

# Interpretations of Cinema

Understanding Spanish culture through the lens of Biancanieves

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## STARTER QUESTION

How do these two promotional images of Snow White films differ?



# Facts about Blancanieves and context:

## ***Blancanieves* (2012)**



- Dir. Pablo Berger (*Torremolinos 73*, *Robot Dreams*)
- The timing of this film:
  - 200 anniversary of the Brothers Grimm's tale
  - 75 anniversary of the Disney film
  - *The Artist* (2011)
  - *Snow White & the Huntsman* (2012)
  - *Mirror Mirror* (2012)

# 1. Introduction – how much do we think we know about Spain?



When you think of Spanish culture what comes to mind?



Take 5 minutes with a friend to list **10 words** that you would use to describe Spain/Spanish culture

# Word cloud – Spain and Spanish culture

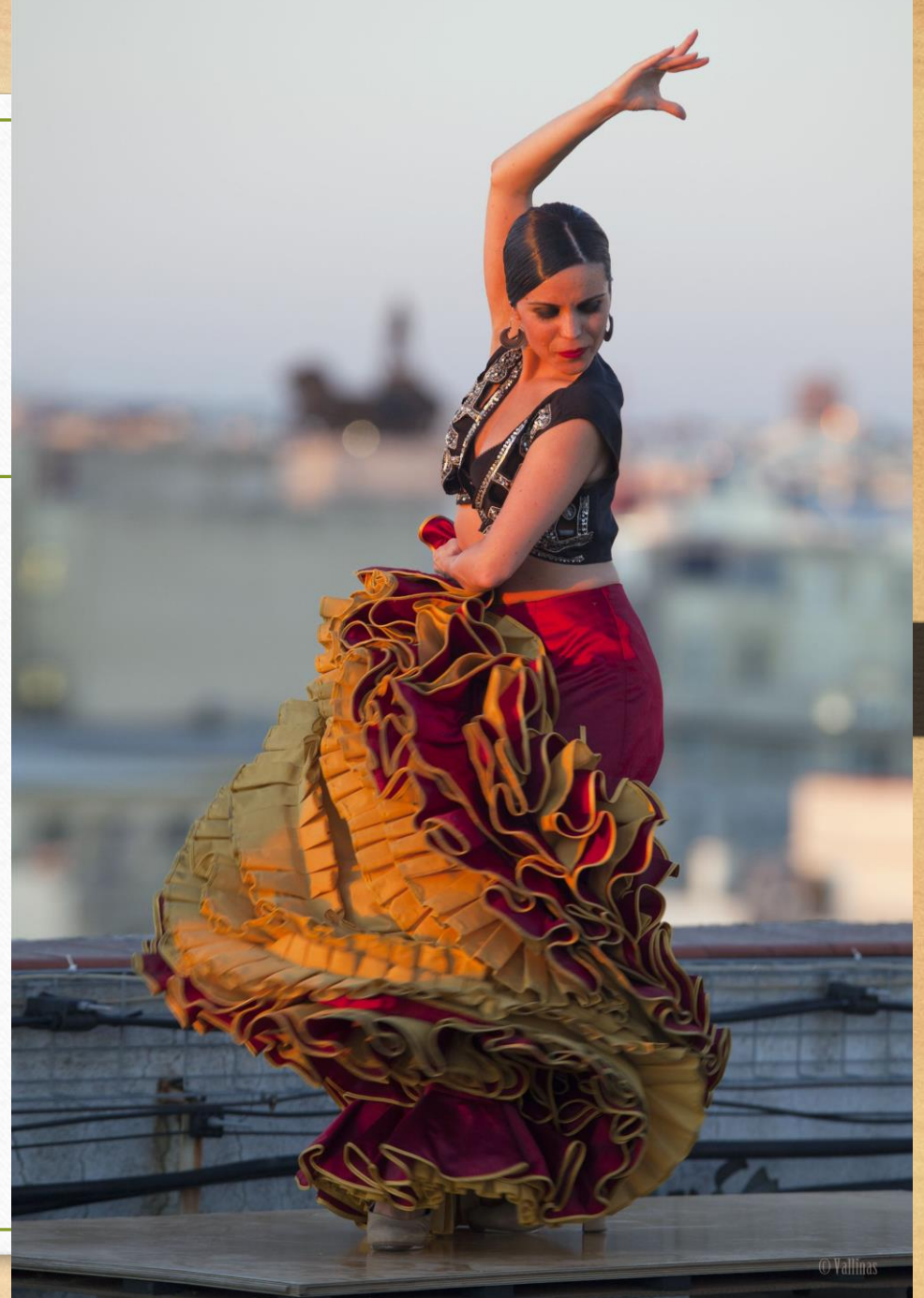
Are some of your words here?

What did you miss that you would now like to add?



Sagrada  
Bullfighting  
Tapas  
Paella  
Sangria  
culture  
Spanish  
Spain  
Gaudi  
Fiesta  
Picasso  
Matador  
Siesta  
Flamenco  
Alhambra  
Familia

Is Spanish culture particularly visual?





How did the film start?

It started with an invitation to a spectacle...

