

# EL DESENCANTO (THE DISENCHANTMENT)

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019, 7:30 pm  
DARREN STAR SCREENING ROOM (MELNITZ HALL 1422)



Don't miss this singular cinematic event! The UCLA Department of Spanish & Portuguese, in conjunction with the Center for European and Russian Studies and the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media (TFT), are pleased to present the 1976 cult documentary, *El desencanto* (*The Disenchantment*), by legendary Spanish director, Jaime Chávarri.

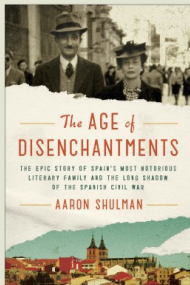
Virtually unknown in North America (though revered as Spain's answer to Albert and David Maysles's *Grey Gardens*), Chávarri's legendary film has often been hailed as the first Spanish work of *cinéma vérité*. *The Disenchantment* paints an intimate if troubled portrait of the surviving family of Spanish avant-garde poet, Leopoldo María Panero, more than a decade after his death in 1962. Panero was infamous for his eccentricity, his mental illness, and his reactionary politics: he was the Poet Laureate of the Franco dictatorship. Panero's immediate heirs—wife Felicidad and sons Juan Luis, Leopoldo María, and Michi—were no less idiosyncratic, particularly in their own literary self-consciousness.

Aaron Shulman, author of a new book on the Panero family titled *The Age of Disenchantments* (Ecco/Harper Collins, 2019), will introduce the film and join us for a post-screening discussion. A reception with *hors d'oeuvres* and refreshments will round out this special event. Please join us!

EL DESENCANTO (THE DISENCHANTMENT), dir. Jaimie Chávarri (Spain, 1976), b/w, 97 mins, DCP



Aaron Shulman's work has appeared in *The Believer*, *The American Scholar*, *The New Republic*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. He first lived in Spain while studying abroad, then moved back in 2010 to write about Spanish culture, social movements, and the economic crisis. His obsession with *El Desencanto* began in 2012, when he watched the film for the first time. He now lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.



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