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## Entertainment : Film & TV : Interviews

### Javier Beltrán

17 Jul 2009

**Imagine this. You're a little known Spanish actor trying to further your career internationally. You score the biggest lead role of your life playing one of Spain's literary and revolutionary heroes, Federico García Lorca, opposite an equally unknown English actor as your best friend Salvador Dalí in a film that will play all over the world gaining you instant recognition.**

Your 15 minutes has finally arrived and then – Bam! – in the time it takes to edit and release your pathway to super stardom your co-star has an unexpected mega hit called *Twilight* and the only person anyone is interested in talking about is **Robert bloody Pattinson**. Bummer.

Hollywood might not be banging on **Javier Beltrán's** door offering him a top slot in a multi-million dollar franchise about closeted vampires, but there are no signs he will end up typecast as a sexual tease...

Where Pattinson seems to be making a habit out of flaunting his charms in the faces of those who desire him then delivering little or no return, Beltrán is completely upfront about what he wants. Well, that's the case in *Little Ashes*. Beltrán's portrayal of famous gay poet and playwright García Lorca is about as upfront as you can be. He's a passionate artist and freedom fighter who's prepared to give up his life for social justice and the man he loves, Dalí, played by Pattinson.

Current Spanish heartthrobs are letting the side down. Antonio Banderas is still hot, but hasn't been seen on UK screens since *The Legend of Zorro* in 2005 and **Javier Bardem** spends too much time slobbering over **Penelope Cruz**. We simply can't wait any longer for Pedro Almodovar, resident top procurer of Latin lust objects, to 'discover' our next fix, so we've found one of our own and Rachaël Scott was lucky enough to chat with 25-year old Beltrán about his role as a Spanish icon and possibly the love of Dalí's life.

**Can you tell me a bit about yourself and your acting career so far?**

I'm from Barcelona. I'm 25. I studied humanities at university and drama at a school in Barcelona. I come from a happy family and I've been interested in acting from an early age. Now I'm working in a Spanish and Catalan version of *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, which has been a success in Barcelona and all around Spain.

**What was it that first attracted you to the script and your character?**

I personally think Phillipa (Goslett, writer) wrote a wonderful script, a passionate and very interesting story. It was a pleasure for me doing this character.

**"I didn't have any problems with the sex scenes. I wasn't nervous about 'playing gay'. I didn't have any reason to be nervous and I didn't need any special psychological preparation."**

**How aware of García Lorca, Dalí and Bunuel were you before making the film? Are you a fan of their works?**

They were genius. Of course I knew their works, I've always been amazed by them.

**Paul Morrison says in his director's statement: "Bunuel, García Lorca and Dalí were viscerally in revolt against the forces of bourgeois conformism...They allied the wild joy and exuberance of youth to the transformative role of the artist and they worked alongside the tremor of the political and social movements sweeping through Spain." What historical impact do you think García Lorca had?**

Lorca was one of the most important artists. He had a big field of influence. I think his work - poetry, plays, etc. - has a universal character that crosses frontiers. This way his influence is still alive.



**Dalí always denied a sexual relationship with García Lorca, but their friendship has long been the subject of speculation. Can you tell me what research you did into their friendship and for the role in general?**

I have read most of Lorca's poems and his character is based on this, but also on his relation with Dalí. I've

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read interviews of his friends and a couple of biographies.

There are a lot of books about Lorca and you don't know if you can believe what he says. So, I was very selective with my reading material.

**How would you describe García Lorca and Dalí's relationship? What conclusion did you come to about how they felt about each other and the ramifications of those feelings?**

In my opinion, the relationship between Lorca and Dalí was a deep friendship. They admired and respected each other.

**"Sometimes I'm a perfectionist and impatient, but I would describe myself as a normal boy. I love my profession."**

**Can you explain how you interpreted what was going on in the sex scene between García Lorca and Margarita while Dalí was watching?**

This scene was really difficult. Every character is feeling different emotions at the same time. It's a very painful and tragic moment for Dalí, Lorca and Magdalena. It was very intense for the actors and also for the director. But I think it was worth it.

**There were some very fetching photos of you in Out magazine recently. Did you enjoy doing the shoot?**

Yes, of course. They are very professional and I'm very happy with the result.

**Many actors would have turned down the role because of the film's gay content and having to take part in a sex scene with another man. Were you nervous about 'playing gay' and how did you prepare psychologically for the sex scenes?**

I didn't have any problems with the sex scenes. I wasn't nervous about 'playing gay'. I didn't have any reason to be nervous and I didn't need any special psychological preparation.

**Robert Pattinson has given the impression he found the sex scenes difficult and was quoted as saying in GQ magazine: "And here I am, with Javier, who plays García Lorca, doing an extremely hard-core sex scene, where I have a nervous breakdown afterward". Has he been taken out of context?**

I don't have any interest in talking about this sentence because I don't know the context of this interview and I don't know if these words are from Robert.

**You will be the envy of millions of teenage girls after kissing Robert Pattinson. What was it like?**

Hahahaha....

**When the film comes out you will be the object of desire for many gay men. How do you feel about that?**

Hahaha... I hope they like my performance as well.

**Are there any similarities between you and García Lorca?**

I don't know if there is any similarity between Lorca and me. I admire him, his poetry, how he enjoyed life, his point of view of the world, of the people, his passions.

**Little Ashes will be the first time most English-speaking people become aware of you. Are you keen to take on more English-speaking roles and break into Hollywood? Where would you like your career to go next?**

I just want to work, I still have lots of things to learn and I'm opened to all of kinds of possibilities. Of course, I always consider any serious proposal. It's been a challenge for me working in English and I look forward to further opportunities for doing this.

**Acting is a notoriously tough business, what do you think you need to be successful in it?**

I think the most important thing is what this profession means to me and what I expect from this profession.

**Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**

In Spanish - Joder! Hahaha!

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?**

Disrespectfulness.

**How would you describe yourself in a personals ad?**

Sometimes I'm a perfectionist and impatient, but I would describe myself as a normal boy. I love my profession.

[Read Our Review Of \*Little Ashes\* »](#)

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**Little Ashes** [2008]

**Studio:** Spirit Entertainment

**Released:** 13 July 2009

**ASIN:** B0021XUHT8

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