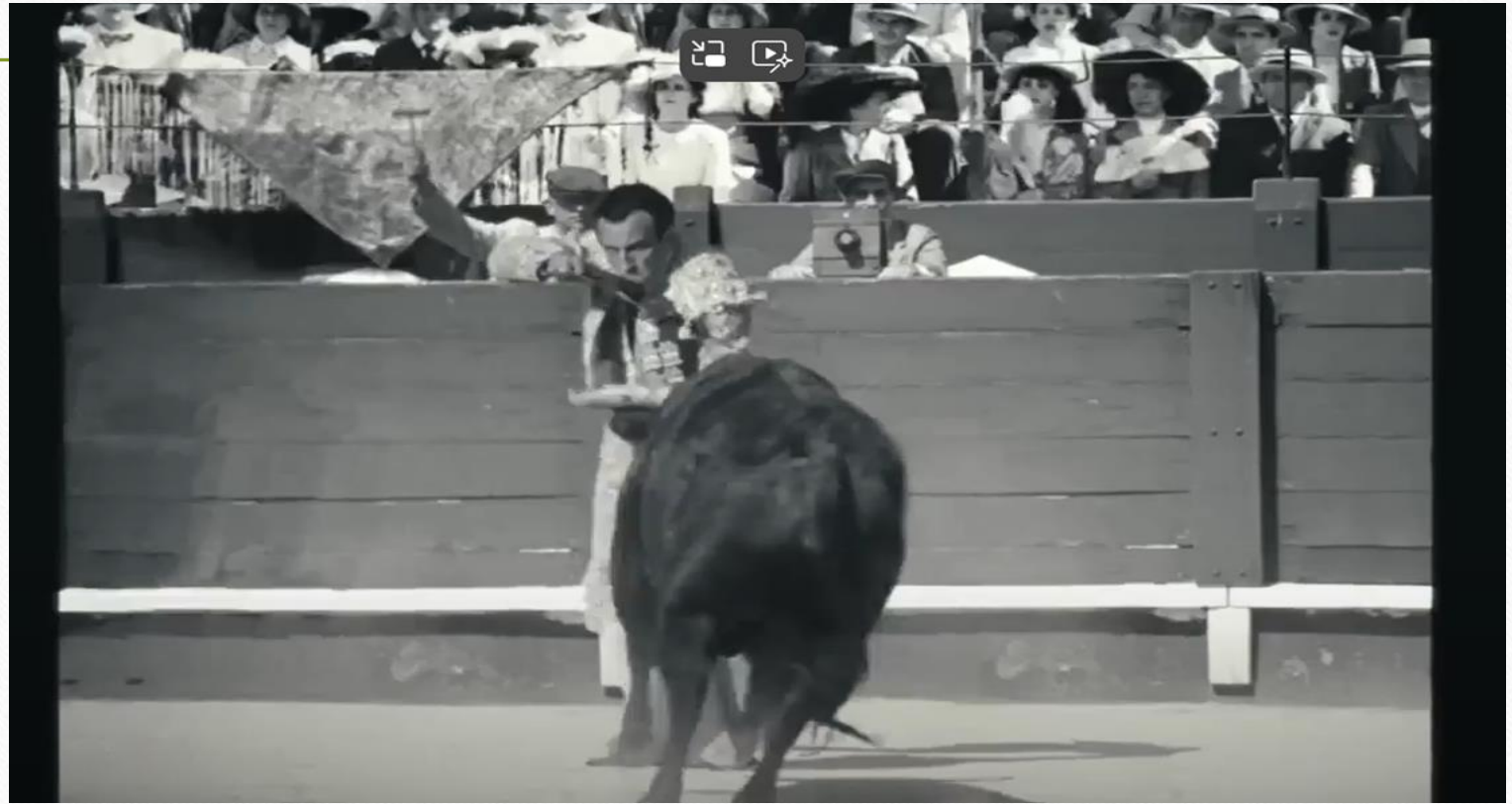
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Having now watched the film – what images do you consider to be quintessentially Spanish?



## 2. Exploring and understanding film



# What movie techniques did you notice the director using?

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Visual appearance: Black and white

Instead of dialogue – title cards (words on screen)

Music used to represent sounds

Acting that emphasizes facial and body expressions

Focus on eyes: close up shots of eyes, shooting through the end of binoculars

Double exposure – PEPE!!!



Which parts of  
the story did  
you expect?

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Which  
elements of the  
film surprised  
you?



### 3. Endings

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How did the film end and how would you have liked it to end?

How does this film end?



# Discuss with a friend alternate endings

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Looking at alternate endings allow us to deepen our understanding of the director/writers' choices.

- What would your ending change?
- Or how would your ending remain the same?

Homework Extension assignment: Write 1-2 pages of creative writing to end the story in a new way



Should darkness win?



# Summary

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In this lesson we have looked at:

1. Interpretations of Spanish culture
2. Story telling on film techniques
3. Our understanding of the end of the film and alternate endings

Any further discussion points?

Further films you might like to watch...

# Further film ideas – check parental permission

## Some Spanish film examples



*El hoyo/The Platform\**

*El método/The Method*

*La comunidad/Common  
Wealth*

*El buen patrón/The Good  
Boss\**



*Cerdita/Piggy\**

*Magical Girl\**

*Los cronocrímenes/Timecrimes*

*La casa de papel/Money Heist\**

