



## THE OLIVE TREE (EL OLIVIO)

**Autumn  
Season  
2017**

Release: 2016  
Cert (UK): 15  
Country: Spain  
Language: French, English, Polish  
Runtime: 90 mins  
Director: Iciar Bollain  
Writer: Paul Laverty  
Cinematographer: Sergi Gallardo  
Cast: Anna Castillo, Javier Gutiérrez, Pep Ambròs



Those of you with long memories will remember Take My Eyes at the 2005 Film Festival when the Spanish Director, Iciar Bollain came to introduce it. She is a prolific actress and director with many awards for several of her films. The script-writer for The Olive Tree is Paul Laverty, Iciar's partner, who works on

all of Ken Loach's films and Iciar Bollain acted in Land and Freedom, Loach's play about the Spanish Civil War.

It is described as a gentle film but with an undertow of sadness and social comment. Bollaín shapes the performances well. Anna Castillo is Alma, a young woman very close to her grandfather (Manuel Cucala). The old man has retreated into depression and dementia since his grownup children cynically uprooted and sold off his beloved 2,000-year-old olive tree, against his will, to pay for a now bankrupt tourist-restaurant business.

'Commentary on a changing Europe – and especially a socially and economically forlorn Spain – underpins 'The Olive Tree', but the human relationships are most poignant here, especially the one between Alma and her ailing grandfather.' - The Independent