



I'M SO EXCITED!

4/5

Javier Cámara, Cecilia Roth, Lola Dueñas

Considering Pedro Almodóvar's last film, *The Skin I Live In*, was such a chilling house of horrors, the volte-face he pulls with this extravagantly camp airborne comedy couldn't be more startling. But also welcome, with our man Pedro snuggling up to his feisty, funny 80s work like a drowning man clinging to a life raft. The screwball set-up couldn't be simpler: when a Peninsula Airways flight develops engine trouble after take-off, the crew drugs the economy cabin to stop them complaining, leaving the pilots and business-class passengers (including Roth's dominatrix and Dueñas's virgin psychic) in the hands of three gay flight attendants (Cámara, Raúl Arévalo and Carlos Areces). They're a flamboyant, mescaline-ingesting Greek chorus whose salty chatter gives way to carnal antics and a choreographed routine of the titular disco smash. If Almodóvar feels like taking a break from dark materials, who are we to complain? Frothy fun, with cameos from Penélope Cruz and Antonio Banderas to boot.

Released on May 3

The ninth edition of this praiseworthy series delivers another eclectic, genre-bending collection of LGBT shorts from around the globe. It's always intriguing to see gay experiences filtered through the lens of other cultures: top marks in this batch goes to *Family Affair* from Brazil, which depicts a council-estate youth trying to fit in with his brother's friends; *It's Not a Cowboy Film*, a tale of French classmates chatting about *Brokeback Mountain* the morning after it has been shown on TV; and – our gold-star winner – the accomplished *Prora*, in which a French and German teen explore a vast, deserted holiday complex built by the Nazis.

Available now



BOYS ON FILM 9: YOUTH IN TROUBLE

3/5



3/5

BYZANTIUM

Gemma Arterton, Saoirse Ronan

You're forgiven if the diabolical *Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters* made you swear off Gemma Arterton for a while. But trust us, this vampire thriller is heaps more fun. It's also a century-hopping jumble, although the campy, vampy Arterton, dressed in sex-shop skimpiess, has a blast playing her role like a blood-sucking drag queen. The always winning Ronan brings the mope as Gemma's sulky daughter, and director Neil Jordan (*Interview with the Vampire*) revels in his return to gore.

Released on May 31



3/5

THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST

Riz Ahmed, Liev Schreiber, Kate Hudson

Mira Nair makes a decent fist of adapting Mohsin Hamid's best-seller, mostly capturing the complexity of a novel that slams extremism of any variety. Ahmed is superb as Changez, the Pakistani whose American dream (Wall Street job, rich artist girlfriend in the miscast Hudson) goes sour post-9/11 and who ends up a terror suspect back in modern-day Lahore, where he's now an Islamic studies lecturer. Changez's journey, told in flashback, is compelling; the CIA thriller Nair plasters across the top like sloppy cement, less so.

Released on May 10



2/5

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Steve Coogan, Anna Friel, Imogen Poots

British smut-mag pioneer Paul Raymond, whose London property empire saw him dubbed The King of Soho, gets a biopic that falls between two stools. On the one hand, director Michael Winterbottom and Coogan relish the happy hedonism of Raymond's self-made rise – drug-hoovering, mistresses. On the other, they attempt to deliver an emotional sting in Raymond's soft-hearted relationship with beloved daughter Debbie (Poots). Neither strand satisfies nor delivers.

In cinemas now