

WSJ on why [How can Roma win best picture & best director if it is a foreign language film?](#)



Yalitza Aparicio (from left), Liboria Rodriguez and filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón attend the premiere of "Roma" at New York Film Festival. (Photo: NICHOLAS HUNT/GETTY IMAGES FOR NETFLIX)

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But selling most moviegoers on a slow-burning, subtitled period piece will be an uphill battle, and Netflix's refusal to release streaming and box-office numbers makes it tough to truly gauge the success of "Roma." If you're still on the fence about watching, Cuarón, 57, shares a comprehensive guide to everything you should know before diving in.

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"Roma" chronicles the joyous highs and devastating lows of Cleo as she helps raise her boss Sofia's (Marina de Tavira) four young children. Cleo is modeled on Cuarón's real-life nanny, Liboria "Libo" Rodríguez, a dark-skinned, indigenous woman who joined his family when he was 9 months old and was fundamental in his early upbringing. (They remain close today.)

As Cuarón grew older, "I started realizing the contradiction that exists, in which one member of my family comes from a different social and ethnic background," he says. "It took the process of making this film to deeply recognize her as a woman ... in a world in which race and class are completely interlinked."



★★★★★ | Brian Tallerico

September 11, 2018 | 11

[Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma"](#) opens with a close-up shot of a stone-paved driveway. We see soapy water cascade over the rock, as someone off-camera is cleaning it. In the reflection of the water, we can see the sky, although even that reflection undulates and changes as the water moves. A plane

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[Alfonso Cuarón's 'Roma'](#) Casts First Time Actor in the Lead Role ([Variety magazine interview](#) shown here...)



Children of Men**

2006 **For two short video reviews see our [ECON 3248 webpage](#),

From Wikipedia [Dana Stevens](#) of [Slate](#) called [children of men] "the herald of another blessed event: the arrival of a great director by the name of Alfonso Cuarón." Stevens hailed the film's extended car chase and battle scenes as "two of the most virtuoso single-shot chase sequences I've ever seen."^[33] [Manohla Dargis](#) of [The New York Times](#) called the film a "superbly directed political thriller", raining accolades on the long chase scenes.^[42] "Easily one of the best films of the year" said Ethan Alter of [Film Journal International](#), with scenes that "dazzle you with their technical complexity and visual virtuosity."^[26] Jonathan Romney of [The Independent](#) praised the accuracy of Cuarón's portrait of the United Kingdom, but he criticized some of the film's futuristic scenes as "run-of-the-mill future fantasy," [The A.V. Club](#), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Slate](#), and [The Washington Post](#) placed the film at number one.^[78] [Entertainment Weekly](#) ranked the film seventh on its end-of-the-decade top 10 list, saying, "Alfonso Cuarón's dystopian 2006 film reminded us that adrenaline-juicing action sequences can work best when the future looks just as grimy as today."^[79]

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**If you [see Roma](#) on Thursday the 7:30 (I can meet you at in café in front promptly at 9:35pm. During Thursday's class 4pm class we will discuss Mexico and the world as it was in 1970s Latin America (Mexico never had a military government, but as the film shows it police and a para-military group did some terrible things, we call May 4th 1970 Kent State a "massacre" as national guard troops fired on unarmed college students (four killed, nine wounded) but Mexico shootings were on a far larger scale. The June 10th [Corpus Christi massacre](#) or "hawk strike" (note the bamboo sticks used for training, or the R rated shower curtain rod performance...). Compared to Children of men, there is very little graphic violence Roma, though there is a scene eerily similar to the Kent State



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