



'La Bola Negra' Triggers Bidding War Among Studios After Cannes Premiere

Description

After receiving a warm welcome and a 16-minute standing ovation at Cannes, Javier Ambrossi and Javier Calvo's film "La Bola Negra" ("The Black Ball") has triggered a competitive bidding war for its US rights. Companies such as A24, Mubi, and Netflix are among the interested bidders.

The premiere on Thursday marked the Cannes competition debut for the filmmaking duo known as Los Javis. They have gained a dedicated global following through their series "Veneno" and "La Mesías." "The Black Ball" is a queer epic that covers 85 years of Spanish history, inspired by an unfinished piece by the renowned poet and playwright Federico García Lorca. The film is in the running for both the Palme d'Or and the Queer Palm awards.

This is the second major bidding war at the festival this year; the first involved Jordan Firstman's film "Club Kid," which was acquired by A24 for \$17 million. A24's potential win would be surprising, as the company typically focuses on English-language films. Mubi has a stronger presence in non-English markets, while Netflix has a history of supporting local-language productions. Neon has also shown interest but has not confirmed a bid.

"The Black Ball" follows the lives of three gay men in three different eras: 1932, 1937, and 2017. The film explores themes of desire and generational legacy, with its title referencing a form of social exclusion. Notable cast members include Glenn Close and Miguel Bernardeau, alongside Guitarricadelafuente, who makes his film debut.

Ambrossi and Calvo co-wrote the screenplay with playwright Alberto Conejero. This film is the first project produced by Suma Content Films, the new division of Los Javis' production company. "The Black Ball" will be released in Spain on October 2 through Elastica Films, with international sales managed by Goodfellas.

Vocabulary List:

1. **ovation** //oʊ'veɪʃən// (noun): long, loud applause showing strong public approval
2. **bidding** //ˈbɪdɪŋ// (noun): offers made to buy something, often with money
3. **premiere** //prɪ'mɪr// (noun): first public show of a new film or play
4. **competitive** //kəm'petətɪv// (adjective): involving people or companies trying to win
5. **inspired** //ɪn'spaɪəd// (adjective): made after seeing someone else's idea or work
6. **queer** //kwɪr// (adjective): relating to LGBT people, identities, and culture



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the title of the film directed by Javier Ambrossi and Javier Calvo?
Option: La Bola Negra
Option: The Black Ball
Option: Veneno
Option: La Mesías
2. Which companies are interested in the US rights for 'La Bola Negra'?
Option: A24, Mubi, Netflix
Option: Goodfellas, Neon, Elastica Films
Option: La Mesías, Veneno, Club Kid
Option: Palme d'Or, Queer Palm, Suma Content Films
3. In which year will 'The Black Ball' be released in Spain?
Option: 2022
Option: 2023
Option: 2024
Option: October 2, 2023
4. What is the runtime of the standing ovation received by 'La Bola Negra' at Cannes?
Option: 10 minutes
Option: 15 minutes
Option: 16 minutes
Option: 20 minutes
5. What is the primary theme explored in 'The Black Ball'?
Option: Cultural heritage
Option: Social exclusion
Option: Generational legacy
Option: Political history
6. Who is NOT mentioned as a notable cast member in 'The Black Ball'?
Option: Glenn Close



- Option: Miguel Bernardeau
- Option: Alberto Conejero
- Option: Guitarricadela fuente

True-False

- 7. 'La Bola Negra' is based on a work by Federico García Lorca.
- 8. Ambrossi and Calvo are collectively known as Los Javis.
- 9. 'The Black Ball' is competing for the Palme d'Or award at Cannes.
- 10. A24 has primarily focused on acquiring non-English language films.
- 11. 'The Black Ball' explores themes of desire and exclusion.
- 12. The film 'Club Kid' was acquired by Netflix for \$17 million.

