

All About My Mother

Hello and welcome to the eighth of ten nights of the International Film Screening Series co-hosted by BOLD-C and the Digital Creations Club. *All About My Mother* is a landmark film in Spanish cinema directed by Pedro Almodóvar. Despite being released back in 1999, *All About My Mother* stands as a complex film that focuses on matters such as gender identity, homosexuality, faith, and so on. The film is about a grieving mother who loses her son in a car accident, and goes searching for his father, who has since undergone a gender transition and is known as Lola. It is a black-comedy drama that plays on sexual humor yet remains an incredibly progressive film that remains true in many ways today. The plot actually comes from an earlier film Almodóvar directed, *The Flower of My Secret*, where themes of loss are explored in detail. There are several characters that populate *All About My Mother*; including: Agrado, a sex worker with a lot of heart and dark humor, Rosa, a young nun who helps sex workers but is HIV positive, Huma Rojo, an actress the dead son admired, and the lover of Huma Rojo, Nina Cruz, who struggles with a drug addiction. *All About My Mother* is a fantastic film because it is the perfect balance of dark humor, with genuine heartfelt moments, as well as many scenes that are so raw and heartfelt that it is impossible not to fall in love with. A friend of mine told me last year that, when he first saw *All About My Mother* several decades ago, that that was *the* film that taught him not to judge anyone. I believe it; *All About My Mother* is so great because it is so *human*. Thank you for coming and I hope you enjoy the film.