

20,000 Species of Bees

Spain | 2023 | 128m | 12A
Director: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren
Starring: Sofía Otero, Patricia López Arnaiz, Ane Gabarain

20,000 Species of Bees is a compassionate coming-of-age drama and debut feature of writer and director Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren. The film illustrates eight-year-old Lucía's summer of self-discovery as she questions her gender identity.

Through Lucía's eyes, we experience the lives of three generations of women and how their stories, insecurities, and identities hold each other together while simultaneously holding each other back. This 'constellation of women' as described by Solaguren in her director's statement, reflects the 'eminently feminine universe of the hive' and celebrates the 'diversity of identities' within the eco-system of families and society. At the core of the film lies the important question of when exactly we discover who we really are.

When planning *20,000 Species of Bees*, Solaguren explained to *the Guardian* that her idea was to create a 'luminous, bright film [...] Not one where a trans character is a problem'. The result is an uplifting tale that harbours hope for trans lives. To ensure authenticity and sensitivity throughout production, Solaguren worked closely with Naizen, a regional association for the families of transgender minors. Together, they hosted workshops and listened to the stories of parents and Transgender children.

The story is set against the landscape of the Basque Country, chosen by the director not only for its sentimentality and familiarity, but also because of its symbolic significance to the character's journey. While in conversation with Solaguren, she explained that the Basque Country is 'divided by a border that splits the territory in two' and in Ecological studies, it has been known that the greatest biodiversity and abundance of flora and fauna can be found around geographical borders.

20,000 Species of Bees is a pastoral poem that reflects the resilience and beauty of those who challenge the conventions and borders of gender.

'A warm and generously performed film,' Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*.



Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!

Did You Know?

- Sofia Otero was just eight years old when she took home the Best Leading Performance Award for this film at the 2023 Berlin International Film Festival.
- The director, Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren, was inspired to make the film after reading about the suicide of a 16-year-old trans boy, who had left behind a note in which he dreamt of a better, more accepting world.

Tell Us What You Think!



Nominate your favourite film to be this year’s Audience Award Winner and enter our prize draw to win a FilmBath Fan Club Membership!

We really value your opinion and your answers are really helpful to help us understand our audiences, improve the festival and apply for funding.

Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:

Tomboy
Céline Sciamma’s film is a captivating French drama about a child who is struggling with their identity and astutely explores the world of gender codes in society.

Alcarràs
The lives of a family of peach farmers are threatened when the owner of their large estate dies and his heir decides to sell the land.

FilmBath Club 2024

To bring you that FilmBath feel out of festival time, FilmBath will host monthly evenings of film and food at Widcombe Social Club. Our first three screenings are a selection of heartwarming, remarkable and absorbing films: **EO**, **Mother and Son** and **War Pony**.

Tickets are just £10 and go on general sale on 20 November OR become a FilmBath Fan and book today!

FilmBath Fan

FilmBath Fan’s can enjoy top benefits including a free ticket to the first FilmBath Club screening of the year, priority booking, invites to launch parties and a 25% discount off tickets to the FilmBath Club!

Become a FilmBath fan today for just £20 a year.

Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!