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Abstract

In Montse Armengou's investigation *El Convoy de los 927*, she narrates the historical circumstances and terrible betrayal felt by those Republicans and refugees of the Spanish Civil War (entire families) who, without explanation, went from being necessary workers and refugees in France to a public danger. Sent from Angoulême, France, in August of 1940, to the site of what became Mauthausen, they were classified as "Stateless" and their situation ignored by Spain. Due to censorship in Spain under Francoism and oftentimes a hierarchicalization among victims in historical narratives, Spaniards in concentration camps and their stories have not been as mainstream as that of other groups.

In *La Reina de España [The Queen of Spain]* (2017), the director Fernando Trueba leads the viewer on a complex voyage into the past. The cinematic didacticism of Trueba even touches upon the Spaniards sent to Mauthausen and their continuing persecution and silencing under Francoism. Although Trueba approaches difficult and controversial issues with humor, the implications for Spaniards outside of Franco's idealized version of Spain are starkly evident. One of the main protagonists, Blas Fontiveros, survives being imprisoned at Mauthausen, exiled for years after WWII, and believed dead, only to return to Spain and, due to his wife's remarriage to a prominent Nationalist, relocated to a forced labor camp at El Valle de los Caídos.

This study analyzes Armengou's investigation and Trueba's insertion of the Spaniards at Mauthausen into a fictional story on filmmaking in 1950's Spain. Although distinct events, representational strategies and theories stemming out of Holocaust Studies into fields like Memory Studies and Trauma Studies can be utilized to "talk about" Spaniards' testimonies of Mauthausen and human rights abuses during Francoism. Rethinking the various manners in which the Holocaust informs other traumatic periods might provide new perspectives on connections between the Spaniards at Mauthausen and the forced labor of Republicans and other groups years after the Spanish Civil War ended, thus informing marginalized and contiguous histories of repression during WWII and Francoism.