sombra de la tierra*, the television adaptation of which she wrote and directed for

Atresplayer, marking her directorial debut. Her second novel, *La educación del monstruo*, won the 30th Primavera Novel Prize.

The Honorary Spike awarded to Elvira Mínguez joins the other honours already announced for this edition, including the award to be received by the Chilean filmmaker **Valeria Sarmiento**, who will present *Behind the Rain* out of competition in the Official Section – a film with which she has announced the end of her career – and the American sound engineer **Willie D. Burton**, production sound mixer on *The Odyssey*, an eight-time Oscar nominee and winner of two Oscars for *Bird* and *Dreamgirls*. The Academic Honourary Spike will be awarded to the **Master's in Creative Documentary at the UPF-Barcelona School of Management**, an educational programme that has combined learning with filmmaking for almost three decades and has produced 42 feature-length documentaries.

SEMINCI Night: music as a tribute to José Luis Cienfuegos

Music and the evenings spent together after the screenings were a hallmark of the festivals directed by José Luis Cienfuegos, from Gijón and Seville to Valladolid. This year, SEMINCI Night will hold a special place in the collective tribute that the 71st edition will pay to him. To this end, those who worked with him on the musical line-up for those festivals have joined forces with the SEMINCI team under the name **Northern Sur**, aiming to continue that spirit of togetherness and celebration over the course of eight nights.

From **24 to 31 October**, Bizarro and **El Desierto Rojo** will host the SEMINCI Night sessions, with the Berlín bar joining in on Saturday 24 October. The programme is organised in collaboration with Cervezas 1906 and Coca-Cola.

On Saturday 24th, the **Northern Sur** collective will kick off the programme with Bizarro DJs, Monkey Week DJs, Maribel & Sebastian and Ramón Isidoro, who will provide the music across the three venues. On Sunday 25th, **Mucho más que amigos** will bring together people very close to Cienfuegos: the illustrator Paco Alcázar, who designed the SEMINCI Nights poster, and the filmmaker Paco Campano, creator of the Seville Film Festival's viral adverts, will be DJing at El Desierto Rojo, whilst DJ Herminio Afonso will be performing at Bizarro.

On Monday 26th, **When a Staff Becomes a Dream Team** will introduce at El Desierto Rojo Basoa, a Seville-based duo comprising Chica Unicornio and Love Invader, and Lykkelau, a finalist in the Palausa Sonora 2025 competition. Melo Soho, resident DJ at the Soho bar in Gijón, will be performing at Bizarro.

On Tuesday 27th, **Not Just Cinema Brings Men to Life** will bring filmmakers Chema García Ibarra and Pablo Maqueda to El Desierto Rojo, introduced by Caro Nanni on Tiempo de Historia. Jugl4ria, the musical project by director Enrique García-Vázquez, will be DJing at Bizarro.

On Wednesday 28th, **Dance, Dance, You Bastards!** will be dedicated to soul music, with Marta Verano Fatal and Negroni DJ at El Desierto Rojo and Íñigo Munster, founder of Munster Records and Vampisoul, at Bizarro.

On Thursday 29th, **The Future Is Today** will bring together Patata On Stereo and Solo Santiago at El Desierto Rojo, whilst *El Nido Jarana will be at Bizarro. On Friday 30th, **Musicians on the Turntables** will feature Miqui Puig and Señora X at El Desierto Rojo and El Meister —Javier Vielba, composer of the Seminci theme tune— at Bizarro.

On Saturday 31st, **3, 2, 1... Boom!** will bring SEMINCI Night to a close with Jorge Explosión at El Desierto Rojo and Igor Paskual, Loquillo's guitarist, at Bizarro.

The tribute to José Luis Cienfuegos will also be featured in cinemas throughout the nine days of the festival. Before the screenings, the audience will hear a selection of 71 songs curated by Maribel & Sebastian, linked to films and filmmakers whom Cienfuegos discovered, supported or helped to bring to prominence. It is a way of remembering his career through the music and cinema he shared with the public over the years.

The juries at the 71st SEMINCI

The Official Section will feature an international jury comprising five renowned professionals from different areas of the film industry. Italian producer **Francesca Andreoli**, who has worked on films by Alice Rohrwacher and Maura Delpero; French composer **Grégoire Hetzel**, who has composed over a hundred soundtracks and is a regular collaborator with filmmakers such as Arnaud Desplechin (*Un conte de Noël*), Mathieu Amalric (*La Chambre bleue*) and Catherine Corsini (*La Belle Saison*), and who also composed the score for Denis Villeneuve's *Incendies*; the programmer and writer **Dennis Lim**, artistic director of the New York Film Festival; the Spanish filmmaker and producer **Elena Manrique**, director of *The Party's Over*, winner of the Pilar Miró Award at the 69th SEMINCI Film Festival; and the Uruguayan-Spanish filmmaker **Federico Veiroj**, winner of the Time of History Grand Prize at the last edition for *Face to Face*, will decide the winners of the main competition.

