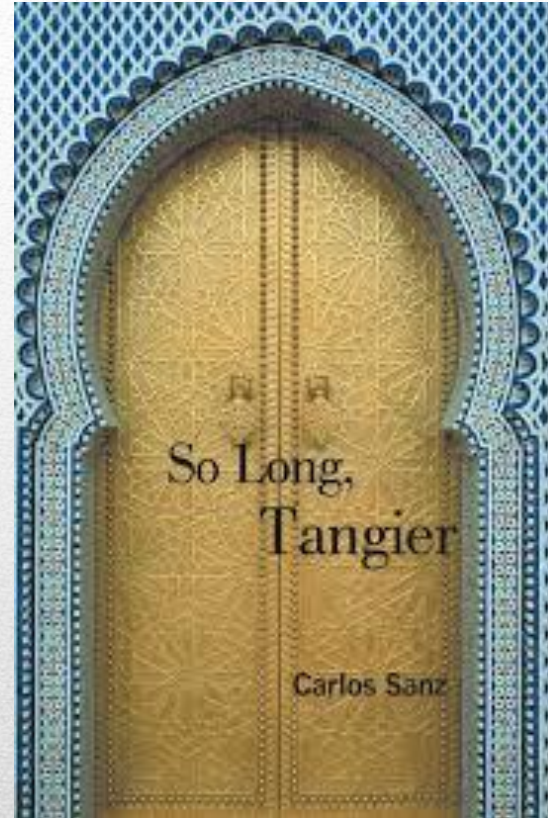
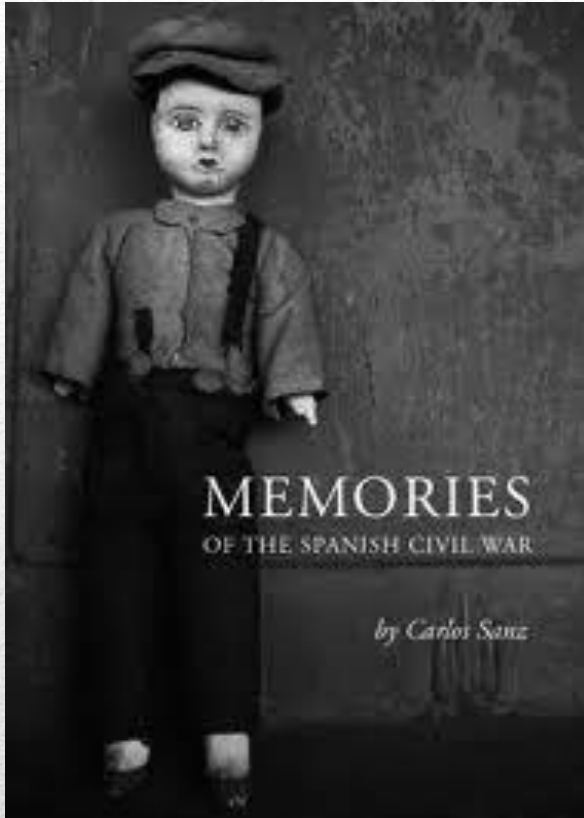




Film, Fantasy and Food

Class 5



Carlos Sanz's *Memories of the Spanish Civil War* (2006)

1969-Prince Juan Carlos named as political successor

1975-Franco dies

1976-Adolfo Suárez named Prime Minister

1977-Moncloa Pacts

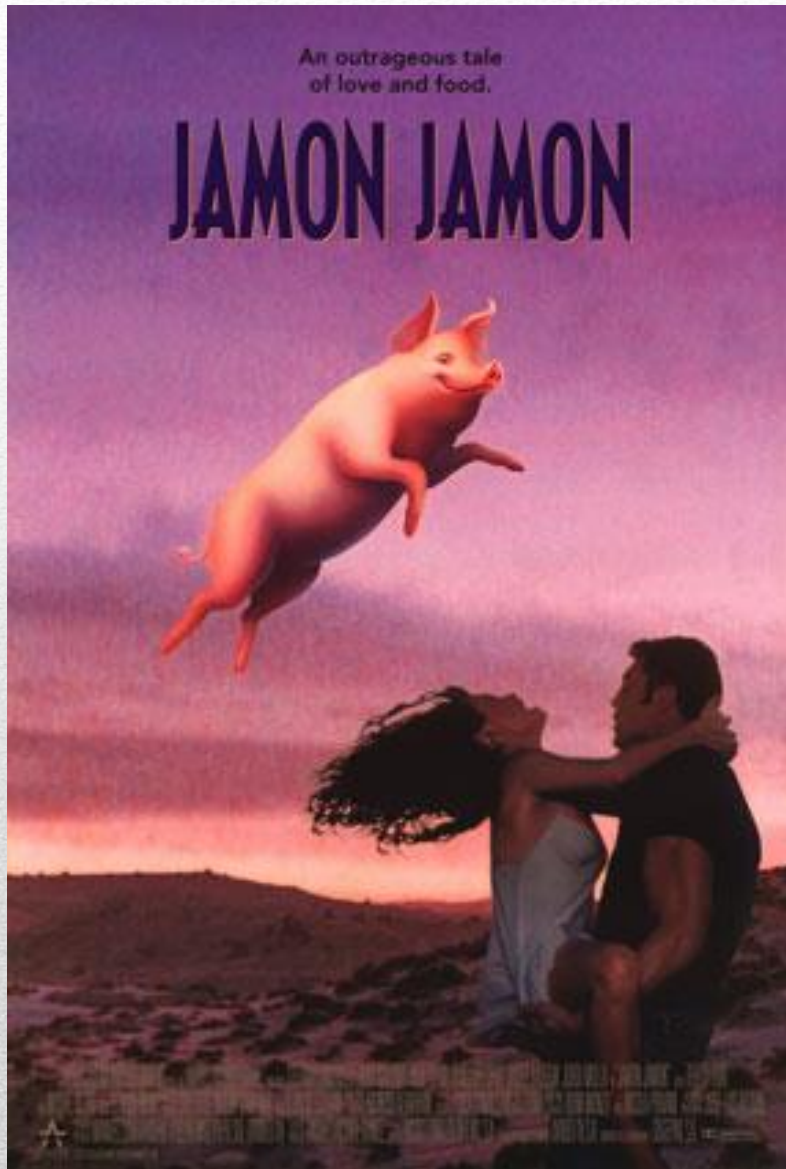
1982/1986-PSOE gets absolute majority in parliament

