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Festivals: Miami 2017

By Violet Lucca on March 27, 2017



Not everything I sampled in Miami bore a pallor of desperation: the undeniable high point of the opening weekend was a talk with Almodóvar muse Rossy de Palma. Held at the exquisite Olympia Theater—hands-down the most impressive movie palace I’ve ever been in, complete with pre-show organist—the event began with the video component of Jessica Mitrani’s *Travelling Lady*, a multimedia installation/performance work that features de Palma as the eponymous traveling lady, a perpetually transforming character inspired by Nellie Bly who both challenges and falls prey to society’s expectations of female behavior. Afterwards, the audience was treated to de Palma performing excerpts from her one-woman show at Milan’s famous Piccolo Teatro, which incorporated elements of Aragon-inspired surrealism and flamenco. Needless to say, it was a fantastic sight to behold. Although the ensuing Q&A didn’t elicit the most high-caliber audience responses (one fan just complimented her legs), it was extremely entertaining to watch de Palma impart wisdom to her adoring public. The event was also the perfect compliment to a talk by actor Sarah Gadon earlier in the day, which focused on the ways in which she had employed her knowledge of film and feminism to complicate or expand her roles—a reminder that there are many types of authorship.