Meeting Point jury will comprise Spanish filmmaker **Gabriel Azorín**, director of *Anoche conquisté Tebas*, winner of the FUNDOS Award at the 70th SEMINCI; Mexican programmer **Maximiliano Cruz**, currently artistic director of FICUNAM; and Portuguese filmmaker **Leonor Noivo**, co-founder of Terratrema Films and director of *Bulakna*, winner of the Alchemies Grand Prize at last year's festival. In the Time of History section, Spanish filmmaker, lecturer and researcher **Alejandro Alvarado Jódar**; Portuguese programmer **Cíntia Gil**; and Romanian director **Vlad Petri** will judge the films in the section. Alvarado co-directed *Caja de resistencia* with Concha Barquero, which won the DOC Award at SEMINCI. Spain at the 69th edition, whilst Petri won first prize in the Time of History section with *Between Revolutions*.

Entries for Alchemies will be judged by the director and artist **Anna Cornudella Castro**, whose debut feature film, *The Human Hibernation*, was screened at the Berlinale and SEMINCI; **Cyril Neyrat**, film critic and artistic director of FIDMarseille; and **Aura Satz**, a London-based artist who works with film, sound, performance and sculpture.

The Short Film jury comprises Polish programmer **Aleksandra Ławska**, associated with the Short Waves festival; Iranian-Dutch filmmaker **Sara Rajaei**, whose short film *City of Poets* won the EFA Award for Best European Short Film; and **Jorge Rivero**, director of the Aguilar de Campoo Festival, who has extensive experience in the programming and promotion of short films.

The FIPRESCI Prize, awarded by the International Federation of Film Critics, will go to the film chosen by journalists and critics **Laura Blanco** and **Bettina Hirsch**, and the Egyptian critic, programmer, producer and script editor **Rasha Hosny**, a programmer at the Cairo Film Festival and a contributor to Tribeca.

The Green Spike Award, dedicated to cinema committed to sustainability, will have a jury comprising researcher **Íñigo Capellán Pérez**, a member of Ecologistas en Acción; **Sara Delgado Domínguez**, an environmental scientist and physiotherapist who develops projects in the

circular economy and environmental conservation; and **Aketza Sánchez**, founder of Goazenup, an association that promotes marine therapies and environmental awareness.

The Rainbow Spike Award, which recognises films featuring LGBTIQA+ content, will be judged by **Sofía Corral Alonso**, sound engineer and filmmaker; **Aritz Dendategi**, a member of the Sebastiane Award committee; and **Daniel Hernández Hompanera**, filmmaker and contributor to the Cinhome film festival. The Pilar Miró Award for Best New Spanish Director will be judged by cultural journalist **Lucas Barquero**, film critic **Fernando Bernal** and journalist **María Jueas**, who specialises in films and TV series.

The Youth Jury will comprise nine participants, divided between the Official Selection, Punto de Encuentro and Short Films: **María Cabo**, **Pablo Castillo** and **Rodrigo Minguela**; **Alejandro de Miguel**, **Samuel Díaz** and **Lucía Rey**; and **Laura Cardeli**, **Judith Castañeda** and **Pablo Simón**, respectively.

A Polish cinema classic with live music

To mark the centenary of the birth of **Andrzej Wajda**, one of the key figures in Polish cinema and its cinematic renewal, Seminci will screen the restored version of *The Innocent Sorcerers* (1960), with live music, on 28 October at the Broadway Cinemas. **Krzysztof Komeda's** soundtrack will be brought to life by the **Albert Karch Quintet**, a group from the young Polish jazz scene comprising drummer and arranger **Albert Karch**, alto saxophonist **Miłosz Pieczonka**, trumpeter **Ignacy Wendt**, pianist **Stanisław Pańta** and double bassist **Piotr Domagalski**, who will offer a fresh interpretation of a score that is fundamental to the rhythm and atmosphere of the film.

Winner of the Golden Spike at the 21st edition of the festival for *The Promised Land*, Wajda portrays post-war urban youth in *The Innocent Sorcerers* through the encounter between a man and a woman, whose interplay of cynicism and flirtation brings to the fore issues such as love, morality and freedom. This event, which brings a classic of Polish cinema to audiences through a live sound experience, is organised in partnership with the Polish Institute in Madrid and the Documentary and Feature Film Studio (WFDiF), with the support of Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and in collaboration with the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and the Polish National Foundation.

Tickets on sale from Friday 16 October

Sales of individual tickets and the 10-Session Pass (35 euros, valid for all screenings except those at the Calderón Theatre) will begin online and at the box office on Friday 16 October at 11.00 am. The pass entitles the holder to ten tickets – either ten single tickets or five pairs – which can be validated online or in person.

Tickets will be on sale in person at Espacio SEMINCI on 16 and 17 October, from 11.00 to 20.00; at the Calderón Theatre, from 18 to 22 October, from 11.00 to 14.00 and from 17.00 to 20.00; and at the box offices of the Calderón Theatre and Broadway Cinemas during the festival, from 23 to 31 October, during their respective opening hours. As exceptions, the Calderón box office will be open on 23 and 31 October, coinciding with the opening and closing ceremonies, from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm, and the Broadway Cinemas box office will begin ticket sales on 23 October at 4.00 pm. Online ticket sales will remain open until the end of the festival.