



### Open Your Eyes (Alejandro Amenábar, Spain 97)

César is a handsome young man who has inherited a significant fortune from his parents. He lives in his own luxurious house in which he organizes fabulous parties. One night, his friend Pelayo introduces him to gorgeous Sofía. Nuria, who is César's latest fling, goes wild with jealousy. The next day she invites César to take a drive and then commits suicide by crashing against a wall. When César wakes up in a hospital, his face is horribly disfigured.

### WHAT REALITY DO WE WANT?

We could mention several scenes of this excellent film to discuss issues such as the importance of aesthetics over personal values in today's society, or how ego worship blinds us to the perception we generate in others. However, we want to focus on the confusion between reality and fiction that viewers experience throughout the movie.

The director plays with this duality like a juggler to the point that we no longer know what is true and what is fiction. Even when the movie ends our doubts continue to float in the air.

If we accept that reality is nothing more than our perception about something, we immediately come to the conclusion that there are as many realities about something as there are observers of it. So we can understand why, even with the best of intentions, data can be interpreted from completely different perspectives. It's as trivial as interpreting a bottle with half of its content. Is it half full? Or half empty?

We are not going to explore whether we are living the life we think we are –as another unsettling film, "Matrix", questions– or if we are nothing but energy generators in a computerized world. But we do want to reflect on the fragility of our perceptions.

We wonder what would happen if, in view of a certain economic situation, we were to simply change our perception. The reality of this moment in time is what it is. And we don't want to pull the wool over anyone's eyes. But at the same time there are people who insist on interpreting it from a positive angle and who look for opportunities and make good use of them.

It's as if for years we've been driving on a straight motorway, several lanes wide, where the most powerful car led the way. Suddenly, the motorway has become a narrow country lane, full of curves. The power of the car's engine can help us, but what counts most is the driver's expertise. If skillful, the driver will put some distance between his car and his pursuers, many of whom may simply pull off to lament that the comfortable straight motorway they were accustomed to driving on has been transformed into the famous hairpin turns of the Col de Turini where the Monte Carlo Rally used to pass.

In these unpredictable times we may wonder about what is truly reality, but this is not as important as the way we act and react. Maybe we need some time to see whether we have got it right or not, but we should not let ourselves be paralyzed by appearances. Although many may continue to bemoan all that is happening and cry out for "the good old days", only those who are capable of interpreting reality from another perspective will continue to fish in troubled waters.

Since we cannot know what is the true reality ... Why not ask ourselves how we want our reality to be?