



THE MOTIVE (El Autor), thought-provoking comedy from Manuel Martín Cuenca ("Cannibal"), has world premiere Special Presentation at TIFF Sept. 9th

Searching for literary inspiration, an aspiring novelist stuck in a dead-end job as a notary in Seville, insinuates himself into the lives of his apartment-dwelling neighbours and attempts to instigate drama, in this comedic, thought-provoking, and self-aware meditation on art and authorial intent.

TIFF SCREENINGS

- Press & Industry: Friday, Sept. 8th, at 6:30PM - Scotiabank 8
- **Special Presentation: Saturday, Sept. 9th at 6:00PM - Scotiabank 1**
- Public 2: Monday, Sept. 11th at 1:45PM - Scotiabank 3
- Press & Industry 2: Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 11:15AM - Scotiabank 11
- Public 3: Friday, Sept. 15th at 9:15PM - Scotiabank 4

TRAILER LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWAs26OCovg>

RUNNING TIME: 112 minutes

Spanish (with English subtitles)



Álvaro (Javier Gutiérrez) dreams of being a writer, a true artist, not a hack like his bestselling-author wife, Amanda (María León). When he catches her cheating on him right outside their home, Álvaro decides to leave Amanda and quit his boring job as a notary clerk so he can dedicate his life to the written word.

But the blank page staring at him from the desk of his new Seville apartment is daunting. How does one reach the

sublimity of high literature while suffering from writer's block? Enlisting the help of his writing professor (Antonio de la Torre) and the love of his building's gossipy doorwoman (Adelfa Calvo), Álvaro begins to insinuate himself into the lives of his neighbours: the Mexican immigrant family next door and the chess-playing, Franco-loving septuagenarian upstairs. As he pulls strings and instigates drama in the lives of those around him, Álvaro becomes the butt of his own joke.

The latest feature from Manuel Martín Cuenca, whose diverse body of work has continually explored the dark side of human motivation, THE MOTIVE is a brilliantly scripted, funny, thought-provoking, and self-aware exposé on art and authorial intent.

Drawing from Javier Cercas' novel *The Motive*, Martín Cuenca ruminates on the abstract notion of talent and the raw determination that drives so many creators — sometimes to their own downfall.

THE MOTIVE is produced by Spain's Icónica, LaZona and La Loma Blanca P.C. Filmax is handling international sales and will also release the film in Spain on November 17th. Following TIFF, THE MOTIVE will screen in the main competition berth at San Sebastian. News about releases in other territories will be available soon.

Manuel Martín Cuenca was born in Almería, Andalucía, Spain. His directorial credits include *The Cuban Game* (01) and *The Weakness of the Bolshevik* (03) as well as *Half of Oscar* (10) and *Cannibal* (13), both of which premiered at the Festival. *The Motive* (17) is his latest feature.

The director, Manuel Martín Cuenca, and actors Javier Gutiérrez and Adriana Paz are available for interviews in Toronto on September 9 and 10th.