

## Gloria

Chile 2013

**Directed by**  
 Sebastián Lelio

**Screenplay by**  
 Sebastián Lelio  
 Gonzalo Maza

**Director of Photography**  
 Benjamía Echazarreta

110 mins

**Cast**  
 Pauline García  
*Gloria*  
 Sergio Hernández  
*Rodolfo*

 Diego Fontecilla  
*Pedro*

 Fabiola Zamora  
*Ana*

Don't let the title confuse you. Chilean director Sebastián Lelio's portrait of a divorcee in midlife meltdown, from a script by Gonzalo Maza, is not a Cassavetes remake. If it were it might be *A Woman Under the Influence* redone for post-marital passion, for a heroine of strong will and precipitate urges trying to take the "pause" out of menopause. In early scenes Gloria sings along happily to the car radio. Later, she is alone with her despair and the Adagietto from Mahler's Fifth. Santiago— a city pictured as if frozen in pumiced freefall — is a marvellous recurring backdrop, hinting at the millions of lives of which Gloria is merely one. There's a bigness of reach and vision throughout this movie, even when distilling itself, more than once, to a single shot of a single woman in the lonely clamour of a singles bar.

Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*

Pablo Larraín's *No* and Patricio Guzmán's *Nostalgia for the Light* were movies that offered fascinating glimpses of modern Chile, struggling with its past. Now this film by Sebastián Lelio gives us another perspective: it is Chile's foreign-language Oscar entry. Perhaps the love experienced by Gloria and Rodolfo is the real thing, better and more authentic than anything before — it's just that they didn't meet each other until now. But whatever the truth, the past will get in the way. Gloria and Rodolfo feel a guilty attachment to this past. They can't quite abandon it; perhaps all of Chile's Pinochet generation feels like this in other ways. Gloria is a sad, painful romantic story.

Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

Paulina García dominates this perceptive study of the mid-life struggle to prevent the future from being ensnared by the past. Sergio Hernández also impresses as the divorcé whose family ties prove ruinously binding. Capturing the tireless optimism of a woman seeking a partner yet unwilling to compromise, García makes an unlikely feminist icon. But Sebastián Lelio's depiction of her vulnerable vivacity leaves room for some sympathy for Hernández's weakness. García and sensitive direction by Lelio light up this delicate yet spiky drama.

David Parkinson, *Empire Magazine*

Last screening this season ...

### The Selfish Giant

Tue 12 May 2015 8:00pm

Dir: Clio Barnard

Contemporary fable about two teenage friends trying to make their fortune through scrap metal!

Paulina García deservedly won a Best Actress award at this year's Berlin Festival for her exuberant, warm-hearted performance as Gloria, a divorcee in late middle age who still has an extraordinary lust for life. Her vigour is matched by that of the director Sebastián Lelio, who makes what could have been just another ponderous family drama about a mid-life crisis very high spirited and enjoyable indeed.

Geoffrey McNab, *The Independent*



Voting for *Starred Up*: A-28 B-9 C-3 D-1 E-1 Attendance: 42 Rating: 86.9%