La Movida: countercultural movement in music, film, literature, graffiti, comics, art

Spanish Transition



***Sarita Montiel friendo unos huevos* by Costus
(Enrique Naya and José Carrero) and
Velázquez's *Vieja friendo huevos* (c1613)**



**Jamón Jamón
(1992) Director:
Bigas Luna**



***Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios* (1988) Directed and written by Pedro Almodóvar**



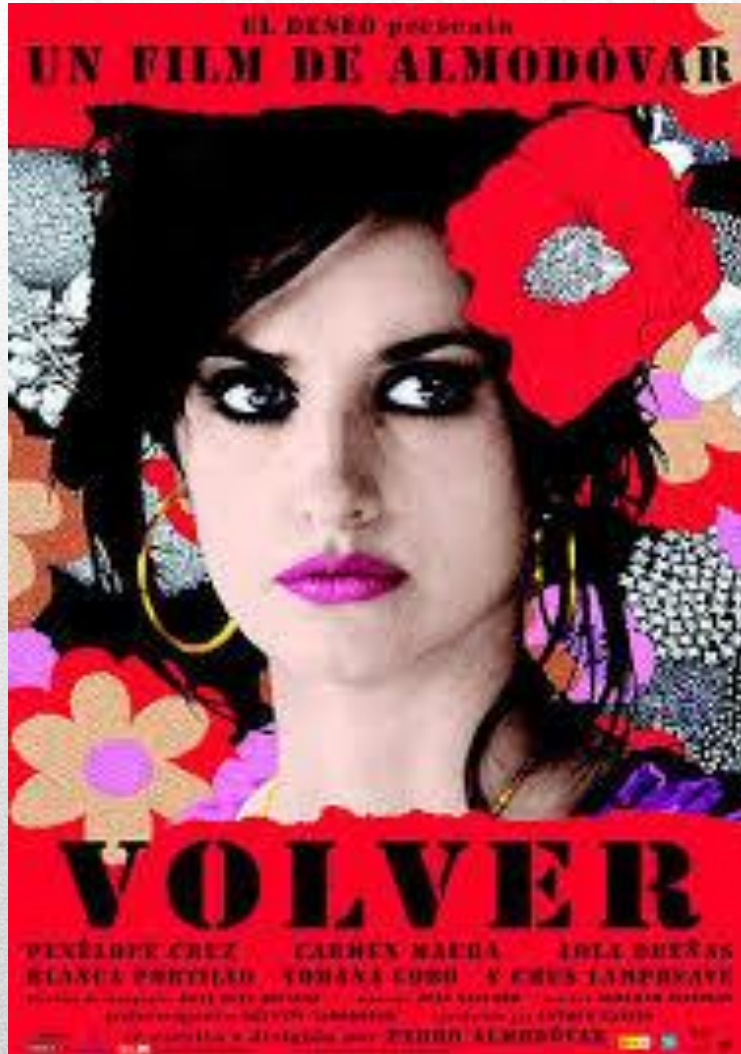
Montage of scenes from *Tacones Lejanos* (1991) set to Luz Casal's "Piensa en mí".

Q: On a visual note, there is something red in nearly every frame. Why?

A: Red is an instinctive choice for me. Of course, I love the colour of red very much. But I suppose I use it because it gives an intensity to the place where you use it. It's a very expressive colour and in Spain red also represents life, fire, death, blood, passion and carnations – which is the flower-symbol from Spain. But if you ask me a technical question, if you're filming a night scene, red will give a certain brightness to the scene. And this is why normally I always put a touch of red on my women in a night scene – a cardigan, a sweater or something. Also, this is the reason why all my cars are red in my movies. If you put a red car in the countryside, red enhances the natural colours.

Almodóvar on the color red

<http://www.close-upfilm.com/features/Interviews/pedroalmodovar.htm>



Volver (To Return) 2006 Direction and Screenplay by Pedro Almodóvar



Almodóvar filmed in a pueblo in Ciudad Real fifteen miles from the one he'd grown up in. "I've gone back to my roots," he said, "and to the memory of my mother. And: In La Mancha, the *patios* are essential. Most of life takes place in them."

1) How does Almodóvar set up the following themes in the opening sequence to *Volver* (2006)?

-a woman's world (contrasts in female and male characterization and spaces)

-urbanization (contrasts in Madrid v. Alcanfor de las Infantas)

-intermingling of life and death (particularly through dark humor)

2) What effect does the music in the opening sequence achieve?

3) What does Almodóvar want us to think of this small fictitious village of La Mancha v. the modern life Raimunda lives in Madrid? How does he achieve this technically?

4) How does our understanding of the scene change when only viewing and not listening to the film?

Activity



***Volver*: Opening Sequence**
