

Truman

Cert 15 Spain/Argentina 2015 110 mins

Crew

Director	Cesc Gay
Screenplay	Tomàs Aragay Cesc Gay
Cinematography	Andreu Rebés
Film Editing	Pablo Barbieri
Original music	Nico Cota Toti Soler

Cast

Ricardo Darín	Julián
Javier Cámara	Tomás
Troilo	Truman
Dolores Fonzi	Paula
Eduard Fernández	Luis
Àlex Brendemühl	Veterinario
José Luis Gómez	Productor

Synopsis

Madrid, the present. Julián, a successful actor, learns that he has terminal cancer. His childhood friend Tomás, now settled in Canada, unexpectedly flies in to spend a few days with him.

Despite the reason for their meeting after so many years, the two quickly settle into their old easy relationship, reliving their shared memories. Tomás tries to help Julián put his affairs in order - not the least of which is what to do about his beloved old dog Truman...



Booking Information

Distributor: StudioCanal
DVD bookings: via Filmbank
 0207 984 5957/8
 info@filmbank.co.uk
 www.filmbank.co.uk
Available: from 1st January



Reviews

Call it a comedy of melancholy, and you won't be far off the mark. *Truman*, Spanish filmmaker Cesc Gay's wise, wistful and well-observed film about two friends enjoying a final reunion in the shadow of impending death, is by turns amusing and affecting - and quite often both at once - as it focuses on a middle-aged actor's efforts to put his affairs in order before he faces the final curtain.

....Darín [as Julián] smoothly manoeuvres through a gauntlet of mood swings, offering only fleeting glimpses of the anxiety behind the determined front. Cámara's more low-key portrayal of Tomás is as apt and effective counterpoint, so that Tomás serves as sounding board and sympathetic onlooker (and, yes, audience surrogate) while at the same time registering his own emotional turmoil as he bids a long goodbye to a treasured friend.

Lenser Andreu Rebés gives Madrid - and Amsterdam - a warmly inviting, even romantic look, as though he were suggesting that, all things considered, some places are more attractive than others when you are choosing the locations for your grand finale.

Joe Leydon, Variety, April 2016

Cesc Gay's warm drama *Truman* proves that not all films about terminal cancer need to end in a flood of tears with a character bald and gasping for breath (although if that is more your cup of tea than *Freeheld* - which it competed against in San Sebastian - is the film for you). There may be the need for a hankie by the end but the tears are born from a deeper sense of impending loss rather than simple pity.

The casting of Argentinian and Spanish heavyweights Ricardo Darín and Javier Cámara in the lead roles is inspired, not just because of their box office draw in their respective countries ... but because of their ability to move between drama and comedy with a smoothness that stops us seeing the join. This, married to thoughtful and observant scripting from Gay and Tomàs Aragay, results in unexpected moments of bittersweet humour and pathos that feel organic rather than organised for our benefit.... 'Mainstream' is often treated like a dirty word, but Gay shows that it's possible to entertain a crowd and say something significant.

Amber Wilkinson, Eye for Film, October 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ Among many awards, the film won five Spanish *Goyas* in 2016 - Best Film, Best Director, Best Lead Actor, Best Supporting Actor and Best Screenplay
- ☆ Truman - real name Troilo - sadly died of natural causes a few months after shooting finished. One of his daughters accompanied Ricardo Darin on the red carpet at several award ceremonies.