

Chester Film Society presents

The Beasts (As Bestas)

France/Spain 2022 | 2hr 18m | Cert 15

Director: Rodrigo Sorogoyen

Starring: Denis Ménochet, Marina Foï, Luis Zahera, Diego Anido

Synopsis

A French couple's new life farming in Spain is disrupted by hostility, intimidation, and escalating acts of aggression from a neighbouring local family in this brooding thriller about familial bonds and forgiveness. Considered one of the best Spanish movies of recent years, it's based on the true story of events that occurred in Galicia in 2010.

Critical acclaim

"The Beasts is a movie about fear and resentment, and about Brexit-style nationalist hatreds that exist in a not-exactly-united European Union... Its final act is a kind of coda: Here is where Foï's performance raises the movie and strengthens its steel core of anguish. The Beasts is a strange film in many ways... but it leaves a trail of unease in the mind." *The Guardian*

"Sorogoyen has found the year's best villain in longtime collaborator Zahera, who transforms himself into a hostile creature, glowering at Antoine and taunting him with insults... over a nerve-racking game of dominoes ... and every subsequent time their paths cross. Zahera's menacing body language, matched by an anxious string score and arm's-length camerawork — as if even DP Alejandro de Pablo is wary of getting too close — establishes a sense of dread so acute and pervasive it can be hard for audiences to breathe at times." *Variety*

"Antonie and Olga's life is a nightmare, and Alex de Pablo's sombre cinematography helps the

director Rodrigo Sorogoyen to illustrate their predicament as such. The outcome is a haunting tale of gratuitous hate and hostility that will stay with you for a long time."

DMovies

"There is, inevitably, a dash of *Straw Dogs* and *Deliverance* here, but Sorogoyen deftly steers the drama clear of exploitation cinema."

The Times

"Sorogoyen uses long, single-take scenes to capture the explosive buildup of tension; it's a breathlessly compelling device that showcases the phenomenal quality of the acting."

The Observer

Conclusion

A film based on a true story, which – like real life – does not go where you expect it to. A film of two halves, one dominated by the men, the other by the women. It speaks of brutality and forgiveness. It is obvious who the beasts of the title are.

Our next film:

Winners + Smile (Chester Animation Festival winning entry) showing Dec 7th

Christmas reception sponsored by Vain Hair & Beauty

7.30pm (doors open at 6.45pm)

At The Garret, Storyhouse – **mulled wine and soft drinks on arrival!**

www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it -----| -----I loved it ----- |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10