Gap-Fill

- 13. 'La Bola Negra' has triggered a bidding war for its US rights from companies such as A24, Mubi, and _____
- 14. Ambrossi and Calvo's film marks their competition debut at _____
- 15. The film 'The Black Ball' covers _____ years of Spanish history.
- 16. This is the second major bidding war at the festival; the first involved _____'s film 'Club Kid.'
- 17. 'The Black Ball' will be released in Spain on October 2 through _____ Films.
- 18. Ambrossi and Calvo co-wrote the screenplay with playwright _____ Conejero.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. La Bola Negra 2. A24, Mubi, Netflix 3. October 2, 2023 4. 16 minutes 5. Social exclusion 6. Alberto Conejero



True-False: 7. True 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. Netflix 14. Cannes 15. 85 16. Jordan Firstman 17. Elastica 18. Alberto

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What does the term 'takedown' refer to in the context of online content?

- Option: Remover of unauthorized content
- Option: A type of documentary
- Option: A competitive film
- Option: An inspired screenplay

2. What does 'unauthorised' imply when discussing creative works?

- Option: Properly licensed
- Option: Without legal permission
- Option: Approved by authorities
- Option: Highly competitive

3. Which of these best defines 'collaboration'?

- Option: Working alone
- Option: Teamwork towards a common goal
- Option: Avoiding partnerships
- Option: Independence in business

4. What typically leads to public 'outcry'?

- Option: Silent acceptance
- Option: Social media campaigns
- Option: Controversial actions or decisions
- Option: Celebration events

5. What does it mean to 'halt' an action?

- Option: To encourage further action
- Option: To stop or pause something
- Option: To increase the speed of the project
- Option: To finalize a deal

6. When something is described as 'accessible', it is considered?

- Option: Hard to find
- Option: Easy to reach or use



Option: Private and exclusive

Option: Outdated

7. What type of event typically ends with an 'ovation'?

Option: Quiet gatherings

Option: Public protests

Option: Art performances

Option: Corporate meetings

8. What is the significance of a 'premiere' in the film industry?

Option: The first showing of a film

Option: A private screening

Option: The final edits of a screenplay

Option: A bidding war for rights

9. Which of these indicates a 'competitive' environment?

Option: Everyone working collaboratively

Option: Strong rivalry for success

Option: Lack of interest

Option: General apathy

10. Being 'inspired' often leads one to?

Option: Stay stagnant

Option: Creative action

Option: Doubt oneself

Option: Fear change

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A 'biopic' is a film that depicts the life of a _____ person.

12. 'Misguided' decisions often stem from a lack of _____ or understanding.

13. A good 'screenplay' is crucial for a successful _____ film.

14. Approval must be _____ before using someone else's work.

15. 'Consent' is necessary when sharing others' _____ in media.

16. Her _____ years were crucial in developing her artistic style.



17. The company's _____ was attributed to poor management decisions.
18. The _____ of her speech was appreciated by the audience.
19. His public _____ was very different from his private life.
20. Journaling encourages _____ and self-reflection.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Employees filed several grievances against the management regarding unfair practices.
22. The allegations made against the celebrity sparked widespread media attention.
23. The documentary provided an in-depth look at climate change effects on the planet.
24. After a long hiatus, the singer made a remarkable comeback with a new album.
25. The artist aimed to convey deep emotions through her abstract paintings.
26. Feminism advocates for equal rights and opportunities for all genders.
27. He chose to be a househusband to support his wife's career while raising their children.
28. The film was poignant, leaving many viewers in tears by the end.
29. Queer literature challenges traditional narratives and embraces diverse perspectives.
30. The auction witnessed intense bidding for the rare painting by a famous artist.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Remover of unauthorized content 2. Without legal permission 3. Teamwork towards a common goal 4. Controversial actions or decisions 5. To stop or pause something 6. Easy to reach or use 7. Art performances 8. The first showing of a film 9. Strong rivalry for success 10. Creative action

Gap-Fill: 11. real 12. knowledge 13. feature 14. obtained 15. stories 16. formative 17. downfall 18. brevity 19. persona 20. introspection

Matching sentence: 1. grievances 2. allegations 3. documentary 4. comeback 5. convey 6. feminism 7. househusband 8. poignant 9. queer 10. bidding

CATEGORY



1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

POST TAG

1. C1
2. cannes debut
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