

**67**  
VENEZIA CINEMA 2010  
Out of Competition

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film festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2010

ALBERTO  
AMMANN

LEONOR  
WATLING

PILAR  
LÓPEZ DE AYALA

# LOPE

DE ANDRUCHA WADDINGTON

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**AN ANTENA 3 FILMS, EL TORO PICTURES,  
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CO-PRODUCTION**

# **L O P E**

**A film by  
ANDRUCHA WADDINGTON**

2010 · A SPAIN · BRAZIL CO-PRODUCTION · RUNNING TIME 1H52 MINS · 35 MM · DOLBY SRD · COLOUR

**PLEASE NOTE:** Photos and press kit can be downloaded from [www.wildbunch.biz](http://www.wildbunch.biz)

## SYNOPSIS

*"16th Century Spain. Gifted young playwright Lope de Vega returns to Madrid from the war filled with ambition, eager to live, to write, to make his dreams a reality. Penniless, he is forced to work as a humble copyist. Lope falls for Elena, his boss's ravishing daughter. Her well-connected father, who runs the most successful theatre troupe in the city, would never approve of the liaison, so the affair is kept secret. But Elena has another secret: she's already married. When Lope finds out, he asks her to end her marriage and make their love public. Elena refuses. Wounded, he is tempted to play along with the one woman who can bring his vision to the stage, but his passion burns stronger than his ambition, and he publicly exposes the hypocrisy of Elena and her father. Furious, they accuse him of slander. With the law on his heels, Lope must flee. Only his rediscovered childhood friend, the beautiful Isabel, can help Lope. But she too has a secret – she's in love with him. And if she is to help him, she has her own conditions... she must go with him. As they travel the road to freedom together, Lope discovers his own true love. But fate is not yet finished with him..."*

*Andrucha Waddington's spectacular romantic epic recounts the incredible story of the life and loves of immortal dramatist and incorrigible adventurer Lope de Vega y Carpio...*

## FÉLIX LOPE DE VEGA Y CARPIO

Félix Lope de Vega y Carpio (usually called simply Lope de Vega) was born in Madrid, 25 November, 1562, and died on 27 August, 1635. One of the most important playwrights and poets of Spanish Golden Age, his reputation is second only to that of Cervantes, while the sheer volume of his output is unequalled, making him one of the most prolific authors in world literature.

Dubbed 'The Phoenix of Wits' and 'Nature's Monster' by Cervantes, Lope revitalised Spanish theatre at a time when it was starting to become a mass cultural phenomenon. He defined its key characteristics and, along with Calderón de la Barca and Tirso de Molina, took it to its furthest limits. Because of the insight, depth and consummate dramatic skill of his work, Lope is regarded as being among the greatest dramatists of Western literature, and to this day is widely performed. Lope was also one of the finest lyric poets in the Spanish language, and the author of a number of novels. Although not well known in the English-speaking world, his plays were presented in England as late as the 1660s, when diarist Samuel Pepys recorded having attended a number of performances.

Amongst the works attributed to Lope are 3,000 sonnets, 3 novels, 4 novellas, 9 epic poems and a staggering 1,800 plays. Although, inevitably, the quality of such a stupendous output is variable, at least 80 of his plays are considered masterpieces. A friend of Quevedo and Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, the magnitude and breadth of his life's work made him the envy not only of contemporaries such as Cervantes and Góngora, but also of many others, including Goethe, who once expressed the wish that he might have been able to produce such a vast and colourful oeuvre.

## Director's statement

When I read Jordi Gasull's and Ignacio Del Moral's screenplay I was absolutely astonished by the revelation of a poet of such magnitude, who revolutionized the theater and even influenced Shakespeare. All I really knew about Lope de Vega was the fact that he had been an important playwright during the Spanish Baroque period, also known as the Siglo de Oro. Adventurer, soldier in the Spanish Armada, distinguished swordsman, lover of many women, Lope de Vega was a real character, one who combined poetry with action. All these qualities are surprising to us today, who are heavily influenced by the Romantics and perhaps associate poetry with delicacy and even frailty.

I was also surprised by how profoundly I could relate to Lope and the producer of his theatrical spectacles, Velazquez - to his will to popularize and modernize theater and to their relationship, so similar to those that exist in today's movie business.

Lope was a classical hero and a profound poet deeply connected to his audience. If Cervantes was the author of the intellectual elite, Lope belonged to the streets, to the people, like theater and - today - the movies.

The Baroque period invented modern man, and Shakespeare presented us with psychological drama in the midst of "fabulous" adventures. It was a period in which the popular and the learned, entertainment and art, walked hand in hand - one of the great objectives and challenges of cinema today. Lope wanted to merge drama and comedy, in a way that mirrored what he affirmed life to be like.

