

Even the Rain

Cert 15 Spain/Mexico 2010 102 mins

Crew

Director	Icía Bollaín
Screenplay	Paul Laverty
Cinematography	Alex Catalán
Film Editing	Ángel Hernández Zoido
Original Music	Alberto Iglesias

Cast

Luis Tosar	Costa
Gael García Bernal	Sebastián
Juan Carlos Aduviri	Daniel/Atuey
Karra Elejalde	Antón/Colón
Raúl Arévalo	Juan/Montesinos

Synopsis

Bolivia, 2000. A film crew arrives in Cochabamba to shoot an authentic drama about the arrival of Columbus in Latin America .

Idealist director Sebastian decides to cast Daniel, a local native Bolivian, in the key role of Atuey, the Taíno chief who led a rebellion against the Europeans.

But Bolivia is in political turmoil over the proposed privatisation of the water supply, and the film's production quickly runs into difficulties when Daniel is arrested because of his part in the protest campaign.

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- The film won the Panorama Audience Award at the 2011 Berlin Film Festival, and received 13 Goya Award Nominations (winning 4 of them). It was Spain's Official Entry for the 2011 Academy Awards



Reviews

The personal and the political are perfectly balanced and blended in *Even the Rain*, a thematically rich and visually impressive drama that was one of the standout treats of this year's Viva! Spanish and Latin American film festival in Manchester.

Directed by Icíar Bollaín and scripted by regular Ken Loach collaborator Paul Laverty, this follows the (mis)fortunes of a film crew arriving in Bolivia, where they plan to shoot an anti-imperialist drama about Columbus's exploitation of the New World.

.....Nodding its head toward sources as diverse as Fellini (the image of a huge wooden crucifix being surreally airlifted by helicopter) and Herzog (the ghosts of *Fitzcarraldo* and *Aguirre* are everywhere evident), Bollaín's engrossing, intelligent anti-epic is a real treat - emotionally engaging and thoroughly thought-provoking throughout.

Considering the failure of some recent English-language movies to showcase his talents (*A Little Bit of Heaven*, anyone?), this reminds us of the great screen presence that Gael García Bernal brought to *Amores Perros* and *The Motorcycle Diaries*, reconfirming his reputation as a terrifically versatile and charismatic performer.....be sure to catch this unsung gem, which is one of my favourite films of the year so far.

Mark Kermode, The Observer, August 2012

.....Laverty's thought provoking script is excellent, cleverly drawing three-way parallels between Columbus' exploitation of the Native Americans, Bolivia's shameful (and real-life) privatisation of its own water supply (even forbidding locals to collect their own rainwater) and the film crew's own exploitation of Bolivia's workers in the name of cheaper location costs and budgetary constraints.

Bollain keeps tight control of the material throughout, never allowing the obviously strong political material to become either too preachy or too on-the-nose, although a scene-within-a-scene sequence comes perilously close to speechifying. In addition, there's a palpable and genuinely unsettling sense of tension as events off-screen threaten to spiral out of control and the eventual riot scenes are extremely well handled, giving the film an almost documentary-like feel at times.

Impressively directed and superbly written, *Even the Rain* is an emotionally powerful drama with a thought-provoking script and terrific performances from its two leads. Recommended.

Matthew Turner, View London, May 2012