

Roma (2018)

Director: Alfonso Cuarón

Brian Chávez
Linda Heredia
Nery González
Mark Carman

SPAN 325 - Hispanic Cinema



Alfonso Cuarón

November 28, 1961

Mexico City, Mexico

Single

Three children



- ▶ Director, producer, writer, and editor with a net worth of 50 million.
- ▶ Studied Philosophy at the National Autonomous University
- ▶ Studied filmmaking at Centro Universitario De Estudios Cinematográficos
 - ▶ He got expelled and worked in a museum, thinking he'd never have a chance
 - ▶ Old classmates asked him to work in "La Víspera (1982)", was his salvation.
- ▶ Best known for working on "Children of Men", "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban", "Y tu mamá también", "A Little Princess" and "Gravity".
- ▶ Nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won four.
- ▶ First Latin American director to receive Best Director award.
- ▶ On February 24, 2019 he won Best Director Academy Award for "Roma".

Social Context

- ▶ Roma District, Mexico City (1970s)
- ▶ Social classes
 - ▶ Middle class → The family
 - ▶ Low class → Cleo & Adela
 - ▶ Indigenous
 - ▶ Labor exploitation
 - ▶ Lack of rights
- ▶ Cleo's role
 - ▶ Partially excluded



Cleo and the family. Source: [Indiwire](#)

Historical Context

- ▶ Defense of democracy
 - ▶ *El Halconazo* (1971)
 - ▶ 10,000 students protested
 - ▶ 120 were killed
 - ▶ The *Halcones* (falcons), a paramilitary group
 - ▶ Organized by the Mexican government
 - ▶ Trained by the International Police Academy (IPA) of Washington
 - ▶ Fermín caused the death of his own daughter.
- ▶ Student oppression in Mexico
 - ▶ Tlatelolco (1968)
 - ▶ Ayotzinapa (2015)



Student cries the death of a friend during the protest. In the back, Cleo, Teresa and the driver going to the hospital due to the possible loss of Cleo's baby. Source: moreliafilmfest.com

Protagonists

- ▶ Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio): a young domestic worker for a middle-class family in Mexico City.
- ▶ Sra. Sofía (Marina de Tavira): the mother of the family



Plot

- ▶ Chronological order
- ▶ Cleo is one of two domestic workers
 - pregnant
 - personal issues unspoken of (priority the family)
- ▶ Conflicts
 - lack of resources for a domestic worker (lower class)
 - Dr. Antonio leaves his family behind
- ▶ Real life experiences or obstacles shared on
 - the absence of the father and Cleo's baby father
 - financial issues
 - disillusion in love

Aesthetic Approach

- ▶ Masterstroke masterpiece
 - ▶ Monochromatic innovation

Neo Realistic

- ▶ Memory
 - ▶ Pristine imagery of large-format black-and-white digital photography.

Dialogue limited Focus on digital storytelling



Roma (2018)



Interpretation

- ▶ Focus on Cleo's day to day nanny roles
 - appreciated for her work(within the family)
 - Reality in society places her in another level
- ▶ Changing of scenery
 - protests
 - medical care
 - water distribution
- ▶ Internal problems (family and Cleo)
 - disillusion in love
 - financial problems

“Roma”, The Conclusion

- A Latin masterpiece film of the life of Alfonso Cuarón;
 - Filled with personal and social events.
 - Is a portrait of emotions, intimacy and sensitivity.
 - Based on historical context.
- Roma had 20 major nominations in 2019, winning 9 awards
 - Roma won 3 Academy Awards.
 - Best Director, Cinematography, and Foreign Language

References

Hernández, Alejandro. “Cosas que quizá no sepa de la película ‘Roma.’” *The Conversation*. January 13, 2019. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/cosas-que-quiza-no-sepa-de-la-pelicula-roma-109736>

Imaginario, Andrea. “Película Roma de Alfonso Cuarón.” *Cultura Genial*. Retrieved from <https://www.culturagenial.com/es/pelicula-roma-de-alfonso-cuaron/>