We live in a profoundly mass-produced and media-saturated era. Lope made me believe that it is possible to unite in a single character the swashbuckling hero and the romantic, alongside a profound discussion of what moves art.

The Baroque period has a lot to teach us.

## ANDRUCHA WADDINGTON Director

Considered one of Brazil's most important film directors, Andrucha Waddington is releasing, in 2010, his fourth fiction feature film: "Lope". In 2005, he directed "Casa de Areia" ("House of Sand") which, after being part of the official selections of some of the world's most prestigious film festivals - Berlin, Sundance, Toronto, among others - received excellent critical reviews from the international press and was released successfully in the United States and Canada.

His first feature films as director were "Gêmeas" ("Twins"), in 1999, and "Eu Tu Eles" ("Me You Them"), which screened in Official Selection (Un Certain Regard) of the Cannes Film Festival, 2000, and was awarded Best Movie in the Karlovy Vary, Havana and Cartagena film festivals. "Eu Tu Eles" was also the official Brazilian candidate for the 2001 Academy Awards®. Waddington has directed acclaimed documentaries featuring some of the most important names in Brazilian music, such as "Maria Bethânia - Pedrinha de Aruanda" (2007) and "Viva São João!" (2002), starring Gilberto Gil.

Andrucha Waddington is one of Brazil's most prolific and regularly garlanded advertising and music video directors.

## **Director's filmography**

**Lope** (2010)

**Maria Bethânia - Pedrinha de Aruanda** (2007)

**The House of Sand** (2005)

*Berlin Official Selection*

*Sundance Official Selection*

*Toronto Official Selection*

**Viva São João!** (2002)

**Me You Them** (2000)

*Cannes Official Selection -*

*(Un Certain Regard - Special Mention)*

*Toronto Official Selection*

*Sundance Official Selection*

*Karlovy Vary, 2000 - Winner, Best Film*

*Havana, 2000 - Winner, Best Film*

*Cartagena, 2001 - Winner, Best Film*

**Twins** (1998)

## CAST

*Lope* **ALBERTO AMMANN**

*Isabel de Urbina* **LEONOR WATLING**  
(My Life Without Me,  
The Oxford Murders,  
Paris, Je T'aime)

*Elena Osorio* **PILAR LÓPEZ DE AYALA**

*Fray Bernardino* **LUIS TOSAR**  
(The Limits of Control,  
Miami Vice)

*Marqués de la Navas* **SELTON MELLO**

*Juan* **ANTONIO DE LA TORRE**  
(Che: Part Two,  
Volver)

*Perrenot* **MIGUEL ANGEL MUÑOZ**

*Claudio* **RAMON PUJOL**

*Maria* **CARLA NIETO**

*Porres* **JORDI DAUDER**

*Juez* **MARIANO VENANCIO**

### Special guest appearances:

**SONIA BRAGA** *as Paquita*

**ANTONIO DECHENT** *as Salcedo*

*and*

**JUAN DIEGO** *as Velázquez*

## **CREW**

Directed by

**ANDRUCHA WADDINGTON**

Screenplay

**JORDI GASULL**  
**IGNACIO DEL MORAL**

Producers

**MERCEDES GAMERO**  
**JORDI GASULL**  
**EDMON ROCH**  
**ANDRUCHA WADDINGTON**

Executive Producers

**JUAN CARLOS CARO**  
**LEONARDO M. BARROS**  
**ELIANA SOÁREZ**  
**JULIO ARIZA**  
**ANGEL BLASCO**  
**IONA DE MACEDO**

DP

**RICARDO DELLA ROSA**

Production Designers

**CESAR MACARRON**  
**LILLY KILVERT**

Art Director

**CARLOS BODELÓN**

Editor

**SERGIO MEKLER**

Original Music

**FERNANDO VELAZQUEZ**

Original Song

**JORGE DREXLER**

Costume Designer

**TATIANA HERNÁNDEZ**

Make-Up

**MARTÍN TRUJILLO MACÍAS**  
**KARMELE SOLER**

Line Producers

**EDMON ROCH**  
**TONI NOVELLA**

Associate Producers

**VICTORIA BORRÁS**  
**MANUEL ECHÁNOVE**  
**WERNER SCHULER SCHUTZ**  
**ANTONIO CARLOS VALENTE**  
**PATRICK SIARETTA**

Sound

**JORGE SALDANHA**

Sound Editor

**MIRIAM BIDERMAN**

Sound Mixer

**MARK BERGER**

Casting

**EVA LEIRA**  
**YOLANDA SERRANO**

Special Effects

**RAUL ROMANILLOS**

Visual Effects Supervisor

**MARCELO SIQUEIRA**

Stunt Coordinator

**IGNACIO CARREÑO**

Spanish Distribution

**20TH CENTURY FOX**

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