



VENICE DAYS 2006  
EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL GOES TO SPANISH FILM  
*"Dark Blue Almost Black / Azul Oscuro Casi Negro"*

A jury made of 4 Europa Cinemas exhibitors (Marianne Piquet / France, Ted Chiaradia / Netherlands, Kalle Somnitz / Germany, Rita Stella / Italy) awarded the Label to the film:

*"Dark Blue Almost Black / Azul Oscuro Casi Negro"*  
Directed and written by Daniel Sánchez-Arèvalo (Spain)  
International Sales: Sogepaq International, <http://www.sogecine-sogepaq.com>  
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<http://www.azuloscurocasinegro.com>

This marks the third year that the Europa Cinemas Label has been awarded to the Best European film in the Giornate degli Autori/Venice Days at Venice.

The jury issued the following statement about the winning film:

"We were all very impressed indeed by the strength of the films selected this year for the Giornate degli Autori/Venice Days. It made our decision very hard, but *Dark Blue Almost Black's* highly original screenplay and direction, particularly impressive for a first time director, really struck us. It is a subtle and very human comedy, very well played, and achieved with a delightful light touch, which shows great respect for the characters. We believe that this film demonstrates the strength of European cinema and has the potential to succeed and captivate audiences not only in cinemas around Europe but also beyond."

The film will receive the invaluable support of extended theatrical exposure and additional promotion from the 1562 screens of the Europa Cinemas network. Technicolor will offer further support to the film by supplying five prints free of cost to encourage the widest possible distribution in Italy.

The Europa Cinemas Label is awarded in the framework of four major European events: Directors' Fortnight – Cannes, Giornate Degli Autori – Venice, Panorama – Berlin, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

Founded in 1992, the Europa Cinemas network now consists of a remarkable 1562 screens in 664 cinemas in 365 cities in 59 countries. Europa Cinemas' aim is to support the programming and visibility of European films outside their country of origin, and to foster initiatives aimed at encouraging younger audiences to develop their interest in European films and cultural diversity.

Previous 2006 winners of the Europa Cinemas Label:

Panorama - Berlin 2006

*Tough Enough / Knallhart* (Detlev Buck, Germany)

Directors' Fortnight – Cannes 2006

*12:08 East of Bucharest / A Fost sau n-a fost?* (Corneliu Porumboiu, Romania)

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2006

*Frozen City / Valkoinen kaupunki* (Aku Louhimies, Finland)

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