Delve Deeper into Ella Es El Matador (She Is the Matador)
A film by Gemma Cubero and Celeste Carrasco

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film Ella Es El Matador.

For Spaniards — and for the world — nothing has expressed their country's traditionally rigid gender roles more powerfully than the image of the male matador. So sacred was the bullfighter's masculinity to Spanish identity that a 1908 law barred women from the sport. Ella Es el Matador reveals the surprising history of the women who made such a law necessary and offers fascinating profiles of two female matadors currently in the arena: the acclaimed Mari Paz Vega and neophyte Eva Florencia. These women are gender pioneers by necessity. But what emerges as their truest motivation is their sheer passion — for bullfighting and the pursuit of a dream. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB).

ADULT NONFICTION

Cintrón, Lola Verrill. Goddess of the Bullring: The Story of Conchita Cintron, the World's Greatest Matadora. London: F. Muller, 1961. This is the memoir of Conchita Cintron, one of the most famous female bullfighters.


Pink, Sarah and Jackie Waldron. Women and Bullfighting: Gender, Sex and the Consumption of Tradition. New York: Berg Publishers, 1997. The authors trace the contested success of female bullfighter Cristina Sanchez and what it reveals about Andalusian gender ideologies in the 1990s. They also discuss the roles of non-bullfighter women as wives, mothers and the "beautiful spectator."


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


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**Wojciechowska, Maia. Shadow of a Bull.** Atheneum Books, 1972. Grades 5 and up. The story of a young boy who has to make a decision, to follow in his famous bullfighter father’s footsteps or do what he wants and become a doctor.

**FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES**


**American Bullfighter (DVD)**

**Matador.** Directed by Pedro Almodovar. Cinevista, 1986. TRT: 110 min. Reflecting the mythical aspects of bullfighting, this dark comedy explores the sexual practices of a retired matador and a bullfighting student. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**The Matador.** Produced and directed by Stephen Higgins and Nina Gilden Seavey. City Lights Home Entertainment, 2008. TRT: 75 min. Documentary film about David Fandila’s three-year journey across Spain and Latin America in his quest to become the top-ranked bullfighter in the world. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**Talk to Her.** Directed by Pedro Almodovar. Sony Pictures, 2002. TRT: 112 min. A film about two men care after their comatose lovers, one a female bullfighter who was gored by a bull and a ballerina who suffered a car accident. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)