La Plaga (The Plague)

Neus Ballús
Spain
85 min
2013

Synopsis:

Ballús chose five people living on the outskirts of Barcelona and spent four years working with them and writing the script, in which the protagonists play themselves.

A hybrid of documentary and fiction, the film, shot during the hottest part of the summer, combines the stories of five people who work on the outskirts of Barcelona and whose paths cross every day: Iurie, a Moldavian wrestler who is waiting for Spanish papers and is working on the harvest with farmer Raül. Raül took over the farm from his parents. The situation is precarious, as an insect plague has infested his fields and is threatening to ruin the yield. Respiratory problems have forced his neighbour Maria, an almost 90-year-old farmer, to move into an old people's home. There she meets geriatric nurse Rosemarie from the Philippines, who has only been living in Spain for a short time and makes her way to work every day on foot. On a dirt road near the highway, Maribel sits on a wobbly garden chair, trying to earn a living for herself and her unemployed son as a prostitute.

Screenplay: Neus Ballús

Cast: Raül Molist, Maria Ros, Rosemarie Abella, Iurie Timbur, Maribel Martí

Cinematography by: Diego Dussuel
**Film editing:** Neus Ballús, Domi Parra

**Music:** David Crespo

**Producer:** Jordi Ambrós, Luciano Rigolini, Jordi Balló

**Production:** El Kinògraf, Televisió de Catalunya - TV3, Arte

[Official website](http://www.laplaga.cat/)

[Focus on La Plaga (The Plague)](https://luxprize.eu/news/focus-la-plaga-plague)

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[1] https://www.youtube.com/embed/OK89m2CpRiE?autoplay=1&amp;width=500&amp;height=300&amp;frame=true