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# All About Almodóvar? Todo sobre mi madre on the London Stage



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### Abstract

In September 2007, a stage production of Pedro Almodóvar's film *Todo sobre mi madre* received its world premiere at the Old Vic theatre in London. It marked the first official adaptation of the director's work in English, and the first stage version of one of his films that he had actively endorsed. In this article, I examine how this Spanish film came to be staged in Britain and then move on to a critical reading of the production. In my reading, I place special emphasis on two particular aspects. Firstly, I consider whether the theatrical version succeeds in offering a vision of Almodóvar's film that functions effectively in an English sociolinguistic setting. Secondly, I analyse some of the processes by which the play transplants an already highly theatrical film to the stage.

En Septiembre 2007, tuvo lugar en el Old Vic de Londres el estreno mundial de una versión teatral de *Todo sobre mi madre*, la película de Pedro Almodóvar. Esta puesta en escena constituyó la primera adaptación oficial de la obra del director al inglés y también fue la primera vez que Almodóvar había apoyado activamente la versión teatral de una película suya. En este artículo, examino cómo esta obra española llegó a ser montada en el Reino Unido y ofrezco una lectura crítica de la producción. A través de mi lectura, hago hincapié en dos facetas concretas. En primer lugar, examino si esta versión teatral es capaz de ofrecer una visión de la película de Almodóvar que encaja dentro del ambiente sociolingüístico de Inglaterra. En segundo lugar, analizo algunos de los procesos por los cuales la obra teatral transplanta una película, ya en sí misma muy teatral, al escenario.

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