



Heartland Film Society presents

## The Orphanage (2007)

October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2009



Juan Antonio Bayona makes his directorial debut with this spine tingling exploration of psychological disintegration. Low on special effects and high on tension the complex script was written by Sergio Sánchez and the film was given extra gloss and budget through the production of Pan's Labyrinth director Guillermo del Toro.

**Plot** Laura (Belén Rueda) and Carlos (Fernando Cayo) have returned to the orphanage where Laura stayed as a child. Their adopted son Simon (Roger Príncipe) runs about the old place, playing with his imaginary pals, and the couple dream of the real friendships he will make when they take in more orphaned sick children. Then Simon makes a new imaginary pal and he asks mum if it's okay to bring him home. From then on Laura starts to lose control of the boundary between reality and imagination. Simon vanishes after a sinister visit from a social worker (Montserrat Carulla) and Laura finds herself unable to let go, certain that he is still alive.

The script comes to life with the help of Faura's haunting imagery and Valazquez's atmospheric score. But what makes THE ORPHANAGE an even greater achievement is its insistence on being more than just a superficial scare-fest. Bayona and Sanchez are more interested in deeper themes of memory, loss, and grief, establishing Laura as a mother who feels guilt over not being able to protect her child from outside forces. The result is a film that is both unsettling and moving.

**Length and certificate:** 105 minutes, 15      **Language:** Spanish

**Starring:** Belen Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Prince

**Director:** Juan Antonio Bayona    **Producer:** Guillermo del Toro

**Next film:** 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December    **La Vie en Rose**

**Don't forget**

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November, **Cinema in the Castle Film Festival**

For more information about our programme of films see

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